

**OPINION 6**

9/11: THE DAY THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

**WORLD 8**

'ISRAELI STRIKE ON GAZA CAMP KILLS AT LEAST 19'

**MONEY 10**

FOREIGN FUNDS DRIVE INDIAN MARKET RALLY, SENSEX UP

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TWIN TITLES FOR SHUBHI GUPTA IN CHESS MEET  
11 SPORTS



## SABOTAGE RED FLAGS INDIAN RAILWAYS

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Railways is grappling with a massive sabotage for the last one and a half year making it vulnerable for optimum functioning of the passenger and freight train operations. It face risks from LPG cylinder on railway tracks, iron rods, huge boulders and concrete slabs and tree trunks which could have led major accidents. Sources said Centre has asked all stakeholders including the States to be extra vigilant to thwart the nefarious designs of those involved to destabilise the railways particularly in a compact zone comprising parts of Central Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Investigations at top level is also being done about the pattern of such activities which began with bomb threats at schools followed by similar hoax in the shopping malls and now the railways. Pakistan-based terrorism mastermind Farhatullah Ghori who was behind the 2002 Akshardham temple attack and Bengaluru's Rameshwaram Cafe blast, had released a video message to terror sleeper cells in India, urging them to carry out attacks on trains, petroleum pipelines, and Hindu Leaders. The recent train accidents have also been investigated from this angle. With yet another attempt to derail the trains on Tuesday near Ajmer in Rajasthan, total number of

sabotage on railway tracks since August 2024 against which cases have been registered are 18 while probe on 28 such serious sabotage angle cases since June 2023 are still going on. Some of these cases are being probed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and CBI. This marks the third attempt to derail a train in Rajasthan in recent weeks. Previously, on August 28, scrap metal was thrown on a goods train track in Chhabra Baran, and on August 23, a train collided with a cement block on the Ahmedabad-Jodhpur Vande Bharat track at Pali. On Monday, an attempt to derail the Bhiwani-Prayagraj Kalindi

### SABOTAGE ON THE TRACKS

October 2023	Iron and stones on the railway track in Chittorgarh
February 2024	Stones pelted in West Bengal
June 2024	Signal light covered with paper in West Bengal
July 2024	YouTuber "INDIAN HACKER", placing items like gas cylinders, scissors, etc on railway tracks, recording videos, and uploading on his channel. Uttar Pradesh
July 2024	400-500 devotees of the "Urus Mela", blocked Train in West Bengal
August 2024	The Station Master, Mr. Virendra Kumar Verma, was shot while traveling home after completing his duty in Uttar Pradesh
August 2024	Cement concrete block in Rajasthan
August 2024	100 Pandrol clips stolen in Jharkhand

Express was made in Kanpur by tracks, along with a bottle of placing an LPG cylinder on petrol and matchboxes. Earlier, a

bid was made to derail the Ahmedabad-Jodhpur Vande Bharat Express in Rajasthan's Pali district. NIA team has joined the ongoing probe in Kanpur. Kanpur Police has detained six people, including two local history-sheeters, in connection with the case and decided to form a Special Investigation Team and will study if there are any similarities with the recent Sabarmati Express derailment in Kanpur. "Senior officers are looking into things seriously. Whatever facts come to light, shall be shared," Uttar Pradesh DGP Prashant Kumar told The Pioneer. This is not the first time but a similar pattern was noticed when

there was an exceptional jump in "sabotage" cases with around 18 incidents reported in December 2017. The then Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu had written to Home Minister Rajnath Singh seeking a detailed investigation by the NIA into the mishaps as the listed incidents with "possibility of criminal interference by outsiders". Delhi Police recently arrested about 14 people of ISIS from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi. Further, the investigating agencies have collected footage from 219 cameras and questioned over 100 individuals in connection with the Kanpur train derailment attempt.



Students take part in a protest, in Imphal, Tuesday, September 10, 2024

PTI

## Curfew in Manipur after protests for peace in Imphal Valley

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ IMPHAL

Curfew and prohibitory orders were imposed in three districts of Manipur on Tuesday a day after student protests demanding the restoration of peace in the strife-torn state rocked Imphal Valley. The Manipur Government also suspended internet services in the entire State for five days amid intensified agitation by students. The decision was taken to curb the use of social media for transmission of images, hate speech and hate video, the State home department said in a notification. It said "In view of the prevailing law and order situation in the State of Manipur, there is apprehension that some anti-social elements might use social media extensively for transmission of images, hate speech and hate video messages inciting the passions of the public, which might have serious repercussions for the law-and-order situation in the State of Manipur." "There is an imminent danger of loss of life and/or damage to public/private property, and widespread disturbances to public tranquility and communal harmony, as a result of inflammatory material and false rumours,

which might be transmitted/circulated to the public through social media/messaging services on mobile, SMS services and dongle services," it stated. "To thwart the design and activities of anti-national and anti-social elements and to maintain peace and communal harmony and to prevent any loss of life or danger to public/private property, it has become necessary to take adequate measures to maintain law and order in public interest, by stopping the spread of misinformation and false rumours, through various social media platform such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc on various electronic equipment like tablet, computer, mobile phone, etc, and sending bulk SMS, for facilitating and/or mobilisation of mobs of agitators and demonstrators, which can cause loss of life and/or damage to public/private property by indulging in arson/vandalism and other types of violent activities," it said. "Temporary suspension/curling of internet and mobile data services including Lease Lines, VSATs, broadband and VPN services (were ordered) in the territorial jurisdiction of the State of Manipur for five days with effect from 3 PM of

September 10 to till 3 PM of September 15," the notification said. Meanwhile, tear gas shells were fired as student and women demonstrators on Tuesday clashed with security forces during the agitators' attempt to march towards the Raj Bhavan to press for their demands to remove the DGP and security advisor to the Manipur Government, officials said. Hundreds of students, who have been camping at Khwairamband Women Market since Monday, tried to march towards the Raj Bhavan along the BT Road but were stopped by security forces near the Congress Bhavan. The Manipur Government has clamped curfew in Imphal East and West districts, while prohibitory orders under Section 163 (2) of BNSS in Thoubal district in view of the student protests. An indefinite curfew, preventing people from coming outside their houses, was clamped in Imphal East and West districts, while prohibitory orders under Section 163 (2) of BNSS were imposed in Thoubal. "Due to the developing law and order situation in the district, earlier orders of curfew relaxation stand cancelled with immediate effect from 11 am of September 10. Hence, there is

total curfew in Imphal East district with immediate effect until further orders," an order issued by the district magistrate said. Another order issued by the district magistrate of Imphal West said, "In supersession of all earlier orders, curfew relaxation period for September 10 is hereby lifted with effect from 11 am today." "Restriction on the movement of people outside their respective residences was lifted from September 1 last year," it said. Earlier, curfew relaxation for September 10 was lifted from 5 am to 10 pm but was superseded by the latest order. Essential services, including media, electricity, court and health, are however exempted from the purview of the curfew, it said. The orders from the two Imphal districts came in the wake of students planning to intensify their protests demanding the removal of the DGP and security advisor to the State Government for their alleged inability to deal with the law and order situation in the state. The prohibitory orders in Thoubal prevented the assembly of five or more persons as police claimed that at least one personnel was hit on the thigh by a bullet fired from the protesting students in the district on Monday.

## BJP Leaders criticise Rahul Gandhi for remarks in US on Sikh community



LoP in Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi addresses the Indian Diaspora, in Washington DC, USA, Tuesday, September 10, 2024 and Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri addressing a press conference at the BJP HQ in New Delhi on Tuesday



Photo: PTI/Ranjana Dimri, Pioneer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

BJP and Congress engaged in a war of words following the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's series of attack on the Modi Government, BJP and RSS during his interactions with various stakeholders in the United States. BJP came down heavily on Rahul Gandhi over his remarks in the US about the Sikh community, saying the Congress Leader is trying to create a "dangerous narrative" by speaking on "sensitive issues" abroad. Congress hit back at the BJP over its criticism of Rahul Gandhi's remarks in the US, saying the ruling party should not treat itself as being synonymous with the country. The principal Opposition party in the Lok Sabha also said it would keep criticising the policies of the Government. Rahul is currently on a four-day visit to the United States. His first stop was in Dallas which began on Saturday, and he arrived in Washington DC on Monday. Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri told a Press conference at the BJP headquarters that Rahul's remarks were "sinister" in nature as he tried to spread

falsehood among the members of the Sikh community living abroad to "eke out a living and do not have much connection with India. "I condemn in the strongest terms the statement he has made about Sikhs not being able to wear turbans and kadas," the BJP Leader from the Sikh community said. Addressing a gathering of several hundred Indian Americans in Herndon, a Virginia suburb of Washington DC, on Monday, Rahul Gandhi accused the RSS of considering some religions, languages and communities of being inferior to others and said the fight in India is about this and not about politics. "First of all, you have to understand what the fight is about. The fight is not about politics. That is superficial," Rahul said as he asked one of the Sikh attendees in the front rows to give his name. What is your name, brother with the turban," he asked. "The fight is about whether a Sikh is going to be allowed to wear his turban in India or a kada in India. Or he, as a Sikh, is going to be able to go to Gurdwara. That's what the fight is about. And not just for him, for all religions," said Rahul. Hitting out at the Congress

leader, Puri said Gandhi, of late, has been making statements on sensitive issues, which "involve our national identity, unity, the strength of our unity and diversity." "I think he is trying to set a new kind of narrative which I think is a dangerous narrative," he said. Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan also slammed the Congress leader for his alleged remarks accusing him of "defaming" India abroad out of his frustration due to repeated defeat in elections. "Only a frustrated person can defame the country and spoil its image abroad. Now he is raising questions not only on the Government but also the Election Commission," Chouhan said. Rahul Gandhi is the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the position carries responsibility, he said. Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said, "Since when has BJP become synonymous with India that if one condemns BJP, it is equated with condemning India. The BJP and Narendra Modi should not have this misunderstanding that condemning them is like condemning India."

## Haryana: BJP releases second list, drops six MLAs

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday released second list of its candidates, dropping six-sitting MLAs, including two Ministers for the Haryana Assembly polls. The BJP has fielded Captain Yogesh Bairagi from Julana against Congress's Olympian candidate Vinesh Phogat while two former Ministers - Krishan Kumar Bedi and Manish Grover have been fielded from Narwana and Rohtak seats, respectively. The list also includes two Muslim candidates: Naseem Ahmed from Ferozepur Jhirka and Aizaz Khan from Punahana. With this, the BJP has fielded 87 candidates and three segments where the party is yet to announce the candidates are Faridabad-NIT, Sirsa and Mahendergarh. The party's Pehowa candidate, Sardar Kamaljeet Singh Ajrana, was also replaced by Jai Bhagwan Sharma after he expressed his inability to contest the poll on party ticket citing Opposition from the local Leaders. Ajrana was named in the first list after dropping sitting MLA and former Sports Minister Sandeep Singh, who is an accused in a sexual harassment case. The BJP denied ticket to Minister Banwari Lal, who represented Bawal in the outgoing Assembly, and fielded Krishna Kumar in his place. School Education Minister Seema Trikha, the incumbent MLA of Badhkal, has also been denied re-nomination. Dhanesh Adlakhia has been nominated for the seat. The party has fielded former Ministers Krishan Kumar Bedi, Manish Grover and Om Prakash Yadav from Narwana, Rohtak and Narnaul seats, respectively.

## Sexual harassment complaint by IAF officer against senior in J and K

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

A case of alleged sexual harassment and mental torture has come to light after a 26-year-old Indian Air Force (IAF) officer posted in Srinagar lodged a formal complaint in the Budgam police station against her senior. In her complaint, the distraught flying officer has also accused five other officers of mishandling of investigation, stalking, harassment, and mental torture. The flying officer in her complaint has also claimed that the ongoing harassment has had a severe impact on my mental health. I am living in constant fear, under 24/7 scrutiny and my social life has been completely disrupted. "The harassment has driven me to suicidal thoughts, and I

feel utterly helpless. I am unable to carry on with my daily life, and my social interactions are closely monitored and discouraged by authorities", she wrote in her complaint to the Jammu and Kashmir police. According to official sources, police have registered a First Information Report (FIR) against the senior IAF officer named in the case. The FIR was lodged under Section 376(2) of the Indian Penal Code, which pertains to rape by a person in a position of trust or authority. Confirming the ongoing probe in the matter, the IAF authorities in a brief statement said the Budgam Police Station has approached the concerned Air Force Station to investigate the case. IAF is cooperating in the investigation.

## Private vehicles with GNSS not to be charged till 20 km per day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Owners of private vehicles equipped with a functional Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) will not be charged any amount for travelling up to 20 km on highways and expressways per day, according to a Central government notification. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on Tuesday amended the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008. Under the new regulations, known as the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Amendment Rules, 2024, fees will now be charged on the actual distance travelled if the distance exceeds 20 kilometres. "A driver, owner or person in



charge of a mechanical vehicle other than a National Permit vehicle who makes use of the same section of the national highway, permanent bridge, bypass or tunnel, as the case may be, shall be levied a zero-user fee upto 20 kilometres of a journey in each direction in a day under Global Navigation Satellite System based user fee collection system," the notification said.

The road ministry in July had said it has decided to initially implement a GNSS-based toll collection system at select national highways on a pilot basis as an added facility along with FASTag. Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari had said that a pilot study with regard to a GNSS-based user fee collection system has been done on the Bengaluru-Mysore section of NH-275 in Karnataka and Panipat-Hisar section of NH-709 in Haryana. The ministry had organised an international workshop on June 25, 2024 to gather inputs on this system. After this, a global expression of interest (EOI) was invited from various stakeholders on June 7, 2024, with the last date of submission as July 22, 2024.

### NEWS BRIEF

YECHURY IN CRITICAL CONDITION, ON RESPIRATORY SUPPORT AT AIIMS: CPI (M)



NEW DELHI: CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury's condition is "critical" and he is on respiratory support at AIIMS here, his party said on Tuesday. The 72-year-old Yechury is being treated for acute respiratory tract infection at the ICU in AIIMS, it said in a statement. A multi-disciplinary team of doctors is closely monitoring the condition of Yechury, which is critical at this time, the party said. Yechury was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on August 19 for the treatment of a pneumonia-like chest infection.

COURT GRANTS INTERIM BAIL TO BARAMULLA MP ENGINEER RASHID

NEW DELHI: A city court on Tuesday granted interim bail till October 2 to Lok Sabha MP Engineer Rashid in a terror funding case. Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, defeated former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in Baramulla.

# CM launches major development projects in Singhbhum districts

## Over Rs 472 crore distributed between 84899 beneficiaries

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

Chief Minister Hemant Soren participated in the "Aapki Yojana-Aapki Sarkar-Aapke Dwar" program at Dobo Cashew Bagan ground under Chandil block, marking a significant milestone in the state's development efforts. During the event, the Chief Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation for numerous development projects worth ₹555 crore in East and West Singhbhum districts. In addition, assets amounting to ₹472 crore were distributed among 84,899 beneficiaries in both districts. Addressing the large gathering, Chief Minister Soren emphasized the state government's commitment to reaching every citizen through ambitious welfare schemes. He personally oversees the implementation of these projects to



ensure they make a tangible impact at the grassroots level. "Despite the rain, your overwhelming participation reflects your support and gives us the strength to continue working for the betterment of Jharkhand," he remarked. Social Security and Pension Reforms: The

Chief Minister spoke about the government's strides in social welfare. He noted that under the Sarvajan Pension Yojana, all eligible elderly, disabled, and widowed individuals are now receiving pensions directly, eliminating the need for intermediaries who previously exploited the

system. No Starvation During COVID-19: Reflecting on the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Soren proudly shared that no one in Jharkhand went hungry during the crisis. He credited this success to the state's proactive measures, including



ensuring food distribution even in remote areas. "We not only protected lives but also secured livelihoods during those difficult times," he said. Women Empowerment: Women's empowerment remains a top priority for the state government. Soren mentioned that over 50 lakh

women are beneficiaries of the Jharkhand Chief Minister Manian Samman Yojana, aimed at enhancing their dignity and well-being. He also urged parents to prioritize higher education for their daughters, with the government actively supporting girls' education through ini-

tatives like the Savitribai Phule Samridhi Yojana.

The Chief Minister laid out his vision for a future where families no longer need to rely on local moneylenders for financial needs like education, marriages, or medical emergencies. "We are working towards a system where each family will receive financial support from the state, reducing dependence on loans," Soren said. He also reiterated his government's commitment to providing concrete homes for the homeless under the Abua Awas Yojana, targeting 20 lakh families in the coming years. During the event, development projects worth ₹555 crore were inaugurated, benefitting both districts. In East Singhbhum, projects worth ₹303 crore were initiated, while West Singhbhum saw the launch of projects valued at ₹252 crore. Moreover, assets totaling

₹472 crore were distributed, with East Singhbhum beneficiaries receiving ₹301 crore and West Singhbhum beneficiaries getting ₹170 crore.

On this occasion, Minister Satyanand Bhokta, Minister Banna Gupta, Minister Deepak Birua, Minister Ramdas Soren, MP Joba Manjhi, MLA Niraj Purti, MLA Sukhran Uraon, MLA Dashrath Gagarai, MLA Mangal Kalindi, MLA Sanjiv Sardar, MLA Savita Mahato, Chairman, Minorities Commission Hidayatullah Khan, Vice Chairman, Cow-Service Commission Raju Giri, Commissioner of Kolhan Division Hari Kumar Keshari, DIG Manoj Ratan Fourthly, East Singhbhum and West Singhbhum districts. Many officers of the district administration including the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police were present.

## THE HUMAN CONNECTION IN A WORLD OF MACHINES



SUMAN RASTOGI

family convinced me that since only my knee needed to be scanned, the rest of my body wouldn't go inside the machine. This assurance calmed me slightly.

The day of the test arrived, and I entered the room, feeling uneasy at the sight of the machine. I asked the attendants how much of my body would be inside the machine, and they assured me it would only go up to my stomach. That brought some relief. But when they finally positioned me on the bed and moved me into the machine, it stopped above my chest. Only my face and hands were outside. "Thank God for that," I thought. At least I could still breathe. I reassured myself that everything would be fine.

As the machine started, the attendants placed headphones on my ears and left the room. Initially, I didn't realize they were no longer there. I assumed they were monitoring everything from a distance. The machine began making rumbling sounds, which fluctuated between high-pitched and low tones. I tried to focus on the ceiling above, telling myself that my face was outside the machine, that I could breathe, and that I needed to stay still for the test to be accurate.

However, after about 10 minutes, discomfort began to set in. I felt as though I was completely alone in the room, and panic started to creep in. I couldn't move, not even my head. The machine seemed to engulf me, and soon, the claustrophobia took over. Despite trying to calm myself, I could feel the panic rising, and I couldn't hold it back any longer. I shouted, asking if anyone was there. A voice came through the headphones, instructing me to stay still. I responded, saying

I couldn't because I was panicking and needed someone in the room with me.

