**OPINION 6** 

Late City Vol.17 Issue 267 \*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

**Published From** 



DOWN TENSIONS IN WEST ASIA

**WORLD 8** 

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

RANCHI, MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

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CHAMPIONS LEAGUE **RETURNS MISSING** MBAPPÉ, RODRI, BARELLA 12 SPORTS

RNI Regn. No. JHAENG/2008/22930, REGD. No. RN-145/2012

# WEST ASIA ON FIRE Kashmir reacts, or relatives. or India bleeds



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

PTI JERUSALEM/ BEIRUT

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

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

senior commanders, Ali Hezbollah has also been Karaki, died in the Israeli airstrike that killed its top leader Hassan Nasrallah on Israel has killed several top commanders in the Lebanese militant group in recent weeks in a series of has killed at least 1,030

The Israeli military said it carried out another targeted strike on Beirut later on Sunday. In Syria, 37 militants affiliated to the extremist Islamic State group and an al-Qaeda-linked group were killed in two strikes, the United States military said Sunday. Two of the dead were senior militants,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU** 

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

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

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



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

Vice President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Omar

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

#### Terror in Jammu, one personnel killed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE JAMMU

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

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

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

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

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

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



New Delhi, Sunday Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

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

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

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

up speed and hits him.

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

PTI/PNS ■ KATHMANDU/PATNA

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

Due to the prevailing situation the border districts of neighbouring Bihar remained vulnerable as the State Government sounded an alert for floods in northern, southern and central parts of the State following heavy discharge of water from Birpur and Valmikinagar barrages on Sunday. The embankment of the BagmatirRiver in Madhkaul village in Sitamarhi district broke on Sunday,

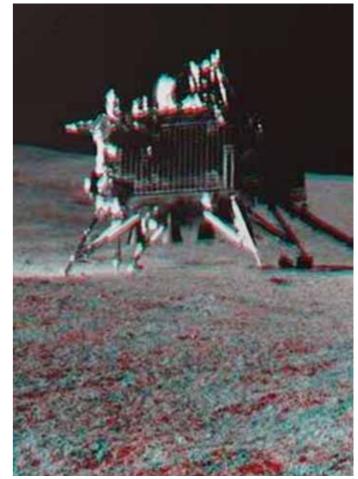
which is being repaired, they said. Due to heavy discharge of water from Birpur barrage, seepage was also reported from the Kosi Eastern embankment near Gopalpur on Saturday night, which was repaired by the engineers of the Water

Resources Department (WRD). A low-pressure system in the Bay of Bengal and the more northerly than usual position of the monsoon trough is the reason behind exceptionally intense rain. Scientists say that while climate change is



changing the amount and timing of rainfall across Asia, a key reason for the rise in the impact of floods is the built environment, including unplanned construction, especially floodplains, which leaves insufficient areas for water retention and drainage. A total of 6.61 lakh cusecs of water

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



mode to allow the vehicle of

the past to survive. The PIL was filed in 2022 and is still

continuing. In the PIL Sulagna

Mukherjee, the petitioner

pointed out that at time

different cities of the world

were increasingly embracing

tram services for its "green"

Government is going to

"We will go for a bigger

movement and will not allow

this Government to kill tram

... they are doing this in

order to reclaim the sprawling lands housing

the

attributes

discontinue it.

## Iconic trams of Kolkata to chug away into history

SAUGAR SENGUPTA

KOLKATA

literature" even as he described in his Sahaj Paath how "the roads of Kolkata have become like a snake on which the Tram hurtles," down.

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

the Bengal Government has decided to derail the 'space only surviving

guzzling' vehicle -- arguably environment-friendly transport service of Kolkata, nay the entire country. Dwelling on the issue Bengal Transport Minister Snehashis

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

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

Minister hurriedly supplied two rejoinders: First a short (3 km) route -- from Esplanade to Maidan -- however will be allowed to survive for heritage purpose and tourism and Despite the idea being in become a nuisance on



FILE PHOTO fixed as we are not going to end it today or tomorrow." He said taken," he justified. however decision was in contemplation for quite some time (years)" when several tram routes in North Kolkata



the Left regime it was the TMC Government that set out to bell the cat sand hastened up the speed of tram's withdrawal particularly after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee were phased out without told in one of her public notice fearing public backlash. speeches how tram tracks had

Road that leads to her Kalighat residence making it risky for the bikers who "may any moment skid off their vehicles due to the tram lines." Kolkata was the first to get

trams on February 24, 1873, with horse-drawn cars running

on tracks. "A big horses' stable

Sealdah to supply the horses for trams. Subsequently tram was modernised with steam power in 1882, whereas first electric-powered tram was introduced in 1900 a few years after Madras (presently Chennai) got its own electric tram. More recently AC trams were introduced in 2013. Trams ran in colonial towns

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

member of tram users

'We tried to restore tram to its former glory often by offering schemes like AC restaurants on tram as also proposing offers for 'wedding on trams' ... but too has offered its suggestion nothing was taken seriously by while dealing a public interest the authorities as they had litigation asking the State decided to discontinue it," a Government to explore a

association said adding "at Rs 6 was set up at Raja Bazaar off and 7 tram is perhaps the cheapest service in the city which this Government is trying to discontinue and which we will not let happen." "We have seen tram transform a from wooden to a steel carriage in the early 1980s, ... we loved tram so much and offered our service wholeheartedly but the Government

should also have understood the importance of tram which is not only environment friendly but also cheap," said Naresh Singh a 90-year-old former tram pilot. Such was the popularity of

tram in 1960s and 70s that a mere one paisa increase in its fare led to a massive unrest in Kolkata that saw several trams being torched by the agitators, Meanwhile the Calcutta High

tram depots on prime areas where the politicians will allow the builder lobby to make malls ... we will not let that happen ... rather we will even force them to reintroduce the double-decker buses which they have discontinued a decade ago," said Archishman Chatterjee a college student who was a part of a recent agitation at public-private partnership Shyambazar crossing.



### **CBSE Capacity Building Program Conducted at DPS Chas**

CHAS: Delhi Public School (DPS) Chas recently organized an impactful Capacity Building Program in collabo-ration with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). This initiative was designed to enhance educaprofessional skills, equipping them with modern tools and techniques to foster dynamic learning environ-

The event began with a traditional Indian welcome, symbolizing cultural respect. Attendees, including prominent educators, were greeted with a ceremonial Tilak and sapling, promoting environmental awareness. The auspicious lamp-lighting cere-mony, accompanied by



sacred chants, set a positive tone for the day. The sessions were led by resource persons, Deepali Bhuskute,

Officiating Principal of DPS Chas, and Suraj Sharma, Principal Vidyalaya, Bokaro.

Key sessions focused on introducing teachers to innovative pedagogical methods, particularly the ALAP (Active Learning and Participation) model, which emphasizes student-centered learning. Educators were also trained in integrating 21st-century skills like critical thinking, collaboration, and adaptabil ity into their teaching prac-tices. Additionally, skill map-ping was covered to help educators align their techniques with students' unique strengths.

Participants were enthusiastic about the insights gained, and the event concluded with a vote of thanks and the National Anthem. Dr. Hemlata S. Mohan, Chief Mentor of DPS Chas, emphasized the importance of evolving teaching methods to meet new challenges, highlighting the value of such training programs.

#### **Health Check-up Camp** Organized for sanitation workers

PNS : BOKARO

BOKARO: As part of the ongoing Swachhta Pakhwada, a health check-up camp was organized on September 28 sanitation employed at the Bokaro Steel Plant. The camp was held at two locations: the Bokaro General Hospital (BGH) and the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Center at the plant's medical unit.

General Bokaro Hospital, under the leadership of Dr. B.B. Karunamay, the Head of BGH, a team of senior doctors conducted health check-ups for 127 sanitation workers. Meanwhile, at the OHS Center (Plant Medical), the camp was inau-



A team led by Dr. R. Kumar, along with Dr. Manish Kumar, audiologist Sudhir Bhanu, junior manager Upadhyay, OT assistant Surendra Sharma, and lab technicians Dinesh Kumar, Sumit Kumar, and Mahipal

Chaudhary, conducted check ups for an additional 43 sanitation workers. In total, 170 sanitation workers received medical evaluations as part of the initiative, promoting health and well-being among the workforce involved in maintaining cleanling across the plant premises.

#### Jamshedpur's IAS honoured with Best Revenue Officer



PNS: JAMSHEDPUR

Jamshedpur's Kanishka, a distinguished officer of the 2021 IAS batch, Karnataka Cadre, currently serving as Assistant Commissioner and Sub Divisional Magistrate in Karwar, has been awarded

the prestigious Best Revenue Officer of the Year 2024 award. The accolade recognises his exceptional service and exemplary performance in the field of revenue administration.

The award was presented by the Revenue Minister, grand ceremony held in Bangalore. Several senior bureaucrats and officials from the Government of Karnataka were in attendance to witness the event, lauding Kanishka's commitment to public service and his innovative approach to resolving revenue-related issues. Kanishka is a former student of Loyola School, Jamshedpur.

Since his appointment as Commissioner, Kanishka has been instrumental in implementing policies aimed at improving public access to revenue services, streamlining land records management, and ensuring prompt grievance redressal His dedication and leadership have not only benefited the citizens of Karwar but have also set a high standard for administration across the state.

Kanishka is the son of former Tata Steel executive **V** Umesh Naidu wins **QCI-NABH Quality Connect Competitions Fiesta 2024** 



PNS: JAMSHEDPUR

City-based V Umesh Naidu, Principal Consultant at V's Vision & Ventures, has earned national recognition by winning the prestigious Connect "Quality Competitions Fiesta 2024", organized by the Quality Council of India (QCI) and the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH). Naidu emerged as the top winner in highly competitive Healthcare Category-1: Quality Pitch Competition, showcasing his expertise and innovative solutions in healthcare quality manage-The competition, held on

June 14, 2024, was designed to bring together hospitals and quality professionals strate their talents, skills, and insights in improving healthcare standards. Participants were invited to submit a fiveslide PowerPoint presentation addressing real-world challenges in healthcare, along with creative solutions. Naidu's entry, submitted on June 21, focused on the hardpacked ground realities faced by healthcare centers and presented groundbreaking solutions aimed at improving healthcare quality in India.

results

announced on September 11, 2024, via LinkedIn, where Naidu's name topped the winners' list. What made this victory even more remarkable was the fact that no other participant from Jharkhand, Bihar, Bengal, or Odisha was named in the winners' list in

this top category. Upon receiving the award, Naidu expressed pride in not only achieving personal success but also in putting Jharkhand on the national map of healthcare quality professionals. The QCI-NABH congratulated him with the message: "Your creativity and passion for quality healthcare have set a new benchmark Thank you for making a difference and paving the way for a healthier and more prosperous future!"

Naidu, a Jamshedpur professional specializing in Total Quality Management (TOM) services for healthcare and educational institutions. His expertise includes facilitating hospitals in obtaining NABH accreditation, as well as working with educational institutions to achieve national certifications. He is also an active member of several global professional bodies, including the Quality Council of India and the International Society for Quality in Health

#### **RSB Global organizes** grand Blood Donation Camp



PNS: JAMSHEDPUR

A grand blood donation camp was organized today at the RSB Transmission Plant 3 of RSB Global in Gamharia, where employees and vendor partners of the company participated enthusiastically. The primary aim of this camp was to address the shortage of blood in society and to raise awareness about the impor-

tance of blood donation.

