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state the intention and rea-

sons for initiating such a

Voting Requirements

approval from a majority of

Rajya Sabha members. It

then requires agreement by

a simple majority in the Lok

Challenges in Moving

Achieving consensus

among opposition parties

poses a challenge, as not

all members agree on this

motion. Securing majorities

in both houses is crucial,

making cross-party support

encephalitis claimed the

lives of a large number of

children annually in

Gorakhpur and surround-

ing areas. "Post-2017, the

double-engine government

has effectively controlled

and eradicated this deadly

to the past, the Chief

Minister remarked, "Before

2017, the only medical

institution in eastern Uttar

Pradesh was BRD Medical

College in Gorakhpur,

which itself was in a dilapi-

dated state. Today, under

the double-engine govern-

ment, AIIMS has been

established in Gorakhpur,

and BRD Medical College

has been upgraded to offer

with a semi-automatic S

mm pistol. Passing off the

attack from a member of

the 'sangat' as sponta-

neous would be a travesty of justice," he added.

how the Amritsar Police

and its Commissioner

Gurpreet Singh Bhullar

Dr Cheema recounted

Drawing comparisons

disease," he stated.

Sabha to succeed.

No-Confidence Motion

The resolution needs

resolution.

**GARVI GUJARA** 

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### **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Virtually Addresses Program Organized by Ramakrishna Math in Ahmedabad**

(Gns) grace the event Gandhinagar,

09 December 2024: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi virtually addressed a program organized by Ramakrishna Math in Lekhamba, Sanand taluka of Ahmedabad. During his address, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi stated that today's India is advancing on the foundation of its knowledge, traditeachings.



tion, and centuries-old lies not only in explaining Highlighting phenomena but in inspiring India's growing influence in and propelling humanity

ecosystem, progressing toward becoming the world's third-largest economodern technology, the forward. The Prime Minister my, advancing in modern Prime Minister noted that observed that India's identi- infrastructure, and offering Swami Vivekanand, a ty is being shaped by solutions to global chal-

staunch proponent of mod- numerous achievements, lenges. He further emphasized. "Swami Vivekanand believed that youth power is the backbone of the country." Reflecting on this, Prime Minister the remarked that the time has come for the youth to take up this responsibility. He stated that India has

embarked on a new journey of Amrit Kaal with the steadfast resolve of Viksit Bharat. Emphasizing the need to achieve this goal within the designated timeframe, the Prime Minister affirmed, "India is the youngest nation in the world."

#### (Gns). The I.N.D.I.A bloc. a coalition of opposition parties, is contemplating a noconfidence motion against Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar. This consideration arises from dissatisfaction with his management of the upper house. Allegations suggest he favours the treasury benches, neglecting opposition demands. However, the opposition has not yet reached a consensus on

this action. Bringing a no-confidence motion against the Vice President involves careful planning and requires majority support. Specific rules must be folessary steps for removal.

role

ing over sessions and

maintaining order during

proceedings. The Vice

President's term lasts five

years, with eligibility for re-

Article 67(b) of the

Vice President's Role in Rajya Sabha The Vice President of India serves as the ex-officio Chairman of the Sabha Rajya

involves presid-

This

election.

**Know What Are Constitutional Rules And Provisions** lowed to initiate such a Indian Constitution outlines is mandatory before movmotion. The process is gov- how the Vice President can ing a resolution for removal. erned by constitutional pro- be removed from office. A This notice must clearly visions that outline the nec- resolution must be passed

**Rajya Sabha Speaker To Face No Confidence Motion!** 

by the Rajya Sabha and agreed upon by the Lok Sabha to effect removal. Steps for

> Removal The removal process begins with Article 67(b), which requires a resolution passed by а

majority in the Rajya Sabha and agreed to by the Lok Sabha. The Constitution does not specify grounds for removal, leaving it to Parliament's discretion.

A 14-day notice period essential for success.