Within moments, an attendant appeared and held my hand. I clutched it tightly, not wanting to let go. She comforted me with her soft words, holding my hand firmly. Just the thought of another human being in the room instantly calmed my nerves. Her presence and touch gradually helped me relax, and my breathing returned to normal. After what felt like an eternity, the test finally ended, and I was wheeled out of the machine. The relief I felt was incredible.

As I hurried out of the room and the hospital, I prayed I would never have to go through that again. But something struck me about the whole experience: the stark difference between man and machine. The relief I felt when the attendant held my hand—the human touch—immediately calmed my panic. In a world hurtling towards greater reliance on machines, I found solace in the simple truth that no matter how far technology takes us, the essence of our humanity—the ability to comfort, to connect, to understand—must never be lost.

The irony is stark - while technology is designed to bring us closer to solutions and each other, it can also create a distance, an emotional void that no algorithm or software can fill. The convenience and capabilities that technology offers are undeniable, but they come with a risk: the erosion of human empathy, warmth, and the simple but powerful act of one person reaching out to another in a moment of need. Can we afford to lose that?

**THE WRITER IS DR. GENERAL MANAGER (HR) AT CMPDIL, RANCHI.**

## 192 bovine animals rescued from smugglers in 72 hrs in Palamu

PNS : DALTONGANJ

Palamu police have upped its drive against smuggling of the bovine animals.

In the last 72 hours there has been a big haul of 192 bovine animals here with the latest 149 buffaloes under the Nawa Bazar police station limits.

Five containers have so far been seized, 4 under the Nawa Bazar police station and 1 in sadar police station limits.

The number of arrests so far is 11. Six arrests by the Nawa Bazar police and 5 by the sadar police.

In the rescue of the 149 buffaloes, seizure of 4 containers and arrests of 6 men of the role of the SDPO Bishrampur Rakesh Singh, ASP, is a lesson to be learnt by the young police officers, said sources.

This IPS officer Rakesh Singh knew there would be containers where stuffed bovine animals like sand bags. Among the 4 containers seized, 1 had Nagaland registration for the container while 3 of the Jharkhand police officer Chintu Kumar.

Nagaland registration vehicle is involved in bovine animal smuggling in Jharkhand! The connection is very long. Further among the 6 arrested, two are from Muradabad in UP. One from Bihar. The remaining are



**SDPO Bishrampur Rakesh Singh briefing mediapersons in Daltonganj photo by PNS**

from Gumla and Chatra. Surprisingly none from Palamu.

Again all the 6 arrested are Muslims well below 35 years of age. All the 6 are drivers / apprentices.

Sources said it points towards a well knit network of smuggling with Nagaland vehicle registration to men of Muradabad and a couple of districts of Jharkhand and one district of Bihar.

Officer in charge of the Nawa Bazar police station Chintu Kumar said, "These buffaloes were being shipped from Lohardaga. It's really a matter of inquiry as to how so many buffaloes are of Lohardaga."

There is a logic behind Chintu Kumar's reference to the buffaloes. Lohardaga is a tribal dominated district and adivasis are not known to be any rearer of the buffaloes. Then Yadavs parted with

their buffaloes? 70 are she buffaloes which is a source of daily income.

These buffaloes were to be off loaded at Baroon in Bihar. The 6 arrested drivers / apprentices could tell this much to the police. They had not much idea what or where after Baroon in Bihar.

There is a worrisome moment. Drivers of the containers smuggling bovine animals treat cops on the street /NH out to halt them as their enemies and there is no surety they will repent anymore to crush the cops in order to escape.

It's the cops to save themselves otherwise drivers of the controversy have hardly any respect for their lives.

In both the cases of the sadar police and Nawa Bazar police, cases under sections of putting cops on duty at peril of lives have been registered under BNS.

## 'Solar Man of India' leads energy literacy drive in Jamshedpur

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

Prof. Chetan Singh Solanki, also known as the "Solar Man of India," led an engaging session on "Energy Literacy" in Jamshedpur as part of his ongoing 'Energy Swaraj Yatra'. The session, organized by the CII Young Indians (YI) at the Centre for Excellence Auditorium, was attended by 90 teachers from over 60 schools in the city.

During the session, Prof. Solanki, a professor at IIT Bombay and founder of the Energy Swaraj Foundation, shed light on the pressing issue of climate change, emphasizing the urgent need for everyone to become part of the solution. Highlighting the grave consequences of global warming, he advocated for the 'AMG principle' - Avoid, Minimise, and Generate - as a practical way to conserve energy.

He pointed out that 80-85% of global energy is derived from fossil fuels, warning that the Earth has already warmed by 1.1°C since the industrial era. If this continues, the global temperature could rise by 1.5°C within just a few years, making climate changes irreversible. He introduced the concept of the 'Climate Clock', which indicates that only 4 years and 316 days remain to avert the 1.5°C threshold.

Prof. Solanki urged attendees to take personal responsibility for reducing energy consumption by at least one-third. He provided practical advice on reducing energy waste in daily activities, such as buying fewer clothes and using electronics more wisely. He also cautioned against over-reliance on solar power, calling instead for a balanced approach through local energy production, a key principle of the 'Energy Swaraj' initiative. The interactive event concluded with participants pledging to support the 'Energy Swaraj' movement and make climate action a mass movement in Jamshedpur.



## 16 complaints resolved in grievance redressal event in Bokaro

PNS : BOKARO

Bokaro witnessed a successful "Public Grievance Resolution Program" on Tuesday organized under the directive of the Director General of Police. The initiative aimed to bridge the gap between the police and citizens, addressing complaints swiftly and efficiently. The event was held at four key

locations: IIT-IOCL Campus, Pindrajora; DMPS High School, Chandrapura; Central School, Sijua, Marafari; and Sector-2 D Kala Kendra, Bokaro. Notably various complaints, including women-related issues, land disputes, cyber crimes, and theft, were addressed during the program. Legal experts from the District Legal Services



Authority (DLA) and officers from Women's and Cyber Police stations provided guidance and raised awareness about citizens' rights. In total, 205 complaints were lodged, with 117 falling under miscellaneous issues, 69 concerning land disputes, and 10 women-related cases. By the end of the program, 16 complaints were resolved on the spot, showcasing the police's commitment to resolving public grievances and fostering trust with the community.

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## Gateway of Joy by Shri Guru Rajan Ji



BY GAURA GUPTA

petuates towards its true self and connects with the Divine.

Vastu shastra furnishes easy dos and don'ts to make your home pliable to happy energies and the instructions begin at the main door.

Paramashayika Mandala system talks about 32 different deities or energy fields in the outer perimeter of the Vastu Purusha Mandala. A main door on an energy field generates positive or negative effects as per on the nature of that deity.

Armouring your sanctuary from the heavy and negative external forces, you must fortify your home by strengthening the main entrance and you do so by adding and omitting certain features.

Well lubricated hinges of all the doors, especially the main door is a must so that it does not make a noise that disturbs the positive energy flow.

Installing a light outside the main door and keeping it lit, especially at the dusk and dawn dispels negative forces.

Allow the main door to open inwards in a clockwise manner (inwards towards the left) to allow the

frictionless flow of energy into the property.

Let the frontal area of your home have an uninterrupted flow of energy by not planting any sharp cornered object, pole that may cause dwaar vedh.

Avoid having a gas hob, burner of kitchen directly in front of the main door as it tends to burn away the opportunities and energy coming into your property.

And of course, let there not be any clutter (toilet, dustbin, garbage, drain) directly in front of the main door because the positive energies would get flushed / drained away.

Something Shri Guru Rajan Ji emphasizes on is 'Toran' that adorns the top of a two-shuttered door auspiciously opening on the inside.

From the Sanskrit term torana, that means to pass, Toran is made up of two parts: 'Pradakshina' - the entrance and 'Nirvana' - the exit.

Toran is the practice of adorning the door of home with leaves and auspicious elements.

Mango tree and its leaves are home to Goddess

Lakshmi, Gandharva, Govardhan and the God of Fertility.

Loved by God Murugan as He instructed the devotees to string green mango leaves and hang above their main door as it symbolises a fruitful harvest and overall well-being.

The importance of tying a garland of mango leaves may be traced back to Lord Ganesha and Lord Murugan, who loved mangoes and are pleased with the presence of any part of the tree.

Ashok means without sadness. Likewise, the leaves of ashoka tree when strung in a kalava and tied atop the main door, justify its name and keep at bay any stress causing circumstances besides filling the home with joy and harmony.

**REST, IF YOU SEEK GUIDANCE ABOUT HAPPIER OPPORTUNITIES KNOCKING AT YOUR DOOR, CONSULT SHRI GURU RAJAN JI AND BENEFIT OF A DETAILED READING AND REMEDIES AS PER YOUR HOROSCOPE IN ANY MATTER (LAND, FAMILY, HEALTH, MONEY, CAREER, RELATIONSHIPS). CONTACT AT: 9266514545, 9266324545**

## Research Methodology Workshop at Sona Devi University

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

A three-day workshop on research methodology, paper writing, and publication commenced today at Sona Devi University, Ghatshila, Running from September 9 to 11, the event attracted Ph.D. research scholars from Sona Devi University and other institutions. The workshop aims to equip participants with essential knowledge on the various aspects of conducting effective research.

The workshop began with an inaugural ceremony where Chancellor Prabhakar Singh welcomed the chief guest, Dr. N. R. Mrinal, Head of the Department of Psychology at Nagpur University, Maharashtra. As the keynote speaker, Dr. Mrinal emphasized the pivotal role of research in driving societal and scientific development. He guided scholars through the different stages of research, explaining how to select a research problem, formulate and test hypotheses.

## Better coordination crucial between police and public: DIG

PNS : LOHARDAGA

A public grievance redressal program was organized by the police department on Tuesday at Nagar Bhawan, Lohardaga. The program was inaugurated by Anup Bithare, DIG of South Chhotanagpur Division, Ranchi, by lighting the lamp. On the occasion, the DIG said that seeing maximum participation of the common people in the program shows better coordination between the common public and the police. Public grievance redressal program is being organized today in all the districts by the police department. The objective of which is to receive complaints from the general public and continuously monitor them, tag the complaints, review every complaint, provide information among the people about numbers like dial 112 and 1930 etc. By dialing 112, you can register any kind of problem without going to the police station. Complaints related to cyber crime can be made on dial 1930. Under the Public Grievance Redressal Programme, common people can also register their complaints on 9470546635. This



program has been started by the government for the common people. Which is organized every month. Programs are also being organized at the block and sub-division level. The DIG said that action will be taken against those station in-charges who do not register FIRs in their police stations. Whenever someone brings a complaint, an FIR related to it must be registered. Even if it is not a case of your police station, register a zero FIR and send the FIR to the concerned police station, but that person should not be returned.

The DIG said that a proposal for a cyber crime police station in Lohardaga district will be sent to the Home Department. Many proposals have been received from Lohardaga district for a cyber police station. The PCR vans which are lying broken in the district will be repaired. If necessary, new vehicles will be purchased and patrolling will be increased. Said that complaints of women should be registered in all the police stations and not only in the women's police station. Similarly, ST/SC cases should also be registered in all police stations. Naxalism and extremism have reduced in Lohardaga district with everyone's cooperation. At one time this problem was very severe in Lohardaga district. Many people sacrificed their lives to reduce its impact. Now that this problem has reduced, police work has moved more towards social policing. Superintendent of Police Harris Bin Zaman said that the Public Grievance Redressal Program is being run to make the relationship between the common people and the police more reliable.

# CM flags off 236 Veterinary Mobile Ambulances for all districts of State

## Agricultural fields, livestock are Bank and ATM for farmers: CM

**PNS : RANCHI**  
Chief Minister Hemant Soren today said that the objective and goal of his government and the Agriculture Department has been to strengthen the farmers in the state. He said that in the last 4 years, the state government has implemented many important schemes and formulated policies for the farmers, which will prove to be a milestone in the times to come. His government is engaged in strengthening the roots of the villages of the state.

The CM said that many challenges have been faced since a few days after the formation of his government in the state. Fighting all the challenges, the line drawn by his government for the uplift of the poor, elderly, women, farmers, tribals, Dalits, exploited, backward all sections of the state in the last four years is a very strong,

long and thick line, it is impossible to erase it.

Soren was addressing people at the inauguration of "Divisional Level Cooperative Mahasammelan, Ranchi-2024" and launch of 236 mobile veterinary hospital vehicles organized at The Carnival Banquet Hall, Dibdih on Tuesday.

The CM said that the policies made for the farmers in this country have not proved to be very effective. On a large scale, people of the farmer class are now being counted as agricultural labourers. He said that his government has laid special emphasis on alternative farming arrangements for the farmers in the state. The state government is trying to take the farmer brothers forward by connecting them with farming and agriculture as well as traditional systems.

The CM said that the State Government is continuously



**Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Agriculture Minister Deepika Pandey Singh, Rajya Sabha MP Mahua Majhi, MLA Kalpana Soren flag off Mobile Veterinary Hospital vehicles during Divisional Level Cooperative Conference in Ranchi on Tuesday. PNS**

running schemes to strengthen the economic condition of the farmers by connecting them through various animal husbandry including fish farming, cow farming, poultry farming, milk production.

He appealed to the farmers to definitely take advantage of various schemes related to animal husbandry. He said that along with traditional farming, there has also been a tradition of animal hus-



**Chief Minister Hemant Soren during Divisional Level Cooperative Conference programme in Ranchi on Tuesday. PNS**

bandry in Jharkhand. By following all these traditions, we all have reached here today.

Soren said that his government always stands with the farmer families here.

The state government has also decided to waive agricultural loans of up to Rs 2 lakh of farmers. The state government is now providing better quality animals to farmer families for agricul-

tural work. For the first time, the state government has made such a policy in which all the animals provided to the farmers are insured so that insurance amount can be made available to them in case of death of the animals. He said that a large number of people in the state are also associated with the business of fish farming. The state government is promoting various animal husbandry schemes here.

The CM said that the main capital of the villagers is farm-barn and livestock. You can say that the bank and ATM card of the farmers is farm-barn and livestock. Every need of rural farmer families is fulfilled by this. He said that his government is fulfilling the objective of providing market for forest produce. His government is also committed to ensure that the villagers get the right price for forest pro-

duce. If a proper platform is provided to farming, various animal husbandry and forest produce, then rural farmers can be saved from many problems to come.

The CM said that I believe that the place of the farmer class is very important in the country, society and family. He said that keeping all these things in mind, the state government is running many other schemes including Kisan Pathshala, Birsra Harit Gram Yojana, Didi Bari Yojana, Didi Bagiya Yojana so that rural families can become financially strong by joining these schemes.

On this occasion, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Cooperation Minister Deepika Pandey Singh, MP Sukhdev Bhagat, Rajya Sabha MP Mahua Majhi, MLA Kalpana Soren, Chairman of Jharkhand Gau Seva Commission Rajiv Ranjan Prasad and other dignitaries were present.

## Visiting BJP leaders Chouhan, Sarma provoke hatred: Govt to EC

**PNS : Ranchi**

The Jharkhand government has accused Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan of spreading hatred across communities with their regular visits to State after Chouhan and Sarma were appointed as State BJP election in-charge and co-in-charge respectively.

The State government in this connection has also written a letter to Election Commission (EC). The Jharkhand government has urged the EC to ask Union Home Minister Amit Shah to issue an advisory to BJP leaders Himanta Biswa Sarma and Shivraj Singh Chouhan to desist from "instigating" communal tension in the state for "narrow political gains" by misusing the official machinery.

In a missive to the Chief Election Commissioner of India, the Jharkhand government has also urged him to advise Shah "not to allow the misuse of the official position of CM, Assam and the state official machinery at the



expense of public exchequer for political gains and desist from direct interference in internal affairs of the state in blatant violation of constitutional norms".

Sarma and Chouhan are overseeing Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP's) election efforts in Jharkhand which will go to polls later this year. The two have made several visits to the state since June even though the election schedule is yet to be announced.

In its letter, dated September 2, the Jharkhand government questioned 'false statements' made by these two leaders and asked if they would amount to character assassination of the host

state's government functionaries, including top bureaucrats. The letter, signed by principal secretary Vandana Dadel from the cabinet.

In a communication to the Chief Election Commissioner of India, the Jharkhand government requested it to prevent the misuse of the official positions of Assam's Chief Minister and the state machinery. The letter highlighted allegations of attempts to intimidate administrative and police officers to hinder lawful actions intended to maintain order ahead of the state elections.

These appeals come as

the Jharkhand assembly elections approach. Vandana Dadel, Principal Secretary of the Cabinet Secretariat and Vigilance Department in Jharkhand, further accused the BJP of attempting to disturb communal harmony by exploiting religious sentiments. She requested an impartial inquiry before any action is taken against government officials.

The Assam Chief Minister has been raising Bangladeshi influx in Jharkhand. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had said the upcoming Jharkhand assembly elections are crucial for protecting tribals and Hindus, as the "demography of the state is changing due to Bangladeshi infiltration".

Sarma expressed concern that after Assam and West Bengal, Jharkhand might be the next target for Bangladeshi infiltrators.

He claimed that in several districts of Jharkhand, the Muslim population has reached up to 30 per cent, stressing that the elections are crucial for safeguarding the interests of tribals and Hindus.

## State Govt afraid of Chouhan, Sarma's visit to state: Bauri

**PNS : RANCHI**

Leader of Opposition Amar Kumar Bauri today took a big dig at the Hemant government claiming that Chief Minister Hemant Soren is afraid of his defeat in the upcoming assembly elections. He said that the Chief Minister is tearing apart the dignity of democracy by putting the officials forward. He is making a malicious attempt to strangle democracy. The BJP leader in Assembly said that India has a democratic system and not a monarchy. A political leader, worker, can go to any part of the country and put forth his party's point of view. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan and popular Chief Minister of Assam Government Himanta Biswa Sarma have been made in-charge and co-in-charge for the Jharkhand assembly elections by the BJP central leadership. In this sequence, both the leaders are coming to Jharkhand to discharge their responsibilities.

Bauri said that BJP has been exposing the failures, loot, lies, corruption of the Hemant government for the last 5 years. It is agitating with the people from the road to the House. He said that the



High Court has also taken the issue of changing demography of the state due to Bangladeshi intruders seriously. Strict instructions have also been given to the state government.

He said that whether it is a matter of employment of youth or unemployment allowance, promises made for farmers, women, this government is not able to answer the questions of BJP in all these.

He said that due to love jihad, land jihad, intruders are snatching the land of tribals. The identity of the state is in danger. Despite the court order, the land of tribals is not being returned from the possession of intruders despite the presence of a tribal Chief Minister. The state government is sitting silently due to appeasement and vote bank. It is protecting criminals and intruders.

He said that the Chief Minister of a state is prevent-

ed from going to Gopinath Pur of Pakur district in his own country.

He said that 16 youths died untimely in the excise constable race and the government remains insensitive. The government has not reached the families of the deceased till date. BJP demanded Rs 50 lakh assistance and a government job but the government is silent on that too. He said that when the state BJP is taking all these issues seriously to the public under the guidance of Shivraj Singh Chauhan and Himanta Biswa Sarma ji, the state government is taking wrong decisions in panic.