The chief guest of the event, Zonal IG of Police, Akhilesh Jha, motivated the "Blood Warriors" and praised such initiatives. He remarked, "A single blood donation can save up to three lives, and it

also benefits the donor's health." He highly appreciated the company's efforts in this social cause, calling it a powerful example of community service.

In addition to the blood donation camp, Akhilesh Jha also contributed to environmental protection by planting saplings on the company premises. Present at the occasion were S. K. Behera, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of the company, Union Leader Rakeshwar Pandey, Local Police Station Officer Rajeev Sangeeta Behera. Behera, Ananya Behera, and

several other dignitaries and

RSB Global regularly fulfills its social responsibilities by organizing various community service activities, including blood donation camps, environmental protection efforts, and other welfare programs. These activities are conducted on a rotational basis across the company's different plants. During his visit to Gamharia, Akhilesh Jha also engaged with local residents and authorities in Adityapur Industrial Area to discuss law and order issues, addressing their concerns and hearing their grievances.

This successful blood donation camp organized by RSB Global conveyed an important message to society-that blood donation is a noble deed, saving lives while improving one's own health. Over 525 units of blood were collected during the camp.

The camp was organized in collaboration with the Voluntary Blood Donors Association (VBDA) and the

## TRAI seminar on Digital Connectivity Infrastructure

TRAI RO Kolkata recently organized a seminar on Connectivity Infrastructure for QoS improvement in Building & Housing Complexes" at Hotel Green Horizon, Ranchi, The seminar has been organised in the backdrop of providing conducive digital communication infrastructure and maintaining telecom quality of service in indoor environment in housing and building complexes. The seminar has been inaugurated by Sh. Ashok Kumar, Additional Director (Telecom), Department of Telecom, GOI, the Chief Guest of the event, which was well attended by senior officers of TRAI, Department of Telecom (DoT). Government of Jharkhand & Bihar, academia, Telecom Service Providers (TSP), Consumer Advocacy Groups, students and general consumers. Dr. S. K. Samanta, Advisor, TRAI delivered the welcome address and intro-

PNS: DHANBAD

The 62nd Half Yearly

Conference of Tata Main

**Hospital Clinical Society** 

was held from September

27-29, 2024, at JRD Tata

The conference brought

together around 95 doctors

from Tata Main Hospital,

Jamshedpur and Raw

Joda, Jharia Division,

experts from Medanta

Medical College and

Hospital Kolkata, HCG

Cancer Centre, Kolkata.

The main purpose of the

conference was to share

knowledge and latest tech-

niques in medical science

amongst all. This year's

theme was "Basics and

Beyond, Bridging the

gaps."
The conference was

Choudhury, Vice President

graced by Chanakya

Hospital, Gurgaon, NRS

Materials locations like

West Bokaro, Noamundi,

Meramandli and medical

Auditorium Jamadoba.

duced the distinguished guests of the inaugural session. Sh. Apurb Minz, VP, IIA, Jharkhand Chapter and Prof. Chakraborty, Manjari Department of Architecture, BIT, Mesra were the other distinguished guests of the inaugural session. Sh. Ashok DG Kumar, Additional Telecom, Chief Guest delivered the keynote address of the event. The deliberations in the seminar were divided in three sessions Schedule is annexed). The forenoon session focussed on the role of planners and policy makers for the provision of next generation DCI in buildings and housing complexes. Eminent speakers of the session were Prof. Manjari Chakraborty, Sh. Manoj Mishra, Director, Indus Tower Limited and Sh. Chakrapani K, Nokia Limited. The session was moderated by Dr. S. K. Samanta. The second session cov-

ered the role of real estate developers and RWAs for the provision of DCI in buildings

Two day conference of Tata

clinical society concludes

B Sundara Ramam, Vice

Honour at the inaugural

function. Sanjay Rajoria,

General Manager, Jharia

Manager Medical Services

Tata Steel, Dr Aloke, Chief

Medical Officer, Tata Main

Hospital, Jamadoba and Dr

Chairperson scientific com-

Ashok Sunder President

Clinical Society TMH, Dr

Society were present on

The conference was

extremely beneficial to the

Tata Steel in all its operat-

ing locations. The confer-

ence helped in understand-

ing the issues and bridging

the gap between Tata Main

Hospital, Jamshedpur and

locations of Tata Steel.

started with a keynote

address by Dr Sudhir Rai,

General Manager, Medical

Services, Jamshedpur. He

hospitals in other operating

The two-day conference

doctors associated with

Sangita D Kamath

this occasion.

mittee ,TMH Clinical

Division, Tata Steel, Dr

Sudhir Rai, General

Tata Steel as Guest of

President, Raw Materials,

and housing complexes. The session was moderated by Sh. Dilip Kumar, DDG, DoT, Bihar LSA. Sh. Gajanand Ram, VP, Council of Architecture, New Delhi, and Sh. Mrinal Kant, CTO, Airtel, Jharkhand were

the speakers of the session. The third session was a panel discussion on the roles of the concerned stakeholders for the provision of DCI in buildings and housing complexes, moderated by Sh. V V Prasad Pandey, DDG (DoT), Ranchi in which the domain experts deliberated on a no. of contextual issues. The speakers on this occasion deliberated on wide range of issues pertaining to provision of DCI in buildings and housing complexes. The seminar was organised in the spirit of pro-active role of TRAI to work in collaboration with the industry, academia and other stakeholders and ensure that regulatory framework fosters new technological developments and trends. From that perspective the seminar concluded successfully.

spoke on a very interesting

topic on "Reminiscences of

a Surgeon from the Line of

Action". Dr Shandip K

in Pediatric urological

problems. Dr Soumik

Sinha, Director Pediatric

Urology, Medanta Hospital

Gurugram, spoke on opti-

mal timing for intervention

Goswami from NRS Medical

College Kolkata discussed

diabetes and their manage

patients. This was followed

by presentation of MBBS

papers, DNB posters, spe-

cialist presentations and a

symposium on various con-

troversies, interesting and

emerging treatment proto-

Dr Gaurav Agarwal HOD

Uro Oncology, HCG Cancer

Centre, Kolkata spoke on

the use of robot assisted

uro- oncological surgical

procedures. The confer-

ence included presenta-

tions from eminent doctors

from Tata Main Hospital,

on various burning issues

Eminent guest speaker,

rare clinical cases, and

cols.

in detail on obesity and

ment amongst Indian

#### Party yet to decide on allinace with NDA in Assembly poll: Chirag

PNS: DHANBAD

Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) National President and Union Minister Chirag Paswan has said that party would decide soon as would it contest Jharkhand assembly election in alliance with NDA or alone. We have strong following here in Jharkhand, said Paswan.

All would be final ahead of election notification, he added. Addressing the Jan Akrosh Rally at Nehru Sports Complex here he came down heavely on Hemant government holding it responsible for the plight of Jharkhand. The state has rich minerals despite the resources, the economy and infrastructure here have been pushed into backwardness by the pres-

From governance viewpoint, Chirag pointed out that corruption, administrative inefficiency and problems like political instability are said to be the biggest hurdle in the overall development of Jharkhand at present.

The Chief Minister of the state himself has gone to jail on serious charges of corruption and is still out on bail. How can we expect honesty from the government there?

LJP chief said from the stage that a large part of the revenue received from the central government comes to Dhanbad district. This is being provided through District Mineral Foundation (DMF) which aims to generate income from mining related activities. The purpose is to work in the interest of the affected com-

mon people and areas but this fund will be used by the state. The Hemant government is doing things arbitrarily. In a mineral-rich district like Dhanbad, there is a project worth Rs 600 crore pending, he claimed.

Common people of deprived Scheduled Caste (Dalit), Backward and Tribals (Adivasi) affected by decissions of Lraders includiing Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) state

president Virendra Pradhan, Jharkhand's Incharge cum Jamui MP Arun Bharti, Co-incharge cum Khagaria MP Rajesh Verma, National President of LJP (R)

Secretary and co-incharge Arvind Singh, National spokesperson Dhirendra Kumar Munna, State spokesperson Bihar Kumar Saurabh Singh, youth leader Aditya Vikram Pradhan, Ravi Choubey along with Dhanbad district president were present during the rally.

## Free health check-up camp at Lohardaga

PNS: LOHARDAGA

Sewa Bharti district president Deepak Saraf, Dr. Kumud Agarwal and Joint Secretary Sanjay Chaudhary health checkup and medical camp at the premises of Chunnilal High School on Sunday by lighting a lamp and offering flowers in front of the picture of Bharat Mata.

In this free health camp, 63 people benefited by getting their health checked. Free checkup of hemoglobin, uric acid, blood group, sugar, BP, weight, heart beat, oxygen level etc. was done, District President Deepak Saraf said that you are the biggest friend only when your body is healthy, we all will try to provide maximum service to the people, the helpless and needy poor will be given special attention under a campaign.

Dr. Kumud Agarwal said that by getting people to get their health checked from time to time, the disease can be detected in time and said that special attention should be paid to food items. Joint Secretary Sanjay Chaudhary



are getting information about their health by getting their checkup done in this health camp, this free health camp is organized every Sunday.

And said that, in the District President Deepak Saraf, Dr. Kumud Agarwal, Sanjay Chaudhary, Subodh Prasad Mahato, Anamika Bharti, Satyam Saraf, Anjali Saraf, Gopal Singh, Atul Saraf, Raju Yadav, Rahul Bindeshwari Mistry, Ramakant Sahu, Raju Kumar Singh, Ranjan Mishra, Shanti Devi, SK Mishra, Radha Kumari, Shipdrine Khalifa,

Anoop Mahato, Meena Devi,

Pramod Prajapati, Ramesh Mahato, Ajay Poddar, Raju Verma, Surendra Gupta, Falak Parveen, Anil Modi, Mahesh Kasyankar, Manoj Prasad, Pratima Chaudhary, Rupesh Chaudhary, Rani Rajesh Omprakash Gupta, Lal Muni Devi, Ram Prasad, Rajesh Agrawal, Smita Burman, Arsh Burman, Lokesh Burman, Virendra Kumar, Uday Kasera, Sonia Poddar, Tapeshwar Prasad Agrawal, Ramesh Devnarayan Sahu, Prabhu Dayal Sahu, Shashi Burman, Rajesh Verma, Mandal, Shrikant Mandal

#### Digital Walkthrough Featuring Virtual Reality (VR) Film



PNS: BOKARO

Keeping in view the safety of the visitors and give them an immersive experience of the steel making process without visiting the shop floor, a Digital Walkthrough featuring an immersive Virtual Reality (VR) film was inaugurated by Atanu Bhowmick, Director In-Charge (DIC), at the Virtulab of L&D Centre of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant. Present

on the occasion were S R Suryawanshi, ED (Works), Anil Kumar, CGM In-Charge (MM), Dr. Jayant Acharya, CMO In-Charge (M&HS), several other CGMs, HoDs and senior officers of the plant. Notably the VR film showcases the plant's state-of-the-art technology and operational excellence, marking a significant leap towards integrating digital advancements in the steel manufacturing sector.

Speaking on the occasion, DIC Bhowmick praised the initiative, stating, "This digital walkthrough will go long way in educating the fresh joinees as well as the visitors without venturing into the shop floors as well as ensuring their safety. The use of AR and VR in this digitalization era shows we are walking with time and are conscious about our visitor's safety.'

This interactive digital experience offers a comprehensive view of RSP's various production units, from raw material handling to finished product dispatch, providing a 360-degree insight into the plant's functioning through detailed 3D visualizations or stimulations. The VR film will also help visitors to virtually explore the plant's vast expanse, enhancing understanding of the intricate processes behind steel production.