Discussing the transfor-

mation in the health sector

in eastern Uttar Pradesh,

Minister

"It is evident from the

HUE

Yogi

### For 'Sashakt Bharat', 'Swasth Bharat' is a must: Yogi

(Gns).

Ayushman Vay Vandana Card distribution ceremony for citizens above 70 years age at Mahant Digvijaynath Park, he "From Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and Mukhyamantri Jan Arogya Yojana to the Deendayal State Cashless Medical Scheme, Ayushman Vay Vandana

Yojana, and financial aid through the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, all these initiatives reflect our dedication to creating a strong and empowered India through a healthy India."

Distributing Vay Additionally, two new pri-Vandana Cards to 19 bene- vate medical colleges have ficiaries, he highlighted the also been inaugurated, furgovernment's strides in ther expanding the state's

strengthening the health healthcare infrastructure." and medical sector and noted, "Before 2017, in the 70 years since independence, Uttar Pradesh had only 12 government medical college but now the

double-engine government has established medical col-

leges in 65 out of 75 districts in the state."

He added, "This year alone, 16 medical colleges Chief have commenced opera- Aditvanath highlighted the tions-13 under govern- significant strides made ment management and since 2017. He recalled three on a PPP model. how,

2017, super specialty services." before SAD accuses Punjab CM of cover-up of conspiracy behind attack on Badal

# World Reacts To Assad's Ouster From Syria: From Jubilation To Uncertainty

The ouster of Syrian prospect of returning to a fall signified a new era for President Bashar al-Assad country free from the Syrians, one of potential has triggered a wave of reactions across the globe, fled. with responses ranging from Abdel-Latif, a jubilation to concern over refugee from the future of Syria and its Hama, spoke of neighbours. On December 8, his long-await-2024, rebels announced ed reunion with that they had successfully his family, statousted Assad, marking the end of over 14 years of his authoritarian rule. This event has sent shockwaves throughout the Middle East and beyond, as Syrians both inside and outside their homeland grapple with what

comes next. In neighbouring Lebanon, rebuilding the country, saythousands of Syrian ing, "Syrians have to create refugees rushed to the Masnaa border crossing, eager to return to their home country. For many, the news of Assad's fall brought an overwhelming sense of hope and relief. Syrians who of a "tyrannical rule." Muhab



reflecting the

immense relief many felt. from Others, like Malak Matar, who was heading to Damascus, expressed a belief in the possibility of

a state that is well organized and take care of their coun-In Jordan, residents also

celebrated, viewing the end of Assad's reign as the end had lived in exile for years al-Majali, a resident of



authoritarian grip of the Assad regime. Concerns

and

ike

Michigan,

Over Uncertainty and Potential Conflict

prosperity.

Dearborn,

jubilant

Similarly, Syrians

in diaspora cities

expressed their joy

However, the fall of Assad has not been met with unbridled optimism. While many are celebrating, others are deeply concerned about what will follow. Some experts warn of the in Syria, where various rebel buffer zone in the Golan

expressed joy at the Amman, said that Assad's factions, each with differing agendas, could clash for control. Saeed Sawy, an engineer from Cairo, drew of comparisons to previous uprisings in the region, parremarked, ticularly the Arab Spring, where initial optimism was followed by chaos and civil war. He noted, "We saw this happen before in Libya, Tunisia, Yemen, and Sudan. Pandit People rejoice over the fall Upadhyaya of tyrants, then they dis-Employee

agree and fight. and a civil war starts." His warning reflects fears that the fragmentation of Syria could be the next chapter in its ongoing crisis. Syria's immediate neigh-

bors have also been on edge. Lebanon has closed all but one land crossing with Syria, while Jordan shut down a border post, wary of the instability that could spill over. Israeli forces temdangers of a power vacuum porarily took control of a

# Speaking at the

### Acharya Balkrishna highlights Patanjali's model for sustainable farming in U'khand

Acharya Balkrishna of Patanjali Yogpeeth emphasised the need for innovative solutions to tackle of the society social and environmental "In this world challenges in the state of we must either Uttarakhand. Sharing his become vision for transforming the solution barren lands of Pauri society's prob-Garhwal into fertile grounds, lems but if we Balakrishna outlined a sustainable farming model aimed at benefiting local farmers and curbing migration.