He said that BJP has become the voice of the people as per the sentiments of the leaders of a strong opposition. The public has given huge support to BJP and NDA in the Lok Sabha elections and is determined to make BJP win in the assembly elections as well.

He said that if the state government feels that raising public issues is against the law in democracy. Talking about tribals, indigenous people, women, Dalits, backward classes is against the law, then the state government should file a case against both the leaders.

## CCL CMD, Directors, officials plant saplings

Under the "Smriti Taru Initiative" of Vigilance Awareness Campaign, tree plantation was done on Wednesday at CCL Ke Lal & CCL Ke Ladi Study Center, Gandhinagar. On the special occasion, CCL CMD Nilendu Kumar Singh, Director (Technical/Operations) Harish Duhan and Chief Vigilance Officer Pankaj Kumar planted fruit trees in the study center campus.

On this occasion, cleaning staff, security personnel working in the study center and students of CCL Ke Lal & CCL Ke Ladi also planted trees and gave the message of environmental protection. After the tree plantation drive, Singh addressed the students and encouraged them to work hard without worrying too much about the results. He shared many real-life examples of people who achieved success after experiencing failure. During this time, the students shared their experiences and feedback with the dignitaries about the facilities provided in the study and hostel.

He said that if the state government feels that raising public issues is against the law in democracy. Talking about tribals, indigenous people, women, Dalits, backward classes is against the law, then the state government should file a case against both the leaders.

## New Additional GM of SER



Soumitra Majumdar has taken over the charge of Additional General Manager, South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata on Tuesday. Prior to this Majumdar was the Principal Chief Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway. Majumdar is an officer of Indian Railways Traffic service, 1989 Exam Batch. He has worked in various posts and in different capacities i.e. Chief Public Relations Officer, Eastern Railway & South Eastern Railway, Chief Passenger Transportation Manager & Chief Traffic Planning Manager, South Eastern Railway. He has vast knowledge and working experience in railway operations and commercial issues as well as Public Relations and Media Management of Railways. He has been interested in sports, music, travel and social welfare activities.

## 1,000 Jharkhand Secretariat officers on 3-day strike

**PNS : RANCHI**

About 1000 employees of Jharkhand Secretariat Service Union have gone on a 3-day mass leave. After talks with Secretary of Personnel Administrative Reforms and Official Language Department, Praveen Toppo, there has been no agreement on various demands of Jharkhand Secretariat Service Union, so the employees have gone on strike. Secretariat Service Union President Dhruv Prasad and General Secretary Siddharth Besra said that it is the responsibility of every member of the union that this program is completely successful.

"Together we will ensure that the voice of our rights reaches the Government. On Tuesday, work remained stalled in all the secretariat attached offices including Project Bhawan Secretariat, Nepal House, FFP Bhawan, MDI Building, Assistant Branch Officer, Branch Officer, Under Secretary, Deputy Secretary to Joint Secretary level officers remained on mass leave. Due to this the work of the secretariat came to a standstill, the movement of files stopped," he added.

The officers have also written a letter to CM Hemant Soren. In which the main demands are that creation of additional posts of Deputy Secretary and Joint Secretary level of Jharkhand Secretariat Service, the proposal has been kept pending for more than one year and six months after the approval of the Chief Minister, promotion to higher posts under the Secretariat Service in the light of the resolution of the Department of Personnel, Administrative Reforms and Official Language.

## Jharkhand to witness rainfall for 3 days from today



**PNS : RANCHI**

The effect of active monsoon is being seen once again in the entire state including the capital Ranchi. The monsoon had weakened for the last few days, but the drizzle on September 9 has given relief. Due to the deep low pressure area formed in the Bay of Bengal, heavy rain is expected in Jharkhand for three days.

The Meteorological Center Ranchi has issued an orange alert for September 10 and September 11 and a yellow alert for September 12. Most of the districts of the state including Ranchi are likely to receive heavy rain from September 10. There is also a possibility of thunderstorms in many areas. Therefore, the Meteorological Department

has appealed to the people to be cautious. Meteorologist Abhishek Anand said that the deep low pressure area formed in the Bay of Bengal crossed the Odisha coast late on Monday evening, moving at a speed of 8 km per hour. Due to its effect, rain and strong winds have started in Jharkhand, he said.

Anand said that heavy rain is expected in the state's Garhwa, Palamu, Latehar, Lohardaga, Gumla and Simdega districts, Ranchi received intermittent rains throughout the day on Monday. "There was light rain and cloud cover in the morning, while there was some sunshine in the afternoon. Heavy rain was recorded by the evening. In the last 24 hours, the temperature has dropped in most districts of Jharkhand including Ranchi," he said.

Anand said that the highest temperature in Jharkhand was recorded in Godda. "The maximum temperature here was 36.7 degrees Celsius. The lowest minimum temperature of 23.4 degrees Celsius was recorded in Ranchi. The Meteorological Department has said that the maximum temperature in Jharkhand is likely to drop in the next 2-3 days. After this, there will be no major change in it for 2 days," he said.

## Governor interacts with villagers in Sahebganj district

**PNS : RANCHI**

Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar, while interacting with villagers at Bichpura in Sahebganj district today, said that recently he has taken up a new responsibility in this state. For the development of the state, it is necessary to understand different areas and communicate with the people there. Through this dialogue, it is known how the schemes of the Central and State Government are being implemented. Along with this, through dialogue, one also gets an opportunity to know the problems and suggestions of the people.

The Governor said that it has been a long time since the country got independence and it is still important to see whether everyone is getting

adequate facilities from the government. Referring to the major schemes of the government, he said that under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, many families have been given free gas connections. Expressing concern over diseases caused by contaminated water, he said that the problem of pure drinking water is more serious in rural areas and the government is making continuous efforts under the Jal Jeevan Mission to solve this.

The Governor informed that the government has adequate resources available for housing schemes and housing construction work is also going on at a fast pace. Health facilities up to Rs 5 lakh are being provided under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, and the number of



**Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar interacts with villagers in Sahebganj on Tuesday. PNS**

people benefiting from this scheme is continuously increasing. Apart from this, he also inquired about the status of receiving benefits under Divyang and Old Age

Pension Schemes. A member of the self-help group told the Governor that about 300 women are associated with their group, who are engaged in various other

works along with farming. The women of these groups are earning an income of about Rs 10,000 per month from works like grocery shop, makeup material, making plates and papad, multi-grain flour, pickle making, and sewing. The Governor appreciated the efforts of these women towards self-reliance and said that they are an inspiration for the society by taking care of their families. Another member of the group informed that people are also getting the benefit of Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, and assistance is also being received from the bank under first and second linkage. Another person informed about the success of the mushroom scheme being run for the Pahadia tribes and said that

people are likely to get more benefits through retail outlets.

The Governor also distributed assets among various beneficiaries. He said that all necessary efforts will be made for the development of the people.

Meanwhile, the Governor paid tribute to the immortal heroes of the Hul Revolution by visiting the Kranti Sthal built in the memory of Veer Shaheed Sido Kanhu at Panchkathiya in Barhet of Sahebganj district. On this occasion, remembering their unique contribution in the freedom struggle, he said that the valour and courage of Sido-Kanhu is a golden chapter in the history of our country, which will continue to inspire generations to come.

# PM focuses on localised solutions to global issues at ANRF meeting



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday emphasised the need for addressing challenges in India's research ecosystem and focus on localised solutions to global issues, during the inaugural governing body meeting of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF). Modi also talked about developing a dashboard where information related to research and development happening in the country could be easily tracked. The meeting focussed on discussions about India's science

and technology landscape and redesigning of research and development programmes, as per a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Stating that a new beginning had been made with the first meeting of the governing body of ANRF, Modi said the country's scientific community should have faith that there would be no dearth of resources for their endeavours. Modi also talked about setting big targets, focusing on attaining them and conducting path-breaking research. He said research should focus on finding new solutions to existing problems.

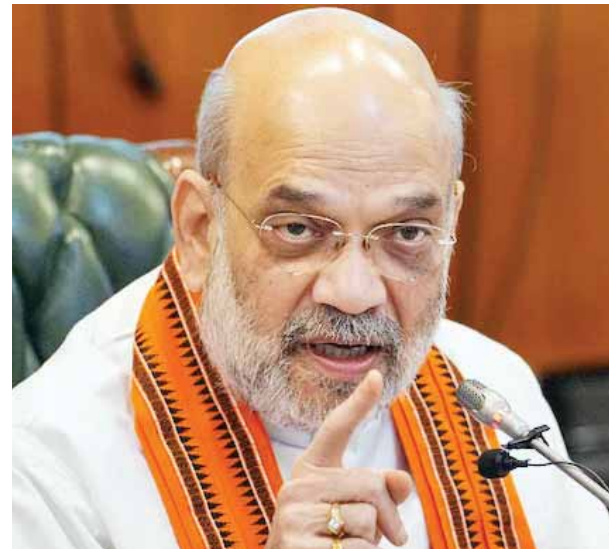
The Prime Minister emphasised that problems might be global in nature but their solutions must be localised in accordance with Indian needs, according to the statement. He also discussed the need for upgradation and standardisation of institutions and suggested preparing a list of domain experts on the basis of their expertise. Discussing the positive impacts of Atal Tinkering Labs, the prime minister suggested that grading of these labs could be done. He also discussed research in various areas such as looking for new solutions to the envi-

ronment change, battery ingredients for electric vehicles, lab grown diamonds, among others. During the meeting, the governing body decided to launch a programme in the hub-and-spoke mode by pairing universities where research was at a nascent stage with top-tier established institutions in mentorship mode. The governing body also discussed several areas of strategic interventions of ANRF that include global positioning of India in key sectors, aligning research and development with national priorities, promoting inclusive growth, capacity building, driving scientific advances and innovation ecosystem among others. The ANRF will launch programmes on solution-focussed research in mission mode in select priority areas such as electric vehicle mobility, advanced materials, solar cells, smart infrastructure, health and medical technology, sustainable agriculture and photonics. Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Education Minister who is a vice-President of the governing body also attended the meeting among others. The ANRF has been established to promote research and development and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and research and development laboratories.

# Amit Shah urges use of AI to combat cybercrime at I4C Foundation Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday urged cyber security agencies to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to identify the modus operandi of criminals duping people of their hard-earned money, spreading fake news and abusing women and children online. India hosts around 46 per cent or almost half of global digital transactions, making the job of these agencies "challenging", he said while delivering a keynote speech during the first foundation day celebrations of the I4C or Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre here. The I4C, established in 2018, is a department under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). It is tasked with establishing a national-level coordination centre to address all cybercrime-related issues in the country. During the event, Shah launched four platforms of the I4C — cyber fraud mitigation centre (CFMC), the 'Samanvaya' platform, a cyber commandos programme and a suspect registry. "I would urge you to use Artificial Intelligence to identify the MO (modus operandi) deployed (by criminals)... This will help (you) to find new ways to fight cybercrimes," the Home Minister said. He urged the cyber security agencies to shun the age-old



protocol of "need to know" and adopt the "duty to share" approach to take forward this fight. He cited some figures to show how Internet and cyber penetration has increased in the country. "We have 95 crore Internet users in the country as of March 31 as compared to 25 crore during the same time period in 2014," Shah said, adding that in 2014, as many as 600 panchayats were linked to the Internet but the has reached 2.13 lakh now. Seven-lakh km of optical fibre cable has been laid, data download speed has increased, the cost has decreased and the Internet consumption has risen 78 per cent over a period of time, he said. The Home Minister said in

2024, India saw UPI (Unified Payments Interface) transactions worth about Rs 20,64,000 crore which is 46 per cent of the global digital transactions. "This makes our work challenging and hence protection against cyber fraud is required," Shah said and flagged issues such as the illegal sale of important personal data over the Internet, the spread of fake news, tool kits, online harassment and abuse of women and children. The Minister said the '1930' national cyber helpline telephone number needs to be popularised during a special campaign being launched by the I4C from Wednesday to spread awareness about cybercrimes. "We need to do more against this (cybercrimes)..."

We have reached a point but the target is far," he said. At the event, the Home Minister spoke at length about the importance of preparing effective counter-measures against cybercrimes while asserting that the country's development was "impossible in current times" without keeping cyber security in mind. "The increasing use of technology is also causing many threats. That is why cyber security is no longer limited to the digital world but has also become an important aspect of national security," he said. Shah urged for "greater coordination" between the agencies of the centre and the states as this combat cannot be undertaken by one organisation alone. It is essential that "everyone comes together," he said. Cybercrimes see "no boundary" and common people should be made aware of these offences, the Union Home Minister said. "I appeal to all state governments to join this movement and ensure that cyber awareness percolates to the grassroots level." Stressing the importance of vigorously running awareness campaigns, Shah said newer cyber frauds were being witnessed each day and even children are getting involved in these. The government has planned to train and prepare 5,000 cyber commandos over the next five years to deal with such crimes, he added.



# Experts call for critical shift in understanding, addressing India's suicide trend

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With no let up in the death by suicide in India particularly among youth, mental health experts have called for a critical shift in understanding and addressing the trend, emphasising the need to consider socio-economic factors alongside mental health issues. This comprehensive approach is crucial given the country's alarming suicide statistics—171,000 lives lost in 2022 alone, said Dr Rakhi Dandona, Professor of Public Health at the Public Health Foundation of India in a new six-paper series published in The Lancet Public Health. It was released on World Suicide Prevention Day marked on Tuesday. India's National Suicide Prevention Strategy released recently aims to reduce suicide deaths by 10 percent by 2030. While the strategy focuses primarily on mental health interventions, the authors have highlighted the importance of integrating a wider range of socio-economic factors. Police data suggests that variables like gender, employment, and stressful life events also significantly influence suicide rates. It includes measures such as establishing effective suicide surveillance systems and integrating mental well-being curricula into educational institutions. The series outlines six key aspects of a public health approach to suicide prevention. These include examining social determinants and a model that considers how suicide may arise from various social conditions. Dr Dandona stressed the need for national policies to mitigate economic hardships, such as maintaining minimum wage levels. She also highlighted how exposure to suicide-related information can increase risk, suggesting restrictions on media portrayals of suicide

methods to reduce this risk. One paper in the series notes a correlation between poor economic status and higher suicide rates in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). In India, states with higher unemployment rates show increased suicide rates, especially among men, and unemployment is also a significant risk factor for women. Another paper discusses the "transmissibility of suicide," where exposure to suicide-related information can influence others while the fifth paper explores interventions targeting major suicide risk factors, including alcohol use, gambling, domestic violence, and suicide bereavement. Dr. Dandona pointed out that creating a supportive environment where individuals feel comfortable sharing their struggles is crucial and stressed the need for these conversations to be taken seriously and addressed appropriately. Dr Jyoti Kapoor, Founder-Director and Senior Psychiatrist, Manasthali too echoed similar views. She noted that suicide is a major public health concern in India. "The government has launched initiatives like the National Mental Health Programme and the Kiran Helpline to address the mental health crisis and prevent suicide. However, greater awareness, access to care, and addressing underlying socioeconomic issues are essential to reducing suicide rates." She further said that there is a need to change the narrative of suicide to have open, compassionate conversations that break the stigma surrounding mental health struggles. "We have to shift the focus from judgment to understanding, and this will eventually encourage people to seek help without fear or shame. By promoting awareness, we can build supportive communities that prioritise mental well-being," she added.

# India, Philippines to review defence ties amid China tensions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and the Philippines will carry out a comprehensive review of their defence and strategic partnership on Wednesday with a focus on ramping up military ties against the backdrop of mutual concern over China's aggressive posturing in the South China Sea. The two sides will deliberate on various issues relating to bilateral defence ties and regional security situation at the fifth meeting of India-Philippines joint defence cooperation (JDCC) committee to be held in Manila, officials said. While Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane will lead the Indian delegation at the talks, the Filipino team will be headed by Senior Under Secretary in the Ministry of National Defence Irineo Cruz Espino. The defence ties between the two countries have been on a significant upswing in the last few years. In April, India delivered the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines, in reflection of the growing military ties. The supplies came over two years India signed a USD 375 million deal with the Southeast Asian nation to supply the



weapon systems. The meeting is taking place amid increasing tensions between China and the Philippines following an incident of violent clash between their maritime security personnel in the South China Sea nearly two-and-half months ago. "During the visit, the defence secretary will discuss ways to further consolidate defence cooperation between the two countries," an official readout said. The situation in the South China Sea will figure in the talks, officials said. There have been growing global concerns over China's sweeping claims of sovereignty over all of the South China Sea, a huge source of hydrocarbons. Several countries in the region including Vietnam, the

Philippines and Brunei, have counterclaims. India and many other democratic countries have been pressing for peaceful settlement of the disputes and for adherence to international law, especially the UNCLOS (UN Convention on the Law of the Sea). "This visit of (Aramane) assumes significance as India and Philippines celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations and 10 years of India's Act East Policy," the defence ministry said in the readout. "Both the countries have a vigorous and multifaceted relationship which has expanded into several strategic areas, including defence and security," it said. "They are committed to support each other towards achieving the goal of self-reliance in defence production," it said.

# Key operator of international gold smuggling racket brought from UAE to India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A key operator of an international gold smuggling racket with an Interpol Red Notice against him was brought from the UAE on Tuesday in an operation coordinated by the CBI with the NIA and Interpol, officials said. Muniyad Ali Khan is the third fugitive in the case who was successfully brought back to India, they said. Khan landed at the Jaipur airport from the UAE and was arrested by the NIA, the officials said. In the case probed by the NIA, it was alleged that Khan had conspired in the illegal smuggling of gold bars from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, into India along with other accused, a CBI spokesperson said here. Two co-accused in the case, Shokat Ali and Mohabbat Ali, were brought from Saudi Arabia on April three, 2024 and August 17, 2023, respectively in an operation coordinated by the Global Operations Centre of the CBI with Interpol NCB-Riyadh and the NIA. It is alleged that Khan along with the co-accused had provided gold bars to be smuggled from Riyadh into Jaipur. Gold bars weighing 18.56 kilograms worth Rs 9 crore in the market



were seized while being smuggled into the country at the Jaipur airport from Saudi Arabia in 2020 as part of the "criminal conspiracy to derail the country's economic security and monetary stability", the NIA said in a statement on August 22, 2023. The bars had been concealed inside a battery of emergency lights for smuggling into India, the statement had said. "He (Khan) is involved in international gold smuggling from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to Jaipur, India. The subject was charge-sheeted by the NIA on August 22, 2021, before the NIA Special Court, Jaipur. He was wanted for criminal conspiracy for offences under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act," the spokesperson said. The CBI got a Red Notice issued against Khan from Interpol on September 13, 2021, at a request of the NIA which was circulated to all law enforcement agencies globally for tracking of the wanted criminal.

