OPINION 6

EXPLORING THE DEPTHS OF THE HUMAN MIND

WORLD 9

TRUMP THREATENS TO END BIDEN IMMIGRATION PROGRAMMES

MONEY 10 JIO-BP INAUGURATES 500TH

EV CHARGING STATION

LUCKNOW, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹4

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Police altered documents in RG Kar case, claims CBI



Activists of various left wing parties clash with police personnel during a protest march against the alleged sexual assault and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, in Kolkata, Thursday

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

⊣he Central Bureau of Investigation has reasons to believe that a section of Kolkata Police officials had tried to create fake documents in the Kolkata lady doctor rape and murder case. In its remand letter submitted before Court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Sealdah the CBI has said that the officials at Tala Police Station which has jurisdiction over the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital where the August 9 rape and murder took place had tried to "create" and "alter" certain documents that could change the direction of the case.

Hearing a writ petition the Calcutta High Court had transferred the case to the CBI following allegations that the Kolkata Police was trying to suppress facts.

While seeking an extended remand for former Officer incharge of Tala Police Station Abhijit Mondal and arrested former RGKMCH Principal Sandip Ghosh the CBI has told the Court that some additional facts had surfaced during the investigation of the two accused persons.

"During custodial interrogation of both the accused persons, new/ additional facts have emerged to the effect that some false records pertaining to the instant case were created/ altered in the police station," the CBI letter said. The agency also told the court that the CCTB footages of the said police station had been confiscated and handed over

> Laboratory for analysis. The parents of the victim had also alleged similar things before the media. "We had told repeatedly how we were

to the Central Forensic

given three versions of sudden illness, suicide and then death over telephone before we rushed to the hospital ... then in the hospital we were made to sit for three hours while her mother literally held their feet to let her see her daughter's face once," said the father of the victim.

The ordeal did not end there as the old parents were made to sit in the Tala Police Station for more than an hour and were repeatedly monitored while they wrote the FIR.
"They also forcefully cremated my daughter without our wishes ... as we wanted to get a second postmortem conducted" as the autopsy was done post sundown defying the general protocol in the Kolkata Police

manual, they alleged.
Incidentally, the postmortem was done not on the request of a DCP but that of a subinspector, a letter recovered by the CBI showed. The CBI has been trying to find out who was instructing Mondal and also who was instructing the person and who was instructing the arrested police officer and for what reason, sources said adding "everything will become clear sources in the coming weeks when the call details and forensic reports come up."

Continued on page 8

Domestic Violence Act applicable to all women: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 \mathbf{I}^{n} a significant verdict, the Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, is a civil code that is applicable to every woman in India irrespective of her religious affiliation or social background. A bench of Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice N Kotiswar Singh said the 2005 legislation was applicable to all women for more effective protection of their rights guaranteed under the Constitution.

"The Act is a piece of civil code which is applicable to every woman in India irrespective of her religious affiliation and/or social background for a more effective protection of her rights guaranteed under the Constitution and in order to protect women victims of domestic violence occurring in a domestic relationship," the bench said. The apex court delivered its verdict on an appeal filed by a woman challenging an order of the Karnataka High Court in a matter related to the grant of

maintenance and compensation.
The woman had earlier filed a petition under section 12 of the Act which was allowed by a Magistrate in February 2015 granting Rs 12,000 as monthly maintenance and Rs 1 lakh towards compensation to her.

The top court noted that the husband had filed an appeal against the order which was dismissed by the appellate court on the ground of delay. The court noted that later, he filed another application under section 25 of the Act, which deals with duration and alteration of orders, before a magistrate but the same was dismissed.

The bench said thereafter, he filed an appeal before the appellate court,



which allowed it and remanded the matter to the magistrate with a direction to consider his application by giving an opportunity to both parties to adduce their evidence. The judges noted that aggrieved by the order, the woman approached the High Court which dismissed her plea in April last year and directed the magistrate to consider the application filed by the man under section 25 of the Act.
In its verdict, the Supreme Court referred to section 25 and said it was

evident that an aggrieved person or a respondent as defined under the Act can seek for alteration, modification or revocation of an order made under the provisions of the Act if there was a change in the circumstances as per sub-section (2) of section 25. The bench said a Magistrate, while exercising discretion under section 25(2) of the Act, has to be satisfied that a change in the circumstances has occurred, requiring to pass an order of alteration, modification or revocation.

Continued on page 8



Hindu Temple vandalised in US

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Unknown miscreants have vandalised the BAPS Hindu temple in California's Sacramento, desecrating it with expletive-laden graffiti saying "Hindus go back!", the BAPS Public Affairs said.

"Less than 10 days after the desecration of the @BAPS Mandir in New York, our Mandir in the Sacramento, CA area was desecrated last night with anti-Hindu hate: "Hindus go back!" We stand united against hate with prayers for peace," the BAPS Public Affairs said in a post on X.

Wednesday night's incident comes after the desecration of the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Melville, New York, on September 17.

"Our condemnation of hate remains resolute; our sadness has only deepened; and our prayers for all, including those with hate in their heart, have grown stronger," the organisation said in a statement. "BAPS is working with law enforcement authorities on this hate crime," the statement said.

The BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Sacramento is home to a vibrant Hindu community engaged in numerous activities and projects to support the larger community. We are and shall remain an integral part of this community's fabric," the statement

Continued on page 8

SC to hear Godhra incident appeals on 15 January

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it will hear on January 15 the appeals filed by the Guiarat Government and several other convicts in the 2002 Godhra train burning case. A bench of Justices IK Maheshwari and Raiesh Bindal made it clear that no adjournment will be given in the matter

on the next date of hearing.
On February 27, 2002, 59 people were killed when the S-6 coach of Sabarmati Express was burnt at Gujarat's Godhra, triggering riots in the State. Several appeals have been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the October 2017 verdict of the Guiarat High Court which had upheld conviction of several convicts and commuted the death penalties of 11 to life term.



Guiarat Government's counsel Swati Ghildiyal requested the bench to post the matter for hearing on some other day as she was to argue before another Supreme Court bench in a death penalty-related matter. "We have to first understand what are the cases of individuals? What is the prosecution's case? Then we have to ascertain the roles," the bench observed, adding that hearing in the matter will take at least three days. Now we will not adjourn it on the next date," the bench said.



People gather at a government hospital after their family members drowned while taking holy dips in rivers and ponds during the 'Jivitputrika' festival on Wednesday, in Aurangabad district of Bihar, Thursday Sept. 26, 2024. At least 43 people, including 37 children, drowned and three others went missing in separate incidents in 15 districts of the state, according to officials

Several drown during Bihar festival

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PATNA/NEW DELHI

At least 43 people, including 37 children drowned and three others went missing while taking holy dips in rivers and ponds in separate incidents during the 'Jivitputrika' festival in Bihar, the State Government said on Thursday. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar condoled the deaths and announced an ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased.

The incidents occurred in 15 districts of the state during the festival held on Wednesday. During the 'Jivitputrika' festival, women fast for the wellbeing of their children and both take holy dips.
"A total of 43 bodies have been

recovered so far. Further search operation is on," a statement issued by Management Disaster Department (DMD) said.

The process of providing the ex gratia has begun and family members of eight deceased have already received it, the statement said.

"The incidents of drowning were reported from East and West Champaran, Nalanda, Aurangabad, Kaimur, Buxar, Siwan, Rohtas, Saran,

Vaishali, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Gopalganj and Arwal districts.

The DMD has pressed several teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) for search and rescue operations.

Eight children drowned in Aurangabad district - four at Itahat village under Baruna police station area and another four at Kushaha village of Madanpur police station. According to reports from Kaimur, seven minors drowned in Bhabhua and Mohania police station areas when they were taking bath in the Durgawati river and a pond,

respectively. Four incidents of drowning were reported on Wednesday evening from Amnabad village under Bihta police station area of rural Patna and five persons, including two boys, drowned in Daudpur, Manjhi, Taraiya and Marhaura police station areas of Saran district.

"The incidents took place when the victims, along with their family members, went for a holy dip in the water bodies," Aurangabad District Magistrate Srikant Shastri said.



President Droupadi Murmu pays tribute at the Siachen War Memorial during a visit to Siachen Base Camp, on Thursday

HP govt face flak by party for adopting Yogi model

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Himachal Pradesh Minister Vikramaditya Singh was summoned to Delhi and reprimanded by the Congress brass over a controversial order issued by his department mandating food outlets across the State to display the name and address of their owners, which has however been withdrawn.

Facing flak by the party high command the Himachal Pradesh Government on Thursday said no such decision has been taken. The State Government in a statement said it has not taken any decision that makes it mandatory for street vendors to display nameplates or other identification at their stalls.

The development came as the Congress came under fire on social media as well as within the party over

the move as it had criticised a similar move by the Uttar Pradesh Government during the Kanwar Yatra a few weeks back.

Sources said Vikramaditya has been asked not to give controversial remarks on this matter. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge was upset with Vikramaditya. The Himachal Urban Development Ministry's order came under criticism from Congress leader TS Singh Deo, who called it a reprehensible and discriminatory

BJP leader Jai Ram Thakur on Thursday said Singh must stick to his words. "If Vikramaditya Singh has talked about implementing vendors' policy on the pattern of Uttar Pradesh, he should stick to his words," Thakur, who is Leader of the Opposition in the Himachal Pradesh Assembly, said. Continued on page 8

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

SC rejects Gujarat

Government plea

in Bilkis case

 $T^{
m he}$ Supreme Court on Thursday 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 members during the 2002 riots. A bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan also rejected the application for listing review petition in open court.

"Having carefully gone through the Review Petition, the order under challenge and the papers annexed therewith, we are satisfied that there is no error apparent on the face of the record or any merit in the Review Petition, warranting reconsideration of the order impugned. The Review Petition is, accordingly, dismissed," the bench

The Gujarat Government in its plea had said the apex court's observation in the January 8 judgment, 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.

Little hopes of ceasefire between Israel, Hezbollah

AP ■ TEL AVIV

The Israeli Prime Minister appeared to downplay hopes of an imminent truce with Hezbollah on Thursday after the United States and its allies called for an "immediate" 21-day ceasefire to "provide space for diplomacy".

In a statement released as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was en route to New York to attend the UN General Assembly, his office said there was only a proposal on the table and that he had not yet responded to it. The

had been any directive to ease up on fighting on the northern border with Lebanon.

The comments raised questions about a new international initiative to halt increasingly heavy exchanges of fire that have killed hundreds of people in Lebanon and threatened to trigger Hezbollah. They came as Israel has threatened to launch a ground invasion into Lebanon to push the militant group away from the border and as an Israeli strike in Lebanon killed 23 people. The

an all-out war between Israel and



country would continue fighting had not yet responded to it. The statement also denied that there Katz, had previously said the and the safe return of the Hezbollah has also not yet

residents of the north to their

responded to the proposal for a pause in fighting, although Lebanon's caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati has welcomed it.

The Lebanese militant group has insisted it would only halt its strikes if there is a ceasefire in Gaza, where Israel has been battling Hamas for nearly a year. That appears out of reach despite months of negotiations led by the United States, Egypt and Qatar. In its statement, Netanyahu's office said "the fighting in Gaza will also continue until all the objectives of the war have been achieved." Netanyahu is expected

to meet with other world leaders on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

Israel launched a massive operation in Gaza after a Hamasled attack into southern Israel on October 7 in which about 1,200 people (mostly civilians) were killed, and 250 taken hostage. More than 41,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since then, according to local officials. Hezbollah began firing rockets into Israel one day after the October 7 attack in support of its Hamas allies, and Hezbollah and Israel have traded fire ever since.

Continued on page 8

Doctor couple loses over ₹1.2 cr in investment fraud

Adoctor couple was allegedly defrauded of over Rs 1.2 crore by the owners and managing directors of two finance companies in Gomti Nagar, one of which is currently under investigation the Enforcement Directorate.

One of the female owners is allegedly a bureaucrat. The case dates back to 2016 and involves Ajeet Gupta, a director of one of the finance companies, his wife, and others. The complaint was registered following a court's direc-tion after it took cognisance of the grievances filed by Dr Shailesh Agrawal (53) of Vishal Khand-2 (Gomti Nagar), and his wife Dr Mridula Agrawal.

In his complaint, Shailesh stated that he had known Ajeet Gupta and his wife since 2016, as they frequently visited his clinic for consultations regarding their daughter Anee.

"During this time, Ajeet mentioned his finance company, claiming to be its proprietor and stating that he had been running it since 2010," Shailesh recounted.

He learned that Ajeet Gupta and Niharika Singh operated several other companies and

one of the finance firms with assurances of lucrative returns. "Trusting his words, I invested a total of Rs 90 lakh from August 2016 to September 2017 through various cheques in the finance company based in Chinhat," he said, providing details of the transactions in his complaint. He noted that he received uninterrupted prof-

its until September 2018, returning Rs 30 lakh of his principal amount.
In September 2018, he invested Rs 60 lakh of his principal amount, for which he received a written contract and monthly interest on stamped paper. Until September 2019, he continued to receive both profits and principal

regularly. However, he was later assured that remaining profits would be provided in the future. Subsequently, his principal amount of Rs 60 lakh was reinvested in another company owned by Niharika Singh, with promises of substantial profits due to their alleged

Shailesh reported receiving payments from September 2019 to January 2020, but after submitting all the required bonds in February 2020, he stopped receiving others involved.

'When I contacted Aieet Gupta's employees, they informed me that he and others from the company were in police custody. They assured me that all my dues would be paid once he was released from jail. However, I have yet to receive a single penny," he

Shailesh claimed that the accused owe him Rs 1.22 crore, with Rs 55 lakh as outstanding principal.

"My money is stuck in this fraud scheme, leaving me mentally distressed and facing financial crisis," he lamented.

He reported that he had previously complained to the inspector incharge of the Gomti Nagar police station, but no cetter and the complete the complet but no action was taken. "I sent an application to the

police commissioner of

Lucknow on October 16, 2023, but still received no response. Therefore, I had to move court," he explained. Similar allegations were made by Mridula Agrawal, who claimed that she was defrauded of Rs 51 lakh in the same scheme, having been promised significant returns that never materialised. This marks a fresh case against Ajeet Gupta, his wife, and

contested claims of significant

disruption Train traffic was halted for about 40 minutes in The tree fell between NHN and KKAH railway stations around Nigohan on Thursday after a 12:20 pm, near gate number tree fell on the downline rail-189/C/Engg. The incident was reported to the relevant railway authorities, and the track was way track, initially raising fears of sabotage. However, it was later revealed that the incident cleared by 1:02 pm.
Despite the railway's denial of resulted from a contractor's

disruption, passengers reported that trains were stopped at several stations, including Utrathia, Mohanlalganj, Shri Raj Nagar, and Bachhrawan. Villagers said that the contractor was cutting down a tree

near Kalandar Kheda when it broke the overhead electrical (OHE) wire and fell onto the

Trains come to halt as tree falls on rly track

Following the incident, the gateman notified the Kanakaha station master, who instructed TRD staff to repair the damaged OHE wire.

Villagers claimed that the downline resumed operations by 4:30 pm. The Bachhrawan RPF in-

charge has filed a complaint against the contractor responsible for the incident. Initial investigations revealed that a farmer named Laxman had hired contractor Shivraj to cut the tree near his home. The tree fell and broke the OHE wire before landing on the railway track, leading to the

disruption. A team of senior section engineers and TRD staff arrived on the scene to remove the tree. Villagers noted that the removal process took considerable time and was completed around 4:30 pm, after which train operations resumed. Railway employees and local residents expressed concern that if the tree had fallen while a train was passing, it could have resulted in a major accident. The track was cleared and traffic restored by repairing the damaged OHE wire, cantilever, and study arm.

Meanwhile, the contractor fled the scene and is currently being searched for by authorities. The team also took the opportunity to trim other trees along the railway line. Railway officials were unable to provide details on the specific trains that were disrupted due to the

Engagement broken, girl hangs self to death

PNS LUCKNOW

error during tree-felling oper-

ations. A case has been regis-

tered with the Railway

Divisional Railway Manager

SM Sharma confirmed that

train traffic was restored and

Protection Force (RPF).

A girl allegedly hanged herself to death in Indiranagar after her engagement was broken, police said on Thursday. As per reports, 27-year-old Pratiksha Verma hanged herself at her house in Ghazipur police station area on Wednesday evening.

According to her parents, her marriage negotiations failed on several occasions after she suffered a fracture in her hand and a steel plate was implanted to fix the fracture five years ago. Pratiksha was preparing for competitive exams and her father was also looking for a suitable match for her marriage in the meantime.

Thought she got engaged to a man as a proposal materialised, the relationship went kaput later, and she slipped into depression as a result.

On Wednesday, she was in her room on the first floor of the house when her family members knocked the door but did not get any response from inside. The anxious family immediately informed police. The cops reached the place and broke open the door only to find her hanging from the ceiling. Her father Ravindra Verma is a retired employee of Awas

Law student resorts to theft to please girlfriend, arrested

Variety of stolen items recovered

PNS LUCKNOW

Alaw student from a local college allegedly resorted to theft to please his girlfriend in Gosainganj. He committed three thefts in quick succes-sion, eventually drawing the attention of police. The accused, identified as Ravi

Gupta from Maharajganj district, lives with his father in the area. ACP, Gosainganj, Kiran Yadav said that Ravi was involved in a theft at the home of Abdul Hameed, a resident of LIG apartment.

According to the police, Ravi targeted empty houses. During interrogation, he admitted that he took to theft to fulfil his girlfriend's wishes and has committed three thefts in the vicinity. He also revealed that he is studying law at a college in Lucknow.

A week ago, Abdul Hameed filed a complaint at the police station after returning home from Jaunpur on September 17 and discovering that his lock was broken and belongings were missing.

Following the registration of the case, a police team was formed to apprehend the accused. On Wednesday morning, they arrested Ravi Gupta at the apartment complex after a CCTV camera captured his image during one of the thefts.

The police recovered a variety of stolen items from him, including a MacBook, two power banks, a mobile phone, an adapter, three pen drives, three watches, three chains, four rings, a pair of earrings, two bracelets, a single earring, one eartop, one ring, a pair of anklets, and a silver coin.

NOTICE

It is inform that my name Abdullah, my father name Ishraq Ahmad and my mother name Nazia Bano and my D.O.B. 25-05-2004 is wrong in my CBSE Board High School Mark Sheet year 2020 Roll no.23105366 my correct name Abdullah Ishraq Ahmed my father correct name Ishraq Ahmed Insad Ahmed and my mother correct name Naziya Bano and my correct D.O.B. 23-05-2004 now me known as. Abdullah Ishraq Ahmed Village- Chhichhori Post-Chhihin, P.S. - Bilariyaganj, Distt-

NOTICE

I Gautam Kumar Mandal S/o Dhirendra Chandra Mandal B- 67, Bima Vihar, LIC Officer Society, Lakhanpur, Vikas Nagar, Kanpur-208024, have changed my name to Gautam Kumar for all future

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Irshad to Mohammad Irshad and should be known and identified by this name for all future purposes. Mohd Irshad S/o Nanhe Khan R/o 203/1806, Dargah Sharif Jajmau, Post Shivan Tannery, PS Jajmau. Kanpur Nagar 208 010 (U.P.)

NOTICE

I Army number 17024186 M CFN Phadatare Sandip Vitthal S/o pha datare Vitthal Ganpat Present Address 803 Maidani Karmshala Company C/o 56 APO New Cantt Prayagraj Parmanent address Village Boratwadi Post Khorochi Distt Pune Maharastra -413114 My service record by mistake my wife name Komal Arvind Hasabe which wrong is correct name Phadatare Komal Sandip In all future purpose.

I have changed my name from Mohd.Jishan Ahmad to Zeeshan Ahmad. in future i shall be known as Zeeshan Ahmad. Zeeshan Ahmad S/o Abrar Ahmad, 201, Fethaful ganj, Cantt., Kanpur

NOTICE

NOTICE

I, Chandra Kali W/o Late Subhash Chandra Residing at vill-Rudauli, Post-Kakhawatu, Auraiva, UP-206122 have changed my name & dob from Chand Kali & 01 jul 1947 to Chandra Kali & 01/01/1950 vide Affidavit no-95AE488591 dated 18/09/2024.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Mohammad Shifan To Mohd Shifan for all future purpose, Mohd Shifan S/O Azmat Ullah R/o 131/259, Begum Purwa T P Nagar Kanpur Nagar

NOTICE

I Mohd. Musheer Qurashi S/O, Muneer Ahmad R/O, Rahimnagar, Dudauli, Sitapur road, Lucknow hereby declare that in My High School Certificate Roll No. 7713446, My Father Name Mohd. Muneer Qurashi and Mother Name Kishmatun Qurashi wrongly mentioned while My father correct name is Muneer Ahmad and My Mother correct name is Kismatun for All future purposes.

Govt unveils plan to enhance rural tourism

connection.

Tn an effort to enhance rural Itourism around key tourist destinations in the Uttar Pradesh, the Yogi Adityanath government has unveiled a comprehensive rural tourism development strategy. This initiative will focus on the

development of tourism infrastructure, including the introduction of homestays, in 93 villages during its first phase, aiming to provide visitors with an authentic experience of rural life while boosting local economies. In parallel, the state is develop-

ing a detailed framework to enhance the training of tour guides and operators across major tourist circuits, including rural and forest tourism. As part of this effort, there is a strong emphasis on revitalising the Manyavar Kanshiram Institute of Tourism Management located in Minister Yogi's vision, Uttar Pradesh has identified 12 mega tourism circuits as part of its Tourism Policy 2022. These circuits include the Ramayana Circuit, Sufi-Kabir Circuit, Bundelkhand Circuit, Jain Circuit, Krishna-Braj Circuit, Shakti Peeth Circuit,

Mahabharata Circuit, Wildlife-EcoTourism Circuit, Freedom Struggle Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Buddhist Circuit and Crafts Circuit. Efforts are underway to tap into the vast potential of rural tourism within these circuits.

To promote rural tourism, the construction and development of homestays are being accelerated in the Devipatan, Chitrakoot, Ayodhya, Lucknow and Varanasi divisions. These regions are rich in natural beauty, folk arts, rural culture, and historical, spiritual and traditional values. Consequently, a strategic plan has been initiated to attract both domestic and foreign tourists by showcasing the unique rural environment of these areas.
In alignment with Chief

Minister Yogi's vision, 19 villages in the Ayodhya division have been earmarked for the promotion of rural tourism. Currently, Chuintiapara and Lucknow. In line with Chief Darwan of Ambedkar Nagar, and Avodhya's Abanpur Saroha. Sevadhaat, Amouani, Rampurwa and Gauraghat have been identified for homestay development.

Simultaneously, efforts are underway to identify 12 additional villages in Sultanpur, Barabanki and Amethi for similar initiatives

In the Varanasi division, a total of 10 villages across Varanasi, Jaunpur, Ghazipur and Chandauli will also be developed through the homestay process.

In the Lucknow division, tourism and homestay development encompass 23 villages, notably including Korauna, Ramkot, Saraisani, Bihat Biram, Urdauli, and Thakur Nagar in Sitapur. Additionally, 17 more villages will be identified in Lucknow, Hardoi, Lakhimpur Kheri, Rae Bareli and Unnao.

Furthermore, a total of 17 villages in the Devipatan division will be developed to promote rural tourism, focusing on villages in Bahraich, Balrampur, Gonda and Shravasti.

In the Chitrakoot division, 24 villages in Banda, Chitrakoot, Hamirpur and Mahoba will be identified and developed for the homestay initiative and rural tourism.

In total, the pr identify and develop 93 villages across five divisions in its first phase. To support these efforts, tourist guides, folk artistes and other tourism personnel will be appointed in these villages, operating through local agen-

MKITM TO BE REJUVENATED

The Yogi Adityanath government is committed to revitalising the Manyavar Kanshiram Institute of Tourism Management (MKITM) situated in Vikalp Khand of Gomtinagar in Lucknow.

The Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department will oversee the landscape renovation of MKITM. This initiative includes various enhancements such as softscaping, plantation, horticulture, hardscaping (which involves creating murals, fountains, pathways, seating areas, barricades and wall paintings), as well as electrical and plumbing upgrades. Additionally, the kitchen lab will be equipped with modern facilities to enhance the training environment.

The MKITM offers various graduate, post-graduate and diploma courses related to tourism. Trained guides will be deployed across the state, with their training conducted at MKITM. Moreover, under this initiative, the Yogi government plans to deploy nature guides in locations like Dudhwa, Katarniaghat and the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, with all nature guides receiving training at MKITM.

28 test positive for dengue

Lucknow (PNS): Twenty-eight people tested positive for dengue in the city on Thursday. The patients hail from Aliganj, Chandernagar, Indiranagar, Coccingani, Sarajini, Nagar Gosainganj, Sarojini Nagar, Tudiaganj, NK Road, Itaunja, and Aishbagh. Additionally, eight people from Aliganj, Chandernagar, BKT, Malihabad, and Aishbagh tested positive for malaria. Since January this year, the district has reported a total of 363 dengue cases and 401 malaria cases. On Thursday, a survey of mosquito-borne conditions was conducted across approximately 2,184 houses and 10,382 containers. An official from the CMO office stated that notices were issued after mosquito-borne conditions were identified in 19 houses. Teams inspected various loca-

tions and sprayed anti-larval chemicals. Teams from the Health department and the Municipal Lucknow Corporation carried out an intensive anti-mosquito campaign in areas surrounding Hathi Khana Primary School, Brain Convent School in Raja Bazaar, Purana Amity College, Vinamr Khand in Gomti Nagar, Bhola Kheda police post, Manas Hospital on Campwell Road, Suggamau Tiraha, and Ramu

Hotel on Bijnor Road.

Parents to be counselled for students' career prospects

PNS LUCKNOW

Parents of students at government secondary schools in Uttar Pradesh are now receiving career guidance as part of the 'Uttar Pradesh Pankh' initiative. This joint effort by the department of Secondary Education and UNICEF aims to provide career guidance to students in classes 9-12.

"Often, parents are unaware of new career options, which makes it difficult for children to choose paths that align with their interests. To address this, we recognised the need to involve and engage parents in career sessions for students, leading to the introduction of special parent-teacher meetings," additional state project director of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, UP, Vishnu Kant Pandev said.

These parent-teacher meetings for career orientation began in the current academic session, following a recent government order that provides financial assistance to all government secondary schools for this initiative.

Chief of field office for

UNICEF, UP, Dr Zakari Adam, stated, "Both children and parents are increasingly concerned about the future, particularly regarding careers, employability, and livelihood. The Pankh initiative provides timely assistance for students in classes 9-12, enabling them to make informed decisions and take actions that align with their actions that angil with their aspirations. This effort supports Child Rights, the National Education Policy, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

Launched in 2022, the Pankh initiative includes a dedicated portal with comprehensive career information for students. A nodal teacher from each government secondary school has been nominated and trained to assist with this initial Education officer at UNICEF,

UP, Ravi Dayal explained that career hubs have been estab lished in schools where posters and charts created by students are prominently displayed. Every Saturday, special sessions on career guidance are held to discuss various career

options in detail.

Akhilesh slams govt over 'substandard' drugs

PNS LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday, attacked the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Central government after India's apex drugs regulatory body found that samples of around 50 drugs were of "sub-standard" quality, and asked what action has been taken. The Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation has

reportedly found that samples of

around 50 drugs, including that

of widely-used paracetamol.

pantoprazole and some antibi-

A memorandum of under-

standing (MoU) was signed

between the University of

Lucknow and the Central

Council for Research in

Homoeopathy (CCRH), New

Delhi, to facilitate research and

resource sharing under the

This joint MoU aims to initi-

ate interdisciplinary science research programmes, includ-

ing joint PhD research and dis-

sertation programmes in fields

such as Botany, Chemistry, Pharmacology, Molecular

Biology, Materia Medica,

Pharmacognosy,

The agreement seeks to foster

mutually beneficial activities

and establish collaborative rela-

tionships. The signing ceremo-

ny was presided over by Pro

Vice-Chancellor of LU Prof

Manuka Khanna, and Director

General of CCRH Dr Subhash

Biotechnology,

Homoeopathy.

university's purview.

CITYBRIEFS

LU SIGNS MOU WITH CCRH

otics for treating bacterial infections, were of substandard quality.

In a post on X, Yadav said, "Today's corrupt BJP govern-ment should answer, will taking such medicine cure or make you

"As long as BJP keeps collecting donations from companies, the business of low-quality medicines will continue. Will any action be taken even after this report or will the matter be hushed up by increasing the rate of donations. This BJP game of playing with the lives of the pub-

Kaushik. Various points of

mutual cooperation and collab-

orative studies were discussed.

A seminar on 'Role of water

conservation and innovation in

sustainable development and

climate action' was held at

Navyug Kanya Mahavidyalava

on Thursday. The programme began with the lighting of a

lamp. Keynote speaker Dr

Mahesh Thakkar emphasised

the historical significance of

water in Vedic civilisations

and warned that water scarci-

ty could lead to conflict. Guest

speaker Prof Jaswant Singh

highlighted Earth's uniqueness

in water availability and the

need for proper management.

Principal Prof Manjula Upadhyay stressed that water

conservation is vital for future

sustainability. The event also

featured a creative competition

under the 'Swachh Sarathi

Club', showcasing student ini-

tiatives in cleanliness.

lic is not good. Condemnable!" the former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh said.

CONG QUESTIONS MODI'S SILENCE ON TEMPLE VANDALISATION

Deputy leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha, Pramod Tiwari has termed the Narendra Modi government as the most failed government ever in the field of country's economy and foreign policy. Mentioning the vandalisation of the famous Swami Narayan temple in Sacramento, California, Tiwari called the

₹**57.38L** grant to boost

research, innovation

in state universities

Lucknow (PNS): The UP gov-

ernment has taken a significant

step toward enhancing research

and innovation in the state's

higher education institutions by

approving financial assistance

This grant, provided under the Research and Development

(R&D) scheme, aims to

improve the quality of research

work conducted by teachers at

state universities, fostering an

Higher Education Minister

Yogendra Upadhyay said:

"Research and innovation are

the pillars of education, and

this initiative by the state gov-

ernment is a key effort to

accelerate progress in our uni-

versities." He added that the

grant will infuse new energy

into research activities across

educational institutions and

help create a world-class

research environment for

students.

environment of innovation.

of Rs 57.38 lakh.

incident as shocking and wor-risome for every Indian living in the country and abroad. He said that due to the indecisive foreign policy of the Modi government, Hindus were being insulted in America. Canada, Britain and neighboring Bangladesh.

He said that by damaging the Swami Narayan temple, the miscreants had openly hurt Indian culture by writing slogans of 'Hindus go back'. Tiwari said that after the adulteration in the laddu prasad of the famous Tirupati temple in

the country, the same was happening with the purity of the prasad of Siddhivinayak temple in Mumbai.

The facts that have come to light have already exposed that Bharatiya Janata Party's Hindutva is just vote bank politics," he said. Tiwari said that Prime Minister

Narendra Modi had recently returned from his US visi but iust after his visit, the height of intolerance came to the fore when a temple was vandalized there, creating fear in the minds of Hindus.

CPI (ML) concerned over

LDA to design, develop **Gomti Biodiversity Park**

a develop Gomti Biodiversity Park in Gomti Nagar. Spanning 75 acres adjacent to Hotel Taj, the Yamuna Biodiversity Park in New Delhi, LDA Vice-Chairman Prathmesh Kumar said on Thursday.

The park will feature a natural wetland, reserved forest, orchard, herbal garden, and butterfly garden, aiming to attract both tourists and local visitors. The land was originally allocated to Sahara India in 1995 for the development of a green belt; however, the company failed to take action, allowing the area to become a garbage dumping ground and susceptible to encroachment by local residents. During an

Lucknow (PNS): The Lucknow inspection of the proposed site on Development Authority (LDA) Thursday morning, the LDA has announced plans to design vice-chairman, along with Secretary Vivek Srivastava, identified locations for an artificial lake, which will serve as a naturthe park will be modelled after al wetland, and a reserved forest

> PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY e-TENDER CALL NOTICE No.EM/PED-27/2024 No.EM/PED/TECH-11/2024/370 Date: 18.09.2024

Name of the work: Vehicle Speed Detection System at Paradip Port Authority. Estimated Cost: 1,57,50,050/-. Last date & ime of submission of bid: dt. 09.10.2024 up to 18:00 Hrs. Refer our website for details:

https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (E), PED-I **Paradip Port Authority** PPA/PR/40/2024-2025 dtd.26.09.2024

Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Northern Region In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, section 14 of Companies Act, 2013 and rule 41 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the company is intending to make an application to the Central Government under section 14 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with aforesaid rules and is desirous of converting into a private limited compan

fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below: 102, Shivalik

> For and on behalf of the Applicant Arpit Jain Director

said that the increasing cases of encounters in the state were a matter of concern for the rule of law and human rights.

The CPI (ML) demanded a high-level judicial inquiry into the two encounters that took place on Monday in Ghazipur and Unnao. CPI (ML) state secretary Sudhakar Yadav said in a state-

ment on Thursday that the UP Special Task Force had killed Anuj Singh, accused of Sultanpur bullion robbery, in an encounter in Unnao. He said the magisterial inquiry announced by the district magistrate of Unnao was inadeauate.

Yadav said in the second incident, STF along with local police killed Mohammad Zahid alias Sonu in

increasing encounters Dildarnagar police station area

The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Zahid, of Phulwari in Patna, Bihar, was accused of killing ed him two days ago.

Zahid sold potatoes and onions and he had no criminal backencountered.

The CPI (ML) leader said that the Yogi Adityanath government had become infamous for fake encounters and there was no rule of law as only the "encounter rule" prevailed in

learned any lesson from the BJP's defeat in Uttar Pradesh in the last Lok Sabha elections and the recent directive of the Supreme Court on bulldozer justice, he added.

of Ghazipur district. He said according to the police,

two constables in a train whereas according to his relatives in Ghazipur, the police had arrest-Yadav said as per villagers,

ground for which he could be

the state. The Yogi government has not

AND In the matter of M/s Spectro Phoschem Limited having its registered office at 102, Shivalik Samriddhi Appartment,7/168B,Swarup Nagar ,Kanpur-208002.

in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 21-09-2024 to enable the company to give effect for such conversion. Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change/status of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, Northern Region, Ministry of Corporate Affairs. B-2 Wing, 2nd Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003 within

Samriddhi Appartment,7/168B,Swarup Nagar,Kanpur-208002 Complete address of registered office: Spectro Phoschem Limited, 102, Shivalik Samriddhi Appartment,7/168B,Swarup Nagar, Kanpur-208002

Date 21-09-2024

(DIN: 07305570)

BJP's return to J&K means return of PoK to India: Yogi

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated on Thursday that the Bharatiya Janata Party is essential for development and security in Jammu and Kashmir. He stated, "With the return of the BJP, PoK (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir) is set to become

a part of India." UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath began his campaign for the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections on Thursday. Yogi sought votes for Ramgarh candidate Devendra Kumar Maniyal, Vijaypur can-didate Chandraprakash Ganga, Samba candidate Surjit Singh, RS Pura candidate Dr Narinder Singh Raina, Suchetgarh candidate Prof Gharuram Bhagat and Bishnah candidate Rajiv Bhagat.

BIP's Jammu and Kashmir unit president Ravindra Raina joined Yogi Adityanath at the RS Pura rally. Due to inclement weather, Yogi Adityanath sent a message via mobile, urging voters to support BJP candidate Rajiv Sharma from Chhamb. During a public meeting in the Ramgarh assembly constituency, Yogi Adityanath asserted Pakistan-occupied Kashmir will soon become a part of India with the BJP's

return to power. He said, "Pakistan is struggling to save democracy. Voices for separation are rising in PoK. If elections were conducted in Muzaffarabad alongside the Jammu and Kashmir polls, it would send a positive message. Balochistan itself is stating that its chemistry does not align with Pakistan, as Pakistan is a 'cancer to humanity', and the world should aim to eradicate it." Yogi highlighted the significant benefits provided by the

Indian government, stating that 80 crore people in India receive free ration, 60 crore are covered by health insurance of Rs 5 lakh per year, and 12 crore benefit from Kisan Samman Nidhi. He also mentioned that 10 crore poor people received toilets in their homes and another 10 crore received cooking gas cylinders under the Ujjwala Yojana.

In Jammu and Kashmir, 2.75 lakh poor individuals benefited from the PM Awas Yojana. In contrast, he pointed out that in "beggar Pakistan", people are struggling for food. Stating that Prime Minister

Modi fulfilled Dr Syama Prasad

Mookerjee's dream by abrogating Article 370, Yogi remarked, The nursery of terrorism has come to an end. The Congress, PDP (People's Democratic Party) and National Conference had turned Jammu and Kashmir into a 'ware-house of terrorism', but with Narendra Modi as prime min-ister and Amit Shah as home minister, terrorism is on its way out, and stone pelters have vanished."

Mentioning the contributions of Maharaja Hari Singh, Premnath Dora and Brigadier Rajendra Singh, Chief Minister Yogi emphasised that these heroes had transformed Jammu and Kashmir into a paradise on earth. However, he criticised the Congress, PDP and NC for allegedly turning the region into a hub of reli-

gious frenzy. Yogi stated, "This election is an opportunity to teach them a lesson. Prime Minister Modi facilitated the construction of the Kartarpur corridor. While the Congress celebrated Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's birthday as Children's Day, Prime Minister Modi has chosen to commem-



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with BJP leaders during a public meeting for the ongoing J&K Assembly polls in Samba district of J&K on Thursday

orate Veer Bal Diwas on December 26, honouring the memories of Guru Gobind Singh's four Sahibzadas. This significant event is also celebrated in Uttar Pradesh on the same dav."

Yogi Adityanath highlighted the transformation of Jammu and Kashmir, stating, "You have witnessed the new Jammu and Kashmir of the new India. This is no longer a 'terrorism state'; it has emerged as an exceptional 'tourism destination. During the tenure of Congress, PDP and NC, one had to make appeals for hoist-ing the tricolour here, but now we host the G-20 Summit." He added: "Previously, there were threats against the Amarnath yatra, and people from these parties would tremble at the thought. Now, people from across the country and

the world come to visit Baba Barfani and Maa Vaishno." Yogi Adityanath criticised the opposition, saying, "Congress, NC and PDP operate like pri-

J&K resounds with chants of support

During the election rally in RS Pura on Thursday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was met with overwhelming support from the crowd, as the air echoed with chants of 'Yogi-Yogi. The rally saw party workers and local residents come together in large numbers to greet the Uttar Pradesh chief minister.

In a significant moment, BJP's Jammu & Kashmir state president Ravinder Raina addressed Chief Minister Yogi, saying, "Maharaj ji! Where you have arrived, just two kilometers from here, the area

vate limited companies that should be shut down in politics. These parties failed to provide reservations for Dalits, Bakarwals and Paharis, and made no sincere efforts to integrate local castes into the

of those you challenge begins." These words set off a wave of applause, as the entire crowd rose to their feet, cheering for Yogi. Enthusiastic supporters declared, "Those who brought Ram have now come to RS

Pura." Yogi was met with an enthu-Yogi was met with an enthusiastic response from BJP leaders, officials and party workers, all vying for selfies with him. Yogi obliged, taking photos with party members and emphasising that the workers are the backbone of the BJP, the very force that will help the party hoist its saffron flag once again in Jammu &

mainstream. Those whose properties were seized in 1947 and those who migrated from Pakistan were denied citizen-

leadership. He stated, "BJP and Modi He further asserted, "When embody the aspirations of both Modi and Shah introduced the

charge, leading to the peaceful construction of the Ram temple without any negative consequences. The temple was built without harming anyone. Mafias have been eliminated, ensuring safety for ordinary citizens. Congress, PDP and NC are the problem, while BJP is the solu-

tion. Congress misled the public with false promises and planted the seeds of terrorism, extremism, Naxalism, linguistic and regional divisions and casteism which weakened Hindus," he said. Continuing his criticism, Yogi Adityanath highlighted that dur-

Yogi Adityanath pointed out that despite Congress' extended rule, the Ayodhya issue remained unresolved until the BJP took

ing the Congress-led government at the Centre and its allies in Jammu and Kashmir, incidents of stone-pelting were ram-

Citizenship Amendment Act,

these parties opposed it vehemently. The 1990s marked a

peak of sins committed by

Congress, PDP and NC, during which Kashmiri Pandits faced

brutal persecution. Instead of

supporting them, these parties sided with terrorists. Only the

BIP stood in solidarity with the

Yogi Adityanath criticised for-

mer prime minister Jawaharlal

Nehru for imposing Article 370.

The exodus of Kashmiri Pandits

is a consequence of Congress and

Pt Nehru's policies, he remarked.

The UP chief minister highlight-

ed key infrastructure developments such as the Chenab Bridge, Zojila Pass and the Dr.

Syama Prasad Mookerjee tunnel,

as well as the introduction of the

Vande Bharat Train between

Delhi and Katra, asserting that

these developments signify the progress of both the country and

Jammu and Kashmir under BJP

suffering Kashmiri Pandits."

He accused the opposition of pri-oritising personal interests over the welfare of the region, stating, "These people had handed over guns to those who have tablets in their hands today. NC, PDP and Congress used to loot the funds of this region, spending eight months a year traveling through Europe and England." Yogi Adityanath reiterated that the BIP is committed to the principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', while firmly opposing any form of appeasement. He emphasised that the BJP is a symbol of security, good governance and development, asserting that wherever the BJP governs, a new model of development emerges. He declared that Uttar Pradesh has firmly

established itself as a growth

engine in the new India, reflect-

ing the party's vision and dedication to progress.

questions to Rahul Gandhi regarding the National Conferences proposal for a separate flag for Jammu and Kashmir, asking whether he supports this move.

He questioned if Gandhi endorses the NC's demand to reinstate Articles 370 and 35A, which he argued would lead Jammu and Kashmir back into unrest and terrorism.

He further asked if Congress backs the promotion of separatism through negotiations with Pakistan at the expense of Kashmir's youth and if they support the National Conference's decision to initiate LOC trade with Pakistan, which he claimed would foster crossborder terrorism.

He continued: "Does Congress endorse terrorism and unrest by providing government jobs to the relatives of stone-pelters and separatists? Congress appears to be showcasing an anti-reservation stance alongside the National Conference. While Prime Minister Modi has extended reservation benefits to Dalits, Gujjars, Bakarwals and Paharis, does Congress support the NC's proposal to abolish these provisions?" Furthermore, he said, "Does Congress wish Shankaracharya Parvat to be referred to as Takht-e-Sulaiman, and Hari Parvat as Koh-e-Maran? Is Congress in favour of transferring Jammu and Kashmir's economy to a select few linked to Pakistan, effectively reverting it to a state of corruption? Additionally, does Congress support the NC's politics of discrimination between Jammu and the valley? Do Congress and Rahul Gandhi back the NC's divisive policies advocating for Kashmir's autonomy?"

Massive fire in commercial building triggers panic



Smoke billows after a fire broke out in an electronic goods warehouse in Lucknow's Aminabad area on Thursday

PNS LUCKNOW

massive fire broke out on A massive incore.

Athe fourth floor of a building on Latouche Road in Lucknow on Thursday morning, triggering panic among shop owners and residents.

As per reports, the building, owned by businessman Sanjay Jaiswal, caught fire around 9 am. The building has two basements, a shop, a residence above it, and a warehouse on the roof. Before relief efforts could begin, the fire intensified due to the presence of plastic coolers, chandeliers, and other electronic goods stored in the warehouse.

More than 15 fire engines were dispatched to extinguish the flames, which continued to rage well into the evening. Fortunately, there were no

casualties, but the businessman is reported to have incurred significant losses. It is suspected that a short-circuit caused the fire. Reports suggest that Sanjay Jaiswal was at home when the fire broke out. He recalled waking up after praying and being informed by others that flames and smoke were billowing from his warehouse. At that time, he, his wife Neha, sister Ila, two maids, and two employees (Sandeep and Umesh) were present in the building.

Upon seeing the fire, the family panicked and attempted to escape, but nearby residents quickly helped them exit safely. Local residents and Sanjay promptly alerted the fire department, and a firetender arrived from Aminabad at around 9:40 am.

Witnesses said that the building has two underground rooms, a shop on the ground floor, and a warehouse on the roof. Sanjay operates a business dealing in plastic coolers, lights, and other electronic goods, and the abundance of plastic contributed to the rapid spread of the fire.

Fire engines were called from additional fire stations, including Barabanki. Chief fire officer Mangesh

Kumar noted that the fire worsened due to delayed reporting, as it had spread from the warehouse to the shop and the underground rooms before the alert was made. The fire and smoke were visible from several kilometres away. The heavy smoke made it difficult to stand within a 500-metre radius, causing

people in nearby hotels and houses to evacuate. Many shops on Latouche Road

were closed to facilitate rescue efforts. The warehouse contained a stock of electric bulbs worth lakhs of rupees, which ignited like firecrackers. The suffocating smoke forced

firefighters to cover their mouths with thick cloths while battling the flames. Sanjay informed the fire

brigade about the presence of gas cylinders in the house, prompting some firefighters to enter with oxygen cylinders and safely remove three to four cylinders before any potential explosions occurred. A hydraulic machine was also called in to assist in extinguishing the fire, and electricity was cut off to prevent further accidents.

SP MP alleges Pak-based

Mau (PTI): An FIR was registered after the Samajwadi Party's Ghosi MP Rajeev Rai lodged an FIR alleging that he was getting threat calls from a Pakistan-based mobile number, police said on Thursday. The FIR was lodged against unidentified persons at the Kotwali police station of Mau in Uttar Pradesh under Section 351 (4) (criminal intimidation by anonymous communication) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita on September 23, the police said. Rai told PTI that he had been getting calls from a mobile number in Pakistan but was not

taking it seriously. "I have lodged a complaint in this

doors to South Asian, ASEAN markets PNS GREATER NOIDA/LUCKNOW Vietnam, which make them ODOP entrepreneurs flourishing in

UP-Vietnam partnership set to open

On the second day of the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show-2024 held at India Expo Mart in Greater Noida, various knowledge sessions were conducted. These included the India-Vietnam Business Forum, an ecommerce session, and a session on innovation and startups organised by Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University

ment was made to strengthening the UP-Vietnam partnership to facilitate the entry of Uttar Pradesh products into South Asian and ASEAN markets. Simultaneously, during the ecommerce, innovation, and startup session, insights were provided on UP's role in the evolving digital ecosystem both national-

(AKTU).

ly and globally. Focus was also laid on the sectoral policies made under the guidance of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during the sessions. The event attracted significant attention, with over 40,000 visitors attending on the second day. The five-day programme, which commenced on Wednesday in the presence of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and Union MSME Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, is set to conclude on September 29. On the second day, over 18,000 buyers and more than 40,000 visitors participated in this global industry During this, several key officials,

including MSME Minister Rakesh Sachan, Electronics and

UP with government's support Greater Noida (PNS): The deteriorating law and order, dreams of progress were there, the drive to elevate their busiplaced their trust in the Yogi Adityanath government. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath not only restored law and order, but nesses unwavering, but before 2017, Uttar Pradesh's entrepreneurs found their efforts thwarted by governmental neglect. Their passion and hard work failed to overcome the ness owners are thriving, and state's indifference, leading to shattered businesses and broken spirits. However, in 2017, a turning point came when the people of Uttar Pradesh, disillusioned by

Information Technology Minister Sunil Kumar Sharma, and Meerut Commissioner Shilvi Kumari, along with representatives from global corporations, attended various sessions and programmes on behalf of the Yogi government. The first session of the sectoral discussions held under UPITS-2024 on Thursday focused on the strategic partnership between India and Vietnam, with a particular emphasis on UP's involvement. Organised by Vietnam as the partner country, the session saw participation from the Vietnamese delegation, including Vietnam's Ambassador Nguyen Thanh Hai.