"Those who do nothing have complaints about everything, while those unwilling to engage in social work often find faults with those who do," he remarked.

can't do that. accept that we the problem,' he said, urging individuals to focus on solutions rather than criticism. Patanjali Highlighting Yogpeeth's

а

to

Acharya Balkrishna shared barren lands in Pokhara vil- perfume

He stressed the impor- lage for development. "We tance of adopting a con- noticed much of the land structive approach to solve here was barren. We didn't the problems the

disturb existing homes started negotiating to purchase unused land. However, soon we realized there was no water here. So

could we do?" Recalling the region's history, he explained that the area was once known initiative, for its sandalwood forests, with timber floated down the journey of identifying the Ganga to Kannauj for and curbing migration," he production. said.

However, sandalwood trees are now scarce in Uttarakhand. "If it existed before, it can exist again.

We managed to arrange but water somehow and are now turning this region into a model for farmers," he the added.

The initiative involves cultivating sandalwood, neem, malta, and other According crops. Acharya Balkrishna, this effort aims to support farmwhat ers who lack the resources for experimentation or irrigation. "If this succeeds, the barren land here can be made fertile, providing

(Gns). Senior Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Dr Daljit Singh Cheema on Monday

accused Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann of coverup of the conspiracy behind the murderous attack on Sukhbir Singh Badal by a Babbar Khalsa dav

International operative. He said to hide the truth behind the attack, a false FIR that termed the assault as a spontaneous act from a member of the 'sangat'

was registered sangat' which reduces the entire to episode to a "hawai fire" (aerial fire).

Dismissing the FIR as devious, that seeks to hide the role of Punjab Police officers who shepherded the assailant, Dr Daljit Cheema said, "It is now livelihoods to local people clear that the AAP government is part of the conspiracy to eliminate the moder-

that the chief minister was plex on December 3.'

the attack on Badal did not see the light of

Demanding

impartial an probe into the attack under the supervision of the high court, Dr Cheema said, "All the misgivings expressed by

senior leader Bikram Singh Majithia in a

series of press conferences CCTV footage that the

are proving to be true. Mr attacker, Narayan Singh Majithia had detailed how Chaura, had carried out a Superintendent of Police recce of the gurdwara com-Harpal Singh Randhawa plex for three days before had met and greeted the attacking Mr Sukhbir Badal

worked overtime after the attack to give an impression that it was stage-managed to evoke public sympathy for Mr Badal. "Now that all these claims have been proven to be false, AAP government is pro-

jecting a history-sheeter, who has a record of antinational activities, as a member of the 'sangat'. No member of 'Any'sangat' can commit such a heinous crime and this portrayal of the Sikh sangat by the AAP government is condemnable.'

### LIC Bima Sakhi Yojana: PM Narendra Modi **Launches Women Empower Scheme In Panipat**

the LIC Bima Sakhi Yojana

in Panipat, Haryana. This initiative aims to empower over 1 lakh women across India by offering them roles December as LIC agents. Women linking it to both aged 18 to 70 can now enhance their financial Yojana independence and literacy through this scheme.

During the event, PM Modi highlighted the need to eliminate societal barriers that restrict women's tures, symbolizing empowprogress. He remarked, erment and "There were many such tasks that were prohibited for women in the past. The BJP has decided to remove every obstacle from our India's first Constituent daughters' paths, ensuring that they can flourish in

every field." This reflects Haryana for adopting the Prime Minister Narendra the government's dedicaslogan "Ek Hain Toh Safe Modi on Monday launched tion to promoting gender Hain" ("When we are united, equality.

