**OPINION 6** TRANSFORMING INDIA

THROUGH 'MAKE IN INDIA'

WORLD 9 DOWN TENSIONS IN WEST ASIA

**MONEY 10** CHINA URGES ALL PARTIES TO COOL | INDIA'S SEVEN PER CENT GROWTH FAILS TO GENERATE JOBS: RAGHURAM RAJAN

**LUCKNOW, MONDAY** SEPTEMBER 30, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹4 Established 1865 the pioneer

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

Late City Vol.160 Issue 264 \*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE **RETURNS MISSING** MBAPPÉ, RODRI, BARELLA

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# WEST ASIA ON FIRE Kashmir reacts, India bleeds



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

PTI ■ JERUSALEM/ BEIRUT

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

from Hezbollah, and it was not known where the strike took place. Hezbollah has confirmed that one of its it said.

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

The Israeli military said it carried out another targeted Nasrallah.
The military said Nabil
Kaouk, the deputy head of
Hezbollah's Central Council,
Sunday. In Syria, 37 militains affiliated to the extremist
Islamic State group and an al-Qaeda-linked group were United States military said Sunday. Two of the dead were senior militants,

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

people have been driven from their homes in Lebanon by the lastest strikes. The Government estimates that around 2,50,000 are in shelters, with three to four times as many staying with

### camping out on the streets, Environment Minister Nasser Yassin told The Associated Press.

Hezbollah has continued to fire rockets and missiles into northern Israel, but most have been intercepted or fallen in open areas. No Israelis have been killed since the latest wave of strikes on top Hezbollah leaders began on Sept. 20.

Kaouk was a veteran member of Hezbollah going back to the 1980s and served as Hezbollah's military commander in southern Lebanon during the 2006 war with Israel. He often appeared in local media, where he would comment on politics and security developments, and he gave eulogies at the funerals of senior militants. The United States had announced sanctions against him in 2020.

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

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

region-wide conflagration.

Continued on page 8

Vice President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Omar

**MOHIT KANDHARI** JAMMU

The situation remained volatile in several parts of Kashmir after sporadic protests broke out over the killing of Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah in an Israeli air strike in Lebanon.

People took to the streets in Srinagar and Budgam to condemn Nasrallah's death, chanting anti-Israel and anti-

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



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

Abdullah condemned the actions of Israel and called for world support to end the ongoing massacre of innocent people in Gaza and Lebanon.

Another Shia leader and former Minister Imran Reza Ansari labelled him as a 'Lion'. Ansari posted a message on X, "A lion has fallen, his roar remains. In every heartbeat his struggle sustains. I am suspending all campaigning activities to honour the supreme sacrifice made by Shaheed Sayed Hassan Nasrallah".

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

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

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

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

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



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

### Terror in Jammu, one personnel killed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Abraveheart of Jammu and Kashmir Apolice, Head Constable Bashir Ahmad, who sacrificed his life in the line of duty after neutralising a Pakistani terrorist in the Billawar tehsil of Kathua district late Saturday evening, was eagerly waiting to come home to finalise the marriage arrangements of his elder daughter and son.

On Sunday his mortal remains, draped in the tricolor, reached home after a formal wreath-laying ceremony at the police lines. A large number of close relatives and family friends were assembled at their residence to pay their last tributes to him. Only recently the family had finalised the marriage proposal of their elder daughter. Before returning to his duty, Bashir had promised his elder brother to firm up the marriage proposal of his son before decide the dates.

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

Continued on page 8

## Shocking road rage in Delhi NCR, two dead

STAFF REPORTER

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

In another shocking display of road rage, a dozen men engaged in a violent brawl on a busy road in Ghaziabad, after one of the vehicles they were travelling in began driving on the wrong side of traffic on Saturday. The incident, captured on video and shared widely on social media, unfolded as two groups clashed over a vehicle driving on the wrong side of the traffic. According to police, the deceased constable, identified as Sandeep, joined the force in 2018 and was posted at the



A damaged car that was involved in an accident, outside Nangloi police station, in

survived by his mother, wife, and a five-year-old son. The incident occurred around 2.15 am near Veena Enclave when Sandeep was going towards Railway Road from Nangloi Police station during duty hours dressed in civilian clothes. Upon noticing a car being driven recklessly, Sandeep told the driver not to do so, the Delhi Police said in a statement. He was on his bike when a WagonR car tried to overtake him.

Suddenly, the vehicle increased its speed and hit the constable's

Nangloi police station. He is motorcycle from behind and dragged him for about 10 metres before hitting another car, it said. CCTV footage revealed that Sandeep had taken a left turn into a narrow lane and indicated the Wagon R to slow down when the vehicle suddenly sped up and hit his bike. The impact caused Sandeep to be dragged along with his bike for about 10 meters before the Wagon R hit a parked car. The cop is seen gesturing to the car driver to slow down. But the car picks

up speed and hits him. Continued on page 8

## **Intense rain claims 125 lives** in Nepal, jeopardise Bihar

PTI/PNS KATHMANDU/PATNA

The death toll from rain-triggered I floodings and landslides across Nepal climbed to 125 on Sunday, police said. Large swathes of eastern and central Nepal have been inundated since Friday, with flash floods reported in parts of the country.

Due to the prevailing situation the border districts of neighbouring Bihar remained vulnerable as the State Government sounded an alert for floods in northern, southern and central parts of the State following heavy discharge of water from Birpur and Valmikinagar barrages on Sunday. The embankment of the BagmatirRiver in Madhkaul village in Sitamarhi district broke on Sunday, which is being repaired, they said.
Due to heavy discharge of water from Birpur barrage, seepage was also reported from the Kosi Eastern embankment near Gopalpur on

by the engineers of the Water Resources Department (WRD). A low-pressure system in the Bay of Bengal and the more northerly than usual position of the monsoon trough is the reason behind exceptionally intense rain. Scientists

say that while climate change is

Saturday night, which was repaired



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

A total of 6.61 lakh cusecs of water was released from Birpur barrage on Kosi river till 5 am, the highest in 56 years. According to the latest bulletin by the State Water Resources department, the last time the maximum water discharged from this barrage was 7.88 lakh cusecs of water

Continued on page 8

### **Chandrayaan-3 lands at Shiv Shakti Point**



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

## Iconic trams of Kolkata to chug away into history

SAUGAR SENGUPTA

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

Tram was also a central topic in poet Jibanananda Das's iconic work, Banalata Sen. Ironically he died in a tram accident in 1954. Decades later a famous modern Bengali writer likened the iconic Tram of Kolkata with a pre-historic reptile even as he called it a "Prak Oitihasik Sorisreep." No more these literatures: As

the Bengal Government has decided to derail the 'space guzzling' vehicle -- arguably the only surviving environment-friendly surviving transport service of Kolkata,

nay the entire country.

Dwelling on the issue Bengal

Transport Minister Snehashis

Chakrabarty said that the Government had decided to discontinue the tram services as it was not only slow but also consumed huge space.

"Trams are the part of Kolkata's heritage ever since it started its journey in 1873, but one has also to consider the operational costs, its low speed and not lest the space it consumes" all considering the fact that unlike Delhi or Mumbai which have more than 20 per cent of their surface areas comprising roads Kolkata has only six per cent. "This leads to congestion of traffic particularly in North Kolkata. To ensure that people don't get late to office during peak hours due to traffic jams, these difficult measures are taken," he justified.

Minister however The hurriedly supplied two rejoinders: First a short (3 km) route -- from Esplanade to Maidan -- however will be allowed to survive for heritage notice fearing public backlash. Despite the idea being in



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

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

thoroughfares like the Hazra Road that leads to her Kalighat residence making it risky for the bikers who "may any moment skid off their vehicles due to the tram lines."

Kolkata was the first to get trams on February 24, 1873, with horse-drawn cars running on tracks. "A big horses' stable

Trams ran in colonial towns like Mumbai, Delhi, Madras, Patna, Nashik too but they were discontinued with time and as more modern and faster modes of transport appeared but for Kolkata. The city clung on to its "heritage and cultural icon," for decades until the present Government decided to discontinue it.

was set up at Raja Bazaar off

Sealdah to supply the horses for trams. Subsequently tram was modernised with steam

power in 1882, whereas first

electric-powered tram was introduced in 1900 a few years

after Madras (presently

Chennai) got its own electric

tram. More recently AC trams

were introduced in 2013.

"We tried to restore tram to its former glory often by offering schemes like AC restaurants on tram as also proposing offers for 'wedding on trams' ... but nothing was taken seriously by the authorities as they had decided to discontinue it," a member of tram users association said adding "at Rs 6 and 7 tram is perhaps the cheapest service in the city which this Government is trying to discontinue and which we will not let happen." "We have seen tram transform a from wooden to a steel

carriage in the early 1980s, ... we loved tram so much and offered our service wholeheartedly but the Government should also have understood the importance of tram which is not only environment friendly but also cheap," said Naresh Singh a 90-year-old

former tram pilot.
Such was the popularity of tram in 1960s and 70s that a mere one paisa increase in its fare led to a massive unrest in Kolkata that saw several trams being torched by the agitators, he said.

Meanwhile the Calcutta High too has offered its suggestion while dealing a public interest litigation asking the State Government to explore a public-private partnership

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

"We will go for a bigger movement and will not allow this Government to kill tram ... they are doing this in order to reclaim the sprawling lands housing tram depots on prime areas where the politicians will allow the builder lobby to make malls ... we will not let that happen ... rather we will even force them to reintroduce the doubledecker buses which they have discontinued a decade ago," said Archishman Chatterjee a college student who was a part of a recent agitation at Shyambazar crossing.

## Student hurt as crude bombs lobbed during group clash

PNS LUCKNOW

A student was injured after two groups clashed and allegedly lobbed crude bombs in the Chinhat police station area on Saturday night, police said. There were reports that several shots were fired during the brawl, creating panic in the

Reports said the brawl erupted after a student was dragged out of his room and taken to a place. However, his friends reached the scene and the clash ensued.

Heavy police is deployed in the area and the students involved in the brawl are being traced.

The police are also keeping a close eye on every minute development to prevent fresh clashes.

The reason behind the brawl is said to be a long-standing rivalry, with both groups vying for ascendancy.

A student suffered injuries to his hand and torso when the bomb exploded. He is receiving treatment at RML Hospital. ACP, Vibhuti Khand, Radha Raman Singh reached the spot with the police force.

As per reports, Rudraksh Mishra, who is a resident of Gorakhpur, stays at a rented room in Chinhat's Vikalp Khand-3 Pasi Tola area. He is

a student of a private university. Around 10:30 pm on Saturday, a group of students attacked Rudraksh over an old rivalry. Rudraksh was allegedly dragged out of his room and taken some distance away. As the group clash erupted, crude bombs were also lobbed. The explosion filled the area with smoke. Rudraksh suffered injuries to his face, hands and torso from shrapnels.

The ACP confirmed that old rivalry was the reason behind the brawl. "The injured student has been hospitalised and the accused are being tracked down with the help of CCTV footage," he said.

### Jeweller thrashed, robbed of gold chain, cash "The car-borne miscreants struck him near Chhate Wala

PNS LUCKNOW

Ajeweller was allegedly thrashed and robbed of his gold chain and cash in a highsecurity zone under the Cantonment police station area on Saturday night. However, police doubted the

victim's claim and said said the brawl took place over an issue of overtaking.

The victim, Aman Soni of Bangla Bazaar in Ashiyana, was returning home when the car-borne accused and their bike-borne aides targeted him near Loco Rolling Stock office's

overtook my scooter. As soon as I stopped, 5-6 people start-ed beating me. When I resisted, they assaulted me with sticks and looted cash and gold chain from me," the victim stated in his complaint. He added that it was by chance that some army personnel were seen walking towards

with his gold chain. The police have registered a case and investigations are

them and the accused fled

Aman said he was bringing goods for his shop from Aminabad when the accused

Bridge. Aman's elder brother Mintu Soni said the accused also whipped out and pointed a revolver at him.

Aman alleged that the accused also took away his 25-gm Rudraksha rosary. The ACP, Cantt, said that after getting information about the incident, the police reached the

"It has surfaced in the initial investigation that the victim had a brawl with the carborne accused over the issue of overtaking," a spokesman said.

## **UP trade extravaganza spurs export boom**

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, export companies in Uttar Pradesh have experienced a remarkable surge in business, thanks to lucrative orders received at the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show held at the India Expo Mart. Many companies reported securing orders far exceeding their expectations, with several startups also reaping the rewards of contracts worth crores.

The excitement among these new entrepreneurs is palpable, especially as many exporters received international orders, prompting widespread praise for the state government's initiative in organising such a significant event.

From the outset of the trade show, exhibitors enjoyed an overwhelmingly positive response, with weekends witnessing bustling crowds at their stalls. Business owners not only secured orders but also found fresh momentum for their operations, highlighting the event's pivotal role in opening new avenues for growth. The export pavilion was a hive of activity, showcasing a diverse array of companies eager to connect with buvers. Among the standout success

stories is Birla Aircon, a company specialising in water coolers, deep freezers and commercial refrigerators. It received an astounding order worth Rs 100 crore. Birla Aircon Managing Director PK Jain attributed this success to the trade show, noting, "Last year, we received orders totaling Rs 50 crore. This year, we've doubled our business, and we owe this to initiatives like the trade show." Jain emphasised the importance of

expand reach

Sharma attended the UP International Trade Show for the first time, setting up her stall outside Lucknow alongside her aunt and younger son. With aspirations of expanding her business, Pallavi secured orders from Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Dubai. Her success reflects the Yogi Adityanath government's commitment to opening new avenues for hundreds of entrepreneurs across various districts in Uttar Pradesh.

Pallavi shared that entrepreneurs from various cities have shown significant interest in her offerings, leading to numerous enquiries and orders. She felt particularly thrilled when businesses from countries like Dubai, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan expressed interest. Firozabad-based glassware entrepreneur Pratish Kumar highlighted that the five-day trade show was a resounding success, attracting both domestic and international buyers to their stall. Pratish noted that while they received a substantial number of orders, their

the Yogi government's efforts in advancing the state's business landscape. Similarly, Banaras Gulabi Meenakari has celebrated a significant victory, securing an order worth Rs 5 crore at the event. Businessman Roshan Vishwakarma expressed his astonishment at the scale of the platform, stating, "In just five

LDA to dispose

Lucknow (PNS): The Lucknow

Development Authority (LDA)

has once again decided to initi-

ate a process to dispose of its

properties, valued at Rs 1,200

crore, located in prime areas of

the city. These properties are expected to be up for sale in

Additionally, the third phase of

the 'Green Corridor' project, which will link Piparghat with

Shaheed Path, is set to begin on

October 7. These topics were

discussed at a review meeting,

presided over by Vice-Chairman

Prathmesh Kumar on Sunday.

He stated that the programm

for disposing of the properties had not been finalised, but it

of properties

valued at ₹1,200 crore

October.

production capacity may not be sufficient to meet the demand, potentially causing delivery delays. He shared that they received more orders this time compared to the previous trade show.

Entrepreneur Gurinder Kaur from Greater Noida participated in the UP International Trade Show for the first time, representing her business, which specialises in Phulkari, handprints shoots.

Viresh Goswami, a businessman from Moradabad specialising in home décor and furniture, found significant benefits from attending the trade show. He had the oppor-tunity to connect with buyers and retailers from various regions, which helped establish a new identity for his brand. According to Viresh, he received orders totalling Rs 6 lakh, with bookings reaching Rs 15 lakh that will be finalised after further discussions. Dilshad Ali, a home finishing entrepreneur from Baghpat, stated that even on the final day

days, I've received orders worth Rs 5 crore, including one for a Rani Haar valued at approximately Rs 1.25 crore." He acknowledged the pivotal role of the Yogi government, asserting that their support cannot be overstated.

of the event, he received

promising orders.

Abhishek Agarwal, head of Dazzle Global in Moradabad,

## Entrepreneurs Hotel industry gets a boost

Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show, which concluded on Sunday, has proven to be a significant boon for the business community, especially for hotels in Greater Noida. According to industry experts, the five-day event led to a remarkable increase of over 50 per cent in hotel bookings around the India Expo Mart. Notably, a significant number of exhibitors and visitors attending the International Trade Show reserved accommodations in Greater Noida, leading to nearly all major hotels being fully booked. As a result, many guests from both India and abroad had to seek hotel arrangements in Noida and Delhi in addition to Greater Noida.

Exhibitors expressed their gratitude to Yogi Adityanath government for the trade show, highlighting its effectiveness in fostering business opportuni-

The initiative has not only enhanced the visibility of participating businesses, but has also garnered praise from hotel industry stakeholders. Many in

praised the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show as a commendable initiative by the state government. He emphasised the rarity of such trade shows in other regions of the country, noting their significant impact on fostering new entrepreneurship. Agarwal highlighted the success of the event for

**Greater Noida (PNS):** The the sector are lauding the state government's efforts to create a conducive environment for trade and tourism, marking the event as a pivotal moment

for the local economy. India Expo Mart, located in Gautam Buddha Nagar district, is a key venue for major events. The second edition of the five-day UP International Trade Show organised by the Yogi government, began on September 25 and concluded on September 29. The event was inaugurated by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, along with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and other state ministers.

In preparation for this international event, the Greater Noida hotel industry made significant arrangements. The trade show attracted exhibitors from across the state and the country, along with thousands of buyers, including international visitors.

As a result, hotels near India Expo Mart were bustling with guests. Hotels in Noida and Delhi also experienced an increase in visitors compared to usual days.

his company, stating, "We are not only connecting with customers, but also securing largescale orders." He reported that Dazzle Global has achieved business worth lakhs during the trade show, attributing this success directly to the supportive initiatives implemented by the

### Case registered against Afzal Ansari

Acase has been registered against Ghazipur MP Aand Samajwadi Party leader Afzal Ansari for his statement on legalising ganja.

This case was registered against the MP by Gora Bazaar police outpost in-charge Rajkumar Shukla. The FIR was registered against Afzal Ansari under Section 353 (3) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. Afzal Ansari had recently given a statement on legalising ganja. Taking cognisance of his statement, an FIR was registered in Sadar Kotwali. Sadhus and saints are very angry over the statement given by the Samajwadi Party MP.