Representing the Yogi govern-ment, several officials attended session, including Rakesh Sachan, Sunil Kumar Sharma, and Principal Secretary (MSME) Alok Kumar. During the programme, discussions highlight-

also extended crucial support to the state's entrepreneurs. Today, those once-disadvantaged busitheir success stories are proudly showcased at the UP International Trade Show in Greater Noida, with One District, One Product (ODOP) entrepreneurs leading the way. ed how Vietnam and India could leverage each other's strategic

locations as gateways to South Asian and ASEAN markets, respectively. This initiative is expected to facilitate the entry of UP's products into these regions. On this occasion, Rakesh Sachan emphasised the ancient cultural ties between India and

natural partners. He also invited investors, particularly in the tourism and hospitality sectors, to explore investment opportunities in UP, which has become a prominent spiritual destination in India. The second session focused on the e-commerce sector, featuring insights from major companies such as global e-commerce leader Amazon. top-tier fintech platform PingPong, and BigCommerce, known for its work with retailers. These industry giants shared invaluable insights and practical strategies with the attendees. During this session, Rakesh Sachan underscored the government's commitment to empowering small and medium enterprises through digital transformation, fostering innovation and enhancing market access via e-commerce platforms. Three back-to-back sessions were organised for entrepreneurs, emerging industries, startups and aspiring business owners as part of various knowledge sessions.

इंडियन बैंक 🦝 Indian Bank ALLAHABAD

ZONAL OFFICE: LUCKNOW Premises Dept. Floor, New Building Hazratgar Lucknow-226001

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR LEASING OF OFFICE PREMISES Indian Bank, a Public Sector Bank invites tenders under 2 bid system (Technical)

Financial Bid) from owners of office premises willing to offer on lease basis (Readily built / Premises Under construction) in AHIMAMAU (Distt. LUCKNOW,UP) measuring in the range of 1200 sq. ft. carpet area preferably in Ground Floor w parking facility for a lease period of 15 years for setting up their Branch / Office. The tender forms can be obtained from the Zonal Office, 2nd Floor, New Building Hazratganj, Lucknow -226001 or can be downloaded from Bank's website www.indianbank.in from 27.09.2024 to 12.10.2024. Last date for submission of bids 12.10.2024 by 5.00 pm. Details of the tender can be obtained from our Website www.indianbank.in. The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers withou

Zonal Manage

डंडियन बैंक

Indian Bank

ALLAHABAD

BRANCH OFFICE: Indian Bank, CP 198,1st Floor, Amaya Greens, Viraj Khand, Lucknow Tele-0522-3142419, Email:- v165@indianbank.co.in

GOLD AUCTION CUM INVITATION NOTICE

Following borrower of our Viraj Khand Branch has availed gold loan from us and not repaid the same till now as per sanctioning terms. We informed the borrower via registered post but still not responded. Therefore, via this advertisement, the Pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below mentioned accounts is proposed to be conducted on 05.10.2024 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at respective branch at the price applicable on the date of auction.

Branch	Account No.	Name of Borrower	O/s Amt. as on Date	Gross Weight (in Grams)	Place of Auction	Branch Manager & Contact No.
Viraj Khand	7355582223	Mr. Imram	301113		Indian Bank, Viraj Khand Branch, Lucknow	Mr Shashank Anand MB: 8090000164
Viraj Khand	7362986250	Mr. Imram	354070	11775/	Indian Bank, Viraj Khand Branch, Lucknow	Mr Shashank Anand MB: 8090000164

Terms & Conditions of Auction: Decision regarding acceptance of an offer for purchase of jewellery through auction would be that of the Bank and the Bank is not bound to accept the highest offer. Bidders are hereby requested to take note of terms and conditions of auction stipulated hereunder in their own interest: (1) The Bank does not guarantee the weight or purity of the jewellery/coins, either of its gold contents or otherwise. (2) The jewel is available for inspection by the intending bidders on 05.10.2024 between 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. (3) The intending purchasers shall make an earnest money deposit of 25% of Reserve Price on or before 05.10.2024. (4) The jewel will be handed over to the highest bidder on payment of the balance amount within 24 hours or on the next working day of the bank during its business hours. (5) If the successful bidder fails to pay the amount, the bank shall forfeit the earnest money and the jewel may be resold within 30 days from that date and shortfall if any in excess of the earnest money shall be recoverable from the bidder who has successfully bid at the earlier auction but did not take delivery of the jewel against the payment. (6) The unsuccessful bidder shall be entitled for the refund of the earnest money immediately after the auction is over. (7) It shall be lawful for the bank to stop the auction at any stage without assigning any reason in which case earnest money shall be refunded to whoever makes the deposit. (8) GST as applicable to be paid by auction buyer.

Date: 27.09.2024 Place: Lucknow INDIAN BANK (erstwhile Allahabad Bank)

$\begin{array}{c} B^{\text{ahujan Samaj Party chief}} \\ B^{\text{Mayawati on Thursday}} \\ \text{slammed the Uttar Pradesh} \end{array}$ government's directive to display names and addresses of

eatery operators, proprietors and managers, saying it was more about electoral politics than food safety.

Citing incidents of spitting and mixing of urine in eatables in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday directed that the name and address of operators, proprietors and managers should be mandatorily displayed at all

UP govt order on eateries 'electoral politics': Maya food centres. He also directed that chefs and waiters should wear masks and gloves, besides making installation of CCTV cameras

> mandatory. 'The UP government's announcement of making it compulsory to install cameras along with the name and address of the owners and manager in hotels, restaurants, dhabas etc. is similar to the action taken during the Kanwar yatra, sparking discussions that this is less about food safety and more about

diverting public's attention

in hotels and restaurants

through electoral politics," Mayawati said in a post on X in Ĥindi.

Earlier in the year, the Muzaffarnagar police had asked all eateries along the Kanwar yatra route to display the names of owners of eateries, which the Uttar Pradesh government later extended across the state.

In her post on X, the BSP chief said that although there were already very strict laws regarding adulteration especially in food items, still due to the government's negligence, the market of adulteration "is flourishing everywhere".

adulteration end by forcibly getting people's names written on shops etc?" she posted. Mayawati also expressed concern over the Tirupati laddu

'The news of adulteration of 'prasadam' laddus with fat in Tirupati temple has already made people across the country very sad and agitated and politics is going on over this too. After politics in the name of religion, who is the real culprit of such a disgusting play with people's faith? Thinking about this is necessary," she

threat calls from mobile number

connection and asked the police to trace the number," he said.

42ND CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF SAMPURNANAND SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY

Sanskrit & 'sanskriti' two pillars of India's prestige: Governor

31 meritorious students honoured

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Governor and Chancellor Anandiben Patel said that the ideal lifestyle mentioned in ancient Sanskrit texts should be translated into Hindi and made accessible to the common people so that they can also benefit from the ancient knowledge of sages and saints. She was expressing her views while presiding over the 42nd convoca-

tion ceremony of Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) at its main building here on Thursday. She said there are two pillars of India's prestige, Sanskrit and Sanskriti (culture). "If Sanskrit is the language of dod, then it is the reign of the country." is the voice of the country. Every nationalist should study Sanskrit", she said. Praising SSU's Saraswati Bhawan Library, Anandiben said that the rare manuscripts of thousands of years have been preserved here and the work of preservation of precious knowledge contained in them is also being done with a very good effort by the National Manuscript Mission under the Union Ministry of Culture. "These manuscripts should also be published and widely publicised", she said. Describing children as the future of India, the Governor said that children up to eight years of age should be given good education so that their future can be bright. "Their





Governor Anandiben Patel addressing SSU convocation in Varanasi on Thursday and (right) giving certificate to a winner of school contest

ing generation", she said, urging the SSU teachers to publish a small book for the promotion of Sanskrit so that the promotion and development of this ancientlanguage can happen at a fast pace.

Addressing the convocation function as the chief guest, President of National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) and National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) Prof Anil D Sahastrabuddhe said Sanskrit is not just a language but a price-less treasure that contains the glorious history of India and is a source of energy for all Indians. "It is not possible to know India without the knowledge of Sanskrit", he said. While discussing the history of the university, he said since the beginning, students from India and abroad have been coming here for study and research and even today dozens of foreign students are engaged in research work. The special guest and UP Higher Education Minister Yogendra Upadhyaya, while congratulating the medallists said the students who received medals will have to become the model of the society, only then the knowledge acquired by them will be used in the right way. He said Sanskrit is the lan-

guage that keeps the culture alive and binds the whole nation together. Describing Hindi and Sanskrit as rich languages, he encouraged the students saying that education should be that which becomes a symbol of

national unity. Another guest and UP Minister of State for Higher Education Rajni Tiwari, while describing the glory of this holy city, said that Kashi is the destroyer of sins, enlightener of knowledge, long-lived pleasure and the saviour of all. Discussing the importance of the university, she said many works related to the Indian knowledge tradition are going on and complete promo-tion and preservation of arts and cultural traditions is in progress. Earlier, welcoming the guests, Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Prof Bihari Lal Sharma said that this institute is playing an important role in the promotion of Indian knowledge tradition. Like Chaturveda Swahakaar Vishwa Kalyan Yagna, preservation of rare manuscripts, and preservation of cultural traditions are being done. This university is always trying to establish Sanskrit, culture and 'sanskar' on the global platform, he added. On the occasion, the foundation stone of the special guest house was laid by the governor. This guest house has received a grant from the state

Governor/Chancellor honoured 31 meritorious students by giving them 56 medals of different types. She also awarded the winners of various competitions in the schools of the five villages adopted by the university. Along with this, the principals of the primary schools of the five villages were also given gifts and mementoes. Besides, Anandiben distributed sarees, kits etc to Anganwadi workers of Chandauli district. The degrees were displayed in front of the Chancellor through Digi Locker. All 13,733 (from Madhyama to Acharya, Vidyavaridhi) degrees have been uploaded online in Digi Locker and now the students can get all their marksheets and certificates online from home. The function was conducted by Dr Madhusudan Mishra and important dignitaries who were also present were UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH Dr Daya Shankar Mishra 'Dayalu', Mayor Ashok Kumar Tiwari, MLA Dr Neelkanth Tiwari, former V-C Prof Prithviraj Nag, MLA Ramesh Jaiswal, Chandauli's District Magistrate Chandauli Tifu, Nikhil Development Officer Santosh Kumar Srivastava and SSU

government. On the occasion, the

Manuscripts overwhelm guests

After participating in the 42nd convocation of Sampurnanand Sanskrit Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU), the guests, including UP Higher Education Minister Yogendra Upadhyay, Minister of State for Higher Education Rajni Tiwari, and President of National Educational Technology Forum and National Assessment and Accreditation Council Prof Anil D Sahastrahuddhe visit. Anil D Sahastrabuddhe visited Saraswati Bhawan library and were overwhelmed after seeing the rare manuscripts preserved in the historic place of the university, including Raas Panchadhyayi, Bhagwat Geeta and Durgasaptashati (written on a special cloth) which are adorned with gold letters and gold art.
The NAAC Chairman

expressed his feelings in an emotional mood after observing the rare manuscripts preserved inside there and also praised the university for continuing the campaign to preserve the heritage of Indian culture. Yogendra Upadhyay, after seeing the preserved rare manuscripts, said that this is a priceless heritage, the Amrit knowledge contained in it should be disseminated on a wide scale, everyone will benefit from this.

Rajni Tiwari said this is a

wonderful and supernatural Amrit knowledge store.
The conservation work of manuscripts by the National Manuscript Mission with the support of the Government of India was also observed by the guests. During that time Vice- Chancellor Prof Bihari Lal Sharma, Registrar Rakesh Kumar, Prof Rajnath etc were also present. Earlier, UP Governor Anandiben Patel also visited the place.

Tirupati laddu row: Temple authorities urge devotees to offer coconut, fruits Ban sweets & other processed items

PTI/PNS PRAYAGRAJ

Temple authorities here have banned devotees from bringing sweets and other processed items for offerings and instead urged them to bring coconut, fruits and dry fruits, amid outrage over 'adulterated' laddus offered at the Tirupati Temple in Andhra Pradesh. Several prominent temples in the Sangam city, including Alop Shankari Devi, Bade Hanuman, and Mankameshwar, have announced these restrictions. The chief priest of the famous Lalita Devi temple of Prayagraj, Shiv Murat Mishra, said, "In the meeting of our temple management held on Tuesday, it was decided that prasad of sweets will not be offered to the goddess in the temple, but devotees have been requested to offer coconut, fruits, dry fruits, cardamom etc." He said there is a plan to open shops in the temple premises itself where pure sweets are made available to the devotees. Yamuna Puri Maharaj, chief patron of the Alop Shankari Devi Temple and secretary of Shri Panchayati Akhara Mahanirvani, said devotees have

been banned from bringing sweets and prasad from outside. Shridharanand Mahant Brahmachari Ii Maharai of the Mankameshwar temple located on the Yamuna bank said, "After the Tirupati controversy, we have banned bringing prasad from outside to Mankameshwar temple. We have written a letter to the district magistrate to get the 'laddu-peda' available in the shops outside the temple tested." "Until the purity of the sweets is clear in the investigation, they will not be allowed to be offered in the temple. Anyway, we believe in fruits more than sweets," he said. Mahant Balbir Giri Ji Maharaj, the patron of the Bade Hanuman temple located on the Sangam coast and head of the Shrimath Baghambari Gaddi, said, "After the construction of the corridor of the temple is completed, the temple management itself will prepare 'laddu-peda' prasad for the Shri Bade Hanuman temple." Earlier on Monday, the famous Mankameshwar temple in Lucknow has also banned offerings of 'prasad' bought by devotees from outside and said they can offer homemade

prasad or fruits. The temple management is also taking steps to ensure the purity of prasad offered on the site, with plans to conduct quality checks and potentially establish their own prasad production facilities. This move reflects a growing concern for the safety and authenticity of offerings, particularly in the wake of the Tirupati laddu row. The row over Tirupati laddus erupted after Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu claimed that substandard ingredients and animal fat were used in their preparation during the previous YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government. The YSRCP, in turn, has accused Naidu of indulging in "heinous allegations" for political gains. Naidu subsequently announced a Special Investigation Team to probe these claims.

CLAIM: Union Minister Chirag Paswan said here on Thursday that the BJP government is going to be formed with a full majority in Haryana. The opposition is trying to mislead the public. When the result comes, everything will be clear, he added.

Hindi workshop organised

Prayagraj (PNS): A Hindi workshop was organized on Thursday under the Rajbhasha Pakhwada being organised from September 13 at the headquarters of North Central Railway (NCR). In the workshop, the employees were informed about the constitutional provisions related to the official language, Official Language Act, Official Language Rules, promotion schemes and were given practical training on e-tools help-ful in working in Hindi on



computer and their use and working in Unicode on computer. The workshop was inaugurated by Chief Official Language Officer and Principal Signal and Telecommunication Engineer

Satendra Kumar by garlanding the portrait of Maa Saraswati and lighting the ceremonial lamp. Satendra Kumar while addressing the employees said that now all government

work is being done in e-office, in this view, there should be proper knowledge of Hindi typing and tools for working in Hindi on computer. Various convenient Hindi fonts and keyboard methods are available on computers. But while working on computers, only Unicode font should be used.

Important role of fertilisers in farming explained

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

memory is sharp at that time. They are the future of the com-

Atwo-day international con-clave 'Krishi Mantrana 2024' on Entrepreneurial Development in Agribusiness and Sustainability of Agri-Tech in Self-Reliant Agriculture began at Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHIJATS) on Thursday It was (SHUATS) on Thursday. It was inaugurated by the Chairman of UP Cooperative Federation Ltd, Balmiki Tripathi. The programme was presided over by SHUATS Vice-Chancellor Prof Rajendra B Lal. Vice-Chancellor of SKR Agricultural University, Bikaner, Dr Arun Kumar, was the guest of honour who described academic leadership as important for promoting sustainability and innovation in the agricultural industry. Balmiki Tripathi presented an important per-



spective on dedication to agriof cooperatives in promoting sustainable agriculture. He emphasised the transformative effect of cooperative structures in strengthening the economic resilience of farmers and empowering them in terms of agricultural integrity. He said ill effects of excessive use of pesticides are being seen on human health and there is a need to make farmers aware in this regard. He talked about promoting productivity by using old agricultural methods, natur-

Prof Rajendra B Lal explained the important role of fertilisers in farming and their benefits. Pesticides should be used in the right quantity and for the right crop. He said the officers of the Agriculture department and extension scientists in every district need to work together so that the exchange of technology can be done smoothly and farmers can be benefited.

Joint Director Government of

India GP Singh shared standard operating procedure (SOP) issued by the Government of India regarding the use of pesticides. Pro-V-C (Administration) Prof Biswaroop Mehra talked about strong collaboration between academic institutions, agricultural businesses and government agencies to develop rules that support sustainable practices and promote the use of new technologies. Faculty Dean Prof Ashish S

Registrar Rakesh Kumar.

Noel welcomed all the guests and appealed to researchers, scientists and policy makers to promote self-reliance in the agricultural sector and find solutions to the challenges. Additional Registrar Prof C John Wesley gave a brief sketch of the university in the last 114 vears. Joint Registrar Dr Amish John Stephen conducted the programmeme. BHU Professor Kalyan, Prof PS Badal, Plant Protection Officer of Government of India Amit Kumar Singh, Advocate Neerai Dwivedi, JP Singh, PCF regional manager etc. were present in the programme. This first day session of the international conclave established a cooperative atmosphere, opening the door for insightful conversations and information exchanges.

CSJMU convocation tomorrow

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

The 39th convocation of CSJM University (CSJMU), Kanpur, will be held here on September 28. Addressing mediapersons on Thursday, Vice-Chancellor Prof Vinav Kumar Pathak said total 105 medals will be awarded to stu-

These included 36 Chancellor's gold, silver and bronze medals, Vice-Chancellor's gold medals and 57 sponsored gold medals. Chancellor/Governor Anandiben Patel will felicitate as many as 57 students (39 girls, 18 boys) with the medals. Total Chancellor's gold medal will be awarded to six students, including Ritika Awasthi of DG College, Kanpur, for excelling in Music course. Besides, 1,18,737 students will be awarded the bachelor/post graduate degrees. The governor will also inaugurate the



Vinay Kumar Pathak addressing mediapersons on Thursday

istered to adolescent girls of five villages to prevent cervical cancer. She will also hand over nutrition kits to the district TB officer for distribution to TB patients under the National TB Eradication Programme. She will also inaugurate the 'Talab Taran Abhiyan' along with 'Pondman of India' Ramveer Tanwar for the revival 11 ponds situated in city and rural areas besides the university campus.

Air Cmde Sinha takes over command of AFS Bamrauli

ir Cmde Manish Sinha Atook over the command of Air Force Station Bamrauli on

1993, Air C m M a n i s h Sinha is a helicopter pilot and a Qualified Flying Instructor.

He has approximately 4050 hours of flying experi-ence on Chetak, ALH and Mig 21 T-77. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy,

Khadakvasla, Pune.

He has held various operational and staff appointments in India and abroad including deputation to United Nation Peace Keeping Mission at Sudan and Wednesday. Commissioned on headed the Indian Air Force Training

> manded a frontline helicopter sauadron in the west and an

Team in

the east. His last appointment has been at HQ IDS, where he contributed immensely towards Integrated Operations in Defence Services.

bylaws that are followed in

INDIA-B'DESH TEST

Tickets worth ₹1.15 cr sold so far: Dr Kapoor



Venue Director, UPCA, Dr Sanjay Kapoor addressing mediapersons on Thursday.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Venue Director of the India-Bangladesh Test Dr Sanjay Kapoor, while addressing mediapersons on Thursday, said tickets worth ₹1.15 crore have been sold so far. He said total 26,007 persons can see the test match to be played from September 27 to October 1. This number was more than the seats available during India-New Zealand test played here at the Green Park stadium in 2021. He said Assembly speaker Satish Mahana and President of UPCA Dr Nidhipati Singhania will inaugurate the match on Friday while senior players will announce the start of the game by ringing the bell chimes being used for the first time at the stadium.

dilapidated C Gallery being carried out for the past one month was over now. UPCA had also got the NOC from PWD for its use. With this, the total seating capacity of the stadium had reached to 26,007, he said and added that in 2021, 22,491 persons had seen the test match. After drizzling on Thursday morning, the entire pitch and ground was fully covered. He said martyrs' family members have also been invited to watch the match as UPCA guests. The kin of the martyrs and other dignitaries will plant saplings during the match being organised under the Green Theme. He said allout efforts have been made to organise plastic-free match. The entry of spectators will start from 8.15 am. Selfie points had been erected at the entry He said the repair work of gates of the stadium, he said.

Need for climate-friendly, profitable agricultural practices emphasised Varanasi

(PNS): The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in collaboration with the World Bank organised a roundtable on low methane a roundtable on low methane emission rice, crop residue management, system-level productivity optimisation and carbon credit practices at IRRI South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC) here on Wednesday. Key speakers included Dr. Martin Reiser (World Bank's Martin Reiser (World Bank's South Asia Regional Vice President), Dr August Tano Kouame (World Bank India's Country Director), Franklin L Khobung (Joint Secretary, Natural Resource Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India), Anurag Yadav (Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Government of Uttar Pradesh), Dr Sudhanshu Singh (Director, ISARC), Vinayak Ghatate (Senior Rural Development Specialist, World Bank) and Ajit Radhakrishnan (Senior Specialist, World Bank) etc. This roundtable brought together various government and private sector experts, carbon project developers and extension agents. It included key participants from World Bank 2030 Water Resources Group, Corteva Agrisciences, Core Carbon X, ITC, Indian Oil Corporation, Reddy Foundation, Alcom Carbon Markets Pvt Ltd, SAEL Agri Commodities Ltd, National Agro Industries and National

Agricultural Research System.

Director General of IRRI Dr

Yvonne Pinto appreciated all the partners involved for expanding low emission agricultural tech-nologies and carbon resource management. She said, "IRRI believes its flagship programme 'Direct Seeded Rice (DSR)' combined with crop residue management practices is an effective solution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Based on the successes from existing and ongoing projects, we have to develop further strategies to open new financial opportunities for small farmers." Anurag Yadav emphasised the urgent need for climate-friendly, sustainable and profitable agricultural practices. He said that small farmers need practical technologies to strike a balance between profit and sustainability and called for developing a carbon credit platform for this. He also emphasised on farmbased solutions such as lab-tofield programmes to address problems such as stubble burning through crop residue management. The World Bank representatives took the discussion forward and expressed their commitment to improve ricebased agri-food systems by increasing system-level productivity, integrating innovative technologies, and leveraging carbon finance. The discussion also empha-

sised the important role of biochar technology, which helps in improving soil health, reducing the use of chemical fortilizers and provide the sistematical fort fertilizers, and managing crop residues more effectively.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Abhishek Singhania has been elected the President of Merchants' Chamber of Uttar Pradesh (MCUP) consecutively for the second term for 2024-25 at its 92nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on Wednesday. Vice-President Mayank Khanna was also elected as the vice-president for the second consecutive term. Besides, 15 executive body members were also elected at the AGM. Speaking on the occasion, President Abhishek Singhania said, "Today, we gather not only to reflect on our achievements but to look ahead at the possibilities that await Kanpur—a city brimming with

potential. As I enter my second

consecutive term as president,

my commitment to Kanpur's

growth has only deepened and together, we are poised to shape

a transformative future for our

He said, "Kanpur has an extremely rich industrial heritage that over the last few years went into an oblivion and got lost in the pages of history. It now stands ready to start a new chapter of progress and pros-perity as we see UP as an emerging destination for industry and tourism. The investment climate has changed with a sense of security for investors and government initiatives that

have bolstered confidence



Abhishek Singhania elected president

President, MCUP, Abhishek Singhania addressing the members at the AGM.

amongst investors. We have pitched hard to the state government and have submitted a detailed plan to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath that has outlined the need for special economic zones and a well integrated mobility network. We have also outlined what futuristic policies the government should follow that would enable a spark in Kanpur's revival and growth story.
Some of these initiatives

include: (a) Making Kanpur airport more active with better air connectivity with major business hubs like Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. While the work is ongoing, I am tirelessly advocating for expanding air routes to put Kanpur on the business map. I am happy to share that we have been able to convince Akasa airlines to start operations in Kanpur and they are working on some of the last loose ends to tie-up.

