

WEST ASIA ON FIRE Israelis have been killed Kashmir reacts,



PTI JERUSALEM/ BEIRUT

he 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.

The military said Nabil Kaouk, the deputy head of Hezbollah's Central Council, was killed on Saturday. There was no immediate comment from Hezbollah, and it was not known where the strike took Hezbollah place. has confirmed that one of its 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. The Israeli military said it

carried out another targeted strike on Beirut later on Sunday. In Syria, 37 militants affiliated to the extremist Islamic State group and an al-Qaeda-linked group were killed in two strikes, the United States military said Sunday. Two of the dead were senior militants, it said. 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. Hundreds of thousands of people have been driven from their homes in Lebanon by the The lastest strikes. Government estimates that around 2,50,000 are in shelters, with three to four times as 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

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.

Hezbollah began firing rockets, missiles and drones into northern Israel after Hamas' October 7 attack out of Gaza triggered the war there. Hezbollah and Hamas are allies that consider themselves part of an Iran-backed "Axis of Resistance" against Israel.

Israel has responded with waves of airstrikes, and the conflict has steadily ratcheted up to the brink of all-out war, raising fears of a region-wide conflagration.

Israel says it is determined to return some 60,000 of its citizens to communities in the north that were evacuated nearly a year ago. Hezbollah has said it will only halt its rocket fire if there is a cease-fire in Gaza, which has proven elusive despite months of indirect negotiations between Israel and Hamas led by the United States, Qatar and Egypt.

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.

Political leaders Mehbooba Mufti, National Conference Member Conference Parliament from Srinagar Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi and Shia leader and former cabinet Minister Imran Reza Ansari also suspended election campaigns to condole the killing. The gesture, however, triggered sharp reactions



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.

Vice President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Omar

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".

Meanwhile, the security forces deployed on ground zero have been asked to exercise utmost restraint to prevent any flare-up ahead of the third and final round of polling on October 1.

Labelling her as "pro-militant", BJP national spokesperson RP Singh said, "By cancelling her campaigning, she has shown she is shedding tears over the death of terrorists. It is her habit to call terrorists martyrs. She had similarly wept for Burhan Wani some time back."

However, she is not alone in expressing solidarity with terrorists, he said.

"Sonia Gandhi too shed tears for the terrorists killed in Batla House. All leaders of the INDIA alliance do this for vote bank politics. For them, the country doesn't come first. She is doing this for the vote bank," he charged.

Former deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta also condemned Mehbooba's stance, "What problem does asking, Mehbooba Mufti have with the death of terrorist Nasrallah? When Hindus are killed in Bangladesh and Pakistan, there is a grave silence from them."



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

Abraveheart 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 tensil 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. A large number of close relatives and family friends were assembled at their residence to pay their last tributes to him. Only recently the family had finalised the marriage proposal of their elder daughter. Before returning to his duty, Bashir had promised his elder brother to firm up the marriage proposal of his son before decide the dates.

"My brother wanted to throw a big party after finalising the marriage proposals of his daughter and son", Barkat Ali, elder brother of the martyred head constable, told The Pioneer at his residence in Channi Himmat.

Continued on page 2



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

Intense rain claims 125 lives in Nepal, jeopardise Bihar

PTI/PNS KATHMANDU/PATNA

□ he death toll from rain-triggered I 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.

order cts o

Due to heavy discharge of water from Birpur barrage, seepage was also reported from the Kosi Eastern embankment near Gopalpur on Saturday night, which was repaired by the engineers of the Water Resources Department (WRD).

A low-pressure system in the Bay of Bengal and the more northerly than usual position of the monsoon Due to the prevailing situation the trough is the reason behind exceptionally intense rain cientists

was released from Birpur barrage on



been affected by rising water levels rivers, following torrential rainfall, officials said.

In Nepal, Kathmandu Valley reported the highest number of deaths. At least 322 houses and 16 bridges were damaged. The security personnel have rescued nearly 3,626 people, the Armed Police Force sources said. The sources added that rescue operations were still underway. The death toll has reached 125, the Armed Police Force said in a statement. Six football players were also killed in a landslide at a training centre operated by the All Nepal Football Association in Makwanpur. Others have been swept up in the floodwaters. Despite the forecast for rain to continue until Tuesday, there were signs of some easing on Sunday.

Shocking road rage in **Delhi NCR, two dead**

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELH

A³⁰-year-old Delhi Police 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.

In another shocking display of road rage, a dozen men engaged in a violent brawl on a busy road in Ghaziabad, after one of the vehicles they were travelling in began driving on the wrong side of traffic on Saturday. The incident, captured on video and shared widely on social media, unfolded as two groups clashed over a vehicle driving on the wrong side of the traffic. According to police, the deceased constable, identified as Sandeep, joined the force in 2018 and wrong particular to the 2018 and was posted at the 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. Upon noticing a car being driven recklessly, Sandeep told the driver not to do so, the Delhi Police said in a statement. He was on his bike when a WagonR car tried to overtake him.

Suddenly, the vehicle increased its speed and hit the 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. The cop is seen gesturing to the car driver to slow down. But the car picks up speed and hits him. Sandeep sustained severe head injuries and was rushed to Hospital, Sonia then transferred to Balaji Hospital in Paschim Vihar, where he succumbed to his injuries

during treatment. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Jimmy Chiram stated, "Constable Sandeep was going towards the railway road from Nangloi Police Station during duty hours, dressed in civilian clothes due to the increased incidents of burglary in the area."

in the area." According to the DCP, Sandeep observed a WagonR being driven recklessly and attempted to alert the driver. "He saw that a WagonR was being driven recklessly and subsequently pointed out to the driver not to drive harshly," the DCP explained. "Prima Facie it looks like road rage but once the accused is once the accused is apprehended we will know further," he added further. The car has been seized, but the driver is currently absconding,

according to officials. According to police, the car had two occupants. The driver of the car fled the scene, abandoning the vehicle. Authorities have recovered the car and registered a case under Section 103 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) against the accused. The investigation is ongoing. Some sources have claimed that one of the car's occupants was involved in the illegal liquor trade, but police have not confirmed this.

Scan QR code fc

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. The embankment of the BagmatirRiver in Madhkaul village in Sitamarhi district broke on Sunday, which is being repaired, they said.

> Atal ensior

Yojana

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 environment, including built unplanned construction, especially on floodplains, which leaves insufficient areas for water retention and drainage. A total of 6.61 lakh cusecs of water

Kosi river till 5 am, the highest in 56 years. According to the latest bulletin by the State Water Resources department, the last time the maximum water discharged from this barrage was 7.88 lakh cusecs of water in 1968.

Around 13 districts situated along the Ganga, including Buxar, Bhojpur, Saran, Patna, Samastipur, Begusarai, Munger and Bhagalpur, are already experiencing a flood-like situation, and nearly 13.5 lakh people living in low-lying areas have

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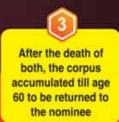


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Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

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Violation of land stresses minister

Modi appreciates village youth law to elicit action, of U'kashi for cleaning initiative

Jhala residents clean village daily under 'Dhanyavad Prakriti' initiative

PNS DEHRADUN

ment's position regarding the land laws in the State, Forest minister Subodh Unival said that the State those reforms needed in the government under chief minister Pushkar Singh the State. However, the citi-Dhami is serious on this issue and will act against also have to become aware those who have violated the and cooperate with the govrules. He said that action will be taken against those who have purchased land or utilised it for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was purchased. Such land will be taken over by the State government. Further, in case of violation of the limit of 250 square metres per family, the excess land will also be taken over by the All possible steps are being State government, he said.

Stating that the government will make amendments

 \neg larifying the govern- in the land laws in accor- mind," the Forest minister dance with public sentiadded.

ments, Uniyal said that It will be recalled that CM attempts will be made for all Dhami has decided to take land law in the interests of action at various levels and initiate action in the next budget session of the zens of Uttarakhand will Assembly for implementing a strict land law in the State. ernment for this purpose. The State government had earlier formed the Subhash The Forest minister also Kumar committee on this appealed to the people of the subject. Another committee State to protect their ancestral lands and not sell these. chaired by the chief secretary "The government will not Radha Raturi is studying the hesitate to consider public recommendations of the Subhash Kumar committee sentiments and amend any amendments made in the in order to prepare the draft land law which have not of the land law. The combrought the expected results. mittee has been holding meetings to discuss the recommendations and giving final touches to facilitate taken to protect the rights of the people of the State. The implementation of the land

basic civic sanitation in Dehradun and other urban areas of the State due to factors including public apathy, young residents of a distant village in Uttarkashi district have undertaken a novel initiative. Their initiative impressed Prime Minister Narendra Modi enough for him to cite their efforts as an example for others. Modi talked about this village while addressing the nation in the

PNS DEHRADUN

 $E_{\rm struggling\ to\ maintain}^{\rm ven\ as\ the\ authorities\ are}$

114th edition of Mann Ki

Baat programme on Sunday. After listening to the PM's address at a gathering in the Anarwala area of Dehradun, chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami pointed out that PM Modi had talked about the border village of Jhala in Uttarkashi district. The youth

in order to ensure the desired level of cleanliness. He said that the State government is also laying special focus on sanitation in order to further boost tourism.

Mann Ki Baat programme always inspires all to do better work on socially relevant issues. This programme will

campaign coverage

As part of the nationwide cleanliness efforts in the city and prepared a report based on

observed till October 2, a team their observations. The

from the Central government Dehradun assistant munici-

complete 10 years on the occasion of Navratri on October 3. By talking about social organisations and individuals doing commendable work in various parts of the country, the PM has motivated the citizens to do good works. Many are also doing commendable work after being motivated by the PM's Mann Ki Baat," he said

The CM said that all the people must make collective effort and contribute towards achieving PM Modi's resolve to make India a developed nation by 2047. Special focus must be laid on the 'vocal for local concept to encourage local products. "We should buy local products on festive

livelihood of the people at the local level. Along with development, we will also have to nurture our heritage. We must strive constantly to preserve our local languages, dialects and culture," Dhami added.

Pioneer photo

Cabinet minister Ganesh Joshi also expressed his views on the occasion.

Dehradun among 30 cities Police impose Rs 3.5 lakh fine on for Swachhata Hi Seva **Dehradun landlords** for unverified tenants

Central team reviews cleanliness in Doon PNS DEHRADUN

tenants. The police

The police conducted a ver-ification drive in the Selaqui and Sahaspur areas on Sunday, leading to action for keeping unverified



coming land law is being prepared with this idea in law, officials said. Ayushman scheme exploited for SIM card fraud, two women arrested

Mastermind based in Philippines, used thousands of SIM cards for cyber fraud

PNS DEHRADUN

Task Force (STF) arrest-

The Uttarakhand Special Dehradun reported losing Rs cards were linked to internet 23 lakh through these frauded two women from Nagpur, ulent schemes. This investiwho were allegedly involved gation was initiated after in a scam that exploited this victim filed the case in Dehradun. According to people's biometrics under the guise of creating Ayushman health cards. Mishra, these criminals, posing as agents helping people get Ayushman health cards, These biometrics were used to activate SIM cards, which collected the biometrics of were then sold at high prices people in rural areas. These biometrics were then reportto cybercriminals for online fraud, the deputy superin-tendent of police of STF edly used to activate new SIM cards, which were sold Ankush Mishra said. He to cybercrime networks. He stated that the arrested said that Raju Sultan, the son women, Pushpa Barapatre of Yadamma Sultan, is the and Yadamma Sultan, were alleged mastermind behind providing thousands of SIM the scam and is based in the cards to members of an Philippines. He allegedly online trading scam. The coordinated with the two fraudsters lured people into women, who sent the acticial transactions linked to investing in fraudulent vated SIM cards to him. The the fraud in the accused

banking accounts, which were used to conduct online fraud. The accused Barapatre allegedly admitted to sending around 4,000 to 5,000 SIM cards to her son in the Philippines. The investigation also revealed that the women were in constant contact with foreign cyber-criminals. The DSP further said that the STF teams conducted raids at their apartment in Nagpur on Saturday. During the raid, they seized a mobile phone, debit cards, Aadhaar card, PAN card, voter ID and various bank documents. They also uncovered significant finan-

of this village have undertaken a special initiative to keep their surroundings clean. They are conducting a 'Dhanyavad Prakriti' campaign in the village. As part of this campaign, cleaning is undertaken every day for two hours in the village. The trash strewn in the paths of the village is collected and dumped at a designated location outside the village. This is making the village clean while also raising public awareness. The CM appealed to the people of Uttarakhand to undertake similar initiatives in all areas of the State

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CM Pushkar Singh Dhami listens to PM Modi's Mann Ki Baat programme on Sunday

Dhami said, "PM Modi's

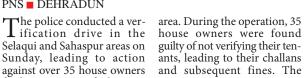
cleanliness efforts in the city among 30 cities across the

tribute to enhancing the

occasions and thus con-

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uttarakhand 02





profit online trading opportunities on social media platforms. Once linked to

schemes by advertising high- women received substantial payments for their role in the operation, Mishra said. During the investigation, the WhatsApp groups, victims STF tracked down both were shown fake screenshots accused to Nagpur in of profits to encourage more Maharashtra. He said that investment. One victim from the team found that the SIM investment opportunities.

women's bank accounts. The STF has charged the women under relevant sections and further investigation is underway to identify other members of the syndicate, the DSP said. He said that the investigation has exposed the international dimensions of the scam, as the SIM cards activated in India were being used by cybercriminals overseas. The STF will work closely with other state police departments to trace the wider network involved in this massive cyber fraud. He also warned the public to be cautious of fraudulent online schemes, including those that promise high returns in short periods. He advised people not to share personal information, such as biometrics or banking details,

with unknown individuals or has arrived in Dehradun to engage in suspicious online review the city's sanitation system. The team assessed the

pal commissioner and the pro-

with the team following the set gramme's nodal officer SP Joshi said that Dehradun is guidelines each day.

Urban Affairs. A team from Delhi covered the cleanliness-related activities of the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) as part of this initiative, Joshi said. He informed that the MCD has been focusing on achieving the goals set during the first phase of the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign. For the second phase, the corporation has identified black spots across the city based on intensity. These are divided into three categorieslow intensity, medium intensity and high intensity with nine spots, 12 spots and 13 spots in these categories respectively. Joshi shared that the second phase aims to remove five locations from the high-intensity black spots category. He also expressed his satisfaction with Dehradun being included in the 30-city list by the Central government and added that the programme's planning has been executed well,

country which have been

selected for coverage under the

Swachhata Hi Seva campaign

by the Ministry of Housing and

ing to Rs 3.5 lakh under the Police Act for noncompliance with tenant verification norms. Following directives from the Dehradun senior superintendent of police Ajai Singh, a special verification campaign was carried out to ensure that individuals coming from other States or living as tenants in these regions are properly registered with the local authorities. The officials said that the drive aimed to bolster security and identify any suspicious activity in areas with a high influx of outsiders.

The drive covered several key locations including Jamnipur, Pragati Vihar and Bhauwala in the Selaqui area as well as Choi Basti, Rampur, Shankarpur and Mehmudnagar in Sahaspur

authorities emphasised that such drives will continue to ensure the safety and security of the community, urging residents to comply with verification procedures in the future.