Afzal Ansari had recently raised the demand for legalisation of ganja. He had said that ganja should be legalized as lakhs of people smoke it openly. He said ganja was smoked openly in religious events by calling it god" prasad and herb. He also said that if sent to kumbh in a cart, it would be con sumed. While demanding legalisation of ganja, Ansari had said that when licence was given for Lord Shankar's prasad bhang, why there was no licence for ganja. He added that people say that smoking ganja increases hunger and also keeps one healthy, so our demand is that it should be given the status of law. Reacting to Afzal Ansari's statement, Swami Iitendrananda Saraswati of All India Saint Committee said whatever the Samaiwadi Party MP said was indecent. The committee said that the Maha Kumbh was a festival of Sanatan and making indecent comments about it would not be tolerated. Mahamandaleshwar Atuleshanand Maharaj of Ujjain said Afzal Ansari's intellect had become corrupted.

## **Govt unveils plan for** local seed production to empower farmers

In a significant move aimed at empowering farmers and improving agricultural output, the Yogi Adityanath government has unveiled a strategic plan to produce high-quality seeds locally in Uttar Pradesh. As part of this plan, five seed parks will be established across the state, strategically located in the Western, Terai, Central, Bundelkhand and Eastern zones, catering to the unique agro-climatic conditions of each

The parks, to be built under a public-private partnership (PPP) model, will cover a minimum area of 200 hectares each. Six governmentowned farms, equipped with basic facilities, have been earmarked for this purpose. These farms will be leased to interested parties, with two ranging between 200 to 300 hectares, and two larger farms exceeding 400 hectares.

The initiative is expected to reduce dependency on seeds from other states, improve crop yield, and ulti-

mately enhance the quality of agricultural produce in the state. The local production of quality

seeds is expected to save the state about Rs 3,000 crore annually, while attracting additional investments and generating local employment opportunities. From plant operations to logistics and transportation, the initiative will create jobs, improving the local economy. Moreover, it will significantly enhance the seed replacement rate (SSR), leading to better crop yields.

India, covering 166 lakh hectares, with more than 80 per cent of this land being irrigated. Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for the nation in food grain and milk production and holds significant seed requirements.

According to the Agric

ment, Uttar Pradesh boasts the largest area of cultivable land in approximately three crore families in the state. While Uttar Pradesh leads positions in fruit and flower cultivation, the state is still reliant on other regions for nearly half of its

would be announced within a fortnight. He said that the LDA has taken new steps this time to ensure prompt disposal by consulting experts in the real estate sector, unlike in the past. The LDA has been attempting to sell its properties for the past seven years, but these efforts

source.

for over two decades. Kumar expressed optimism that this time the sales would increase due to expert guidance. "If the sales yield positive results, it will provide a significant boost to LDA's revenue," he added. Interestingly, the development authority is not offering any rebates this time, except for a 20 per cent concession at the

have been unsuccessful. The

properties have remained unsold

Meanwhile, the third phase of the project linking Piparghat to Shaheed Path will commence on October 7. Funds released by the state government for this purpose in March are securely held in the account office. The construction of this phase will be conducted with oversight from the Public Works Department (PWD) and its engineers, as the army authorities have imposed restrictions on building the link road to prevent flooding and stagnation of rainwater in and around the site.

## Youth accused of forcing woman to convert, eat beef before marriage

A youth has been accused of deceiving a woman by hiding his religious identity and imposing conditions like eating beef and converting to Islam for marriage, police said on Sunday. The accused has been identified as Arshad, they added.

The victim stated in her complaint that Arshad told her he would marry her only if she converted to Islam and ate beef. "When I refused, Arshad and his relatives threatened to kill me," she alleged. The victim alleged tha

initially hid his religious identity and lured her into a relationship under the false promise of marriage.

Over time, they engaged in physical relations, and the woman became pregnant twice. She alleged that Arshad coerced her into having abortions on both occasions, reassuring her that he would marry

"However, when I pressed him to follow through on his promise, he refused, stating that he could not marry a Hindu woman unless she converted to Islam and ate beef," she alleged. The victim also said that she met Arshad about a year and a half ago at a friend's birthday party. She said their relationhip grew over time but when she informed her family of the situation, Arshad and his relatives allegedly attempted to suppress the matter.

"Arshad's relative Rashid and friend Tanveer threatened to kill me if I informed police," she alleged.

Police confirmed that a case had been registered, and the woman's accusations were being looked investigated. Meanwhile, national general secretary and spokesperson of All India Hindu Mahasabha Shishir Chaturvedi expressed his support for the victim,

vowing to ensure that strict

action is taken against the accused. Citing similar incidents in Vikas Nagar and Sarojini Nagar, he said it was not an isolated case

Chaturvedi said that his organisation would continue to fight for justice for women who are victims of "love jihad."

## 'Rise in heart attacks among teenagers a new trend'

PNS LUCKNOW

 $D^{r}$  Bhuvan Chandra from the cardiology department at Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences addressed concerns about increasing heart attack cases among teenagers on Sunday, coinciding with World Heart Day. He noted that while such cases were rare in the past, the hospital now sees several each month. "This is a trend we didn't wit-

ness two years ago, but now we are observing that teenagers are experiencing cardiovascular diseases," he stated. Many of these young patients

present with chest pain, and alarmingly, many lack any fam-

ily history of cardiovascular issues. "Unfortunately, about 50 per cent of these individuals do not reach the hospital in time for treatment," he added. Dr Chandra emphasised that everyone is at risk for heart disease, highlighting the impor-

"Avoiding smoking and tobacco use, which are significant risk factors for heart attacks, is crucial. It's also vital to stay physically active and limit junk food consumption," he advised.

tance of managing controllable

He urged parents to take responsibility for their children's health, warning that unrestricted access to junk food could lead to long-term health

'This is a trend we didn't witness two years ago, but now we are observing that teenagers are experiencing cardiovascular diseases'

— Dr BHUVAN CHANDRA

issues. "While junk food might not cause immediate problems, it can lead to significant health issues later in life. Young bodies are not equipped to handle the toxins in these processed

foods, which often contain trans fats and high salt levels, contributing to obesity and a sedentary lifestyle," he explained. Dr Chandra pointed out that parents often indulge their children with junk food, but this "pampering" can have serious consequences, potentially resulting in cardiovascular diseases down the line.

He also mentioned that the treatment for these young patients mirrors that of adults. "Angiography is performed to check for any clots in the blood vessels. If a clot is found, it is treated; otherwise, the patient is placed on medication. In many cases, these teenagers are smokers," he noted.

### NEET aspirant hangs herself

Lucknow (PNS): A 19-year-old NEET aspirant allegedly hanged herself after she failed to clear the exam in her second attempt in Manas Vihar Colony of Indiranagar, police said on Sunday. The deceased was identified as Khushi whose father Shatrughan is a government employee.

Shatrughan stated in his complaint that his daughter was upset after having failed to clear NEET twice and that she hanged herself in her room on the first floor. He said that around 11 in the morning, Khushi

came back after walking her pet dog. She went to her room on the first floor and did not come downstairs for a long time.

"When we called her, there was no response. When we went to the room, we found the door bolted from inside. We broke open the door only to find Khushi hanging from the ceiling fan," Shatrughan stated in the complaint. She was rushed to a hospital, where doctors pronounced her dead. The Indiranagar inspector said no suicide note had been recovered from the spot and that the body had been sent for the post-mortem examination.

The police said since Khushi's mobile phone is password-protected, it is difficult to find out who she talked to before she took the extreme step.

### Thieves decamp with cash, goods from house as elderly couple sleeps

Lucknow (PNS): Two thieves broke into a house in Rajajipuram (Sector C) and made off with nearly Rs 4 lakh in cash and items worth over Rs 1 lakh while the elderly residents slept unaware, police said. The suspects, a young man and woman believed to be a couple, ransacked the entire house,

including the cupboards.

According to reports, Dr Rashid, who lives abroad with his family, left his elderly parents alone in their Lucknow home. The thieves took advantage of this situation to strike. The theft included around Rs 4 lakh in cash and several valuables, all captured on the home's CCTV footage.

The footage shows the young couple entering the house after midnight and searching through various items. The victims reported that approximately Rs 4 lakh in cash and three mobile phones were stolen. Although the thieves rummaged through other valuables, they ultimately left with only cash and phones.

Following the incident, the victim's family filed a complaint at the Talkatora police station, prompting an investigation. The police are currently analysing the CCTV footage to identify the suspects. As of now, the identities of the accused remain unconfirmed, but efforts to analyse their activities through the CCTV footage are

In my army service records, name of daughter has wrongly been mentioned as Jasamin. Her correct name is Jasmin Devi. Lal Singh S/o Late Babulal R/o Vill.Kalenapur, Post Kailai, Tehsil Bhognipur, Kanpur Dehat.

**NOTICE** 

### **NOTICE**

I Have Changed My Name From Ahtisham To Mohd Ahtisham. S/O Mohd Iqbal R/o Flat No 303 Azad Comlex Near Habiba Masjid jajmau

### **CITYBRIEFS**

#### **INAUGURATED** Lucknow Swachhta Abhiyan

Private Limited, contracted by Municipal Lucknow Corporation, inaugurated a modern portable compactor transfer station on Sunday. This station, with a capacity of approximately 40 tonnes per day, was launched in the presence of Urban Development Minister AK Sharma and Mayor Sushma Kharakwal. The municipal corporation has proposed a total of 22 transfer stations across five zones managed by LSA. Currently, garbage dumping operations have begun at five stations, while construction

continues at others. This new

system aims to expedite doorto-door garbage collection, significantly reducing the distance required for waste disposal in surrounding wards. AK Sharma, who was the chief guest, stated, "With such modern arrangements, Lucknow and Uttar Pradesh will set new standards of cleanliness."

### DURGA SWAROOPA SAMMAN-2024

The Durga Swaroopa Foundation hosted the Durga Swaroopa Samman-2024 at Urdu Academy, Gomti Nagar, on Sunday, celebrating achievements in literature, sports, social service, and art. Twenty-

for their contributions. Awardees included Dr Anil Rastogi, Anwarul Hasan, and Pranav Srivastava for arts and culture; Balendu Dwivedi and Deepti Joshi Gupta for literature; and Suman Devi and Shipra Rai for sports. Notable social service recipients included Nirmal Singh and Neerja Shrivastava. The event featured competitions in singing and dancing. Foundation secretary Ragini Srivastava emphasised their commitment to social work, including organising vaccination and blood donation camps during the pandemic.

one individuals were honoured

### escapes from their custody Lucknow (PNS): Five policeagainst him there.

men were suspended on Sunday after an accused in a fraud case fled from their custody. The suspended officers include sub-inspector Gaurav Chaudhary, head constable Anil Kumar, and constables Harish Kumar, Mukesh Kumar, and Rohit.

A senior police officer stated that these five policemen, from the Reserve Police Line in Mahanagar, were assigned to transport an undertrial prisoner, Viraj Trivedi alias Vivek Dave, to Gujarat in connection with a separate FIR registered

Viraj Trivedi was arrested by the UP STF on July 30, 2023, for allegedly running a gang that defrauded victims of Rs 9 crore by inviting film stars to a charity show at Ekana Stadium in Lucknow, purportedly organised by the Shree Suvidha Foundation Trust from Pune

and Ahmedabad. Assistant Commissioner of Police, Gosainganj, Kiran Yadav from confirmed the suspensions and stated that an investigation into the incident

would be conducted. The five officers departed from Lucknow on September 23 with the accused, Viraj Trivedi, intending to return on September 27. However, they later informed us that Viraj had slipped away and fled," she said. A departmental inquiry will accompany the investigation. In November 2022, the Shree Suvidha Foundation Trust had duped several individuals by enticing them to invest in a charity show, falsely promising appearances by film stars and dancers/actors.

### 5 cops suspended after undertrial | Man injured in tiger attack Lakhimpur Kheri (PTI): A

man was critically injured in a tiger attack on Sunday near a sugarcane field under Maheshpur range of South Kheri forest division, officials said. Tejpal (40), a resident of Bhadaiya village, was attacked by a tiger, which was hiding in his sugarcane field, they said. He sustained deep injuries on his head and face in the tiger attack, they said. Other farmers working nearby chased the tiger away, and took Teipal to the neighboring Gola health centre where he was provided initial treatment. He was later referred to the district hospital.

## Investment flourishes only in CM reviews floods in 11 dists, secure environment: CM

## Inaugurates Varun Beverages unit in GIDA

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Sunday, said that investment flourishes only in a secure environment, and if people don't feel safe, their capital won't be either. He pointed out that the state's strong security environment and its zero tolerance policy towards crime have disturbed those who once saw crime as a profession.

The chief minister was speaking at the inauguration of a new soft drink bottling and dairy prod-uct plant of Varun Beverages, a franchisee of PepsiCo, which has been set up with an investment of Rs 1,170 crore in Sector 27 of Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority, near the Gorakhpur Link Expressway. He said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called upon the youth to focus more on entrepreneurship instead of jobs. Entrepreneurship is the most important medium to get more opportunities for employment."

The chief minister pointed out that developed countries have prioritised entrepreneurship. research and innovation. He added that investment creates crucial job opportunities for youth and helps fulfill the aspirations of the people. He also shared that in the past seven years, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as an excellent destination for investment, thanks to its improved security and law and order policies.

"The government is dedicated to maintaining zero tolerance towards crime because ensuring safety now is essential for securing a better future," he said. The CM shared insights on his government's investment initiatives since assuming office for the first time in 2017. He recalled that a dedicated team was constituted to explore investment opportunities in Uttar Pradesh, and it initially projected that the state could attract ₹20,000 crore in investments but skeptics questioned it. Accepting this skepticism as a challenge, Chief Minister Yogi resolved to transform Uttar Pradesh into a desirable destination for both domestic and international investors. His administration's efforts resulted in attracting investment proposals totaling Rs 40 lakh crore during the Global Investors Summit held in February 2023. During the recent groundbreaking ony attended by Prime Minister Modi, the foundation for investment proposals worth Rs 10 lakh crore was laid. Chief Minister Yogi mentioned that another Rs 10



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on the occasion of the inauguration of soft drink bottling and dairy product plant established by Varun Beverages Limited in Gorakhpur on Sunday

lakh crore in investment proposals are in the pipeline, ready to be implemented. The chief minister stated that increasing investment is a sign of rising industrial development and job creation in UP. Citing the Varun Beverages unit in GIDA as an example, he noted that the administration facilitated this progress by providing 48 acres of land for the project, resulting in employment for over 1,500 individuals. Notably, 90 per cent of these employees are from Uttar Pradesh, with more than 70 per cent hailing from Gorakhpur and its surrounding areas. "Previously, many young people were compelled to seek job opportunities in cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, or even abroad in places like Thailand and Singapore. Now, they can find jobs and employment opportunities closer to home. But, this change has not taken place overnight," Chief Minister Yogi stated. He pointed out that after the foundation stone of GIDA was laid, there were no signs of industrial development until 1998, largely due to protests and incidents like lathi-charges and firings that deterred investment. However, by addressing these challenges and improving communication with investors, Uttar Pradesh has successfully attracted Rs 12,000 crore in investments to GIDA over the past three to four years, he added. "Establishing a solid land bank, improving infrastructure, and ensuring ease of doing business are essential for bringing investment to the ground in Uttar Pradesh. The government has focused on these areas, creating digital platforms to streamline business processes," Yogi said. He pointed out that the Nivesh Mitra portal serves as a single-

Objection Certificates (NOCs) while investment memorandums of understanding are monitored through Nivesh Sarathi. An online incentive system is also in place for investors, and CM Fellows have been appointed to address any issues faced by them. The CM mentioned several companies, including IGL, Gallant, Ankur Udyog, Keyan Distillery, Gyan Dairy, and Tatva Plastic that have invested in GIDA. Additionally, work on a Plastic Park, Flatted Factory, and Readymade Garment Park is being pursued vigorously by GIDA, he added. He pointed out that a added. He positive out that a CBG plant has been established in Dhuriyapar marking a significant step toward green energy through the production of ethanol from agricultural stubble and efforts are also underway to transform Dhuriyapar into a major industrial area. Regarding Varun Beverages, Chief Minister Yogi acknowledged the company's excellent dairy products but pointed out the current challenge of insufficient local milk supply, requiring sourcing from outside the region. To address this, the government has approved ₹20 crore to establish a women's cooperative similar to the Balini Milk Producers in Bundelkhand. He urged immediate action to enable Varun Beverages to source milk from Gorakhpur, Basti and Azamgarh divisions, which will significantly increase farmers' income and support livestock. He also encouraged the management of Varun Beverages to invite progressive farmers to visit their plant. Describing LIP as the best destina tion for investment, CM Yogi said, "The government is giving continuous encouragement to start-ups and industries along with jobs.

Youth are getting proper opportunities in every field. Six and a halflakh youth have been given government jobs in the state while two crore have secured employment in micro, small and medium enterpriseindustry and 60 lakh youth have been linked to self-employment." He highlighted the success of the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme, which has generated significant employment opportunities across the state. After inaugurating the Varun Beverages unit in GIDA, Chief Minister Yogi made a thorough inspection of the bottling plant. He observed the entire process from the manufacturing to packaging of carbonated soft drinks and explored various PepsiCo brand products. During his visit, Varun Beverages officials show-cased their state-of-the-art hightech machinery and the innovative bottling processes in place. On this occasion, UP's Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi', MP Ravi Kishan Shukla, Nepal's Krishnanagar MP Abhishek Pratap Shah, Mayor Dr Manglesh Shrivastava, MLA Pradeep Shukla, Fateh Bahadur Singh, Vipin Singh, Mahendrapal Singh, Shriram Chauhan, Sarwan Nishad, MLC and Bharatiya Janata Party state Vice-President Dr Dharmendra Singh, MLC Bagish Pathak, Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh, Medanta Group Chairman Dr Naresh Trehan, GIDA Chief Executive Officer Anuj Malik, BJP district president Yudhishthir Singh, M/s Varun Beverages Chairman

# orders swift relief action

PNS LUCKNOW/GORAKHPUR

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, On Sunday, reviewed the flood situation in 11districts of Uttar Pradesh. These districts have been impacted by continuous rainfall and the release of water from the mountains due to adverse weather over the past three davs.

The chief minister specifically instructed officials from Kushinagar, Maharajganj, Lakhimpur Kheri, Ballia, Farrukhabad, Gonda, Kanpur Nagar, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Sitapur, Hardoi and Shahjahanpur to ensure full preparedness in conducting relief operations.

He directed officials to personally visit the affected areas, monitor the situation, and accelerate relief efforts. He emphasised the need to provide all possible assistance to the affected population.