(b) exploiting the land parcels of erstwhile industries that at the moment are either unused or poorly used land parcels to regain their status as "a thriving economic hub' similar to what other larger cities have done such as: Mumbai, Pune, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Indore, Jaipur to name a few and some of the international cities like New York, London, Singapore, Bangkok and Vancouver. (c) Decongestion of the city by allowing heavy industry to move outside the city thus reducing water, air and noise pollution as well as reducing ĥeavy vehicle traffic. (d) Adopting new building

towns such as Noida. (e) We have been able to convince the state government to rebrand Kanpur Dehat as Greater Kanpur that has been well taken by the chief minister and the work in progress. We are also planning learning events on topics, such as geo-politics, mythology, investments and wealth management, business, and entrepreneurship, biography and success, as well as entertainment events. In line with our modernisation efforts, I am excited to share that the renovation of the MCUP auditorium and Annexure Hall will soon begin. These spaces will symbolise progress and serve as platforms for meaningful collaborations and events. Further, the upcoming launch of the official MCUP magazine will be a powerful voice for our business community, addressing their concerns and aspirations, and extending our influence far beyond Kanpur's borders. Together, we will unlock the limitless potential of Kanpur and Uttar Pradesh".

Secretary Mahendra Modi conducted the proceedings while former president Dr Mahendra Mohan Gupta blessed the new office-bearers. Among others, Mukul Tandon, Atul Kanodia, Sushil Sharma, Santosh Gupta, Sharad Shah and Manu were



VP Dhankhar reflects upon J and K transformation

Amid Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday said the Dal lake in Srinagar was "dull" when he went there in 1990 but is now teeming with

1990 but is now teeming with tourists, while pointing out that Article 370 is no longer applicable to the region.

Addressing the 83rd foundation day celebrations of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Dhankhar recalled his visit to Sringgar in 1990 as his visit to Srinagar in 1990 as a Union minister, when he stayed in a hotel near the Dal

"Everything was dull. D-U-L-L. Not even 20 souls could be seen on the road. A state of dejection and hopelessness," the vice president said.

He said the Rajya Sabha, which he presides over as its chairman, was informed last year that two crore tourists had visited Jammu and Kashmir.

Dhankhar pointed out that Article 370, which was envisioned as a temporary provision of the Constitution, is no longer there.



"Article 370, the only article labelled as temporary and which was taken by some people, including those who had taken an oath under the Constitution, to be permanent, is no longer there," he said.

"The state of the nation today is beyond my dreams. I never imagined. I did not conceive of the Bharat that it is today," Dhankhar said, comparing the present-day situation with that of the 1990s.

The vice president said the 1990s were a period when India had to pledge its gold with Swiss banks to sustain its financial credibility as forex reserves had plunged to USD 1 billion and financial institutions, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, issued directives to India in said.

'Now, the IMF says India is the most-favoured global destination for investments and opportunity, and the World Bank calls India a role model on digitisation," he

Dhankhar said the 1990s were also an era of middlemen on the corridors of power, corruption was rampant and only a person with pedigree could get access to could get access opportunities.

Now, the power corridors are sanitised. middleman disappeared....

transactions take place digitally, without a human interface. That is the change never imagined," he said. The vice president expressed satisfaction that recognition for the scientific community has increased significantly.

"Soothing to note that in the last few years, recognition for the scientific community has gone up. It has gone up in several ways, including the government being very serious about it, and the prime minister's heart and soul are deeply in the scientific community," he



Former Attorney General KK Venugopal and CJI DY Chandrachud sharing lighter moments at MK Nambyar Memorial lecture

Lawyers indispensable in constitutional discourse: CJI Chandrachud

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NFW DFI HI

hief Justice of India DY Chandrachud Thursday said lawyers play an indispensable role in shaping constitutional discourse. While judges have the ultimate authority to interpret the Constitution, it is the lawyers who craft and present the interpretive frameworks for the judiciary to consider, said CJI, while addressing MK Nambyar memorial lecture

"In this sense, interpretation is as much a job of a lawyer as it is of a judge, for without robust legal arguments and advocacy, constitutional interpretation

would lack the necessary depth and diversity of perspectives," said

Chandrachud. Noted lawyer MK Nambayar is father of former Attorney General KK Venugopal. "As we celebrate the legacy of Mr MK Nambyar, we must remember that there were many more like him, who left their imprints on the Constitution, enhanced it, infused it with meaning, and took the texts to its legal destiny. The reason we celebrate them is that they

between jurisprudential lines, and travelled beyond the text, beyond obsequious obedience of the supposed 'intent of the

President Murmu salutes Siachen soldiers bravery, sacrifice

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday visited the Siachen base camp and told soldiers posted at the world's highest battlefield that all citizens salute their bravery. Addressing the troops, she said in difficult situations like heavy snowfall and minus 50 degrees temperature, they present extraordinary examples of sacrifice and tolerance in protecting the motherland.

The President said as the supreme commander of the armed forces, she felt very proud of them and that "all citizens salute their bravery". "They face severe weather

conditions. In difficult situations like heavy snowfall and minus 50 degrees temperature, they remain deployed at their front with full devotion and vigilance. They present extraordinary examples of sacrifice and tolerance in protecting the motherland," President Murmu said.

She told soldiers that all Indians are aware of their sacrifice and bravery and "we respect them", according to a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Dressed in Indian military



uniform, Murmu also paid tributes at the Siachen War Memorial.

The Memorial, she said, is a symbol of the sacrifice of soldiers and officers who have been martyred since the Indian Army began Operation Meghdoot on the Siachen Glacier on April 13,

Under Operation Meghdoot, the Indian Army established its full control over the glacier. The President said since the commencement of Operation Meghdoot, "the brave soldiers and officers of the Indian armed forces have ensured the security of this region". Lt Governor of Ladakh Brigadier B D Mishra had received President Murmu on her arrival at Thoise airfield. President Murmu is the country's third president to have visited Siachen base camp, located in the Union Territory of Ladakh, the others being A P J Abdul Kalam and Ram Nath Kovind.

camp in May 2018. The Siachen glacier is at a height of around 20,000 feet in the Karakoram mountain

While Kalam visited in April

2004, Kovind went to the base

range. It is known as the highest militarised zone in the world where soldiers have to battle extreme cold, high winds and frostbite among other severe weather conditions.



Engineers Conclave kicks off in Hyderabad

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

The 11th Conclave, 11th Engineers jointly organised Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) in Hyderabad, commenced on Thursday, defence ministry

said here. the aim of the two-day annual conclave is to deliberate on two strategic priorities, 'Additive Manufacturing for Defence Applications' and 'Defence Manufacturing

Technologies'. The event, being held at Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) of DRDO, brings together engineers, scientists, academicians and industry leaders to discuss emerging technologies advancements

indigenisation. The conclave was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Former Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission Dr Kakodkar and Guest of Honour, Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat. DRDL Director (Hyderabad) Shri GA Srinivasa Murthy, Director General, Missiles and Strategic Systems Shri U Raja Babu, and INAE President Prof Indranil Manna addressed the

Modi, Congress leaders greet Manmohan Singh on his 92nd birthday PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Drime Minister Narendra

Modi on Thursday greeted his predecessor and Congress leader Manmohan Singh on his 92nd birthday. Congress leaders lauded his contributions and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi hailed his humility, wisdom and selfless service in shaping the country's future.

Modi said in a social media post, "Birthday greetings to former PM Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji. I pray that he is blessed with a long and healthy life."

Manmohan Singh was prime minister of the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government between 2004 and 2014. He was also India's finance minister in the P V Narasimha Rao-led government during 1991-96, for the country's economy marked by wide-ranging reforms.

Born in 1932 in a region now part of Pakistan, he is credited as being the key architect of economic



effected by the Rao-led government that broke the stranglehold of socialist-era policies.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge led party leaders in greeting Manmohan Singh and hailing his contributions to the country. Kharge said he stood as a "rare embodiment of simplicity, dignity and ingenuity in the realm of n the occasion of his birthday, I extend my warmest wishes to former minister Manmohan Singh ji," Kharge

embodiment of simplicity, dignity and ingenuity in the realm of politics. A visionary statesman, whose actions spoke louder than words, we remain deeply grateful for his tremendous and invaluable contributions to the nation," the Congress chief said. Wishing him good health, happiness and a long life

ahead, he added. In a social post, Rahul Gandhi said, "Happy Birthday to Dr Manmohan Singh ji. Your humility, wisdom, and selfless service in shaping our country's future continue to "He stands as a rare Indians. Wishing you good zeal, India saw its greatest

health and happiness always!" Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also extended birthday greetings "to the pioneer of liberalisation and economic reforms in the country".

"Manmohan Singh ji gave the people wonderful welfare policies and rights like MGNREGA, Right to Food, Right to Information, Right to Education. Due to your historic efforts for inclusive development, India became one of the few economic powers in the world. Your honesty, hard work, simplicity and humility are an inspiration for all of us. May God keep you healthy and a long life," she said in a social media post.

Congress general secretary in-charge organisation KC Venugopal, while extending his warmest greetings to Manmohan Singh, said India saw "unprecedented growth, and transf during the UPA era" under his stewardship.

"It was a time when through a rights-based welfare inspire me and millions of framework and a reformist

reduction in poverty and a massive growth of the middle classes," he said.

"His (Singh's) journey from humble origins to the highest office in the country is an inspiration for generations to come. He is not someone who makes a big show of himself, but rather lets his hard work and talent do the talking," Venugopal said.

Even today, his advice and expertise continue to guide us in our actions, he said.

"Despite the innumerable attacks he faced, like he once said, history will be kinder to him and his contributions to India's development will be written in golden letters in history," Venugopal added. Several other Congress leaders hailed Manmohan Singh's contributions to the country while greeting him. The Congress said in a social media post, "Renowned economist and former Prime Minister Singh's entire life has been dedicated to the country. He has made many public welfare policies keeping in mind the interest, progress and welfare

of all sections of the country."



India sees major decline in out of pocket expense on health

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

There has been a significant decline in out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) on health, dropping from 64.2 per cent in 2013-14 to 39.4 per cent in 2021-22, data available from the National Health Account (NHA) has revealed, towards more equitable healthcare access in the country.

Describing the trend as a "very positive indicator," Dr V K Paul member (Health) of NITI Aayog said that the substantial savings—over Rs 1 lakh crore— has been resulted from the central health flagship Ayushman Bharat PMJAY

Additionally, other initiatives, like the free dialysis scheme launched in 2015-16, have positively impacted millions of individuals.

"More than Rs 1 lakh crore savings have accrued from the Ayushman Bharat PMJAY and this has had a positive impact on the recent NHA estimates," he added. He also stated that other schemes "like the free dialysis scheme, launched in 2015-16 have benefited 25 lakh people, he said while releasing the Union Health Ministry's National Health Account (NHA) estimates for India 2020-21 and 2021-22. crucial measure of

healthcare accessibility and financial burden, as high levels

of such spending can lead to significant financial strain for families, OOPE refers to the payments made directly by individuals at the time they receive healthcare services or goods including medical consultations, hospital stays, medications, diagnostic tests, and other health-related costs that are not covered by insurance or programs.

Since catastrophic health expenditure often leading to debt or financial hardship, the India's National Health Policy 2017 has set ambitious goals. It aims for a significant decrease in OOPE, targeting a 25 per cent reduction in proportion of households facing catastrophic health expenditure by 2025. Union Health Secretary

Apurva Chandra added that the increase in government health expenditure (GHE), rose from 1.13 per cent of GDP in 2014-15 to 1.84 per cent in 2021-22, and from 3.94 per cent to 6.12 per cent of general government expenditure (GGE). Per capita general GHE tripled from Rs 1,108 to Rs 3,169 during the same period, with a notable increase of 37 per cent from 2020-21 to 2021-22.

These changes reflect the government's commitment to enhancing public health investment, with GHE's share of total health expenditure growing from 29 per cent to 48

Left parties demand ceasefire in Gaza conflict

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ **NEW DELHI**

eft parties issued a joint statement Left parties issued a joint carried and Thursday demanding an Gaza and immediate ceasefire in Gaza and informing that they will observe October seven, which marks the completion of a year of an ongoing conflict in Gaza, as a day to demand an end to the war.

The statement was issued by five parties -- the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the Communist Party of India, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation, the All India Forward Bloc and the Revolutionary Socialist Party.
It was signed by Prakash Karat on

behalf of the CPI(M), Dipankar Bhattacharya of the CPI(ML) Palestinia: Liberation, D Raja of the CPI, Manoj existence.



Bhattacharya of the RSP and G Devarajan of the AIFB.

The parties called upon the Indian government to halt all arms exports to Israel and work for a two-State solution, whereby an independent Palestinian State can come into

"October 7 marks the completion of one year of Israel's genocidal war in Gaza. In the name of retaliating against Hamas for the latter's attack within Israel on October 7 last year, the Israeli armed forces have conducted a brutal and indiscriminate attack on Palestinians in Gaza," the 42,000 Palestinians, mainly women and children, have died and thousands more are buried under the rubble. 'Israel has not spared residential buildings, schools and hospitals from

They said as a result of the war, nearly

their savage aerial and ground bombardment, they said, adding that a medical journal, "The Lancet," has estimated that the death toll from Israel's aggression could be above 85,000 (as of August 6), counting both the direct and indirect fatalities. The Left parties pointed out that even

as the International Court of Justice (ICJ) said in January that the Israeli actions were leading to possible genocide and called upon Israel to cease military actions in Gaza, Israel has so far "scuttled all meaningful talks for a ceasefire".

Navy chief strengthens naval ties on Greece visit PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI

Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi is on a fourday official visit to Greece beginning Thursday. This visit is part of ongoing efforts further consolidate bilateral defence relations between India and Greece, with a focus on enhancing naval co-peration, defence ministry said here.

During the visit, the Navy chief will engage in bilateral discussions with senior Greek defence officials, including Kefalogiannis, Deputy Minister of Defence, Vice Admiral Dimitrios E General Staff.



Navy General Staff (HGNS),

Sasiakos, Deputy Chief of

Hellenic National Defence

Admiral

The discussions are expected to cover a broad spectrum of defence cooperation areas, particularly maritime joint training security, initiatives, and exploring avenues for future operational collaboration between the

two navies.

As part of his visit, Admiral Tripathi will visit the Salamis Bay, the base of the Hellenic Naval Fleet as well as the Hellenic Naval Academy. Through demonstrations and visits to Hellenic naval assets, the Hellenic Navy has planned to introduce Greece's naval capabilities and training methodologies to the Navy

Over 50 common medications flagged for quality concerns PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

Over 50 drugs including popular medications such as Paracetamol tablets IP 500mg, anti-diabetic drug Glimepiride, vitamin C softgels, Vitamin C and D3 tablets Shelcal, and high BP medicine Telmisartan, among others have been found to be of "Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) Alert" as per the Central Drugs Standards Control Organization (CDSCO), the country's top drug regulator.
The alert was issued after random

monthly sampling conducted by state drug officers. The regulator releases the list of "not of standard quality" drugs every month.

The batches of medicines flagged by the CDSCO in its drug alert for August are of companies such as Alkem Laboratories, Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Hetero Labs



Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Nestor Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Pharmaceuticals and Scott-Edil Pharmacia Ltd, according to a news agency. The CDSCO's drug alert for August also included samples from batches of medications such as D3 tablets and Ciprofloxacin tablets.

Potassium Clavulanate tablets have also been categorised as not of "not of

standard quality".

While batches of some drugs failed the 'dissolution test' as per Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) and failed the 'Assay' and 'water' test as per IP, some were identified as spurious or having Limited, Karnataka Antibiotics and Antibiotics such as Amoxicillin And uniformity of volume issues. These random sampling of the medicines.

pharmaceutical companies.

According to the CDSCO, the drugs licensing authorities of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Harvana. Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu, have not submitted any data regarding the Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) Alert for August 2024.

In August, the top drug regulator had banned over 156 fixed-dose drug combinations in the Indian market due to potential risks to humans. These included popular fever drugs, painkillers, and allergy tablets. Earlier in February, the DCGI Rajeev

Raghuvanshi instructed states/UTs to keep a strong vigilance and surveillance on the quality of drugs available in the market by doing www.dailypioneer.com

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Trouble for Siddaramaiah

Karnataka CM faces fresh political and legal challenge as alleged land scam during his previous tenure gains traction

arnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is facing the heat as a special court has directed the Mysuru Lokayukta police to investigate his connection with an alleged MUDA scam. This follows the Karnataka High Court's dismissal of Siddaramaiah's petition challenging the Governor's approval for the investigation. Siddaramaiah finds himself embroiled in a controversy as a probe into an alleged land scam during his previous tenure (2013-2018) gains momentum. The allegations revolve around irregularities in the denotification of prime land in Bengaluru, where government-owned land was allegedly released for private development, bypassing legal procedures. This development has not only triggered a political storm but also raised questions about the stability of his government, which is already navigating internal challenges. The case, brought to light through opposition parties and activists, accuses Siddaramaiah of misusing his position to facilitate the denotification of land in favour of private individuals. It is claimed



that these actions led to substantial financial losses to the state exchequer. The denotification process is typically reserved for cases where the government no longer requires the land for public purposes. However, the opposition alleges that the decision-making was influenced by vested interests.

The probe, aims to examine Siddaramaiah's role and whether he acted within the framework of the law. While the investigation is in its preliminary stages, the political ramifications are already visible. With the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) demanding a thorough investigation and even his resignation, the pressure on Siddaramaiah is mounting. In response to the accu-

sations, Siddaramaiah has strongly denied any wrongdoing, calling the probe a politically motivated attempt to tarnish his image and destabilise his government. Siddaramaiah's defence rests on his claim that the land denotification was carried out in compliance with legal procedures and was vetted by relevant authorities. He also pointed out that similar cases have been registered against several politicians across party lines, suggesting that this is a standard political practice to harass the CM's of the Opposition parties and not unique to his administration. If the investigation gathers pace and incriminating evidence surfaces, it could weaken his authority, both within his party and in the eyes of the public. The BJP, as the principal opposition in Karnataka, is likely to leverage the land scam to question Siddaramaiah's integrity and leadership. Their demand for accountability could lead to prolonged political uncertainty, especially if the case moves into the courts or if there are calls for judicial oversight. Further, any perception of corruption, especially in a state like Karnataka where electoral battles are fiercely fought, could erode Siddaramaiah's public image. His government, which came to power on promises of transparency and development, may find itself in a difficult position defending its track record if this case gains momentum and more evidence surfaces.



An artist gives finishing touches to a clay idol of Goddess at artisans' village Kumartuli, in Kolkata

Exploring the depths of the human mind



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

As AI draws comparisons to human cognition, the mystery of the mind grows more complex, raising crucial questions about its unused potential



he human mind is a unique organic entity whose lengths of reach and visions of the range are still to be fully mapped. Many believe that an average mind works at less than 30 per cent of its potential. Putting this in the context of artificial intelligence, the matter becomes even more complex. There is a theory doing the rounds in the field of artificial intelligence that suggests that entities of artificial intelligence have the potential of organic functioning, just like the human The evidence for this is fairly

mixed. Some conclusions may emerge over time. The crucial question concerning artificial intelligence however does include its possibilities and potential for organic evolution and growth. As observed, sooner or later, answers will emerge. Even otherwise, the human mind is a suo motu logic of its existence. Attempts to map it, are indeed one of the exciting aspects of human endeavour. Notwithstanding some breakthroughs in mapping the brain, there are areas of brain function that need a closer look both more to the point one does physically and operationally. Interestingly, notwithstanding all this, there is a common reference to the 'second childhood' of human beings, where people, upon reaching a certain

age, start behaving with childlike traits. It is difficult to explain this process, but it is fairly obvious to notice.

Similarly, the jury is out on the age by which, the basic orientation of the brain fully takes place. One also needs to know when it matures enough to develop a relationship between the 'conscious' brain and the 'subconscious'

Notwithstanding the diverse interpretations of the above narrative, it is obvious that at some stage the basic foundations of the mind seemingly get concretised. One such example is the influence of early childhood experiences on a growing human being. There are stages of childhood emerging into early adult-

All this becomes integral to the individual's ways of thinking and behaving. Popularly, this is known to affect the orientations of a growing individual on matters of finance, gender or for that matter even values.

The list can be extended but not know, exhaustively, of all the influences which go into the making of an operationally adult human mind. Very often, there may be latent influences on a human mind

MANY AREAS OF THOUGHT, REFLECTION, ANALYSIS, AND RESEARCH MAY CONTAIN INDICATIONS OF UNDERSTANDING THE DYNAMICS OF THE MIND. IT MAY BE A CHALLENGE, BUT A CHALLENGE BE EVADED

selves until a much later point in adulthood.

All in all, many ambiguities remain, and so do many contradictions that stay alive so far as the working of the mind is concerned. Above all, it is generally believed that hormonal changes affect the working of the mind. Both men and women reportedly pass through menopause in their later life. Many are of the view that menopausal effects are more identifiable amongst the women than the men. An issue, however, remains to be fully answered: what are the factors that influence the

working of the mind? Yet another element that influences behaviour is the fall out of a mental shock. It can have many approximations of derailing the thought process of the individual, and indeed, impacting many values. Put simply, many areas of thought, reflection, analysis, and research may contain indications of understanding the dynamics of the mind. It may be a challenge, but a challenge that cannot be

Further, there are also some transgenerational aspects to it. Say, how two parents deal with each other, or singly and collectively deal with a child

that may not manifest them- is an important factor for the child's growth. This can carry on across generations. Physiologically, the passing of some genes is known to happen across generations.

This is not only in terms of physical characteristics but also certain diseases that may have affected one of the grandparents in a given generation and resurfaced again two generations later in the physical system of a descendant. The mapping of this process, as of today, needs much additional work to be

This also contains a whole research agenda of human physiology, physical anthropology, medicines and more. Such a subject matter would deserve an integrated approach of not just, anthropology, psychology, genetic sciences and more, but a whole setup of support disciplines with appropriate interdisciplinary framework.

This will give insights into the physiology of the human being and the composition of the brain and mind. It is a challenging task, but it is a task that cannot be avoided.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are

World tourism day: Uniting people, fostering peace



Whether visiting cultural landmarks, enjoying local cuisine, or simply interacting with people, tourism fosters global unity and peace

very year on September 27, the world celebrates World Tourism Day, a reminder of the crucial role that tourism plays in fostering cultural exchange, boosting economies, and promoting peace. As borders open and people explore new destinations, tourism serves as a bridge, uniting diverse cultures and breaking down barriers between nations.

In 2024, as we celebrate World Tourism Day, the theme focuses on the far-reaching benefits of travel beyond leisure, recognising how tourism helps us understand the world, its people, and its many cultures in deeper and more meaningful ways.

Tourism is not merely about sightseeing; it's about experiencing the essence of a place, its history, and its culture. As Bulat Nurmukhanov, Deputy Chairman of the Moscow City Tourism Committee, emphasises, "Tourism is primarily a way to immerse oneself in new cultures and experience history." Through tourism, individuals are given the chance to see the world through different lenses, fostering greater acceptance and understanding of other peo-

ple and their ways of life. This broader understanding is why cities like Moscow have prioritised cultural tourism as a key driver for their economic and social growth. The Moscow tourism strategy emphasises the importance of museums, exhibitions, and cultural events, which help travelers connect with the history and artistic traditions of the region. This approach reflects a global shift in tourism, where travelers seek deeper, more authentic experiences that expand their

worldviews. Tourism has always played a unique role in creating connections between people from different backgrounds. It allows us to learn from one another, building bridges of understanding and respect. contributes to the global On World Tourism Day, this economy. aspect of travel is especially highlighted, as we reflect on how it fosters harmony in an increasingly interconnected world.