# Israel approaches India for 15,000 workers to plug their skill gap

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Israel has approached India to carry out recruitment drive again for 10,000 construction workers and 5,000 caregivers simultaneously to plug their skill gap in the infrastructure and health sector. This comes on the back of a similar request made by Israel, earlier in the year, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) said here on Tuesday. The Population, Immigration, and Border Authority (PIBA) has put in a request across four specific job roles: Framework, Iron Bending, Plastering, and Ceramic Tiling. A team from PIBA, comprising of assessors, is to visit India in the coming week to carry out the necessary skill tests for selecting those who meet their criteria and skill requisites. The second round of recruitment drive for construction workers is to take place in Maharashtra, it said. Further, Israel also requires 5,000 caregivers to boost its healthcare services. They have stated candidates who have completed at least their 10th standard along with holding a certificate issued by a recognised Indian institute and completing a care giving course with at least 990 hours of on-the-job training can apply. In the first round of recruitment of construction workers for Israel, a total of 16,832 candidates appeared for skill tests in their trade out of which 10349 candidates were selected. Those selected will earn a salary of Rs 1.92 lakh per month, along with medical insurance, food, and accommodation. A bonus of Rs 16,515 per month is also provided to these candidates. The NSDC reached out to all states to carry out recruitment after the government-to-government (G2G) agreement was signed in November 2023. The first round of recruitment drive was carried out in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Telangana. The agreement was signed after India and Israel initiated a Framework Agreement on Temporary Employment of Indians in May 2023. All the candidates, going through the G2G pathway are mandated to undergo pre-departure orientation training. This encompasses a manual to understand Israeli culture and way of life and get accustomed to their new home.

# Priyanka Gandhi accuses BJP of double game in teacher recruitment case



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

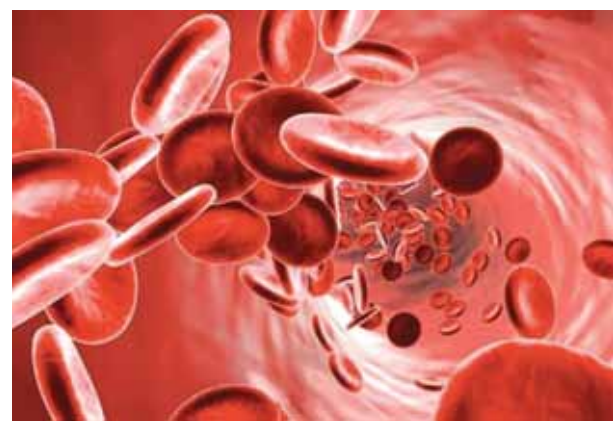
Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday slammed the BJP over the teachers recruitment case, alleging that it was playing a "double game" with the youth from both reserved and unreserved categories and harming them socially, economically and mentally. Her remarks come a day after the Supreme Court stayed the

Allahabad High Court order asking the Uttar Pradesh Government to prepare a fresh selection list for the appointment of 69,000 assistant teachers in the State. The top court also stayed the High Court verdict setting aside the selection lists of the assistant teachers issued by the State authorities in June 2020 and January 2022, which included 6,800 candidates. "The anti-youth and anti-social justice attitude adopted by the BJP in the matter of recruitment of 69,000 teachers in UP is shocking. By playing a double game, the youth from both reserved and unreserved categories are being harmed socially, economically and mentally," she said in a post in Hindi on X. "First, the reservation scam in the recruitment process took away the rights of hundreds of Dalit and backward candidates. And even now the BJP's intention is to delay and misdirect social justice."

# Siddha medicine effective in treating anaemia in adolescent girls: Ayush Ministry

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Integrating Siddha medicine, a traditional system of healing from South India, into anaemia treatment strategies could support the flagship Anaemia Mukta Bharat programme by combating this condition among adolescent girls, the Union Ayush Ministry has stated, citing findings from a recent study. Titled "A Combination Siddha Drug Reduces Anaemia Among Adolescent Girls in Virudhunagar District of Tamil Nadu, India," the study was conducted at a hospital in the Southern State under the Public Health Initiative to mainstream 'Siddha' drugs for anaemia treatment. Published in the Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge, it highlights the potential of Siddha medicine in addressing this public health challenge. The study found that a combination of Siddha drugs—ABMN, which includes Annapeticenturam, Bavana katukkay, Matulai manappaku,



and Nellikay lekiyam—was effective in improving various anaemia indicators such as haemoglobin levels, packed cell volume, and mean corpuscular hemoglobin. Anaemia in adolescent girls often stems from poor diet, menstrual blood loss, and underlying health conditions. If Siddha remedies prove effective, they could complement conventional treatments like iron supplements and dietary adjustments. The research was carried out by experts from

Siddha institutions, including the National Institute of Siddha (NIS). Dr. R. Meenakumari, Director of NIS and a senior author of the study, emphasised, "Siddha medicine plays a notable role in the public health initiatives of the Ministry of Ayush." She noted that awareness among adolescent girls, dietary advice, and Siddha drug treatment provided therapeutic benefits, making it a cost-effective and accessible treatment option.

# Defiant doctors refuse to join work despite SC order

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The junior doctors of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital and other medical colleges remained defiant the Supreme Court order by refusing to join hospital duty by 5 pm on Tuesday a deadline that had been set by the Court on Monday. Instead of following the Apex Court order the junior doctors who have, for nearly a month, been observing 'cease work' at State-run hospitals, in protest against the rape and murder of an on duty lady doctor inside the RGKMCH set a counter deadline for the State Government to force the resignation of the Health Secretary and Directors of Health Education (DHE) and Health Services for their alleged complicity in tampering of evidence in the place of occurrence. "The DHE and DHS had signed the circular along with the Principal allowing the part demolition of walls adjacent to the seminar hall and the attached washroom ... so they should immediately resign to facilitate impartial inquiry," doctors said. Thousands of doctors on Tuesday marched to the Swasthya Bhavan and was still staging a sit-in demonstration in support of a five-point demand that included justice for the victim doctor, proper infrastructure and security set up in all the government hospitals apart from



resignation of the top Health officials who had circuitously "allowed a syndicate raj to perpetrate in the Health sector." It is not only the doctors but the people along with them who have descended on the streets to press for the demand of justice for Abhaya who this is because the Government does not seem to be willing to keep its words ... by punishing the real culprits of the health syndicate and threat raj in the Government Health sector of which the rape and murder of one of our colleagues was a foregone consequence," said Dr Tathagato Das one of the protesting doctors. Another doctor said that the "demands of the doctors have not been fulfilled and justice not meted out to the victim... to make things worse the State Government has not shown the right intention to give justice and improve the atmosphere in Health sector which was evident by the false and fabricated facts that it allowed to be dished out before the Supreme Court by its lawyers ... remember how the Government counsel was being paid tens of lakhs of rupees to tell lies and mislead the Supreme Court resulting in the disappointing order of Monday. A third doctor said that the "cease work will continue till our demand is met ... if it is met in five minutes ... if some responsible officer from the Government comes out and gives a written assurance of the measures that would be taken within a time a frame we will go back to work or else it will not be possible to do so." The Supreme Court had on Monday asked the doctors to return to work providing them immunity from any government action till 5 pm on Tuesday. Following this State Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee too had requested the doctors to join work saying she was not willing to take action. The doctors also questioned the "good intention" of the investigating agencies like the police and even the Central Bureau of Investigation

wondering why the central Agency would not ask for an extended remand for arrested former principal of the RGKMCH Sandip Ghosh who was on Tuesday sent to judicial custody. In surprising move the CBI counsel would not seek extension of Ghosh's remand though it told that it was in possession of a large number of digital and documentary evidences in the case. "The CBI has already secured large amounts of digital evidence on the alleged crime. We need time to analyse that evidence. We do not need the accused in police custody immediately. But we may seek their custody again later, if required," the CBI counsel told the Court with the Judge asking back as to how the CBI could assume beforehand that it would get Ghosh's custody back when it returns with such application. Meanwhile chaotic scenes were witnessed inside the Alipore Court premises where Ghosh was produced with the junior lawyers, particularly women advocates resorting to slogan shouting demanding "Justice for the victim." Even as some shouted "thief ... murderer" some threw sandals at him while he was whisked out of the Court towards the prison van. The lawyers asked, "why the CBI refused to seek extension of his remand ... why he was accorded a VIP status inside the court by the police."

# Sunil Sharma leads BJP campaign in Jammu-Kashmir Assembly polls

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Sunil Sharma, General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janta Party in Jammu and Kashmir is emerging as one of the top favorites of the party's high command when it comes to implementing the party's road map to secure majority seats in the first phase of polling on September 18. Out of 24 Assembly segments that are going to polls in the first phase, eight seats fall in the region. The party has set its eyes on winning the maximum seats in the region. There are three seats each in Doda and Kishtwar while Ramban has two Assembly segments. In the last assembly elections held in 2014, the BJP had won four seats - Kishtwar, Ramban, Bhandarwah and Doda, while the Congress had got Banihal and Inderwal constituencies. Two assembly constituencies were added to the region in 2022 after the delimitation exercise following the reorganization of the erstwhile state. Victory and defeat of BJP candidates are directly linked to his rise in the party hierarchy. Before the Assembly polls were announced Sunil Sharma was seen working hard in the region. As the campaign is entering in its last leg for the first phase of polling Sunil Sharma and his team of workers have redoubled their efforts to defeat the political adversaries in the fray. Prime Minister



Narendra Modi is also scheduled to visit the region to address campaign meetings to bolster the party's poll prospects. In the absence of any other tall leader from the region, Sunil Sharma is fully backed by the organizational machinery on ground zero. He is seen crisscrossing the boundaries of different assembly segments via helicopter in the erstwhile Doda district to supervise the campaign. During the day Sharma addresses more than half a dozen election meetings and chairs several meetings with party workers and senior leaders camping in the region to boost the party's election campaign. Sharma is himself contesting from the newly carved-out Padder-Nagseni Assembly seat in Kishtwar. Sharma who represented Kishtwar in the 2014 Assembly polls is aggressively campaigning in support of BJP candidate Shagun Parihar. He visited Jammu on Sunday to appeal to the voters settled there to visit their native places to cast their votes and ensure the victory of the party candidates in the fray. The party is banking on a sympathy wave for 29-year-old first-timer, Shagun Parihar whose father Ajit Parihar and uncle Anil Parihar were killed by terrorists in November 2018, to retain the Kishtwar seat. The alliance partners National Conference and Congress have jointly fielded former DDC Chairperson Pooja Thakur against Sunil Sharma while PDP has fielded Sandesh Kumar in the fray. BJP is facing a rebel candidate Rakesh Goswami and two other independents from the Padder-Nagseni seat. A senior BJP leader told The Pioneer that by denying tickets to the old guards in the

party the Bharatiya Janta Party has attempted to shore up the party's image in the eyes of the electorate. Leading the pack of young party leaders, who are contesting the Assembly polls for the first time, is party General Secretary and former minister Sunil Sharma. The BJP leader claimed Sunil Sharma is being groomed for the bigger responsibility in the future. Former BJP minister Shakti Raj Parihar, who lost District Development Council elections in 2020 is contesting from the Doda West constituency, facing a tough challenge from Pardeep Kumar of Congress, Tanveer Hussain of PDP and Abdul Ghani of DPAP. Former BJP MLA Daleep Singh Parihar is locked in a triangular contest with Congress leader Nadeem Sharief and former IAS officer Sheikh Mehboob Iqbal of the National Conference from Bhandarwah constituency of Doda. Former minister GM Saroori, who had won the Inderwal seat for three consecutive terms in 2002, 2008 and 2014 elections, is facing National Conference rebel Pyare Lal Sharma, Sheikh Zafarullah of the Congress and BJP's Tariq Hussain Keen. Former Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president and ex-minister Vikar Rasool Wani, who is eyeing a hat-trick from Banihal constituency, is facing a major challenge from NC's Sجاد Shaheen and PDP's Imtiyaz Shan.

# Indians in US upset over Rahul Gandhi's remarks



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

While he may be basking in the media attention he is getting for his anti-Narendra Modi and anti-India speeches delivered in USA, many Indians settled in the US are upset over Rahul Gandhi for his eloquence on China and Pakistan. "In speeches delivered at Texas, the Leader of the Opposition had belittled and scoffed at the Indian economy while even newspapers with strong anti-India feelings are praising the Indian economy and the unprecedented progress made by the country's manufacturing and

infrastructure sectors," Suresh Reddy, a Texas based engineering entrepreneur told The Pioneer over phone. He said it was routine for leading politicians from India visiting the US criticizing the government. "But what Rahul Gandhi does is not criticism. He is just humiliating and disgracing the Indians themselves and belittling the major achievements made by the country. Many US citizens whom I spoke to are aghast at the kind of words used by the young leader of the opposition," said Reddy, who had staged agitations in Telangana against illegal sand mining by a cartel of politicians, policemen and contractors. Reddy pointed out that the statements by Rahul Gandhi comes at a time when US based rating agencies and institutions like World Bank and IMF were highlighting the strides made by Indian economy. "This does not augur well for the opposition Congress party or Gandhi himself. If you have lost the election, the best thing to do is to wait for the next election

and bring to the attention of the people the failures of the present government. By insulting the Prime Minister and Finance Minister, what Rahul Gandhi does is scoring self-goals. As on date, nobody is going to believe what Rahul Gandhi alleges about the present Indian ruling dispensation," said Reddy. Ram Rajendrababu, a Florida based technocrat said he was shocked over the kind of language used by the Indian leader of the opposition during his speeches. "I happened to see his speech in parliament (Lok Sabha) which was anything but civilized. His speeches in US too are no different. There is a feeling among Indians settled in the US that Rahul Gandhi needs advisors who are up to date about latest developments," said Ram, software engineer who is keenly following Indian affairs. Ram also said that there have been no terrorist attacks or communal riots in the country since 2014 and that is being seen as a major achievement of the Modi rule by US based think tanks.

# How can Didi ask us to return to festivities: Victim's mother



SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The parents, particularly the mother of the victim lady doctor of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital who had last month been raped and murdered while on duty expressed "remorseful shock" at Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's appeal to the people in general and the junior doctors to shun movement and return to work and prepare for the festive Durga Puja season ahead. "It is strange that madam Chief Minister has

threatened action against the junior doctors who are still not feeling safe in their work places and who are asking for justice ... it is all the more shocking that she has all of us to return to festive mood," the mother of the victim said wondering how a woman could say like that. "Can she return my daughter so that I can return to festive mood ... Could she have returned to festive mode and celebrate Durga Puja had the victim who is my daughter been her own relative ... my daughter used to celebrate Durga Pujas every year and she herself organized the

Pujas in our house ... now we know that we will never have the Puja in our house ... all our festivals have gone forever ... there will be no light in our house ... but my question is should the Chief Minister who is also a woman have been a little more sensitive and careful in choosing her sentences ... we have just lost our everything and this was another blow that came from the topmost person of our State from whom we are seeking justice," Banerjee had on Monday told the people of the State in general and the agitating doctors in particular to return to work and prepare for Durga Puja festivals as "already one month has elapsed," since the RG Kar incident took place. The mother of the victim also said that the Chief Minister was not telling the truth about the Government offering the parents money after the victim's tragic death. "The Chief Minister is not telling the truth... Would I lie in the name of my daughter who will never return? The

Chief Minister had herself told us that she could arrange for us the requisite amount of money if we wanted to create something in our daughter's memory... then I told that I would definitely go to her for that money but first of all she should ensure justice for my daughter the victim's mother said. The father of the victim had earlier told that a senior IPS officer had personally approached him with a packet stuffed with notes "when the body of my daughter was still lying inside my house." The mother of the victim said, "is this how we deal with a family which has lost its only child ... we know how hard my daughter slogged to become a doctor ... she was killed not only in duty but also after serving and perhaps saving several lives ... and now she is telling the people to return to celebrate ... how a mother who has lost everything can ask the people of the State to go back to the Puja mode when myself I cannot do so."

# Rao Inderjit publicly expresses wish to become Haryana CM

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Union Minister and senior BJP leader Rao Inderjit Singh on Tuesday publicly expressed his wish to become the next Chief Minister of Haryana, staking his claim for the CM's position just ahead of the upcoming Haryana assembly elections. Speaking at a public rally where he was present to support BJP candidate Mukesh Sharma's nomination, Singh said that the people of the state want him to become the Chief Minister. "For those who want to loot Gurgaon...the BJP candidate Mukesh Sharma alias Mukesh Pehalwan will be a guard like Pehalwan," he said during his address. "There is no division in the party. The party does not give tickets on the advice of one person. Before allocating tickets party conducted surveys. There are ten surveys, and in those surveys, Mukesh was on top in all the surveys," Rao asserted. Rao said this election is not just to re-elect the BJP to power, but also for resolving the issues afflicting the city. "The next time, who will be the chief minister will see sometimes water leaks from the sewerage, sometimes electricity does not reach, and sometimes garbage remains on the roads for months. You will be asked if you could not clean Gurgaon; you could not clean the sewerage. I am saying that this election is for cleaning up sewerage and for raising garbage. Forget everything and vote for the party to ensure we form a government for the third consecutive time," he added. Rao also promised to work to strengthen the local bodies and to ensure work from the administrative body. Mukesh Sharma officially filed his nomination papers for the upcoming election from Gurgaon on Tuesday. Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh was present on the occasion, drawing thousands of supporters. After the nomination process, a large public meeting was held here in Gurgaon constituency. In his speech, Mukesh stressed the importance of the party's working style; he told the people to ensure his victory in the Gurgaon constituency for the betterment of the city.

# Anil Deshmukh accuses Devendra Fadnavis of using CBI to implicate, arrest him

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra's former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh on Tuesday accused deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis of trying to "implicate, raid and arrest him" for allegedly trying to pressure a police officer from Jalgaon to take action against BJP leader Girish Mahajan four years ago. Less than a week after the CBI registered an FIR against him and four others for allegedly conspiring to falsely implicate BJP leaders by fabricating witness statements and evidence, Deshmukh upped the ante against Fadnavis and accused the latter of using the CBI to implicate him in the case. Taking to micro-blogging site "X," Deshmukh said: "Devendra Fadnavis has used his influence in power corridors of Delhi to file an FIR against me in an incident that took place four years ago when I was the State Home Minister. The accusation against me is that as the then



State Home Minister, I pressured a police officer to take action against BJP leader Girish Mahajan in an incident in Jalgaon "As far as I know, Devendra Fadnavis is trying to raid me. With the help of rulers in Delhi and working in tandem with the ED-CBI, Fadnavis has brought down Maharashtra politics to a low level. Devendra Fadnavis I am waiting for my arrest....," Deshmukh wrote on his "X" handle. Last week, the CBI had registered a case against Deshmukh and four others including then Public Prosecutor Pravin Pandit

Chavan, accusing them of conspiring to falsely implicate BJP leaders by fabricating witness statements and evidence. The CBI lodged the case after a two-year preliminary enquiry which originated from a pen drive handed over to the then Speaker by Fadnavis who was then the Leader of the Opposition in Legislative Assembly. Seven-year-old Deshmukh, a close associate of NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar, said that he would not be cowed down by Fadnavis' efforts to act against him through the central investigating agencies. Incidentally, both Deshmukh

and Fadnavis hail from Nagpur. It may be recalled that the then Police Commissioner of Mumbai Param Bir Singh had created a sensation on March 20, 2021 by alleging that then State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh had asked now arrested and dismissed police officer Sachin Vaze to "collect" a staggering Rs 100 crore per month from bars, restaurants and other sources in Mumbai Deshmukh had resigned from his post as the State Home Minister on April 5, 2021 within hours after the Bombay High Court ordered a "Preliminary Enquiry" (PE) by the CBI into the serious charges of corruption made against him by Mumbai's former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh. Based on a case of corruption registered by the CBI, Deshmukh was arrested by the ED November 2, 2021 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on charges of bribery, conspiracy and misuse of office.