Special focus on organic farming, various schemes strengthening agriculture in State

PNS DEHRADUN

efforts to boost organic farming in the State. According to official sources, organic farming is being encouraged in 3,900 clusters across the State. The Agriculture department is undertaking various welfare schemes for farmers in addition to ensuring that the benefit of various Central government schemes also reaches the farmers in the State. Along with facilitating certified seed distribution, availability of farming equipment, irrigation facility, fertiliser, pest control and crop insur-

The State government is ance and government is also ensuring the farmers receive the benefit of Central government schemes like the Pradhanmantri Kisan Samman Nidhi. The government is also operating the soil health card scheme to enable farmers to test nutrient content of their soil and boost production. The Government of India has made a provision of Rs 508.89 lakh under this scheme in this financial year.

> Similarly, organic farming is being encouraged on a cluster basis in selected vil-



lages under the traditional farming development scheme. This scheme is currently being operated in 3,900 clusters with the Central government allocating Rs 13,127 crore for this scheme under the current financial year. Officials informed that 8.88 lakh registered farmers are receiving Rs 6,000 annually directly in their accounts through DBT under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi. A sum of Rs 178.04 crore has been made available in the financial year 2024.25 for this purpose. A total of Rs 2,757 crore has

so far under this scheme. In another development, paddy and mandua will be covered under the Pradhanmantri Fasal Bima Yojana from April 1 in all the districts.

The State government is also laying special focus on villages dominated by SC-ST populations. A special agriculture development programme is being run for farmers of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes with small tillage. An allocation of Rs 700 lakh has been made for the selected villages under this been distributed in the State scheme in the current finan-

cial year, officials informed.

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that the government is taking concrete steps to further strengthen the agriculture sector. "Our priority is to ensure that modern technology and innovations reach the farmers so that farming can become more profitable and sustainable. Considering the geographical characteristics Uttarakhand, we are laying special focus on encouraging organic farming, fruit cultivation and the cultivation of medicinal herbs," Dhami said.

Destination Uttarakhand ORLD TOURISM DAY SPECIAL



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 Dhami Chief Minister**



> CM on his visit to Corbett National Park

Kedarnath Dham gets a major facelift, enhances facilities for pilgrims

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



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

ime Minister Narendra Modi's deep faith in Baba Kedamath and his special attachment

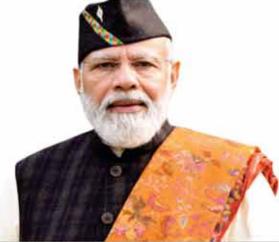
to Uttarakhand, have received support from the Centre. With assistance from the Centre, reconstruction work is going on at Kedarnath Dham. Uttarakhand Government led by Pushkar Sinch Dhami, endeavoured to restore the shrine and the surrounding area to its pristine glory, while providing devotees with all modern amenibies 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 Kedamath 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 Kedamath Dham's redevelopment was completed in 2022, and the second phase is currently underway.

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





UTTARAKHAND 03

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

Tehri takes flight: Rising paragliding destination

ccording 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 paraoliding 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 Dhami, Uttarakhand has embarked on creating better experiences for tourists



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

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 Himalavas being one of the youngest mountain ranges of the world, subject to various geographical changes, the Tourism Policy 2023-2030 lays down quidelines 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 guide

Homestays: Future of accommodation in the state

Empowering homestay owners, strengthening economy

ue 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 Dhami 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 Dhami, 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

ttarakhand 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 Avurveda 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 newage tourism products, Uttarakhand tourism is poised for an era of tourism growth which is both sustainable and inclusive

ttarakhand, 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 Dhami, the state has embarked on creating better and newer experiences for tourists visiting the state. From infrastructure development to opening up

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



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

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

2024 with more events lined up at Benital in

Jageshwar in Almora in the first week of October

Chamoli, Jadung in Uttarkashi and Gunji in Pithor-

agarh. The events aim to create awareness about

Dark Sky Observations, develop a Dark Sky Policy

around the events to create opportunities for the

With focus of 'Leave No Trace', these events

also aim to promote responsible tourism with the

participants actively involved in the managing the

for the state, promote training & development.

local youth.

surroundings.

Trace' when they vacate the site

ith 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 Naksha tra 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 asstro-photography,



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

lines 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.

Adventure Tourism gains momentum



ith 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



COIPR_UK

Text: Sumit Pant, Director, UTDB CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE





uttarakhand 04

GUEST COLUMN — **Paper mills and gift authors** fuelling academic fraud



Onkar Singh

Most surprising is to re-ceive communications from companies offering you to get assistance in doc toral and postgraduate de-gree level dissertation writing, main or co-author-ship in research papers, owning joint national/international patents, etc. Of late the advertisements on social/digital media platforms for achieving academic ex-cellence with innovative consulting solutions and expert guidance from commercial organisations have become ubiquitous. There are a good number of companies across the globe that approach students and teachers through phone, messages, emails, social media and other channels to provide paid support in writing theses, dissertations, projects and research papers for publication in journals to fulfill the requirements of higher degrees and enriching biodata.

As per 'Global Ghostwriting Services Market Report 2024' of Cognitive Market Research, the global ghostwriting services market is expected to grow at a CAGR of 6.80 per cent from 2023 to 2030. It underlines that the USA is the major player in ghostwriting catering to the business needs of numerous industries there. The report states that due to the rising demand, the Asia-Pacific region will be among the fastest-growing markets.

mercial entities called paper perateness of individuals to mills.

Ideally, the egregious act of getting one's academic and research work done by someone on payment or other consideration/obligation and submitting it in one's own name is forbidden and academics never approve it. However, the emboldening of paper mills and consultants for fearlessly canvassing as part of their business to create manuscripts, theses, dissertations, and research papers

succeed in earning higher qualifications or have re-

s e a r c h papers/reports/patents/copy rights in their name irrespective of having the abilities and knowledge drives them towards immoral and tual untruthful practices. Incompetencies ridden with a desire to decorate testimoand nials are at the core of ghostwriting. The recognitions secured through enriched profiles though deceptive, motivate many to procure ghost writings. En-

stringent peer review to fig-ure out the content created individuals lead to a congenial environment for paper mills, ghostwriters and gift authorship.

To sum up, the free-lancer's desire to make money from their intelleccapabilities/experience/understanding and the aspirations of the unfit to earn higher qualifications strengthen academic/research credentials for any purpose propels the fast-growing menace of paper mills and gift author-ships.

by paper mills or ghostwriters and detecting plagiarism through suitably developed AI-based tools/software may be of help. Educa-tional and research institutions must hold sensitisation training and workshops for emphasising the importance and honesty in authorship and implica-tions of unfair practices in authorships. Counselling services for assisted writing will inculcate learning tendencies and foster a culture of authenticity and originality for quick success. Also, ethical academics and researchers must mentor the young generation, collaborate with them, and only recognise collaborations with due contributions will discourage resorting to shortcuts. De-emphasising the quantity over quality of publications and academic submissions will be self-corrective and dispirit those tempted by paper mills. The post-publication review mechanism may also be thought of for identifying suspicious authorships and blacklisting the evil operators along with its wide publicity in open media will act as a deterrent. Social dejection is likely to play a key role in the self-correction of perilous intellectual dishonesty and nasty means of progression.

Looking upon the organised and systemic expansion of paper mills, guest authorship and ghostwriters, the concerted efforts of countries across the world to establish an ethics code and strategize creating awareness about the risks associated with these practices, shutting down companies and punishing individuals selling the papers for aca-demic and professional credit is inevitable. A uni-versally acceptable legal framework with severe consequences for both seller and buyer is essentially required to prevent the prolif-

No civil constructions, only natural methods to be used to conserve and rejuvenate natural water sources: DM

PNS DEHRADUN

T n a bid to conserve and L rejuvenate natural water sources, Dehradun district magistrate Savin Bansal has announced that no civil constructions will be undertaken for the conservation of streams, springs, rivers and lakes. Instead, natural methods using local soil and stones will be employed to ensure the preservation of their historical and ecological sigral water sources like nificance of these water streams and rivers in Dehradun district.

He urged local residents, social organisations and self-help groups to actively participate in this campaign. The DM also drank water from the historic bawdi during the inspec-tion to symbolise his commitment to the cause. He said that the campaign

sources. He informed that a sur-

vey of 70 water sources, including dharas, naulas and bawdis, was conducted within and around Dehradun city as part of this ongoing campaign. The district administration will continue to conserve these water sources with the help of local communi-



DM Savin Bansal drinks water from the Rajpur Bawdi in Dehradun on Sunday **Pioneer photo**

nificance. He stated this on the occasion of water conservation and revitalisation campaign that started at Rajpur's Bawdi located on Old Mussoorie Road on Sunday.

Bansal, along with social organisations and public service institutions, inspected the site. He also talked about the significance of the initiative, inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for nationwide water conservation efforts and sup-ported by the leadership of chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. He said that effective work plans are in progress to preserve natu-

aims not only to ensure water conservation but also to reconnect local communities with their cultural heritage. He highlighted that by adopting traditional methods, the campaign can provide clean drinking water to both people and animals in their natural habitats.

As part of this initiative, many organisations are working tirelessly to conserve these water bodies through natural and scientific methods. Bansal reiterated that the goal is to use only local materials like soil and stones for conservation efforts to maintain the historical sig-

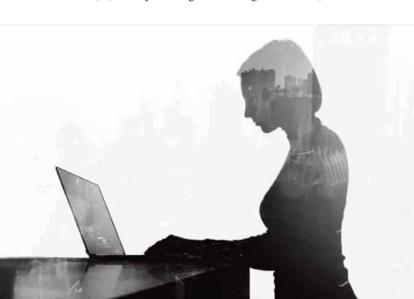
ties and social organisations. He further stated that environmentalist and Padma Shri awardee Kalyan Singh Rawat of Maiti movement has also been included as a member of the district's water conservation committee to strengthen the campaign. His expertise in water conservation will play a crucial role in ensuring the success of the campaign through natural and scientific means. The ongoing efforts to conserve water sources in Dehradun will be supported and all re-

lated expenses are being

reportedly borne by the

DM from his own re-

sources.



couragement of collabora-

tions though intended to

share knowledge and use

collective wisdom for wor-

thy outcomes of multiple

authors is also an enabler

stipulates a deeper look into the genesis and flourishing of these practices.

Why are paper mills and gift authors thriving?

for ghostwriting. Indisputably, the paper mills and gift authors are The presence of digital being nurtured by its beneplatforms, ease of access to ficiaries who could be either content, mutual benefit, free of the students, teachers, marketplace, etc are also enscientists, and professionals couraging paid writing busiinterested in strengthening ness. The availability of their biodata for getting cerknowledgeable and competain qualifications or due to tent persons from academrace of publish or perish. ics and other domains with These individuals aspire to the potential to be ghostget credentials devoid of writers on payment or seek their intellectual contribufavour is powering the paper mills. Further, the astions in earning them. Introspection shows that since sessment attributes of the time immemorial, the acaranking and accreditation demic systems have considered the presentations in examination answer books, project reports, thesis, dissertations, research papers, etc as the culmination of the learnings acquired by the respective students and assess them based on the documentary evidence. Accordingly, the design of the curriculum is done to allow learners to spend the requisite time and gain the desired knowledge before moving on to respective assessment tools. But the des-

How to curb paper mills and gift authorships?

The nefarious manipulations to get degrees/diplo-mas/certificates/research papers/reports/patents or other things to get decorated with either qualifications or research outcomes by ghostwriting vociferate urgent interventions to curb them. Although it is very difficult to stop it completely because of the mu-tual benefit of the testimonials to gift authors and monetary gain to ghostwriters and paper mills, nevertheless, multifaceted attempts must be made to stop unlawful claimants. Strategies must include a

Assigning anyones name who has not contributed to a particular report or document as author/co-author is unethical. The practice of assigning dummy authors, which may also be called gift authors or guest authors might have been prevalent for long but its monetisation for livelihood of some needs to be curbed to retain trust in research and academic publishing. Ghostwriting practices generate revenue and result in the setting up of consulting firms as com-

frameworks having significant consideration of research and development outcomes, patents, copy-rights, PhD supervision, etc also prompt the institutions to score best on these met-rics. It in turn sets compelling circumstances for teachers to look for all possible ways to score well either through genuine or ingenuine routes. Also, the degeneration in moral values and impatience for accomplishments in the

focus on ethical reforms, institutional policies, social perception, and individual character. Authorship guidelines must be embedded with the meticulous criteria for authorship with signed declarations about specific contributions of authors. The provisions for imposing stringent sanc-tions and penalties on being caught as part of a paper mill or guest author or ghostwriter ought to be put in the crime category through laws. Besides the

eration of paper mills, gues authors and ghostwriters.

Given the above, the regulatory bodies, institutions, organisations, academics, the scientific community, and government must deliberate and evolve strategies to get rid of paper mills and guest authorship.

(The author is the vice chancellor of Veer Madho Singh Bhandari Uttarakhand Technical University. Views *expressed are personal)*

Many U'khand schools among top 10 in EWISR **Respondents queried in 34 cities** to rate schools on 14 parameters

Sarala Birla Academy,

Bengaluru, Birla Vidya

Mandir, Nainital came

fourth, GD Birla Memo-

rial School, Ranikhet came fifth while Guru Nanak Fifth Centenary

School (Boys), Mus-

soorie came eighth. In the girls board school

category, Welham Girls School, Dehradun was ranked second jointly

with Ecole Globale Inter-

national Girls School,

In the co-ed boarding

PNS DEHRADUN

A number of schools in Uttarakhand have made it among the top 10 in the 18th annual Edu-cationWorld India School mathematical and the school mathematical school mathmatematical school mathematical school mathematical school m Rankings School (EWISR) released by EducationWorld in association with AZ Research Partners Private Limited. In the vintage legacy co-edu day schools category, Saint Thomas College, Dehradun was ranked fourth in India, rising from the eighth rank last year. Among vintage legacy boys schools, Saint George's College, Mussoorie was ranked third while Saint Joseph's College, Nainital was ranked fifth. In the vintage legacy girls boarding schools category, All Saints' Col-

Unison World School, Dehradun was ranked third and Hopetown Girls School, Dehradun was ranked sixth. Vantage Hall Girls Residen-tial School, Dehradun was ranked seventh, The Doon Girls School was ranked ninth and the Guru Nanak Fifth Centenary School, Mussoorie was ranked tenth. schools category, Selaqui International School, larly, in the boys board-Dehradun was jointly

ranked second along with Chinmaya International School, Coimbatore while Kasiga School, Dehradun was ranked third. In the international residential schools category, Mussoorie International School was ranked second jointly with Good Shepherd Resident School, Ooty.

In the vintage legacy international residential schools category, the Woodstock School was ranked first in the nation. Among the government board schools, the Rashtriya Indian Military College, Dehradun was ranked second while Oak Grove School, Dehradun was ranked fourth. In the philanthropy schools category, Him Jyoti School, Dehradun was ranked number one in the nation. A sample database of 8,700 respondents including 5,150 parents and 3,550 education professionals across 34 cities in India were surveyed to rate the top 4,000 schools on 14 parameters of excellence for this survey.