Roseate Hotels & Resorts, points out, "Tourism is about the connections we forge and the cultural experiences we offer." Kapoor stresses the importance of offering travelers more than just a stay, but a chance to explore different cultures and traditions. In a world where differences can sometimes divide, tourism brings people together, promoting peace and mutual

respect. For hotels and resorts, the focus is now on providing culturally aware experiences, from diverse culinary offerings to personalised services that reflect the traditions and customs of visitors. This kind of attention to cultural diversity enriches the overall travel experience, making it more inclusive and meaningful. Beyond cultural connections, tourism is a major economic

driver for many countries. It

generates millions of jobs,

supports local businesses, and

Sustainable tourism focuses on minimising the environmental footprint of travel while maximising the positive social and economic impact As Kush Kapoor CEO of on host communities. From eco-friendly hotels to tours that support local artisans, tourism can be a powerful tool for inclusive development and environmental protec-

Perhaps the most significant impact of tourism is its role in promoting global peace and understanding. By encouraging interactions between people of different cultures, tourism helps to break down prejudices and build mutual espect. As we celebrate World Tourism Day, it's important to remember that each journey is not just a trip to a new place but an opportunity to engage with the world in a way that promotes peace and harmony. When people experience the customs, values, and traditions of other cultures, they begin to appreciate the similarities and shared humanity

(The author is a travel writer, views expressed are personal)

that unite us all.

GOVERNOR SPARKS CONTROVERSY Madam — Tamil Nadu Governor R N

Ravi, in an unprecedented move on the evening of June 29 last year, unilaterally removed Tamil Nadu Minister V Senthilbalaji from the Council of Ministers. But he hastily backtracked from his decision late at night because he too knew that his act was not only illegal but also unconstitutional. Some people say that Ravi has always

been in the habit of being in controversies. But I believe that R N Ravi is a Governor later, first he is the order follower of the ruling Home Ministry. The ideology of the Home Ministry is clearly visible in every decision and every speech of him.

For example, just two days ago, while giving a lecture, he said that 'secularism is a European concept, that is why it was not a part of the Indian Constitution earlier, later, an 'insecure Prime Minister' got it added to the Constitution during the Emergency'.

For example, in one of his sentences, he first hinted at the concept of a Hindutva nation and secondly, he also criticised former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Some critics are demanding the immediate removal of R N Ravi from the post of Governor, whereas I believe that this is an ideological war which has been started by the central Government through the Governor, hence it would be better to answer this verbal war with thoughts only. Ravi should be asked, and then he will also say that the entire Constitution of India is external and is a copy of Europe, especially Britain, hence the entire Constitution should be abolished? Is our Constitution, on the basis of which we are proudly waving the flag of being the largest democracy today, also a European

Has the Governor forgotten that he has taken oath of this Constitution? Secularism is an integral part of our Constitution. It is our biggest duty to keep religion separate from politics.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur ented players, of course, are indispensable

Ukraine appreciates India's efforts



he meeting of Ukrainian President Zelensky with the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of his US visit for the Quad is taken with the overwhelming gesture from the Ukrainian counterparts. Ukraine has been visited by almost all the Quad leaders in person, and India particularly is playing a spe-

NDIA'S HOCKEY DOMINANCE CONTINUES

Madam—Indian hockey is on a high as exemplified by the way Manpreet Singh's men dominated the Men's Asian trophy at China's Hulunbuir. Notwithstanding the fact that India was the favourites to lift the title, the boys had to perform on the day, and they did. Although India fought hard to overcome an unexpected resistance from China in the final, the same team it had blanked in the league match, there was little doubt that it was the best team on display throughout the tourney.

The 2020 Tokyo Olympics bronze medal, 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games gold medal, bronze at the recent Paris Olympics, and now Asian gold: India has had an excellent run on the astroturf for a couple of years, after a long, long period. The best part of the present Indian hockey team is the unity and spirit with which they come across the field come what may. Coach Craig Fulton's disinclination towards unnecessary and unwarranted chopping of players, in contrast to a few former coaches, has played its role. The tal-

cial role in establishing peace within Ukraine with its humanitarian assistance, negotiating stability deals and peace settlement mediation between Ukraine and Russia. The Indian efforts for peace initiation is so far are still moving ahead in the back channel diplomatic level. For which Ukraine is thankful for the clear support of India towards Ukrainian integrity and sovereignty. India's efforts in this regards is particularly welcoming that, we take care of every nation near or far from us; stuck in the political or economic or geopolitical turmoil, India's assistance will be helpful to ensure peace and tranquillity in the war hit country. Also such moves will also help India to meet its commitment of becoming Vishwa Shanti Guru or World's Peace Leader in the time to come. This peace collaboration between India and Ukraine will take Indian diplomatic skills to the next level. Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

to Indian hockey. At the same time, it is felt that India should not rest on its laurels; 2026 World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands should be another platform to showcase their undoubted brilliance. Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

ENCOUNTERS RAISE CONCERNS

Madam —The recent reports of police encounters resulting in the deaths of alleged criminals raise a critical question about our justice system and accountability, such as how can we allow a system where police act as judge, jury, and executioner? Does law enforcement cross the line from justice to vigilantism? The tragic killings in Badlapur, Unnao, and Chennai reveal a disturbing trend. We need to consider how we can assure accountability that seems to reward extrajudicial actions. It is imperative for supreme courts to intervene and uphold the principles of justice in

Anshu Bharti | Begusarai

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FIRST COLUMN

SHARPENING THE QUAD VISION

Quad summit focused on maintaining peace in the Indo-Pacific region as its top priority



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

rime Minister Modi's high-profile visit to the US this week reiterated the salience of US-India bilateral, underscored by several key decisions with a clear focus on the future of this 21st century partnership. This visit by the Indian PM, coming after his trips to Russia and Ukraine, points towards a multi-pronged approach, where India is willing to have diplomatic engagements at the highest level, keeping its national interests sacrosanct.

That PM Modi and President Biden have found a mutual friendship framework, despite the Indian PM having held a political roadshow of sorts with his predecessor in the Oval Office, is a signal to the large world, that the US-India bilateral has bipartisan support. The Quas leaders' summit, Modi's rockstar concert-style engagement with the Indian diaspora and his meeting with top CEOs from the technology sector in the US. all point towards an escape velocity having been achieved by the US and India, with no scope of a look back.

China was the invisible elephant in the room, at the Quad leaders' summit. The statement from the Quad summit without naming an aggressive, maritime international law violator, China, mentioned "As four leading maritime democracies in the Indo-Pacific, we unequivocally stand for the maintenance of peace and stability across this dynamic region, as an indispensable element of global security and prosperity.

We strongly oppose any destabilising or unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion. We condemn recent illicit missile launches in the region that violate UN Security Council resolutions. We express serious concern over recent dangerous and aggres-



sive actions in the maritime domain. We seek a region where no country dominates and no country is dominated—one where all countries are free from coercion, and can exercise their agency to determine their futures. We are united in our commitment to upholding a stable and open international system, with its strong support for human rights, the principle of freedom, rule of law, democratic values, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and peaceful settlement of disputes and prohibition on the threat or use of force in accordance with international law, including the UN Charter. Respect for the leadership of regional institutions, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), is and will remain at the centre of the Quad's efforts." While Quad is not a defence partnership like NATO, the presence of a global superpower, China with its coercive maneuverers in the entire Indian Ocean region, bore heavily on the leaders during the summit in Delaware. Delhi, Delaware (President Biden's hometown), Syndey, and Tokyo are keenly watching the international waters, and violations by China have been reported. The leaders announced "Today we are announcing a new regional Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI), to enable our partners in the region to maximise tools provided through IPMDA and other Quad partner initiatives, to monitor and secure their waters, enforce their laws, and deter unlawful behavior. We look forward to India hosting the inaugural MAITRI workshop in 2025. In addition, Quad partners intend to layer new technology and data into IPMDA over the coming year, to continue to deliver cutting edge capability and information to the region." China would continue to be a key concern for Quad leaders, and would perhaps serve as the super glue closely packing these four countries, with major interest in the Indo-Pacific region in a tighter embrace.

The next Quad leaders' summit is likely to be hosted by Delhi, where a new US president is likely to be the key guest of honour. Given that ex-President Trump had encouraged the Quad grouping and President Biden has elevated it to leaders summit, it is safe to assume that QUAD is here

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

Dissanayake's rise amidst Sri Lanka's political uncertainty



As the nation transitions under Dissanayake's leadership, questions loom about his ability to navigate the complex web of rivalries that define Sri Lanka's volatile democracy

Colombo recounted an experience he had in Parliament after a crucial debate, where he observed two politicians discussing serious issues. After the discussion, the editor remarked to one of the leaders, "Look, you always attack him in Parliament, but behind the scenes, you are so close and listen to him carefully." This leader was none other than Anura Kumara Dissanayake, the newly elected ninth Executive President of Sri Lanka and leader of the Marxist-Leninist Party Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna. The person he was listening to was his predecessor, former President Ranil Wickremesinghe, a neoliberal democrat. In response to the editor's comment, Dissanayake stated, "Whatever we say in Parliament, listening to him for five minutes behind the scenes is where we can learn a lot about politics." Wickremesinghe embodies the craft of political manoeuvring, while Dissanayake represents an idealism that has sought to reshape politics through violent revolution, a pursuit that has, lamentably, cost over 60,000 young lives. But later, he engineered a shift among a few key party members to adopt a middle ground to attract liberal democrats through the NPP alliance. So far, it has been a suc-

cessful story.
The friendship between these two leaders grew for a reason: Wickremesinghe was facing serious internal rifts within his party, the United National Party, where his junior, Sajith Premadasa, was rebelling against him. The history of this party is filled with tales of internal conflicts and bitter betrayals that continue to haunt its prosperity. Nevertheless, Wickremesinghe demonstrated resilience, showing that no matter who declared a power struggle against him, he could adeptly play the game of politics. This Machiavellian politician, well-versed in power dynamics, understands that he would never engage in a battle when it could be won through deception. The painful reality, however, is the consequences of these internal conflicts within political parties as the country enters a new era dominated by "political coalitions." In my opinion, this is not a healthy exercise for a robust democracy.

The erosion of political parties backbone of political ideologies, inevitably paves the way for unprecedented crises and precarious social outcomes. However, few realise that the friendship between Wickremesinghe, a man from Colombo's elite and a wellestablished political family, played [knowingly or unknowingly] a vital role in President Dissanayake's victory. The longstanding enmity between Wickremesinghe and Premadasa was undoubtedly a significant factor in Dissanayake's success, even though many predicted that no candidate would secure the over 50 per cent of votes required to

The results reflect the polarised political divisions in Sri Lanka, where minoritydominated areas remarkably rejected Dissanayake, presenting a significant challenge for the forthcoming general elections, as his political alliance will need to secure over 113 seats out of 225 to establish its power in Parliament.

Erik Solheim, former Norwegian minister and climate change advisor to Sri Lanka, who has been actively involved in Sri Lankan politics since the LTTE era as





THE RESULTS REFLECT THE **POLARISED** POLITICAL **DIVISIONS IN SRI** LANKA, WHERE MINORITY-DOMINATED

REMARKABLY REJECTED DISSANAYAKE, PRESENTING A **SIGNIFICANT** CHALLENGE FOR FORTHCOMING **GENERAL** ELECTIONS, AS HIS POLITICAL **ALLIANCE WILL** NEED TO SECURE **OVER 113 SEATS** OUT OF 225 TO ESTABLISH ITS POWER IN

PARLIAMENT

a mediator in peace talks, commented on the significance of this election, stating, "The weakness of the election winner is that his coalition has very little experience running a complicated state like Sri Lanka. They may struggle to achieve a majority in Parliament and implement their many promises in a challenging economic environment."

Despite the worldwide congratulatory messages pouring in for the new leader, I find these insights particularly useful for forecasting the future trajectory of electoral outcomes and the challenges that the island nation is likely to face. The caretaker government, appointed for just two months until 14 November, faces low expectations and should refrain from making new appointments, wisely retaining some senior ministry secretaries from the previous administration.

If the President fails to secure a majority in the House, he will need to form a coalition, but if that proves impossible, the opposition may take control of Parliament, leading to chaotic infighting—an alarming scenario for an inexperienced President unprepared for Sri Lanka's complex political landscape. This situation accentuates significant uncertainties ahead. Historical trends suggest that a President's party or coalition often secures a majority in subsequent elections; however, the recent election results, where the winning candidate failed to garner over 50 per cent of the vote amidst three main contenders, complicate this.

The strong support for Sajith Wickremesinghe in Tamil-dominated provinces indicates a serious challenge for the newly elected President and his coalition as they approach the upcoming par-

liamentary elections. However, what is remarkable about this election is that it was exceptionally peaceful, with no violence reported, allowing for a refresh-ing power transition. The commendable role played by the Elections Commission in Sri Lanka cannot be overstated.

This calmness is particularly sur-

prising in a country where peo-

ple previously took to the streets, violently ousting the Prime Minister and President after experiencing a devastating economic crisis. Many find it hard to believe. Nonetheless, this should not be seen as the calm before the storm, as the country's economy remains precarious. No leader can fulfil all the promises made during the election campaign. The responsibility now lies with the leader and his team to convince the public, fostering understanding and collaboration to overcome the challenges ahead. This is where the reality of the much-discussed "new renaissance" will be tested against the ground realities. The nation-state and its historical trajectory will provide important lessons in understanding what the future may hold. What does it mean for a nation's history to be an intricate weave of choices and consequences rather than a mere succession of events? This perspective compels us to reflect on the profound implications of individual and collective decisions on the essence of a nation. The dismissal of "what ifs" simplifies a complex reality rich with potential paths, urging us to explore the interplay between certainty and possibili-

In the post-independence landscape, missed opportunities for reconciliation and economic transformation reveal a dissonance between political aspirations and societal realities. The notion of a 'false renaissance' recurs throughout pivotal moments: the 1948 declaration of Independence, the 1956 Sinhala Only Act, the 1972 establishment of a republic, the 1977 shift to an open economy, the election of the first female executive president in 1994, the conclusion of the civil war in 2009, and the election of an apolitical leader (Gotabaya Rajapaksa) to overhaul the social structure in 2019—all serve as warnings against complacency born from superficial progress that obscures unresolved tensions and deep-rooted systemic

Therefore, sensationalising the new leader's humble family background and expressing anger towards the "self-proclaimed elites" and their alleged corruption may not provide the sustainable answers that the nation desperately seeks. Instead, it is the collective will and the leader's capacity to engage with those who oppose him that will be essential for embarking on this new journey. While propaganda may orchestrate a false renaissance, the shimmering illusions of progress starkly contrast with the gritty ground reality, exposing a profound philosophical enigma: the allure of superficial advancement often obscures the underlying fractures of society. This compels us to confront the uncomfortable truths of our existence that we habitually choose to ignore in our quest for meaning and coherence.

This challenge now lies before the new leadership. Behold an essential, paradoxical truth: within this tranquil interlude lies the profound anticipation of the storm to

> (The writer is a journalist and author. Views expressed are

Agri-tech 2.0: Digital innovations paving the path to sustainable farming

By boosting productivity, promoting sustainability and reducing environmental impact, these technologies offer a pathway for sustainable future

s the global population heads toward an estimated 10 billion by 2050, the agricultural sector faces mounting pressure to significantly increase food production. For India, with its vast and diverse agricultural landscape, this presents a critical challenge. Traditional farming methods alone will not be enough to meet the needs of a growing population while also addressing the threats posed by climate change, dwindling natural resources and the imperative for sustainable practices. In this context, agri-tech, the convergence of technology and agriculture, offers a transformative pathway forward. By integrating cutting-edge digital technologies into farming, India has the potential to



ability, and resilience. This article explores how these emerging technologies are reshaping the agricultural sector in India, positioning it to meet the demands of the future.

Agriculture at a Crossroads For decades, agriculture has been the backbone of India's economy, employing over 50 per cent of the workforce and contributing significantly to enhance productivity, sustain- GDP. However, the sector is

now facing unprecedented strain. The growing population, along with environmental challenges such as erratic weather patterns, water scarcity, and soil degradation, has placed the industry at a critical juncture. The traditional methods of farming are no longer sufficient to meet the increasing demand for food while preserving the environ-ment. This is where agri-tech comes into play, providing innovative solutions that can transform Indian agriculture by improving efficiency and promoting sustainable prac-

Precision Agriculture: Data-**Driven Farming:** One of the most promising advancements in agri-tech is precision agriculture, which leverages tech-nologies such as GPS, IoT sen-

sors, and drones to optimise farming operations. By gathering and analysing real-time data on factors like soil health, weather conditions, and crop growth, precision agriculture enables farmers to make informed decisions. This approach helps in the efficient use of water, fertilisers, and pesticides, minimising waste and environmental harm while maximising crop yields. In India, the adoption of pre-

cision agriculture is accelerating. According to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), these techniques have the potential to increase yields by 15-25 per cent while reducing input costs by 10-15 per cent. The precision agriculture market in India is expected to grow significantly, from USD 57.6 mil-



lion in 2020 to USD 124.2 million by 2025. Government initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for water conservation and the Soil Health Card Scheme for better fertiliser management are further driving this growth.

AI and Machine Learning: Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) are also playing a crucial role in modernising Indian agricul-

ture. By analysing vast amounts of data from satellite imagery, weather forecasts, and historical crop performance, AI algorithms can predict potential problems like pest outbreaks and suggest the best times for planting. Al-powered platforms are already being used to predict pest infestations and optimise pesticide use, potentially reducing the need for harmful chemicals by up to 30 per cent.

Ensuring Transparency: Blockchain technology is emerging as a revolutionary tool in agricultural supply chains. By offering a decentralised ledger for recording transactions, blockchain ensures transparency, reduces fraud, and promotes fair trade practices. For farmers, suppliers, and consumers alike,

blockchain provides verifiable information about the origin and journey of food products, ensuring adherence to sustainability standards. The blockchain market in India's agriculture and food supply chain is expected to grow at a CAGR of 47.8 per cent, reaching USD 289 million by 2027. **IoT and Smart Farming:** The Internet of Things (IoT) is revolutionising how farmers monitor and manage their crops. IoT devices, such as soil moisture sensors and weather stations, provide real-time data on environmental conditions, allowing for better decisionmaking in the field. For example, smart irrigation systems can adjust water usage based on real-time data, saving water and improving crop health. The IoT in agriculture market

in India is projected to reach USD 634.5 million by 2027, growing at a CAGR of 12.5 per

Use of Drones: Equipped with high-resolution cameras and sensors, drones provide farmers with detailed aerial imagery of their fields. This helps in identifying issues such as nutrient deficiencies, pest infestations, and water stress. Farmers can then take targeted actions, reducing waste and environmental damage. The use of drones in Indian agriculture is expected to grow substantially, with the market anticipated to reach USD 108 million by 2025.

(The writer is chief growth officer with Arahas Technologies; views are personal)

Modi targets Congress: Infighting, lies drive Haryana to back BJP again

The Congress spends most of its time infighting, tells lies to grab power and mentioning his special remains distant from public connection with the people of issues, Prime Minister Narendra Modi claimed on Thursday while asserting the people have decided to give another chance to the BJP to serve Haryana.

for the October five assembly polls and told them to make utmost effort to win each

"A week remains for polling (in Haryana) and (you Haryana.

Modi began his nearly hourinteraction long Haryana, where he extensively worked for the party organisation in the 1990s, and expressed his gratitude to them.

Alleging the Congress has Interacting with Haryana BJP workers through the NaMo app as part of the party's "Mera Booth, Sabse Mazboot" programme, he discussed fieldwork at the booth level Haryana is aware of the grand infighting. Every child in Haryana is aware of the grand old party's internal strife, he

These days, the Congress' loudspeakers that were earlier making big claims have fallen weak, Modi said. "Some are should) focus on every family saying the Congress is in a polling booth," he told becoming weak each day.

party workers. There are During the past 10 years, the 20,629 polling booths in Congress has failed as

opposition too."
"The party remained far from people's issues for 10 years... Such people can never win the trust of the people of Haryana," he said.

"But our strategy should not be to sit pretty on their internal strife. They are going to die their death, but we have to plant our flag deep by working harder than before," Modi said.

Attacking the Congress further, he said, "The entire basis of those who are fighting against us in the polls is lies. They repeatedly tell lies, their talks have no head and tail and they vitiate the atmosphere."

Modi claimed the Congress made tall promises to the people of Himachal Pradesh like they would "lay roof



recruitments. The Congress made of gold for every house". But after coming to power in had promised to give Rs 1,500 the state, development came to a standstill, the prime to women who are waiting for it even after two years, he said. minister alleged, adding they talked of the old pension Himachal Pradesh is an example of how they told lies scheme but were now unable to pay salaries or carry out to win elections and the people of Haryana need to be

minister said at the

He alleged the Congress were experts in lying but wear the mask of "Raja Harishchandra". You will have to go door-to-door to expose them, Modi told the BJP

One cannot imagine how many atrocities were committed against the Dalits during the Congress rule in Haryana, he said and asked the party workers to expose such incidents publicly. "Haryana has for the first

time got an OBC chief minister. They never made a chief minister from the backward classes. But the Congress will never say this," Modi said.

He alleged the Congress was not able to accept that Modi and Nayab Singh Saini, both

classes, became prime minister and Haryana's chief minister, respectively.

Recounting the BJP government's initiatives for farmers, the prime minister alleged that during the Congress rule in Haryana, the farmers got Rs 2 compensation cheques for

crop damage. It is the BJP government in Haryana which has been giving minimum support price on 24 crops, he said, adding the farmers should seek clarification from the Congress for their lies on the issue and tell them how much crops were being procured at MSP. Accusing the Congress of indulging in a scam with funds for Dalits' welfare in Karnataka, Modi alleged the party did not fulfil even a single promise in states where

informed about it, the prime of who come from backward it is in power, be it Karnataka or Telangana.

Now they are talking big in Haryana, he said, adding, "Spreading rumours and telling lies is in their blood". The Congress people live only for their family and that is their character, he said in response to a Haryana BJP worker's feedback during the interaction.

"I have full belief that the BJP is forming the government with a big mandate. One voice is heard from every home 'Bharosa Dil Se, Bajpa Phir Se." We have to put all our might to win the polling booth. You have to break all records of voting," he said.

Referring to the Haryana BJP's "Mahra Haryana-Non-Stop Haryana" campaign, Modi said it has been inspired by mothers and sisters from

BJP gears up for crucial J and K Assembly polls

MOHIT KANDHARI ■

The Bharatiya Janta Party is fully geared up to defend its 'impregnable citadel' in the last and crucial phase of maiden assembly polls in the Union Territory of Jammu

and Kashmir.

In the third phase polling is scheduled to take place across 40 Assembly segments. Out of these 40, 24 seats fall in the Jammu region.

In the 2014 Assembly polls, BJP won 19 out of 21 Assembly segments from the four districts of Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Udhampur.

This time three new seats have been added, one each in Kathua, Samba, and Udhampur during the Delimitation of Assembly

constituencies. BJP's performance in this phase is going to make or break the chances of government formation on its

strength. The Union Home Minister Amit Shah Thursday claimed that the Congress-NC alliance has been wiped out

Abdullah for contesting two Democratic Party appealed to Assembly seats out of fear. On Rahul Gandhi's claim to mandate to the BJP restore statehood in J&K if his party wins, Amit Shah formation of a stable responded that it can only be done when "BJP wants".

the top brass of the party has already started carpet affairs.

bombing across different Assembly constituencies of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, and

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to address a mega rally here in MAM sports stadium on September 28 ahead of winding up the month-long high-octane campaign.

Udhampur districts.

On Thursday Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addressed eight rallies covering all four districts of the Jammu region. Other star campaigners of the party including Smriti Irani, Union Ministers Shivrai Singh Chouhan, and Nitin Gadkari have addressed a series of meetings in Jammu. in the first two phases of the Jammu and Kashmir elections.