# Maharashtra BJP Leader's son Sanket Bawankule involved in drunken driving incident

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A political controversy broke out on Tuesday over a mishap allegedly involving Maharashtra BJP president Chandrashekar Bawankule's son Sanket in Nagpur, with the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) demanding to know from the state government as to why it had not taken any action against the accused in the alleged drunken driving case. A day after an Audi car owned by Bawankules which rammed into several vehicles and injured at least two persons in Nagpur, the Opposition MVA leaders alleged that instead of arresting Sanket in connection with the incident, the police were trying to "shield" him and "suppress" the case. On a day when Nagpur's deputy police commissioner Rahul Madane said that contrary to the claims by the Opposition that Sanket was not behind the wheels of the Audi car involved in the mishap, the MVA leaders demanded to know as to why the BJP-led MahaYuti government was going softly



against in a road rage case in which the State BJP's son was allegedly involved. On his part, State BJP chief Chandrashekar Bawankule has admitted that the Audi involved in the mishap was registered in his son's name. Talking to media persons in Nagpur on Tuesday, DCP Madane said that the police had collected the blood samples of Sanket Bawankule and the driver Arjun Haware - who has been arrested - and sent them for analysis. The pile-up crash involving Audi occurred around 12.35 am on Monday when the car with 5 occupants, including Sanket Bawankule was speeding along the Ramdaspath area of Nagpur. The CCTV footage showed that the Audi rammed into the car owned by one Jitendra

Sonkamble, who later lodged the police complaint, and banged into a two-wheeler injuring two persons riding on it. The Audi later crashed into several other vehicles before grinding to a halt a short distance away. The police said that occupants in the car, including Sanket, were returning after partying at a bar in the Dharampath area of the city when the mishap took place. Accusing the Nagpur police of handling Sanket with kid gloves in the road mishap case, State Congress' chief spokesperson Atul Londhe alleged that the State BJP chief's son hit multiple vehicles in Nagpur while driving an Audi car in an intoxicated state.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Strategic partnership

Following PM Modi and UAE Crown Prince Al Nahyan talks, India-UAE relations reach new heights with landmark energy pacts

Indian diplomacy is soaring to new heights. As nations around the world eagerly welcome Indian businesses and forge strategic alliances, India is experiencing an unprecedented wave of global goodwill and influence not seen in years. The recent UAE-India energy pact is yet another case in point. UAE crown prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan is presently in India and had a meaningful dialogue with Prime Minister Modi. India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) continue to strengthen their strategic partnership, with a significant boost in the energy sector, as both nations signed four major agreements aimed at deepening cooperation. The agreements span key sectors, including liquefied natural gas (LNG) trade, petroleum supplies, nuclear plant operations, and production concessions, marking a pivotal moment in the bilateral relationship. As both leaders emphasised, the pacts signal a broadening of collaboration, particularly in emerging areas such as nuclear energy, critical minerals, green hydrogen, artificial intelligence, and advanced technologies.

The signing of a long-term supply agreement for one million metric tonnes of LNG per annum between Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) is among the most prominent developments. This is the third such deal in just over a year, reinforcing India's energy security while further consolidating ties with one of the world's leading energy producers. In addition, a groundbreaking production concession pact was signed between Urja Bharat and ADNOC for Abu Dhabi's Onshore Block One. This marks the first instance of an Indian company holding an energy production concession in the UAE. An equally crucial development is the agreement between the Emirates Nuclear Energy Company (ENEC) and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL). This pact is designed to enhance collaboration in the operation and maintenance of nuclear power plants, sourcing nuclear goods from India, and fostering mutual investments in the civil nuclear domain. During their discussions, PM Modi and Crown Prince Al Nahyan acknowledged the rapid progress made under the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which was first established during Modi's 2015 visit to the UAE. With about 3.5 million Indian expatriates forming the largest community in the UAE, the deepening of ties in key sectors like energy, nuclear cooperation, and trade will continue to be a cornerstone of this growing relationship. Crown Prince also paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat, where he planted a sapling, continuing a tradition started by his grandfather in 1992. The crown prince's visit is more than just about pacts. It strengthens the historic ties between the two countries. The recent implementation of the Local Currency Settlement (LCS) System, which facilitates cross-border transactions in Indian Rupees and UAE Dirhams is yet another example of growing affinity between the two countries.

## PICTALK



Migratory birds rest on a tamarind tree during the monsoon season in Birbhum district

## 9/11: The day that changed the world

As we commemorate the lives lost and honor the bravery of those who responded, we must also commit to building a future grounded in peace, tolerance and mutual respect



SANTHOSH MATHEW

On September 11, 2001, the world stood still as a series of events unfolded that would forever alter the course of history. The terrorist attacks of 9/11 not only shook the United States to its core but also had profound repercussions globally, leaving an indelible mark on international politics, security frameworks, and societal attitudes. Now, 23 years later, the legacy of that day continues to influence the world in significant ways.

The attacks, orchestrated by 19 members of the extremist group Al-Qaeda, led by Osama bin Laden, were intended to instill fear and challenge American power. The immediate aftermath saw the U.S. respond swiftly with the launch of the "War on Terror." Just weeks later, in October 2001, the U.S. invaded Afghanistan, targeting the Taliban regime that harbored Al-Qaeda operatives. The war, which initially focused on dismantling the Taliban, expanded in 2003 to include Iraq, resulting in the toppling of Saddam Hussein's regime.

The costs of these wars, however, were staggering. Over two million people lost their lives, and the financial toll was estimated at \$4.5 trillion. The Middle East was plunged into a state of instability, with extremist groups like ISIS rising in the wake of regime collapses. The U.S. intervention, initially framed as a campaign to liberate oppressed nations, came under heavy criticism due to incidents like the torture of detainees in Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay. These actions tarnished the U.S.'s reputation, fueling anti-American sentiment and exacerbating tensions between the West and the Islamic world.

Beyond military campaigns, 9/11 also had far-reaching societal impacts. In the U.S. and elsewhere, fear and suspicion of Muslims surged. Islamophobia became more entrenched, as communities and individuals were unfairly associated with terrorism. The "clash of civilizations" narrative, which framed Islam as inherently opposed to Western values, gained traction, deepening divisions and fueling prejudice.



dice. This legacy of suspicion and distrust continues to shape political discourse and societal attitudes today.

The seeds of 9/11 were planted decades earlier during the Cold War, when the U.S. supported Islamist fighters in Afghanistan to counter Soviet influence. Figures like Osama bin Laden, initially seen as allies in the fight against communism, turned against the U.S. after the Soviet withdrawal. Bin Laden's growing resentment of U.S. involvement in the Middle East culminated in the deadly attacks on September 11, a day that redefined global security priorities.

In response to 9/11, the Bush administration implemented a range of measures to protect national security. The Department of Homeland Security was established, and stringent airport security protocols became the norm worldwide. The U.S. also adopted the Bush Doctrine, which justified preemptive strikes against nations that harbored or supported terrorists. This doctrine underpinned the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq and marked a significant shift in U.S. foreign policy.

However, the invasions, especially that of Iraq, became highly controversial. While the Bush administration ini-



THE PHYSICAL SITE OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER HAS SINCE BEEN REBUILT, WITH THE ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER STANDING AS A SYMBOL OF RESILIENCE. AT THE BASE OF THE ORIGINAL TOWERS, A MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED TO HONOR THE VICTIMS

tially claimed that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), none were found, leading to widespread skepticism about the true motives behind the war. The failure to uncover WMDs highlighted the dangers of misinformation and flawed intelligence, further eroding public trust in the government.

In the years that followed, 9/11 and its aftermath shaped not only U.S. foreign policy but also the broader international order. Counterterrorism became a global priority, with governments implementing new laws to enhance surveillance and prevent further attacks. However, this focus on security often came at the expense of civil liberties, as governments expanded their powers to monitor citizens, raising concerns about privacy and individual freedoms.

The physical site of the World Trade Center has since been rebuilt, with the One World Trade Center standing as a symbol of resilience. At the base of the original towers, a memorial and museum have been constructed to honor the victims. Yet for many, the emotional scars remain. Survivors, first responders, and the families of victims continue to grapple with the trauma of that fateful day. Health issues linked to expo-

sure to toxic debris have plagued many first responders, and the psychological toll remains deep.

As we reflect on the 23rd anniversary of 9/11, it is clear that the world has changed in profound ways. The attacks prompted the U.S. and its allies to rethink their approach to security, while also creating new challenges, such as the rise of extremism and the erosion of trust between nations and communities. Today, as the global community faces new threats, including cyberterrorism and shifting geopolitical alliances, the lessons of 9/11 remain relevant. The need for global unity, cooperation, and understanding is as pressing as ever.

Ultimately, 9/11 is not just a moment in American history—it is a moment that transformed the world. As we commemorate the lives lost and honor the bravery of those who responded, we must also commit to building a future grounded in peace, tolerance, and mutual respect. The resilience shown in the face of adversity on that day offers hope for a better world, one where such tragedies are prevented and where humanity comes together to heal, rebuild, and move forward.

(The writer is an associate professor; views expressed are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## India's efforts to foster peace



Today India's role on the global stage continues to grow, India could play a role of a peacemaker in facilitating dialogue with both Russia and Ukraine in bringing to an end this two years old conflict. India enjoys good ties with both Russia and Ukraine's PM Modi can "freely communicate with Putin, Zelenskyy, and the Americans who are supporting Ukraine with weapons and money". In his meeting with

Zelenskyy, the prime minister expressed his willingness to contribute personally to finding a peaceful resolution.

After Putin, now Italian PM Meloni has suggested that India can play a role of mediator in resolving this two years old Russia-Ukraine conflict; this conflict, which erupted in February 2022, has resulted in devastating human and economic losses, till there is no clear end in sight.

The visit by India's National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval to Russia which is followed by the prime minister's summit with Putin six weeks ago and with Ukraine president Zelenskyy is a step forward to discuss and take forward peace efforts in resolving this two years old ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bengaluru

for the aspirational and successful youth. Importantly, the party aims to capitalise on the popularity of these two wrestlers, especially Vinesh Phogat, who really caught the nation's attention after she missed her Olympics medal by a whisker. Apart from all these factors, Congress banks on consolidating the decisive Jat vote bank in the state through these wrestlers as they come from the same community.

Lastly, that there is a revolt within the BJP, with senior leaders have resigned over the denial of tickets, stacks are loaded in favour of Congress to wrest the power back in Haryana.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

## SUICIDAL IDEATION RISING

Madam — Approximately seventy per cent of those who commit suicide provide some clues about their intention. Also referred to as "suicidal ideation", reference to suicidal tendency can range from a mere mention to open admission. Family history, long-standing illness, repeated stress, bereavement in family-

are important risk factors that drive a person to pain and hopelessness. Having access to kill oneself—guns and poisons—is also a huge risk factor. Substance abuse disorder (SAD) is a cause.

A sustained campaign is needed to thwart suicide attempts, and bring lives back on track. World Suicide Prevention Day falls on September 10. Everything in this mankind can be prevented, and suicide is not an exception.

There are many "foundations", easily accessible through internet, to come to the rescue of the suicide attempter. It is always good to directly start a conversation with those contemplating suicide with compassion and empathy taking care not to further push them to the brink. "Talk with them; don't argue with them" is the familiar refrain in the international community of experts. The mountains of problems men and women carry with them are only supposed to be climbed.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## Fintech: Paving the way for sustainable development

As India's fintech landscape continues to experience unprecedented growth, it is not only transforming the financial sector but also advancing sustainability

Fintech, or financial technology, is revolutionising the financial sector by expanding accessibility, reducing costs, and boosting efficiency while fostering an equitable financial environment. It has assisted in overcoming the shortcomings of traditional financial services.

India is presently witnessing a fintech transformation marked by an impressive growth trajectory. With a market size of \$50 billion in 2021, it is expected to surge to \$150 billion by 2025. It boasts 17 Fintech Unicorns, making it the third largest fintech ecosystem globally.

The regulatory landscape is robust, with the government's initiatives and support in mobile connectivity; policies like Direct Benefit Transfer and Atal Pension Yojna have accelerated the digital revolution, bringing citizens, especially in rural areas within the digital financial services domain. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Payments Vision 2025 outlines ambitious goals including a substantial increase in digital and payment transactions. The fast expansion of Fintech puts forth optimistic growth num-



bers, it can also be pivotal in advancing sustainability by leveraging digital innovations to promote environmentally and socially responsible financial practices. India's fintech ecosystem per se has seen significant growth initiatives that support sustainable development goals, enhance financial inclusion and foster green economic activities. The path of Green Financial Measures encompassing green investment tax credits, mandatory environmental disclosure and reporting, and development of sustainable financial standards has experienced a steady and robust expansion from 188 to 784 Measures and a Year-to-Year growth from 40 per cent to 100 per cent between 2015 and 2022. Financial institutions adopt environmental and social governance (ESG) criteria in their investment

decisions and provision of Sustainable Finance such as Green Bonds to encourage environmentally friendly projects. Fintech has the potential to support the transition to a circular economy by providing innovative financial solutions. This includes circular supply chains by offering financing based on the value of their Recovered and Reuse materials; business models that facilitate leasing and sharing of goods rather than ownership; and providing them data analytics to track the life-cycle of their products from production to disposal to reduce wastage.

Furthermore, there is also provision of crowdfunding for renewable and green projects particularly solar and wind energy initiatives. The banking sector, which plays an instrumental role in funds dispersion is increasingly incorporating green investment policies, such as providing sustainable loans and adopting environmentally friendly banking practices. Similarly, insurance companies are integrating environmental risk assessment into their underwriting processes

and product development. The government has launched several schemes and initiatives to promote green financing such as the Green Energy Finance Scheme and the National Clean Energy Fund. The RBI has also issued guidelines for green bonds, which are designed to finance environmentally sustainable projects. The SEBI has issued guidelines for sustainability reporting by listed companies, where companies must disclose their ESG performance for greater transparency and accountability.

India's fintech sector is leading the way in advancing sustainability through the development of novel financial services that promote social and environmental objectives. Given the favourable regulatory environments and ongoing technical progress, the fintech industry is in a strong position to increase its influence on sustainable development in India.

(The author is assistant professor at Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, DU; views are personal)



KAJLEEN KAUR

## WARRIORS OF INDIA

Madam —Apropos to "Paralympics: Warriors of India write history and victory" published on 9th September-24, here is my response. Kudos to Indian Paralympics athletes for winning the best medal haul in the history of games. Each of these 29 medal winners in the Paris Paralympics games have an inspiring story of resilience, grit and perseverance. Avani, Preethi, Nitesh, Sumit, Kapil, Parnav, Dharmabir and Kapil all have shown what one can achieve through sheer will power. They need to be given the same grand welcome, recognition and honor that we bestowed upon the likes of Manu Bhaker and Neeraj Chopra and other Olympics medal winners.

What is really incredible is the fact that not only these Paralympics athletes have won medals but few of them broke their personal best and Paralympics games records in the process. In a few events we even won two out of three medals to be won, which itself is historic.

Some accident or tragedy may have taken some of these athlete's limbs but their steely resolve remained intact. And if ever God needed any reason to increase the budgetary allocation to disability rights groups, the ever highest medal tally achieved by our Paralympics medalists is that reason.

And the least local civic authorities and local administration across the cities can do is to create infrastructure sensitive to the needs of differently abled people. It is the least we can do as a society to make them feel better and equal, so that they do not look upon themselves without any complex or inferiority.

Bal Govind | Noida

## PHOGAT JOINS CONGRESS

Madam — Apropos news item, "Will win each battle with people's blessings: Vinesh Phogat", published on Sep. 9, this is my response. With wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia joining Congress, the party's fortunes in the upcoming Haryana Assembly elections have brightened. Congress can present itself as the party



## FIRST COLUMN

## TRANSFORMING DISLIKE INTO COMPASSION

By viewing people positively, we can create a more harmonious fulfilling life



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

All of us are born with strong feelings of likes and dislikes. These feelings shape our personality from childhood itself. That's why today, we see new mothers making statements like, "My child doesn't like green colour, he gets irritated if he sees yellow dal, he doesn't like his scout uniform," etc. It won't be an exaggeration to say that one of the greatest causes of tension, burden, and conflict in our lives is the feeling of dislike for others.

The question is, why do we allow ourselves to collapse into such an ultimately unwanted experience? Is it mandatory for us to dislike someone because they are wrong or perhaps because they are of a displeasing disposition? Why can't we change our perspective in such a way that our inner reaction changes from negative to positive? For this, we need to wear the right kind of glasses that would enable us to maintain a positive vision for all. By doing so, we would be able to see good traits and positive virtues in others rather than their defects and weaknesses. Once we learn this technique of seeing only virtues in others, life will become easier on both sides.

The technique is very simple, and it begins with self. If we reflect over the years, we can easily make out that the periods in which we have been most unhappy with others were the times when we were dissatisfied with ourselves. When we are dissatisfied from within, we will be inclined to be dissatisfied with just about everyone and everything, without knowing that this dissatisfaction is directly related to the perspective or vision we hold of ourselves.



So, we must first begin by asking ourselves, "What is the perspective I have of myself?" or "How do I see myself in the mirror?" These introspective questions can reveal a lot about our inner state. Modern-day psychologists have proven that people who are unhappy with themselves are often unable to find peace with those around them. It means that they project their inner unhappiness onto others, making relationships and interactions more difficult than they need to be. So, if we are not positive about ourselves, then on what basis can we be positive about others?

The only way out of this problem is to ensure that we have a positive vision of ourselves first. Learning to appreciate who we are—our strengths, talents, and positive qualities—creates a ripple effect in our lives. It becomes easier to extend the same kindness and understanding to those around us. Moreover, when we foster a healthy relationship with ourselves, we also develop the emotional strength needed to accept and navigate the imperfections in others without being weighed down by judgment or negativity. So, start by liking yourself first, enjoy others, and develop new and desirable qualities within yourself. This inner work creates a foundation for healthier relationships and a more peaceful life. Remember! Dislikes and grudges drain our energy, while positivity and understanding elevate us, giving us the power to approach others with compassion and love. As we focus on cultivating a positive self-view, our interactions with the world will naturally transform. We must remember that our perspective shapes our reality.