Warm day likely in Doon today, light rains forecast in four districts

PNS DEHRADUN

Aday after comparatively lower temperatures, the maximum and minimum temperatures rose two and three degrees Celsius above normal respectively in Dehradun on Sunday. No significant rainfall was reported in the State on Sunday. Meanwhile, the State meteorological centre has forecast the possibility of very light to light rain/thunderstorms likely to occur at isolated places in Pithoragarh, Bageshwar, Nainital and Dehradun districts on Monday. Dry weather is likely to prevail in the remaining districts of the State today. The provisional State capital Dehradun is forecast to witness a mainly clear to partly cloudy sky. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be about 33 degrees Celsius and 23 de-

grees Celsius respectively in Dehradun today. The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in various parts of the State on Sunday were 32.3 degrees Celsius and 23.2 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 32 degrees Celsius and 23.3 degrees Celsius in Pantnagar, 22.6 degrees Celsius and 13.2 degrees Celsius in Mukteshwar and 25.3 degrees Celsius and 16.1 degrees Celsius in New Tehri. The maximum temperature dropped by a degree Celsius while the minimum rose by two degrees in Pantnagar while in Mukteshwar the maximum and minimum temperatures rose by a degree each. The maximum temperature dropped by a degree and the

minimum temperature rose by a degree Celsius in New Tehri.

Vendors in Doon gear up for festival & wedding season

added.

The owner of a footwear

that he has purchased new

stock for the coming wed-

riod, as customers may

not buy during this time

and the stock may later

PNS DEHRADUN

With only a few days remaining in the Pitra Paksha (Shraddh) period, the vendors in the prominent markets of Dehradun have prepared themselves for the imminent wedding and festive season. Many vendors are aiming to attract a higher number of customers during these celebratory occasions. They have also expressed their confidence in recouping the sales lost during the Shraddh period when people traditionally avoid new purchases.

A cloth shop owner in Paltan Bazaar, Roni Narang, noted a decrease of 30 to 40 per cent in business since the beginning of Pitra Paksh. Nevertheless, he has observed a continued interest from customers in purchasing

appear outdated. Verma plans to unveil the new new clothing for the upcoming wedding and festive season, despite not stock as soon as the festive making immediate purseason begins to attract chases. In anticipation of customers. Additionally, this demand, he has made he has also arranged for advance bookings for new stock scheduled to arrive more stock for the upcoming weddings, he added. during Navratri set to start on October 3. In order to enhance customer traffic and stimulate business growth, he has made necessary

Many other shopkeepers of clothing, footwear and cosmetics have also expressed their anticipation for increased sales in the preparations for the upcoming days. Similarly, there is excitement also at coming season, Narang shops selling Pooja items. At one such shop on Raja Road, the owner Pankaj shop, Sanjay Verma said Pal added that the sale of pooja materials typically increases during festive ding and festive season. seasons like Navratri and However, he has chosen Deepawali. The festival season is approaching, not to open the stock yet due to the Shraddh peand they are ready to provide new pooja materials,

decorative Thalis for Arti

and more.

Dehradun was jointly ranked second while lege, Nainital was ranked first in the nation while Convent of Jesus of Mary, Waverly, Mussoorie was ranked second. Among the vintage legacy co-ed boarding schools, Sherwood College, Nainital was ranked second while Wynberg Allen School, Mussoorie was ranked third. Simi-

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Udhayanidhi promotion spurs DMK discontent Amit Shah promises

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN CHENNAI

hile there is all round rejoicing among the DMK cadres over the elevation of Caures over the elevation of Udhayanidhi Stalin as deputy chief minister by papa M K Stalin, the chief minister as well as the party supremo, a sense of dejection and discontentment are visible among the top echelons of the Dravidian major.

ministers Veteran and regional satraps of the DMK are aghast over the speed with which Udhayanidhi has been promoted as the second-in-command of the government as well as the party. Even those ministers who are hangers on in the Stalin household are of the view that Stalin Junior made it to the top of the hierarchy only because of his "pedigree". The DMK, founded by C N Annadurai in the company of

M G Ramachandran, M Karunanidhi and V R has Nedumchezhiyan transformed itself over the last four decades from a democratic outfit to a dynastic entity, according to Malan, political critic and author.



promotion Udhayandhi is all set to democracy, weaken strengthen dynasty politics, corruption and sycophancy," Malan explained to The Pioneer. He also pointed out that only

the pioneer

DEHRADUN | MONDAY | SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

children of veteran DMK politicians could become MLAs, MPs and ministers. "The minimum qualification to become minister or people's representatives on DMK ticket is that one should be born as the son or daughter of Stalin's acolytes," said Malan. He pointed out that

Airport

serve

significantly

of among the family members of martyrs who sacrificed their life for the party. G C Sekhar, chronicler of Tamil Nadu politics, said it is too early to make any judgment about Udhayanidhi. "Let's wait for some time and see how he manages the show. His only qualification is that he has the pedigree to become

even the chief minister. But whether the DMK cadre would opt for him once Stalin retires from active politics is anybody's guess," said Sekhar with more than four decades experience as political critic. there was discontentment According to reports coming

from the Stalin household, the chief minister is not in the best of health.

"His recent trip to the US was for a medical check up and the results are not music to he party cadres. Udhayanidhi, though actively involved in politics since 2021 is yet to inspire the party," said P K Srinivasan, another veteran commentator and author based in Chennai.

Malan's apprehensions about corruption and dynasty politics get substantiated as Senthil Balaji who was arrested and was imprisoned for more thn 470 days too was sworn in as minister on Sunday. "Balaji was a for synonym massive corruption according to Stalin till the former crossed over to the DMK from the AIADMK. Now the chief minister describes him as the embodiment of honesty," says Srinivasan.

According to Sekhar, the DMK continues to remain in power because of the disunity in opposition camps. "The AIADMK and BJP are fighting each other ferociously than they fight the DMK. If an alliance is forged between the AIADMK and the BJP, it may enliven Tamil

Nadu politics," said Shekhar. All the three are unanimous in their view on what makes the DMK click. "The DMK is not strong without its allies. Fringe outfits like VCK, MDMK, the Lefts and Islamist organisations sustain the DMK. In the 2021 assembly election, the DMK scraped through by just 4.4 per cent. The VCK, a Dali outfit has started barraining outfit has started bargaining with the DMK for a share in the power or more seats and

this has made the Dravidian major a sitting duck," said Malan. The recent declaration by super star Vijay Joseph that he would be a strong contender in the 2026 assembly polls has made the political landscape lively. Vijayan is likely to cut into the Christian and Dalit votes of the DMK. Chennaiborn Shirley Murphy, an Evangelist based in Wales said after her recent tour to Tamil Nadu that the Christian population in the State is likely to cross 10 million in

the near future. This is one reason why Vijay himself son of an evangelist chose to launch a political party of his own." said Gauthaman Ramakrishnan, chief editor, Sri TV.

pensionable job." He also accused the Congress

pension jobs for agniveers

PARVESH SHARMA GURUGRAM

Union Home Minister Agniveer will be given a pensionable job.

Shah delivered a fiery speech while addressing a 'Jan Aashirwaad Rally' at village Dhorka Sector-95 in Gurgaon in support of BJP Badshahpur candidate Rao Narbir Singh. Shah also appealed to the people of the state not to hesitate to send their sons to the Army. Every Agniveer would get pension benefits.

'The Agniveer scheme was meant to make the Army young," he said.

While targeting Rahul Gandhi, Shah said that the Congress leader is a lying machine. "Rahul Gandhi says that Agniveer Yojana has been brought because the government does not want to give pensionable jobs. I am telling you that every Agniveer will be given a pensionable job. I am going to Badshahpur saying that there will not be a single Agniveer who does not have a



nation 05

given 5 lakh jobs without any

Shah also gave the account of

10 years of tenure: UPA

government gave 41 thousand

crores to Harvana. Whereas

the Modi government gave 2

lakh 92 thousand crores

rupees for development to

Haryana in 10 years. PM

Modi loves Haryana the most

Amit Shah targeted Congress and said that the Congress party could not fulfil the

promises it made in Himachal

and Karnataka. This is their

false guarantee, but the BJP

has fulfilled the promises it

among all the states.

Kharchi and Parchi."

party and said

There was a Congress government in Haryana, it ran on cuts, commissions and corruption. The rule of dealers, brokers and sons-inlaw was prevalent. In the BJP government, neither dealers nor brokers are left, there is no question of sons-in-law." During the Hooda government, the Congress party had only developed one district and one caste, but after the BJP gained power, the party had developed the entire state equally. He also accused the Congress party and said,

'The party had given jobs based on 'Kharchi and Parchi'

PM launches projects worth ₹ 11,200 crore in Assembly poll-bound Maharashtra

Corridor

Chhatrapati

in

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

In a slew of development initiatives aimed at giving a boost to prospects of the BJPled MahaYuti (grand alliance) forthcoming the Maharashtra Assembly polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday laid the foundation stone, inaugurated and dedicated to the nation various projects, including the inauguration of the Pune Metro Rail Project (Phase-1) and the revamped Solapur airport —worth more than Rs 11,200 crore in western Maharashtra.

Through video-conferencing, Modi — who was to visit Pune and launch various projects on September 26 but cancelled his trip to Maharashtra due to inclement weather inaugurated the Pune Metro section from District Court to Swargate, laying the foundation stone for Swargate-Katraj Extension of the Pune Metro section.



The Prime Minister also acres under the National inaugurated the Solapur Industrial which Development Program of would improve Govt. of India, situated 20 km connectivity, making the south of western Maharashtra city Sambhajinagar The Bidkin more accessible to tourists, Maharashtra. Industrial Area project business travellers and investors. The existing terminal Building of Solapur developed under Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor airport has been revamped to serve around 4.1 lakh - holds immense potential as a vibrant economic hub in the passengers annually. Modi dedicated the nation to Marathwada region. The Central Government has approved this project with an Bidkin Industrial Area, a transformative project covering an expansive 7,855 transformative overall project cost of over Rs 6,400 crore for development

- 3 phases. The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for the Memorial for Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule's First Girls' School at Bhidewada. the Even before

announcement of the schedule for the Maharashtra Assembly by the Election Commission of India (ECI), Modi has reached out to people in four regions in the state. On August 25, Modi addressed "Lakhpati Didi Sammelan" at Jalgaon in north Maharashtra on August 25, laid a foundation stone for Rs 76,000 crore Vadhvan Port at Palghar in coastal Konkan region August 30 and participated in the first anniversary function of the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana at Wardha in Vidarbha region. Today, he launched projects worth Rs 11, 200 meant for western Maharashtra. Speaking on the occasion, Modi said:"Today.

to make cities like Pune a center of progress and urban development. Keeping in view Pune's progress and the pressure of the growing population, We need to take steeps to augment development and capacity of the city. To achieve this goal, the Prime Minister said that the our government in Maharashtra is working with the approach of modernizing Pune's public transport and giving a boost to connectivity as the city expands". the He underscored importance of developmentdriven governance in ensuring Maharashtra's progress,

Maharashtra needs big goals with new resolutions. We need

emphasizing that any disruption in this continuity leads to significant losses for the state. He highlighted various stalled projects, from Metro initiatives to the Mumbai.

Recalling the discussions leads to about Pune Metro began in the state.

2008 but its foundation stone was laid in 2016 when quick decisions were taken by his government, the Prime Minister said: "Today, Pune Metro is gaining speed and expanding. On one hand, Pune Metro section of District Court to Swargate has been inaugurated while on the other hand foundation stone for Swargate to Katraj line has also been laid".

Lauding the work done for the expansion of Pune Metro from 2016 till now, Modi said: 'The present government in Maharashtra has prepared a modern network of metro in Pune while the previous government could barely construct a single Metro pillar in 8 years"

Modi underscored the importance of developmentdriven governance in ensuring Maharashtra's progress, that emphasizing any disruption in this continuity leads to significant losses for



made

Change needed in Haryana: Kejriwal

PARVESH SHARMA GURUGRAM

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, while addressing a public rally on Sunday, said the BJP had been intentionally putting him behind bars in a false case and it was time for voters to put the BJP out of power. iwal also claimed lurino the rally that the government will not be formed in Haryana without AAP's support. In Haryana, the election assembly is scheduled on October 5. "Haryana is asking for a change and development. The government will not form in Haryana without AAP's support," said the former Delhi chief minister during the public rally held in the Badshahpur constituency area in support of AAP candidate Beer Singh alias Beeru Sarpanch. Kejriwal, while addressing a public gathering, said he spent five months behind bars without any crime, "BJP targeted me because of my honesty.

national capital, which the BIP don't like, and only because of good work I had to spend several months in jail,"

the AAP chief said. "If the people of Haryana think Kejriwal is dishonest, don't vote for me. But if they believe I am honest, only then vote for AAP," Kejriwal

added. Polling will be held for the Haryana assembly on October ⁶ and results

Himachal Minister reaffirms Congress

said:"Today,

Memorial for loyalty after vendor ID remarks P Keshava Dev takes shape

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

Mafter his demise, a memorial for P Keshava Dev, Malavalam literature's eternal rebel and social reformer, is becoming a reality. V D Satheeshan, Leader of the Opposition in Kerala Legislative Assembly, who inaugurated a Cultural Yathra from the dilapidated residence of the winner of National Academy of Literature, assured the people in the constituency that their dream would soon become a reality as he himself would take the initiative to construct the memorial.

Keshav Dev (1904-1983) was Paravoor born at in Ernakulam district and remembered as the writer who portrayed the life of farm workers, head load workers, sex workers and other downtrodden sections of the society through his novels and short storied. Along with Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai and P C Kuttykrishnan, Dev formed the triumvirate of Malayalam's modern literature. He was the one of the pioneers in Kerala to get converted to Arya Samaj and that was how Keshava Pillai became Keshava Dev.

'Though he was attracted towards Communism, Dev was upset with the comrades who bulldozed civil rights and freedom of expression. The ire towards Communism resulted in the path breaking literary work "You turned Me Against Communism". His novels From The Gutter (1942) and Rowdy said the stories of a rickshaw puller and a depredator respectively.



The 1963 work Neighbors, an epic of a village and how the three major communities Nairs, Christians and Eezhava underwent a transformation in post-independent India, is rated as an all time great novel.

The memorial meeting at Dev's ancestral house was held as part of Kochi Literary Festival which is getting ready to observe the 28th edition with a month long cultural Writers events. from Ernakulam district undertook a cultural yatra from Dev's house in Paravoor to Irinjalakkuda, the cultural capital which boasts of th birth place of Samgama Grama Madhava (1340-1425) , the founder of the Kerala school of astronomy and mathematics. The team of writers also

called on Paliyam Palace, the headquarters of the Prim Minister and Chief of Army Staff of the Kingdom of Kochi. The gurukula launched by Padma Bhushan Ammannoor Madhava Chakyar (Chakyars are the proponents of Koothu, an art form), the palace of Kunhikuttan Thampuran and Unnavi Varrior Memorial too figured in the itinerary of the team.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh Minister Vikramaditya Singh met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and assured him about being steadfast to the party's ideology and principles, sources said on Sunday. The meeting on Saturday evening came amid a row over Singh's recent remarks that it would be mandatory for street vendors to display their identity cards at their shops. The state government later

clarified no such decision had been taken. Sources said Singh met Kharge and conveyed his

steadfastness to the Congress ideology and principles. Singh on Saturday said he has assuaged the Congress high command's concerns about

ideology following his recent remarks on the street vendors issue and described as "misconception" the perception that the Uttar

Pradesh model was being followed in his state.

Singh's remarks had come a day after the Congress top brass chided him over his remarks on the mandatory display of names by the street vendors and told him that no one was allowed to go against the party's policies and ideologies.

Amid the row over the comments, Congress general secretary in-charge organisation KC Venugopal held a meeting with Singh here on Friday during which the minister was told that the party believed in Rahul Gandhi's mantra of fighting hatred with love.