Following Chief Minister Yogi's instructions, multiple teams from the State Disaster Response Force, National Disaster Response Force and Provincial Armed lage. been set up, with three opera-Constabulary have been In Maharajganj, one village in tional, housing 700 people.

deployed in the affected dis-

The chief minister also instructed district magistrates to assess crop damage and submit reports to the government so that compensation for affected farmers could be processed. Additionally, The chief minister called for immediate financial aid for those whose homes had been damaged or livestock lost due to the floods.

Relief Commissioner Bhanu Chandra Goswami stated that following Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's directives, relief efforts are being conducted on a war-footing in 11 flood-affected districts of UP.

In Kushinagar, five villages in one tehsil have been impacted by flooding from the Gandak river, affecting around 8,000 people due to waterlogging. Sixteen flood shelters have been set up, with 42 boats prepositioned, and one team each from the NDRF and PAC deployed for rescue operations. NDRF teams successfully rescued 10 people stranded in floodwaters in Shivpur vil-

the Gandak river, impacting 45 people. A flood shelter has been established, where 45 individuals are currently residing. Relief operations are supported by one boat, with 55 boats pre-positioned. On Sunday, 2,095 lunch packets were distributed. Teams from both the NDRF and PAC have been deployed for rescue efforts. In Lakhimpur Kheri, 11 villages in four tehsils have been affected by floods, with seven villages

experiencing erosion. Approximately 19,500 people have been impacted. Fourteen flood shelters have been estabtrict. lished, and 26 boats have been deployed for carrying out relief work. On Sunday, 550 food packets were distributed, with NDRF and PAC teams actively engaged in rescue operations. The relief commissioner reported that 18 villages across three tehsils in Ballia are affected by floods, with five villages experiencing erosion with agricultural damage in nine others. Currently, 8,300 people are affected by waterlogging.

Seventy-one flood shelters have

Fifteen boats have been deployed for relief efforts, with 202 boats pre-positioned. On Sunday, 200 food items and 1,200 lunch packets were distributed. Teams from both the NDRF and SDRF are actively involved in rescue operations. In Farrukhabad, one village in one tehsil has been impacted, affecting 350 people due to waterlogging. Twenty-four flood shelters have been established, with two boats deployed for relief work, and a total of 15 boats on standby. A PAC team has been stationed in the dis-

In Gonda, three villages in one tehsil near the Ghaghra river are affected, with 452 people impacted by waterlogging. Thirty-one flood shelters have been set up, with three boats deployed for relief operations and 92 boats pre-positioned. On Sunday, 260 lunch packets were distributed, and teams from the SDRF and PAC were engaged in relief work.

In addition, relief efforts are progressing rapidly in the flood-affected districts of Kanpur Nagar, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Sitapur, Hardoi

## Yogi: True freedom from anarchy lies in integration of education & spirituality

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Sunday, said that in today's world, true freedom from anarchy can only be achieved through integration of

education and spirituality. He encouraged the revival of the traditional Arya Samaj practices of 'yajna' and 'havan' in gurukuls, saying that the cus-toms helped maintain a spiritual and disciplined atmosphere in gurukuls in the olden times leading to better academic results. The chief minister inaugurated a new auditorium, five classrooms, and an administrative building at Mewalal Gupta Gurukul Vidyalaya. He praised the efforts of the Gorakhpur Gurukul Society for reviving the gurukul stating, "The construction work has been completed on time by the Gorakhpur Development Authority with a CSR (corporate social responsibility) fund of Rs 1 crore 5 lakh."

Chief Minister Yog emphasised the need to introduce skill development and entrepreneurship training alongside education at

ondary institution. Over time, gurukuls, ensuring that no

child is left without access to learning. He underlined the importance of making every child self-reliant, adding that these efforts in education will contribute to making India a developed nation.

The chief minister, during his visit to the Gorakhpur Gurukul Vidvalava, shared the school's rich history, noting that it was established in 1935. He revealed that the British government had shut down the Gurukul for five years due to its involvement in spiritual and political activ-

Despite this setback, the school later reopened and is currently operating as a higher sec-

Modi lauds contribution of Jhansi women

however, a lack of resources led to a decline in student numbers. but with new construction and resources, the school is now being revived.

During the event, Chief Minister Yogi reiterated the state government's commitment to ensuring quality education for every child and improving health facilities for all citizens. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's National Education Policy (NEP), he highlighted that it was designed for the holistic development of students and was aligned with modern needs. He also mentioned that under the Ayushman Card

Scheme, free healthcare services are being provided to 10 crore people across the state.

Earlier, Chief Minister Yogi

toured the Gurukul Vidyalaya, observing classroom activities and interacting with the stu-dents. He also planted saplings on the school premises and witnessed a cultural performance, where girl students presented a beautiful rendition of Ganesh Vandana to begin the programme. On this occasion, MP Ravi Kishan Shukla, Mayor Manglesh Shrivastava, Gorakhpur University Vice-Chancellor Prof Poonam Tandon, Gorakhpur Gurukul Society President Pramod Kumar, Mahant Ravindra Das of Kalibari, UP State Commission for Women Vice-Chairperson Charu Chaudhary, Bharativa Janata Party metropolitan president Rajesh Gupta. Sitaram Jaiswal, Councilor Pawan Tripathi, Shivshankar Gupta, Parmeshwar Prasad Gupta, Indradev Vidyarthi, Jagdish Gupta, Divisiona Commissioner Anil Dhingra along with administrative officers, teachers and others were

## **CM** stresses zero tolerance towards negligence

window system for over 450 No



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during 'Janta Darshan' programme in Gorakhpur on Sunday

**PNS** GORAKHPUR

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath listened to the concerns of around 200 people at the Janata Darshan held in the Mahant Digvijaynath Smriti Bhawan auditorium of the Gorakhnath temple complex on Sunday morning. He emphasised the need for

swift and satisfactory resolution of people's problems, directing officials to act promptly and with full accountability.

The chief minister stressed that there was no place for negligence or delays, underscoring the need for every issue to be addressed with transparency and efficiency. He reiterated that addressing public grievances is a top government priority, and warned that any laxity in this regard would be unacceptable.

the concerns of people one by one and forwarded their applications to the relevant officials with instructions for swift res-

olution. The chief minister assured the public that no injustice would be tolerated. He reaffirmed the govern-ment's commitment to resolving the problems of every individual, particularly emphasising the need for strict action against those who illegally occupy land or exploit the vulnerable. He instructed offi-

without exception. Several people approached Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during the Janata Darshan, seeking financial assistance for medical treatment. He assured them of the government's full support, and after handing their applications to the officials, he directed that the treatment cost estimates be expedited and promptly submitted to

cials to take decisive legal mea-sures against such offenders

the government. Chief Minister Yogi listened to He also instructed the officials to ensure that all eligible individuals are enrolled under the Ayushman Yojana for healthcare coverage. Additionally,

the chief minister emphasised the need for transparent and impartial handling of revenue and police-related issues raised during the Janata Darshan. He stressed that no one should face injustice and that all victims should be treated with compassion and care.

Chief Minister Yogi, who arrived in Gorakhpur late Saturday evening, followed his traditional Sunday morning routine. As usual, he began the day by offering prayers at the Gorakhnath temple, where he worshipped Guru Gorakhnath and paid respects at the samadhi of his mentor, Brahmalin Mahant Avedyanath.

Afterward, he toured the temple premises, where his attention was drawn to a group of children who had come with their families. Smiling warmly, the chief minister called the children and engaged with them in friendly conversation. Before parting, he blessed the children and gave them choco-

### PNS LUCKNOW/JHANSI

In his monthly radio address 'Mann Ki Baat' on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi once again highlighted Uttar Pradesh, specifically mentioning the remarkable water conservation efforts in Jhansi dis-

Ravikant Jaipuria, Varun Beverages Executive Director

Kamlesh Jain, and others were

trict. He praised the women of Jhansi for breathing new life into the Ghurari river and preventing water wastage, showcasing their commitment to addressing the country's water crisis.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath thanked Prime Minister Modi for recognising the efforts of the women from self-help groups (SHGs) in Jhansi, particularly in the water-scarce

Bundelkhand region. Modi acknowledged the extra-ordinary work of these SHG women, who, as 'Jal Sahelis', led a campaign to revive the dying Ghurari river. He marvelled at their initiative to construct a check dam using sand-filled sacks in order to stop rainwater from going to waste and replenishing the river. The initiative successfully alleviated the region's water scarcity problem, bringing joy to the com-

munity. Modi emphasised that where 'Nari Shakti' (women's power) enhances 'Jal Shakti' (water power), 'Jal Shakti' in turn strengthens 'Nari Shakti'. The noteworthy efforts of these

Jal Sahelis took place in Simrawari village in Babina development block of Jhansi. With over six days of voluntary labour, they worked tirelessly to construct a dam that revived the Ghurari river. Their initiative not only revived the river but also sent a powerful message to society. The water retained in the river

now provides essential resources for local people, serv-

Members of 'Jal Saheli' group pose for photos after reviving Ghurari river at

ing their bathing needs and providing drinking water for

The Yogi government has undertaken water conservaefforts tion across Bundelkhand with unprecedented determination, over-coming numerous challenges. As a result, most households in Vindhya and Bundelkhand have now received water connections. Additionally, initiatives such as the reconstruction of village ponds, installing rain-water harvesting systems, and cleaning reservoirs have been implemented.

The Yogi government is also actively promoting women-led self-help groups across the

In recognition of their contributions to water conservation, the 'Jal Sahelis has been honoured by the state and Central governments. These women continue to support government efforts in water conservation across Bundelkhand and play a vital role in raising awareness about the importance of preserving water

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Modi and congratulated the women who have become a source of inspiration for water conservation. On his X handle, he wrote: "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mention of the efforts made by the self-help group women of Jhansi, who became 'Jal Sahelis' to revive the dying Ghurari river, in his 'Mann Ki Baat' programme is a moment of pride for all of Uttar Pradesh. This recognition will undoubtedly infuse new energy into ongoing water conservation efforts. These 'Jal Sahelis', who have become a remarkable symbol of women's empowerment by constructing hundreds of water bodies, have set an exemplary standard for water conservation despite facing many obstacles. Heartfelt congratulations to these women who have become an inspiration for water conservation, and sincere thanks to the prime minister for his acknowl-

## **PM commends UP in Mann Ki Baat; CM** expresses gratitude

PNS LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi once again lauded Uttar Pradesh during the 'Mann Ki Baat' radio broadcast on Sunday, commending the state for its commitment to the Swachh Bharat Mission and Atmanirbhar Bharat, particularly highlighting its tree plantation efforts.

Following the programme, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed his grat-itude to the Prime Minister through a post on social media platform X.

In his message, Chief Minister Yogi noted that over 26 crore saplings have been planted under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign in Uttar Pradesh, calling it a testament to the state's responsibility and love for Mother Earth.

He emphasised that inspired by the prime minister and supported by the state govern-ment, this campaign has transformed into a mass movement, engaging participants from rural panchayats to urban areas. The involvement of schools, colleges and local organisations has elevated this initiative to new heights,

he added. The chief minister highlighted that the 'Mann Ki Baat' programme will celebrate its successful 10th anniversary

has become a vital platform for uniting the nation and connecting citizens with various national and social initiatives. 'Mann Ki Baat' has fostered positive changes in key areas such as cleanliness, Digital India, women's empowerment, environmental protection and youth development."

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath congratulated the prime minister and all Swachhata Praharis' on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the 'Swachh Bharat Mission' on October 2. He described this mission as a tribute to the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, emphasising its role in raising public awareness about cleanliness. The chief minister encouraged the people of Uttar Pradesh to engage with this campaign and to pledge their commitment to building a strong and capable India in line with the prime minister's vision of cleanliness.

Building on the theme of Atmanirbhar Bharat discussed in the prime minister's 'Mann Ki Baat' programme, Chief Minister Yogi urged citizens to purchase indigenous prod-ucts during the festival season. Echoing the prime minister's call, he advocated for the adoption of the 'Vocal for Local' mantra, reminding on October 3. shoppers to prioritise goods that are 'Made in India.'

## Minister: Interests of power dept pensioners will be protected

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

 $T^{\text{he fifth biennial session of}}_{\text{Uttar Pradesh Vidyut}}$ Pensioners' Parishad, Varanasi region, was held at Mahmoorganj here on Sunday in which power department pensioners raised their voice for getting benefits of cashless treatment soon. The session was inaugurated by lighting the lamp by the chief guest and Uttar Pradesh Minister of State for Stamp and Court Fee and Registration Ravindra Jaiswal in the presence of pensioners, senior officials and representatives of various organisations from Varanasi, Chandauli, Ghazipur and Jaunpur districts.

In his address, the minister assured to consider the demands of the power department pensioners and said that their interests will be protected. The conference was presided over by AK Singh and conducted by RK Wahi. An 11point memorandum of demands was presented to the month to Rs 1,000. chief minister by the parishad general secretary Atin Ganguly.



UP Minister Ravindra Jaiswal and others inaugurating the power department pensioners' meeting in Varanasi on Sunday.

Representatives of various organisations expressed their views and supported the demands. The speakers strongly demanded immediate implementation of cashless medical system and keeping the facility of LMV 10 intact. They demanded cashless medical facility and increasing the medical allowance from Rs 200 per

Apart from this, they also demanded to establish full

pension in 20 years and increase the age limit pre-scribed for medical and pension facility of dependent children to 35 years, to make the leave encashment payable at the time of retirement, to make pension income tax free, to build old age homes with basic facilities in cities for disabled and suffering senior citizens and to make arrangements for their operation by the govern-

Special guest and Director (Personnel) of PuVVNL RK Jain assured that necessary action will be taken for the prompt settlement of the demands. In the convention, implementation of the old pension system was demanded. The guests who came to the conference were welcomed by chairman RV Singh. A new executive was formed in the conference in which SP Tripathi was elected as the patron, RK Wahi as the vice president, AK Singh as the president, Atin Ganguly as the general secretary, Prithvipal Singh as the executive president, Awadhesh Mishra as the vice-president, KM Srivastava as the finance secretary, Govind Narayan as the office secretary. Managing Director of PuVVNL Shambhu Kumar

Management Administration) RK Jain, state parisad president Bharat Bhushan Goyal, general secretary Captain Singh and many others were also present.

assured the convention to

resolve the demands at his

level. Director (Personnel

### Two siblings die in house collapse

PTI KANNAUJ

Two siblings were killed while four other family members were injured when their house collapsed here in the wee hours of Sunday, police said. The incident occurred around 3 am in a village in Inder Garh area when Ramdas (45), his wife Phaguni (40) and their four children - Vivek (10), Vikas (2), Anjali (14) and Sarita (12) — were sleeping in their dilapidated house, Inder Grah Station House Officer (SHO) Parul Chaudhary said. Heavy rainfall had weakened the structure causing it to eventually collapse trapping the family under its debris, Chaudhary said. The sudden collapse caused panic in the village, prompting neighbours to alert the police and initiate a rescue operation, the SHO said. The injured were taken to Haseran's Primary Health Centre (PHC) and from there they were referred to Tirwa Medical College. Vivek and Sarita succumbed to

their injuries at the medical college, said the officer. The bodies have been sent for postmortem and an investigation in underway, police said.

## Sanjay Nishad slams Rahul's remarks on Ram temple's inauguration ceremony

Uttar Pradesh Fisheries Minister Sanjay Nishad on Sunday slammed senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his remarks during an election rally on the Ram temple inauguration ceremony.

Gandhi, addressing a poll rally in Haryana's Barwala on Thursday, said that the BJP lost the Lok Sabha election in Ayodhya as "Amitabh Bachchan, Ambani and Adani" were invited to attend the consecration ceremony of Ram temple but "no poor people, labourers or farmers" were called to attend the event.

"Naach-gana (dancing-singing) was happening there," the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha said. Reacting to the Congress leader's remarks at the Circuit House here, Sanjay Nishad said, "The opposition has nothing but rhetoric. If they go abroad, do they go there to study? There is a complete history of why their family members go abroad. Social media is full of videos on

"Those who are involved in these things, they think that everyone else is also like them," the UP minister said.

He said that opposition leaders make such statements to please "some sections".

"Under the BJP government, Muslims are also taking advantage of its schemes, and are moving away from the Congress. Now there are no riots," he said.

## Message of environmental protection given Varanasi (PNS): Under the 'Ek CRPF 95 Battalion, Srij.

Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign of Swachhata Hi Seva-2024 organised by the Nagar Nigam, Mayor Ashok Tiwari, MLC/ district BJP president Hansraj Vishwakarma, regional BJP president (Kashi) Dilip Patel, Principal Secretary (Urban Development) Amrit Abhijat, District Magistrate S Rajalingam and Municipal Commissioner Akshat Verma gave the message of environ-mental protection by planting neem and gulmohar trees on both sides of the road near Jail Road Phulwaria trijunction here on Sunday. Tree guards

were also installed for the protection of all the trees planted there. Corporstors, officers and employees of Nagar Nigam and local people were present on the occasion of this tree plantation programme. Earlier, under the joint aegis of Samajik Vikas Nyas and Nagar Nigam, saplings were planted in the name of mother in the PM Shri Girls Inter College, Maldahiya premises apart from cleanliness drive and taking out a massive anti-addiction rally which was led by brand ambassador of Ganga Haritima Abhiyan and president of Srijan Anil Kumar Singh. Commandant of CRPF 95 Battalion Rajeshwar Balapurkar was the chief guest. Saurabh Singh Patel, Rajesh Singh, Praveen, Krishnanand, Pradeep Kumar Srivastava, Bhanu Pratap, along with others participated enthusiastically.

## **Body 27-year-old junior** doctor found in car

 $T^{\text{he body of a 27-year-old}}_{\text{junior doctor was found in}}$ his car in the premises of SRN Hospital under mysterious circumstances late on Saturday night. He was posted at Swaroop Rani Hospital (SRNH).

Reports said that when fellow doctors started leaving the hospital around 11.45 pm on Saturday night, his car was parked in the campus. When they went closer, they

spotted the body of Dr Kartikeya Srivastava lying on the front seat of the car. On receiving information, the police reached the spot. On investigation, a syringe and a vial of injection used in anaesthesia were found inside the car. Marks of injection have also been found on the doc-

However, after the post- switched off. mortem examination it will be DCP (City) Abhishek Bharti clear whether the death was

doctors will conduct the postmortem.

The police is also investigating whether the doctor injected himself or someone killed him by injecting him. No suicide note has been found in the car. Dr Kartikeya was originally a resident of Apaar Kalavad area of Kotdwar in Uttarakhand. He lived in a rented house on Stanley Road here. He did not come on duty on Saturday. The deceased doctor was the youngest of three siblings. He has two elder sisters.