He also hit out at Omar Series of fleetings in Jammu. Both the leaders while targeting the opposition parties Congress, National Conference, and the Peoples the voters to give candidates to ensure the government that can carry forward the growth-oriented Leaving no stone unturned, agenda of the Union

Kolkata Court gives death sentence to rape, murder accused

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

POCSO b(Protection of APOCSO DIFFORMATION OF CHILDREN SEXUAL Offences Act) Court on Thursday awarded death sentence to a man for raping and murdering a 6-year-old girl about a year and a half agoterming it "not a rare but rarest of rare case."

The sentence comes against the backdrop of the ongoing controversy over the RG Kar College rape and murder case. Special POCSO Judge Sudipto Bhattacharya sentenced Ashok Kumar Shaw the accused to death terming he deserved no mercy for the crime he had committed against a child who had no chance of defending herself.
"Mercy to the guilty is cruelty
to the innocent," the judge said while announcing the quantum of punishment. The victim was raped and



murdered in the Tiljala area of south-east Kolkata, on March 26, 2023. She was allegedly lured away by the convict.

The police subsequently discovered her body in a nearby flat. Wednesday's was the third such verdict in a matter of a few months in the

"The prosecution was able to establish the case successfully and the guilty was finally brought to book ... and an exemplary punishment was awarded," said Madhavi Ghosh the Public Prosecutor.

PM Modi cancels Pune visit due to heavy rain, orange alert

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

A mid continued heavy rains witnessed for the second consecutive day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi cancelled his scheduled visit to Pune on Thursday to inaugurate, dedicate and lay foundation stones for several development projects worth Rs. 22,600 crore and throw open the Solapur Airport to air traffic.

Confirming the development, Pune divisional commissioner Chandrakant Pulkundwar said: "The Prime Minister's visit to Pune has been cancelled. The scheduled programmes have been officially postponed," Pune divisional commissioner Chandrakant Pulkundwar

"Owing to an orange alert issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the Prime Minister's programme has been cancelled.

In the event of rains, people coming for the programme will have problems. Keeping the safety of people in mind, the PMO has cancelled the programme," Maha-Metro spokesperson Hemant Sonawane said.

Pune recorded 130 mm of rainfall on Wednesday and there was no let in heavy rains on Thursday as well.



During his visit to Pune, Modi was to flag off the Metro train scheduled to run from District court yMetro station to Swargate, Pune. The inauguration of Pune Metro section of District Court to Swargate meant completion of the Pune Metro Rail Project (Phase-1). The cost of the underground section between District Court to Swargate is around Rs 1,810 crore.

The Extension of Pune Metro Phase-I is developed at the cost of around Rs 2,950 crore The three stations -- Market Yard, Padmavati and Katraj - coming under the project have been constructed underground.

During his Pune visit, Modi was also to lay the foundation stone for the Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule's First Girls' School at Bhidewada. Modi was also to dedicate to the nation

Bidkin Industrial Area, a transformative project covering an expansive 7,855 acres under the National Industrial Corridor Development Program of Govt. of India, situated 20 kms south of Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (known earlier as Aurangabad).

Delhi HC asks Centre to review Rahul Gandhi citizenship petition

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Centre to obtain a copy of a petition pending before the Allahabad High Court on the issue of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's citizenship. The court said a petition on a similar issue is also being heard by the Allahabad High

Union Home Ministry on its

Citizenship holding.
The court said before proceeding further in the matter, it will be in the interest of justice to know the position about the pending

notice to Rahul on British

Court and two courts can't deal with the same issue simultaneously.

On The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the Court sought response from Court sought response from Court and two courts can't deal with the same issue deal with the same issue simultaneously.

On Wednesday, Allahabad High Court is also seized of Thursday asked the Court sought response from Court sought response from Court sought response from Courts can't deal with the same issue deal with the same deal with the same issue deal with the same deal with the same issue deal with the same deal with the same deal with the same deal with the same dea cannot deal with the same

issue simultaneously. "You (Centre) check up the status of the petition at Allahabad High Court and also obtain a copy of the petition. We just want to be doubly sure that we are not Swamy, in his plea, also the ministry alleging that Gandhi had "voluntarily for furth disclosed" to the British October 9. also obtain a copy of the seeking cancellation of Rahul

hearing a plea by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy for directions to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to decide his representation

the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. The plea, filed by advocate Satya Sabharwal, said that on August 6, 2019, Swamy had written a letter to

Centre's counsel urged the court to grant some time to obtain a copy of the petition filed at the Allahabad High Court.

The bench listed the matter for further hearing on

Little hopes of ceasefire between Israel...

From page 1

Israeli families of the hostages said they are Israel has carried out days pushing for a possible of heavy strikes across The Lebanese Red Cross ceasefire deal for Lebanon Lebanon, targeting what it include provisions for says are Hezbollah rocket bodies, while others were securing release of the roughly 70 hostages still presumed to be alive and hundreds of rockets into the bodies of 30 others. Gil Israel and on Wednesday Dickmann, whose cousin Carmel Gat was kidnapped first time with a longerand was one of six Israelis range missile that was bodies were recovered from tunnels in On Thursday, an Israeli Gaza in August, said the feeling forgotten as attention shifts to the northern front.

"We know that these things are connected to each other, in the intensified air the northern part and the southern part, they're all part of the same large situation which we are in from October 7 on, and we're very worried that if we don't make the right decisions now, we will miss the Syrian border. It quoted this amazing opportunity to get the hostages out," Ali Kassas, mayor of the village of Younine, as Dickmann said on Tuesday, saying that the bodies of 23 as hopes for ceasefire deal swelled.

missing opportunities to free his to miss another chance by agreeing to a truce with both Hezbollah and Hamas that would provisions for the hostages. Dickmann's sister-in-law, released in a weeklong small bulldozer

November, along with some 100 other hostages.

hundreds of rockets into targeted Tel Aviv for the intercepted.

airstrike in Lebanon hit a families of the hostages are building housing Syrian feeling forgotten as workers and their families, killing 23 people, Lebanese officials said. It was one of the deadliest single strikes against campaign Hezbollah.

Lebanon's National News Agency said the strike occurred near the ancient city of Baalbek in the Bekaa Valley, which runs along Syrian citizens were pulled from under the rubble.

He slammed Netanyahu for He said four Syrians and multiple four Lebanese wounded. Hussein Salloum, cousin and begged him not a local official in Younine, said most of the dead were women and children, and include through the night and into

Thursday morning. "We dug through the rubble Yarden Roman-Gat, was with our own hands" until a

last brought in, Salloum told The Associated Press by telephone. "We had very limited capabilities."

the war in Gaza, especially launchers and other recovered by Hezbollah's paramedic service and the Lebanese Civil Defence. Lebanon, with a population of around six million, hosts nearly 780,000 registered

Syrian refugees and hundreds of thousands who are unregistered -- the world's highest refugee population per capita.Israel struck 75 sites overnight across southern and eastern Lebanon, the military said. At least 45 projectiles were fired from Lebanon early Thursday, all of which were intercepted or fell in open

areas, it said. Israeli strikes since Monday have killed more than 630 people in Lebanon, according to local health authorities, who say around a quarter were women and children. Several people have been wounded by shrapnel in Israel.

The fighting has killed dozens of people in Israel and driven tens of thousands from their homes on both sides of the border.

Israel has vowed to do whatever is necessary to that rescue efforts lasted allow its citizens to return, and it has moved thousands of troops to the northern border preparation for a possible ground operation.

Hindu Temple...

From page 1

The temple community in response to the incident gathered for a prayer ceremony and called for peace and unity, remembering His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj's ideal of harmony and respect.

This was the second incident of desecration at a BAPS temple in less than a month in the US amidst the growing trend of temple vandalism as part of a systematic hate crime against the Hindu community in the country. Amerish Babulal or "Ami"

Bera, an American physician and politician serving as a member of the US House of Representatives California, said on X: "There is no place for religious bigotry and hatred in Sacramento County. I strongly condemn this apparent act of vandalism in our community." "All of us must stand against intolerance and ensure that everyone in our community, regardless of faith, feels safe and respected," Bera said in a post on X.

"This type of hate against Hindu Americans and vandalism is appalling and morally wrong. The Department of Justice must investigate these hate crimes, and those responsible should be held fully accountable under the law," Congressman Ro Khanna said on X.

Indian - American entrepreneur Ajay Jain Bhutoria, urging the FBI to and investigate hold accountable those spreading hate and fear, said: "No place for hate in our communities or

Police altered documents in RG...

From page 1

Both Ghosh and Mondal were arrested by the CBI on charges of tampering evidence whereas prime accused Sanjoy Das was arrested by the Kolkata Police for perpetrating the rape and murder of a post graduate lady doctor of Chest Medicine Department of the Hospital. Though Ghosh has been arrested for tampering evidence, the CBI is not ruling out his culpability in the original crime, inside sources said adding the investigators were also working on additional inputs that have come up from the

initial analysis of the former Principal's mobile tower locations.

According to sources, Ghosh's tower location was in and around the hospital in the wee hours of August 9 when the crime took place. Besides, some video footages allegedly found in the mobile phone of the victim also have increased suspicion on Ghosh, sources said adding, "the victim doctor was not simply raped and murdered but he might have been raped and murdered as a part of a larger plan to eliminate her because she had come to know about some secret and was coming in the way of something very serious and illegal that was being done by these people."

Sources said that the victim had even once approached Ghosh with some complaints on how some illegal acts including distribution of spurious and below quality drugs were taking place inside the hospital. The Principal had allegedly asked her to stop being too much inquisitive about things lest

Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday held a long meeting with the top Health Department officials including the principals of the

33 medical colleges, the Chief Medical Officers members of the police force with a view to improve the health infrastructure of the State including the security network as was being demanded be the junior doctors.

"We discussed and took decisions on several issues including installation of CCTVs, construction of washrooms and restrooms in her career got ruined. hospitals and conducting Meanwhile, Bengal Chief security audits from time to hospitals and conducting time ... we have earmarked Rs 100 crore for improvement of security infrastructure," the Chief

Domestic Violence...

From page 1

Supreme Court noted a change in the circumstances under the Act may be of either a pecuniary nature, such as a change in the income of the respondent or an aggrieved person, or it could be a change in other circumstances of the party paying or receiving the allowance which would justify an increase or decrease of the maintenance amount ordered by the Magistrate.

"The phrasing of the provision is wide enough to cover factors like the cost of living, income of the parties, etc. Further, a change in the circumstances need not just be of the respondent but also of the aggrieved person," the top court said.

of section 25(2) of the Act, there must be a change in the circumstances after the order being passed under the Act," it said, adding, "Thus, an order for alteration, modification or revocation operates prospectively and not retrospectively". The bench said the husband cannot seek its retrospective applicability so as to seek a refund of the amount already paid as per the original order.

"However, for the invocation

The bench set aside the orders of the High Court and the first appellate court and dismissed the application filed by the man. "However, liberty is reserved to the respondent (man) herein to file a fresh application under section 25 of the Act, if so advised," it said.

HP govt face flak by party for adopting...

Pradesh Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania constituted a sevenmember headed by Industries Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan for the framing of a policy for 'Street Vendors, according to a

alleged Saniauli.

across the state by Hindu restaurants.

outfits, who demanded workers coming from outside to work in outside Pradesh be Himachal

week, Himachal committee statement.

identity came following massive protests weeks ago for the demolition of portions of a mosque in

registered. Citing alleged incidents of

spitting and mixing of urine in eatables, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had on Tuesday operators, proprietors, and managers of food stalls to The decision to register mandatorily display their outside workers with their names and addresses at their shops.

He also ordered that chefs and waiters must wear unauthorised masks and gloves, and made mandatory that CCTV cameras Demonstrations were held mounted in hotels and

US, allies call for immediate cease-fire between Israel, Hezbollah

 $T^{\text{he US, France and other}}_{\text{allies jointly called on Wednesday for an immediate}}$ 21-day cease-fire to allow for negotiations in the escalating conflict between Israel and Hezbollah that has killed more than 600 people in Lebanon in recent days. The joint statement, negotiated on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, says the recent fighting is "intolerable and presents an unacceptable risk of a broader regional escalation".

"We call for an immediate 21day cease-fire across the Lebanon-Israel border to provide space for diplomacy," the statement said. "We call on all parties, including the governments of Israel and Lebanon, to endorse the temporary cease-fire immediately."

There was no immediate reaction from the Lebanese side or Hezbollah — but senior US officials said all parties were aware of the call for a ceasefire. Netanyahu's Office said that the ceasefire put forward from the United States and France was only a proposal and the Prime Minister, who is currently on a flight en route have driven tens of thousands



United Nations General Assembly, has not responded to the proposal. Earlier, representatives for Israel and Lebanon reiterated their support for a UN resolution that ended the 2006 war between Israel and the Iranian-backed

militant group.
The US hopes the new deal could lead to longer-term stability along the border between Israel and Lebanon. Months of Israeli and Hezbollah exchanges of fire to the United States for the of people from their homes,

and escalated attacks over the past week have rekindled fears of a broader war in the Middle East. The US officials said Hezbollah would not be a signatory to the cease-fire but believed the Lebanese government would coordinate its acceptance with the group.
They said they expected Israel
to "welcome" the proposal and perhaps formally accept it when Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu speaks at

the General Assembly on

Friday. While the deal applies only to the Israel-Lebanon

they were looking to use a three-week pause in fighting to restart stalled negotiations for a cease-fire and hostage release deal between Israel and Hamas, another Iranianbacked militant group, after nearly a year of war in Gaza. The US, France and other allies jointly called Wednesday for an immediate 21-day cease-fire to allow for negotiations in the escalating conflict between Israel and Hezbollah that has killed more than 600 people in Lebanon in recent

Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz, who is the acting prime minister during Netanyahu's trip abroad, said there will be no ceasefire in the north, vowing to continue the fighting in the north "with full force until victory" and returning the tens of thousands of Israeli citizens evacuated from their homes in the north. The Prime Minister's Office added that the Israeli military was continuing to strike Hezbollah targets in Lebanon and the war in Gaza. The allies calling for a halt to the Israel-Hezbollah conflict are the United States, Australia, Canada, the European Union, France, the UK, Germany, Italy, Japan,

Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Qatar. Work on the proposal came together quickly this week with President Joe Biden's national security team, led by Secretary of State Antony Blinken and national security adviser Jake Sullivan, meeting with world leaders in New York and lobbying other countries to support the plan, according to US officials who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive diplomatic conversations. Blinken first raised the proposal with the French foreign minister Monday and then broadened his outreach that evening at a dinner with the foreign ministers of all the Group of Seven industrialised democracies. During a meeting on Wednesday morning with Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers, Blinken approached Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani and Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan to ask their approval and got it. Blinken and senior White House adviser Amos Hochstein then met with Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati, who signed off on the deal. Sullivan, Hochstein and senior adviser Brett McGurk were also in

touch with Israeli officials about the proposal, one of the US officials said. McGurk and Hochstein have been the White House's chief interlocutors with Israel and Lebanon since the October 7 attack on Israel by Hamas launched the war in Gaza. The officials said the deal crystallised by late Wednesday afternoon during a conversation on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly between Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron. Blinken expects to meet Netanyahu's top strategic adviser in New York on Thursday ahead of the prime minister's arrival. An Israeli official said Netanyahu has given the green light to pursue a possible deal, but only if it includes the return of Israeli civilians to their homes.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were discussing behindthe-scenes diplomacy. French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot told the UN Security Council during a special meeting that "we are counting on both parties to accept it with-out delay" and added that "war is not unavoidable". At the meeting, Mikati, the Lebanese prime minister, pub-licly threw his support behind

the French-US plan that "enjoys international support and which would put an end" ABC's "The View" that "an all-out war is possible" but said he thinks the opportunity also to this dirty war". He called on the Security Council "to guarantee the withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Lebanese territories and the violations that are repeated on a daily basis". Israel's UN Ambassador, Danny Danon, told journalists that Israel would like to see a cease-fire and the return of people to their homes near the border: "It will happen, either after a war or before a war. We hope it will be before." Addressing the Security Council later, he made no mention of a temporary cease-fire but said Israel 'does not seek a full-scale

Both Danon and Mikati reaffirmed their governments' commitment to a Security Council resolution that ended the 2006 Israeli-Hezbollah war. Never fully implemented, it called for a cessation of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon to be replaced by Lebanese forces and UN peacekeepers, and the disarmament of all armed groups including Hezbollah. Earlier Wednesday, Biden warned in an appearance on

thinks the opportunity also exists "to have a settlement that can fundamentally change the whole region". Biden suggested that getting Israel and Hezbollah to agree to a ceasefire could help achieve a cessation of hostilities between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. That war is approaching the one-year mark after Hamas attacked southern Israel on October 7, killing about 1,200 people and taking hostages. Israel responded with an offensive that has since killed more than 41,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza health officials, who do not provide a breakdown of civilians and fighters in their count. "It's possible and I'm using every bit of energy I have with my team ... to get this done," Biden said.

"There's a desire to see change in the region."

The US government also raised the pressure with additional sanctions targeting more than a dozen ships and other entities it says were involved in illicit shipments of Iranian petroleum for the financial benefit of Iran's Revolutionary Guard and

Trump threatens to end Biden immigration programmes

AP WASHINGTON

Former President Donald Trump, who has made anti-immigration rhetoric a key part of his reelection campaign, has warned that he would kick out hundreds of thousands of immigrants who have entered the country under two key Biden administration programmes if he is reelected.

Speaking to Fox News on Wednesday, Trump railed against two immigration programs created by the Biden administration to encourage migrants not to come directly to the southern border to seek asylum and make the region less

Trump said he would make the more than 1 million people who have entered the US under the two programmes leave: "Get ready to leave because you're going to be going out real fast." Trump has already promised a vast crackdown on immigration if he's reelected, including a vow o carry out mass deportations of migrants. He made similar pledges during previous campaigns, but during his time as president, deportations never topped 350,000.

Under one Biden administration programme, migrants as far south as the Mexican border with Guatemala can use a smart-



phone app called CBP One to schedule a date to come to an official US border crossing to seek asylum. So far, 813,000 migrants have used that system since it was launched in January 2023. Separately, the administration launched a programme last vear that allows 30,000 people a month from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela to come to the United States if they have a financial sponsor, pass background vetting and buy a plane ticket to fly into an American airport instead of going to the southern border. About 530,000 people have come to the US under that programme. Migrants using both programmes are admitted to the country under humanitari-

an parole for two years. The Biden administration has touted both policies as ways to reduce chaos at the border with Mexico, cut out vicious smuggling networks and allow for more vetting of migrants before

they enter the country. But Republicans say both programs essentially amount to an end-run around the country's immigration laws, which are set by Congress, and that the Biden administration is admitting people who otherwise would not qualify to come to the US. Republican-led states have sued to stop both policies.

Following previous pledges for mass deportations of migrants, Trump and his chief immigration policy architect, Stephen Miller, are bringing more specifics on how he plans to carry them out in a second White House term, such as invoking wartime powers, relying on like-minded governors

and using the military. However, any efforts to deport migrants on such a large scale would almost certainly run into legal, logistical and financial challenges.

Immigration advocacy groups say that Trump's promises of mass deportations are sowing fear among migrant communi-

Esther Sung is the legal director

for Justice Action Center. When Republican-led states sued to end the sponsorship program for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans the organization represented Americans who sponsored migrants to come to the US and wanted to preserve the program. A federal judge in Texas allowed the program to continue, saying the states hadn't proved they suffered financial harm because of it. Sung said Wednesday in an emailed statement that the humanitarian parole authority has been used by administrations from both parties for more than 70 years and that no administration has ever tried to take back parole from migrants on the scale that Trump is suggesting.

Trump: Ukraine is demolished

Washington (AP): Former President Donald Trump described Ukraine in bleak and mournful terms on Wednesday, referring to its people as "dead" and the country itself as "demolished", and further raising questions about how much the former president would be willing if elected again to concede in a negotiation over the country's

Trump argued Ukraine should have made concessions to Russian President Vladimir Putin in the months before Russia's February 2022 attack, declaring that even "the worst deal would've been better than what we have now".

Trump, who has long been critical of US aid to Ukraine, frequently claims that Russia never would have invaded if he was president and that he would put an end to the war if he returned to the White House. But rarely has he discussed the conflict in such

His remarks, at a North Carolina event billed as an economic speech, come on the heels of a debate this month in which he pointedly refused to say whether he wanted Ukraine to win the war. On Tuesday. Trump touted the prowess of Russia and its predecessor Soviet Union, saying that wars are "what they do". The Republican former president, notoriously attuned to slights, began his denunciation of Ukraine by alluding to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's recent criticism of Trump and running mate JD Vance.

Pope arrives in Luxembourg

AP LUXOMBERG

Pope Francis on Thursday began his trip to once-strong bastions of Christianity in the heart of Europe in an effort to reinvigorate a Catholic flock that is dwindling in the face of secular trends and abuse scandals that have largely emptied the continent's magnificent cathedrals and village church-

Francis landed mid-morning Thursday in Luxembourg, the European Union's second-smallest country, with a popu-lation of some 660,000 people, and its richest per capita. Francis arrived under stormy skies and blustery, damp conditions, days after the 87-yearold pope cancelled his audiences because of a slight flu. Francis greeted journalists at the start of Thursday's flight

from Rome but declined to walk down the aisle to greet them one by one as he typical-"I don't feel up to the trip. I'll greet you from here," he said,

referring to the trip down the aisle. The Vatican spokesman, Matteo Bruni, said the decision was due to the logistics of the aircraft, with just a single aisle, and the short duration of the flight, and was not a reflection of Francis' health.

Francis later seemed in fine spirits as he met separately with Grand Duke Henri and Luxembourg's Prime Minister Luc Frieden at the duke's

Migration, climate change and peace are likely to be themes during the visit, which continues later Thursday with Francis' arrival in Belgium. EU figures show that barely

half of Luxembourg inhabitants, or 52.6%, are native citizens, with 37.2% coming from other EU nations like Portugal and 10.2% from outside the EU. After his meetings, Francis will speak to the country's Catholic priests and nuns. The venue is the late-Gothic Cathedral of Notre Dame, which was built in the early 1600s by Francis' own Jesuit order and stands as a monument to Christianity's long and central place in European history. The trip is a much-truncated version of the 10-day tour St John Paul II made through Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands in 1985, during which the Polish pope delivered 59 speeches or homilies and was greeted by hundreds of thousands of adoring faithful. In Luxembourg alone, John Paul drew a crowd of some 45,000 people to his Mass, or some 10% of the then-population, and officials had predicted a million people would wel come him in Belgium, according to news reports at the time. Even then, the head of the Catholic Church faced indifference and even hostility to core Vatican teachings on contraception and sexual morals, opposition that has only increased over time. Those

over clergy abuse have helped lead to the decline of the church in the region, with monthly Mass attendance in the single digits and plummeting ordinations of new priests. Bruni said that by travelling to the two countries, Francis will likely want to offer "a word to the heart of Europe, of its history, the role it wants to play in the world in the future".

In Luxembourg, Francis has a top ally and friend in the lone cardinal from the country, Jean-Claude Hollerich, a fellow Jesuit.

In an article this week in the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, Hollerich also blamed migration and the influx of people of other faiths or none for the changes and challenges confronting the church in Luxembourg today. "In 1970, 96% of the people from Luxembourg declared themselves Catholic. We can say that Christianity characterised the identity of the country," Hollerich wrote. "But today, you cannot say the same." "We can no longer look back in the hope of restoring that church that existed a half-century ago. We have to try to find traces of God in the current secularisation," he wrote. Hollerich. whom Francis made a cardinal in 2019, has taken on a leading role in the pope's multi-year church reform effort as the "general rapporteur" of his big synod, or meeting, on the future of the Catholic Church.