AAP government developed better schools and provided better health facilities in the

declared on October 8. "They sent me to jail, and now the people of Haryana will send them out of power,"

he said. AAP chief claimed that if APP came into power, free electricity would be provided. Education and Health systems in the state will be

improved. Rs 1,000 will also given to the women.

While targeting the BJP, Kejriwal said, "The BJP failed to provide better facilities to the people of the state. They spread corruption, unemployment, inflation and drug addiction to your

children and nothing else. This time, the entire Haryana is demanding change, and any government that is formed in Haryana will not be formed without the support of AAP."

Stakes high for BJP in third phase of polling in J and K

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

high-octane **P**he L campaigning for the third and final phase of Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir came to an end on Sunday with the voting set to be undertaken across 40 Assembly segments on October 1.

Across the Jammu region where polling is scheduled to take place on 24 out of 40 Assembly seats, the stakes are high for the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) as it is locked in a straight fight with the Congress party on the majority of seats.

In Kashmir Valley, where polling is scheduled to take place across 16 Assembly segments, the future of Sajad Lone's Peoples Conference and the Engineer Rashid-led Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) is also hanging in balance. The National Conference is

hoping to repeat its past performance in the 2002 and 2008 Assembly polls when it won 9 and 7 Assembly seats respectively. In 2014 NC's tally had come down to three seats in the region. PDP won seven seats in the 2014 Assembly polls from North Kashmir. Both Lone and Rashid, labeled as BP's proxy by the National Conference and the PDP are hoping to retain their stronghold in their bastions across North Kashmir. Engineer Rashid, after receiving a healthy voter response at the time of his release from the Tihar jail (on bail) is hoping to encash on the similar sentiments that propelled his Lok Sabha

Sajjad Lone who lost to Engineer Rashid in the Baramulla constituency is now contesting from two Assembly seats — Handwara and Kupwara, while Rashid is

campaign in May 2024.

hoping to make inroads in pockets of North Kashmir to romp home victoriously. The fate of several highprofile leaders and turncoats who were given the mandate by the BJP by denying tickets

to some of their 'unpopular' leaders will also be decided in this crucial phase. DS Rana contesting from Nagrota, Sham Lal Sharma from Jammu North, and Surjit Singh Slathia from

Samba are going to test the political waters for the first time as BJP candidates in the fray. From the congress party

several of its candidates are locked in a tough fight with their rival BJP candidate. Lal Singh contesting from Basohli, Raman Bhalla from RSPura-Jammu South and Tara Chand from the Chhamb Assembly segment are also making the 'battle of ballot' more interesting in these seats.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made by the Election Commission of India to ensure peaceful conduct of the polls in the wake of the prevailing security scenario in the region.

A total number of 415 candidates remain in the fray for 40 assembly constituencies spread across seven districts of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur, Baramulla, Kupwara, and Bandipora.

A handful of independent candidates in the fray are also giving a tough competition to the BJP. The party's performance in this crucial the BJP. phase is going to make or mar the chances of government formation.

BJP won 25 Assembly seats in the 2014 Assembly polls, the highest-ever tally so far. This time, the party is hoping to gain an absolute majority. In 2014, BJP swept the polls

winning 19 out 21 seats in these four districts. Addressing Vijay Sankalp Maharally in support of BJP candidates at M A M Stadium on Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said this assembly election has given the people of Jammu a historic opportunity to decide on the next government. They need to seize this moment and choose the BJP, Modi said.

Modi also claimed, "The people of Jammu and Kashmir, who have been at the receiving end of the rule of three families - Congress, National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) — do not want them back."On the occasion, Modi reiterated his government's promise of restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and cautioned people against bringing the NC, Congress, and the PDP back to power.

During the month-long campaign period, the Prime Minister himself led from the front addressing four election rallies in Doda, Srinagar, and Katra in which he communicated directly with the voters to elect a BJP government in the maiden assembly polls after the Abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A in August 2019.

Home Minister Amit Shah also campaigned extensively in the region along with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Chief Ministers from the BJP-ruled states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttarakhand and other star campaigners including Smriti Irani, and Anurag Singh Thakur also campaigned for the party candidates during the highvoltage campaigning.

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Saving Sunita Williams

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

t 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.



Transforming India through 'Make in India'



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

n 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 jobcreating investments and giving many ordinary citizens the confidence to become wealth creators. It's been a remarkable 10year 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 manufac-turing was critical to India's suc-

cess 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 harass-

India sharply improved its rank in the World Bank's Doing

Business Report from 142nd in

2014 to 63rd in 2019. The govern-

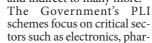
ment's Startup India initiative

ment.



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 programm, 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.



maceuticals, automobiles, tex-

tiles and medical devices to

create the eco-systems in these

sectors for sustained growth

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 MANY COUNTRIES from generating demand for goods and services, infrastruc-ARE KEEN TO SIGN ture development is a major facilitator of industrial activi-TRADE DEALS WITH ty. Today, India has a huge, and INDIA.THE WORLD IS growing, network of expressways and highways. New, NOW LOOKING AT world-class railway stations are being built, while new INDIA AS A freight corridors are coming MANUFACTURING up. India is increasingly being seen as a very attractive desti-DESTINATION. AND nation for investment. The country provides the 4D THE KEY REASON advantage - The decisive lead-ership of PM Modi; the FOR THIS INTEREST Demographic dividend of our youthful, talented, skilled IS INDIA'S Indians; the Demand that 140 COMPETITIVE crore Indians generate in the ADVANTAGE AND economy; and Democracy that ensures the safety and securi-**ROBUST ECONOMIC** ty of investors, and the rule of law which will never allow dis-**FUNDAMENTALS** crimination against one or

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 marred 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

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

Breaking life into small steps for lasting fulfillment



SANJAY CHANDRA

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

appiness 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



shenanigans. I was fooling

only myself. I quit my railway

job to join a government

company working in the exe-

cution of construction pro-

jects. I was exposed to soft-

ware-based project manage-

ment tools for the first time.

I reluctantly spent weeks with

the consultant to develop an

activity-based project break-

down structure. He educated

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.

would start with one such us about the importance of list and continue adding till I breaking each activity into had inked the second or third smaller sub-activities. We page with only a few activities were reluctant to accept that completed. I would give up, more activities to monitor and start all over again. The would result in successful previous year's diary was and timely completion. promptly destroyed lest any-He was not satisfied with the one glanced into it and called first draft of less than 100 my bluff. This continued for activities. He was a tough a few years till I discovered the taskmaster. We marched on, computer. I could delete these to our ever-increasing despair, pending activities at will, with and his impatience, till we

called it guits 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

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

LETTERS

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



his is in response to the article titled "A symphony of tradition and transformation" (September 29). In the mid-1980s, Durga Puja used to get 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

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.

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 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

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very compelling case to attract rule. manufacturers to India.

the other. The 4-D is a very, the lost decade of Congress

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

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HARNESSING **INNER POTENTIAL**

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



RAVI VALLURI

is 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)

ccording 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, industrimachinery 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 activi-The contribution of the industrial sec tor 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. 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

WHILE, ALL THREE SECTORS PLAY A CRUCIAL **ROLE IN** GROWTH, **CREATING JOBS** AND INCREASING INCOMES. MANUFACTURING

modities (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

and processing of goods and com-

MSMEs are ancillary units engaged as a global manufacturing hub; giving a boost to the micro small and medium enterprises (MSME) and in the production, manufacturing so on. Nearly 70 per cent of India's GDP is driven by domestic con-sumption; 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 Rs 1000,000 crore dur-

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, phar-maceutical 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 house-



analys \$ 07

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

Can India become a

manufacturing hub?



says it all CAN PROVIDE A

Now, India aiming at the generation of 32 per cent of the incremental MORE GVA from manufacturing shows its SUSTAINABLE determination to put in the effort during the next six years or so, **BASIS FOR** which is nearly double what it has done cumulatively to date. At this **PROVIDING JOBS** pace, by 2030, the share of manu-AND SURETY OF facturing in GDP will have reached 26 per cent (4x0.17+6x0.32)/10. INCOME Is it doable?

The factors that can make it happen are robust domestic demand; strong export potential; heavy lifting by the Central Government (plus support to States) by building infrastructure; increasing investment by the private sector; key initiatives such as "Make in India" playing a pivotal role in bolstering the country's manufacturing capabilities underpinned by the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes; India taking up a lead role in recalibrating global supply chains to position the country

ing 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

holds, either free or at a heavily sub sidized 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 indepen-dence, India has made sig-nificant 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. However, despite these achievements, a critical component remains neglectedthe quality of learning. Infrastructure may be flourishing, but the foundational skills that students require for future success often lag behind. To understand this, imagine a farmer who diligently sows seeds in well-tilled soil, only to find the harvest insufficient because the seeds weren't suit



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 stuskills 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 dents struggle with essential 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 ic interventions aimed at a roadmap for educators to develop targeted interventions that can address specific learning gaps.

In the quest to transform learning, large-scale assess-ments like ASER and NAS will be pivotal. ASER, a householdbased 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 statelevel 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 specif-

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 censusbased 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)



China urges all parties to cool down tensions in West Asia

PTI BEIJING

hina on Sunday called on "parties concerned, 'especially Israel", to immediately take actions to cool down tensions to prevent the conflict in West Asia from going out of control in the aftermath of the killing of Iranbacked Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Israeli bombing. "China is closely following the

incident and is deeply concerned over the escalation of tensions in the region," a Chinese Foreign Ministry statement said.

Separately, China also issued an advisory asking its citizens not to travel to Lebanon due to the intensification of the conflict.

"China opposes the infringement on Lebanon's sovereignty and security, opposes and condemns any action against

 $F_{\text{set}}^{\text{rance's new government is}}$

approach to migration issues as

key officials have pledged to

significantly reduce the num

ber of people entering and

staying illegally in the country.

After calling for snap legislative

elections in June, President

Emmanuel Macron appointed

Prime Minister Michel Barnier,

a veteran conservative from

The Republicans party, hoping

the Brexit negotiator would

work with the divided legisla-

ture to end the political turmoil

that has upended French pol-

dominated by conservatives

and centrists — does not have

a majority in parliament and

efforts to pass any new legisla-

tion are bound to be fought,

and potentially blocked. The

The Barnier government

itics in recent months.

AP PARIS

innocent civilians, and opposes any move that fuels antagonism and escalates regional tensions," the Chinese Foreign

Ministry statement said. "China urges parties con-cerned, especially Israel, to immediately take actions to cool down the situation and prevent the conflict from escalating or even spiralling out of control," it said, without directly referring to Nasrallah's killing, regarded as a major set-

back to Iran, the main backer of the Hezbollah. Reports from Tehran said Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who said Nasrallah's death "will not go unavenged". has been shifted to a secure location.

Khamenei also announced five days of public mourning after Nasrallah's death. In recent years, China has

to counter US influence. Last year, Beijing managed to bring about a landmark peace deal between Iran and Saudi Arabia. After the intensification of the Gaza war China hosted a meeting of 14 Palestinian factions. including Fatah and Hamas, in July to bring about unity among them.

China has also strongly condemned the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran in July, warning that the killing could plunge the region into deeper chaos. The Chinese embassy in

Lebanon, meanwhile, issued an advisory warning its citizens about escalating violence along the Lebanon-Israel border. We advise all Chinese citizens

to pay close attention to the developments and refrain from travelling to Lebanon at this time. Those currently in the stepped in its diplomatic engagement in the Middle East or move to relatively safe areas

controls at all land borders ear-

Far-right and left-wing law-

government to resign on con-

dition they agree on a no-con-

lier this month.

will

fidence vote

as soon as possible," the Chinese embassy said in a statement released on Saturday Meanwhile, in its first statement since the recent escalation with Israel and following the killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, Lebanon's military called for calm among the Lebanese "at this dangerous and delicate stage?

Government officials fear that the country's deep political divisions at a time of war could rekindle sectarian strife and violence in the smal Mediterranean country.

"The Israeli enemy is working to implement its destructive plans and spread division among the Lebanese," the military said.

Military vehicles have been deployed in different parts of the capital as thousands of displaced people continue moving from the south to Beirut.

France's new govt pledges hardline stance on migration

Norway plans to build fence on Russia border, like Finland

AP HELSINKI

Norway may put a fence along part or all of the 198kilometer (123-mile) border it shares with Russia, a minister said, a move inspired by a similar project in its Nordic neighbour Finland.

"A border fence is very interesting, not only because it can act as a deterrent but also because it contains sensors and technology that allow you to detect if people are moving close to the border," Justice Minister Emilie Enger Mehl said in an interview by the Norwegian public broadcaster NRK published late Saturday. She said the Norwegian gov-

ernment is currently looking at "several measures" to beef up security on the border with Russia in the Arctic north, such as fencing, increasing the number of border staff or stepping up monitoring.

The Storskog border station, which has witnessed only a migrants in what the Finnish handful of illegal border crossing attempts in the past few years, is the only official crossing point into Norway from Russia

Should the security situation in the delicate Arctic area worsen, the Norwegian government is ready to close the border on short notice, said Enger Mehl, who visited neighbouring Finland this summer to learn about how the entire 1,340kilometer (830-mile) Finnish-Russian land border was closed. The Finnish government was prompted to close all crossing points from Russia to Finland in late 2023 after more than 1,300 third-country migrants without proper documentation or visas — an unusually high number — entered the country in three months, just months after the nation became a member of NATO.

Islamophobia gains support London (PTI): A British Sikh To prevent Moscow using

organisation campaigning against a "flawed" definition of Islamophobia adopted by the Labour Party a few years ago being made legal has received a boost as the government admitted the proposal would not be in line with the UK's Equality Act. The Network of Sikh Organisations (NSO) had written to Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner and the government Faith Minister Lord Wajid Khan earlier this month to caution that the proposed definition would jeopardise even a factual discussion of the history of

Back in 2018, the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on British Muslims had defined Islamophobia as a "type of racism" that targets expressions of Muslimness.

'As you have mentioned, the definition proposed by the APPG is not in line with the Equality Act 2010, which defines race in terms of colour, nationality and national or ethnic origins," reads Lords Khan's reply to the NSO released this week

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Faith, Communities and Resettlement in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government goes on to admit that defining Islamophobia is a "complex issue" and something ministers are approaching in a 'more holistic" way.

'We want to ensure that any definition comprehensively reflects multiple perspectives and implications for different communities. This government is actively considering our approach to tackling Islamophobia through a more holistic lens, and will provide further information on this in due course," he said.

The minister concurs with NSO's letter that freedom of speech including the freedom to discuss religion should not be impacted by any new laws to clamp down on hateful speech that is motivated by hostility towards individuals based on race or religion. In its letter, the NSO had warned that the adoption of a "contested definition" into law would have serious implications on "free speech, not least the ability to discuss histor-

about how you have made us all

appear. "How dare you take our

longed-for victory, the elec-torate's sacred and precious

trust, and throw it back in their

individual faces and the faces of

dedicated and hardworking

Labour MPs?! The sleaze, nepo-

tism and apparent avarice are off

the scale. I am so ashamed of

what you and your inner circle

have done to tarnish and humil-

iate our once proud party."

Responding to Duffield's resig-

nation, Indian-origin Labour

MP for Nottingham East Nadia

Whittome said: "It is deeply dis-

appointing that she has been

allowed the privilege of resign-

ing, as she should have lost the

whip a long time ago." It alludes

to Duffield's previous clashes

with Labour's senior figures,

especially over her views on

transgender issues and speaking

ical truths".