His elder sister Dr Aditi is the jail superintendent, while the younger sister is a doctor. Family member Atmaram said that if he had to commit suicide, then why would he come to the hospital. He has been murdered. There are four cameras installed at the place where the doctor had parked his car, but all four were

said information was received thing else. Á team of three night that Dr Karthikeya had

committed suicide. Senior officers investigated the matter. Police is taking information from the doctor's acquaintances and CCTV is also being

investigated.
SPECIAL TRAINS: The Railways has intensified preparations in view of the rush expected in trains during the festivals of Durga Puja, Diwali and Chhath Puja. In view of the festivals, the North Central Railway (NCR) will operate special trains from October 1 to November 30. These trains will make 524 trips on different routes.

These festival special trains will operate from the railway stations of all three divisions of NCR i.e. Prayagraj, Agra and Jhansi divisions. More than 60 trains will provide convenience to the passengers in view of these festivals. These trains will be run from Prayagraj Junction, Chheoki, Naini, Subedargani, Kanpur Central, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra due to the injection or some- from SRN hospital staff at Agra, Jhansi, Gwalior and other

## Catering staff made aware to maintain hygiene Varanasi (PNS): On the occa-providers, w

sion of the 10th anniversary of 'Swachh Bharat Mission' on North Eastern Railway (NER) and under the ongoing 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign being run on the theme 'Swabhaav Swachhata - Sanskar Swachhata', 'Swachh Rasoi/Pantry Kar

Diwas' was observed at major stations of Varanasi Division of NER like Banaras, Varanasi City, Ballia, Ghazipur City, Deoria, Siwan, Mau etc here on

Sunday. It was the 13th day of the campaign. On the instructions of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vineet Kumar Srivastava and Senior Mechanical Divisional Engineer Abhishek Rai, high quality cleanliness of canteens. food stalls, Jan Aahar centres and pantry cars of trains were ensured by the officers and employees of the Health department at the major stations of the division. Along with this, the method of cleaning utensils of all the food

providers, waste disposal system etc were thoroughly inspected and improvements were made in the base kitchen and its store area. All the stations of the division were cleaned by running a 'Swachhata' campaign and all the catering staff was made aware to maintain

> hygiene. 'Swachhata' rally was organ-ised to awaken the public in which they were motivated to throw the catering wastes in the dustbins only and they were

made aware to put the wet waste in the green, dry waste in the blue and hazardous waste in the yellow dustbins. Along with this, public awareness workshops, chaupals, pamphlets, selfie points, collective labour donation, human chain, Youth Connect, Swachhata Samvad etc were organised at the major stations of the division to create public awareness about cleanliness among the railway passengers. About 1,000 officers and employees of the division participated in the campaign.

## 'Students can use innovative minds to explore cutting-edge technologies' PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ knowledge and indu

The three-day silver jubilee Global Alumni Meet of Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad (IIIT-A) concluded on Sunday. A marathon discussion on the

industry-academia collaboration took place on the last day. Alumni and faculty members exchanged their views on the feasibility of working jointly. As a result several memorandum of understanding is likely to be signed in the coming months. The chief guest and Director IIIT-A, Prof Mukul Sharad Sutaone, highlighted the opportunity of mutual benefit in collaborating with alumni and coming up with tangible output from this collaboration. To increase its visibility he suggested the setting up of an industry-driven centre on campus that can prepare the students to be industry-ready

by the time they graduate. "The students can utilise innovative minds to explore cutting-edge technologies that can be researched and simulat-



contributions from alumni across industries, thereby shaping impactful outcomes towards the growth of the institute. Collaborations through this sort of conclave can change the face and image of UP and North India as destinations for emerging hubs of development", the director stat-Prof Anupam Agarwal Dean,

Alumni Affairs, encouraged the alumni association to continue supporting the institute through innovative ideas for collaboration and formalising partnerships through MoUs. We profoundly thank previous support in placements and ed right in the institute. He now ask them to take a step proposed an MoU on forward by sharing their

knowledge and industry exper-tise to guide students in mastering cutting-edge technologies and understanding current industry trends", he added. Prof G'C Nandi, IIITA in his address said that industryinstitute partnership can be a way to create in-house industries with the aid of institute resources and intellectual talents of the students of the institute for sustainable growth into the future. He expressed the need of developing a startup culture for fourth-year B. Tech students with the overall guidance and mentorship of the institute. He stressed the adoption of an indigenous way towards unique solutions and the facilitation of delivery of relevant impactful solutions. Prof US Tiwary from IIIT-A focused on the importance for standard patenting discussion in the areas, such as LLM, information retrieval, and digital libraries. Prof Madhvendra Misra spoke on MoU proce-

Alumni from industries having their own companie exchanged their viewpoints on

## **Stress on proper arrangements** to stop sewerage into Varuna

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

A review meeting of the integrated action plan for the revival of Varuna river and the schemes run by the Urban Development department was held in the Commissioner's Auditorium here on Saturday under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary (Urban Development) Amrit Abhijat. Abhijat directed the officers concerned that proper arrange-ments should be made so that no sewerage falls into Varuna river. "An integrated plan should be made for this. The tional by cleaning the ground silt. He said under the Mukhya

ment of sewerage. A solid plan should be prepared for a strong system of sewerage and drinking water in the city", he said, adding that for this, the sewerage and drinking water system of other better cities should also be studied as per the need. According to the PS, a solid plan should be made by con-

ducting a survey for a strong system of drinking water in Old Sis Varuna areas and the water pipeline in the previously built storm should be made func-

and proper arrangements should be made for the treat-tender process etc should be done without delay to bring progress in the work. He also emphasised on wide publicity of this scheme. Under the Mukhya Mantri Nagarodaya Yojana, he directed the officers concerned to select sites in the urban area and ensure the development of facilities like multipurpose community centre, marriage hall, library, food court etc

He reviewed the building plan of urban development, operation of Shakti kitchen, and other schemes and gave instructions for necessary progress.

### AMACON 2024 held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The 25th annual conference of Allahabad Medical Association AMACON 2024 was held at AMACC auditorium. Organising Secretary of this conference was leading gastroenterologist of the city Dr. Rohit Gupta. The conference was inaugurat-

ed by the chief Gust Dr. Nageshwar Reddy Chairman and Founder of Asian Institute Gastroenterology, Hyderabad. Dr Sujit Singh, Reception Chairman Committee, Dr Subodh Jain, Chairman Scientific Committee, Dr Mohit Jain

Chairman IMA AMS, and Dr

Anurag Verma Vice Chairman



IMA AMS, Dr Lalita Shukla Jt Secretary IMA AMS, played a leading role in organising AMACON 2024. Dr Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman and Founder of Asian Institute of Gastroenterology, Hyderabad delivered the Dr BL Agarwal Oration on Metabolic



## 'Ensure proper monitoring of works' PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI working agency to complete written report of this will have

The Jal Jeevan Mission

I Gramin meeting was held at Circuit House here on Saturday under the chairmanship of Secretary (Namami Gange and Rural Water Supply Department) V Rajasekhar. He took detailed information about the progress of various schemes block wise of the works going on under Jal Jeevan Mission, tube wells, overhead reservoirs, distribution system, home connection, solar panel, water supply, cer-tification in Har Ghar Jal and road restoration etc and gave necessary guidelines to the officials of Jal Jeevan Mission and implementing agency. He asked the officials of the the work with low progress in the stipulated time by increasing the labour force and to provide a weekly progress report of their incomplete works to DM/CDO. He asked the working agency to give the time limit for completion of the works in writing. He also instructed the Executive Engineer of Jal Nigam Gramin to do proper monitoring of the works. He said that wherever tap connection has been done in any village, it should be ensured that clean water is supplied there. "All the families in the village should have tap connections. If any person does not want to take the connection, or has not taken it due to any reason, then a

written report of this will have to be verified by the secretary/ gram pradhan and given to DM/CDO.

According to him, the hamlets/villages which have been left out should be surveyed immediately and included in this scheme. He instructed the CDO to get the list of villages with water supply and conduct a random survey. Public representatives must be informed about the work completed or any problems/shortcomings related to drinking water. District Magistrate S Rajalingam, CDO

### Himanshu Nagpal along with other officials and officials of Jal Ieevan Mission and implementing agency were present in

## Nutrition discussed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

Under the nutrition month celebrations, Jyoti Mahila Samiti organised a workshop at the BNSD Shiksha Niketan Balika Vidhyalaya, Meston Road, on Saturday. Founder member Preeti Awasthi, while introducing the dietician Pratyaksha Katiyar, said due to acute shortage of nutrition in girls, this programme was organised in this school. Dietician Pratyaksha Katiyar apprised students of class VÍ to XII of the importance of nutrition in their life. She advised them to eat seasonal fruits, millets, dal, daliya, green vegetables, jaggery, sattu etc. to keep themselves healthy and fit for long time. President Sarita Gupta welcomed the dietician Pratyaksha Katiyar and school principal Manju Shukla. Secretary Namita Srivastava proposed the vote of thanks and felicitated the guests with the memento. Former secretary Sita Mishra was also present. She said if students will follow

the suggestions of the dietician, they would remain healthy and fit to pursue their studies well. SHS CAMPAIGN: The

Kanpur Metro is organising a range of programmes at its stations as part of the 'Swachhta Hi Seva' (SHS) campaign to promote cleanliness awareness. Running from September 17 to October 2, Saturday's events included a free health check-up camp and a musical chair competition for 'Safai Mitras' (housekeeping staff), who play a vital role in maintaining cleanliness throughout the Metro. Employees participated enthusiastically in both these activities. Since the start of passenger service, Kanpur Metro has prioritised cleanliness in station premises and trains. To honour the tireless dedication of its 'safai mitras' a free health check-up camp was held on Saturday at Motijheel and Vishwavidyalaya metro stations. Over 60 'Safai Mitras' were screened for haemoglobin levels, sugar, cholesterol, and blood pressure during this camp.

### Students showcase advanced automation & robotics technologies PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chairman of Phillips Corporation, US, Alan Phillips, along with his team graced the Shri Govind Hari Singhania Centre for Advanced Learning (SGHSCOAL) on Saturday. The visit showcased the centre's commitment to providing innovative resources and experiential learning opportunities, nurturing excellence and holistic development in learners. Alan Phillips and his team were warmly received by Vice-Chairman and Director Partho P Kar, Principal, Bhawna Gupta, Vice-Principal, Vandana Trivedi and Vedika Singhania. The visit commenced with a traditional

Robotics Lab, students showcased advanced automation and robotics technologies, including programming and controlling robots for various applications. The highlight was the demonstration of a robotic dog and drones, which captured the visitors' attention. The lab's collaboration with IIT Kanpur was highly commended, exemplifying the Centre's dedication to staying at the forefront of technological advancements. The Psychology Lab in collaboration with IIT Kanpur and Cute Brains Pvt Ltd. offered

insights into human behaviour and cognitive processes, where students shared their involvement in psychological experiments. The lab employs diaglamp lighting ceremony.
Following the formal welcome, nostic tools to identify students' Phillips and his team embarked special learning abilities, proon an insightful tour of the cenviding personalised learning experiences. The peer countre's state-of-the-art skill labs. selling initiative, in which senior students mentor their The tour was led by students who enthusiastically demonstrated their knowledge and hands-on expertise. In the peers, was particularly appreciated for its contribution to



Chairman of Phillips Corporation, US, Alan Phillips, visiting the robotics lab at SGHSCOAL on Saturday.

promoting mental well-being. At the Mathematics Lab, students demonstrated mathematical models and activities, highlighting interactive teaching methods. The collaboration with CSJM Kanpur University and the integration of Vedic Mathematics, aligned with traditional Indian techniques, received praise for enhancing logical reasoning and mental mathematical skills. This approach showed how traditional methodologies could enrich modern learning experiences.

In the AR/VR Lab, students brought to life the potential of augmented and virtual reality, demonstrating immersive educational projects that transform traditional learning into dynamic and interactive experiences. Meanwhile, in the 3D Printing Lab, students explained the end-to-end process of designing and producing prototypes using this modern technology, showcas-ing the school's collaboration with Additive Minds Academy, Germany, EOS & Neumesh to develop an industry-aligned 3D printing and design curriculum. The Piano Lab featured stu-

dents showcasing their musical talents, illustrating how the lab nurtures their abilities and enhances their understanding of musical theory.

The Art and Sculpture Lab displayed artistic expressions through painting and sculpture, with students engaged in the Sculpture and Heritage Arts programme. This programme immerses students in traditional Indian arts, such as Cheriyal, Warli, Gond, Madhubani, and Pattachitra, while also introducing them to clay modelling and sculpture, guided by

Alan Phillips expressed deep admiration for the leadership of the Chairperson, Manorama Govind Hari Singhania, Vice-

regional experts.

Chairman Abhishek Singhania Vice-Chairperson Varsha Singhania and Vice-Chairman and Director, Partho P Kar. He commended the school for its visionary approach to education noting that their dedication to holistic learning is piv-otal in shaping a skilled and innovative generation.
Aligned with the New

Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Skill School offers a blend of technology and experiential learning, equipping students with essential skills for the future. The curriculum fosters critical thinking, creativity and problem-solving, enabling students to become well-rounded individuals prepared for future challenges. The visit concluded with the presentation of a memento to Mr. Phillips as a token of appreciation. The Centre remains committed to nurturing talent and innovation, providing an environment that prepares students to be leaders and innovators in their respective fields.

## Centre to hold simultaneous elections with three new bills

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

¬he Centre is likely to bring three bills, including two to amend the Constitution, to put in place its plan to hold simultaneous elections. One of the proposed Constitution amendment bills, that deals with aligning the local bodies elections to that of the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies, will require an endorsement from at least 50 per cent of the states.

Moving ahead with its 'one nation, one election' plan, the government earlier this accepted month recommendations of the high-level committee for holding simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha, state assemblies and local bodies in a phased manner after a countrywide consensusbuilding exercise.

proposed constitutional amendment bill would deal with making provisions for holding Lok Sabha and state legislative assembly elections together. Citing recommendations of the high-level committee, sources said the proposed bill would seek to amend Article 82A by adding sub-clause (1) relating to the 'appointed

It will also seek to insert subclause (2) to Article 82A relating to the end of terms of



the Lok Sabha and state assemblies legislative together.

It also proposes to amend Article 83(2) and insert new sub-clauses (3) and (4) relating to the duration and dissolution of the Lok Sabha. It also has provisions related to the dissolution of the legislative assemblies and amending Article 327 to insert the term "simultaneous elections".

This bill will not require ratification by at least 50 per cent of the states, the recommendation said. The proposed second Constitutional amendment bill will require ratification by at least 50 per cent of the state assemblies as it will deal with matters relating to state

It will seek to amend constitutional provisions relating to the preparation of electoral rolls by the Election Commission (EC) in consultation with State Commissions Election (SECs) for elections to local

Constitutionally, the EC and SECs are separate bodies. The EC holds elections to the post of the President, the Vice President, Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, state assemblies and state legislative councils while the SECs are mandated to conduct polls to local bodies such as municipalities and panchayats.

proposed second Constitution amendment bill will also create provisions to hold simultaneous elections municipalities panchayats, along

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

amendment bill. The statutes it proposes to

of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act-1991, the Government of Union Territories Act-1963 and the and Kashmir Reorganisation Act-2019. The proposed bill will be an ordinary legislation not requiring a change in the Constitution and will also not need ratification by the states. The high-level committee had proposed amendments to three Articles, insertion of 12 new sub-clauses in the existing articles and tweaking three laws related to Union Territories having legislative

assemblies. number of The total amendments and new insertions stands at 18. In its report submitted to the government in March, just before the general election was announced, the panel recommended implementing "one nation, one election" in two phases.

It suggested simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies in the first phase and elections for local bodies like panchayats and municipal bodies within 100 days of the general election in the second phase.

It also recommended common electoral roll, which would need coordination between the Election Commission and State Election Commissions.



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

## 'Mann Ki Baat' showcases positive developments: Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Sunday that his monthly radio broadcast 'Mann Ki Baat' has shown that people like positive developments and inspiring and encouraging stories.

Speaking in the latest episode of the radio programme in which he touches about social issues and highlights people's efforts for a cause in different parts of the country, he noted broadcast that the completing 10 years.

Describing it as an "emotional" episode, he said the programme has become a unique platform that celebrates the spirit of India and showcases collective strength of the nation. He also thanked the media for taking its message to people.

Modi said there is generally a perception that people don't pay attention if the content is not spicy or negative. However, 'Mann Ki Baat' has shown that they are eager for positive information. People like examples and encouraging stories, he noted.

Modi said the 'Make in India's programme is completing its 10 years, asserting that export is rising in every sector and the rise in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is a testimony to its success. It has helped local manufacturers a lot, he added.

He urged people to buy 'Made in India' products in the coming festival season. coming Referring to his recent visit to the US, Modi said the return of nearly 300 antiquities to India is being widely talked about. When people start taking pride

in their heritage, the world also respects their sentiments, he said, asserting that a large number of ancient artefacts has been returned to India by different countries in the last 10 years of his government.

In the programme, he highlighted the success of the 'Swachh Bharat' mission, lauding it as a great tribute to Mahatma Gandhi who put special emphasis on cleanliness all his life.

## Himalayan research project to analyse sediment impact

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

s climate change intensi-A fies hazards such as landslides, avalanches, and glacial floods in high mountain regions including Himalayas, a team of researchers from India, Canada and UK is set to conduct a study to understand the long-term impacts of sediment moved by these disasters on communities and river systems including Ganges

The team, including experts from IIT Roorkee and the Dehradun-based Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, will start research at a 150 km stretch of the Ganges River impacted by the 2021 disaster in Chamoli nestled in Himalayan region in Uttarakhand.

Triggered by a rock and ice avalanche, this catastrophic event caused a devastating The project debris flood, resulting in over directly 200 fatalities and significant damage to two hydropower stations including Tapovan Vishnu Gad Hydropower. landslide temporarily created a dam in the Rishiganga valley, which

eventually breached. The £1 million research SUPERSLUG project, led by researchers from the University of Plymouth, will centered around the 2021 disaster and focus on understanding how massive sediment flows—termed "sediment slugs"—affect river systems over time, often impacting areas far from the original disaster site.

Utilising monitoring technologies such as drones, satellite imagery, seismic sensors, and "smart cobbles," the team will gather data on sediment transport and landscape changes. This information of Hull, this three-year will help create a digital twin initiative aims to fill critical of the river system, offering insights for disaster long-term effects of sediment management and resource slugs on ecosystems and sustainability.

lead and Associate Professor in vulnerable regions.

of Physical Geography at the University of Plymouth, emphasised the urgency of this research which is backed by an £840,000 grant from the Natural Environment Research Council.