Corporate Services, Tata Steel as Chief Guest and D



### -MAINIYAN SAMMAN YATRA-

## Kaplana calls for unity in the fight for Jharkhand's rights

n a powerful address at the heart of Kolhan's revolution land, Kalpana Soren led her campaign, the Mainiyan Samman Yatra, rallying the people of Goilkera to stand united in the ongoing struggle for the protection of Jharkhand's natural resources and cultural heritage. This marked her first visit to the historic town, where she received an overwhelming show of support from mothers, sisters, and brothers who had gathered in large numbers to hear her speak.

Kalpana Soren, a fierce advocate for the rights of Jharkhand, began by expressing her gratitude for the warm welcome, saying, "Today, I had the privilege of coming to Goilkera's revolutionary land for the first time. Kudos



Kalpana Soren Murmu, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) party MLA attending a program "Mainya Samman Yojna" with rural people / villagers at Goilkera block under West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand on Sunday, September 29, 2024. Sanjib Kumar Dutta

brothers present here for giving their blessings to the Mainiyan Samman Yatra." Her words resonated with the crowd, highlighting the deep connection between Jharkhand's people and their land, as well as the ongoing fight safeguard the state's

Kalpana Soren's campaign focuses on the protection of water, forests, and land, which she emphasized as the core of Jharkhand's identity and future. She delivered a scathing critique of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing them of inviting external leaders as part of a conspiracy to exploit Jharkhand's wealth. "You will see that BJP has invited many leaders from other states as part of a conspiracy trip," she declared, pointing out by the party to plunder the state's resources

The crux of her message was clear: BJP's objective is to loot Jharkhand, and the only obstacle standing in their way is the leadership of Hemant Soren, the current Chief Minister. Kalpana Soren accused the BJP of actively conspiring against Hemant Soren because of his refusal to let the state's resources be taken. "If Hemant ji is not allowing this to happen, the BJP is plotting against him," she stated, drawing loud cheers from the crowd.

Kalpana Soren's rallying cry was not just about defending Jharkhand's resources but about uniting the people against external political forces. She urged the crowd to reflect on their loyalty and commitment to Hemant leader of the people, someone who represents not just political power but the collective will and dignity of the state. "I want to ask all of you," she passionately questioned, "are you with your grandfather, your brother, your son Hemant ji or not in this fight?"

Her words struck a chord with the audience, reinforcing the notion that the fight for Jharkhand's future is deeply personal, connected to family, tradition, and the essence of Jharkhandi identity. The gathering at Goilkera was a testament to the growing support behind Kalpana Soren's movement, with her message of unity and resistance against exploitation resonating with people across the region.

The Mainiyan Samman Yatra is not just a political campaign but

Jharkhand to stand firm in the defense of their land, their resources, and their heritage. Kalpana Soren's leadership has added a new dimension to the ongoing political discourse in the state, challenging the status quo and empowering Jharkhand's people to reclaim control over their future," said a JMM worker.

As the rally concluded, the crowd erupted in chants of solidarity, pledging their support to Hemant Soren's leadership and Kalpana Soren's vision for a selfreliant and prosperous Jharkhand. The Mainiyan Samman Yatra has only just begun, and the people of Jharkhand seem ready to follow Kalpana Soren in her fight to protect the state's interests from

external threats.

### larandi terms Parivartan yatra as huge success for party



State BJP President Babulal Marandi addresses media persons at the party office in Ranchi on Sunday. Pix by Vinay Murmu

State BJP president Babulal Marandi on Sunday claimed that the BJP's Parivartan Yatra has become more successful than its expectations. The Yatra with an aim to change the government in State started on 20 September by Union Home Minister Amit Shah from Jharkhand Dham in Santhal Pargana division and Giridih. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh started it on 21 Union September and Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan started it from Itkhori in Hazaribagh division and Vanshidhar temple in Bhavanathpur in Palamu respectively. BJP National President JP Nadda launched the vatra on 23 September from Amareshwar Dham in Khunti district of

South Chotanagpur division.

This yatra has so far covered a distance of 4500 km in 24 districts, 74 assembly constituencies and 202 blocks of the state. BJP State President Babulal Marandi said this while talking to the media at the state office on Sunday.

said that the number of people who participated in this vatra despite heavy rains is amazing and unforgettable in itself. He said that the objective of the Parivartan Yatra was to make the people of the state aware of the lies and fraud of the Indi coalition government. BJP was successful in its objective. So far 16 to 17 lakh people have participated in this vatra.

Marandi attacked the fiveyear tenure of the Hemant government. He said that this government has only cheated he innocent people of the

Shahdeo targets JMM over scams in State BJP's state spokesperson ting bail while the trial has Pratul Shah Dev today not even started yet. Former launched a major attack on minister Alamgir Alam and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha Navratnas like and said that the real mean-Prakash, Amit Agarwal,

ing of JMM is Jharkhand Pankaj Mishra of Hemant Mudra Mochan Party. In last Soren's court are still in jail. five years, JMM has been Pratul said that when the accused of scams worth Rs Prime Minister of the coun-70,000 crore. Chief Minister try comes to Jharkhand, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha Hemant Soren went to jail for 5 months in a land disstarts getting panic attacks. pute. JMM is giving clean The Prime Minister is the chit to Hemant Soren on getmost popular leader in the

The CNT and SPT laws have state for five years. Now when the elections are ahead, been violated the most in this it is still feeding the people to government. The most fraud cheat them. However, the has been committed in tribal people are not going to fall land. Even the army's land into their trap now. He said was not spared. Fake papers that during the yatra, people of the land were made from said that they are well aware Kolkata and sold. The state of the tricks and character of president said that in the Hemant Soren. It is meaningcycle distribution scheme, less to expect development school children are being from a person who does not given low quality bicycles. It fulfill his promises even after is even being heard that up to swearing on his father. He 40 percent commission is cannot be trusted. The being taken in this scheme. Marandi said that a case is Hemant government has to be replaced by a BJP govern-

filed against me for exposing the mistakes of the state government. So far, more than half a dozen cases have been filed against me. He said that whatever I had said about the liquor scam earlier, the same thing happened. The script of the liquor scam is being written again in the state. Tenders have been issued

good. The leaders of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha should get their panic-stricken mental state treated by a good psychiatrist. and then cancelled. This has been done to give the tender to the favorite contractor. He demanded from the government that 26 percent liquor shops of the state should be given to the tribal mothers

world and he has changed

the image and fate of the country. A nationwide cam-

paign has been run under

the leadership of the Prime

Minister against corruption.

Obviously, Jharkhand Mukti

Morcha is scared of this

campaign and this fear is

and sisters who sell Hadiya liquor on the roadside so that they can make their living. Marandi said that the Parivartan Yatra will be concluded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 2 October in Hazaribagh. He said that during the Parivartan Yatra, it has been realized that the people of the state are fed up with the lies, fraud and corruption of the current Hemant Soren government. They have made up their mind to change it. State

ent," he added. media in-charge Shivpujan Pathak and state spokesperson Rafia Naz were also present on this occasion of truth

> On the occasion former Union Minister Subodh Kant campaign in the first phase in those areas where Congress

## Congress' poll campaign to start on Gandhi Ji's birth anniversary

PNS: RANCHI

Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee (JPCC) President Keshav Mahato Kamlesh said in a press conference on Sunday that the Congress' election campaign will formally start in the entire state on the occasion of Gandhi's 155th birth anniversary. Kamlesh said that 25

"Samvad Aapke Saath" programs were organized in 24 districts in a month, which have concluded, during which things came to the fore regarding the completeness of the organization in all the districts. "Meetings of committees are going on regarding the election, in this series, a large meeting of delegates, block presidents, district presidents, MLAs, MPs, divisional presidents and other leaders from all over Jharkhand has been called on September 30, in which state in-charge Ghulam Ahmed Mir, Saptgiri Shankar Ulka Siribela Prasad, former Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel will be pres-

JPCC President said that on the same day, senior leaders will also meet the people of the Manifesto Committee. The birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the pioneer non-violence and peace, is celebrated as the day of non-violence all over the world. On the occasion of starting the election campaign on his birth anniversary, various movements led by Gandhiji during the freedom movement will be remembered and discussed in detail. A huge program of Tana Bhagats who contributed to the freedom movement of the country will be held in front of the statue of Soma Tana Bhagat in Bijupada," he added.

Sahay said that the campaign will start from October 2. "Four teams of state leaders have been formed, which will candidates were there in the **Congress Samvad 1: JPCC President Keshav Mahto along with others** during Samvad programme at the party office in Ranchi on Sunday. PNS

last assembly elections and after seat sharing, the campaign will be run for the alliance candidates in the second phase. At the assembly level, the Samvad Yatra will go to every village. From October 15, district level leaders will run a campaign in the Panchayat, through which the achievements of the government have to be conveyed to the people," he added.

Sahay further said that to go to the elections, we have the work done by the government as capital, there is a glimpse of future development in our policies. "Today, tne BJP leaders who are searching for Bangladeshis in Jharkhand were sleeping during the 18 years of rule, they see such issues only at the time of elections. An FIR has been registered against Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on the charge of scam of thousands of crores, she should resign on moral grounds," he added.

Addressing the media persons on the occasion, Bandhu Tirkey said that to prepare the manifesto, the opinion of the people will be taken by organizing Chaupals in the entire state. "It will be arranged that there should be a system of social audit of the manifesto every 6 months. The points of the manifesto will be prepared by reviewing all the policy, economic, social aspects.

The committee will hold a Chaupal in Jamshedpur on October 1," he added. "Senior leaders

been appointed to hold Chaupals in all districts who will discuss local issues, state level issues, land issues or other discrepancies district wise and submit a report to the state office by October 4, which will be compiled and sent to the national leadership review and will be announced as soon as permission is received from there. After the manifesto is ready, we will meet the Chief ready, we will meet the Chief Minister and discuss our and his manifesto and put it into practice," said Tirkey.

Former state Congress president Pradeep Kumar Balmuchu said that in the conference organized on September 30, a booklet of the work done by the government and the work done by the Congress will be prepared and distributed among the people from all over the state so that it becomes easier for them to go among the public with the achievements of the government and the achievements of the government can be widely publicized among the public.

State media in-charge Rakesh Sinha, President Satish Paul Munjani, Sonal Shanti, Kamal Thakur, Shantanu Mishra were present in the press conference.

#### Banned meat found on the road in Lalpur

A case of banned meat being found near a religious place in Thadpakhna of Lalpur police station area has come to light on Sunday. After this, the local people got angry and blocked the

The banned meat was thrown by anti-social elements by packing it in a sack near the religious place. As soon as people came to know about this, people started gathering at the spot and blocked the road. Also, they are demanding the arrest of the accused involved in this case. After this, the police reached the spot



Marandi said that the

Hemant Soren government

does not do any work with

honesty and commitment.

For five years, the govern-

ment has looted the mineral

wealth of the state, coal,

sand, stone in connivance

with brokers and middlemen.

and is trying to pacify the angry people. Also

## JIASOWA organises health camp at Hatma basti

Jharkhand IAS Officers Wives Association (JIASOWA) organized a child health campaign for the children of Hatma Basti on Sunday. On the occasion, children and their parents were made aware about children's health. A team of doctors examined the children and distributed free medicines among needy people by (JIASOWA). (JIASOWA) President Lal Rinkimi Khiangte advised the children not to eat outside and stale food. It is harmful for their health. She urged them to keep their surroundings neat and clean. "Children are the future of the country. Only when they are healthy, they will be able to contribute to the progress of the country in future," said Lal Rinkimi

Secretary Gayatri Singh said that a healthy mind resides in a healthy body. Therefore, if the health of children is good, they will be happy and will be able to focus on their studies. Dr Jaishna gave a power point presentation and made the children aware about the good habits they should adopt for good health.