Austrians vote as far-right party hopes

Germany, which expanded

National Rally party, the largest single party in the new assem-

Critics have denounced The new prime minister will outline his priorities in a gen-Barnier's government immigraeral policy speech scheduled for tion stance as strongly influ-Tuesday at the National enced by the National Rally's Assembly proposals, as its survival In recent televised interviews, depends on the party's good-

Barnier criticised French bor-National Assembly is now split ders as "sieves" and expressed between three major political blocs: the left-wing New concern that "migratory flows" were "not under control". He Popular Front leftist coalition, Macron's centrist allies - who promised to "limit immigramade a deal with the conservtion", citing measures taken by atives - and the far-right neighbouring countries like Rally's leading figure, said she would not seek to bring down the new government for now, waiting to see its initial "acts". In a recent interview with La Tribune-Dimanche newspaper, she said: "It's undeniable that Michel Barnier seems to have, on migration, the same assessment as ours." Barnier's hardline approach is reflected in the appointment of Bruno Retailleau, a fellow conservative known for his tough rhetoric on migrants, as the interior minister. Retailleau shared this week his

intention to reign in immigration. He said he would seek to "reform" France's state medical assistance that covers health care expenses for undocumented migrants. He has argued for years that it should be strictly limited to minimum emergency care.

Eight former health ministers from the left, centre and right signed a column in French makers can force the whole newspaper Le Monde to call on the government to maintain the state medical assistance, saying limiting it would put France's Marine Le Pen, the National healthcare system "under

increased pressure" because it would lead "to taking care of people later" when their condition is "more serious" and "more expensive".

Retailleau also said he would try to toughen up random border controls, bring back a law that sanctioned with fines or prison sentences those caught entering French territory illegally, and seek deals with North African nations such as Morocco so that those countries retain migrants before they even set foot in France. A shift to the right that worries

civil society groups Yann Manzi, who started working alongside migrants during the 2015 migration crisis when well over 1 million people swept into Europe, most fleeing war in Syria and Iraq, denounced France's long-coming shift to the right.

Manzi's nonprofit, Utopia 56, currently runs a temporary shelter in Paris' suburbs and coordinates hundreds of voluntary workers daily in different French regions.

He said that decades ago when France's National Rally was

still on the fringes, it came up with the rhetoric that welcoming migrants would dramatically increase the number of foreigners coming into the country and wreak havoc in French society. This has slowly but steadily spread to other parties, including the left, Manzi said. The nonprofit founder believes migrants have been met with increasingly harsh conditions in France and the rest of Europe.

The message sent to those seeking to come to the country is very clear: We no longer welcome you," said Manzi. Some proposals to stem migration could prove difficult to implement as they need to go through the already divided parliament while others, such as sanctioning migrants who have entered France illegally, appear to go against European rulings. Barnier, suggested while campaigning, in vain, to be his party's presidential candidate in 2022 that France should find ways to bypass rulings from the Court of Justice of the European Union and the European Court of Human

Contenders to lead Britain's defeated Conservative Party woo members

AP LONDON rembers of Britain's defeat-

UK, led by populist politician Nigel Farage, which won five second in dozens more. Other voters deserted the Tories for the centrist Liberal Democrats, who won 72 seats. The current front-runners in the party race are Jenrick and Badenoch, both of whom are appealing to the party's right wing. Jenrick argues that the UK should drastically curb immigration and leave the European Convention on Human Rights in order to take tough measures to stop people seeking asylum in the UK./,He told Sky News on Sunday that the party lost because "we didn't deliver the strong economy, the strong (health service) and the strong border that we promised". Nigeria-raised Badenoch evokes Tory icon Margaret Thatcher with her calls for a smaller state, appeals to patriotism and criticism of

Starmer suffers first leadership setback as party MP resigns

London (PTI). British Prime 'the politics of service'' writes your total lack of understanding

Sikh group's campaign against

world 08

currently building fences with a total length of up to 200 kilometers (124 miles) in separate sections along the border zone that makes up part of NATO's northern flank and serves as the European Union's external border. Finnish border officials say fences equipped with topnotch surveillance equipment to be located mostly around crossing points — are needed to better monitor and control any migrants attempting to cross over from Russia and give the Indian subcontinent. Inspired by Finland's project,

government calls Russia's

^{*}hybrid warfare", Helsinki is

officials time to react.

Finnmark county.

Rights.

tion policies.

Enger Mehl said that such a

fence could also be a good idea

for Norway. According to NRK

her statement was supported by

police chief Ellen Katrine

Hætta in Norway's northern

Still, the prime minister and

Retailleau argue they can still

take action without passing

new legislation, such as decrees

and instructions to national

and local administrations in

charge of implementing migra-

Retailleau said he would con-

vene next week a meeting with

prefects of regions the most

impacted by migrant issues to

'tell them to deport more"

Critics say France's hardline

shift on migration has long

Macron's former centrist gov-

ernments passed since 2017

several bills meant to tighten

immigration controls and

accelerate asylum procedures.

The latest immigration bill

adopted in January this year,

intended to strengthen France's

ability to deport foreigners

Conservative President Nicolas

Sarkozy, in office from 2007 to

2012, also emphasized a more

stringent immigration policy as

he sought to siphon off voters

considered undesirable.

from the far right.

and "regularise less"

been in the works.

for its first election win

Vienna (AP): Austrians voted on Sunday in a national elec-tion that the far-right Freedom Party is hoping to win for the first time, tapping into anxieties about immigration, inflation Ukraine and other concerns following recent gains for the hard right elsewhere in Europe. Herbert Kickl, a former interior minister and longtime campaign strategist who has led the Freedom Party since 2021, wants to become Austria's new chancellor.

He has used the term "Volkskanzler", or chancellor of the people, which was used by the Nazis to describe Adolf Hitler in the 1930s. Kickl has rejected the comparison. But to become Austria's new leader, he would need a coalition partner to command a majority in the lower house of parliament — and rivals have said they won't work under Kickl.

And a win isn't certain, with recent polls pointing to a close race. They have put support for the Freedom Party at 27 per cent, with the conservative Austrian People's Party of Chancellor Karl Nehammer on 25 per cent and the centreleft Social Democrats on 21 per cent.

Nehammer said as he voted that "it is important from my point of view to provide stability as a responsible politician but also the political centre, so that the radicals don't get a chance". More than 6.3 million people age 16 and over are eli gible to vote for the new parliament in Austria, a European Union member that has a pol icy of military neutrality. Kickl has achieved a turnaround since Austria's last parliamentary election in 2019. In June, the Freedom Party narrowly won a nationwide vote for the first time in the European Parliament election, which also brought gains for other European far-right parties.

IVIed divided and Conservative Party gathered on Sunday for an annual conference dominated by the search for a new leader capable of bringing the right-of-centre party back from a catastroph-

ic election defeat. UK voters ousted the Tories in a July election, leaving the party that had governed since 2010 with just 121 seats in the 650-seat House of Commons. The centre-left Labour Party won more than 400 seats and returned to office under Prime Minister Keir Starmer. The day after the election, defeated ex- Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said he would quit, remaining caretaker leader until his replacement is

chosen. The four candidates remaining in the race to replace him whittled down by lawmakers from an initial six – will spend the four-day conference in Birmingham, central England



speaking to as many party members as possible

Former Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick, ex-Business Secretary Kemi Badenoch, former Foreign Secretary James Cleverly and ex-Security Minister Tom Tugendhat make final pitches from the conference stage on Wednesday, before Conservative lawmakers will eliminate two candidates in a vote the following week. Party members across the country will then vote to pick

a winner, who will be announced on November 2. The winner will take over a party depleted by years of turmoil under ex-Prime Minister Boris Johnson - ousted by colleagues in 2022 amid ethics scandals - and his successor Liz Truss. She resigned after just 49 days in office when her tax-cutting plans rocked the financial markets and battered the value of the pound. In the July election, the Conservatives lost votes to hard-right Reform

ing charge at 10 Downing Street in July after one of his members of Parliament resigned from the Labour Party, delivering a scathing attack on his leadership. Rosie Duffield, MP for Canterbury in Kent, will now sit in the House of Commons as an Independent after her resigna-tion letter published in 'The Sunday Times' attacked the Labour leader's "cruel and unnecessary" policies amid an ongoing expensive free gifts row. Duffield claimed there were many "last straws" that led to her decision to resign, but her main reason to step down this weekend is over the government's programme of unpopular policies. "They are cruel and unnecessary and affect hundreds of thousands of our poormulticulturalism. She said est, most vulnerable constituents. This is not what I was Sunday that too many immigrants don't love Britain and elected to do. It is not even wise

Duffield in her resignation let-Minister Keir Starmer has suffered his first setback since tak

The MP goes on to state that she has no confidence in the Labour PM's commitment to deliver the "so-called change" he promised during the general election campaign and that she could not look her "constituents in the eye and tell them that anything has changed".

Delivering a more personal broadside on Starmer, she added: "As Prime Minister, your managerial and technocratic approach and lack of basic politics and political instincts, have come crashing down on us as a party after we worked so hard, promised so much, and waited a long fourteen years to be mandated by the British public to return to power. "Since the change of government in July, the revelations of hypocrisy have been staggering and increasingly outrageous.

I cannot put into words how politics, and it certainly is not angry I and my colleagues are at

out for protected spaces for women and against people being able to self-identify as trans to gain access to those spaces.

US: Trump lays into Harris on immigration during rally

AP WISCONSIN

Former President Donald Trump sought again to link Vice President Kamala Harris to illegal border crossings, speaking in a western river town where he said she could never be forgiven for "erasing our border". A day after Harris discussed immigration at the US-Mexico border, Trump spoke to a crowd in the Wisconsin town of 5,000 people just across the Mississippi River from Iowa, claiming the Democratic nominee was responsible for migrants who have come into the country illegally and have committed crimes. "Kamala Harris can never be for-

given for her erasing our border and she must never be allowed to become president of the United States," Trump said. "She's letting in people who are going to walk into your house, break

into your door," he said. Trump is hoping frustration over illegal immigration will translate to votes in Wisconsin and other crucial swing states. The Republican nominee has denounced people who cross the US-Mexico border as "poisoning the blood of the country" and vowed to stage the largest deportation operation in American history if elected. I will liberate Wisconsin from the mass migrant invasion," he said. "We're going to liberate the country.

But Trump also intensified his personal attacks against Harris, insulting her as "mentally impaired' "If a Republican did what she

did, that Republican would be impeached and removed from office ... Joe Biden became mentally impaired. Kamala was born that way," he said. And he also professed not to

understand what Harris meant when she said he was responsible for taking children from their parents. Under his administration, Trump separated children from their parents at the US-Mexico border in a policy that was condemned globally as inhumane and one that Trump himself ended. On the Wisconsin rally stage

with Trump were three mugshots of men in the US illegally accused of a crime, including Alejandro Jose Coronel Zarate, a case Trump cited in his speech.

Wisconsin Republicans in recent days have held up the story of Coronel Zarate's arrest in Prairie du Chien as more evidence that people in the country illegally are committing crimes across the United States, not just in southern border states. Prosecutors charged Coronel Zarate on September 18 with sexual assault,

child abuse, strangulation and domestic abuse

"hate Israel".

Police Chief Kyle Teynor posted statements on Facebook saying that Coronel Zarate is not a US citizen and that he had two fake immigration documents, including a fake Social Security card. The chief added that Coronel Zarate's tattoos indicate he's affiliated with the Tren de Aragua gang, which started in Venezuelan prisons and is posing a growing threat in the US. Speaking to the crowd Saturday, Teynor stressed to the crowd that Coronel Zarate is the only Venezuelan gang member his agency has encountered, but the violence his two alleged victims suffered at his hands earlier this month was very real.

Court records show Coronel Zarate was previously charged in Madison, the state capital, in December with strangulation, false imprisonment, battery and

disorderly conduct. According to a criminal complaint in that case, Coronel Zarate was driving with a female friend in November and attacked her when she tried to get out of the car. The complaint does not say why. The woman told investigators that they were just acquaintances and Coronel

Zarate was homeless. Police in Madison said that Coronel Zarate allegedly stole a car and fled before he could be questioned. He was arrested in Minneapolis a day after the alleged attack but was released from jail there. Asked why, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office spokesperson Megan Larson told a reporter to file a request for Coronel Zarate's jail records. The Associated Press filed such a request but government agencies typically take months to fulfill them.

Crawford County Sheriff Sheriff Dale McCullick also addressed

the crowd, and said he was sure Trump would solve the border problem and urged people to vote for Trump

Republicans including US Sen. Derrick Van Orden, who is from Prairie du Chien, have criticized authorities in both Minneapolis and Madison for letting Coronel Zarate go, saying they essentially allowed him to attack the woman in Prairie du Chien. They have accused both jurisdictions of being sanctuaries for people in the country illegally. Speaking Saturday, Van Örden said Trump was the only one who could restore order.

"You're going to see the one man who has enough strength and courage of conviction to stand up to anyone up to and including being shot in the head for us," he said.

Michelle Marie Dietrich, a public defender representing Coronel Zarate in the Prairie du Chien case, declined to comment. Charlotte Wynes, another public defender representing him in Prairie du Chien along with Dietrich, did not respond to a voicemail seeking comment. Michelle Brandemuehl, a public defender representing him in Madison, also didn't respond to a voicemail message seeking comment. Trump has repeatedly portrayed migrants as criminals and blamed Harris for fail ing to stem an unprecedented surge in illegal immigration, though border crossings have fallen since President Joe Biden instituted an executive order limiting asylum claims. Democrats, in turn, have blamed Trump for persuading allies in Congress to kill bipartisan legis lation that would have funded more border agents and given the Homeland Security secretary authority to prohibit entry for most people over a daily limit.



Russia downs over 100 drones in major barrage

AP KYIV

More than 100 Ukrainian drones were shot down over Russia on Sunday, officials said, sparking a wildfire and setting an apartment block alight in one of the largest barrages seen over Russian skies since Moscow invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

Russia's Ministry of Defence reported that it had shot down 125 drones overnight across seven regions. The southwestern region of Volgograd came under particularly heavy fire, with 67 Ukrainian drones reportedly downed by Russian air

defences. Seventeen drones were also seen over Russia's Voronezh region, where falling debris damaged an apartment block

reported and a private home, said Gov. 7 labourers killed by

separatist militants in **Balochistan**

Islamabad/Karachi (PTI): At least seven labourers from Punjab province were killed by separatist militants in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, police said on Sunday.

The labourers from Multan were shot dead late on Saturday night when they were asleep in an under-construction house in the Khuda-e-Abadan area of Panjgur town, Balochistan Inspector General of Police Moazzam Jah Ansari said.

Ansari said the labourers were in deep sleep when the armed terrorists entered the underconstruction house and opened indiscriminate fire with automatic weapons. The official said one of the

labourers luckily escaped with an injury while another was no present at the time of the shoot

The official said an investigation has been opened into the attack "This latest attack appears to be the work of the Balochistan Liberation Army as it has all their footprints on it," another security official said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who immediately condemned the attack, sought a report from Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and reiterated the government's resolve to take all possible measures to root out terrorism from the mother-



Aleksandr Gusev. Images on social media showed flames reported over Russia's Rostov region, where falling debris sparked a wildfire, said Gov. rising from the windows of the top floor of a high-rise Vasily Golubev. He said that the fire did not building. No casualties were pose a threat to populated A further 18 drones were areas, but that emergency

acres) of for

Elsewhere, 16 civilians were injured in an overnight bar-rage on the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia after Ukrainian military leaders warned that Moscow could be preparing for a new military offensive in for a new military offensive in the country's south.