Helene upgraded to Category two hurricane as it barrels towards Florida

Apalachee Bay. It added that high winds and heavy rains also

posed risks. "This forecast, if

AP TALLAHASSEE

Fast-moving Hurricane Helene was advancing Thursday across the Gulf of Mexico toward Florida, threatening an "unsurvivable" storm surge in northwestern parts of the state as well as damaging winds, rains and flash floods hundreds of miles inland across much of the southeastern US, forecasters said. Helene was upgraded Thursday morning to a Category 2 storm and is expected to be a major hurricane — meaning a Category 3 or higher — when it makes landfall on Florida's northwestern coast Thursday evening. As of early Thursday, hurricane warnings and flash flood warnings extended far beyond the coast up into southcentral Georgia. The governors of Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas have all declared emergencies in their states. The storm was expected to make landfall in the Big Bend region, where Florida's panhandle and peninsula meet, according to Jack Beven, senior hurricane specialist at the National Hurricane Centre in Miami.

"Regardless of how strong it is, it is a very large storm, Beven said. "It's going to have impacts that cover a large area." The National Weather Service office in Tallahassee forecast storm surges of up to 20 feet (6 metres) and warned they could be particularly "catastrophic and unsurvivable" in Florida's

realised, is a nightmare surge scenario for Apalachee Bay," the office said. "Please, please, please take any evacuation orders seriously!" Crawfordville, farther inland and about 25 miles (40 km) northwest of Apalachee Bay, Christine Nazworth stocked up on bottled water, baked goods and premade meals at a Walmart. She said her family would be sheltering in place, despite Wakulla County issuing a mandatory evacuation order. "I'm prayed up," she said. "Lord have mercy on us. And everybody else that might be in its path." Wakulla County was one of several to issue evacuation orders. Along Florida's Gulf Coast, school districts and multiple universities have cancelled classes. Helene was about 320 miles (515 km) southwest of Tampa on Thursday morning and moving north-northeast at 12 mph (19 kph) with top sustained winds of 100 mph (155 kph). Forecasters said it should become a Category 3 or higher hurricane, meaning winds would top 110 mph (177 kph). While Helene will likely weaken as it moves inland, its "fast forward speed will allow strong, damaging winds, especially in gusts, to penetrate well inland across the southeastern United States," including in the southern Appalachian Mountains, the

hurricane centre said. The cen-

tre posted lesser tropical storm warnings as far north as North Carolina, and warned that much of the region could experience prolonged power outages, toppled trees and dangerous flooding. Helene had swamped parts of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula on Wednesday, flooding streets and toppling trees as it passed offshore and brushed the resort city of Cancun. The storm formed Tuesday in the Caribbean Sea. In Cuba, the government preventively shut off power in some communities as waves as high as 16 feet (5 metres) slammed Cortes And in the Cayman Islands,

schools closed and residents pumped water from flooded homes. Rain was already falling steadily in Atlanta on Wednesday evening as shoppers emptied shelves of water at a Kroger supermarket east of downtown.

The weather service in Atlanta issued flash flood warnings for much of the state.

McComb said he still found it hard to believe Helene would seriously impact the city, which is more than 250 miles (400 km) north of the Gulf of Mexico. "It would be really unique for it to hit so far inland," Charles said as he bought water, bread and lunch meat. He was, however, worried about losing electricity. "I do live in an area where it doesn't take so much for the power to go out," he said.

Harrods issues apology to women claiming abuse by former owner

London (AP): The managing director of Harrods said Thursday that the London department store is "deeply sorry" for failing employees who say they were sexually assaulted by late owner Mohamed Al Fayed.

Michael Ward said it is clear Al Fayed "presided over a toxic culture of secrecy, intimidation, fear of repercussion and sexual misconduct". Five women have told the

BBC they were raped by Al Fayed, who died last year aged 94, and several others allege acts of assault and physical violence. Lawyers for the alleged victims say they have been retained by 37 women and the list is grow-

Ward said he was "not aware of his (Al Fayed's) criminality and abuse" during the four years he worked for the Harrod's owner, though "rumours of his behaviour circulated in the public domain."

Al Fayed owned Harrods for a quarter century before selling it 2010 to a company owned by the state of Qatar through its sovereign wealth fund, the Qatar Investment Authority.

"We failed our colleagues and for that we are deeply sorry," Ward said in a statement. He said Harrods had set up a "settlement process" for Al Faved's victims. "This was a shameful period acy.

in the business' history," the statement said. "However, the Harrods of today is unrecog-nisable to Harrods under his

ownership. London's Metropolitan Police say they were made aware of allegations in the past and had questioned Al Fayed in 2008 over the alleged sexual abuse of a 15-year-old, but prosecutors at the time did not take the cases forward.

Al Fayed's family has not

commented. Egypt-born businessman Al Faved moved to Britain in the 1960s and bought Harrods, an upmarket retail emporium in London's tony Knightsbridge district, in the mid-1980s He became a well-known figure through his ownership of the store and the London soccer team Fulham. He was often in the headlines after his son Dodi was killed alongside Princess Diana in a car crash in Paris in 1997 Al Fayed spent years promoting the conspiracy theory that the royal family had arranged the accident because they did not approve of Diana dating an Egyptian. An inquest concluded that Diana and Dodi died because of the reckless actions of their driver — an employee of the Ritz Hotel in Paris owned by Al Fayed — and paparazzi chasing the couple. Separate inquiries in the UK and France also con-

cluded there was no conspir-

Labour Party members deal a blow to Starmer day after his appeal for unity

secular trends and the crisis

Liverpool (England) (AP): Members of Britain's governing Labour Party dealt Prime Minister Keir Starmer a blow on Wednesday, rejecting his decision to cut payments that offset winter heating costs for millions of retirees. The vote on the final day of Labour's annual conference is not binding, but it's a setback to Starmer's efforts to unite his centre-left party around the contentious measure. Since winning office in July, Starmer has cautioned that the dire state of the public finances inherited from the last Conservative government means he must make hard choices such as ending the winter fuel allowance, worth between 200 and 300 pounds (USD 262 and USD 393), for all but the poorest pensioners. Trade unions that are among Labour's funders and allies

organised resistance to the cut at the conference in Liverpool, northwest England. They forced a vote on a demand for the decision to be reversed. It was narrowly passed in a show-of-hands vote amid cheers and jeers in the conference hall. "I do not understand how our new Labour government can cut the winter fuel payment for pensioners and leave the super-rich untouched," said Sharon Graham, general secretary of the Unite union, to applause from delegates. This is not what people voted for. It is the wrong decision and it needs to be reversed."

The government has promised the withdrawal of the heating allowance will be offset by an aboveinflation increase in the state pension and other measures to reduce poverty.

HK welcomes pandas gifted by Beijing, raising hopes for tourism boost

Hong Kong (AP): Hong Kong welcomed a new pair of giant pandas gifted by Beijing on Thursday with a lavish ceremony, raising hopes for a boost to

the city's tourism. An An and Ke Ke are the third pair of giant pandas to be sent to the city from mainland China since the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997. Their arrival came after their new neighbour, Ying Ying, gave birth to twins last month and became the world's oldest first-time panda mother on record.

With the addition of the new bears, the twins, and their father, Le Le, Hong Kong now houses six pandas.

Chief Executive John Lee on Tuesday said An An is a 5-yearold male panda who is agile,

intelligent and active, while Ke Ke, a 5-year-old female, is good at climbing, cute and has a gentle temperament.

The new arrivals will undergo two months of quarantine and adapt to their new home at Ocean Park, a zoo and aquarium that has long been a favourite of residents and tourists. Lee expressed hope that the public could meet the new bears in mid-December. In October, the government will invite residents to propose

new names that showcase the pandas' characteristics. Tourism industry representatives are optimistic about the potential impact of housing six pandas, hoping it will boost

visitor numbers in Hong Kong.

Officials have encouraged busi-

nesses to capitalize on the pop-

ularity of the new bears and newborn cubs to seize opportunities in what some lawmakers have dubbed the "panda economy". Pandas are widely considered

China's unofficial national mascot. The country's giant panda loan program with overseas zoos has long been seen as a tool of Beijing's soft-power diplomacy. Giant pandas are only found in China's southwest and their population is under threat from development. But caring for pandas in captivity is expensive. A zoo in Finland agreed with Chinese authorities to return two loaned giant pandas to China more than eight vears ahead of schedule because they were too costly for the facility to maintain amid declining visitors.

CBDT reshuffles responsibilities Jio-bp inaugurates 500th EV charging station

 $T^{\text{he Central Board of}}_{\text{Direct Taxes (CBDT), the}}$ authority that supervises the income-tax department's work in the country, has carried out a fresh reshuffle of responsibilities amongst its members, with the investigation wing reporting to the chairman.

An official order issued on September 24 said CBDT Chairman Ravi Agrawal, a 1988-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, will be in charge of "coordination and overall supervision" of the board's work and that of the investigation, central and intelligence and criminal investigation directorates.

Earlier, there used to be an independent post of member (investigation) in the CBDT, responsibilities were also



with the "supervision of the work of investigation", a senior officer told PTI. Some

other members' but it was done away with last year as part of the work reorientation of the board and but it was done away with last reorganised then, he said. Sanjay Kumar, a 1988-batch officer, will hold the charge of member (audit and

the chairman was authorised 1987-batch IRS officer, will be the member (taxpayer services and revenue), apart from holding the additional charge of member (systems and faceless services).

judicial), besides the additional charge of member (income tax).

Prabodh Seth of the 1989 batch will be the member (administration) and his batchmate, Ramesh Narain Parbat, will be the member (legislation), according to the order that also listed out the zonal charges for these officers.

The CBDT, under the Department of Revenue in the Union finance ministry, is headed by a chairman and can have six members in the rank of a special secretary. The board currently has a vacancy of two members. The latest reshuffle was affected as the tenure of two

members ended in August,

pulse charging point in India, a company statement said. Jio-bp has expanded its network of EV-charging stations at a rapid pace, growing from 1,300 to 5,000 with Pragya Sahay Saksena taking voluntary retirement from service and the in just a year. scheduled superannuation of Pravin Kumar, the officer

With 95 per cent of its EV-charging network comprising fast charging stations -- the

Anant Mukesh Ambani, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and

Murray Auchincloss, CEO,

bp, on Thursday inaugurated the 500th Jio-bp pulse EV-charging station of Jio-bp.

Jio-bp is a fuels and mobility joint venture between RIL and

global energy giant BP.
"The commissioning of the

EV-charging station enables access for guests at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural

Centre, Jio World Plaza and

Jio World Convention Centre

in Bandra Kurla Complex

(BKC), Mumbai, marking the

pulse charging point in Índia,"

highest in the industry -- the company is poised to deliver high speed electrons with unmatched industry-leading uptime of 96 per cent, establishing itself as the country's most reliable

country's most reliable charging network, it said. Jio-bp is also the first in the industry to deploy the toprated 480 KW chargers backed by unique CVPs, which enables it to provide an efficient and quick charging experience at locations such as malls public parking installation of the 500th Jio-bp malls, public parking, corporate parks, hotels, and wayside amenities.

"By reducing range anxiety through its rapidly growing charging infrastructure, minimising charging time

with DC fast chargers, and delivering a seamless charging experience through its state-of-the-art Jio-bp pulse charging app, Jio-bp has occupied pole position in accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles in India," it

Ambani said Jio-bp is playing a pioneering role in accelerating EV adoption in India. "With the largest network share of fast-charging stations, fastest growth in EV charging infra, and highest reliability, Jio-bp is offering a well-packaged, digitised charging solution to millions digitised of Indians".

With its foray into green electrons, powered by

Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd's solar power plants, Jio-bp is making rapid progress in its broader goal of promoting sustainable green mobility in

India. "EV charging is one of bp's key transition businesses in our journey to becoming an integrated energy company. We are focusing on scale, speed, and strategic locations to provide a seamless customer experience. By

combining bp and RIL's capabilities, we are delivering charging convenience, creating a unique value proposition for customers," Murray Auchincloss said in a statement.

With its sustained charging infrastructure growth, pioneering customer proposition, and focus on sustainability, Jio-bp is reinforcing its position as the mostly fastest, widely available, and most reliable EV charging partner in India.

ICRA sees room for petrol, diesel price cuts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Areduction in crude oil prices in recent weeks has improved margins on retail auto fuels, providing stateowned firms a headroom to cut petrol and diesel prices by Rs 2-3 per litre, rating agency Icra said on Thursday. The price of a basket of crude

oil India imports averaged USD 74 per barrel in September, down from about USD 83-84 a barrel in March when petrol and diesel prices were last cut by Rs 2 per litre. In a note, Icra said the marketing margins on retail sales of auto fuels for the Indian Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have improved in recent weeks with the reduction in crude

prices.
The rating agency anticipates that there is headroom for the downward revision of retail fuel prices if crude prices remain stable at current

Girishkumar Kadam, Senior Vice President and Group Head, Corporate Ratings, ICRA, said: "ICRA estimates that the OMCs' net realisation was higher by Rs 15 per litre for petrol and Rs 12 a litre for diesel vis-à-vis international product prices in September 2024 (till September 17). The retail selling price (RSPs) of these fuels have been unchanged since March 2024 (Rs 2/litre was reduced on petrol and diesel on March 15, 2024) and there appears to be headroom for their downward revision by Rs 2-3 per litre, if crude prices remain stable".

sharp decline in the last few months, primarily due to weak global economic growth and high US production and the OPEC+ has pushed the rollback of its production cuts by two months to combat the declining prices.

oil -- which is converted into a litre.



refineries -- had rekindled hopes for a reduction in petrol and diesel rates that have been on a freeze for over two years now barring a pre-election reduction in March. While petrol and diesel pricing is deregulated (meaning oil companies have the freedom to fix retail rates), the state-owned fuel Indian retailers. Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), have rarely used this freedom since late 2021 by not revising prices in line with

They stopped daily price revision in early November 2021 when rates across the country hit an all-time high, prompting the government to barrel for the domestic roll back a part of the excise duty hike it had effected industry," Icra said. during the pandemic to take advantage of low oil prices. The freeze continued into 2022 but the war-led spike in

international oil prices prompted a Rs 10 a litre hike in petrol and diesel prices from mid-March 2022 before another round of excise duty cut rolled back all of the Rs 13 a litre and Rs 16 a litre increase in taxes on petrol Crude prices have witnessed a and diesel done during the pandemic. That followed the current price freeze which began on April 6, 2022, and continued till March 15 reduction. Thereafter there has been a freeze in rates again. Petrol costs Rs 94.72 per litre in the national capital A decline in the price of crude and diesel comes for Rs 87.62

Refining Margins (GRMs) witnessed significant witnessed significant moderation in the first half of the 2024-25 fiscal (April 2024 to March 2025) to about USD 4 per barrel due to a drop in crack spreads with higher product output and reduced demand.

The impact is mainly on account of weak demand from China due to rising electric vehicle (EV) sales, muted industry demand and real estate downturn. Further, demand in Europe has also been subdued due to weak industrial activity and a structural shift in vehicle fleets towards EVs, it said.

"A marketing gain of Rs 1 per litre on petrol and diesel would compensate for the GRM loss of USD 0.9 per refining and marketing

Commenting on the OMCs' profitability, Kadam said: "The OMCs reported healthy operating margins in FY2024 (April 2023 to March 2024), recouping the losses incurred during FY2023.

Despite moderation in the GRMs, the improvement in marketing margins is likely to result in the OMCs maintaining their profitability in H1 FY2025".

However, inventory losses due to a sharp decline in crude prices could impact profitability to an extent in Q2 FY2025. Further, the profitability for standalone refiners would take a hit with the declining GRMs.

Icra's outlook on the refining and marketing sector remains

India aims to integrate scalable food security interventions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

India is seeking to integrate scalable food security interventions into existing government programmes while promoting local crop varieties, a top government official said on Thursday.

Agriculture Secretary Devesh Chaturvedi outlined these priorities during a review of the implementation of the United Nations World Food Programme's (WFP) country strategic plan (CSP) for India spanning 2023-2027. Chaturvedi, who chaired the

first meeting of the Country Programme Advisory Committee (CPAC) under the Programme new CSP, suggested the officers to "identify the scalable interventions and



initiatives and prepare mechanisms for including the initiatives and same in ongoing programmes of ministries/departments." The secretary called for a dedicated workshop to discuss the agriculture sector initiatives in detail, highlighting the need for a focused approach, an official

statement said. Chaturvedi emphasized

promoting nutritious local varieties of rice and millets alongside fortified cereals, signalling a shift towards

Organizations (FPO) into different initiatives. The secretary also emphasised that while accessing the

indigenous crop promotion. He advised exploring the

possibilities of bringing the Farmer Producer

nutritional outcomes of the programmes "we should also look at the standards on nutrition applicable for the Indian population."

The committee, comprising joint secretaries from various ministries and NITI Aayog representatives, is tasked with representatives, is tasked with coordinating and reviewing progress on initiatives outlined in the strategic plan. The CSP, underpinned by a Memorandum Understanding between India's agriculture ministry and UN-WFP, focuses on

key outcomes: four enhancing food-based social protection systems, diverse and promoting nutritious diets, empowering women financially, and building climate-resilient building

WFP Country Director Elizabeth Faure briefed the committee on ongoing initiatives, including efforts to boost food security for smallholder farmers in Assam, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh, and the nationwide push to bring millets in mainstream.

meeting The participation from various ministries, including Food & Public Distribution, Women and Child Development, and Rural Development, as well as agencies like the National Disaster Management Authority and India Meteorological Department. India, the world's most populous country, faces significant challenges in ensuring food security for its 1.4 billion people.

India set to achieve GDP growth in FY25 says Finance Ministry

Farmer

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tndia is set to achieve 6.5-7 per cent GDP growth in the current financial year as indicated by the movements in high-frequency indicators till August, a finance ministry report said on Thursday.

The recent developments analysed indicate strong foundations

macroeconomic stability in India with steady growth, investment, employment and inflation trends, a strong and stable financial sector and a resilient external account, including a comfortable foreign exchange reserve position.

"A challenge on the macroeconomic front is of navigating the continuing uncertainty in global economic prospects. We will likely encounter a cycle of policy rate cuts globally amid fears of a recession in advanced economies and continuing geopolitical the Monthly Economic Review for August

On balance, the report said, the GDP growth of 6.7 per cent in Q1 FY25 and the



frequency indicators till August fit well with the real GDP growth projection of 6.5–7 per cent for FY25, provided by the Economic Survey 2023-24.

For the remaining part of the financial year, it said, a reasonable expectation is that public expenditure will pick up, providing added growth and investment impetus. In the farm sector, higher kharif acreage is already

visible. Adequately replenished reservoir levels will potentially give a fillip to the upcoming Rabi crops as

distribution of rain may have an impact on farm output in a few regions. However, in the absence of any serious adverse climate shocks, rural incomes and demand should get stronger, and food inflation will be milder, it

said. There are also incipient signs of strains in certain sectors. For instance, the automobile dealers' body FADA has pointed to moderating sales of passenger vehicles and a build-up of inventory, it added.

Data from Nielsen IQ indicated that the growth of fast-moving consumer goods sales in urban areas slowed in Q1 FY25.

While these may turn out to be transient with the onset of the festival season, they warrant monitoring. Further, capital spending by Indian states has declined in the current financial year. Stock markets around the

booming, world are reinforced by recent policy announcements in a few countries, it said. "Consequently, the risk of an eventual correction has risen.

If the risk materialises, the spillover effect may be felt globally as well," it said.

Dr Reddy's faces penalty in Mexico for regulatory deviation



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $D_{\text{on Thursday said the}}^{\text{r Reddy's Laboratories}}$ Mexican drug regulator has imposed a penalty of around Rs 28 lakh.

The drug regulatory body of Mexico has imposed a penalty of MXN 6,51,420 (Rs 28 Lakh) on the company for deviation from prescribed guidelines for filing intimation of import of a reference standard for one of the active pharmaceutical ingredients, the Hyderabadbased drug major said in a regulatory filing. Shares of the drug maker

were trading 0.39 per cent up at Rs 6,720 apiece on BSE.

Fixing SpiceJet's broken wings

Can the low-cost airline heal enough to effectively compete with IndiGo and Air India?

KUSHAN MITRA ■ NEW DELHI

Days after low-cost carrier SpiceJet raised Rs 3000 crore from institutional investors, the airline promptly cleared pending salary dues estimated to over Rs 80 crore. It is believed that the beleaguered low-cost airline will use much of the remaining funds to settle dues with a host of creditors from leasing companies to airports. However, even if much of the funds the airline has raised will go towards clearing dues, the fact is that SpiceJet did successfully manage to raise this large sum of money. This is despite the airline having to face a litany of problems and constantly being dragged to the courts by everyone from the previous owners, the large dragged to deadly disasters almost knocked the airline out. Maran family of the Sun

Delhi High Court order mandating the return of three engines used by the airline on their Boeing 737 aircraft. With leasing companies asking the airline to pay up, and taking their aircraft away.

the airline is down to just having 21 operational aircraft according to website airfleets.net. This is a precipitous decline from the halcyon days of the airline before Covid when the airline had almost five times as many aircraft in its fleet and was the first Indian operator of the Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. However, the one-two punch of the coronavirus shutdown and the grounding of the

But this is not a time to dwell Group to various leasing on the past, the fact is that firms. In fact, just last week despite difficult odds the on the past, the fact is that firms. In fact, just last week the Supreme Court upheld a despite difficult odds the and foremost to regain the confidence of employees,

large sum of money from Qualified Institutional (QIP) Placement with institutions such as Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, BNP Paribas, Nomura and Tata Mutual Fund subscribing to the issue. The quality of investment is a very positive indicator of the future prospects of the airline. SpiceJet has a lot to do, first

service providers and most importantly customers. They can do this by becoming more reliable and offering more services. Due to issues with leasing companies, the airline has been forced to wet-lease temporary aircraft from airlines in Cambodia and Turkey. They should now concentrate on operating their own fleet and by repaying dues owed to leasing firms, rebuild their

confidence in SpiceJet as a reliable airline. There is now talk of the airline growing to 100 aircraft by the end of 2026. If this fructifies, it is a

welcome move as the Indian aviation sector needs the competition as the domination of IndiGo and Air India/Air India Express leave customers with little choice. This duopoly needs to be challenged, and SpiceJet

the sector. Now however, they will have to deal with increased competition from the likes of Akasa. That said, the growth prospects for the Indian

was a capable third player in

aviation sector are extremely high. Between january and June 2024, domestic air traffic numbered 79.35 million passengers, which was a growth at 4.28 percent from the same period last year. The growth could have been higher still had it not been for the collapse of Go First last year and persistent engine problems

Pratt&Whitney GTF engines plaguing IndiGo leading to almost a quarter of their fleet grounded. If SpiceJet can get their act together, and there is no reason to doubt that they can't after the fund-raise, the Indian aviation sector could easily grow to 250 million passengers per year by 2028.

INBRIEF

NGEL INKS JV AGREEMENT WITH MAHAPREIT

NEW DELHI: NTPC Green Energy Limited, entered into a Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) with Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Technology Ltd. (MAHAPREIT) on 25th



SRM HOSPITAL OPENS TOBACCO CESSATION CENTRE



KATTANKULATHUR: SRM Medical College Hospital & Research Centre (SRM SKMCH&RC) has inaugurated a Tobacco Cessation Centre at its Kattankulathur location. The center, located at the Psychiatry OPD (C-1/37), First Floor, C Block, will operate from Monday to Saturday, 8 AM to 2 PM.

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL KHATARAYE KALAN RENAMED

AMRITSAR: The Punjab government has approved the renaming of government schools to honor prominent freedom fighters and martyrs, aiming to commemorate their the sacrifices for country's independence.



GNDU ORGANISED ORIENTATION WORKSHOP

AMRITSAR: An orientation workshop for college eco-club in-charges from seven districts was organized by the College Development Council, Guru Nanak Dev University under the Environment Education Programme

VIVACITY 11











PONDICHERRY LITERARY FESTIVAL

SHAPING INDIA'S LITERARY FUTURE

As India's literary festivals increasingly become platforms for political agendas and sensational debates, the Pondicherry Literary Festival offers a breath of fresh air

BY KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

iterary festivals are reasonably new phenomena that have sprouted across the globe. They are gatherings of authors who come from all corners of the world to discuss the evolution of literature and the modern trends that drive it.