On this occasion, (JIA-SOWA) president Lalrinkimi Khiangte, secretary Gayatri Singh, Nikki Toppo, Amita Khandelwal, Sarita Pandey, Jaishna Siddiqui, Jagda,

Deepti Jayaraj, treasurer Yamini Kumari, Fatima Jabin, Archana Muthu, Apoorva Johri, Archana Trivedi, Lalita Oraon, and Neelam Lalit were

#### Govt deviated from its commitment: Sudesh Mahto



The government's intention behind the respect it is giving to the people needs to be understood and the government that promised to end the contract system is giving big advertisements on giving contract based jobs. This government has deviated from its commitment, said AJSU Party Chief Sudesh Mahto on Sunday. Mahto said this in the Silli Vidhansabha level Yuva Samvad program organized at Silli Stadium, Silli. He said that the youth who had to fulfill the responsibility of their family and work for development, are today on the streets due to the wrong policies of the government and are getting beaten up by the government. "The role of youth power is important to take the state on the path of progress. If the youth got employment opportunities within the state, Jharkhand would have benefited from their energy and talent, but due to not getting proper opportunities, the youth are forced to migrate. This is affecting the development of our state," said Mahto. The party Chief said that the working style of the government has disappointed the youth as well as every secof the "Unemployment is also one of the reasons for the rising crime in the state. The youth who see their future in dark-

ness are getting frustrated and are turning to drugs and crime. This is a matter of great concern. Our plan is to provide employment to every vouth. We have to ensure that the income is 300 rupees per day instead of 33 rupees," he

"This government which slept for four years did not think about the public. Now seeing the elections near, they are remembering the public. The government which is talking about giving free elec-tricity should first make arrangements to provide uninterrupted electricity to the people. The loans of many hardworking and needy farmers of the state have not been waived because agricultural loans are also being waived for those who are not farmers. The people of the state are not going to be deceived by them now," Mahto said. The party Chief said that

we understand the needs of the state. "With strong willpower, we can build a better and developed Jharkhand. It is the responsibility of all you youths to ensure that not even a single youth from the village goes astray. We are prepared to bring forward new thinking for the development of the state. AJSU is a strong platform to enhance and develop the capabilities of the youth. We all have to work together to improve the state," he added. On this occasion, AJSU Party's Organization Secretary Jaipal Singh, Secretary Sunil Singh, Sanjay Siddharth, Sushil Mahato, Chit Ranjan Mahato, Gautam Krishna Sahu, Zilla Parishad Vice President Veena Chaudhary, Jitendra Badaik, Aarti Devi, Susen Pramanik, Rabindra Karmali, Silli CO Arunima Ekka, Anil Manjhi, Haripad Manjhi, Meera Devi, Somri Devi etc.

#### 'DURGOSTAV 2024'

#### Revellers to get a glimpse of Rajasthan at OCC Puja pandal

With the festival season just around the corner, the OCC Club Durga Puja Committee is all set to celebrate Durga Puja with a lot of grandeur and traditional gaiety.

Known for its incredible art work amongst the City residents, the OCC Club puja pandal is yet again set to enchant pandal hoppers. In its 54th year at the Old Commissioner Compound, this year the pandal is being decked up on the theme 'Ek Thudka Rajasthan' and will have a fictional con-

The interior design and decoration of the pandal will be done in Rajasthani style with intricate artwork on materials like wood, iron, thread, cloth and rubber. Rajasthani statues made of wood and large elephants made of clay will adorn the pandal. The pandal will be about 55 feet in height, 125 feet in length and 90 feet in



width and is being made at a cost of Rs 28 lakh. As much as 9 tons of iron is being used for the construction of the structure. Devotees will get a glimpse of an eco-friendly idol of Goddess Durga made of clay and decked up in a Banarasi saree. The jewellery being used to adorn the deity is also said to mesmerizing with its fine craftsmanship. The idol of Goddess Durga will be about 14 feet in height and is being made by local sculptor Ajay Pal. For the foodies, various food stalls will be put up while for the kids a fair is being organised. On the occasion of Maha Ashtami 56 varieties of food items will be offered to the deity which will also be

made available to the devotees at a cost of Rs 601 while on Mahanavmi, kichdi bhog will be made during the day.

"In Ranchi OCC Club was the first one to start making theme based Durga Puja pandals. Like every year this time too we have come up with a unique theme for the residents. This year a fantasy world of Rajasthan is being created ensuring that it is absolutely eco- friendly. Pandals on the themes of Mowgli, Mahabharat, Lagaan have been made earlier," said president, Rajendra Singh, OCC Club & Puja Committee.

The total budget set by the committee is about Rs 40 lakh which includes Rs 2 lakh for the idols, Rs 3 lakh for light and sound and Rs 5 lakh for the puja and prasad. The committee will immerse the installed Kalash on the day of Dussehra- October 12 while the immersion procession for the idols will take place the next day.

were mainly present.

## Centre to hold simultaneous elections with three new bills

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

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

It will also seek to insert sub-



the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies

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

This bill will not require

recommendation said. The proposed second Constitutional amendment bill will require ratification by at least 50 per cent of the state assemblies as it will deal with

matters relating to state

affairs.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions

▲ (CITU) on Sunday protested on

Government's move to disinvest the prof-

it making PSU Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited

(FSNL). The CITU general secretary

Tapan Sen in a statement said the Central

Government is resorting to all "illegal prac-

tices" to sell the Mini Ratna company to

Japan's M/s. Konoike Transport Co. Ltd

Extending solidarity with the striking

employees of FSNL, the CITU pointed

out that PSU Navratna steel companies

and must roll back from the sale.

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

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

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

The statutes it proposes to Election Commissions.

CITU protests FSNL disinvestment

are completely dependent on FSNL for

"With utter surprise, no consultation

with them has at all been initiated by the

government on such a vital issue and the

top managements of FSNL are also not

properly aware of this clandestine move.

FSNL is a company having a reserve

fund of about Rs 200 crore and movable

assets worth Rs100 crore employing

more than 600 employees and 5,000

During the year ended March 31, 2022,

Company has paid Interim Dividend for

FY 2021-22 amounting to Rs 9.50 per

scrap handling since its inception.

of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act-1991, the Government of Union Territories Act-1963 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act-2019. The proposed bill will be an

ordinary legislation not requiring a change in the Constitution and will also not need ratification by the states. The high-level committee had proposed amendments to three Articles, insertion of 12 new sub-clauses in the existing articles and tweaking three laws related to Union Territories having legislative assemblies.

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

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

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

equity shares," said CITU in a statement

CITU said that "such a golden egg

producing company is straight away

being guillotined by the government

because of its sheer obsession for

privatization factually without any valid

reason". "CITU once again condemns the

authoritarian anti-National move of the

Modi government and stands strong

with striking FSNL workers. CITU calls

upon all its units to take this issue to all

sections of workers and mobilize them

insolidarity with this anti-privatization

detailing the profits of the FSNL.

developments: Modi positive things, inspiring examples and encouraging stories, he noted.

Union Minister and BJP National President JP Nadda, and others listen to Prime

Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann ki Baat' radio programme, in New Delhi, Sunday

showcases positive

'Mann Ki Baat'

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

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

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

Modi said there is generally a perception that people don't pay attention if the content is not spicy or negative. However, 'Mann Ki Baat' has shown that they are eager for positive information. People like Modi said the 'Make in India's

Photo by: RANJAN DIMRI/THE PIONEER

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

He urged people to buy 'Made in India' products in the festival season. coming Referring to his recent visit to the US, Modi said the return of nearly 300 antiquities to India is being widely talked about. When people start taking pride in their heritage, the world also respects their sentiments, he said, asserting that a large number of ancient artefacts has been returned to India by different countries in the last 10 years of his government.

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



## Himalayan research project to analyse

sediment impact

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

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

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

Utilising advanced monitoring technologies such as drones, satellite imagery, seismic sensors, and "smart cobbles," the team will gather data on sediment transport and landscape changes. This information will help create a digital twin of the river system, offering insights for disaster management and resource

sustainability. Dr. Matt Westoby, the project lead and Associate Professor

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

He noted that while the immediate impacts of disasters are clear, the longterm consequences often remain unexplored. 'High mountain regions like

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

with communities and authorities to ensure that findings are practical and beneficial for disaster preparedness and hydropower operations. Collaborating institutions also include Exeter, Hull, Newcastle, Staffordshire,

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

In a nut-shell, as per the statement from the University of Hull, this three-year initiative aims to fill critical knowledge gaps regarding the long-term effects of sediment slugs on ecosystems and communities, ultimately enhancing disaster resilience in vulnerable regions.

disasters."

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

 $T_{\text{go for pre-hormonal ther-}}^{\text{ransgenders who want to}}$ apy or gender assignment surgery need to be assessed and certified by mental health professionals, according to the Union Health Ministry's stan-

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

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

current diagnostic system followed by the World Health Organization,

contract workers.

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

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

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



morbid mental and/or substance use disorders and provide management of the same, the document stated. They would also provide support or therapy, if needed, to cope with issues related to gender including participation in one cannot undergo gender integrated cross-disciplinary affirmation surgery before the intersectoral age of 18 years and a and

collaboration for clients and caregivers. "The support would be provided prehormonal therapy/gender assignment surgery, during the period as well as postsurgery, if need be," it stated. incongruence, According to the document,

certificate of being stable on endocrine treatment for one year and suitability for surgical procedure is required before gender affirmation The SOP stressed the need to

make STD clinics friendly to gender-diverse patients and such facilities should idontity and sex assigned at birth for all patients to improve sexual healthcare for transgenders and gender nonbinary

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

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

asking for their choice of terminology or modifying language to be used during clinic visits and history taking and examination, the SOP

stated. Options preservation, pregnancy potential and contraception options should also be document said.

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

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



#### Prakash Karat to lead CPI(M) interim

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

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

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

## Congress demands Sitharaman's resignation over extortion

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

ongress on Sunday Cattacked the BJP after a case was lodged against Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and others on a complaint relating to the nowscrapped electoral bonds scheme and demanded her resignation for "undermining democracy".

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

Addressing a press conference here along with party spokesperson Abhishek spokesperson Singhvi, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh charged that four ways were used to extort money through the "conspiracy of electoral bonds prepaid bribery, postpaid bribery, post-raid bribery and through farzi companies". He do this on her own. We know said the Finance Minister who is number 1 and number

should immediately resign as



she is "guilty" politically, legally and morally. Ramesh said the FIR was lodged on orders of the court and the Congress has nothing to do with the FIR. He said the Congress has been

demanding a Supreme-court monitored inquiry through an SIT into the electoral bonds scheme and reiterates that demand. Singhvi also accused the BJP of "undermining democracy". "The Finance Minister cannot

2 and this was done on whose

of a court in Bengaluru, following a complaint relating to the now-scrapped electoral bonds scheme.