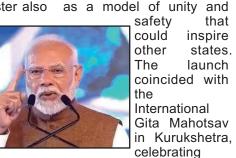
as a model of unity and The Prime Minister also noted

importance of 9 the Bima Sakhi and India's history. He mentioned

auspicious in Indian scripthrough Goddess Durga's

the

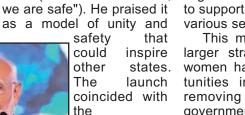
that the number 9 is considered strength strengths.



towards

Bhagavad Gita's teachings. Empowering Women Through Financial Inclusion The LIC Bima Sakhi Yojana is a significant step

nine Furthermore, December 9 marks the anniversary of Assembly meeting. PM Modi commended



eracy levels. This initiative aligns with broader efforts to support women's roles in various sectors. This move is part of a

ence and improve their lit-

larger strategy to ensure women have equal opportunities in all fields. By removing obstacles, the government aims to create an environment where women can thrive without limitations.

The launch of this scheme highlights a commitment to fostering gender equality and empowering women across India. It represents a crucial step empowering towards creating a more women by promoting finaninclusive society where cial inclusion. By becoming everyone has equal oppor-LIC agents, women can tunities for growth and sucgain financial independcess

# Kerala CM flays Centre, Shah over delay in relief aid for Wayanad victims

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday came out against the Centre and Home the Minister Amit Shah for delaying relief aid for reha-Kerala bilitation of Wayanad landslide survivors.

Speaking to media persons here, he noted that the central government is trying to shied away from its responsibility by making the Mundakai-Churalmala disaster a controversial

issue. It is a regrettable move, he said. "The Union Home

Minister said that the special financial assistance package was not announced because Kerala

was late in submitting a August 17, the state govdetailed report. This is a ernment submitted a memfalse statement. He had orandum to the Centre done this earlier too. When detailing

disaster struck, he said had the that

said. "The Prime came to Wayanad on August 10. The needs of Kerala in the context of the disaster were clearly presented to the Central team and the Prime Minister at have passed since Prime



that could demand as per the NDRF norms. It requested an initial assistance of Rs. 1,202 crore for relief operations,

losses

Minister including the expected expenses and the additional expenses that would be incurred, "he said. The Chief Minister said

that although 100 days that stage. Soon after, on Minister Narendra Modi vis-

ited Wayanad, the central government has not even sanctioned a single rupee as special aid for Kerala in Mundakkaithe

Chooralmala disaster "It has been 100 days since the Prime Minister's visit. In the meantime, assistance has been provided to other states. Not a single rupee has been given to Kerala as special assistance so far," CM

Vijayan said. In addition to the memorandum submitted earlier, a post-disaster need assessment was conducted and a detailed report was submitted to the Central government on November 13, he further said.



ignored warning of the IMD. Later it was proved there was no such warning, Pinarayi Vijayan

ate Sikh leadership attacker and even held a He went on to allege discussion with the latter in the Sri Darbar Sahib com-



### Editorial RBI BALANCED APPROACH

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has opted for a pragmatic and balanced approach to address the twin challenges of slowing economic growth and persistent inflation. By maintaining its benchmark repo rate while cutting the cash reserve ratio (CRR), the central bank signals a nuanced strategy to inject liquidity into the banking system without compromising its inflation-fighting credentials. This decision comes at a critical juncture for India's economy. Growth momentum has visibly weakened, with GDP expansion slowing to its lowest in seven quarters.

Simultaneously, inflationary pressures have resurfaced, driven primarily by food prices. Adding to these concerns, the rupee has depreciated significantly reflecting external vulnerabilities amid a globally strengthening dollar. The CRR cut is a welcome move as it frees up substantial liquidity, enabling banks to extend credit at potentially lower rates. This step is expected to ease tight market conditions, where overnight interbank rates have been trending above the policy rate. However, the RBI's caution in holding rates steady underscores its priority: maintaining price stability as the foundation for sustainable growth.