He noted that while the immediate impacts of disasters are clear, the longterm consequences often remain unexplored.

"High mountain regions like

the Himalayas are among the most hazardous on the planet. The effects of climate change are likely to exacerbate these hazards, leading to increased landslide activity and landscape instability," he said. "We urgently need to understand the legacy impacts of sediment flows on river catchments and the communities that depend on water and them for

The project will engage directly with local communities and authorities to ensure that findings are practical and beneficial for disaster preparedness and hydropower operations. Collaborating institutions also include Exeter, Hull, Leeds, Newcastle,

Staffordshire, and the University of Calgary.
Professor Tom Coulthard from the University of Hull highlighted the importance of understanding sediment movement. "Often it's the sheer volume of sediment, rather than just floodwaters, that causes significant damage during these multi-hazard events. Understanding advanced how long sediment slugs chnologies persist in the system is crucial for predicting their impacts and managing

communities, ultimately Dr. Matt Westoby, the project enhancing disaster resilience

## CITU protests FSNL disinvestment

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

Extending solidarity with the striking employees of FSNL, the CITU pointed out that PSU Navratna steel companies are completely dependent on FSNL for scrap handling since its inception.

"With utter surprise, no consultation with them has at all been initiated by the government on such a vital issue and the top managements of FSNL are also not properly aware of this clandestine move. "FSNL is a company having a reserve fund of about Rs 200 crore and movable assets worth Rs100 crore employing more than 600 employees and 5,000 contract workers.

During the year ended March 31, 2022, Company has paid Interim Dividend for FY 2021-22 amounting to Rs 9.50 per equity shares," said CITU in a statement detailing the profits of the FSNL.

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

#### Mental health certificates now needed for Transgender pre-hormonal therapy, surgery certificate of being stable on asking for their choice of

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

Transgenders who want to I go for pre-hormonal therapy or gender assignment surgery need to be assessed and certified by mental health professionals, according to the Union Health Ministry's standard operating procedures for the purpose.

As for gynaecologists, the 'SoP for Medical Treatment of Transgender Persons' states that they should enquire as to how the patient wishes to be addressed in terms of name and pronoun, and also ensure that the words they use uphold the principles of safety, dignity and respect.

Outlining the responsibilities mental health professionals, the SoP document said their primary role would include assessment for gender incongruence, as per the

current diagnostic system followed by the World Health Organization, certification for the same.

Gender incongruence is characterised by a marked and persistent disparity hetw experienced gender and the assigned sex. It often leads to a desire for a 'transition' through hormonal treatment, surgery or other healthcare services in order to live and be accepted as a person of the experienced gender.

According to the SOP, "Before endocrinology treatment, a certificate from one psychiatrist is required. Before Gender Affirmation Surgery, two certificates are required -- one by a psychiatrist and one by a c'linic a psychologist/psychiatrist."

Apart from that, a mental health professional would also assess for distress and co-



morbid mental and/or substance use disorders and provide management of the same, the document stated. They would also provide support or therapy, if needed, incongruence, gender including participation in integrated cross-disciplinary affirmation surgery before the care and intersectoral age of 18 years and a transgender persons by

collaboration for clients and caregivers. "The support would be provided pre-hormonal therapy/gender assignment surgery, during the period as well as postto cope with issues related to surgery, if need be," it stated. According to the document, one cannot undergo gender

endocrine treatment for one vear and suitability for surgical procedure is required clinic visits and history taking before gender affirmation and examination, the SOP

The SOP stressed the need to Options gender-diverse patients and facilities should document gender identity and sex assigned at birth for all patients to improve sexual healthcare for transgenders and gender nonbinary persons.

Primary care providers should take a comprehensive sexual history, including a discussion on Sexually transmitted infection (STI) screening, HIV PrEP and PEP, behavioural health, and social determinants of sexual health.

Clinicians can improve the experience of sexual health screening and counselling for

terminology or modifying language to be used during stated.

for potential and contraception options should also be discussed, if indicated, the document said. As for the

Preservation in Transgenders (Female to Male), the SoP states that the established method for preservation cryopreservation of embryos and oocytes for females.

Ovarian cryopreservation is also a successful technique for fertility preservation and is no longer experimental, the document stated, adding that it has limited availability and is possible only after attaining

was registered under IPC

sections 384 (punishment for extortion), 120B (criminal

conspiracy) and 34 (acts done

by several persons in furtherance of common



## Prakash Karat to lead CPI(M) interim

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

Cenior CPI(M) leader SPrakash Karat will be the coordinator of the party's Polit Bureau and the Central Committee as an interim arrangement until the 24th Party Congress to be held in April next year. The decision comes in the wake of the death of CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury on September 12 at the age of 72.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), now in session in New Delhi, has decided that Comrade Prakash Karat will

be the coordinator of the Polit Bureau and the Central Committee, as an interim arrangement until the 24th Party Congress to be held in April 2025 at Madurai," the CPI(M) said. "This decision was taken due

to the sad and sudden demise of the sitting General Secretary of the CPI(M), Comrade Sitaram Yechury," it added. Karat, one of the senior most leaders of the CPI(M), was its general secretary from 2005 to 2015. He was elected to the Central Committee in 1985 and became a Polit Bureau member in 1992.

## resignation over extortion PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** Congress on Sunday attacked the BJP after a

case was lodged against Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and others on a complaint relating to the nowscrapped electoral bonds scheme and demanded her

resignation for "undermining

democracy".

The opposition party reiterated its demand for a Supreme-court monitored inquiry through an SIT into the whole electoral bond scheme.

bribery, post-raid bribery and

through farzi companies". He

said the Finance Minister

Addressing a press conference here along with party spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Iairam Ramesh charged that four ways were used to extort money through the "conspiracy of electoral bonds — prepaid bribery, postpaid money



Congress demands Sitharaman's

she is "guilty" politically, legally and morally. Ramesh said the FIR was lodged on orders of the court and the Congress has nothing to do with the FIR. He said the Congress has been demanding a Supreme-court monitored inquiry through an SIT into the electoral Scheme". bonds scheme and reiterates that demand. Singhvi also accused the BJP of "undermining democracy".

"The Finance Minister cannot do this on her own. We know who is number 1 and number bonds scheme. According to police, an FIR levels. should immediately resign as 2 and this was done on whose

directions," he said. "The larger issue is the level playing field which is necessary for free and fair polls. Free and fair polls are critical for democracy. This is an attack on our democratic system," Singhvi said while terming it as "EBS - Extortionist BJP

A case was registered on Saturday against Sitharaman and others on the directions of a court in Bengaluru, following a complaint relating to the now-scrapped electoral

intention) Sitharaman, ED officials, office-bearers of the BJP at state and national level, based on the order of a special BJP Karnataka chief B Y Vijayendra and party leader

Nalin Kumar Kateel have also been named in the FIR. The complaint was lodged by Adarsh R Iyer, Co-President of 'Janaadhikaara Sangharsha Parishath' (JSP) alleging that the accused "committed extortion under the guise and garb of electoral bonds" and benefited to the tune of more than Rs 8,000 crore.

The complainant further alleged that Sitharaman through the clandestine aid and support of ED officials facilitated extortion of thousands of crores of rupees for the benefit of others both at the state and national

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#### -PAPER WITH PASSION-

## **Saving Sunita Williams**

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

t is heartening to hear that Sunita Williams will be back home soon. Elon Musk's SpaceX has launched a Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida to rescue two astronauts stranded in the International Space Station (ISS). The mission aims to retrieve American astronauts Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams, who have been stranded on the International Space Station for months due to issues with Boeing's Starliner spacecraft. Originally planned for an eight-day stay, the astronauts' mission was extended far beyond after technical problems with the Starliner. As every Indian waits for her rescue the image of Kalpana Chawla flashes in the mind who lost her life in a space mission. She was one of the seven crew members who died in the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster when the spacecraft disintegrated during its re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere on February 1, 2003. The vast, unexplored frontier of space offers countless wonders, but it also brings unique

challenges. The present snag is no fault of the astronauts but a lapse on the part of NASA and Boeing company which allowed the mission to proceed despite several alarms and glitches.

Sunita Williams, a veteran of two spaceflights and a woman who has spent over 300 days in space. embarked on her latest mission with the confidence and expertise that comes from years of training and commitment. However, space is as unpredictable as it is vast. A critical error occurred during her mission, which disabled vital components of the spacecraft, leaving her stranded in the ISS. The malfunction wasn't just a minor glitch-it was a cascade of

failures. Yet, if there was one person equipped to face such adversity, it was Sunita Williams. Her resilience, mental fortitude, and the ability to maintain calm in even the most extreme conditions became the defining elements in her survival. Williams is no stranger to adversity. The daughter of Indian and Slovenian immigrants, she broke barriers early in her career by rising to prominence in a male-dominated field. Her indomitable spirit and work ethic have always stood out. She has done spacewalk. she holds the record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman, spending 195 days in space until 2017. Over her career, Williams has accumulated more than 322 days in space, marking her as one of the most experienced female astronauts in history, Sunita Williams approached this life-threatening situation with a mix of grit, hope, and resourcefulness. She immediately got involved in troubleshooting, all the while keeping her own morale high through mental exercises and meditation. Let's hope and pray that the rescue mission succeeds and Sunita along with colleague Butch Wilmore reaches home safely and is united with her family. This mission is also a lesson and learning for NASA and its contractors to ensure zero tolerance for any glitches and snags in their operations.



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

## Transforming India through 'Make in India'



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

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

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

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

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



TECH SUM

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

The Government's PLI schemes focus on critical sectors such as electronics, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, textiles and medical devices to create the eco-systems in these sectors for sustained growth



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

LETTERS TO

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

ly through this initiative. The Prime Minister's initiatives on infrastructure have been another shot in the arm of Indian manufacturing, apart from generating demand for goods and services, infrastructure development is a major facilitator of industrial activity. Today, India has a huge, and growing, network of expressways and highways. New, world-class railway stations are being built, while new freight corridors are coming up. India is increasingly being seen as a very attractive destination for investment. The country provides the 4D advantage - The decisive leadership of PM Modi; the Demographic dividend of our youthful, talented, skilled Indians; the Demand that 140 crore Indians generate in the economy; and Democracy that ensures the safety and security of investors, and the rule of law which will never allow discrimination against one or the other. The 4-D is a very, very compelling case to attract rule. manufacturers to India. Domestic and international investors today find a golden

opportunity to grow their business. There is a flurry of activity in the investor community. A series of delegations is visiting India, hungry for opportunities to invest and participate in the Indian growth story. Foreign governments and global CEOs are keenly eyeing opportunities in India. Many countries are keen to sign trade deals with

The world is now looking at India as a manufacturing destination. And the key reason for this interest is India's competitive advantage and robust economic fundamentals. Today, inflation is under control, economic growth is strong and the Modi government is following strict fiscal discipline. This is all the more commendable in the current global situation marred by conflict and uncertainty. The initiatives of PM Modi have helped India rise from the unenviable situation of being regarded as one of the "Fragile Five" in the world in 2014, to being one of the Top Five in the world. In effect, PM Modi's initiatives like Make in India have contributed to making the last 10 years a transformational decade – a quantum jump over the lost decade of Congress

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

## Breaking life into small steps for lasting fulfillment



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

appiness is the most important project of life. It should be broken up into smaller activities to attain the eventual goal. The only time that we probably understand this is in our childhood. As a child, I had intuitively learned the art of allocating the hours of the day for various activities, like waking up, getting ready and spending time in school, having lunch on return, completing homework, going out to play, returning for dinner, and going to bed.

We lived in the present from one hour to the next. I was a satisfied and happy person as I could complete the 'Project Day. We did not have the need or the time to look too far into the future. As we outgrew childhood, we forgot the lessons learned.

I joined college. Like others, I too started making grand resolutions on the first day of the year. My resolution could be as mundane as losing the 15 kgs within the first three months, which had taken me a year to gain.

It could also be an important resolution to secure 90 per cent marks in my semester examinations, a substantial

improvement over the 60 per cent in the previous one. Each resolution would fly out of the window within the first few months. I had forgotten to take small steps to reach the end destination. Things did not improve even

after I started working. I found a new toy – a 'To Do List'. A diary would be earmarked for this most important ritual.

I would start with one such list and continue adding till I had inked the second or third page with only a few activities completed. I would give up, and start all over again. The previous year's diary was promptly destroyed lest anyone glanced into it and called my bluff. This continued for a few years till I discovered the computer. I could delete these

no one any wiser to my shenanigans. I was fooling only myself. I quit my railway job to join a government company working in the execution of construction projects. I was exposed to software-based project management tools for the first time. I reluctantly spent weeks with the consultant to develop an activity-based project breakdown structure. He educated us about the importance of breaking each activity into smaller sub-activities. We were reluctant to accept that more activities to monitor

and timely completion. He was not satisfied with the first draft of less than 100 activities. He was a tough taskmaster. We marched on, to our ever-increasing despair, pending activities at will, with and his impatience, till we

would result in successful

called it quits after we had reached 1000 odd activities. It was a revelation to me. I now appreciated the time that my wife spent planning the daily household chores. The exercise in project management also brought into stark focus all the wrong I was doing while making my New Year resolutions and the To-Do Lists, and more importantly, living my life.

now understand why we remain unhappy most of the time. We forget to derive joy out of each step that we take, however small it may be. The young of today are far more mature. Hina Khan, a young actor, recently diagnosed with cancer, is a courageous woman fighting all that life has to throw at her.

Her thoughts are the most inspiring words I have read in some time, "First normalise the challenges of your lives then set goals for yourself and try to live up to them all along the way. No matter how hard Never back down. Never give

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

### **QUAD STRENGTHENS INDIA'S ROLE**

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

Issues of health, security, climate change, capacity building and technology occupied the leaders' attention. More importantly, India is emerging as a 'leader' of the four, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proposed to host the next year's summit in New Delhi in 2025. It

can only grow stronger from here. Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

### **TOP COURT REJECTS GUJARAT PLEA**

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

## **Durga Puja has transformed**



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

that there is no error apparent on the By integrating tourism studies into face of the record or any merit in the review petitions, warranting reconsideration of the order impugned.

The review petitions are, accordingly, dismissed and it is a landmark decision. The Gujarat government in its plea had said the apex court's observation in the January 8 judgement, holding the State guilty of "usurpation of power" and "abuse of discretion" for complying with an order of another top court bench, was an "error apparent on the face of the record" primarily on three grounds.

CK Subramani | Kerala

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

commence with rendition of Sanskrit mantras and people used to start flocking to the pandals

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

academic curricula, institutions can equip students with essential skills in areas such as sustainable tourism practices, travel management and hospitality management.

This education not only prepares students for diverse career opportunities but also fosters a deeper understanding of how to balance tourism's economic benefits with environmental sustainabil-

ity and cultural preservation. Promoting tourism education in colleges cultivates a new generation ready to take the bull by the horns, driving innovation while advocating for responsible tourism practices that balance economic growth with social and environmental accountability. Moreover, it supports regional development by teaching students how to effectively market and manage local attractions thereby preserving cultural heritage while boosting local economies.

Tanisha Gupta | Ujjain Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## **FIRST COLUMN**

### **HARNESSING INNER POTENTIAL**

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



RAVI VALLURI

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

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

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



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

#### to as the Law of Attraction

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

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

ralling effect. The jigsaw puzzle of life gets sorted out. This is what

Masters refer to as the Law of Attraction. The Law of Attraction

remains an illusion if it is not in conjunction with the Law of Gratitude.

# Can India become a manufacturing hub?



UTTAM GUPTA

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



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

It is the most important component of Industrial activity at a broader level which also includes Construction (primarily building infrastructure); Logistics (transportation and storage of goods). Aerospace (aircraft and spacecraft etc) and maintenance and services required to support industrial activities. The contribution of the Industrial sector to India's GDP is around 30 per cent of which manufacturing alone is 17 per cent. The share of Agriculture and allied activities in GDP is around 18 per cent. The remaining 52 per cent comes from the Services sector (SS).

The SS encompasses 'intangible' services such as education, health, entertainment, hospitality and tourism, banking, insurance

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



WHILE, ALL

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

INCOME

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

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

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

as a global manufacturing hub; giving a boost to the micro small and medium enterprises (MSME) and so on. Nearly 70 per cent of India's GDP is driven by domestic consumption; Stimulating demand holds the key to putting manufacturing on an 'accelerated' and 'sustained' growth trajectory. For this, not only possible in some should not only people's income should grow, but it should also be evenly and widely distributed. What do the According to an facts speak? Oxfam report, 'Inequality Kills', the collective wealth of India's 100 richest people in 2021 hit a record high of US\$ 775 billion or over 25 per cent of India's GDP. This shows the extreme inequalities in the distribution of income and wealth. There are other pointers to confirm that this is indeed so. According to an analysis of the financials of India's largest companies - those comprising the BSE 500 index – over five years, the profits of corporations included in this index more than doubled from Rs 480,000 crore during 2017-18 Rs 1000,000 crore during 2021-22, whereas their revenue growth was only 47 per cent.

This means that payments to factors of production other than the owners of capital such as to employees/workers, etc., have been kept under a tight leash, resulting in a disproportionate boost to profits. The aggregate dividend paid by these firms increased from Rs 176,000 crore during 2017-18 to Rs 302,000 crore during 2021-22, which is an increase of 72 per cent. In those five years, cumulatively, they paid 34 per cent of aggregate net profit as dividends. This is an unusually high payout ratio - even higher than 30 per cent paid by the world's largest companies in America's S&P 500.

The products made in India need to be priced low if they are to be competitive. But, there are three major reasons as to why prices are downward inflexible. First, several big businesses operating in metals

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

Finally, industries are operating in highly interesting environments. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the policy rate (the interest rate at which it lends money to banks) unchanged at a high of 6.5 per cent along with a 'withdrawal of accommodation' stance (a jargon for tight liquidity) for nearly 20 months.

This leads to high cost loans to all industries across the board. The MSMEs are more vulnerable to all the above cost-push factors. To add salt to the injury, they get delayed payment for their dues from large firms. Unless the above fault lines are addressed, Initiatives under "Make in India" won't yield the desired result and India becoming a manufacturing hub of the world will remain a distant dream.