According to police, an FIR

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

directions," he said. "The

A case was registered on Saturday against Sitharaman and others on the directions

was registered under IPC sections 384 (punishment for extortion), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 34 (acts done several persons in furtherance of common intention) Sitharaman, ED officials, office-bearers of the BJP at state and national level, based on the order of a special BJP Karnataka chief B Y

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

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

## Udhayanidhi promotion spurs DMK discontent Amit Shah promises

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

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

Annadurai in the company of M G Ramachandran, M Karunanidhi and V R Nedumchezhivan transformed itself over the last four decades from a democratic outfit to a dynastic entity, according to Malan, political critic and



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

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

of among the family members of martyrs who sacrificed their

life for the party.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# pension jobs for agniveers

There was a

government in Haryana, it

ran on cuts, commissions and

corruption. The rule of

dealers, brokers and sons-in-

law was prevalent. In the BJP

government, neither dealers

nor brokers are left, there is

district and one caste, but after the BJP gained power,

the party had developed the entire state equally. He also

accused the Congress party

no question of sons-in-law."

PARVESH SHARMA GURUGRAM

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

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

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

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

given 5 lakh jobs without any Kharchi and Parchi."

Shah also gave the account of 10 years of tenure: UPA government gave 41 thousand crores to Harvana. Whereas the Modi government gave 2 lakh 92 thousand crores rupees for development to During the Hooda government, the Congress party had only developed one Haryana in 10 years. PM Modi loves Haryana the most

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

# System while the BJP has party and said

Congress

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

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

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

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

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

the Pune Metro section.



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

passengers annually. Modi dedicated the nation to Bidkin Industrial Area, a transformative project covering an expansive 7,855 transformative

The Prime Minister also acres under the National Industrial Corridor Development Program of Govt. of India, situated 20 km south Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar The Bidkin Maharashtra. Industrial Area project developed under Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor -- holds immense potential as a vibrant economic hub in the Marathwada region. The Central Government has approved this project with an overall project cost of over Rs

6,400 crore for development

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

announcement of

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

Speaking on the occasion, Modi said:"Today.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pradesh model was being

day after the Congress top

brass chided him over his

remarks on the mandatory

display of names by the street

vendors and told him that no

one was allowed to go against

followed in his state. Singh's remarks had come a

Change needed in Haryana: Kejriwal PARVESH SHARMA

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, while addressing a public rally on Sunday, said the BJP had been intentionally putting him behind bars in a false case and it was time for voters to put the BJP out of power. the rally that the government will not be formed in Haryana without AAP's support. In Haryana, the election assembly scheduled on October 5.

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

Beeru Sarpanch. Kejriwal, while addressing a public gathering, said he spent five months behind bars without any crime, "BJP targeted me because of my honesty.

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

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

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

Haryana assembly on October 5 declared on October 8.

"They sent me to jail, and now the people of Haryana will send them out of power," he said. AAP chief claimed that if

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

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

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

During the month-long

## Memorial for P Keshava Dev takes shape

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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

the memorial.

the pioneers in Kerala to get converted to Arya Samaj and that was how Keshava Pillai became Keshava Dev. 'Though he was attracted

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



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

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

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

### Himachal Minister reaffirms Congress loyalty after vendor ID remarks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/SHIMLA

 $\mathbf{H}^{imachal\ Pradesh\ Minister}_{Vikramaditya\ Singh\ met}$ Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and assured him about being steadfast to the party's ideology and principles, sources said on Sunday.

The meeting on Saturday evening came amid a row over Singh's recent remarks that it would be mandatory for street vendors to display their identity cards at their shops. The state government later clarified no such decision had been taken. Sources said Singh met Kharge and conveyed his



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

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

the party's policies and ideologies. Amid the row over the comments, Congress general secretary

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

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

MOHIT KANDHARI

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

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

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

hoping to repeat its past performance in the 2002 and 2008 Assembly polls when it won 9 and 7 Assembly seats respectively. In 2014 NC's tally had come down to three seats in the region. PDP won seven seats in the 2014 Assembly polls from North Kashmir. Both Lone and Rashid, labeled as BJP's proxy by the National Conference and the PDP are hoping to retain their stronghold in their bastions across North Kashmir. Engineer Rashid, after receiving a healthy voter response at the time of his release from the Tihar jail (on bail) is hoping to encash on the similar sentiments that propelled his Lok Sabha campaign in May 2024.

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

hoping to make inroads in pockets of North Kashmir to romp home victoriously. The fate of several highprofile leaders and turncoats who were given the mandate by the BJP by denying tickets to some of their 'unpopular' leaders will also be decided in

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

back to power.

campaign period, the Prime Minister himself led from the front addressing four election rallies in Doda, Srinagar, and Katra in which he communicated directly with the voters to elect a BJP government in the maiden assembly polls after the Abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A in August 2019. Home Minister Amit Shah also campaigned extensively in the region along with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, and

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Chief Ministers from the BJP-ruled states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttarakhand and other star campaigners including Smriti Irani, and Anurag Singh Thakur also campaigned for the party candidates during the highvoltage campaigning.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

### **Saving Sunita Williams**

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

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

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

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

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



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

## Transforming India through 'Make in India'\_



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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

commence with rendition of Sanskrit

mantras and people used to start flock-

But in last 4 decades all things associat-

ed with Durga Puja have undergone a sea

change! Far from commencing the Puja

on Saptami morning, many pandals and idols now open up for public "consump-

tion" right from the Mahalaya itself

thereby "promoting" 4-day Puja to a "modern" 10-day extravaganza! After all

majority of these "glamorous" Puja com-

mittees do not care to actually offer

homage to it through rituals mantras holy

hymns or flowers! Durga Puja of today

is nothing but a fashion show of sorts with

ing to the pandals.

## Breaking life into small steps for lasting fulfillment



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

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

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

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

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

improvement over the 60 per cent in the previous one. Each resolution would fly out of the window within the first few months. I had forgotten to take small steps to reach the end destination.

Things did not improve even after I started working. I found a new toy – a 'To Do List'. A diary would be earmarked for this most important ritual.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

sectors for sustained growth

Madam — China's aggressive posture has consistently threatened peace in the Indo-Pacific region. India, has faced quite a few challenges from the latter. It is a matter of pride that New Delhi is looked upon by other countries to be their firm partner on global platforms to tackle Beijing's economic and military prowess. Specifically, the Asia-Pacific region was described as Indo-Pacific to denote India's increasingly active involvement in the region. The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is one international forum that glues the four friendly nations-the United States, Japan, Australia and India-together.

All these nations are keen to usher in a free and open Indo-Pacific region, diminishing the influence of a marauding Beijing. The four have been able to sustain a momentum that no country can ignore. In the fourth in-person Quad summit at US' Wilmington, leaders of the four countries underlined the importance of shared democratic values that have kept them together.

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

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

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

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

#### **Durga Puja has transformed**



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

face of the record or any merit in the review petitions, warranting reconsideration of the order impugned.

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

CK Subramani | Kerala

**TOURISM EDUCATION EMPOWERMENT** Madam —Tourism plays a pivotal role in the global economy acting as a bridge between cultures and fostering economic growth in various regions. It contributes approximately 10 per cent to the world's GDP and generates mil-

lions of employment opportunities,

especially in rural and less developed

grounds.

exhibition of flexing muscles - be it monetary might or trophies garnered! **Kajal Chatterjee** | *Kolkata* that there is no error apparent on the By integrating tourism studies into academic curricula, institutions can

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

This education not only prepares students for diverse career opportunities but also fosters a deeper understanding of how to balance tourism's economic benefits with environmental sustainability and cultural preservation.

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

Tanisha Gupta | Ujjain

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#### **FIRST COLUMN**

#### **HARNESSING INNER POTENTIAL**

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



RAVI VALLURI

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

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

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



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

#### **Law of Attraction**

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

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

## Can India become a manufacturing hub?



UTTAM GUPTA

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



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

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

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

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



WHILE, ALL

THREE SECTORS PLAY A CRUCIAL **ROLE IN** GROWTH, CREATING JOBS AND INCREASING INCOMES. MANUFACTURING CAN PROVIDE A SUSTAINABLE

BASIS FOR PROVIDING JOBS AND SURETY OF INCOME

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

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

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

Is it doable?

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

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

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

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

Finally, industries are operating in highly interesting environments. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the policy rate (the interest rate at which it lends money to banks) unchanged at a high of 6.5 per cent along with a 'withdrawal of accommodation' stance (a jargon for tight liquidity) for nearly 20 months. This leads to high cost loans to all industries across the board. The MSMEs are more vulnerable to all the above cost-push factors. To add salt to the injury, they get delayed payment for their dues from large firms. Unless the above fault lines are addressed, Initiatives under

'Make in India" won't yield the desired result and India becoming a manufacturing hub of the world will remain a distant dream. (The writer is a policy analyst;

views expressed are personal)

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

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

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

However, despite these achievements, a critical component remains neglectedthe quality of learning. Infrastructure may be flourishing, but the foundational skills that students require for future success often lag behind. To understand this, imagine a farmer who diligently sows seeds in well-tilled soil, only to find the harvest insufficient because the seeds weren't suit



ASHU KAPOOR

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

skills like basic literacy and numeracy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

use and analysis. The road ahead is challenging, but the promise of censusbased state assessments is

cators-are trained in data

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

he pioneer

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

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

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

In recent years, China has

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

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

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

We advise all Chinese citizens Military vehicles have been to pay close attention to the deployed in different parts of developments and refrain from travelling to Lebanon at this the capital as thousands of time. Those currently in the displaced people continue stepped in its diplomatic country are urged to evacuate engagement in the Middle East or move to relatively safe areas moving from the south to

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

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

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

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

which has witnessed only a handful of illegal border crossing attempts in the past few years, is the only official crossing point into Norway from

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

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

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

#### Sikh group's campaign against Islamophobia gains support

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

as soon as possible," the

Chinese embassy said in a

statement released on Saturday

Meanwhile, in its first state-

ment since the recent escalation

with Israel and following the

killing of Hezbollah leader

Hassan Nasrallah, Lebanon's

military called for calm among

the Lebanese "at this dangerous

Government officials fear that

the country's deep political

divisions at a time of war could

rekindle sectarian strife and

violence in the smal

"The Israeli enemy is working

to implement its destructive

plans and spread division

among the Lebanese," the mil-

Mediterranean country.

and delicate stage?

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

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



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

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

In recent televised interviews, Barnier criticised French borders as "sieves" and expressed concern that "migratory flows" were "not under control". He promised to "limit immigration", citing measures taken by neighbouring countries like Germany, which expanded controls at all land borders earlier this month.

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

Far-right and left-wing lawmakers can force the whole government to resign on condition they agree on a no-confidence vote

Marine Le Pen, the National

Rally's leading figure, said she would not seek to bring down the new government for now, waiting to see its initial "acts". In a recent interview with La Tribune-Dimanche newspaper, she said: "It's undeniable that Michel Barnier seems to have, on migration, the same assessment as ours." Barnier's hardline approach is reflected in the appointment of Bruno Retailleau, a fellow conservative known for his tough rhetoric on migrants, as the interior minister.

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

Eight former health ministers from the left, centre and right signed a column in French newspaper Le Monde to call on the government to maintain the state medical assistance, saying limiting it would put France's healthcare system "under increased pressure" because it would lead "to taking care of people later" when their condition is "more serious" and "more expensive".