So, by consciously choosing to view ourselves and others positively, we can create a more harmonious, fulfilling life. The key lies in the ability to see beyond faults and embrace the goodness that exists in all of us. So come on let's commit to wearing the 'right glasses'—ones that allow us to see virtues rather than weaknesses, strengths rather than flaws. It's time to replace our inner dissatisfaction with inner contentment, paving the way for a more compassionate and peaceful existence. (The writer is a spiritual educator and a popular columnist; views are personal)

## India needs to excel in 'Olympics of skilling'

We must explore the potential of specific skill sets to excel as the standardised competition environment guarantees a level playing field



DINESH SOOD



The 47th edition of the biannual WorldSkills Competition-2024 is set to begin in Lyon, France. The competition featured a 60-member young contingent from the WorldSkills India Team competing in 52 skill categories against participants from over 70 countries. Often considered the "Olympics of Skilling", this international skilling competition is expected to attract over 2.5 lakh participants and will take place from September 10-15. It will include more than 1,400 competitors and 1,300 experts. The WorldSkills Competition is a platform that celebrates excellence in a wide range of skills, from construction and manufacturing to information technology and creative arts. The 60-member India team, with 20 per cent women, is a breakthrough in this edition as they will compete in traditionally male-dominated fields like welding, plumbing, and heating. They have received rigorous training supported by leading corporations in the manufacturing sector and expertise from industry leaders and institutions across the country. Unfortunately, the same approach is missing in the female-dominated (67%) beauty and wellness sector, as its skills potential still needs to be appropriately recognised in the current contingent in the WorldSkills Competition.

It would be a significant step forward if the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and CSR funds could rigorously support these skills also in the India Skills competition, the country's most important competition aiming to demonstrate the highest skilling standards, offers a platform for young people to showcase their talent in various skills.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasises the importance of skill development, allotting 40% of credits to this area. It is essential to ensure that



THERE IS A NEED TO PROVIDE MORE EXPOSURE AND HIGH-STANDARD TRAINING FOR OUR BOYS AND GIRLS IN GLOBAL SKILL COMPETITIONS SO THAT THEY CAN LEAVE THEIR MARK

financial constraints do not hinder access to skill development. Models for financial aid, scholarships, and low-interest loans must be explored to support individuals in pursuing skilling programs, particularly in the beauty and wellness sector, which plays a significant role in shaping India's future. The regulatory framework for skill development needs refinement to adapt to changing industry needs and technological advancements.

Streamlining and simplifying the accreditation and certification processes are areas that require attention. However, the true power lies in collaboration.

The involvement of academia, industry, and training providers is crucial to achieving India's skilling objectives. Together, we can significantly impact the future of skill development. To make India a global skill capital, we must focus on eleven major paradigms and enablers: aspiration and advocacy, capacity, quality, synergy, mobilisation and engagement, and international partnerships.

Each stakeholder has a unique role to play in this collaborative effort. Together, we can shape a skilled workforce at a global level that meets the world's evolving needs and could be a game-changer for India. Currently, India's performance in the beauty and wellness sector in global skill competitions is not at par with that of other countries.

There is a need to provide more exposure and high-standard training for our boys and girls in global skill competitions so that they can leave their mark. Beauty

contests such as Miss World or Miss Universe have created a differentiator, diluting earlier misconceptions about the fashion industry and fueling a unique recognition. Similarly, the beauty and wellness sector has unlimited potential and can showcase skilled talent globally. However, our approach towards honing the skills of our beauty and wellness skilled individuals needs focused improvement so that they can leave their indelible mark in international competitions.

WorldSkills Competition hosts global championships of skills every two years, attracting young people worldwide to compete and win medals in their chosen skill. Competitions span various industries, from joinery to floristry, hairdressing to electronics, auto-body repair to bakery, beauty and wellness, and more. Competitors are selected from skills competitions held in WorldSkills member countries and regions, representing the best of their peers. The increased visibility of skilled professional education is one of the legacies of WorldSkills competitions, serving as a social and economic transformation tool.

At the global level, one key deterrent to India's dominance in global skill competitions is the need for a more international approach to our various skill sets. This crucial aspect needs immediate attention and action, as it could significantly enhance India's standing in the global skill development arena. In the WorldSkills Competition 2022, the 50-member Indian contingent

received only 13 medallions for appreciation and was positioned 11th, while China was top-ranked with 11 gold, eight silver, and nine bronze medals.

Although India has never won any gold medals, young professionals have immense potential to excel in various skill sets and win medals in global competitions, fostering international exposure and instilling optimism about India's future in skill development. Need to revisit strategy: An enabling atmosphere has to be created in the training institutes, where there is an uninterrupted exchange of information and best practices regarding industry and professional education.

New ideas and processes inspire school-aged youth to dedicate themselves to technical and creative careers to build a better future. If our skilled participants are not winning medals in the 'Olympics of Skills,' it's a clear sign that we must revisit our strategy.

We must explore the potential of specific skill sets to excel, as the standardised competition environment guarantees that participants from across the globe compete on a level playing field. This reiteration of the need for continuous improvement and adaptation should make the audience feel the importance of these aspects in skill development.

(The writer is co-founder and MD of Orane International, a training partner of the National Skill Development Corporation and a network Member of India International Skills Centres, an initiative of GoI. The views are personal)

## The silent crisis: Rising suicide cases demand urgent attention

As mental health continues to be overshadowed by the pursuit of success, it is crucial to provide support to those who need it most

The rising number of suicides in India, especially among young people and businessmen, is an alarming and heart-wrenching issue that demands serious attention. News about students and entrepreneurs ending their lives after facing failure or distress has become all too frequent. It is high time that society, including teachers, psychiatrists, and responsible citizens, reflects on why these individuals are so prone to taking such extreme measures in moments of despair.

In recent years, the suicide epidemic has gained prominence, particularly among students preparing for competitive exams. The pressure to succeed, exacerbated by societal expectations and the fear of failure, has devastating conse-



VIVEK SHUKLA

quences on the mental health of young individuals. The city of Kota in Rajasthan, famous for its coaching institutes, has become a hub for student suicides. Thousands of students flock to the city each year with the singular goal of cracking entrance exams for top medical and engineering colleges. Yet, under the immense weight of academic expectations, many crumble. According to data presented in

the Lok Sabha, over 35,000 students in India committed suicide between 2019 and 2021. In 2019, the number of student suicides stood at 10,335, which increased to 12,526 in 2020 and further to 13,089 in 2021. These figures paint a grim picture of the pressures that students face. The constant comparison to peers, the relentless competition, and the desire to meet the high expectations of parents, teachers, and society often leave young individuals feeling trapped, hopeless, and unable to cope with failure. Former president of the Indian Medical Association, Dr. Vinay Aggarwal, emphasizes that merely expressing concern over the rising number of suicides is insufficient. He argues that there is an urgent need to identify solutions to this crisis.

On World Suicide Prevention Day, which falls on September 10th, a seminar will be held in New Delhi to discuss the causes behind youth, businessman, and other suicides. The event will bring together psychiatrists, journalists, and social workers who will share their experiences and insights. Following this, strategies will be developed to curb the rising suicide rates.

In the realm of student suicides, efforts are being made by some coaching centers to ease the pressure on students. Counseling services have been introduced, and parents are being engaged in the process to ensure students' well-being. These initiatives aim to reduce the intense stress associated with high-stakes examinations. However, more compre-



hensive measures are required at both institutional and societal levels to alleviate the crushing burden placed on students. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reports that in 2020, a student committed suicide every 42 minutes. This statistic is both shocking and indicative of the mental health crisis that young people are facing. It underscores the need for parents, teachers, and society to create an environment

that allows students to pursue their academic goals without undue pressure. Social worker Brother Solomon George of the Delhi Brotherhood Society (DBS) echoes this sentiment. He stresses that students should not be subjected to unnecessary comparisons or interrogations about their family background, income, or caste. Such actions, often unwittingly, can weaken a child's self-esteem and lead to despair. George advocates for a holistic approach to education that nurtures the child's mental health alongside academic success. He also emphasizes that children should have the freedom to choose careers that align with their interests and abilities, rather than being forced into predefined molds of success.

The suicide epidemic is not limited to students. Businessmen, too, have been increasingly taking their lives due to financial losses. The NCRB also reveals that in 2020, during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic, 11,716 businessmen in India committed suicide. This marked a 29% increase from 2019 when 9,052 business-related suicides were recorded. The economic turmoil brought on by the pandemic dealt a severe blow to businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). These enterprises, already vulnerable to financial shocks, were further burdened by debt and losses. Karnataka recorded the highest number of suicides by businessmen in 2020, with 1,772 deaths—a staggering 103% increase from

the previous year. Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu also reported significant increases in suicides by businessmen, with 1,610 and 1,447 cases, respectively. The plight of India's business community, especially SMEs, is often overlooked in discussions about mental health. The issue of suicide among students, businessmen, and others cannot be ignored any longer.

It is imperative that both the government and society at large take concerted action to address the mental health challenges facing these vulnerable groups. Preventive measures, including counseling, mental health awareness, and creating supportive environments, must be prioritised. (The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)





US accuses Iran of sending ballistic missiles to Russia

AP ■ LONDON The United States formally accused Iran on Tuesday of supplying short-range ballistic missiles to Russia for its war in Ukraine and will take measures to punish those involved.

Ukraine's surprise offensive that has claimed hundreds of miles of territory in Russia's Kursk region. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy also has ramped up pressure on the US and other allies to allow his country to use Western-supplied missiles to strike deep inside Russia and hit sites from which Moscow launches aerial attacks.

mission to the United Nations. "Thus, not only does Iran abstain from engaging in such actions itself, but it also calls upon other countries to cease the supply of weapons to the sides involved in the conflict."

'Woman killed as over 140 drones target Russia'

AP ■ MOSCOW Over 140 Ukrainian drones targeted multiple Russian regions overnight, including Moscow and surrounding areas, killing at least one person, officials said Tuesday, in one of the biggest drone attacks on Russian soil in the 2 1/2-year war.



Ukrainian military needs and commonly arrive long after they were promised. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has urged defence companies to increase their output.

On the battlefield's 1,000-kilometre (600-mile) front line, Ukrainian military needs and commonly arrive long after they were promised.

Public Notice: Notice is hereby given that my client Smt. Tanuja is in process to avail the LAP against her Plot bearing No. 37 area measuring 50 sq.yds., out of Kharsa No. 129, area, situated at Rajew Garden village Dharoli, Pargana Loni, Tehsil, District Ghaziabad U.P. (having loan from PCHF Ltd., having against the said title Gift Deed dated 23.08.2024 Doc No. 16387 executed by her Husband Karan Singh.)

Public Notice: My client Mr. Mohd Israf S/o. Haji Hanif R/o. H.No. A-174/3, Abul Fazal Enclave Part-II, Shaheen Bagh, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 has DISOWNED his son Mohd Shoahb from all his rights and entitlements from his properties since 20-08-2024.

Australia proposes legal minimum age for children accessing social media

AP ■ MELBOURNE The Australian government on Tuesday promised to legislate this year to enforce a minimum age for children to access social media, but it has yet to announce how ages will be verified.

"We've committed to introducing legislation before the end of this year for age verification to make sure that we get young people away from this social harm," Albanese told Australian Broadcasting Corp. "This is a scourge. We know

that there is mental health consequences for what many of the young people have had to deal with. The bullying that can occur online, the access to material which causes social harm, and parents are wanting a response," Albanese added.

investigation into what it described as a terror attack. Russia, meanwhile, has pummeled Ukraine with missiles, glide bombs and its own drones, killing over 10,000 civilians, according to the United Nations.

Ukraine has invested a lot of effort in developing domestic drone production, extending the drones' range, payload and uses. It has increasingly used drone blitzes to slow Russia's war machine, disrupt Russian supply lines and poke the Kremlin.

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THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS CHANGE OF NAME

Public Notice: NOTICE is hereby given that Paras Arora claims to be owner and in possession of Prop. No. 374, Block G, Pkt-22, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi. (herein after called the said property) on basis of inheritance after the death of Om Parkash Arora by virtue of Will dated 20.01.2014 Doc. No. 200. Said Om Parkash Arora was the owner of said property by virtue of Relinquishment Deed dated 09.08.2012 regd. Doc. No. 9998 r/w Conveyance Deed dated 29.06.2010 reg. doc. No. 10218. Paras Arora have agreed to sell the said Property to Ram Yadav & said Ram Yadav agreed to create a mortgage in favour of our clients IFCI First Bank Ltd, ITO Branch, any person's having claim against the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or otherwise howsoever, are hereby intimated to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.

Public Notice: My client Mr. Suman Kumar & Ramji V (proposed owner) are purchased the property of Mr. Gordan Dessy & Pushpa Gupta (current owner) of entire property, bearing MCD No. 1462, Ground Floor, area measuring 55 sq. yds. First Floor, 4km Sector Road, area measuring 55 sq. yds. total area measuring 85 sq. yds. situated at Gali Sangarshala, Pahar Ganj, Delhi, through registered sale deed dated 25.03.1987 executed by Mr. Gordan Dessy & Pushpa Gupta in favour of Mr. Suman Kumar & Ramji V. Said Mr. Suman Kumar & Ramji V. are the registered owners of the above mentioned property. In the absence of any objection, the said property is being sold to my client Mr. Suman Kumar & Ramji V. by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

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It is for general information that I, TAMANNA D/o SHOBIT KUMAR, R/o N-41, B-282, J J Camp Suraj park, Badli P O Sarnipur Distt North West Delhi, Delhi-110042, declare that name of My father has been wrongly written as VICKY in my 10th and 12th class Documents, Pen Card No, SYDPS7412F and O.B.C certificate no 90500001190430. The actual name of my father is SHOBIT KUMAR respectively, which may be amended accordingly. PD(734)C

It is for general information that I, SHEETAL D/o SHOBIT KUMAR, R/o N-41, B-282, J J Camp Suraj park, Badli P O Sarnipur Distt North West Delhi, Delhi-110042, declare that name of My father has been wrongly written as VICKY in my 10th and 12th class Documents, Pen Card No, SYDPS7412F and Voter card No, AFQ2632420. The actual name of my father is SHOBIT KUMAR respectively, which may be amended accordingly. PD(732)C

It is for general information that I, SHEETAL D/o SHOBIT KUMAR, R/o N-41, B-282, J J Camp Suraj park, Badli P O Sarnipur Distt North West Delhi, Delhi-110042, declare that name of My father has been wrongly written as VICKY in my 10th and 12th class Documents, Pen Card No, SYDPS7412F and Voter card No, AFQ2632420. The actual name of my father is SHOBIT KUMAR respectively, which may be amended accordingly. PD(732)C

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NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE No. 23AC/393/E-Auction/2022 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway Delhi Division invites bids through e-Auction through IREPS (http://ireps.gov.in) for the allotment of under mentioned contracts at following Railway stations/locations.

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# Foreign funds drive Indian market rally, Sensex up

**PTI ■ MUMBAI**  
Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended higher on Tuesday, marking their second straight day of gains following a rebound in the US markets and fresh foreign fund inflows. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 361.75 points or 0.44 per cent to settle at 81,921.29 driven by gains in IT, telecom and select banking shares. During the day, it jumped 637.01 points or 0.78 per cent to 82,196.55. The NSE Nifty surged 104.70 points or 0.42 per cent to 25,041.10. Among the 30 Sensex firms, NTPC, HCL Technologies, Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra, Power Grid, Axis Bank, Tata Consultancy Services and Adani Ports were the biggest gainers.



Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors and State Bank of India were among the laggards. In Asian markets, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled higher while Seoul and Tokyo ended lower. European markets were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended significantly higher on Monday. Institutional

Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 1,176.55 crore on Monday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) also bought equities worth Rs 1,757.02 crore. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.39 per cent to USD 70.84 a barrel. "With an overnight rebound on Wall Street, strong net buying from both FIIs and DIIs, and sluggish oil prices, bullish traders are expected to pursue bargains," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said. The BSE benchmark Sensex rebounded 375.61 points or 0.46 per cent to settle at 81,559.54 on Monday. The NSE Nifty went up by 84.25 points or 0.34 per cent to finish at 24,936.40 after three days of fall.

# Rupee falls two paise against US \$



**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
The rupee traded in a narrow range on Tuesday and depreciated 2 paise to close at 83.97 (provisional) against the American currency, weighed down by the strengthening of the American currency in the overseas market. Forex traders said the US dollar recovered amid mixed non-farm payrolls data. The slight recovery in crude oil prices also weighed on the rupee. However, a surge in the domestic markets cushioned the downside. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.95 against the American currency and finally settled at 83.97 (provisional) against the US dollar, down 2

paise from its previous close. On Monday, the rupee traded in a narrow range and closed flat at 83.95 against the American currency. "We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on the strong US dollar and concerns over global economic growth. However, positive domestic markets and any intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may support the rupee at lower levels," Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said. Choudhary further noted that "investors may remain cautious ahead of the US CPI and ECB monetary policy this week. "USDINR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 83.70 to 84.20," he said. On the domestic equity markets front, the Sensex climbed 361.75 points, or 0.44 per cent, to settle at 81,921.29 points, while the Nifty rose 104.70 points, or 0.42 per cent, to close at 25,041.10 points. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.03 per cent to 101.58. Brent crude, the international benchmark, fell 1.16 per cent to 71.01 in futures trade. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets on Monday, as they purchased shares worth Rs 1,176.55 crore, according to exchange data.

# Air Express to phase out business class seats



**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Air India Express, which is set to complete the merger of AIX Connect with itself next month, will phase out business class seats in its aircraft in 2025, according to a senior airline official. Currently, the carrier, part of Tata Group, has a fleet of 85 aircraft -- 25 A320 family planes and 60 Boeing 737s. By year-end, the total number is expected to be around 100. The airline has 34 white tail Boeing 737-8 aircraft and out of them, 29 have business class seats of varying numbers. Their count will rise to 50 by the end of this year. Generally, white tail planes are those that were originally manufactured for a particular airline and later taken by another airline. The airline official told PTI that aircraft with the business class seats will be phased out by reconfiguring them next year as business class does not fit into the Air India Express model. These white tail aircraft have varying number of business class seats, the official added. In the existing fleet of Air India Express, there are 20 A320s, 5 A320neos, 26 B737-NGs and 34 B737-8 planes. At present, the airline offers economy and business class seats. The global aviation industry continues to grapple with supply chain woes that have also resulted in instances of delayed aircraft deliveries and shortage of planes amid rising air traffic demand post the coronavirus pandemic. Air India Express, a subsidiary of Air India, operates more than 380 daily flights, connecting 32 domestic and 14 international destinations. In February 2023, Tata Group-owned Air India placed orders for 470 planes comprising 250 from Airbus and 220 from Boeing. Out of the total, 400 are narrow body aircraft. Tata Group has four airlines Air India, Vistara, Air India Express and AIX Connect -- earlier known as AirAsia India.

# Adani Airports launches 'aviio' app

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Adani Airports Holdings Ltd, the Adani group firm that operates seven airports in the country, has launched 'aviio' digital platform to provide passengers real-time data on variety of airport accesses - from wait times to gate change and bags on belt. Aviio aspires to bring the aviation community together to collaborate and serve passengers better, a top official said.