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

## India's education system must prioritise learning over infrastructure

### Despite schools being filled with students, foundational skills like basic literacy and numeracy continue to lag

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

However, despite these achievements, a critical component remains neglected the quality of learning. Infrastructure may be flourishing, but the foundational skills that students require for future success often lag behind. To understand this, imagine a farmer who diligently sows seeds in well-tilled soil, only to



ASHU KAPOOR

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

skills like basic literacy and

These are the building blocks of education, without which the entire edifice remains shaky. Students are spending years in school, but many are not learning at the expected level. The alarming gap between schooling and actual learning points to a crucial flaw in the system. If foundational skills are not nurtured early on, the benefits of educational progress will remain elusive, much like the farmer's poor

harvest. The introduction of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 brings a renewed sense of hope. It promises transformative change and a shift towards a system that values not just access to education but the quality of learning.

Together with the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational and School Education, NEP 2020 emphasizes the need to measure educational progress through well-designed assessments and to tailor interventions accordingly.

The goal is clear: to raise a generation of learners who are not only equipped with knowledge but also the critical thinking skills required to thrive in the modern world. Research consistently shows that assessments play a transformative role in improving education. Their primary goal is not to rank students or schools but to provide insights into where learners stand on their educational journey. By identifying what students know and can do at individual, school, and

system levels, assessments offer a roadmap for educators to develop targeted interventions that can address specific learn-

In the quest to transform learning, large-scale assess-ments like ASER and NAS will be pivotal. ASER, a householdbased survey, provides insights into basic literacy and numeracy skills, while NAS offers a broader view of students' achievement of curricular outcomes. Recently, the State Educational Achievement Survey (SEAS) was conducted by NCERT to provide state-level insights into educational

Simply generating report cards on students' performance is not enough. The data must be used to inform policy decisions and to implement specif-

improving learning outcomes. If not, students will continue to face the same challenges year after year, with little improvement. Large-scale assessments should be seen as the first step in a larger strategy to address educational

inequities. While NAS offers a broad overview of the education system, state-level assessment surveys (SAS) have the potential to zoom in on specific issues at the school level. NEP 2020 recognizes the importance of these surveys and recommends that each state conduct its own census-based assessment to drive continuous improvement. By focusing on local contexts, SAS can provide valuable insights into the

unique challenges faced by

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

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

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

## Udhayanidhi promotion spurs DMK discontent Amit Shah promises

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN** 

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

Veteran ministers regional satraps of the DMK are aghast over the speed with which Udhayanidhi has been promoted as the second-incommand of the government as well as the party. Even those ministers who are hangers on in the Stalin household are of the view that Stalin Junior made it to the top of the hierarchy only

because of his "pedigree". The DMK, founded by C N Annadurai in the company of M G Ramachandran, M Karunanidhi and V R Nedumchezhivan transformed itself over the last four decades from a democratic outfit to a dynastic entity, according to Malan, political critic and



promotion Udhayandhi is all set to democracy, weaken strengthen dynasty politics, corruption and sycophancy," Malan explained to The Pioneer.

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

of among the family members of martyrs who sacrificed their

life for the party.
G C Sekhar, chronicler of
Tamil Nadu politics, said it is too early to make any judgment about Udhayanidhi. "Let's wait for some time and see how he manages the show. His only qualification is that he has the pedigree to become even the chief minister. But whether the DMK cadre would opt for him once Stalin retires from active politics is anybody's guess," said Sekhar with more than four decades experience as political critic. According to reports coming from the Stalin household, the chief minister is not in the best of health.

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

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

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

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

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

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

# pension jobs for agniveers

PARVESH SHARMA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Every Agniveer will be given a

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

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

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

pensionable job."
He also accused the Congress



party and said There was a Congress government in Haryana, it ran on cuts, commissions and corruption. The rule of dealers, brokers and sons-inlaw was prevalent. In the BIP government, neither dealers nor brokers are left, there is no question of sons-in-law."

During the Hooda government, the Congress party had only developed one district and one caste, but after the BJP gained power, the party had developed the entire state equally. He also accused the Congress party and said.

'The party had given jobs based on 'Kharchi and Parchi' System while the BJP has given 5 lakh jobs without any Kharchi and Parchi."

Shah also gave the account of 10 years of tenure: UPA government gave 41 thousand crores to Harvana. Whereas the Modi government gave 2 lakh 92 thousand crores rupees for development to Haryana in 10 years. PM Modi loves Haryana the most

among all the states. Amit Shah targeted Congress and said that the Congress party could not fulfil the promises it made in Himachal and Karnataka. This is their false guarantee, but the BIP has fulfilled the promises it

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

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

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

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

the foundation for stone Swargate-Katraj Extension of

inaugurated the Solapur which would Airport significantly improve connectivity, making the western Maharashtra city more accessible to tourists. travellers and business The existing investors. terminal Building of Solapur airport has been revamped to serve around 4.1 lakh passengers annually.

Modi dedicated the nation to Bidkin Industrial Area, a transformative project overall project cost of over Rs covering an expansive 7,855 6,400 crore for development transformative

The Prime Minister also acres under the National Corridor Industrial Development Program of Govt. of India, situated 20 km Chhatrapati south of Sambhajinagar Maharashtra. The Bidkin Industrial Area project — developed under Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor -- holds immense potential as a vibrant economic hub in the

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

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

Speaking on the occasion, said:"Today,

Maharashtra needs big goals with new resolutions. We need to make cities like Pune a center of progress and urban development. Keeping in view Pune's progress and the pressure of the growing population, We need to take steeps to augment development and capacity of the city. To achieve this goal, the Prime Minister said that the our government in Maharashtra is working with the approach of modernizing Pune's public transport and giving a boost to connectivity

as the city expands". underscored importance of developmentdriven governance in ensuring Maharashtra's progress, that any emphasizing that any disruption in this continuity leads to significant losses for the state. He highlighted various stalled projects, from Metro initiatives to the Mumbai.

Recalling the discussions about Pune Metro began in the state.

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

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

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

he Aam Aadmi Party



PARVESH SHARMA

(AAP) supremo and "If the people of Haryana former Delhi Chief Minister think Kejriwal is dishonest, Arvind Kejriwal, while addressing a public rally on Sunday, said the BJP had then vote for AAP," Kejriwal peen intentionally putting him behind bars in a false case and it was time for voters to put the BJP out of Kejriwal also power. claimed during the rally that the government will not be formed in Haryana without AAP's support. In Haryana, the assembly election is scheduled on October 5.

"Haryana is asking for a change and development. The government will not form in Haryana without AAP's support," said the former Delhi chief minister during the public rally held in the Badshahpur

constituency area in support of AAP candidate Beer Singh alias Beeru Sarpanch. Kejriwal, while addressing a public gathering, said he spent five months behind bars without any crime, "BJP targeted me because of my honesty.

AAP government developed better schools and provided better health facilities in the national capital, which the

BJP don't like, and only because of good work I had to spend several months in jail," the AAP chief said.

don't vote for me. But if they believe I am honest, only added

Polling will be held for the Harvana assembly on October 5, and results will be declared on October 8. "They sent me to jail, and now the people of Haryana will send them out of power," he said.

AAP chief claimed that if APP came into power, free electricity would be provided. Education and Health systems in the state will be improved. Rs 1,000 will also given to the women.

While targeting the BJP, Kejriwal said, "The BJP failed to provide better facilities to the people of the state. They spread corruption, unemployment, inflation and drug addiction to your children and nothing else.
This time, the entire

Harvana is demanding change, and any government that is formed in Haryana will not be formed without the support of AAP."

## the Pune Metro section.

**Intense rain** 

claims... From page 1

Around 13 districts situated along the Ganga, including Buxar, Bhojpur, Saran, Patna, Samastipur, Begusarai, Munger and Bhagalpur, are already experiencing a floodlike situation, and nearly 13.5 lakh people living in lawlying areas have been affected by rising water levels of rivers, following torrential rainfall, officials said.

In Nepal, Kathmandu Vallev reported the highest number of deaths. At least 322 houses and 16 bridges were damaged. The security personnel have rescued nearly 3,626 people, the Armed Police Force sources said. The sources added that rescue operations were still underway. The death toll has reached 125, the Armed Police Force said in a

### **WEST ASIA ON...**

Israel says it is determined to return some 60,000 of its citizens to communities in the north that were evacuated nearly a year ago. Hezbollah has said it will only halt its rocket fire if there is a ceasefire in Gaza, which has proven elusive despite months of indirect negotiations between Israel and Hamas led by the United States, Qatar and Egypt. The US Central Command said it struck northwestern Syria on Tuesday, targeting a senior militant from the al-Qaeda-linked Hurras al-Deen group and eight others. They say he was responsible for overseeing military operations.

They also announced a strike September 16, where they conducted a "large-scale airstrike" on an IS training a ke camp in a remote undisclosed Iraq.

location in central Syria. That attack killed 28 militants, including "at least four Syrian leaders?

Marathwada region. The

Central Government has

approved this project with an

'The airstrike will disrupt ISIS' capability to conduct operations against US interests, as well as our allies and partners," the statement read.

There are some 900 US forces in Syria, along with an undisclosed number of contractors, mostly trying to prevent any comeback by the extremist IS group, which swept through Iraq and Syria in 2014, taking control of large swaths of territory.

US forces advise and assist their key allies northeastern Syria, the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, located from earlier this month on not far from strategic areas where Iran-backed militant groups are present, including a key border crossing with

### Terror in Jammu, one...

From page 1

"My brother was very brave. He made a supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. We are proud of him". He leaves behind his four children and wife. He said that when my brother was shifting one of his injured colleagues he too received bullet injuries and sacrificed

his life". Meanwhile, DGP I&K RR. Swain has also condoled the martyrdom of the braveheart HC Bashir Ahmad of J and K Police, who sacrificed his life in an encounter with foreign terrorists in Kathua district. Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, Anand Jain said the search operation was launched in the village on following Saturday about the information

presence of three to four

foreign terrorists.

injured in the encounter, he said, adding both the officers are stable. A terrorist was also killed in an

ongoing operation. The body of the terrorist was

recovered from the scene of the encounter at Kog-Mandli in Billawar tehsil this afternoon, the officials said. A massive search operation is

underway in the village for the second day. Talking to reporters near the scene of the encounter, Anand Jain said the whole area is under a tight security cordon and an operation is underway to neutralise the three to four foreign terrorists hiding in the

Asked about the interception of the terrorist group ahead of the third phase of polls on October 1, the police officer

laid down his life and two officers - a DSP and an Assistant Sub-Inspector - were said the operations against terrorists are going on and will continue.

"We are getting continuous information about terrorists and subsequently conducting operations with an endeavour to neutralise them as soon as possible," he said.

He said adequate security arrangements have been put in place in all poll-bound areas to ensure that there are no terrorrelated incidents and a violence-free third phase. Meanwhile, another encounter broke out in the Thannamadi

area of Rajouri on Sunday. According to a police spokesman, a joint search operation was launched by the security forces at Manial Gali under the jurisdiction of Thanamandi. Rajouri. "Contact has been established and a few rounds have been fired from both sides. Area is

### Head constable Bashir Ahmad Stakes high for BJP in third phase of polling in J and K **Shocking road rage in Delhi NCR...**

From page 1

Sandeep sustained severe head injuries and was rushed to Sonia Hospital, then transferred to Balaji Hospital in Paschim Vihar, where he succumbed to his injuries during treatment.

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

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

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

The incident has raised concerns about road safety and the increasing pressure on law enforcement officers dealing with illegal activities. There has been an alarming rise in cases of road rage in the national capital region. Altercations over road accidents have led to serious injuries and even death in many of these

Earlier, another hit-and-run case was registered in Delhi on September 25. In the Ghazipur area of East Delhi, near the Murga Mandi, when a lawyer was killed by an unidentified vehicle.

The 45-year-old lawyer, Mithilesh post stated.

Chaubey, was returning home on his bike around 11 pm when a vehicle hit

In another road rage incident a dozen men were seen engaged in a violent brawl on a busy road in Ghaziabad. The incident, captured on video and investigation is ongoing. Some shared widely on social media, sources have claimed that one of the unfolded as two groups clashed over a vehicle driving on the wrong side of the traffic. The video depicts a chaotic scene where slaps and punches are exchanged amid shouting and screaming. One participant grabs a plank of wood from the roadside and pursues another individual, striking him on the back. As the confrontation escalates, men grapple with one another, attempting to shove each other to the ground. In response to the viral footage, the Ghaziabad Police Commissioner's X account confirmed that six individuals have been arrested in connection with the incident. "A case has been registered at Masuri police station, and further legal proceedings are underway," the

MOHIT KANDHARI

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

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

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

2008 Assembly polls when it won 9 and 7 Assembly seats respectively. In 2014 NC's tally had come down to three seats in the region. PDP won seven seats in the 2014 Assembly polls from North Kashmir. Both Lone and Rashid, labeled as BJP's proxy by the National Conference and the PDP are

The National Conference is

hoping to repeat its past performance in the 2002 and

hoping to retain their stronghold in their bastions across North Kashmir. Engineer Rashid, after receiving a healthy voter response at the time of his release from the Tihar jail ( on bail) is hoping to encash on the similar sentiments that propelled his Lok Sabha

campaign in May 2024. Sajjad Lone who lost to Engineer Rashid in the Baramulla constituency is now contesting from two Assembly Handwara and

Kupwara, while Rashid is Elaborate hoping to make inroads in pockets of North Kashmir to

leaders and turncoats who were given the mandate by the BJP by denying tickets to some of their 'unpopular' leaders will also be decided in this crucial phase.

DS Rana contesting from Nagrota, Sham Lal Sharma from Jammu North, and Surjit Singh Slathia from Samba are going to test the political waters for the first time as BJP candidates in the fray.

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

arrangements have been made by the Election Commission of romp home victoriously. India to ensure peaceful
The fate of several high-profile conduct of the polls in the wake of the prevailing security scenario in the region.

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

A handful of independent candidates in the fray are also giving a tough competition to the BJP. The party's performance in this crucial phase is going to make or mar the chances of government formation. BJP won 25 Assembly seats in the 2014 Assembly polls, the highestever tally so far. This time, the party is hoping to gain an absolute majority. In 2014, BJP swept the polls winning 19 out 21 seats in these four districts.

Sikh group's

Islamophobia

gains support

campaign against

London (PTI): A British Sikh

## China urges all parties to cool down tensions in West Asia

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Khamenei also announced five days of public mourning after Nasrallah's death.

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

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

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

We advise all Chinese citizens to pay close attention to the developments and refrain from travelling to Lebanon at this In recent years, China has stepped in its diplomatic engagement in the Middle East utavening to Levanon at this time. Those currently in the country are urged to evacuate or move to relatively safe areas

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

Government officials fear that the country's deep political divisions at a time of war could rekindle sectarian strife and violence in the small Mediterranean country. "The Israeli enemy is working to implement its destructive

the Lebanese "at this dangerous

and delicate stage."

plans and spread division among the Lebanese," the military said. Military vehicles have been deployed in different parts of the capital as thousands of displaced people continue

moving from the south to

## Norway plans to build fence on Russia border, like Finland

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

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

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

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

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

government calls Russia's "hybrid warfare", Helsinki is currently building fences with a total length of up to 200 kilo-meters (124 miles) in separate sections along the border zone that makes up part of NATO's northern flank and serves as the European Union's external border. Finnish border officials say fences equipped with topnotch surveillance equipment — to be located mostly around crossing points — are needed to better monitor and control any migrants attempting to cross over from Russia and give officials time to react.

Inspired by Finland's project, Enger Mehl said that such a fence could also be a good idea for Norway. According to NRK, her statement was supported by police chief Ellen Katrine Hætta in Norway's northern Finnmark county.

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

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

the Indian subcontinent.

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

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

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

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

## France's new govt pledges hardline stance on migration

**AP** PARIS

 $F_{\text{set to take a hardline}}^{\text{rance's new government is}}$ approach to migration issues as key officials have pledged to significantly reduce the number of people entering and staying illegally in the country.
After calling for snap legislative elections in June, President Emmanuel Macron appointed Prime Minister Michel Barnier, a veteran conservative from The Republicans party, hoping the Brexit negotiator would work with the divided legislature to end the political turmoil that has upended French politics in recent months.

The Barnier government — dominated by conservatives and centrists — does not have a majority in parliament and efforts to pass any new legislation are bound to be fought, and potentially blocked. The National Assembly is now split between three major political blocs: the left-wing New Popular Front leftist coalition. Macron's centrist allies — who made a deal with the conservatives — and the far-right



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

The new prime minister will outline his priorities in a general policy speech scheduled for Tuesday at the National

Assembly. In recent televised interviews, Barnier criticised French borders as "sieves" and expressed concern that "migratory flows" were "not under control". He promised to "limit immigration", citing measures taken by neighbouring countries like

Germany, which expanded controls at all land borders earlier this month.

Critics have denounced Barnier's government immigration stance as strongly influenced by the National Rally's proposals, as its survival depends on the party's good-

Far-right and left-wing law-makers can force the whole government to resign on condition they agree on a no-confidence vote. Marine Le Pen, the National Rally's leading figure, said she would not seek to bring down the new government for now, waiting to see its initial "acts". In a recent interview with La Tribune-Dimanche newspaper, she said: "It's undeniable that Michel Barnier seems to have, on migration, the same assessment as ours." Barnier's hardline approach is reflected in the appointment of Bruno Retailleau, a fellow conservative known for his tough rhetoric

minister. Retailleau shared this week his intention to reign in immigra-tion. He said he would seek to "reform" France's state medical assistance that covers health care expenses for undocumented migrants. He has argued for years that it should be strictly limited to minimum emergency care.

on migrants, as the interior

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

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

"more expensive". Retailleau also said he would try to toughen up random border controls, bring back a law that sanctioned with fines or prison sentences those caught entering French territo-ry illegally, and seek deals with North African nations such as Morocco so that those countries retain migrants before they even set foot in France. A shift to the right that worries civil society groups Yann Manzi, who started working alongside migrants during the 2015 migration crisis when well over 1 million people swept into Europe, most flee-ing war in Syria and Iraq, denounced France's long-coming shift to the right.

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

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

still on the fringes, it came up with the rhetoric that welcoming migrants would dramatically increase the number of foreigners coming into the country and wreak havoc in French

society. This has slowly but steadily spread to other parties, including the left, Manzi said. The nonprofit founder believes migrants have been met with increasingly harsh conditions in France and the rest of Europe.

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

Rights. Still, the prime minister and Retailleau argue they can still take action without passing new legislation, such as decrees and instructions to national and local administrations in charge of implementing migration policies. Retailleau said he would con-

vene next week a meeting with prefects of regions the most impacted by migrant issues to "tell them to deport more" and "regularise less".