The central bank's decision to revise its GDP growth projection downward for FY25 reflects the growing economic headwinds. Inflation, now above the RBI's tolerance band, has eroded consumer purchasing power dampening urban consumption and slowing overall economic activity. Yet, there are green shoots of optimism with signs of recovery in agricultural output and festive spending. While some policymakers argue for rate cuts to spur growth, the RBI has rightly chosen patience. Knee-jerk reactions to short-term data fluctuations could jeopardise long-term economic stability. By keeping its policy stance neutral, the RBI retains flexibility to act decisively when credible evidence emerges of sustained inflation moderation or deeper growth challenges. The rupee's depreciation has added another layer of complexity.

The RBI's measures to allow higher interest rates or foreign currency deposits aim to attract non-resident Indian inflows, bolstering forex reserves and easing currency pressures. Such steps demonstrate the central bank's readiness to deploy targeted tools to address external vulnerabilities without compromising domestic monetary policy objectives. The RBI's actions reflect a delicate balancing act. On one hand, liquidity infusion through the CRR cut will support economic activity by easing credit conditions. On the other, the decision to hold policy rates steady highlights the central bank's steadfast commitment to price stability. As India navigates this challenging economic landscape, the RBI's calibrated approach provides a road map for resilience.

By prioritising inflation control while using liquidity tools to address growth concerns, the central bank ensures that short-term challenges do not derail the broader economic trajectory. This strategy may not appease all stakeholders, but it reflects a long-term vision essential for sustainable development in uncertain times. Ultimately, the RBI's focus on durability over expediency serves as a reminder: sound economic policy is not about quick fixes but about laying the groundwork for stable and inclusive growth.

Why Trump won~II Since the Clinton presidency, the Democrats had destroyed the Jeffersonian portrayal of a Republican America with rough parity and equality, pushing the average voter towards Trump.

Since the Clinton presidency, the Democrats had destroyed the Jeffersonian portrayal of a Republican America with rough parity and equality, pushing the average voter towards Trump. The latter highlighted the issue of illegal immigration but Harris who was in charge of stopping it visited the international boundary only after being declared the presidential nominee. She was constantly berated by Trump for having not done anything on this issue as vice president.

In the last four years, 10 million illegal immigrants entered the US. Many of them are on state-sponsored welfare schemes and some have even acquired US citizenship. This failure to tackle illegal immigration for many Americans is similar to the European reaction to the entry of thousands of people within its borders. Biden's unwillingness to plan a strategy to end the forever wars have

and West Asia. His belated decision to step aside quite late in the presidential race was perceived by many as a ploy to thrust a candidate who had no time to face the rigour and legitimizing process of the primaries on the electorate. Thus, abandoning the legitimate democratic process of nomination was another important

> reason for the rout. The presidential pardon is supposed to be used rarely, only to prohibit judicial overreach and blatant partisan acts of the Supreme Court but Biden's use of it to pardon his son is one indication that his party is in dire need of drastic reforms. Trump's impressive victory is a reflection of his tenacity and the fault lines within the Democratic party establishment which Biden did not address. Trump's success owes more to the failure of the Democratic party rather than his own success. Ralph Nader blames the debacle of the Democratic Party on the emergence of a dictatorial corporate state which could not meet Trump's flexible approach.

The party abandoned the Red States whereas the Republicans made inroads even in the Blue spread disaster in Ukraine ones. The New Deal con-

the altar of corporations. A centralised party apparatus ignored corporate corruption and public media because of its incapacity to

learn from past mistakes and and lack of credibility. Sanders attributes the defeat to the deep party establishment and in ignoring working class issues. Biden acted as the last president of the Cold War period. He showed little concern for pressing domestic issues like inflation, unemployment and increasing inequality. In contrast Trump con-

immigration, reduction of defence expenditure and a solution to the Ukrainian Domestic issues war. became primary in a nation beset with multiple economic and social concerns. betrayed by their country and short. With the mid- has come.

patriotism (4) and national community.