A festival syndrome has taken over India's literary world. The land of Kalidasa is bereft of any authors who are incapable of matching the stature of global-quality writers. Though there are writers who get patronage from some publishing firms or newspapers because of their obsession with anarchy and "out-of-the-box" stances like equating Maoists as "Gandhians with AK-47 rifles" and comparing their country to a "mobile-free republic", they are mere pygmies when compared to the ones in the global arena.

The literary festivals that mushroomed across India gave a lot of hope to average Indians. The general expectation was that young authors would get a platform to tell the world what they felt about the emerging Indian literary world. But what we saw was that the festivals were getting hijacked by a coterie who set the agenda for wannabe writers. They want the newgeneration authors to speak and write only against the concept of India. These literary festivals became an extension of the

Progressive Writers' Forum of the former Soviet Union, where the Communist Party was the last word on literature. The Party would decide what constitutes literature and ask the writers to "compose" ideology in the form of novels and poems.

The two-day Pondicherry Literary Festival held on 21st and 22nd September brought in a refreshing change. The Pondicherry Literary Festival, officially launched in 2018, has emerged as one of the leading cultural events in south India - nay, in India itself. The event featured the crème de la crème of India's intelligentsia. It saw the active participation of authors like Aravindan Neelakantan, Anand Ranganathan, Kanchan Gupta, Vikram Sampath and many others. The event has systematically avoided noise from debates that are curated for the sake of polemics, thus giving an undesirable lease of life to debunked narratives. "We empower with knowledge on spiritual, religious and cultural subjects that showcase Bharat Shakti and critically evaluate what holds her back via lectures and conversations, book talks and presentations on science and technology, defence and security. This year we focus on Bharat in the New Age. 'Bharat Shakti' is a phrase we have chosen from the writings of Sri Aurobindo to serve as our guiding principle. of sadhana and we take these



associations with reverence and respect," said *Alo Sud*, the festival director, who is the moving spirit behind this event.

Pondicherry Lit Fest had a baptism by fire in 2018. "There were attacks and diatribes on us from the Left ecosystem, who had no qualms in designating this festival as a Sanghi, right-wing event. We do not categorise people based on rights, lefts or based on religions. This is an event where delegates can come, take part and return with their minds filled with ideas, knowledge and ground realities," said Alo Sud. In an era where commercial writers/authors advertise their new



works well in advance, authors like *Aravindan Neelakantan* and *Anand Ranganathan* are exceptions. They do not publicise their new works and it is by word of mouth that their contents get disseminated. The "secular media" blackout their groundbreaking works because of the unpalatable facts they highlight. It is Pondicherry *Lit Fest* that offers everyone (irrespective of caste, creed, ideology, and religion) a platform to air their views and grievances.

The delegates were given a bird'seye view of the happenings in spheres like science, technology, defence and security. The festival

stood out because there was no name-calling or Modi-bashing. The rest of the literary festivals staged across India seem to be dedicated to abusing Narendra Modi. Sometime in 2016, a Carnatic musician, feeling he was being relegated to the fourth round, came out with a startling disclosure that there was no freedom of expression under the Sangh Parivar regime. It hogged national limelight, as even the staunchest critic of Modi was hearing such an allegation for the first time. The result? The musician became an overnight star and was honoured with the title Sangeeta Kala Nidhi! What Dr M Rajeev Kumar, a noted critic and author of many short stories and dramas, says about lit fests is noteworthy. "We do have many lit fests, but their agenda is fixed. There is no literature or culture in these events other than promoting certain politicians, their ideologies and some publishing houses. Lit festivals are for open discussions and not for namecalling and abusing rivals," said Dr Kumar, who has been writing for more than five decades and has yet to be invited to at least one lit fest in Kerala. Interestingly, there are lit festivals in West Asian countries too, where the targets are Modi and Indian nationalism. There are frontal organisations of extremist outfits as well as the CPI(M) (masquerading cultural associations).

This is what makes Pondicherry Lit Fest stand out from other events. Lucid speeches, lively discussions, and speakers who are keen to take the participants into confidence make it distinct from other such festivals. Delegates are treated to sumptuous meals of knowledge, wisdom and erudition. Who said avant-garde art and literature are meant only for intellectuals? Come to Pondicherry and you will be elevated to the level visualised by Sri Aurobindo, for whom the waterfront state was the second

ARRIVELS SEPTEMBER RELEASES





Time to Come Home: Sowing the Seeds of Self-Love for Lasting Happiness by DAMINI GROVER (PRICE: ₹399, PAGES: 280) Hay House

In Time to Come Home, award-winning psychologist and life coach Damini Grover offers a transformative guide that dives deep into the vital themes of self-love and personal growth. The book emphasises that self-love is foundational for a fulfilling life, helping readers reconnect with their true selves while embracing their imperfections. Grover provides actionable steps and relatable stories to create a clear roadmap for understanding and practising self-love in everyday life, addressing common challenges of self-acceptance and personal development. This inspiring work invites readers to honour their worth and prioritise their happiness, ultimately leading to lasting fulfilment.

Turtle Moon

By HANNAH GOLD (Price: ₹499, Pages: 337) *HarperCollins Children's Books*

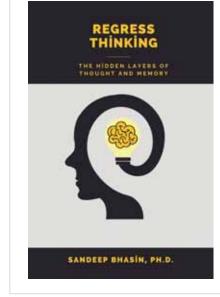
In *Turtle Moon*, Silver Trevelon's family grapples with unhappiness due to the absence of a long-awaited sibling. When her father receives an invitation to paint at a turtle rescue centre in Costa Rica, Silver hopes it will be the adventure that brings her family closer together. As she settles into life at the animal centre, she witnesses a rare leatherback turtle nesting on the beach. However, excitement turns to alarm when the turtle's eggs are stolen, propelling Silver and her new friends into a perilous quest to retrieve them. Their journey into the heart of the jungle uncovers long-buried secrets, testing their courage and resolve.

Exploring the interplay of thought and memory

In 'Regress Thinking: The Hidden Layers of Thought and Memory', author SANDEEP BHASIN explores the complexities of the mind and how understanding our thought processes can enhance creativity and memory, writes **SAKSHI PRIYA**

Regress Thinking: The Hidden Layers of Thought and Memory by Sandeep Bhasin invites readers on an enlightening journey through the complexities of the mind, combining historical insights with contemporary applications to offer a fresh perspective on creativity and cognitive processes. With over thirty years of experience across various fields, Bhasin draws on his extensive knowledge to explore these themes further.

The book is structured around several central themes, each highlighting the vital role of creativity as a multi-dimensional process. *Bhasin* explores the psychology of creativity, illustrating how ideas emerge from the intricate interplay of different brain functions. He introduces the notion of Regress Thinking, a concept that encourages readers to retrace their cognitive steps to uncover hidden insights that might have been overlooked in the rush of everyday thought. This methodology is not just an academic pursuit, it has tangible applications in business, technology, and personal development. Bhasin's writing is both clear and engaging, making complex concepts accessible to a broad audience. He encourages readers to adopt a mindset of experimentation and to regard failure as an essential part of the creative process. By drawing connections between historical innovations and modern challenges, he highlights that lessons from the past can provide crucial strategies for tackling present-day problems. A standout aspect of the book is its use of case studies and real-life examples,



which illustrate the various manifestations of regression and its impact on individual's lives. These narratives offer practical insights and inspiration for overcoming challenges, providing a comprehensive framework for understanding and managing regression. *Bhasin* empowers readers to harness the potential of regression while mitigating its negative effects.

One particularly compelling section of the book focuses on the four stages of the creative process: preparation, incubation, illumination and verification. *Bhasin* explains how each stage contributes to idea



ABOUT THE BOOK

Book: Regress Thinking: The Hidden Layers of Thought and Memory by SANDEEP BHASIN PH.D. Publisher: Notion Press ₹990.00

generation, urging readers to embrace the non-linear nature of creativity. He also discusses the significance of environmental factors, mindset and collaboration in enhancing creative potential, reminding us that creativity flourishes in supportive and stimulating settings. Moreover, Bhasin's examination of cognitive efficiency sheds light on the brain's remarkable ability to prioritise information and dismiss what it considers unimportant. This selective forgetting is framed as a beneficial feature, reinforcing the idea that understanding our mental processes can significantly enhance our learning experiences. Regress Thinking serves as a guide to individual creativity, it advocates for harnessing collective intelligence in our interconnected world. Bhasin promotes a culture of openness and collaboration, positioning these

elements as essential for addressing the pressing issues we face today. Regress Thinking is a fascinating read that intertwines history, psychology and practical application. It acts as both a manual and a companion for those looking to unlock their creative potential and navigate the intricacies of modern life. With its actionable insights and philosophical reflections, this book is a significant addition for anyone interested in enhancing their cognitive abilities and nurturing innovation. Bhasin's approach will resonate with those eager to explore the depths of their minds and utilise the past as a springboard for future success.

INDIA LIKELY TO MAINTAIN SUPREMACY OVER BANGLADESH

▼ndia would want their big guns Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma to fire when the mighty hosts aim for a clean sweep against a beleaguered Bangladesh in the second and final Test starting here on Friday.

The all-round show of Ravichandran Ashwin, Shubman Gill's sublime hundred, Ravindra Jadeja's quality batting and Rishabh quality batting and Rishabh Pant's roaring comeback allowed India to script a comfortable victory in Chennai despite being put under pressure by the Bangladesh pacers on day one. The way India bounced back in the game reaffirmed their supremacy in Test cricket, especially at home where they are on course for a record extending 18th consecutive series win. Having made a successful return in white-ball cricket, it was time for Pant to show that it is the Test arena where he can make the

It seems he has even added one more dimension to his game: curbing his aggressive instinct

maximum impact.

making him even more dangerous.

However, both Rohit and Virat's bats remained silent in series-opener

Bangladesh pacers — Hasan Mahmud and Taskin Ahmed — bowled probing lines on a supportive track and were rewarded. With a long Test season ahead of them, the two premier batters must be itching to get back among the runs. Playing his first Test at home since March 2023, Kohli did not look at his sharpest and

expansive cover drives at the start of his innings. **CHANGE COMBINATIONS:**

Green Park wicket has traditionally been a low and slow track that assists spinners. While it is expected to offer some assistance to the fast bowlers initially, the basic nature of the pitch, prepared with black soil brought from Unnao, is not expected to change much.

The wicket will become slower as the game progresses. It means, India can field three spinners instead of three



pacers. If that is indeed the case, Akash Deep could make way for Kuldeep Yadav.

the last 18 months. If India think they need more cushion with the bat, then In the last Test played at Green Park in 2021, India had fielded Axar Patel might just pip home three spinners — Ashwin,

hero Kuldeep, who has performed exceptionally over

Iadeja and Axar — in a game that ended in a thrilling draw with New Zealand.

Interestingly, the 2021 contest and the one before that in 2016 (also against New Zealand)

lasted five days.

other the Bangladesh, who failed to apply themselves with the bat in the series opener, are expected to make changes to their playing eleven. They struggled against a high-quality Indian pace attack in their first essay in Chennai and

their first essay in Chennai and then could not handle Ashwin and Co while chasing an improbable target. The team management has given contrasting statements on Shakib Al Hasan's availability. While a selector had said that he is doubtful due to a finger injury he suffered while batting in Chennai, chief coach Chandika Hathurusinghe said he is eligible for selection.

Bangladesh can bring left-arm spinner Taijul Islam in place of lanky pacer Nahid Rana. They also have an option in offspinner Nayeem Hasan.

A SPLENDID DOUBLE

AWAITS JADEJA: In 73 Tests, Ravindra Iadeia has taken 299 wickets and scored 3122 runs. He needs to add just one more scalp to his kitty to become the second-fastest player in Test history to complete the double of 300 wickets and 3000 runs. England great Ian Botham had achieved the feat in 72 matches.

CONDITIONS CHALLENG-**ING:** The muggy weather will

players. The humidity has been very high in the city in the last few days. The Indian team made Thursday's practice optional, saying it needs to save players from searing heat.

The match may see interruptions on first and third day with weather forecast predicting rain.

India have not lost a Test to Bangladesh till date and the visitors will need a special effort to reverse that statistic.

TEAMS (FROM): India: Rohit Sharma (C), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant (WK), Dhruv Jurel (WK), R Ashwin, R Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Akash Deep, Jasprit Bumrah, Yash Daval.

Bangladesh: Najmul Hossain Shanto (C), Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Zakir Hasan, Shadman Islam, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim (wk), Shakib Al Hasan, Litton Kumer Das, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam, Nayeem Hasan, Nahid Rana, Hasan Mahmud, Taskin Ahmed, Sved Khaled Ahmed, Jaker Ali Anik.



Shakib retires from T201s, says Kanpur Test will be his last if no farewell at home

 $B_{\text{Shakib}}^{\text{angladesh}}$ all-rounder against India in Kanpur would be my last in Test cricket," he Thursday announced his from T20 retirement Internationals with immediate effect and also said that the second Test against India will be his last if his country's board doesn't give him a farewell match against South Africa at

His final international game for Bangladesh will be in the announcement Pakistan.

The 37-year-old great, who featured in 129 T20Is for Bangladesh will, however, events, Shakib was named in continue to play in franchise leagues.

"I have played my last T20 match in T20 World Cup. We have discussed this with the selectors. Looking at the 2026 World Cup, this is the right time for me to move out. Hopefully, BCB will find some great players and we will perform well," said Shakib on the eve of the second and final Test against India here.

Shakib, who has played 70 Tests, scoring 4600 runs and taking 242 wickets might just play his last Test in the North Indian industrial town in case the cricket board can't assure him of his security after being accused of murder although he wasn't even in the country at that time.

"I have expressed my desire to play my last Test in Mirpur to BCB. They agreed with me. They are trying to organise for the student community everything so that I can go to during the protests.

If that won't happen, the match against India in Kanpur would addeá.

Shakib was named as an accused in a murder case back home during the political unrest that led to the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He was a member of Parliament from her party, the Awami League.

made Shakib while Champions Trophy which is likely to be held in UAE and media but spoke in English following a request from the Indian journalists.

In an unexpected turn of an FIR in a murder case related to the civil protests in

Bangladesh last August.
The case pertains to the death of garment worker Mohammed Rubel, whose worker father, Rafiqul Islam, filed the

complaint on August 7.

The 37-year-old Shakib indicated that he may not travel back home after the current series in India, if he can't be promised safety.
"Going back to Bangladesh is

not a problem but leaving is. My close friends and family members have concerns (about my safety), I hope things are better, well and there should be is a solution to it." In January, Shakib had won an uncontested election to become a member of parliament for the then-ruling Awami League party. He was criticised for not speaking up

India is capable to make a strong impression in women's T20 WC: Sthalekar **PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

Former Australian captain Lisa Sthalekar said India have the all-round depth to grab an elusive ICC title during the upcoming women's T20

World Cup.
The global showpiece will be held in the UAE from October 3 and India's best effort in the event remains a final berth in 2020, where they lost to

Australia. "I can see Australia in the semifinals as they are aiming to win their fourth (title) in a row. England too had a strong pre-tournament build-up. India's chances are also very high and I expect them to be in the semifinals, if not in the finals," Sthalekar told a select group of journalists at the ABC — International Development's five-day cricket commentary

and mojo programme at the Australian High Commission. The former Australian skipper validated her argument citing good options through India's line-up.

"India has got power, depth, decent bowlers and if their 4-7 number batters can score at a good strike rate, they will be in a good position. They need a good start from the openers.
"Jemimah Rodriguez did well in the West Indies (in the CPL) recently. It will be fascinating

to see how she performs in the WC," she said. Delving further deep into the chances of the Harmanpreer Kaur-led side, Sthalekar said India have the wherewithal to beat Australia, their nemesis in global events over the years For example, in the 2020 T20

WC, Poonam Yadav took four

wickets in the first game and

dislodged Australian middleorder. India won that match by

17 runs. "If any top order Indian batter scores a century or bowlers have a good day, they can take the game away," said the veteran who was the first woman to score 1,000 runs and take 100 wickets in ODIs. Expressing delight over ICC's

decision of having equal prize money in men's and women's WCs, the 45-year- old said it will have a bigger impact on

the game. "From a prize money perspective, I think it's really good. But what I am more pleased about than just the winner getting the same prize money as their male counterpart is how much money teams are getting for just participating in the World

"So, it ensures that it's not just the strong nations getting stronger and wealthier, but there is an effort at growing the global game," she said.

She used Scotland to leverage her point.

"Scotland coming in for the first time will earn money, probably more money than their national contract. The headline is equal prize money and that was primarily the intention.

But when you look a little bit deeper, they would like to have a bigger impact on the game." After her playing days, Sthalekar has established herself as a respected voice of the game over the last decade. The Indian-origin Aussie described the effort she put in to reach the higher rungs of her job as a commentator.

'Not everyone has to be a Richie Benaud or a Danny Morrison. But we all have different skills and strengths that we bring to the commentary box. That's why you have diverse personalities (doing commentary)," she said. Sthalekar commentating during the IPL

as her biggest career moment. "You have to have goals in your career and IPL (commentary) was my 10-year goal as a commentator. But I got a call to be in the IPL commentary team within six months.

"I remember my first IPL game as a commentator at the Eden Gardens in 2015. Some 70000 screaming fans were there and I had to do an interview with Gautam Gambhir," she said.

Pujara was backbone of Indian batting on last two Aus tours, he will a big miss this time: Vihari test in AFC Qualifiers

Tanuma Vihari, part of India's back to Thack series wins in Australia, reckons the services of veteran batter Cheteshwar Pujara will be be dearly missed when the team aims for a hat-trick Down Under later this year.

The five Test series begins in Perth from November 22. Out of favour Pujara was the leading run-getter in the 2018-19 series with 521 off 1258 balls and was once again the backbone of Indian batting three years later when he accumulated 271 runs off 928 balls.

Across the two teams, the 103-Test veteran by far faced the number of balls to wear out the opposition attack comprising Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell

As another Border-Gavaskar Trophy is on the horizon, Vihari wondered who can play Pujara's role this time around.

"Pujara will a big miss. He was the backbone of the batting line-up in the last two series for Team India. He took blows, he batted time, he stayed there for a long time, he saw the new ball, he got runs. He made the job easier for the other batters coming in," Vihari told PTI in an interaction arranged by JioCinella. "So that kind of role...Who will play is a question mark for me. Currently I would

say we have an attacking mode of a batting line up (the top six). All like to play their



shots. Virat is the only one I feel in that batting line up who can be like a glue to the other batters.

"He can stay on and bat the most number of overs and you know batting in Australia is all about time. If you see off the new ball, it gets a little easier with the older Kookaburra ball," added Vihari who played the last of his 16 Tests in July 2022. In the absence of Pujara, he also sees a significant role for K L Rahul at number six. He feels Risabh Pant is best suited at number five. Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli | PTI ■ VIENTIANE (LAOS) form the top four.

That's where KL Rahul's role also will be Tndia will be looking to iron important because he is someone who's got the experience in playing in SENA countries and he can bat long. He has done well in SENA countries. I feel they are looking at KL Rahul at number 6 as well. "By playing Rahul ahead of Sarfaraz in the current series (against Bangladesh), they are looking at a bigger picture. They want experience in number 6 when we tour Australia.

"Because in Australia playing at 6 you need to have good technique whether it's facing the second new ball or batting after an early collapse," he said.

Vihari also thinks playing Australia in their own backyard will be the biggest thus far for Jaiswal, who has done well at home but is yet to prove himself in overseas conditions.

"It's his biggest test. But he's a very confident guy. Overall facing Australia in Australia, the mental preparation is key. This time we are playing five Test matches in Australia compared to four earlier.

"So it's even more mentally draining Down Under because everything is against you. The media is against you, the people are against you and you are away from home facing Australian attack in Australia," added Vihari, who stitched a match saving stand with R Ashwin in the Sydney Test on the previous tour.

India U20 face stern Iran

Lout the rough edges before facing Iran in their next Group G game of the AFC U20 Asian Cup 2025 qualifiers here on Friday.

India put up a good show to register a 4-1 victory against Mongolia in their first Group G match but there is still a lot of work to be done. "The last match was a big

motivation for our team. I've always maintained that winning the first match of a tournament is crucial, and the boys stuck their heads in and played extremely well against Mongolia," said Ranjan Chaudhuri in a release.

"But we cannot rejoice in the victory just yet. We must immediately begin begin preparations for the next game. We missed a lot of chances against Mongolia, and that is something we cannot afford against Iran.

"They are an extremely good side, but we have made our plans according to their game as well. Anything can happen on the day, and with a little



result. The most important thing for us is to play our game well, and come out of the match with our heads held high, with a smile," he said. While India registered a 4-1 win against Mongolia, Iran trampled hosts Laos 8-0, a

top of Group G. However, Iran head coach Hossein Abdi was wary of India's potential threat.

result that puts them firmly on

"India have quality players, many of whom I've seen at the U-17 level in Thailand last year. They play a fast game, have shown a good understanding of football. I think the game has progressed very fast in India recently, and we will see further advances in the future," he said.

Man United stunned 1-1 by Dutch club Twente in revamped Europa League

AP MANCHESTER

Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag questioned his players' killer instinct after they were held to a 1-1 draw by his old club FC Twente in the revamped Europa League.

Sam Lammers capitalised on a mistake by Christian Eriksen in the second half at Old Trafford and raced away to fire an equalizer for the Dutch underdog.
"You saw that was the game of

their life. They fought for every yard and we didn't," Ten Hag said. "99% is not enough, You team on course for victory. have to give 100%. You have United has won just three of

kill the game. You have to finish it off."

Eriksen had put United ahead with a stunning first-half strike but was caught in possession by Lammers, whose goal secured an unexpected point for the visitors.
Ten Hag had spoken before the

game of his affection for the team he supported as a boy in the Netherlands and represented as a player. He said it was "not nice to have to hurt something you love."

Instead it was United fans left in pain, despite Eriksen seemingly putting the home

games seven competitions this season and Wednesday's draw came after a 0-0 draw at Crystal Palace in the Premier League on Saturday. Eriksen swept United ahead in

the 35th with a first-time shot into the top corner. Connecting with a loose ball just inside the box, the playmaker didn't break stride as he whipped his effort past past Twente goalkeeper Lars Unnerstall with power and precision. With one fist clenched, he ran

to the corner to celebrate in

But it was Twente's supporters

front of the home fans.



left cheering the loudest after Lammers' goal in the 68th when beating Andre Onana at his near post.

"There's a lot of football (still to play) when you (are) one up and the game takes more than 90 minutes," Ten Hag said.

end and score the second goal." Like the Champions League, the second-tier Europa League has a new format and 36 teams instead of 32. It features a league system in which each team plays eight games against different opponents through January, replacing the old group stage. In a clash between the Turkish

"And you have to fight until the

and Greek champions, Galatasaray beat PAOK 3-1. Victor Osimhen, who moved from Napoli to Galatasaray earlier in September, made his presence felt. striker's

Nigeria The goalbound header was

deflected by defender Abdul Rahman Baba into his own net early in the second half. Konstantelias Giannis equalized on a rebound before Osimhen set up Yunus Akgün to net the winner. Mauro Icardi added a stoppage-time goal.

Lazio cruised past Dynamo Kyiv 3-0. Boulaye Dia struck twice and Fisayo Dele-Bashiru added one. Both teams ended the game with 10 men.

Real Sociedad, struggling in La Liga, got a goal from Ander Barrenetxea at Nice but the home team salvaged a 1-1 draw thanks to Pablo Rosario's goal late in the first half. Another team struggling

Midtjylland. Darío Osorio put the hosts ahead late in the first half before substitute Max Moerstedt leveled it in the final minute. In Brussels, Anderlecht struck twice in the span of five minutes in the second half on

Hoffenheim took home a point

from Denmark in a 1-1 draw

with Danish Superliga's leader

domestically,

scored on the hour and Kasper Dolberg added the second from the spot. Slavia Prague scored in each half for a 2-0 win at Bulgaria's

the way to a 2-1 victory over

Ferencváros. Yari Verschaeren

Ludogorets.

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