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

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

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

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

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

take action without passing new legislation, such as decrees and instructions to national and local administrations in charge of implementing migration policies Retailleau said he would convene next week a meeting with

Still, the prime minister and

impacted by migrant issues to 'tell them to deport more" and "regularise less' Critics say France's hardline shift on migration has long

prefects of regions the most

been in the works. Macron's former centrist governments passed since 2017 several bills meant to tighten immigration controls and accelerate asylum procedures. The latest immigration bill adopted in January this year

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

#### intended to strengthen France's ability to deport foreigners least the ability to discuss historical truths".

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tembers of Britain's defeat- $IVI_{ed}$ divided and Conservative Party gathered on Sunday for an annual conference dominated by the search for a new leader capable of bringing the right-of-centre party back from a catastrophic election defeat. UK voters ousted the Tories in

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

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

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



speaking to as many party members as possible

Former Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick, ex-Business Secretary Kemi Badenoch, former Foreign Secretary James Cleverly and ex-Security Minister Tom Tugendhat make final pitches from the conference stage on Wednesday, before Conservative lawmakers will eliminate two candidates in a vote the following week. Party members across the country will then vote to pick a winner, who will be announced on November 2. The winner will take over a party depleted by years of turmoil under ex-Prime Minister Boris Johnson - ousted by colleagues in 2022 amid ethics scandals - and his successor Liz Truss. She resigned after just 49 days in office when her tax-cutting plans rocked the financial markets and battered the value of the pound. In the July election, the Conservatives lost votes to hard-right Reform UK, led by populist politician Nigel Farage, which won five second in dozens more. Other voters deserted the Tories for the centrist Liberal Democrats, who won 72 seats.

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

#### setback as party MP resigns Duffield in her resignation let-

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

Starmer suffers first leadership

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

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

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

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

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

**AP** WISCONSIN

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

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

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

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

I will liberate Wisconsin from the mass migrant invasion," he said. "We're going to liberate the country. But Trump also intensified his

personal attacks against Harris, insulting her as "mentally impaired' "If a Republican did what she

did, that Republican would be impeached and removed from office ... Joe Biden became mentally impaired. Kamala was born that way," he said. And he also professed not to ble for taking children from their parents. Under his administration, Trump separated children from their parents at the US-Mexico border in a policy that was condemned globally as inhumane and one that Trump

himself ended.

understand what Harris meant

when she said he was responsi-

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

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

child abuse, strangulation and domestic abuse Police Chief Kyle Teynor posted

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

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

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

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

Crawford County Sheriff Sheriff

Dale McCullick also addressed

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

the crowd, and said he was sure Trump would solve the border problem and urged people to vote for Trump. Republicans including US Sen.

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

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

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

Chien case, declined to com-

ment. Charlotte Wynes, anoth-

he pioneer

## Russia downs over 100 drones in major barrage

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

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

Seventeen drones were also seen over Russia's Voronezh region, where falling debris damaged an apartment block and a private home, said Gov.



Aleksandr Gusev. Images on social media showed flames rising from the windows of the top floor of a high-rise building. No casualties were

reported over Russia's Rostov region, where falling debris sparked a wildfire, said Gov. Vasily Golubey

He said that the fire did not pose a threat to populated A further 18 drones were areas, but that emergency

services were fighting to extinguish the blaze, which had engulfed 20 hectares (49.4 Russia struck Zaporizhzhia with aerial bombs. Ordinary residential buildings were acres) of for Elsewhere, 16 civilians were

injured in an overnight barrage on the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia after Ukrainian military leaders warned that Moscow could be preparing for a par military offersion in for a new military offensive in the country's south.

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

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

damaged and the entrance of one building was destroyed. The city's infrastructure and railway were also damaged," Zelenskyy said in a post on X. The Ukrainian leader appeared Sunday at a memorial service to make the 83rd anniversary of the Babyn Yar massacre, one of the most infamous mass slaughters of World War II.

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

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

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

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

#### during UN week acknowledged as much at a Thursday Q&A promoting his new Netflix show. "We have left some real challenges for this next generation," acknowledged Gates, who runs one of the world's

**AP** ■ NEW YORK

A lively discussion broke out backstage during Climate Week NYC between a TikTok comedian, a buzzed-about actress, a Latin cuisine entrepreneur and a

Humanitarians

engage youth

enlist creators to

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

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

largest philanthropic founda-

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

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

gians and contributes to women's "invisibility" in the church and society. Women

have long complained they have a second-class status in the

church, barred from the priest-

hood and positions of power

despite doing the lion's share of

caring for the sick and passing

#### 7 labourers killed by separatist militants in **Balochistan**

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

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

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

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

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

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

President Asif Ali Zardari also condemned the attack.

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

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

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

## Tory leaders demand tougher visa rules on India

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

Against the backdrop of the launch of the Conservative conference Birmingham on Sunday, former immigration minister

Robert Jenrick singled out India as one of the countries that should be subjected to tough visa restrictions across all categories unless it takes back its nationals who enter Britain illegally. His closest contender, shadow

housing secretary Kemi Badenoch, has also zeroed in on the same issue and condemned new migrants bringing their disputes from India to cause unrest on the streets of the country.



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

'I saw as equalities minister people bringing cultural disputes from India to the streets of Leicester... we need to make sure that when people come to this country, they leave their previous differences behind. This is not a controversial thing to say," she said.

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

Leicester in September 2022 in the wake of an India-Pakistan Asia Cup cricket match. head-to-head with two other party colleagues – former Cabinet ministers James

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

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

"The government must stop other countries exploiting our generosity by imposing severe visa restrictions and restricting foreign aid to countries that do not take back their nationals here illegally," said Jenrick.

Over the four-day Tory conference starting on Sunday, Jenrick and Badenoch will go Cleverly and Tom Tugendhat - as they make their leadership pitches before MPs vote in the next round. This time the field will be whit-

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

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

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

Pope Francis demanded on Psunday that sexually abusive clergy be judged and their bishops stop covering up their crimes as he ended a troubled visit to Belgium by responding here that has devastated the church's credibility. "Evil must not be hidden. Evil must be brought out into the open," Francis told some 30,000 people at Belgium's sports stadium, drawing applause repeatedly as the crowd took in what he was

abused his nephew for 13 years. Francis only defrocked him

this year — 14 years later — in a move clearly seen as finally dealing with a problem before his arrival in Belgium. Once here, he couldn't escape

the criticism. Belgium's king demanded the church work "incessantly" to clean up the scandal and ter insisted that victims' needs be placed first, in a remarkable dressing-down from the leadership of the once-staunchly Catholic country.

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

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

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

But the rector of the Dutch campus told Francis that the the church's moral authority that it would do best to reform if it wants to regain credibility and relevance. Rector Luc Sels suggested that opening up greater roles for women - including the priesthood - and being more welcoming to LGBTQ+ Catholics would be a good place to start. Francis heard a similar call from the Francophone campus, where students staged a reading of an articulated critique of his landmark environmental encyclical "Praised Be" in which they called for a "paradigm shift" in the way the church views women. They noted that the encyclical virtually ignores women, cites no female theolo-

I, Inderjeet Dolui son of Sh. Bijay Krishna Dolu R/o. 5177, Gali No. 3, Krishna Nagar, Karol Bagt New Delhi-110005 do hereby declare that my so student of Class-IX-B, in Ramjas School at Anar Parvat New Delhi-110005, that my son incorre Parvat New Delhi-110005, that my son incorrect name is PEEOM also my son's parents name Inderjeet and Manshri that my son correct name is PEEOM-DOLUI as per Aadhar Card No. 555411450173 that my son's father name is INDERLEET DOLUI as per Aadhar Card No. 271057097794 that my son's mother name MANASHRI DOLUI as per Aadhar Card No. 499248296817 that I declare that PEEOM DOLUI and PEEOM both are names of the same person, belong to my son that I declare that INDERLEET DOLUI and INDERLEET both are names of the same person that I declare that MANASHRI DOLUI and PEEOM DOLUI and PEEOM bolui a person that I declare that MANASHRI DOLUI and MANSHRI both are names of the same person belong to my wife that I will never change the name of my son with my son's parents name in the future

**CHANGE OF NAME** 

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Saqib khan is in process to Purchase Residential Plot Bearing No. 185, area measuring 70 sq. mtr., in Block C-10, situated in the revenue estate of Yamuna Vihar, New Delhi (availing loan from DCB Bank I from Yogendra Singh Rana , having acquired the said property vide Conveyance Deed dated 46(2012) (Bocument No. 10363) executed by POI through DDA, He confirmed that his seller is not having the below documents pertaining to the property in question for 14nd online-FIR has already been lodged on dated 29(9)(2024 wide LR no.2162664/2024
a) Original Allotment letter 08.08.1978 issued by DDA in favour of Kushabi Ram Malhotra
b) Original Possession letter dated 12.10.1978 issued by DDA in favour of Kushabi Ram Malhotra c) Original Possession slip dated 21.10.1978 issued by DDA in favour of Kushabi Ram Malhotra d) Original Possession slip dated 21.10.1978 issued by DDA in favour of Sushabi Ram Malhotra d) Original Possession slip and Control of Sushabi Ram Malhotra in favour of Vogindra Singh Rana All persons, having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, 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 PUBLIC NOTICE

possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien charge, ledge, eassement or otherwise howsoever, arr 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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Name Is Rajani Mirdha. For All Future Purposes. Vide Affidavit No. 36AA729756 Dated 27 Sep 2024 It is for general information that I, Machal Singh S/o Roriya Pura, Ambah, Ambah Morena, Madhya Pradesh-476111, Present R/o D-286, U/G/F, gali no.-9, Sadh Nagar, Palam Colony, Palam South

Dayaram, Parmanent R/o West, NCT of Delhi-110045, declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as Mamta Devi in my minor daughter namely Vaishali aged 14 years in her School Record. The actual name of my wife is Mamta Kumari respectively, which may be

#### Francis deviated from his pre-The Express Tribune newspaper pared homily to respond to the meeting he held with 17 abuse survivors on Friday night, where he heard first-hand of the trauma and suffering they endured and the tone-deaf response of The report said the armed men the church when they reported the crimes. Belgium has had a wretched legacy of abuse and cover-up, none more symbolic of the church's hypocrisy than the case of Bruges Bishop Roger Vangheluwe. He was allowed to quietly retire in 2010 after he Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, awards the national medal to Brazil's former President and President of the New Development admitted that he had sexually Bank (NDB) Dilma Rousseff during a ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Sunday. AP/PTI

## Hospital clowns bring joy to young patients who survived Russian attack

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

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

As Ukraine's medical facilities come under pressure from intensifying attacks in the war against Russia's full-scale invasion, volunteer hospital clowns are duck-footing their way in to provide some badly needed moments of joy for hospitalized children.

The "Bureau of Smiles and Support" (BUP) is a hospital clowning initiative established in 2023 by Olha Bulkina, 35, and Maryna Berdar, 39, who already had more than five

years of hospital clowning experience between them. "Our mission is to let childhood continue regardless of the circumstances," Bulkina, told The Associated Press.

BUP took on new significance following a Russian missile strike on Okhmatdyt Children's Hospital in Kyiv in July. The attack on Ukraine's largest pediatric facility forced the evacuation of dozens of young patients, including those with cancer, to other hospitals in the capital - and the clowns did not stand aside. Together with first responders, Berdar and Bulkina helped with clearing the rubble after

the attack and attended to the children who were relocated to other medical facilities. But even for them, the real heroes there were young patients.

When the children were evacuated from Okhmatdyt after the missile attack, many

of them were in extremely difficult medical conditions, but even in this situation they tried to support the adults said Berdar, recalling the events after the strike.