Critics say France's hardline shift on migration has long been in the works.

Macron's former centrist governments passed since 2017 several bills meant to tighten immigration controls and accelerate asylum procedures. The latest immigration bill, adopted in January this year, intended to strengthen France's ability to deport foreigners considered undesirable.

Conservative President Nicolas Sarkozy, in office from 2007 to 2012, also emphasized a more stringent immigration policy as he sought to siphon off voters from the far right.

Starmer suffers first leadership

### as far-right party hopes for its first election win

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

He has used the term "Volkskanzler", or chancellor of the people, which was used by the Nazis to describe Adolf Hitler in the 1930s. Kickl has rejected the comparison.

But to become Austria's new leader, he would need a coalition partner to command a majority in the lower house of parliament — and rivals have said they won't work under Kickl.

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

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

### Austrians vote | Contenders to lead Britain's defeated **Conservative Party woo members**

AP LONDON

 $M_{\rm ed}^{
m embers}$  of Britain's defeatand divided Conservative Party gathered on Sunday for an annual conference dominated by the search for a new leader capable of bringing the right-of-centre party back from a catastrophic election defeat.

UK voters ousted the Tories in a July election, leaving the party that had governed since 2010 with just 121 seats in the 650-seat House of Commons. The centre-left Labour Party won more than 400 seats and returned to office under Prime Minister Keir Starmer. The day after the election,

defeated ex- Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said he would quit, remaining caretaker leader until his replacement is chosen.

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



speaking to as many party

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

a winner, who will be announced on November 2. The winner will take over a party depleted by years of turmoil under ex-Prime Minister Boris Johnson - ousted by colleagues in 2022 amid ethics scandals – and his successor Liz Truss. She resigned after just 49 days in office when her tax-cutting plans rocked the financial markets and battered the value of the pound. In the July election, the Conservatives lost votes to hard-right Reform UK, led by populist politician Nigel Farage, which won five seats in Parliament and came second in dozens more. Other voters deserted the Tories for the centrist Liberal Democrats, who won 72 seats.

The current front-runners in the party race are Jenrick and Badenoch, both of whom are appealing to the party's right wing. Jenrick argues that the UK should drastically curb immigration and leave the European Convention on Human Rights in order to take tough measures to stop people seeking asylum in the UK./,He told Sky News on Sunday that the party lost because "we didn't deliver the strong economy, the strong (health service) and the strong border that we promised". Nigeria-raised Badenoch evokes Tory icon Margaret Thatcher with her calls for a smaller state, appeals to patriotism and criticism of multiculturalism. She said Sunday that too many immigrants don't love Britain and "hate Israel".

## setback as party MP resigns

London (PTI): British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has suffered his first setback since taking charge at 10 Downing Street in July after one of his members of Parliament resigned from the Labour Party, delivering a scathing attack on his leadership. Rosie Duffield, MP for Canterbury in Kent, will now sit in the House of Commons as an Independent after her resignation letter published in The Sunday Times' attacked the Labour leader's "cruel and unnecessary" policies amid an ongoing expensive free gifts row. Duffield claimed there were many "last straws" that led to her decision to resign, but her main reason to step down this weekend is over the government's programme of unpopular policies. "They are cruel and unnecessary and affect hundreds of thousands of our poorest, most vulnerable constituents. This is not what I was elected to do. It is not even wise politics, and it certainly is not

'the politics of service," writes Duffield in her resignation let-

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

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

I cannot put into words how angry I and my colleagues are at

your total lack of understanding about how you have made us all appear. "How dare you take our longed-for victory, the electorate's sacred and precious trust, and throw it back in their individual faces and the faces of dedicated and hardworking Labour MPs?! The sleaze, nepotism and apparent avarice are off the scale. I am so ashamed of what you and your inner circle have done to tarnish and humiliate our once proud party." Responding to Duffield's resignation, Indian-origin Labour MP for Nottingham East Nadia Whittome said: "It is deeply disappointing that she has been allowed the privilege of resigning, as she should have lost the whip a long time ago." It alludes to Duffield's previous clashes with Labour's senior figures, especially over her views on transgender issues and speaking out for protected spaces for women and against people being able to self-identify as trans to gain access to those spaces.

## US: Trump lays into Harris on immigration during rally

**AP** WISCONSIN

Former President Donald Trump sought again to link Vice President Kamala Harris to illegal border crossings, speaking in a western river town where he said she could never be forgiven for "erasing our border". A day after Harris discussed

immigration at the US-Mexico border, Trump spoke to a crowd in the Wisconsin town of 5,000 people just across the Mississippi River from Iowa, claiming the Democratic nominee was responsible for migrants who have come into the country illegally and have committed

"Kamala Harris can never be forgiven for her erasing our border and she must never be allowed to become president of the United States," Trump said. "She's brought gains for other letting in people who are going European far-right parties. In to walk into your house, break

crimes.

Trump is hoping frustration over illegal immigration will translate to votes in Wisconsin and other crucial swing states. The Republican nominee has denounced people who cross the US-Mexico border as "poisoning the blood of the country" and

into your door," he said.

tation operation in American history if elected. "I will liberate Wisconsin from the mass migrant invasion," he said. "We're going to liberate the

country." But Trump also intensified his personal attacks against Harris, insulting her as "mentally impaired".

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Crawford County Sheriff Sheriff Dale McCullick also addressed Trump would solve the border problem and urged people to vote for Trump.
Republicans including US Sen.

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

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

Michelle Marie Dietrich, a public defender representing Coronel Zarate in the Prairie du

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Rajan was asked whether the Indian economy, which is growing at 7 per cent, is

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

"It is not going well at the lower level. I think the desperate need is for jobs. And you can see this, forget the official statistics.

"You can see it in the number applications government jobs, which are overwhelming," said Rajan, who is a professor of finance

at US-based Chicago Booth.

He said that in the medium

term, the Indian economy

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

more." Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced in the Union Budget of FY25 that the government will launch three employmentlinked schemes based on enrolment in Employees' Provident Fund

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



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

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

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

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

According to him, if the Fed had not cut rates, there would be a sense that, oh, the Fed is keeping rates high, so 'we have no room to

moderate our policies.
"I think the Fed has created more room for others to perhaps reduce interest rates, and so in that sense, people will be looking at their policies," he said.

To a question on Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates rationalisation, Rajan said after a policy has run for a fair amount of time, it is useful to ask, what has been the experience and 'do we

need the policy change.
"I would try and appoint an expert committee to go into it, to take the opinions, just like the Finance Commission does, take the opinions of the various stakeholders, including the states, and come up with something that meets the needs of the country," he said. Currently, GST is a four-tier tax structure with slabs at 5, 12, 18, and 28 per cent. The new taxation regime came into effect in 2017. Responding to a question about the ongoing debate on economically and socially better-off southern western

'subsidising' the northern and eastern states, Rajan said the Finance Commission has always been about the appropriate sort of allocation of taxes between the Centre and states."If India grows together, (then) in fact, it prevents this kind of conflict...There is the equity issue, which is that the states that are growing faster, have also in the process, typically grow wealthier. And that is what is happening in the case of western and in the southern states," he said.

Rajan pointed out that the western and southern states feel that they are penalised in two ways one is, they have to hand over more of their revenues to help some of the states who are falling behind. "Plus, on the political front, they may lose seats if there is a delimitation process (where seats in the Lok Sabha are to be allocated based on the results of the next Census), because, you know, the more populous

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

states will get more seats,"

### Government seeks industry inputs on Income Tax simplification

**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

government I proposed to invite suggestions on Income Tax Act, 1961, from the private sector and tax experts beginning October, as part of an exercise to simplify the direct tax law, sources said. In a meeting with industry chambers earlier this month,

the government said that a functionality will be created in the Income Tax portal wherein suggestions could be made on different sections of the I-T Act with a view to simplifying the language and reducing litigation.

Following the Budget announcement, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had set up an internal committee for

comprehensive review of the six- decade old direct tax law and make it concise, lucid, easy to read and understand. "In the meeting with industry associations, the revenue department suggested that the functionality be developed by the first week of October to give suggestions for reworking

the income tax law," a source

Another source said that the exercise is not to write a new

tax law or a tax code. "Just by removing the outdated clauses, the number of pages could be brought down by about 100. The aim of the I-T law review is simplification of language and mitigation of litigation," the source added.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in 2024-25 Budget presented in July had proposed that the I-T law review would be completed in six months. Considering that the six-month timeline ends in January, it is widely expected that the amended I-T Act could be brought in the Budget session of Parliament. Since no new changes are expected in the law, the amended Act could form part of the Finance Bill, 2025 as well, another source said.

## Can the Tata's pull off their aviation plan?

KUSHAN MITRA ■ NEW DELHI

t midnight between 11-At midnight between 12, November Air Vistara will cease to function as an independent entity as the merger of Air India and Air Vistara will be solemnised. While it is certain that several of the 60-plus aircraft in Air Vistara's fleet will continue to operate in the airlines' famous aubergine livery for a few years, the Vistara flight code UK will be retired and it is certain that Air India will rationalise routes and services between the two airlines, a process that will not be easy. To be fair, Tata Sons has already managed an airline merger, that of the former Air Asia India and Air India Express. However, that was much easier as both airlines were low-cost single-class operators, even though they operated different aircraft, Air Asia India, the Airbus A320 and Air India Express, the Boeing 737. But as the lunchtime, the meal provided leases on older Airbus aircraft was wholly inadequate with a end, it is likely that the airline sandwich and stuffed bread

will move to a single fleet of

Boeing 737 MAX aircraft.

complex for the Air India and Vistara merger even though there is largely a single-type, the Airbus A320-family of aircraft. This is because of

different aircraft configurations as well as different service and training standards. Many frequent flyers, including this writer, particularly on routes out of Mumbai Delhi, Bengaluru are unhappy about small things like Air India's domestic catering options. On a recent flight between Delhi and Kochi at unlike Vistara's continuing proper meal Things are much more service.

There is no need for airlines to offer a meal service, but if they claim to be 'full-service' carriers they should offer a proper meal or at least offer a decent 'Buy on Board' service. The largest airline in India does not pretend to offer 'full service'; but has a 'Buy on Board' service. However, as a frequent flyer, I sincerely recommend that flyers either bring their own food onboard or eat at an airport, no matter how overpriced the latter

option is. That said, consolidation of Air India and Vistara into one large airline is a huge opportunity for Tata Sons and ian aviation to develop

with middle-eastern airlines such as Emirates and Qatar Airlines. Particularly as the Indian diaspora across the world grows and will travel back to their home, as well as growing the international inbound tourism market. India is also going to grow domestic aviation at an incredible rate with an estimated 250 million flyers annually by 2028. But if the merger stalls for any

reason, Tata Sons ought to be worried as IndiGo which has built themselves up into a massive presence in India, controlling half the domestic market, will certainly make an international and premium passenger play. On the latter front they have already announced that they will be starting a 'premium' class offering from later this winter as well as a new Frequent Flyer program called 'Blu-Chip'. And with an order for 30 new Airbus A350-900 wide-body aircraft and the new Airbus A321XLR entering service next year, can notentially India into a proper global threaten Air India's global aviation hub and compete expansion plans as well.

So, we are trying to bring customers are contacted. improving the customer possible to cross Rs 1 lakh aviation hub and compete expansion plans as well.

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

**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

Tn a bid to attract depositors, LState Bank of India is contemplating to come out with innovative products including a combo product of recurring deposit and SIP, said the bank's chairman C S

the economy progressing, he said, customers are becoming financially more aware and demanding, and have started looking for innovative investment instruments.

Today the customers are looking at the value proposition as financial literacy improves and the concept of asset allocation will gain greater importance, he said.

"Obviously, nobody wants to put everything in a risky asset speculative asset...Banking products will always be part of the basket.

them," he told PTI in an interview.

"We are trying to bring innovation in some of the conventional products like recurring deposit, which is actually a conventional SIP...Maybe, we can combine both fixed deposit/recurring deposit and SIP, a combo product that could be digitally accessible," he said.

So, he said, these are the innovations which the bank is thinking of in terms of popularising the deposit products among the Gen Z. Besides, he said, the bank has undertaken a massive outreach programme for the deposit mobilisation.

"As I said, for us, deposit mobilisation is a franchisee job. We have the largest number of physical outlets across the country. We are leveraging our huge physical reach by initiating outreach programmes

**OSBI** 

SBI is to reach out to every customer both existing as well as new customers," he said. Stressing that deposit is a function of interest rate and customer service, Setty said, "obviously, there is a requirement of adequately

compensating our customers, but we would not like to fight in the rate war. I think most of the banks are also pursuing a balancing act of giving the right rate as well as right rvice So our focus is on

compensating customers."

In addition, he said, SBI has given thrust on opening new accounts and almost 50,000 to 60,000 savings bank accounts opened a day.

On the fixed deposit side, Setty said, almost 50 per cent of our fixed deposits are garnered through the digital channels only and also many accounts are opened through digital means.

SBI is aiming to become the first Indian financial firm to cross a milestone of Rs 1 lakh crore net profit in the next 3-5 years.

Meanwhile, he also said that

SBI recorded a standalone net profit of Rs 61,077 crore in FY24, registering a growth of 21.59 per cent.

have Definitely, we would like to be the first company in India to reach that milestone," Setty said when asked if it is

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

PTI NEW DELHI

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

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

Today, it gives me immense



getting a lot of benefit from this campaign.

whole world is looking up to us. Be it automobiles, textiles, aviation, electronics or

This campaign has provided an opportunity to people of every class to showcase their talent," Modi said.

aviation, electronics of defence... every sector in the country's exports are constantly on the rise," he added.

"Today, India has become a The prime minister said the manufacturing powerhouse continual rise of FDI in the

Today, it gives me immense and it is because of the youth country is narrating the joy to see that the poor, the power of the country that the success saga of 'Make in

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

country can benefit from promoting local products can be understood through an example. In Bhandara district of

discussed 'My Product My

Maharashtra, there is an old textile tradition of, 'Bhandara Tussar Silk Handloom. Tussar Silk, is known for its colour, design and strength. "In some areas of Bhandara, more than 50 'Self Help Groups are working to preserve it. Women have a huge participation in that. This silk is fast becoming popular and empowering local communities... and that is the spirit of 'Make in India," he added.

In this festive season, Modi urged people that anything that they buy, should necessarily be 'Made in India'. "Anything you gift that too should be 'Made in India'. Merely buying earthen lamps is not 'Vocal for Local'. You should promote local

products made in your area more and more. Any such product, that has been made with the sweat of an Indian artisan, that is made on Indian soil, is our

pride - we always have to lend glory to this pride," he said. On the 10th anniversary of his government's 'Make in India drive, Prime Minister Modi on Wednesday affirmed that the flagship initiative to boost manufacturing has transformed a dream into a

powerful movement and its impact shows that "Bharat is unstoppable".

### Reliance infrastructure wins arbitration case against DVC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

## Government approves transfer of Reliance TV licenses to Star India

**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

The government has approved the transfer of licence relating to non-news and current affairs TV channels held by the media entities of billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries to Star India.

According to regulatory filings by Reliance Industries and TV18 Broadcast, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting granted the approval in an order dated September 27.
"The Ministry of Information

Broadcasting, Government of India, vide its order dated September 27, 2024, has granted its approval media and entertainment for transfer of Licenses assets of Reliance Industries, relating to Non News & Current Affairs TV channels had proposed the transfer and held by Viacom18 Media vesting of Media Operations

Competition Commission of

Viacom18 is the holding company that owns the media and entertainment business of Reliance Industries and Bodhi Tree Systems.

Now, both sides are in the final stages of the merger, making some adjustments to the business as per the directions of the Competition Commission of India (CCI). On August 30, the NCLT approved the scheme of merger of Viacom18 Media and Digital 18 Media, holding

with Star India.The scheme

Private Limited in favour of Undertaking from Viacom 18 Star India," it said. Undertaking from Viacom 18 Cinema into This would be "subject to Digital18, which is a conditions laid by the subsidiary of Viacom 18. This subsidiary of Viacom 18. This would be followed by "demerger, transfer and vesting of V18 Undertaking from Digital 18 into Star India".

The merger of the media assets of Reliance Industries and The Walt Disney Co. Will create the country's largest media empire worth over Rs 70,000 crore. Earlier, the CCI had said it had cleared the "proposed combination involving Reliance Industries Ltd, Viacom18 Media Pvt Ltd, Digital 18 Media Ltd, Star India Pvt Ltd and Star Television Productions Ltd, subject to the compliance of voluntary modifications". Viacom18 is part of the RIL group, and SIPL is wholly owned by The Walt Disney Company. STPL, a company incorporated in the British Virgin Islands, is owned indirectly by Walt Disney.
The CCI, however, did not

disclose voluntary modifications in the original deal made by the two parties. Under the deal, the Mukesh Ambani-led RIL and its affiliates will hold 63.16 per cent of the combined entity that will house two streaming services and 120 television channels.

Walt Disney will hold the remaining 36.84 per cent stake in the combined entity, which will also be India's largest media house. Nita Ambani, wife of RIL Chairman Mukesh Ambani, will head the joint venture,

vice-chairperson.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The combined market valuation of eight of the top-10 most valued firms surged Rs 1,21,270.83 crore last week, with Reliance Industries becoming the biggest gainer, in line with an outstanding rally in benchmark equity indices.
Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,027.54 points or 1.21 per cent. The BSE Sensex hit its record high

of 85,978.25 on Friday. The market valuation of Reliance Industries jumped Rs 53,652.92 crore to Rs 20,65,197.60 crore.

State Bank of India added Rs 18,518.57 crore taking its valuation to Rs 7,16,333.98 while Uday Shankar will be its crore.Bharti Airtel's market valuation soared Rs 13,094.52

crore to Rs 9,87,904.63 crore and that of ITC grew by Rs 9,927.3 crore to Rs 6,53,834.72 crore. The market capitalisation (mcap) of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) surged Rs 8,592.96 crore to Rs 15,59,052 crore.HDFC Bank's valuation climbed Rs 8,581.64 crore to Rs 13,37,186.93 crore and that of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) zoomed Rs 8,443.87 crore to Rs 6,47,616.51 crore.

by Rs 459.05 crore. However, the market valuation of ICICI Bank tumbled to Rs 9,20,520.72 crore. The mcap of Hindustan Unilever declined by Rs 3,195.44 crore to Rs 6,96,888.77 crore. In the chart of the most valued firms. Reliance Industries retained the highest ranking.