By enabling airport stakeholders to access real-time data, passengers can expect easier access to airport information in the form of updates related to security checks, wait times, gate change and bags on belt, among other aspects, he said. With this path-breaking initiative, AAHL, a subsidiary of Adani group's flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd, aims to serve the aviation community and set new standards for airport operations management and passenger experience. With seven operational airports in its stable, and one more expected to go live during the middle of 2025, this platform for B2B services has been conceptualised and curated to meet AAHL's unique need to manage airports at scale. Acting as the backbone for all digital transformation initiatives, the 'aviio' platform is placed to create a benchmark for airport operations across the globe. AAHL's vision for 'aviio' encompasses the development of a cutting-edge Smart Airport Operations System, conceived as a replicable model of an 'Airport-in-a-Box'. This next-generation Airport Planning and Operation Centre (APOC) has 10x more features that help in arriving at data-driven decisions.

# MeitY assures funding for semiconductor plants

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
The government has committed about Rs 62,000 crore in incentives for electronic plants and there is no issue in funding semiconductor projects, Electronics and IT Secretary S Krishnan has said. He told PTI that out of Rs 76,000 crore approved earlier, the government still has scope to accommodate small projects and will approach authorities when there are new projects in place. "Out of the Rs 76,000 crore intended for the semiconductor mission, we have committed about Rs 62,000 crore, including the last scheme which was cleared for Keynes. As of now, wherever claims have come up, we are settling them with maximum dispatch, and there is no funding issue right now at all," Krishnan said.



The government has approved five semiconductor projects entailing investments of around Rs 1.52 lakh crore or about USD 18 billion. He said that some funding is required for the Semiconductor Laboratory's modernization in Mohali. "We still have some funds to take up some smaller projects and approve them. Thereafter, we will have to go back to the Ministry of Finance and Cabinet for approval when some new proposals come," Krishnan said. He said there is a high level of commitment from the government to make sure the semiconductor mission works. "If additional funding is required, I am confident we will be able to secure it. As of now, wherever claims have come up, we are settling them with maximum dispatch, and there is no funding issue right now at all," Krishnan said. The government has received around 20 proposals for the Centre's incentive under the India Semiconductor Mission. Krishnan said India is targeting legacy nodes--the established technology segment in semiconductor space, which will produce large size chips. The large size chips in the node of 28 nanometer, 40 nanometer, 60 and 65 nanometer can be used in big products like cars, electric vehicles, power inverters, consumer durables like washing machines, consumer electronic products etc.

"We are balancing the fact that it is reasonably well established technology and there is a considerable market for chips in that size for a range of industries. We have an established market here in the country for that. Therefore, we are focusing on those goals where the total cost of setting up a new facility is also not too great, which means that the subsidy outgo on behalf of India will be a little less and there is a significant demand as well," Krishnan said. He said India has a significant presence in the design ecosystem with 20 per cent of the global human resources required for semiconductor design based out of India. Krishnan said many large brand names actually design in India. "We never had a big presence in the manufacturing space. It is not a normal manufacturing process. There are a lot of precision, engineering skills, and purity involved. Therefore we do require, at least initially, some foreign collaboration and others who are leaders in this space to actually establish such facilities here in India.



# Gold, silver prices soar amid strong demand

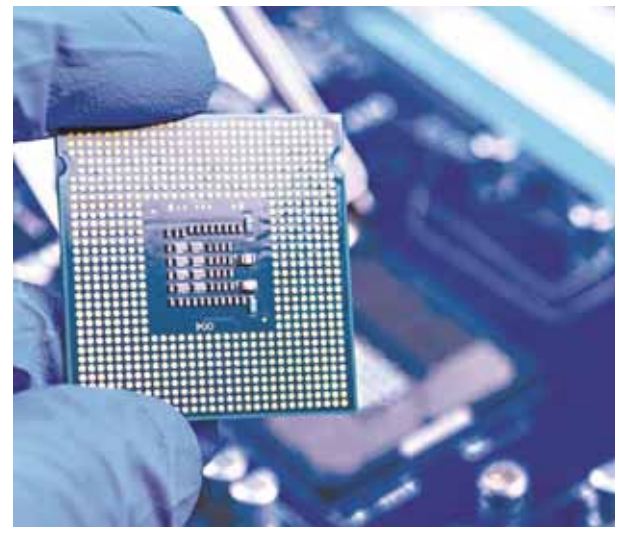
**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Gold prices rallied by Rs 600 to Rs 74,100 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday on the back of fresh buying from jewellery. In the previous session, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 73,500 per 10 grams on Monday. Silver prices, too, jumped Rs 700 to Rs 84,500 per kilogram from Rs 83,800 per kg in the previous close, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Additionally, gold of 99.5 per cent purity bounced Rs 400 to Rs 73,750 per 10 grams. It had settled at Rs 73,350 per 10 grams in the previous session. Traders said gold prices saw an uptrend due to rise in domestic demand. However, a weak trend overseas capped the gains. In the overseas markets, comex gold is trading lower at USD 2,532.10 per ounce. "Gold prices have held above USD 2,500-mark through the start of the European session on Tuesday as traders seemed reluctant to place directional

bets ahead of the US Inflation reports due to be published in the days ahead," Maneesh Sharma, AVP of Commodities & Currencies at Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers, said. The US Consumer Price Index is due for release on Wednesday, while the producer price index data will release on Thursday. According to the commodity market experts, the data will influence market expectations about the size of the Fed's interest rate cut later this month and provide a fresh directions to the non-yielding yellow metal. However, silver is quoting marginally higher at USD 28.70 per ounce globally. "The underwhelming US jobs report bolstered the case for Fed easing, though uncertainty about the scale of interest rate cuts limited gold's upside," Kaynat Chainwala, AVP-Commodity Research, Kotak Securities, said. Additionally, traders will also closely watch speeches by FOMC members Michael S Barr and Michelle W Bowman.

# Tata Electronics, ASMPT sign pact for semiconductor assembly equipment infra

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Tata Electronics has signed a pact with ASMPT Singapore for establishing semiconductor assembly equipment infrastructure and solutions for its chip packaging units in Assam and Karnataka. ASMPT will collaborate with Tata Electronics for workforce training, advancing service engineering infrastructure, automation, spare supports and boosting R&D initiatives in the area of wirebond, flip chip, advanced packaging and integrated system packaging. "In a significant step towards accelerating its readiness for its semiconductor assembly

and test facilities in Vemagal, Karnataka and Jagiroad, Assam, Tata Electronics signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ASMPT Singapore to collaborate on establishing semiconductor assembly equipment infrastructure and solutions," Tata Electronics said in a statement on Tuesday. Tata Electronics is setting up a chip assembly plant in Assam with an investment of Rs 27,000 crore which is expected to become operational next year. It also has a small chip assembly unit set-up in Karnataka. "This partnership will emphasize the development



of essential training programs and advanced research and development, while also nurturing a vibrant ecosystem within the country," Tata Electronics Managing Director and CEO, Randhir Thakur said. The partnership shall also focus on energy and material efficiency to promote sustainable growth and strengthen the semiconductor supply chain ecosystem. "We are excited to partner with Tata Electronics to realize their vision of establishing a global electronics supply chain in India. By leveraging our collective expertise and resources, we are well-positioned to drive significant

progress in the semiconductor industry. "This collaboration will not only propel technological innovation but also cultivate the talent required for sustained future growth," ASMPT, Group CEO, Robin Ng said. Tata Electronics is setting up two major chip units comprising a semiconductor fab in Dholera, Gujarat, and a Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) Facility in Jagiroad, Assam. "With an investment outlay of Rs 1,18,000 crore, Tata Electronics is set to generate nearly 50,000 direct and indirect jobs," the statement said.

# PM to inaugurate electronica, productronica and SEMICON India 2024

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Global value chains (GVCs) are essential to modern manufacturing, representing 70% of global trade. In India, GVCs are particularly vital for the electronics sector, with 75% of exports relying on them. To enhance its position, India must focus on innovation, collaboration, and technology adoption. To drive this transformation, Messe Muenchen India (MMI) is hosting its largest-ever edition of electronica India and productronica India 2024, featuring a comprehensive range of technology solutions--from the smallest components to intricate manufacturing processes. Commenting on the increasing global importance



of the Indian electronics industry, Bhupinder Singh, CEO of Messe Muenchen India, says, "The upcoming edition of electronica India and productronica India is a clear testament to the expanding global stature of the Indian electronics sector." To organize electronica India & productronica India, MMI is consolidating the entire electronics value chain under one roof. This landmark event is poised to transform the electronics industry landscape in India. The upcoming 2024 editions

of electronica India, productronica India are set to make a remarkable leap in scale and scope compared to previous years. The 2024 event will feature a record-breaking 830 exhibitors from 29 countries, showcasing a significant increase from the 589 exhibitors in 2023. Attendance is expected to soar to over 50,000 business visitors, up from 39,133 in the last edition. This expansion highlights the growing global interest and industry significance of these leading technology exhibitions,

reflecting a vibrant and rapidly evolving market. eFuture and eMobility conferences aim to prepare the industry for the future while electronica India, productronica India 2024 will take place from September 11-13, 2024 at the India Expo Mart Limited (IEMI), Greater Noida. One of this year's highlights is the inaugural eFuture Conference, focusing on groundbreaking technologies such as AI, ML, ADAS, autonomous vehicles, and 6G, with anticipated participation from international leaders. The focused buyer-seller meetings are going to be a key attraction of these trade fairs, and this edition will curate 2,000+ meetings between buying companies and suppliers of high-tech components and services.

regarding the range. "Secondly, it is the EV infrastructure and thirdly it is about the residual value of the vehicle after five years," Banerjee said. He stated that the company's first EV model, a mid-sized SUV, would be unveiled at the Bharat Mobility show in January next year. The model would come with a driving range of over 500 kms, he added. On sales expectations from this year's festive season, Banerjee said: "In festival time we are going to see some positivity. We are very optimistic about it." He further said: "The expectation is it will be much, much better than the current situation. We will be seeing upside from here." When asked about rising inventory levels, Banerjee said the company has taken a conscious call to calibrate dispatches to the dealers.

# Maruti gears up for EV market

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India is looking to establish a holistic ecosystem for electric vehicle buyers as it gears up to introduce its first battery-powered model early next year. The company will look at setting up charging infrastructure for EVs and also other critical elements like having resale avenues for such models. "We are not only going to launch the product, we are going to basically provide a complete ecosystem for the customers who are going to be part of the electric vehicle family," Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Senior Executive Officer (Marketing & Sales) Partho Banerjee told reporters on the sidelines of the 64th SIAM annual session here. He noted that the biggest concern for EV users is

regarding the range. "Secondly, it is the EV infrastructure and thirdly it is about the residual value of the vehicle after five years," Banerjee said. He stated that the company's first EV model, a mid-sized SUV, would be unveiled at the Bharat Mobility show in January next year. The model would come with a driving range of over 500 kms, he added. On sales expectations from this year's festive season, Banerjee said: "In festival time we are going to see some positivity. We are very optimistic about it." He further said: "The expectation is it will be much, much better than the current situation. We will be seeing upside from here." When asked about rising inventory levels, Banerjee said the company has taken a conscious call to calibrate dispatches to the dealers.

# LED BY YOUNG STRIKERS, INDIA AIM TO MAINTAIN WINNING RUN IN ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY



**PTI ■ HULUNBUIR (CHINA)**  
India's new-found ability to score field goals will be crucial as the defending champions will look to extend their winning streak when they face Malaysia in the Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Wednesday.

Field goal conversion was a key concern during India's bronze medal-winning campaign at the Paris Olympics last month, where they netted 15 goals but managed only three from open play.

It even prompted the legendary goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who retired after the Games, to stress the need for improvement in this area. "If we are thinking about the next level for the Indian hockey team and want to consistently win Olympic

medals, we need to score more field goals because our defence has its limitations," Sreejesh had remarked. Coming into the tournament after securing their successive bronze wins at the Olympics, India are looking a more enterprising side, grabbing

opportunities up front with a rock solid defence in place. India started their title defence with a 3-0 win over hosts China before thrashing Japan 5-1 in their next league match on Monday. Out of the eight goals India have scored, seven have come

from open play, with young drag-flicker Sanjay converting a penalty corner against Japan. Young striker Sukhjeet Singh, who was part of the Paris Olympics squad, has been phenomenal, scoring three field goals, while Abhishek and Uttam Singh have added two each from open play. Going by world status and current form, India are favourites to reclaim the title having won the tournament four times before. The first two matches witnessed strong performances from the young Indian forwards, which meant star dragflicker and skipper Harmanpreet Singh had to do very little so far. In contrast, last-edition's runners-up Malaysia are languishing at the penultimate position with one loss and a draw. Despite the strong start, the Indians can ill afford to take any side lightly as they begin a new Olympic cycle. India's new first goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak, who replaced the talismanic Sreejesh following his retirement after the Paris Games, too had a decent outing so far in the tournament, conceding just one goal. After the round-robin league among the six teams, the top-four sides will qualify for the semifinals to be played on September 16.



## Paralympic champs return to hero's welcome



**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
Swarmed by hundreds of supporters, garlanded and fed sweets, India's Paralympic medal-winners returned to a jubilant welcome on Tuesday after securing an unprecedented haul of 29 medals at the just-concluded Games in Paris. There was the customary dhol and euphoric chants hailing them as the athletes made their way out of the Indira Gandhi International Airport this morning. Supporters, sports administrators and families of the athletes lined up to show their appreciation for the contingent. "Thank you so much for this grand welcome," javelin thrower Sumit Antil told PTI. He clinched a second successive gold in the F64 category by breaking his own Games record with a throw of 70.59m.

Antil said. Archer Harvinder Singh, who is also pursuing a Ph.D in economics from Punjab University, was overwhelmed by the appreciation. He has impaired legs owing to the side effects of a dengue treatment he received as a toddler. He became the first Indian archer to win gold in Paralympics after becoming the country's first medallist in the sport three years ago in Tokyo with a bronze. "I like to keep myself busy. It helps my focus, the mind wanders less. Any person who is distressed or defeated can take inspiration from para-athletes," he said even as supporters showered flower petals on him and fellow archer Sheetal Devi. Sheetal, who was born without arms, won the mixed team bronze with Rakesh Kumar after missing an individual medal by a whisker. "I have had a great experience. I am very happy that India won two medals in archery. We have got good support and that's why we have won so many medals," she said referring to India's record overall haul because of which the country ended 18th in the medal standings. Another javelin thrower Navdeep, who competes in the F41 classification owing to his short stature, was lifted by his supporters as he celebrated with them. Navdeep won the gold medal with a personal best of 47.32m. India had sent a contingent of 84 athletes, the country's largest ever for the Games. Of the total 29 medals, seven are gold, which is also a first for the country.

# France rests Mbappé and beats Belgium while Haaland is decisive in the Nations League

**AP ■ GENEVA**  
Even after leaving star forward Kylian Mbappé on the bench, France handed Belgium yet another loss in the Nations League. Two of Mbappé's former teammates at Paris Saint-Germain, Randal Kolo Muani and Ousmane Dembélé, struck with powerful shots either side of halftime in a 2-0 win in Lyon on Monday. The latest win helped France make up ground in the top-tier Nations League group after losing to Italy 3-1 in Paris on Friday. Italy beat Israel 2-1 on Monday and leads the four-team group. Also, Erling Haaland scored a decisive 80th-minute goal in Norway's 2-1 win over Austria

and Slovenia star Benjamin Šeško scored a hat trick in a 3-0 win over Kazakhstan. Haaland and Šeško once were clubmates in Austria at Salzburg. Mbappé was rested from the start despite France seeking to avoid a third straight loss, two months after a European Championship semifinals exit against eventual title winner Spain. Real Madrid's new star had little preseason preparation after Euro 2024 and played a full game against Italy. He was eased in against Belgium by coach Didier Deschamps, who sent on his captain in the 67th minute to replace Kolo Muani. France extended its winning run over Belgium to four games in the Mbappé era.



Starting in the 2018 World Cup semifinals, Les Bleus also eliminated Belgium in the 2021 Nations League semifinals and in the Euro 2024 round of 16. Monday's game was 43 years to the day since France lost a competition game against Belgium, in 1981 in Brussels in

a World Cup qualifier. Belgium started with fierce intent and France survived a wave of early attacks in an increasingly testy atmosphere. Belgium forward Loïs Openda was at the heart of most of the action and confrontations. France led in the 30th when Kolo Muani lashed in a shot

from close range after goalkeeper Koen Casteels pushed out a weak bouncing effort from Dembélé. Dembélé was more purposeful in the 57th, cutting in from the right side of the penalty area to score with a rising left-foot shot. A smiling Mbappé was among the substitutes who went on to celebrate with Dembélé and lifted him to his feet. Haaland had to wait and wait - after a 2 1/2-minute video review check - for his 32nd career goal for Norway in just his 35th international. At 1-1 in the 80th minute against Austria, the ball returned to Haaland near the penalty spot and the striker held off two defenders before poking in a low shot. The VAR

check for a possible offside went on and on before the goal was confirmed. Norway and Slovenia each has four points at the top of their second-tier group ahead of meeting in Oslo on Oct. 10. Hat trick for Aktürkoglu Turkey leads its second-tier group from Wales on goal difference with both on four points after wins. Kerem Aktürkoglu scored a hat trick for Turkey in a 3-1 result over Iceland just days after his move from Galatasaray to Benfica restored his chance to play in the Champions League this season. Wales scored twice in the first three minutes in Montenegro and hung on for a rain-soaked 2-1 win.

## Mauricio Pochettino's pending arrival looms over US soccer friendlies



**AP ■ MILFORD (US)**  
Mauricio Pochettino's pending arrival looms over interim coach Mikey Varas and his players. Coming off a dismal performance in Canada's first win over the U.S. On American soil in soccer since 1957, players say they realize more intensity is needed when the team faces New Zealand on Tuesday night. "All we can do is put ourselves in the best position so that if an announcement is made in the near future that we're ready, that we're confident going into the next step for this federation," US midfielder Christian Pulisic said on Monday. "We need to show that no matter who is the coach is that we're willing to fight and willing to give the best for this country and that we want to win games." Varas and players criticised the team's effort in Saturday's 2-1 defeat, the first US match since first-round elimination at the

Copa America led the US Soccer Federation to fire coach Gregg Berhalter. "Anybody who plays, they will have earned it," Varas said, "and at the same time this is a September window with a new coach coming in so it's also my responsibility to make sure that multiple players get a chance of showcasing themselves as long as they have also shown that they can earn it." Pochettino, a former coach of Tottenham, Chelsea and Paris Saint-Germain, has been in negotiations with the USSF since mid-August. He appears likely to take over for friendlies against Panama on October 12 at Austin, Texas, and at Mexico three days later. "Sometimes when someone new comes in, yeah, it gives everyone a bit of an extra push and say, you know what, I need to show a little bit extra. I need to give a good first impression," Pulisic said. "It can change a little bit of the mentality, a little bit of the culture."