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

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

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

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

Kulinich said. In her practice,

role in the treatment of children. They help distract the children, they help them forget about the pain, they help them not pay attention to the nurses or doctors who come to treat them," Valentyna Mariash, a senior nurse on the Okhmatdyt cancer ward, told AP. The July attack complicated treatment plans for many families. Daria Vertetska, 34, was in Okhmatdyt with her 7year-old daughter, Kira, when the missile exploded just outside their ward. Kira, who was diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma of the nasopharynx, was asleep, medicated with morphine. "It saved her that she was covered with a blanket during the strike, but still, her head, legs, and arms were cut with small glass shards," said Vertetska. She and Kira returned to Okhmatdyt in less than a

week after the attack. Not all the children returned to the hospital. Some stayed in the medical facilities where they had been evacuated, while others were moved to apartments paid for by charity organizations and located

in the hospital's vicinity.

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

Organization, earlier this month, warned that the country faces a deepening public health crisis, largely due to devastating missile and drone strikes on the country's electricity system as well as hospital infrastructure. Since the start of Russia's full-

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

ATHE PIONEER A CHANGE OF NAME I. Neetu Sharma W/0 Sh.

on the faith.

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

Dated 27 Sep 2024.

I, Rajani Mirdha W/0 Sh. Krishna Kishan R/o V&Po Jamtalia, Teh & Distt Sundergarh Odisha. 770019, Declare That My Name Wrongly Written In My Husband Army Record As Rajani Kishan. My Correct

amended accordingly.

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

PTI NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

"You can see it in the number

applications government jobs, which are overwhelming," said Rajan, who is a professor of finance at US-based Chicago Booth. He said that in the medium term, the Indian economy will grow at 6-7 per cent.
While welcoming the apprenticeship schemes announced by the finance minister in this year's

minister in this year's Budget, Rajan said, "But we have to monitor that very closely, see what works and expand what works much

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced in the Union Budget of FY25 that the government will launch three employmentlinked schemes based on enrolment in Employees' Provident Organization (EPFO).

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



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

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

There is no need for airlines

to offer a meal service, but if

they claim to be 'full-service'

carriers they should offer a

proper meal or at least offer a

decent 'Buy on Board' service.

The largest airline in India

does not pretend to offer 'full

service'; but has a 'Buy on

Board' service. However, as a

frequent flyer, I sincerely

India into a proper global

aviation hub and compete

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

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

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

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

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

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

western

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

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

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

#### Government seeks industry inputs on Income Tax simplification

PTI NEW DELHI

The gover government suggestions on Income Tax Act, 1961, from the private sector and tax experts beginning October, as part of an exercise to simplify the direct tax law, sources said.

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

Following Budget announcement, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had set up an internal committee for comprehensive review of the six- decade old direct tax law and make it concise, lucid, easy to read and understand.

"In the meeting with industry associations, the revenue department suggested that the functionality be developed by the first week of October to give suggestions for reworking



the income tax law," a source

Another source said that the exercise is not to write a new tax law or a tax code.

"Just by removing the outdated clauses, the number of pages could be brought down by about 100. The aim of the I-T law review is simplification of language and mitigation of litigation," the source added. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in 2024-25 Budget presented in July had proposed that the I-T law review would be completed in six months. Considering that the six-month timeline ends in January, it is widely expected that the amended I-T Act could be brought in the Budget session of Parliament. Since no new changes are expected in the law, the amended Act could form part

of the Finance Bill, 2025 as

well, another source said.

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

KUSHAN MITRA NEW DELHI

t midnight between 11-At Minding II. will cease to function as an independent entity as the merger of Air India and Air Vistara will be solemnised. While it is certain that several of the 60-plus aircraft in Air Vistara's fleet will continue to operate in the airlines' famous aubergine livery for a few years, the Vistara flight code UK will be retired and it is certain that Air India will rationalise routes and services between the two airlines, a process that will not be easy. To be fair, Tata Sons has already managed an airline merger, that of the former Air Asia India and Air India Express. However, that was much easier as both airlines were low-cost single-class operators, even though they operated different aircraft, Air Asia India, the Airbus

A320 and Air India Express,

end, it is likely that the airline



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

the Boeing 737. But as the leases on older Airbus aircraft will move to a single fleet of Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. unlike continuing proper meal Things are much more

lunchtime, the meal provided was wholly inadequate with a sandwich and stuffed bread Vistara's

recommend that flyers either bring their own food onboard or eat at an airport, no matter how overpriced the latter option is. That said, consolidation of Air India and Vistara into one large airline is a huge opportunity for Tata Sons and Indian aviation to develop

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

"Obviously, nobody wants to put everything in a risky asset speculative asset...Banking products will always be part of the basket. So, we are trying to bring products which will appeal to them," he told PTI in an interview.

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

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

mobilisation is a franchisee job. We have the largest number of physical outlets across the country. We are leveraging our huge physical reach by initiating outreach programmes customers are contacted. Today, the effort on part of

OSBI

SBI is to reach out to every customer both existing as well as new customers," he said. Stressing that deposit is a

function of interest rate and customer service, Setty said, "obviously, there is a requirement of adequately compensating our customers, but we would not like to fight in the rate war. I think most of the banks are also pursuing a balancing act of giving the right rate as well as right service. So, our focus is on improving the customer service and also adequately compensating customers." In addition, he said, SBI has given thrust on opening new

accounts and almost 50,000 to 60,000 savings bank accounts opened a day.
On the fixed deposit side, Setty said, almost 50 per cent of our fixed deposits are

garnered through the digital channels only and also many accounts are opened through digital means Meanwhile, he also said that SBI is aiming to become the

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

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

have Definitely, we would like to be the first company in India to reach that milestone," Setty said when asked if it is possible to cross Rs 1 lakh crore in the next 3-5 years.

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

PTI NEW DELHI

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

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

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



middle class and MSMEs are getting a lot of benefit from this campaign. This campaign has provided

an opportunity to people of every class to showcase their talent," Modi said. "Today, India has become a

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

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

The prime minister said the continual rise of FDI in the

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

"In 'Mann Ki Baat' we've also

discussed 'My Product My Pride'.

How the people of the country can benefit from promoting local products can be understood through an example.

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

In this festive season, Modi urged people that anything they buy, should

necessarily be 'Made in India'. "Anything you gift that too should be 'Made in India'. Merely buying earthen lamps is not 'Vocal for Local'.

You should promote local products made in your area more and more. Any such product, that has been made with the sweat of an Indian artisan, that is made on Indian soil, is our pride - we always have to lend glory to this pride," he said. On the 10th anniversary of

his government's 'Make in India' drive, Prime Minister Wednesday Modi on affirmed that the flagship initiative to boost manufacturing transformed a dream into a powerful movement and its impact shows that "Bharat is unstoppable".

#### Reliance infrastructure wins arbitration case against DVC

PTI NEW DELHI

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

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

Raghunathpur Thermal Power

Project," the firm said.

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

had proposed the transfer and vesting of Media Operations group, and SIPL is wholly

added.

PTI NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Private Limited in favour of Undertaking from Viacom 18 Star India," it said. This would be "subject to conditions laid by the

Competition Commission of

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

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

Cinema into and Jio Digital18, which is a subsidiary of Viacom 18. This would be followed by "demerger, transfer and vesting of V18 Undertaking from Digital 18 into Star India".

The merger of the media assets of Reliance Industries and The Walt Disney Co. Will create the country's largest media empire worth over Rs 70,000 crore. Earlier, the CCI had said it had cleared the "proposed combination involving Reliance Industries Ltd, Viacom18 Media Pvt Ltd, Digital18 Media Ltd, Star India Pvt Ltd and Star Television Productions Ltd, subject to the compliance of voluntary modifications".

owned by The Walt Disney Company. STPL, a company incorporated in the British Virgin Islands, is owned indirectly by Walt Disney. The CCI, however, did not disclose

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

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

Chairman Mukesh Ambani, will head the joint venture, while Uday Shankar will be its vice-chairperson.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The combined market valuation of eight of the top-10 most valued firms surged Rs 1,21,270.83 crore last week, with Reliance Industries becoming the biggest gainer, in line with an outstanding rally benchmark equity indices. week, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,027.54 points or 1.21 per cent. The BSE Sensex hit its record high of 85,978.25 on Friday.

The market valuation of Reliance Industries jumped Rs 53,652.92 crore to Rs 20,65,197.60 crore. State Bank of India added Rs 18,518.57 crore taking its

valuation to Rs 7,16,333.98

crore.Bharti Airtel's market

valuation soared Rs 13,094.52

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

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

#### **INBRIEF**

22ND KISHORE KUMAR MEMORIAL AWARDS

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



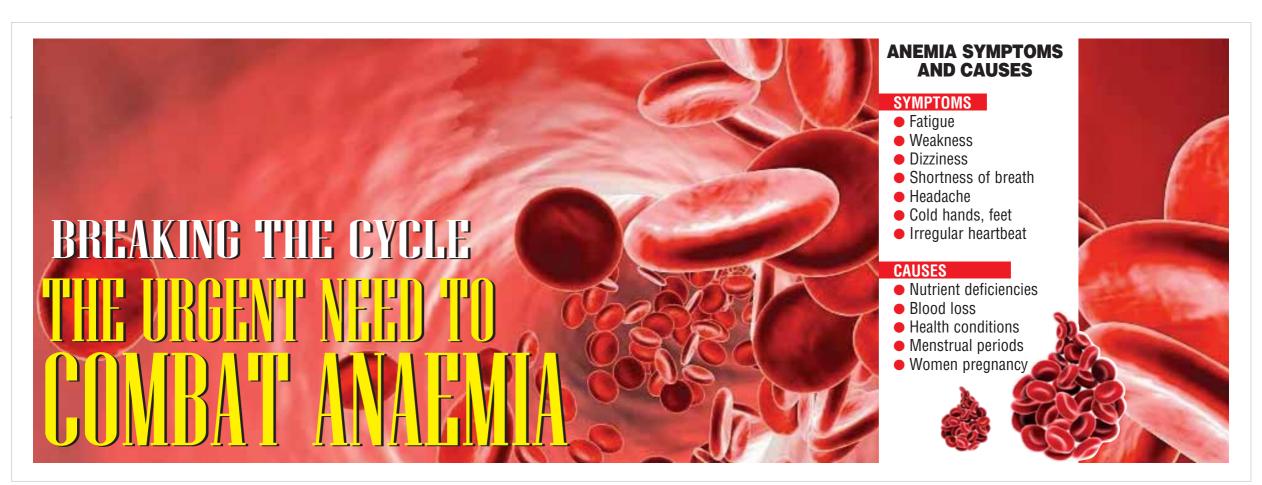
**GNDU RELEASED SCHEDULE THROUGH ONLINE PORTAL** 

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

**GNDU ZONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL** 

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





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

**NORMAL** 

individuals struggle to prioritize their health and wellness, particularly those aged 21 to 50.

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

n today's fast-paced world, many

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

To address this critical issue, a roundtable discussion titled "India's Silent Epidemic: Raising Awareness

& Fostering Urgent Action Against Anaemia" was convened. The panel of experts included Dr Manju Puri, Director Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi; Dr Tulika Seth, Professor of Haematology at the All **ANAEMIC** India Institute of Medical

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

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

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

SUPPLEMENTS AS A

**NECESSARY BACKUP** 

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

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

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

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

**Keeping Fit and Well during** 

the Monsoon Season

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

In response to inquiries about

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

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

Individuals are encouraged to prioritize their health by staying informed about anaemia and taking steps to prevent or manage this condition.