The mcap of Infosys went up

### INBRIEF

22ND KISHORE KUMAR MEMORIAL AWARDS

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



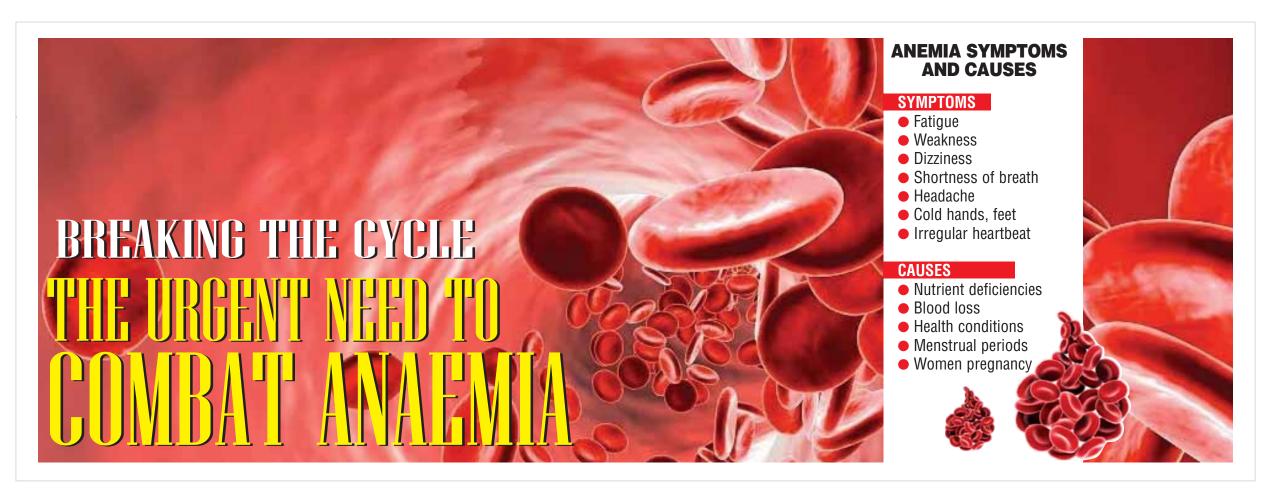
**GNDU RELEASED SCHEDULE THROUGH ONLINE PORTAL** 

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

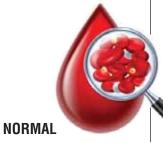
**GNDU ZONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL** 

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





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



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

n today's fast-paced world, many

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

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

Tulika Seth, Professor of Haematology at the All India Institute of Medical ANAEMIC Sciences; Dr Sarath Gopalan, Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist at Madhukar Rainbow Children's Hospital, New Delhi; and Dr William Joe, Assistant Professor at the Population

Research Centre, Institute of Economic

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

Growth, Delhi.

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

**NECESSARY BACKUP** 

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

only slightly.

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

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

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

**Keeping Fit and Well during** 

the Moncoon Season

MUNISUUN SEASUN

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

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

combating anaemia. understanding the symptoms, causes, and prevention strategies, individuals can take proactive measures to safeguard their health. Incorporating iron-rich foods—such as leafy vegetables, red meat, and fortified cereals-into one's diet is essential, and supplements can pro additional support when needed.

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

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

**BY Dr Wajiha Mehtab** 

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

### The Building Blocks of Health

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

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

### **Preventing Chronic Disease**

One of the most important reasons to may reduce the risk of depression and prioritize nutrition is its role in preventing chronic diseases. Conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, and obesity are increasingly common, yet many are preventable through better dietary crashes, caused by refined sugars and choices. Diets high in processed foods, simple carbohydrates, can lead to refined sugars, and unhealthy fats irritability, fatigue, and feelings of contribute to the development of these anxiety. By maintaining a balanced diet, diseases, while diets rich in whole grains, people can stabilize their energy levels lean proteins, fruits, and vegetables offer protection.

The World Health Organization (WHO) Fuelling Daily Energy stresses that a diet full of fruits and vegetables can reduce the risk of heart feel throughout the day. A balanced meal

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

### **Mental Health and Nutrition**

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

in fruits and vegetables, support brain

function and mood regulation. Studies

show that a diet rich in these nutrients

anxiety while improving memory and

Conversely, diets high in processed and

sugary foods are linked to higher rates of

mood disorders. Blood sugar spikes and

The food we eat directly impacts how we

cognitive function.

and emotional health.

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

### **Practical Tips for a Healthier Diet**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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BY **Dr Dinesh Kumar Tyagi** 

nutritious diet in all your meals ensuring that you are getting the fats, minerals, and vitamins you need. Eat seasonal fruits and vegetables and avoid oily spicy food that could meddle with your digestion Food made at restaurants,

streets, or cafe's are usually made in unhygienic conditions. Food made in unhygienic conditions can lead to typhoid, infections as it carries various germs and bacteria. Try to eat homecooked meals as much as possible and even if you eat out, eat freshly prepared food that is served hygienically to you.

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

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



drying materials as they won't stay damp for long and don't retain moisture like cotton or linen. They help you stay dry and comfortable Many of us love to enjoy the rain and get drenched in rain like kids. This may seem refreshing but it can lead you to catching cold, fever, and other waterborne diseases, especially during the peak monsoon season downpours. Keeping your umbrella and raincoat handy while going out during monsoons is a power move. It is an easy and effective way of keeping you from getting drenched in the rain and will protect you from exposure of the rain and the atmosphere that weakens your immunity.

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

infection like swine flu or hepatitis.

While monsoons will come and go, life goes on and you will have to go out and interact with people at offices or public spaces or even crowds. All you can do is maintain a good amount of space between you and others to avoid the risk of catching any infections Make sure you are up to date about getting all your vaccines and booster doses. Outbreak diseases like

hepatitis are very common during monsoons. Consult your doctor and make sure that you are not behind on getting any vaccines. Infections through insects like malaria and dengue are rampant during the monsoons. It is important to protect yourself from such

stagnant

diseases. Get a mosquito repellent that you can use in areas where there are a lot of

nets at night to prevent mosquito bites. Germs, bacteria, and insects

mosquitoes. You can also use

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

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

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

Good sleep is very important

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

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

Sri Lanka stormed to a series victory over New Zealand, securing the twomatch test series with a resounding innings and 154-run triumph on the fourth day in Galle on Sunday.

This victory, Sri Lanka's most dominant over the Kiwis, also marks their first win against New Zealand in 15 years.

The hero of the games, leftspinner Prabath Jayasuriya, was named Player of the Series after a masterful performance, claiming 18 wickets across the two matches.

Meanwhile, Kamindu Mendis took home Man of the Match honours for his unbeaten 182, anchoring Sri Lanka's colossal total of 602-5 declared.

With this knock, Mendis etched his name in history, joining the great Sir Don Bradman as the third joint-fastest player to reach 1,000 test runs.

Jayasuriya, who took nine



another nine wickets in the second test as New Zealand's batters struggled to cope with Sri Lanka's spin-heavy attack. Debutant Nishan Peiris was the perfect foil, chipping in with nine wickets of his own, including a five-wicket haul in the second innings.
"We discussed the need to

score big in the first innings. That has been something that has been worrying us for a while. Glad we rectified that this innings," said Sri Lanka captain Dananjaya de Silva.

The spinners were superb. They kept creating pressure wickets in the first test, was at and didn't allow New Zealand again, snaring to get away with things. It was

a superb display. That's how we want to compete in home conditions, dominate the opposition from ball one," he

New Zealand's woes began early, bundled out for a paltry 88 in their first innings. Forced to follow on, the Kiwis showed more fight in their second innings, posting 360 – their highest total of the tour and in Galle - but it was too

little, too late. Tom Blundell, Glenn Phillips and Mitchell Santner all contributed half-centuries in the second innings, but the tourists needed far more to challenge

wickets

Resuming at 199-5, New Zealand lost three wickets before lunch on the fourth Despite Sri Lanka's day. Despite Sri Lankas fielding lapses, which saw three catches dropped, they eventually cleaned up after lunch. Jayasuriya removed Ajaz Patel and Peiris took the final scalp of Santner, stumped by Kusal Mendis, sealing the series win for Sri Lanka. "We had our moments in the series, but disappointed with the end result," said New Zealand captain Tim Southee.
"That morning session on day
three when we lost nine

disappointing.
"There were dropped catches and missed stumpings as well in the Sri Lankan innings and in these conditions when you don't hold onto those chances it is very difficult."

was

With this victory, Sri Lanka has now won three consecutive test matches and bolstered their hopes of qualifying for the ICC World Test Championship final at Lord's next June.

# gold medals in Peru

PTI NEW DELHI

ndian shooters began their ISSF Junior World Championship (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) campaign in Peru on a good note, winning team gold in men's and women's 10m air pistol events, though a potential top-podium finish was lost in the individual category after a marksman was docked two points for reporting late for the final. The junior men's trio of Umesh Choudhary,

Pradhyumn Singh and Mukesh Nelavalli topped the men's team competition in 10m air pistol with a tally of 1726 points. They finished 10 points ahead of secondplaced Romania, while Italy took bronze with a score of

Choudhary though missed a potential individual gold after being penalised two points for reporting late for the final.

Choudhary and Singh had earlier made it to the individual finals placed third and fourth respectively in the qualification round. Choudhary shot 580 and

Singh 578 but missed out on individual medals, ending up sixth and eighth respectively.

Luca Joldea of Romania won the gold medal, while Chinese Taipei's Hsieh Hsiang-Chen clinched the silver. Nelavalli was ninth in qualification with a score of 574.

combination The Kanishka Dagar, Lakshita and Anjali Chaudhary and tallied 1708 to clinch the junior women's 10m air pistol team gold. They pipped Azerbaijan by a point bronze-winning Ukraine by four points.

Dagar also made the individual final in third place with a score of 573 along with Kanak who also shot the same score but with lesser inner 10s, to bag the

fifth qualifying spot.
In the final, Kanak won bronze with a score of 217.6, while Dagar finished eighth. Chinese Taipei's Chen Yu-Chun won gold, while Slovakia's Manja Slak bagged the silver.

### Wet outfield wipes out play for second day

PTI KANPUR

o play was possible for the second consecutive day in the second Test between India and Bangladesh due to a wet outfield at the Green Park Stadium here. Overnight rain had caused a delay to the start of action but even as the sun was shining bright around 2:00pm and

there were no soggy patches on the ground, the officials decided to call off the play. Almost eight sessions have been lost in the game due to persistent rain that has played havoc with the final match of two-game the Ouestions on the drainage system used at the venue have been duly raised.

Bangladesh had ended the rain-shortened opening day at 107 for 3. The entire second day was washed out without a ball being bowled, and only 35 overs were bowled on the opening day. India pacer Akash Deep (2/34) and Ravichandran Ashwin (1/22) were among the wickets.

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

AP ■ PARIS

ey players will be sidelined when the Key players will be sidefined when the Champions League resumes on Tuesday after a wave of injuries within a week of the new-look competition

starting. Kylian Mbappé's sore hamstring is likely to sideline him beyond Wednesday when he was due to return to France with defending champion Real Madrid to face Lille.

Serious knee injuries mean Manchester City midfielder Rodri is out for the season and Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-André ter Stegen will miss at least most

Inter Milan midfielder Nicolò Barella, who was a standout playing against Rodri on September 18, will miss at least one Champions League game

because of a thigh strain.

The injuries to four players who were involved at the European Championship into the knockout phase have sharpened the debate about player workload in a calendar made more congested by the bigger Champions League.

create and the 18 games this week, split between Tuesday and Wednesday, still Haaland was kept quiet by Inter for the Haaland should find it easier on The pulsating atmosphere at Celtic Park The attendance and atmosphere trends second spell.

leaves each of them with six more to play through January. Another final rematch

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

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

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

Both eased to winning starts two weeks ago. Villa won 3-0 at Young Boys and Bayern's nine goals against Dinamo Zagreb was a record for any team in the 33-season Champions League era. Harry Kane scored four in Bayern's 9-2

win and has a good record visiting Villa, with five goals there in five Premier League games for Tottenham. He faces a late check on an ankle injury.

Kane edges Haaland



second time in 16 months, a fact he was

Tuesday in Slovakia when Man City

for a rare European win by the Scottish champion stood out in an opening week where anticipation was not universal. Pundits including former Man City goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel noted a quietness about the stadium for the Inter game. The attendance was nearly 2,000 higher five days later when Man City met Arsenal in a tempestuous Premier League clash where title ambitions were already in play.

Milan-Liverpool was a heavyweight European fixture yet far from sold out,

with fewer than 60,000 at San Siro. The crowd topped 70,000 at each of Milan's first two Serie A home games this season, and 66,000 on the equivalent Champions League opening night last season to see another English club, Newcastle.

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

a Champions League opener against Lille that was 6,000 down on the crowd for a domestic league game against

will be watched as fans respond to the longer and more expensive program of four Champions League home games. The 36-team standings is set to be more dynamic for the final two rounds in

January. Tuesday's games

The raucous atmosphere should follow Celtic to Borussia Dortmund whose fans in the Yellow Wall tribune are among the noisiest in Europe.

Bundesliga champion Bayer Leverkusen hosts Milan after making a fast star in a 4-0 rout at Feyenoord. San Siro now reverts to Inter to host Red Star Belgrade.

Arsenal hosts PSG in a meeting of two teams chasing a trophy they never won. Each was a beaten finalist once. Also, Barcelona hosts Young Boys.

Wednesday's games
Even without Mbappé, Madrid should
have too much for Lille playing in the stadium that hosted basketball group-

stage games at the Paris Olympics. Premier League leader Liverpool hosts Bologna, and Girona's first European visitor to the Montilivi stadium is

Fevenoord. Dinamo Zagreb fired its coach, Sergej Takirovic, after the drubbing at Baye and brought back Nenad Bjelica for a

## Osasuna stuns Barcelona 4-2 record for best start



**AP** BARCELONA

 $B^{\text{ryan Zaragoza scored one goal and set up}}_{\text{another to spark Osasuna's stunning 4-2}}$ win over Barcelona, dealing the Spanish league four wins and a draw.

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

Barcelona youth player Pau Víctor pulled one back for the visitors in the 53rd, but Budimir earned and converted a penalty to put the result beyond doubt in the 72nd. Abel Bretones made it 4-1 in the 85th and

substitute Lamine Yamal scored Barcelona's

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

a derby on Sunday.
Osasuna moved into sixth place and stayed unbeaten in Pamplona in this campaign with



## India U17 look to maintain dominance against Bangladesh in final

PTI ■ THIMPHU

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

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

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

For the record, the two teams have met four times in the finals of SAFF men's agegroup tournaments, with good side. They did well to final is a different game," said India winning thrice (U18 in come from behind in the Ahmed in the pre-match



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

"We know Bangladesh are a

semi-final. They had some and Bangladesh hiccups but they've been more stable as compared to the other teams. Our win against them is in the past. A press conference.

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

Vishal Yadav's second-half

brace put India in control but Nepal didn't go down easily as they kept reducing the Blue Colts' lead.

In the end, goals from s u b s t i t u t e s Ningthoukhongjam Rishi Singh and Hemneichung Lunkim sealed the Indian

Set-pieces are something India have been excellent with so far. They've scored four goals from dead ball situations so far and Ahmed has been delighted with that. In the second semi-final, Bangladesh showed indomitable spirit as they came from two goals down to level it at 2-2 against Pakistan thanks to Md Manik's 74th and 94th minute goals.

They then converted all eight of their penalties to cap off a memorable comeback and

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

AP ■ FORT LAUDERDALE (US)

Lionel Messi moved Inter Miami another step closer to the No. 1 seed for the MLS

Cup playoffs.
And the MLS single-season points record remains in the club's reach as well.

Messi scored in the 67th minute and Inter Miami eight straight Major League against Charlotte FC on Saturday night. It was Messi's 15th goal in 16 league the MLS playoffs.

matches this season.

Messi became the sixth player in MLS history with at least 15 goals and 15 assists in a single season - and he's done that while missing 15 of Inter Miami's league contests.
The tie, combined with
Columbus' 2-2 draw with

D.C. United on Saturday, left Inter Miami eight points clear pushed its unbeaten streak to of the Crew for the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference. Soccer matches with a 1-1 tie Inter Miami is also seven points up on the LA Galaxy for the No. 1 overall seed in

Inter Miami Columbus on Wednesday, and a win would wrap up the No. 1 overall seed - not just the East, but the Supporters Shield as the regular-season winners as well. Inter Miami (19-4-8) has 65 points with matches three Columbus (16-5-9) has 57 points with four matches remaining.
"We are playing a great team

that is chasing us in the Supporters Shield," Inter

Miami coach Gerardo "Tata"

Martino said.



"It is a very important game but so are the games against Toronto and New England. We will be ready for these remaining dates."

But first, the Columbus match looms and Inter Miami knows exactly what's at stake.

important," "It's verv defender Jordi Alba said. The Supporters Shield would give Inter Miami home-field edge throughout the playoffs, including for a potential MLS Cup final December 7. And if Inter Miami wins out, it will finish with 74 points - one more than the MLS record of 73 set by New England in 2021.

DC United helped Inter tie the match. Miami a bit on Saturday. Columbus led 2-1 late in the second half but surrendered the tying goal in the 81st minute; otherwise, the Crew could have been two points closer to Inter Miami in the standings and made Wednesday's match far more interesting. Messi's goal was his typical brilliance. He took a pass near the top of the MLS play since June 1.

penalty box, dribbling once and threading his natural left-footed shot between four defenders and into the net to

It came 10 minutes after Charlotte (11-11-9, 42 points, seventh in the East) struck first, with Karol Swiderski deflecting a shot into the net.

But Messi answered, and Inter Miami settled for its third consecutive draw. The team is 5-0-3 in its last eight league matches and 9-1-3 in

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Printed and Published by Shobori Ganguli for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226016 and Printed at Tin Tin Printech Pvt Ltd., C-33 Amausi Industrial Area, Nadarganj, Lucknow. Editor-in-Chief Shobori Ganguli, Resident Editor Vijay Prakash Singh. RNI No. 2016/57. Lucknow Telephones: EPABX: 4036600 Fax: 2345582. Allahabad Office: (0532) 2420818, 2421018, 3290460. Kanpur Office: (0512) 2304006, 2304416. Varanasi Office: (0542) 2414294, 2414295. Delhi Office: 100K, Milap Bhawan, 8/A, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455. Corporate Office:- 201-205, 2nd Floor, Pratap Bhawan 5, B.S.Z. Marg, New Delhi-110002 Phone: 011-69342500.