The city was targeted by Russian guide bombs in 10 separate attacks that dam-aged a high-rise building and several residential homes, regional Cox Ivan Eddorov regional Gov. Ivan Fedorov wrote on his official Telegram channel. More people could still be trapped beneath the

rubble, he said. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy also said that the Zaporizhzhia attack had damaged the city's transport links. "Today,

services were fighting to extinguish the blaze, which had engulfed 20 hectares (49.4 Russia struck Zaporizhzhia with aerial bombs. Ordinary residential buildings were ment. damaged and the entrance of one building was destroyed. The city's infrastructure and railway were also damaged," Zelenskyy said in a post on X. The Ukrainian leader appeared Sunday at a memorial service to make the 83rd anniversary of the Babyn Yar massacre, one of the most infamous mass slaughters of World War II.

Babyn Yar, a ravine in the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, is where nearly 34,000 Jews were killed within 48 hours in 1941 when the city was under Nazi occupation.

"Babyn Yar is vivid proof of the atrocities that regimes are capable of when led by leaders who rely on intimidation and violence. At any time, they are no different," Zelenskyy said in a state-

"But the world's response should be different. This is the lesson the world should have learned. We must guard humanity, life, and justice." The Ukrainian military warned Saturday that Russian forces may be preparing for offensive operations in the wider Zaporizhzhia region. Voloshyn, Vladyslav spokesperson for Ukraine's southern military command, said that Russia was amassing personnel in this direction. Ukraine's air force also reported that 22 Russian drones were launched over the country overnight.

It said that 15 were shot down in Ukraine's Sumy, Vinnytsia, Mykolaiv, and Odesa regions, and that five more were destroyed using electronic defences. The fate of the remaining two drones was not specified.

Humanitarians enlist creators to engage youth during UN week

AP NEW YORK

Alout backstage during Climate Week NYC between a TikTok comedian, a buzzed-about actress, a Latin cuisine entrepreneur and a

cooking content creator. Convened by World Food Programme USA to educate the panel's audiences — over 1.8 million Instagram follow-ers combined — about hunger, the four weighed best practices for authentically breaking down weighty topics on social media.

"I want to force myself to be more active on TikTok," said more active on TIKIOK, said " Avatar: The Way of Water " star Bailey Bass. Users "have a thought, and they are talking on their phone, and they post it. It feels very pal-pable." "But how do you know this is true?" asked know this is true?" asked Manolo Gonzalez Vergara, who co-founded the culi-nary brand Toma with his mother and actress Sofia Vergara. "This is just a per-son talking." "But it's some-one you can relate with, so there's a level of trust," added Drea Okeke, a Nigerian-American engineer turned social media star with over 6 million TikTok followers. The exchange underscored the questions faced by the humanitarian establishment as they try to reach younger, more environmentally conscious generations who they routinely acknowledged throughout the many events unfolding this week along-side the United Nations General Assembly in New York - are tasked with digging the world out of the hole left by years of climate inaction. Billionaire Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates

Tory leaders demand tougher visa rules on India

PTI LONDON

The two frontrunners in the race to replace Rishi Sunak as Conservative Party leader and take his place in the House of Commons as Leader of the Opposition have thrown the spotlight on cutting immigra-tion into the UK, with visas for Indians being singled out in heated debates.

Against the backdrop of the launch of the Conservative Party conference in Birmingham on Sunday, former immigration minister Robert Jenrick singled out India as one of the countries

that should be subjected to tough visa restrictions across all categories unless it takes back its nationals who enter Britain illegally. His closest contender, shadow housing secretary Kemi Badenoch, has also zeroed in on the same issue and con-

BBC. demned new migrants bringing their disputes from India to cause unrest on the streets of the country.



"It is quite clear that there are many people who have recenty come to this country who have brought views from their countries of origin that have no place here," Badenoch told the

'I saw as equalities minister people bringing cultural disputes from India to the streets of Leicester... we need to make

sure that when people come to this country, they leave their previous differences behind. This is not a controversial thing to say," she said.

Nigerian-heritage Badenoch, considered among the favourites to win the ongoing Tory leadership election, was apparently referencing the clashes that broke out in

Meanwhile, her former minis-terial colleague Robert Jenrick who has notched up an early lead in the contest told 'The Daily Telegraph' earlier this week that while India benefited from 250,000 visas in the past year, there were as many as 100,000 Indian nationals estimated to be illegally residing in the UK. He lamented that deporta-

tions or removals to India remain stuck in the hundreds despite an India-UK Migration and Mobility Partnership which is designed to cover such returns of illegal migrants.

"The government must stop other countries exploiting our generosity by imposing severe visa restrictions and restricting foreign aid to countries that do not take back their nationals here illegally," said Jenrick. Over the four-day Tory conference starting on Sunday, Jenrick and Badenoch will go

Leicester in September 2022 in the wake of an India-Pakistan Asia Cup cricket match. head-to-head with two other party colleagues – former Cabinet ministers James Cleverly and Tom Tugendhat - as they make their leadership pitches before MPs vote in the next round.

This time the field will be whittled down to the final two candidates who will then fight it out for the online ballot of the wider Conservative Party membership, many of whom will be making up their minds during the party conference. The new Conservative Party chief and Opposition Leader is then scheduled to be declared on November 2 after the vot ing closes.

The election follows the resignation of Sunak as Tory leader in the wake of the party's bruising general election defeat in July under his leadership. The British Indian politician, who was re-elected member of Parliament from Richmond and Northallerton in northern England, has meanwhile been serving as interim leader until his successor is elected.

acknowledged as much at a Thursday Q&A promoting his new Netflix show. "We have left some real chal-

lenges for this next generation," acknowledged Gates, who runs one of the world's largest philanthropic foundations.

world 09

Young people with large online followings can be good "placeholders" for older institutions seeking relevance with new generations, said Wawa Gatheru. The Kenyan-American activist regularly uses Instagram to promote Black Girl Environmentalist, the national community she founded to diversify the climate movement's leadership pipeline. But Gatheru cautioned against looping "any young person who is visible online as an influencer" or, alternatively, cheapening youth leaders' expertise simply because they are active

online. "In order to do it well and effectively and not be tokenistic, it's so important to see young people as collaborators, young people as capa-ble," she told The Associated Press. "Content creator" lanyards hung from some Clinton Global Initiative attendees' necks in a new feature of the yearly gathering hosted by the former First Family's philanthropic foundation. The two-day event marked the first time that organisers intentionally dedicated space for influencers to collaborate. It came from the recognition that creators help shape how "millions of people relate to others and understand their world," according to Clinton Foundation Chief Brand and Digital Officer Francesca Ernst-Khan.

Pope wraps troubled visit to Belgium by praising victims, demanding abusers be judged

AP BRUSSELS

Pope Francis demanded on P Sunday that sexually abusive clergy be judged and their bishops stop covering up their crimes as he ended a troubled visit to Belgium by responding e scand here that has devastated the church's credibility. "Evil must not be hidden. Evil must be brought out into the open," Francis told some 30,000 people at Belgium's sports stadium, drawing applause repeatedly as the crowd took in what he was saying. Francis deviated from his prepared homily to respond to the meeting he held with 17 abuse survivors on Friday night, where he heard first-hand of the trauma and suffering they endured and the tone-deaf response of the church when they reported the crimes. Belgium has had a wretched legacy of abuse and cover-up, none more symbolic of the church's hypocrisy than the case of Bruges Bishop Roger Vangheluwe. He was allowed to quietly retire in 2010 after he admitted that he had sexually abused his nephew for 13 years. Francis only defrocked him

this year — 14 years later — in a move clearly seen as finally dealing with a problem before

his arrival in Belgium. Once here, he couldn't escape the criticism. Belgium's king demanded the church work "incessantly" to clean up the scandal and he prime

to celebrate the 600th anniversary of the Leuven/Louvain Catholic University, the oldest Catholic university in the world and long the Vatican's academic fiefdom in Belgium. But the rector of the Dutch

campus told Francis that the

women's "invisibility" in the church and society. Women have long complained they have a second-class status in the church, barred from the priesthood and positions of power despite doing the lion's share of cating the young

gians and contributes to



President Asif Ali Zardari also condemned the attack. In another development, armed men abducted at least 20 labourers of a gas company from a construction site near a highway in the Musakhail district of the Balochistan province on Sunday.

The Express Tribune newspaper reported that armed men raided a gas company's site in the district and abducted 20 labour ers. Police or security officials have not commented on the incident so far.

The report said the armed men opened fire after rounding up the workers and abducting 20 of them before fleeing into the mountainous region near the highway. On Saturday, a senior leader of the Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP M), Agha Khalid Shah, was shot dead and his cousin was injured by unidentified assailants in Quetta.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, awards the national medal to Brazil's former President and President of the New Development Bank (NDB) Dilma Rousseff during a ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Sunday. AP/PTI

ter insisted that victims' needs be placed first, in a remarkable dressing-down from the leadership of the once-staunchly Catholic country.

"In the church there is room for everyone, everyone, but everyone will be judged and there is no place for abuse. There is no place for the covering up of abuse," Francis said in his homily. "I ask the bishops not to cover up abuse. Condemn the abusers and help them to recover from this disease of abuse." Francis' visit to Belgium was always going to be difficult, given the country's wretched legacy of abuse and overall secularising trends which have emptied its majestic cathedrals and church-

But it's unclear if he or his entourage expected such sharp public expressions of outrage or the pointed calls for reform from Belgium's intellectual elite. The main reason for the trip was

scandal had so harmed the church's moral authority that it would do best to reform if it wants to regain credibility and relevance. Rector Luc Sels suggested that opening up greater roles for women - including the priesthood - and being more welcoming to LGBTQ+ Catholics would be a good place to start. Francis heard a

similar call from the Francophone campus, where students staged a reading of an articulated critique of his landmark environmental encyclical "Praised Be" in which they called for a "paradigm shift" in the way the church views women. They noted that the encyclical virtually ignores women, cites no female theolo-

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Inderjeet Dolui son of Sh. Bijay Krishna Dolu R/o. 5177, Gali No. 3, Krishna Nagar, Karol Bagt New Delhi-110005 do hereby declare that my so student of Class-IX-B, in Ramjas School at Anar Parvat New Delhi-110005. that my son incorre Parvat New Delhi-110005, that my son incorrect name is PEEOM also my son's parents name inderjeet and Manshri that my son correct name is PEEOM-DOLUI as per Aadhar Card No. 271087097794 that my son's father name is INDERJEET DOLUI as per Aadhar Card No. 271087097794 that my son's mother name is MANASHRI DOLUI as per Aadhar Card No. 499248296817 that I declare that PEEOM DOLUI and PEEOM both are names of the same person, belong to my son that I declare that INDERJEET DOLUI and INDERJEET both are names of the same person that I declare that MANASHRI DOLUI and person that I declare that MANASHRI DOLUI and MANSHRI both are names of the same person belong to my wife that I will never change the name of my son with my son's parents name in the future

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given that my client Saqib khan is in process to Purchase Residential Plot Bearing No. 185, area measuring 70 sq. mtr. in Block C. 10. situated in the revenue estate of Yamuna Whar, New Delhi (avaiing loan from DCB Bank I from Yogendra Singh Rana , having acquired the said property vide Conveyance. Deed dated 46/2012 (Document No. 10363) executed by POI through DDA, He confirmed that his seller is not having the below documents pertaining to the property in question for that online FIR has already been lodged on dated 29/9/2024 vide LR no.216264/2024 a) Original Allotment letter 08.08.1978 issued by DDA in favour of Kushabi Ram Malhotra d) Original Possession letter dated 12.10.1978 issued by DDA in ravour of Kushabi Ram Malhotra d) Original Possession lig dated 21.10.1978 issued by DDA in ravour of Kushabi Ram Malhotra d) Original Possession slip dated 21.10.1978 issued by DDA in ravour of Kushabi Ram Malhotra d) Original Possession slip ated 21.10.1978 issued hy DDA in ravour of Kushabi Ram Malhotra d) Original Possession slip ated 21.10.1978 issued hy DDA in tayour of Kushabi Ram Malhotra d) Original Possession slip ated 21.10.1978 issued hy DDA in tayour of Kushabi Ram Malhotra d) Original GPA, ATS and Will dated 06.02.1989 executed by Kushabi Ram Malhotra in favour of the said Property, or any part thereaf, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenarcy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsgover, are bereby requested to notify the same in writing to us

possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoverer, an hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below writhin 7 days from the date hereof failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waiver and/or abandoned. Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate Unit No. Fr.2, First Hoor, Mahaluxim Metro Towe Sec 4, Vaishali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 981006335

caring for the sick and passing on the faith.



CHANGE OF NAME

I. Neetu Sharma W/0 Sh. Ravinder Vashisth R/o V&Po Baghola, Teh & Distt Palwal, Haryana 121102, Declare That My Name Wrongly Written In My Husband Army Record As Neetu Vashisth. My Correct Name Is Neetu Sharma. For All Future Purposes. Vide Affidavit No.36AA729755

Dated 27 Sep 2024. PD(812)C I, Rajani Mirdha W/0 Sh. Krishna Kishan R/o V&Po

Jamtalia, Teh & Distt Sundergarh Odisha. 770019, Declare That My Name Wrongly Written In My Husband Army Record As Rajani Kishan. My Correct Name Is Rajani Mirdha. For All Future Purposes. Vide Affidavit No. 36AA729756

Dated 27 Sep 2024 PD(813)C

It is for general information that I, Machal Singh S/o Dayaram, Parmanent R/o Roriya Pura, Ambah, Ambah Morena, Madhya Pradesh-476111, Present R/o D-286, U/G/F, gali no.-9, Sadh Nagar, Palam Colony, Palam South West, NCT of Delhi-110045, declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as Mamta Devi in my minor daughter namely Vaishali aged 14 years in her School Record. The actual name of my wife is Mamta Kumari respectively, which may be amended accordingly. PD(807)C

Hospital clowns bring joy to young patients who survived Russian attack

AP KYIV

Their costumes are put on I with surgical precision: Floppy hats, foam noses, bright clothes, and a ukulele with multicolored nylon strings.

Moments later, in a beige hospital ward normally filled with the beeping sounds of medical machinery, there are bursts of giggles and silly singing.

As Ukraine's medical facilities come under pressure from intensifying attacks in the war against Russia's full-scale invasion, volunteer hospital clowns are duck-footing their way in to provide some badly needed moments of joy for hospitalized children. The "Bureau of Smiles and Support" (BUP) is a hospital clowning initiative established

patients. in 2023 by Olha Bulkina, 35, When the children were and Maryna Berdar, 39, who evacuated from Okhmatdyt already had more than five after the missile attack, many

years of hospital clowning of them were in extremely difexperience between them. ficult medical conditions, but even in this situation they "Our mission is to let childhood continue regardless of tried to support the adults the circumstances," Bulkina, said Berdar, recalling the told The Associated Press. events after the strike.

BUP took on new signifi-

cance following a Russian

missile strike on Okhmatdyt

Children's Hospital in Kyiv in

July. The attack on Ukraine's

largest pediatric facility forced

the evacuation of dozens of

young patients, including

those with cancer, to other hospitals in the capital - and

the clowns did not stand aside.

Together with first responders,

Berdar and Bulkina helped

with clearing the rubble after

the attack and attended to the

children who were relocated

to other medical facilities.