Pochettino would become the first foreign-born coach to head the US since Jurgen Klinsmann from 2011-16. "It's better to almost go in not necessarily blind to who you're going to be working for but with an open mind to understanding that just because they've done things a certain way previously doesn't mean that they're going to do that the same coming in," defender Tim Ream said. Columbus goalkeeper Patrick Schulte started against Canada in his second international appearance and had five saves in a strong performance. Varas chose the 23-year-old over Matt Turner, the No. 1 pick the last two years, Ethan Horvath and 18-year-old Diego Kochen, a Barcelona youth player. "The decision was, again, to balance the long-term vision and the short-term vision," Varas said. "We need to move the program forward. It was an open competition. And then we were looking for matchups based on the opponent." The US is missing regulars Sergio Dest, Antonee Robinson, Tyler Adams, Weston McKennie, Tim Weah and Gio Reyna. New Zealand is coming off a 3-0 loss to Mexico on Saturday in a friendly at Pasadena, California. The All Whites, whose last World Cup appearance was in 2010, start World Cup qualifying next month against Tahiti. "Once game time hits," Pulisic said, "it's who's going to go out on the field and who's going to step up and who's going to not be afraid to get into a hard tackle, to show that they're there."

# Twin titles for Shubhi Gupta in chess meet

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
India's Shubhi Gupta underlined her prowess as she clinched the girls U-16 gold and girls U-20 bronze medals in the just-concluded Commonwealth Chess Championships in Kalutara, Sri Lanka. A Women FIDE Master and the reigning U-19 girls' national champion, Shubhi left a lasting impression with her performance in the U-16 category, securing seven wins and two draws. With an exceptional score of eight points out of a possible

nine, she outclassed her competition, finishing ahead of compatriots Mrittika Mallick (7 points) and Yashvi Jain (6.5 points), who took second and third place respectively. Shubhi further showed her competitive spirit in the Open category, competing against seasoned Grandmasters, International Masters, and Women Grandmasters. She scored 4.5 points to finish in third place in the U-20 girls' division, securing her a bronze medal. Reflecting on her success, Shubhi said: "It was a fantastic



experience, playing against some of the top international players. I am happy that I could perform consistently in both

U-16 and the Open category. "Winning the Commonwealth U-12 title and the World Cadet Championship were important milestones in my journey, and this latest success has boosted my confidence further." Shubhi won a prize purse of Rs 1 lakh. The young talent from Ghaziabad was first introduced to chess by her father and has consistently delivered outstanding performances on the national and international platforms. She previously won the U-12 gold at the Commonwealth Youth Chess Championship and claimed the World Cadet Championship title in the same age category two years ago.

# Anwar banned for four months: AIFF PSC judgment

**PTI ■ KOLKATA**  
The All India Football Federation on Tuesday imposed a four-month suspension on India international Anwar Ali after finding the defender "guilty" of illegally terminating his four-year contract with Mohun Bagan who are also eligible for a huge compensation of Rs 12.90 crore. The Players Status Committee of the AIFF also ruled that the Anwar's parent club Delhi FC and East Bengal, with whom the defender had entered into a lucrative five-year deal, have been banned from registering players for two transfer windows — 2024-25 winter and 2025-26 summer. Anwar Ali, East Bengal and Delhi FC are all jointly "liable" for the compensation amount which includes Rs 8.40 crore for the residual value of the contract, Rs 2 crore already paid to Delhi FC under loan agreement, and Rs 2.50 crore for other "damages suffered by the club," stated the decision of the AIFF Players Status Committee. The transfer of India centre-back Ali to East Bengal from Mohun Bagan following a unilateral termination of his loan, had sparked a controversy in Kolkata Maidan.

The 23-year-old, who played a key role in their Indian Super League Shield-winning campaign, scoring three goals and one assist in 26 games last season, terminated his contract and joined arch-rivals East Bengal in a five-year deal. Mohun Bagan then challenged the decision by filing a complaint with the AIFF's Player Status Committee. "In accordance with Article 20.4, the Player is restricted from playing in official matches for a period of 4 (four)

months, a period that shall commence from the date of notification of this decision," read the six-page judgment signed by Savio Messias deputy chairperson, AIFF Players Status Committee. This suspension is applicable for his club matches and he will be eligible to play for India. "Under Article 20.3, and subject to any provisions to the contrary in contract, the Committee holds all three parties

i.E. Anwar Ali, East Bengal FC and Delhi FC jointly and severally liable for the above amount (Rs 12.90 crore)." "In accordance with Article 20.4, the Player is restricted from playing in official matches for a period of 4 (four) months, a period that shall commence from the date of notification of this decision." It further said if the compensation is not paid within 45 days, the club will face a ban on registering new players for up to three registration periods, and the player will be restricted from playing in official matches for up to six months. Appeals against the AIFF Players' Status Committee decisions can be made to the AIFF Appeals Committee within the time limits specified in the AIFF Disciplinary Code, it added. Much before the PSC delivered its judgment, Delhi FC co-owner had stated that they "would appeal and this would go on for a while." "...The decision has no final bearing on the final outcome or verdict — so no one should either be too happy or too sad (both sides) as PSC is a preliminary body and all its orders can be appealed. This will go on for a while... Patience is the name of the game," Ranjit Bajaj had posted in X on September 1.

## MOHUN BAGAN ELIGIBLE FOR ₹12.90 CR COMPENSATION



# NO PLAY ON 2ND DAY AS DDCA SENDS COVERS

**PTI ■ GREATER NOIDA**  
Using traditional tarpaulin to protect outfield, electric fans to dry wet patches, loosing ground cover from one state unit and super sopper from the other while deploying untrained ground staff, the Greater Noida Authority encountered colossal failure in not being able to get second day's play underway in the one off Test between Afghanistan and New Zealand. For the second successive day, not a single ball could be bowled at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports complex here putting the venue under scanner and making it an international embarrassment. The game, the first between the two nations, was scheduled to begin on Monday but no play was possible as the umpires cited "players safety" as a concern. While there was no rain throughout the day, there was a downpour for about an hour on Monday evening, affecting the start of play on Tuesday, which was scheduled to

commence half an hour earlier than the original start time of 10 am. While the skies remained clear on Tuesday, the field couldn't even be readied for a curtailed day's play despite best efforts. The mid-on and midwicket areas remained a cause of concern as the groundsmen were bringing in dry sections of grass from the practice area to "transplant" it to the mid wicket area. Additionally, three table fans were used to dry patches of grass on the offside as the groundsmen continued to work all day. Officials from the Greater Noida Authority, under which the stadium falls, were also in attendance, supervising the work. Umpires conducted three inspections before calling off play on the second day. According to the stadium officials, there are five super soppers -- two automatic and three manual. However, all throughout only two have been used, that too sparingly. If sources are to be believed, the Greater Noida Authority

## GREATER NOIDA FAILS 'TEST' CASE



had requested Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association (UPCA) for a couple of super soppers and they send it from their Meerut Stadium for logistical purposes. Similarly during day time, traditional marriage shamiyana (tent) was used to cover the outfield and in the evening when heavy rains started, they used tarpaulin as DDCA authorities were rushing their outfield cover from Kotla. If this wasn't enough, the Greater Noida Authority didn't have enough trained groundstaff and apparently used their untrained labour for the work. While the pitch area remained pristine, the outfield has been the issue on both days. The BCCI had given the Afghanistan Cricket Board a few options including Kanpur, Bengaluru and Greater Noida. However, the ACB opted for Greater Noida for logistical reasons. "The venue has always been Afghanistan's home venue. If we talk about back from 2016, we have been playing games here," ACB International cricket manager Menhaj Raaz said. The area is receiving incessant rainfall for the past two weeks, which the ACB claim has played spoilsport. "It is because of the rain. Yesterday also, it rained. We had a three-day game here with one of the local teams which went well. We didn't face any issue. But when the rain started and all of this happened?" Afghanistan Cricket Board has hosted 11 white-ball international games here before. The other Indian ground where they have hosted games is Dehradun. "We had conducted a recee four to six months back, and even the visiting team had done their recee. So there was no issue" Raaz added that ACB considered moving the match to a different venue but the monsoon made it impossible. "We tried working on a solution to shift the game and they said that because of the same rain, you will not be able to, you know, actually prepare the venue for you in the coming next 24 hours."



## Rinku picked for second round as stars leave for national duty

**PTI ■ ANANTAPUR**  
Majority of the players picked in the India squad for the first Test against Bangladesh, including Rishabh Pant, K L Rahul and Shubman Gill, were on Tuesday rested for the second round of Duleep Trophy beginning here on September 12. The others picked in the national squad on Sunday include Akash Deep, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Dhruv Jurel, who all have been exempted from the second round. Left-arm pacer Yash Dayal and Sarfaraz Khan, who too are part of India's 16-man squad for the opening Test, have not been released from their Duleep Trophy duties indicating they won't be part of the playing eleven against Bangladesh in the game to be played in Chennai. "The selectors have named Pratham Singh (Railways) as a replacement for Gill, Akshay Wadkar (Vidarbha CA) as a replacement for KL Rahul and SK Rashed (Andhra CA) as a replacement for Jurel," said the BCCI in a statement. "Left-arm spinner Shams Mulani will replace Kuldeep in the squad whereas Aaqib Khan (UPCA) will replace Akashdeep in the squad." Mayank Agarwal has been named as India A captain in Gill's place. As Jaiswal and Pant's replacements, the selectors have named Suyash Prabhudessai and Rinku Singh.

Nishant Sandhu comes in as a replacement for Axar in the India D squad. Pacer Tushar Deshpande has been ruled out of the game due to a niggle and his place will be taken by India A's Vidwath Kaverappa. No changes have been made to the India C squad led by Rituraj Gaikwad. Pant, returning to red ball cricket for the first time since December 2022, gave a good account himself in the Duleep Trophy opener and so did K L Rahul and Akash Deep. **Updated India A squad:** Mayank Agarwal (C), Riyan Parag, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Tanush Kotian, Prasadh Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan, Kumar Kushagra, Shaswat Rawat, Pratham Singh, Akshay Wadkar, SK Rashed, Shams Mulani, Aaqib Khan. **Updated India B squad:** Abhimanyu Easwaran (C), Sarfaraz Khan, Musheer Khan, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Navdeep Saini, Mukesh Kumar, Rahul Chahar, R Sai Kishore, Mohit Awasthi, N Jagadeesan (WK), Suyash Prabhudessai, Rinku Singh, Himanshu Mantri (WK). **Updated India D squad:** Shreyas Iyer (C), Atharva Taide, Yash Dube, Devdutt Padikkal, Ricky Bhui, Saransh Jain, Arshdeep Singh, Aditya Thakare, Harshit Rana, Akash Sengupta, KS Bharat (WK), Saurabh Kumar, Sanju Samson (WK), Nishant Sindhu, Vidwath Kaverappa.

## Bangladesh rising pace sensation Nahid Rana confident and ready for India Test series

**PTI ■ DHAKA**  
Having made an instant impact with his brilliant performance in the historic 2-0 triumph over Pakistan, Bangladesh rising speedster Nahid Rana has now set his eyes on the upcoming away Test series against India. The 21-year-old consistently hit 150 kph and stood out as the star performer especially in the second innings of the final Test in Rawalpindi where he took 4/44 as Bangladesh secured a historic sweep. "Obviously we are well prepared for India series. We have started training. The more we are prepared the better we will be in execution during the matches," Rana said in a video shared by Bangladesh Cricket in 'X', a formerly twitter. "India are a good team but the team that plays better cricket will win. We will see when we go there." The speedster, from Chapainawabganj, has emerged as a new sensation in Bangladesh cricket with his



ability to bowl consistently fast over long spells. He made headlines by crossing the 150 kph mark on his Test debut against Sri Lanka in March this year. Then in Pakistan he established himself as a genuine fast bowling threat by making immediate impact in the second Test. He dismissed Shan Masood with his third ball before scalping the prized wicket of Babar Azam in his next over. "Before leaving, I had said that I wanted to achieve something for my country, and it feels great to have delivered on what was expected of me," he said. The first Test is slated in Chennai, a venue known for its bounce-friendly pitch. Asked if he is ready to hit the 152 kph mark again, Rana said, "I will strive to give my best." "Pace is something you can't always predict -- it depends a lot on rhythm. Sometimes, it just clicks, and suddenly you find yourself hitting those speeds. "I never set out to clock 152

kph or push past that. I just focused on executing the team's plan. My friends and folks back in the village are really happy of my achievement," he said. Rana's journey in cricket began when his brother enrolled him in an academy in 2020 after finishing college. He made his first-class debut in October 2021 and quickly made a mark, taking 32 wickets in the following season. In the 2022-23 National Cricket League, Rana and Sumon Khan achieved a rare feat with both taking over 30 wickets, an accomplishment not seen in over 11 years for fast bowlers in the domestic first-class tournament. Determined to carve his own path, he said: "I don't want to be like anyone else. I want to create my own identity and be known as Nahid Rana of Bangladesh," Rana said. "I haven't followed any particular bowler. I've watched and learned from everyone -- my seniors and those I grew up watching," he signed off.



## Keen tussle on cards as Women's Pro Golf Tour resumes in Delhi

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**  
The cream of Indian women's golf including Hitaashee Bakshi, Sneha Singh, and Tvesa Malik will be back in action as the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour resumes with the 11th leg at the Delhi Golf Club. The field is huge with 46 players and the purse is a handsome sum of Rs.14 lakh. Led by the leader on the Hero Order of Merit, Hitaashee, and last year's No. 1 Sneha Singh, the field includes almost all the stars barring Diksha Dagar, Pranavi Urs and Vani Kapoor who have opted to rest before playing on the Ladies European Tour later this month. Hitaashee and Sneha will need to contend with proven names like Tvesa, Amandeep Drall, Ridhima Dilawari, Neha Tripathi and Seher Atwal, all of whom have international experience and aspirations of going on to the LET and further. While the Tour resumes after a gap of almost six weeks, the players have been playing in international events and some other domestic Pro-Ams. Sneha who went to the United States has qualified for the second stage of the LPGA Qualifying while Hitaashee has been playing in South East Asia and was third at the Singapore Ladies Masters. There are as many as nine amateurs and they are led by teenaged Zara Anand, who was recently T-10 at the Junior Asia Pacific Championships in Manila. Her teammate Keerthana Rajeev is also in the field. The top amateur is Mannat Brar, who created history by becoming the first Indian to qualify for the semi-finals of the R&A Juniors in United Kingdom. She is also the current the All India Ladies Amateur champion, and she beat Zara in the final.

## SAI, Steel Plants Sports Board make quarters

**PTI ■ PUNE**  
Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Steel Plants Sports Board entered the quarterfinals from their respective pools after recording contrasting results in the 4th Hockey India Senior Men Inter-Department National Championship here on Tuesday. On a day of do-or-die battles for qualifications, SAI beat Central Board of Direct Taxes (CDT) 5-1 to claim second spot in Pool A with 9 points behind Petroleum Sports Promotion Board who topped the pool. Lalit Negi (6th), Neeraj (28th), Pankaj (38th - p.S, 53rd - p.C) and Rajat Minz (54th) scored for SAI. CDT reduced the margin through a Nachappa Ir (44th) strike. Steel Plants Sports Board made it in second position from Pool B after Dena Bank dramatically struck in the final minute to draw the game 3-3. Pradhan Somanna Pudiyokkadda Somaiah converted a penalty corner to help Dena Bank earn a point.



Earlier, Chandanda Aiyanna Nikkin Thimmaiah (4th); Somanna Km (33rd) scored for Dena Bank. For the Steel Plants Sports Board, it was Dilbar Barla (55t); Bara Rabi (53rd) and Abdul Qadir (55th) who scored. As a result, Steel Plants Board finished with 7 points (4 matches) and qualified for the knockouts. Pool B had a thrilling finish as the already-qualified Railway Sports Promotion Board faced a tough challenge from All India Police Sports Control Board (AIPSCB). RSPB staged a fightback from a 2-3 deficit to win 4-3. RSPB ended up unbeaten in Pool B. RSPB scored through Parampreet Singh (4th - p.C), Yuvraj Walmiki (21st), Darshan Vibhav Gawkar (54th) and Simranjot Singh (56th). Varinder Singh (37th - p.C; 45th) and Haris Mohammad (11th - p.C) struck for the police team. The loss impacted AIPSCB (6) who missed to qualify after finishing third behind Steel Plants Board (7) by a point.

## F1 car design great Adrian Newey to join Aston Martin after leaving Red Bull

**AP ■ SILVERSTONE (ENGLAND)**  
Formula 1's most influential car designer, Adrian Newey, is joining Aston Martin in March 2025 after leaving Red Bull, ending months of speculation over a backroom figure who seemed more in-demand than any driver. Newey has spent nearly two decades with Red Bull and is widely credited with putting the team on its path to dominance in F1. Now he's joining a team that has big ambitions to challenge for the title and the backing of billionaire Lawrence Stroll -- but no race wins yet.

Newey will arrive in his new role as "managing technical partner" in time to help shape how Aston Martin responds to the new F1 car regulations coming for 2026. He'll also be made a shareholder in the team. Newey said he and Stroll got to know each other while training in the gym during F1 race weekends in Asia. Newey visited Aston Martin's new headquarters in June as Stroll closed in on a signing which the Canadian billionaire called "another demonstration of our ambition to build a Formula 1 team capable of fighting for world championships."

"You have to be honest with yourself and you have to keep yourself fresh and so I felt I needed a new challenge," Newey said. He added that Stroll's hands-on approach as an owner was an "old-school model" that reminded him of his old bosses at teams like Williams and McLaren, which both won titles with Newey-designed cars in the 1990s. "I was very flattered to have a lot of approaches from various teams, but really, Lawrence's passion and commitment and enthusiasm is very endearing, it's very persuasive." The last time the regulations had a big change, with the



return of "ground effect" aerodynamics for 2022, it was Newey's Red Bull that dominated as Max Verstappen won the championship. Newey had a lifetime of experience to draw on, having written his university thesis on ground effect in the 1980s, back when it was previously used in F1. Aston Martin's drivers are Fernando Alonso,

the two-time champion and Lance Stroll, the son of team owner Lawrence Stroll. Newey said he'd known Lance Stroll from his teenage years competing against Newey's son in Formula 3, and said Alonso seemed like "a kind of archenemy at times" when he was challenging for wins against Newey's previous employers. Newey joined Red Bull in 2006 and helped the team win seven drivers' titles -- including the last three seasons with Verstappen -- and six constructors' titles. Red Bull said in May that its chief technical officer would be stepping back from F1 design

and focus on a production car, the RB17, before leaving in the first quarter of 2025.

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Tenders are invited for different works whose date of publication on website will be 18.09.2024, availability of tender online for bidding is 19.09.2024 to 25.09.2024 upto 2.00 PM and tender will be opened on 25.09.2024 and onwards place of opening tender is e-procurement cell, Directorate of Works & Plant, Birsa Agricultural University, Kanke, Ranchi. The details of estimated cost earnest money cost of B.O.Q. and time of completion of the concerned works and other terms and conditions may kindly be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in.

Sd/-  
Nodal Officer  
e-Procurement Cell, Directorate of Works & Plant  
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Memo No.BAU/W&P/253/Kanke,Dated 10.09.2024