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

BY Dr Wajiha Mehtab

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

#### The Building Blocks of Health

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

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

#### **Preventing Chronic Disease**

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

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

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

#### Mental Health and Nutrition

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

antioxidants in fruits and vegetables,

support brain function and mood

regulation. Studies show that a diet rich

in these nutrients may reduce the risk of

depression and anxiety while improving

Conversely, diets high in processed and

sugary foods are linked to higher rates of

mood disorders. Blood sugar spikes and

crashes, caused by refined sugars and

simple carbohydrates, can lead to

irritability, fatigue, and feelings of

anxiety. By maintaining a balanced diet,

people can stabilize their energy levels

The food we eat directly impacts how we

feel throughout the day. A balanced meal

and emotional health.

**Fuelling Daily Energy** 

memory and cognitive function.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Watch portion sizes: It's not just

what you eat, but how much. Be mindful of portion sizes to avoid overeating, even with healthy foods. Plan ahead: Planning meals and snacks

in advance can help you make healthier choices and avoid unhealthy last-minute

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

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



A healthy gut ensures a good immune system. It is important to maintain a nutritious diet in all your meals ensuring that you are getting the fats, minerals, and vitamins you need. Eat seasonal fruits vegetables and avoid oily spicy food that could meddle with your digestion

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

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

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



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

during monsoon season due to the weather and humidity. Close contact in crowded places during this season should be avoided as that is where you will catch an infection like swine flu or hepatitis.

While monsoons will come and go, life goes on and you will have to go out and interact with people at offices or public spaces or even crowds. All you can do is maintain a good amount of space between you and others to avoid the risk of catching any infections

Make sure you are up to date about getting all your vaccines and booster doses. Outbreak diseases hepatitis are very common during monsoons. Consult your doctor and make sure that you are not behind on getting any vaccines.

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

nets at night to prevent mosquito bites.

mosquitoes. You can also use

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

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

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

possible.

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

The author is the Additional Director of Internal Medicine at Fortis Hospital, Greater



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

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

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

Prabath spinner Jayasuriya, was named Player of the Series after a masterful performance, claiming 18 wickets across the matches

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

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

Jayasuriya, who took nine wickets in the first test, was at his best again, snaring



added.

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

in the second innings.
"We discussed the need to score big in the first innings. That has been something that has been worrying us for a while. Glad we rectified that this innings," said Sri Lanka captain Dananjaya de Silva. "The spinners were superb.

They kept creating pressure and didn't allow New Zealand to get away with things. It was

a superb display. That's how we want to compete in home conditions, dominate the

opposition from ball one," he

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

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

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

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

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

# gold medals in Peru

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Choudhary though missed a potential individual gold after being penalised two points for reporting late for the final.

Choudhary and Singh had earlier made it to the individual finals placed third and fourth respectively in the qualification round. Choudhary shot 580 and



Singh 578 but missed out on individual medals, ending sixth and eighth respectively.

Luca Joldea of Romania won the gold medal, while Chinese Taipei's Hsieh Hsiang-Chen clinched the silver. Nelavalli was ninth in qualification with a score of

combination The Kanishka Dagar, Lakshita and Anjali Chaudhary tallied 1708 to clinch the junior women's 10m air pistol team gold. They pipped Azerbaijan by a point bronze-winning Ukraine by four points. Dagar also made the individual final in third place with a score of 573 along with Kanak who also shot the same score but with lesser inner 10s, to bag the

fifth qualifying spot.

In the final, Kanak won bronze with a score of 217.6, while Dagar finished eighth. Chinese Taipei's Chen Yu-Chun won gold, while Slovakia's Manja Slak bagged

#### Wet outfield wipes out play for second day

o play was possible for the second consecutive day in the second Test between India and Bangladesh due to a wet outfield at the Green Park Stadium here. Overnight rain had caused a delay to the start of action but

even as the sun was shining bright around 2:00pm and there were no soggy patches on the ground, the officials decided to call off the play. Almost eight sessions have been lost in the game due to persistent rain that has played

havoc with the final match of two-game Questions on the drainage system used at the venue have been duly raised.

Bangladesh had ended the rain-shortened opening day at 107 for 3. The entire second day was washed out without a ball being bowled, and only 35 overs were bowled on the opening day. India pacer Akash Deep (2/34) and Ravichandran Ashwin (1/22) were among the wickets.

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

AP PARIS

rey players will be sidelined when the Key players will be succincument and Champions League resumes on Tuesday after a wave of injuries within a week of the new-look competition starting.
Kylian Mbappé's sore hamstring is likely

to sideline him beyond Wednesday when he was due to return to France with defending champion Real Madrid to face Lille.

Serious knee injuries mean Manchester City midfielder Rodri is out for the season and Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-André ter Stegen will miss at least most

Inter Milan midfielder Nicolò Barella, who was a standout playing against Rodri on September 18, will miss at least one Champions League game because of a thigh strain.

The injuries to four players who were European Championship into the knockout phase have sharpened the debate about player workload in a calendar made more congested by the bigger Champions

The extended program is what influential clubs all-but forced UEFA to create and the 18 games this week, split between Tuesday and Wednesday, still

leaves each of them with six more to play through January. Another final rematch

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

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

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

Both eased to winning starts two weeks ago. Villa won 3-0 at Young Boys and Bayern's nine goals against Dinamo Zagreb was a record for any team in the 33-season Champions League era. Harry Kane scored four in Bayern's 9-2

win and has a good record visiting Villa, with five goals there in five Premier League games for Tottenham. He faces a late check on an ankle injury. Kane edges Haaland

Kane's  $\bar{\text{fast}}$  start to the season with 10 goals in seven games for Bayern has outpaced even Erling Haaland's 10 in eight games for Man City. Haaland was kept quiet by Inter for the Haaland should find it easier on

second time in 16 months, a fact he was reminded of in a post-game talk with the Italian champion's center back

Francesco Acerbi, who smiled and held up two fingers.

Tuesday in Slovakia when Man City faces Slovan Bratislava, which took the second biggest beating in the opening round, 5-1 at Celtic.

for a rare European win by the Scottish champion stood out in an opening week where anticipation was not universal.

Pundits including former Man City goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel noted a quietness about the stadium for the Inter game. The attendance was nearly 2,000 higher five days later when Man City met Arsenal in a tempestuous Premier League clash where title ambitions were already in play.

Milan-Liverpool was a heavyweight European fixture yet far from sold out, with fewer than 60,000 at San Siro. The crowd topped 70,000 at each of Milan's first two Serie A home games this season, and 66,000 on the equivalent Champions League opening night last season to see another English club, Newcastle. Paris Saint-Germain drew at least

46,000 fans for each home game in Ligue 1 this season — and all three Champions League group-stage games last season — yet fewer than 40,000 were at Parc des Princes to see European debutant Girona two weeks ago. Sporting Lisbon also had 40,000 fans for

a Champions League opener against Lille that was 6,000 down on the crowd for a domestic league game against

The pulsating atmosphere at Celtic Park 
The attendance and atmosphere trends

will be watched as fans respond to the longer and more expensive program of four Champions League home games. The 36-team standings is set to be more dynamic for the final two rounds in January.

Tuesday's games

The raucous atmosphere should follow Celtic to Borussia Dortmund whose fans in the Yellow Wall tribune are among the noisiest in Europe.

Bundesliga champion Bayer Leverkusen hosts Milan after making a fast star in a 4-0 rout at Feyenoord. San Siro now reverts to Inter to host Red Star Belgrade.

Arsenal hosts PSG in a meeting of two teams chasing a trophy they never won. Each was a beaten finalist once. Also, Barcelona hosts Young Boys.

Wednesday's games Even without Mbappé, Madrid should have too much for Lille playing in the stadium that hosted basketball groupstage games at the Paris Olympics.

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

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

### Osasuna stuns Barcelona 4-2 record for best start



**AP** ■ BARCELONA

Bryan Zaragoza scored one goal and set up another to spark Osasuna's stunning 4-2 win over Barcelona, dealing the Spanish league leader its first loss.

The lightning-fast forward on loan from Bayern Munich crossed for Ante Budimir to open the scoring in the 17th minute. Zaragoza then showed some fancy high-speed dribbling to round goalkeeper Iñaki Peña on the break

for 2-0 in the 28th on Saturday.

Barcelona youth player Pau Víctor pulled one back for the visitors in the 53rd, but Budimir earned and converted a penalty to put the result beyond doubt in the 72nd.

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

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

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



Crowd size and fan fervour

brace put India in control but Nepal didn't go down easily as

they kept reducing the Blue Colts' lead.

> In the end, goals from s u b s t i t u t e s Ningthoukhongjam Rishi Singh and Hemneichung Lunkim sealed the Indian win.

Set-pieces are something India have been excellent with so far. They've scored four goals from dead ball situations so far and Ahmed has been delighted with that. In the second semi-final, Bangladesh showed indomitable spirit as they came from two goals down to level it at 2-2 against Pakistan thanks to Md Manik's 74th and 94th minute goals.

## India U17 look to maintain dominance against Bangladesh in final

PTI THIMPHU

**T**ndia will fancy their Lchances of maintaining stranglehold Bangladesh when the two sides meet in the final of the SAFF U17 Championship here on Monday.

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

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

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



hiccups but they've been more stable as compared to the other teams. Our win "We know Bangladesh are a against them is in the past. A good side. They did well to final is a different game," said come from behind in the Ahmed in the pre-match

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

Vishal Yadav's second-half

They then converted all eight of their penalties to cap off a memorable comeback and enter the final

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

**AP** ■ **FORT LAUDERDALE (US)** 

Lionel Miessi more.

Miami another step closer to the No. 1 seed for the MLS Cup playoffs. And the MLS single-season points record remains in the

ionel Messi moved Inter

club's reach as well. Messi scored in the 67th minute and Inter Miami pushed its unbeaten streak to eight straight Major League Soccer matches with a 1-1 tie against Charlotte FC on

Saturday night. It was Messi's

15th goal in 16 league

matches this season.

Messi became the sixth player in MLS history with at least 15 goals and 15 assists in a single season - and he's done that while missing 15 of Inter Miami's league contests.

The tie, combined with Columbus' 2-2 draw with D.C. United on Saturday, left Inter Miami eight points clear of the Crew for the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference. Inter Miami is also seven points up on the LA Galaxy for the No. 1 overall seed in the MLS playoffs.

Inter Miami plays at Columbus on Wednesday, and a win would wrap up the No. 1 overall seed - not just the East, but the Supporters Shield as the regular-season winners as well. Inter Miami (19-4-8) has 65 points with matches three Columbus (16-5-9) has 57 points with four matches remaining. 'We are playing a great team

that is chasing us in the Supporters Shield," Inter Miami coach Gerardo "Tata"

Martino said.

"It is a very important game but so are the games against Toronto and New England. We will be ready for these

remaining dates." But first, the Columbus match looms and Inter Miami knows exactly what's at stake. important,"

defender Jordi Alba said. The Supporters shield would give Inter Miami home-field edge throughout the playoffs, including for a potential MLS Cup final December 7. And if

Inter Miami wins out, it will

finish with 74 points - one more than the MLS record of 73 set by New England in 2021. DC United helped Inter Miami a bit on Saturday. Columbus led 2-1 late in the

second half but surrendered the tying goal in the 81st minute; otherwise, the Crew could have been two points closer to Inter Miami in the standings and made Wednesday's match far more interesting. Messi's goal was his typical brilliance. He took a pass near the top of the

penalty box, dribbling once and threading his natural left-footed shot between four defenders and into the net to tie the match.

It came 10 minutes after Charlotte (11-11-9, 42 points, seventh in the East) struck first, with Karol Swiderski deflecting a shot into the net.

But Messi answered, and Inter Miami settled for its third consecutive draw. The team is 5-0-3 in its last eight league matches and 9-1-3 in MLS play since June 1.

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