But even for them, the real

heroes there were young

The hospital clowns, who use traditional clown noses and bright costumes, are now visiting multiple hospitals in the Ukrainian capital region, including the National Cancer Institute, where patient numbers have surged after the Okhmatdyt attack

Tetiana Nosova, 22, and Vladyslava Kulinich, 22, are volunteer hospital clowns who go by Zhuzha and Lala and ioined BUP more than a year ago. For them, hospital clowning is as challenging as it is rewarding.

'I volunteer so that children don't think about their illness, even for a short moment, so that laughter replaces tears, and joy replaces fear, especially during medical procedures,"

Kulinich said. In her practice, she stays together with children, sharing all their feelings, whether they are fear, pain, or joy. For Nosova, the process itself is what made her start clowning. "I am motivated by joy. I simply enjoy it. All my life I studied to be an actress, all my life I enjoyed making people laugh. That's enough motivation for me," she said. In a city grappling with nightly air raid alerts and power outages, overworked doctors say the presence of the volunteers brings a much-needed distraction, often helping children who had been undergoing painful medical treatment to feel happy again. "Clowns play a very important

role in the treatment of children. They help distract the children, they help them forget about the pain, they help them not pay attention to the nurses or doctors who come to treat them," Valentyna

Mariash. a senior nurse on the Okhmatdyt cancer ward, told AP. The July attack complicated treatment plans for many families. Daria Vertetska, 34, was in Okhmatdyt with her 7year-old daughter, Kira, when the missile exploded just outside their ward. Kira, who was diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma of the nasopharynx, was asleep, medicated with morphine. "It saved her that she was covered with a blanket during the strike, but still, her head, legs, and arms were cut with small glass shards," said Vertetska. She and Kira returned to Okhmatdyt in less than a week after the attack. Not all the children returned to the hospital. Some stayed in the medical facilities where

they had been evacuated, while others were moved to apartments paid for by charity organizations and located in the hospital's vicinity.

Despite hospital clown initiatives like BUP across Ukraine, the need for their work grows exponentially. "When I see how our work is needed in the large children's hospitals located in Kyiv, I can only imagine what a great need there is in regional and district hospitals, where such (clown) activity, as for example in Okhmatdyt, to be honest, simply does not exist," Berdar said.

Health The World Organization, earlier this month, warned that the country faces a deepening public health crisis, largely due to devastating missile and drone strikes on the country's electricity system as well as hospital infrastructure.

Since the start of Russia's fullscale invasion in February 2022. WHO has recorded nearly 2,000 attacks on Ukraine's health care facilities and says they are having a severe impact.

PUBLIC NOTICE



money 10

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

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

With 7 per cent economic growth, India is not creating enough jobs as reflected by the number of applicants for vacant posts in some states, Reserve Bank's former governor Raghuram Rajan said and suggested the government needs to focus on promoting labour-intensive industries to generate employment.

Rajan' further said some Indians, especially those at upper level, are comfortable and have high incomes, but consumption growth from the lower half of the country has still not recovered to prepandemic level.

'That is the unfortunate part...You would think with ⁷ per cent growth, we would be creating a lot of jobs. But if you look at our manufacturing growth, it is more capital intensive," he told PTI.

Rajan was asked whether the Indian economy, which is growing at 7 per cent, is creating enough jobs.

According to him, the industries that are more capital-intensive are growing faster, but labour-intensive industries are not growing.

"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

applications of 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 wor? 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 employmentlinked schemes based on enrolment in Employees' . Fund Provident Organization (EPFO).

Citing examples of Vietnam and Bangladesh, which are doing well in labourintensive industries like textile and leather, he said, 'We need to look at this (labour-intensive industry)



very, very carefully, we cannot be left out." Asked why the private sector is still lagging as far as capital expenditure is concerned, Rajan said it is a little bit of a mystery.

"When you look at capital utilisation (of the private sector), it is about 75 per cent...It seems as if demand has not kept up to the point where they feel they need to make all that kind of investment," he opined.

service'; but has a 'Buy on

Board' service. However, as a

frequent flyer, I sincerely

recommend that flyers either

or eat at an airport, no matter

how overpriced the latter

That said, consolidation of

Air India and Vistara into one

large airline is a huge

Indian aviation to develop

option is.

And more importantly, Rajan said, India has a short span of 15 years to reap benefits of demographic dividend and it should not lose this opportunity.

Responding to a question on benchmark interest rate cut by the US Federal Reserve, Rajan said, "The 50 basis points rate cut by Fed has given them (central banks) more room to proceed at a pace that they think appropriate.

According to him, if the Fed 'subsidising' the northern 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 stakeholders, various including the states, and come up with something that meets the needs of the country," he said. Currently, GST is a four-tier tax structure with slabs at 5, 12, 18, and 28 per cent. The new taxation regime came into effect in 2017. Responding to a question about the ongoing debate on economically and socially better-off southern and western states

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...There 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.

Observing that there has to be some transfers from the richer states to the poorer states, he said, "We need to bridge this gap".

Government seeks industry inputs on Income Tax simplification

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

T^{he} gover government has 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 а 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?

KUSHAN MITRA NEW DELHI

t midnight between 11-A12, November Air Vistara will cease to function as an independent entity as the merger of Air India and Air Vistara will be solemnised. While it is certain that several of the 60-plus aircraft in Air Vistara's fleet will continue to operate in the airlines' famous aubergine livery for a few years, the Vistara flight code UK will be retired and it is certain that Air India will rationalise routes and services between the two airlines, a process that will not be easy.

To be fair, Tata Sons has already managed an airline merger, that of the former Air Asia India and Air India Express. However, that was much easier as both airlines were low-cost single-class operators, even though they operated different aircraft, Air Asia India, the Airbus A320 and Air India Express, the Boeing 737. But as the leases on older Airbus aircraft end, it is likely that the airline will move to a single fleet of Boeing 737 MAX aircraft.

Things are much more service.



complex for the Air India and There is no need for airlines Vistara merger even though to offer a meal service, but if they claim to be 'full-service' there is largely a single-type, the Airbus A320-family of carriers they should offer a aircraft. This is because of proper meal or at least offer a decent 'Buy on Board' service. different aircraft configurations as well as The largest airline in India different service and training does not pretend to offer 'full

standards. Many frequent flyers, including this writer, particularly on routes out of Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru are unhappy about bring their own food onboard small things like Air India's domestic catering new options. On a recent flight between Delhi and Kochi at lunchtime, the meal provided was wholly inadequate with a sandwich and stuffed bread opportunity for Tata Sons and roll, unlike Vistara's continuing proper meal India into a proper global

deposit, SIP to attract depositors: Chairman 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.

with middle-eastern airlines

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 A321XLR new Airbus entering service next year, IndiGo can potentially threaten Air India's global expansion plans as well. aviation hub and compete

PTI NEW DELHI

n 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 he 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 speculative or а 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

SBI plans combo product of recurring

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

necessarily be 'Made in India'.

glory to this pride," he said.

to

on



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

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

compensating

customers."

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. potential We have 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

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

With his government's flagship 'Make in India' initiative completing 10 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said India has become a manufacturing powerhouse and it is because of the country's youth power that the "whole world is looking up to us".

As the 'Make in India' initiative marked its 10th anniversary last week, the prime minister talked about it in his monthly 'Mann Ki Baat' radio broadcast and said the success of this campaign includes the contribution of the country's big industries as well as small shopkeepers.

Today, it gives me immense joy to see that the poor, the MAKE IN INDIA

whole world is looking up to middle class and MSMEs are getting a lot of benefit from this campaign. This campaign has provided an opportunity to people of every class to showcase their talent," Modi said. added. "Today, India has become a

manufacturing powerhouse and it is because of the youth country is narrating the power of the country that the success saga of 'Make in

India'.

us. Be it automobiles, textiles, aviation, electronics or defence... every sector in the country's exports are constantly on the rise," he

The prime minister said the continual rise of FDI in the

"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 max promotion," Modi said. maximum "In 'Mann Ki Baat' we've also

discussed 'My Product My Pride'.

"Anything you gift that too should be 'Made in India'. How the people of the country can benefit from promoting local products can is not 'Vocal for Local'. be understood through an example. more and more.

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 affirmed that the flagship popular and empowering initiative local communities... and that is the spirit of 'Make in manufacturing transformed a dream into a India," he added.

In this festive season, Modi impact shows that "Bharat is unstoppable". urged people that anything that they buy, should

Reliance infrastructure wins arbitration case against DVC

Merely buying earthen lamps PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

The Calcutta High Court has upheld a Rs 780 crore You should promote local products made in your area arbitration award in favour of Any such product, that has Reliance Infrastructure Ltd in been made with the sweat of a dispute with West Bengalbased Damodar Valley an Indian artisan, that is Corporation, the Anil Ambani made on Indian soil, is our group firm said in a stock pride - we always have to lend exchange filing.More than a On the 10th anniversary of decade back, Reliance his government's 'Make in India' drive, Prime Minister Infrastructure had won a contract to set up a 1,200 MW thermal power plant in Purulia in West Bengal for Rs Wednesday boost 3,750 crore. The project was has delayed due to disputes and other reasons, leading to DVC damages powerful movement and its seeking from Reliance Infrastructure. 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

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

The government has approved the transfer of licence relating to non-news and current affairs TV channels held by the media entities of billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries to Star India. According to regulatory filings by Reliance Industries and TV18 Broadcast, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting granted the approval in an order dated September 27. "The Ministry of Information

and Broadcasting, Government of India, vide its order dated September 27, 2024, has granted its approval for transfer of Licenses relating to Non News & Current Affairs TV channels held by Viacom18 Media

Private Limited in favour of Undertaking from Viacom 18

India"

Star India," it said. and Jio This would be "subject to Digital18, which is a subsidiary of Viacom 18. This conditions laid by the Competition Commission of would be followed by "demerger, transfer and vesting of V18 Undertaking Viacom18 is the holding from Digital 18 into Star company that owns the media and entertainment business of India". The merger of the media assets of Reliance Industries Reliance Industries and

Bodhi Tree Systems. Now, both sides are in the and The Walt Disney Co. Will final stages of the merger, create the country's largest making some adjustments to media empire worth over Rs 70,000 crore. Earlier, the CCI the business as per the directions of the Competition had said it had cleared the "proposed Commission of India (CCI). involving Reliance Industries On August 30, the NCLT approved the scheme of Ltd, Viacom18 Media Pvt Ltd, Digital18 Media Ltd, Star merger of Viacom18 Media and Digital 18 Media, holding India Pvt Ltd and Star Television Productions Ltd, media and entertainment assets of Reliance Industries, subject to the compliance of with Star India. The scheme voluntary modifications". had proposed the transfer and vesting of Media Operations Viacom18 is part of the RIL group, and SIPL is wholly

owned by The Walt Disney Company. STPL, a company Cinema into 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 televisior channels.

Walt Disney will hold the remaining 36.84 per cent combination 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.

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

Modi

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 benchmark 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

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 valuation soared Rs 13,094.52 the highest ranking.

INBRIEF

22ND KISHORE KUMAR MEMORIAL AWARDS

NEW DELHI: Dr. Kamal Pathak. Registrar of IP University was speaking as the chief quest 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, BSc.-B.Ed, B.Com-B.Ed and B.Ed-M.Ed for Regular students through online portal has been scheduled

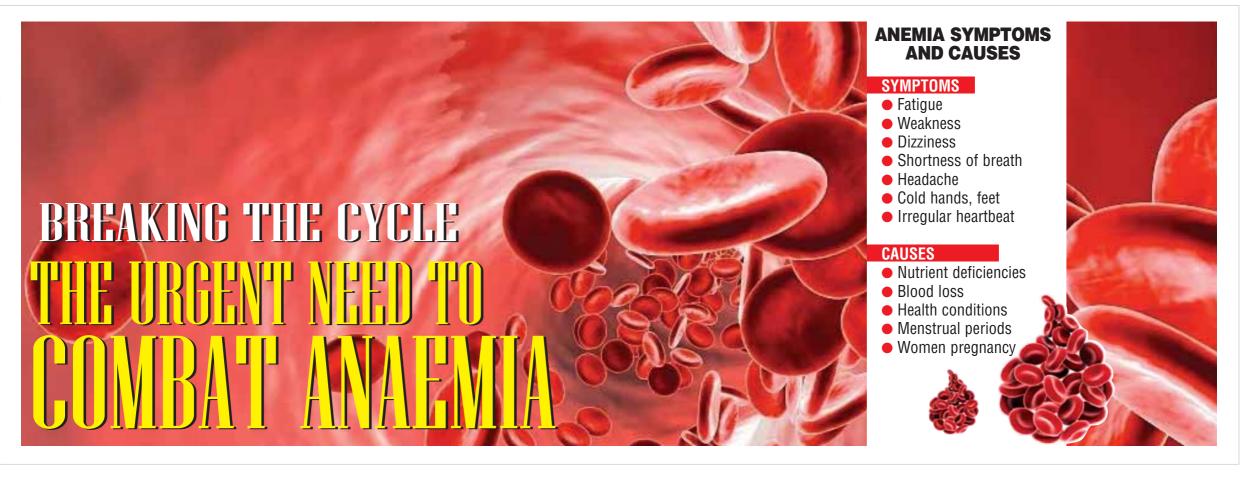
GNDU ZONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL

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. Ravijit Singh from Dr Daljit Singh Eve Hospital, Amritsar



ne pioneer





In a world where health often takes a backseat to the demands of modern life, anaemia has emerged as a silent epidemic writes **ABHI SINGHAL**

NORMAL

n today's fast-paced world, many individuals struggle to prioritize their health and wellness, particularly those aged 21 to 50. This neglect can lead to significant health issues, including a common yet often overlooked condition: anaemia. Anaemia, characterized by a reduced number of red blood cells or malfunctioning red blood cells, can have serious implications for one's health. The latest statistics from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), conducted from 2019 to 2021, reveal a staggering prevalence of anaemia in India: 57% of women aged 15 to 49 and 25% of men in the same age group are affected. The figures are even more alarming for specific demographics, with 67% of children aged 6 to 59 months, 59% of adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 years, and 52% of pregnant women aged 15 to 49 years being anaemic. Given these statistics, it is imperative to raise awareness and break the cycle of anaemia, particularly among

pregnant women who are set to bring new life into the world. The symptoms of anaemia can

significantly impact daily life, including fatigue, weakness, shortness of breath, pale skin, cold extremities, dizziness, rapid heartbeat, and difficulty in concentrating. These symptoms create a vicious cycle: anaemia leads to weakness, which in turn results in laziness and decreased productivity, ultimately affecting one's overall wellbeing and work output.

To address this critical issue, a roundtable discussion titled "India's Silent Epidemic: Raising Awareness & Fostering Urgent Action Against Anaemia" was convened. The panel of experts included Dr Manju Puri, Director Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi; Dr Tulika Seth, Professor of Haematology at the All ANAEMIC India Institute of Medical

Sciences; Dr Sarath Gopalan, Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist at Madhukar Rainbow Children's Hospital, New Delhi; and Dr William Joe, Assistant Professor at the Population Research Centre, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi.

The experts identified iron deficiency as the primary cause of anaemia. They

NUTRITION ALONE IS **INSUFFICIENT. THE GOVERNMENT HAS IMPLEMENTED A SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAM FOR** VULNERABLE GROUPS, **PROVIDING LOW-COST** SUPPLEMENTS THAT ARE WIDELY AVAILABLE. EVEN WHEN PURCHASED, THEY ARE AFFORDABLE. IT'S **IMPORTANT TO VIEW** SUPPLEMENTS AS A NECESSARY BACKUP

emphasized that one can have normal haemoglobin levels yet still be iron deficient. This situation is like to an iceberg, where anaemia is merely the visible tip. For instance, a person with a haemoglobin level of 12 could still suffer from iron deficiency. By administering iron supplements, their iron stores may improve, alleviating many symptoms, even if the haemoglobin level changes only slightly.

Dr Tulika Seth highlighted the need for greater awareness regarding iron-rich foods. She noted that even educated individuals often struggle to name two iron-rich foods. "Unless you know about red meat and similar options, you're unlikely to consume sufficient amounts," she remarked.

The discussion also underscored the significance of dietary counselling to enhance iron intake through improved dietary choices, which is essential for health management. Experts stressed that knowledge and awareness are crucial initial steps toward addressing anaemia

Furthermore, the quantity of nutrient intake was discussed as a pivotal factor. The experts addressed the role of iron supplements, particularly in light of the younger generation's reluctance to

Keeping Fit and Well during

the Monsoon Season

consume leafy vegetables, which are vital for nutrient intake. While supplements can serve as a backup, they cannot replace the benefits derived from natural food sources.

In response to inquiries about nutritional solutions and reliance on supplements, Dr Manju Puri noted, "Nutrition alone is insufficient. The government has implemented a supplementary program for vulnerable groups, providing low-cost supplements that are widely available. low-cost Even when purchased, they are affordable. It's important to view supplements as a necessary backup."

Awareness remains the first step in combating anaemia. understanding the symptoms, causes, and prevention strategies, individuals can take proactive measures to safeguard their health. Incorporating iron-rich foods-such as leafy vegetables, red meat, and fortified cereals-into one's diet is essential, and supplements can provide

additional support when needed. Ultimately, health is one's greatest asset. Individuals are encouraged to prioritize their health by staying informed about anaemia and taking steps to prevent or manage this condition.

"Nourishing Your Body: The Role of Nutrition in Daily Wellness"

BY Dr Wajiha Mehtab

diseases and certain types of cancer. gives the body a steady supply of energy,

BY Dr Dinesh Kumar Tyagi

n a world filled with fast food, busy schedules, and growing health concerns, the importance of nutrition in our daily lives cannot be overstated. Proper nutrition is the foundation of a healthy body and mind, influencing everything from energy levels to disease prevention. Eating a well-balanced diet is more than just fuelling the body-it's about enhancing overall well-being and leading a vibrant, fulfilling life.

The Building Blocks of Health

At its core, nutrition provides the essential building blocks our bodies need to function. Carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins, and minerals all play crucial roles. Carbohydrates are the body's main source of energy, while proteins help build and repair tissues. Healthy fats, such as those found in nuts, seeds, and fish, support brain health and protect vital organs. Vitamins and minerals, found in abundance in fruits and vegetables, help regulate processes such as metabolism, immune function, and cell repair.

Without these key nutrients, the body struggles to perform its everyday tasks efficiently. Poor nutrition weakens the immune system, slows down healing, and can lead to fatigue, poor concentration, and overall poor health. On the other hand, a diet rich in whole, nutrient-dense foods can optimise energy, mood, and productivity.

Preventing Chronic Disease

One of the most important reasons to prioritize nutrition is its role in preventing chronic diseases. Conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, and obesity are increasingly common, yet many are preventable through better dietary choices. Diets high in processed foods, refined sugars, and unhealthy fats contribute to the development of these diseases, while diets rich in whole grains, lean proteins, fruits, and vegetables offer protection.

The World Health Organization (WHO) stresses that a diet full of fruits and vegetables can reduce the risk of heart

Foods high in fiber, like whole grains and legumes, promote healthy digestion and reduce the risk of gastrointestinal disorders. Meanwhile, cutting down on salt, sugar, and saturated fats helps control blood pressure and maintain a healthy weight.

Mental Health and Nutrition

The link between nutrition and physical health is well-documented, but its impact on mental health is equally significant. Nutrients such as omega-3 fatty acids, found in fish and flaxseeds, and

antioxidants in fruits and vegetables, support brain function and mood regulation. Studies show that a diet rich in these nutrients may reduce the risk of depression and anxiety while improving memory and cognitive function.

Conversely, diets high in processed and sugary foods are linked to higher rates of mood disorders. Blood sugar spikes and crashes, caused by refined sugars and simple carbohydrates, can lead to irritability, fatigue, and feelings of anxiety. By maintaining a balanced diet, people can stabilize their energy levels and emotional health.

Fuelling Daily Energy

The food we eat directly impacts how we feel throughout the day. A balanced meal

while junk food leads to quick energy crashes. Eating a variety of nutrient-rich foods ensures that the body has everything it needs to keep going strong. Complex carbohydrates, such as brown rice and sweet potatoes, provide longlasting energy. Proteins and healthy fats offer sustained energy release, keeping us feeling full and energised for longer periods. Vitamins and minerals also play a role, helping the body efficiently convert food into energy.

Practical Tips for a Healthier Diet

Maintaining a nutritious diet doesn't have to be complicated. Simple, mindful choices can make a big difference. Here are a few tips:

Focus on whole foods: Prioritise fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats. Limit processed and packaged foods.

Eat the rainbow: Aim to include a variety of colours on your plate. Different fruits coloured and vegetables provide a wide range of vitamins and minerals.

Stay hydrated: Water is essential for nearly every function in the body. Make sure to drink enough water throughout the day.

Watch portion sizes: It's not just what you eat, but how much. Be mindful of portion sizes to avoid overeating, even with healthy foods.

Plan ahead: Planning meals and snacks in advance can help you make healthier choices and avoid unhealthy last-minute options.

Nutrition is a cornerstone of health and wellness. By choosing nutrient-dense, whole foods and avoiding processed alternatives, individuals can significantly improve both their physical and mental health. Good nutrition doesn't just fuel the body-it fuels life, empowering us to live more energetic, fulfilling, and disease-free lives. Prioritising what goes on your plate is one of the most impactful decisions you can make for your longterm well-being.

The author is MSc, PhD, Consultant Nutritionist and Founder & Director, Artisan Academy of Advanced Clinical Nutrition

onsoon is the season that brings Lnecessary cool to the weather after the scorching summers. Although the weather becomes extremely pleasant, monsoons also open the gate to a plethora of waterborne and viral diseases and infections. The stagnant pools of water the puddles are breeding grounds for germs and bacteria and the humidity becomes another ally of viral infections. Let's discover some tips and habits that can help you avoid monsoon diseases. A healthy gut ensures a good immune system. It is important to maintain a nutritious diet in all your meals ensuring that you are getting the fats, minerals, and vitamins you need. Eat seasonal fruits and vegetables and avoid oily spicy food that could meddle

Food made at restaurants, streets, or cafe's are usually made in unhygienic conditions. Food made in unhygienic conditions can lead to typhoid, infections as it carries various germs and served

common during the monsoons. Drinking unsafe or impure water from public water coolers can lead you to catch them. Drink safe water from RO or try to get bottled water when you are out and about.

Damp clothes can cause skin infections and even lead to allergies. Wearing dry, clean clothing during rainy seasons is very important. Go for Synthetic, quick-

drying materials as they infection like swine flu or won't stay damp for long and hepatitis.

While monsoons will come and go, life goes on and you will have to go out and interact with people at offices or public spaces or even crowds. All you can do is maintain a good amount of to catching cold, fever, and space between you and other waterborne diseases, others to avoid the risk of especially during the peak catching any infections monsoon season downpours. Make sure you are up to date Keeping your umbrella and about getting all your raincoat handy while going vaccines and booster doses. Outbreak diseases like hepatitis are very common during monsoons. Consult your doctor and make sure that you are not behind on getting any vaccines.

Infections through insects like malaria and dengue are during rampant the monsoons. It is important to protect yourself from such diseases. Get a mosquito repellent that you can use in areas where there are a lot of stagnant bodies and

mosquitoes. You can also use nets at night to prevent mosquito bites.

Germs, bacteria, and insects including mosquitoes all have one hotspot during winter that is stagnant water. You should avoid going to water-logged areas during monsoons to avoid all such bacteria and germs and make sure to disinfect yourself properly after you have been through those areas.

It becomes important to cover your full body during monsoons to prevent mosquito bites or fungal infections of any kind. Stick to wearing full-length skirts, t-shirts, and pants to avoid any such issues.

Sunlight, although is very important for us for Vitamin D, during the rainy season the sunlight can weaken your immunity. The combination of sun and humidity after a rain shower can lead to dehydration. Wear shades, apply sunscreen, and try to stay in shaded areas during monsoons as much as

possible. Good sleep is very important for your immune system. Good sleep regenerates your body cells and keeps you body healthy. To avoid catching any viral fevers or infections you should maintain a good sleep cycle. Staying healthy, and maintaining good habits is healthy, the crux to staying away from all kinds of fevers, infections, and flu during monsoons. Some habits should be well inculcated like wearing dry clothes and maintaining a safe distance

from crowds during the monsoons to stay healthy and safe. The author is the Additional Director of Internal Medicine

at Fortis Hospital, Greater Noida.

with your digestion don't retain moisture like cotton or linen. They help you stay dry and comfortable Many of us love to enjoy the rain and get drenched in rain like kids. This may seem refreshing but it can lead you

bacteria. Try to eat homecooked meals as much as possible and even if you eat out, eat freshly prepared food that is hygienically to you.

out during monsoons is a Waterborne diseases are very power move. It is an easy and effective way of keeping you from getting drenched in the rain and will protect you from exposure of the rain and the atmosphere that weakens your immunity.

Viral infections are rampant during monsoon season due to the weather and humidity. Close contact in crowded places during this season should be avoided as that is where you will catch an

sports 12



Sri Lanka crushes New Zealand Indian shooters win two to clinch historic series win

AP GALLE (SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka stormed to a series victory over New Zealand, securing the twomatch test series with a resounding innings and 154run 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-Prabath arm spinner 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 jointfastest 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 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 and didn't allow New Zealand tourists needed far more to challenge Sri Lanka's to get away with things. It was

Resuming at 199-5, New

Zealand lost three wickets before lunch on the fourth day. Despite Sri Lanka's tay. Despite Sri Lanka's fielding lapses, which saw three catches dropped, they eventually cleaned up after lunch. Jáyasuriya 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.

gold medals in Peru

PTI NEW DELHI

ndian shooters began their ISSF Junior World LC h a m p i o n s h i p (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 Choudhary, Umesh

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 secondplaced 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



and

Singh 578 but missed out on pipped Azerbaijan by a point individual medals, ending up sixth and eighth respectively

Dagar also made the Luca Joldea of Romania won individual final in third the gold medal, while Chinese Taipei's Hsieh Hsiang-Chen clinched the place with a score of 573 along with Kanak who also shot the same score but with lesser inner 10s, to bag the silver. Nelavalli was ninth in fifth qualifying spot. In the final, Kanak won bronze with a score of 217.6, while Dagar finished eighth. qualification with a score of 74.

combination The of Kanishka Dagar, Lakshita and Anjali Chaudhary Chinese Taipei's Chen Yu-Chun won gold, while tallied 1708 to clinch the junior women's 10m air pistol team gold. They Slovakia's Manja Slak bagged the silver.

Wet outfield wipes out play for second day

PTI 📕 KANPUR

o play was possible for the second consecutive **L N** 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

✓ey players will be sidelined when the Kchampions 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.

Another final rematch There were two repeats of past finals in the first week of games that relaunched the Champions League in a single-standings format. Man City and Inter drew 0-0 and Liverpool won 3-1 at AC Milan.

The next rematch comes Wednesday when Aston Villa hosts Bayern Munich, a giant of the European Cup era that was shocked 1-0 in the 1982 final.

Villa Park will host a first game in the competition since March 1983 when the English side's title defense was ended 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

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 Haaland should find it easier on

Emi

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.

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

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 pulsating atmosphere at Celtic Park 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

bronze-winning

Ukraine by four points.

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 groupstage games at the Paris Olympics.

Premier League leader Liverpool hosts Bologna, and Girona's first European visitor to the Montilivi stadium is Fevenoord.

Dinamo Zagreb fired its coach, Sergej Jakirovic, after the drubbing at Bayern and brought back Nenad Bjelica for a second spell.

they kept reducing the Blue

In the end, goals from

s u b s t i t u t e s Ningthoukhongjam Rishi Singh and Hemneichung

Lunkim sealed the Indian

Set-pieces are something

India have been excellent with so far. They've scored four goals from dead ball situations so far and Ahmed

has been delighted with that.

In the second semi-final,

indomitable spirit as they

came from two goals down to

level it at 2-2 against Pakistan thanks to Md Manik's 74th

They then converted all eight

of their penalties to cap off a

and 94th minute goals.

showed

Colts' lead.

Bangladesh

win.

Osasuna stuns Barcelona India U17 look to maintain dominance against Bangladesh in final PTI 📕 THIMPHU brace put India in control but Nepal didn't go down easily as 4-2 record for best start



AP BARCELONA

Banother to spark Osasuna's stunning 4-2 win over Barcelona, dealing the Spanish league leader its first loss.

The lightning-fast forward on loan from Bayern Munich crossed for Ante Budimir to open the scoring in the 17th minute. Zaragoza then showed some fancy high-speed dribbling to round goalkeeper Iñaki Peña on the break for 2-0 in the 28th on Saturday. Barcelona youth player Pau Víctor pulled one

back for the visitors in the 53rd, but Budimir earned and converted a penalty to put the result beyond doubt in the 72nd.

Abel Bretones made it 4-1 in the 85th and substitute Lamine Yamal scored Barcelona's second goal.

Barcelona recorded wins in the first seven rounds of the league. An eighth victory would have equaled a club record established in 2013. Barcelona remained atop the league standings at four points ahead of Real Madrid before the defending champion visits Atletico Madrid in a derby on Sunday.

Osasuna moved into sixth place and stayed unbeaten in Pamplona in this campaign with four wins and a draw.

Martino said.

India will fancy their chances of maintaining their stranglehold on their Bangladesh when the two sides meet in the final of the SAFF U17 Championship here on Monday.

India began their tournament nine days ago with a last-gasp 1-0 victory over Bangladesh in the group stage. The same script unfolded last year as well, when the India U16 boys beat their eastern neighbours 1-0 in the first game and then 2-0 in the final.

Head coach Ishfaq Ahmed and his boys will hope for a repeat of that on Monday for a successful title defence.

For the record, the two teams have met four times in the finals of SAFF men's agegroup tournaments, with India winning thrice (U18 in



2019, U20 in 2022 and U16 in and Bangladesh 2023) emerging victorious once (U16 in 2015).

"We know Bangladesh are a gainst them is in the past. A good side. They did well to final is a different game," said come from behind in the Ahmed in the pre-match

semi-final. They had some hiccups but they've been more stable as compared to the other teams. Our win

press conference. India beat Nepal 4-2 in a frenetic semi-final on Saturday, which saw four goals scored in the last 10 minutes

memorable comeback and Vishal Yadav's second-half enter the final

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

AP FORT LAUDERDALE (US)

ionel Messi moved Inter Lionel Miessi more-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"



"It is a very important game Toronto and New England. remaining dates."

but so are the games against We will be ready for these

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

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.

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 pointblank 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.

and made

It came 10 minutes after