(2) meritocratic hubris,

(3) the dignity of work

The widespread income inequality has not ensured any upward mobility. "The familiar assurance that those who 'work hard and play by the rules will succeed' no longer seems to apply. Society now pays less respect to the work of the working class. The fear is 'new technologies may work, rendering many of today's jobs obsolete'. Political parties need to grapple with the meaning of

than their job prospects.

hatred for immigrants, "a strident nationalism that vilifies 'outsiders' justifying the rhetoric of 'taking back our country'." The elecargument seriously that Trump was a threat to democracy because of its confidence that the constitutional federal framework allowing different parties to govern could not be altered having withstood a Civil The challenges posed by an individual or a group are buffered by the Madisonian principles of Constitution. The

Democrats forgot that a constitutional system that has worked successfully for 250 years has its enduring qualities and mass support. The states have their

powers and functions as a result of which there is no single Centre in US political life, as in a unitary state. The inability to impose gun laws and abortion reflects a nation that Tocqueville described as associational and plural. The structure of the US political process greatly influenced by Locke work and its place in a and Bentham allows for

the last three and half decades. However, though Trump has the majority both in the Senate and the House of Representatives, the loose American party system allows dissent both within the governing party and the opposition. Dicey observed the similarities between the British and the American systems ensuring continuity of a consensual culture and civic virtue. Brexit and the rise of Trump reflect the common culture of two Anglo Saxon nations. The world has changed too phenomenally to be dominated by a nation, however powerful it might be. Biden tried to extend Cold War

term election every two

years, the inevitable declin-

2

centrated on inflation, further erode the dignity of

politics and reclaim unipolarity with the US at the centre. Trump's realism on the other hand would enable the US to adjust to a fledgling multi-polar world. He represents forces, good life". The workers feel setbacks that are transitory whose time as Hugo said,

## Sudden collapse of President Bashar al-Assad's regime

(Gns)

The sudden collapse of President Bashar al-Assad's regime on Sunday marked a historic turning point in Syria's civil war, ending over five decades of Assad family rule. The fall of Damascus to rebel forces, following the swift captures of Aleppo, Hama, and Homs, has reshaped the political and military landscape of Syria and reverberated across the region. Yet, while many Syrians celebrate the end of a repressive dictatorship, port and the overstretched

the question of what follows looms ominously.

The Assad regime's downfall seemed unthinkable even a week ago. For years, Mr Assad, backed by Russia, Iran, Hezbollah, had clung to power, using brutal force to suppress dissent and crush rebel opposition. But the tide shifted dramatically with the rebels' latest offensive, led by the Islamist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS). Exploiting the withdrawal of Russian air sup-

rebels advanced rapidly, isolating the regime's Axis strongholds. Damascus, long a symbol of Mr Assad's authority, fell in and hours. The deposed President's flight to an unknown destination underscores the fragility of his grip on power in recent

> ing are profound. For Iran, the loss of its key ally in Syria dismantles the strategic corridor connecting Tehran to

> > As a result, Indian

months. The regional impli-

cations of Mr Assad's oust-

resources of Hezbollah, the Hezbollah in Lebanon, undermining the so-called of Hezbollah itself, weakened by its protracted war with Israel and diminished sup-

millions displaced and critical infrastructure destroyed. Resistance. In the wake of the regime's collapse, a power vacuum threatens to deepen instability. The rebel HTS,

port from Damascus, now despite its efforts to faces an uncertain future. rebrand itself as a national-Meanwhile, Turkey, widely ist force, remains rooted in suspected of tacitly backing a violent past that raises the rebels, emerges as a fears about its governance. to effective governance ----

pivotal player. Yet, Ankara's Ethnic and religious minori- a daunting task that will ties, many of whom suf-

fered under both Mr Assad

and extremist factions, face

an uncertain future.

Globally, Mr Assad's ouster reshuffles alliances. Israel, which views Iran as an existential threat, welcomes the weakening of Tehran's influence. The United States and European powers must navigate a delicate balance, supporting stabilisation efforts without empowering extremist factions. Russia's retreat, compelled by its focus on Ukraine, highlights the limits of its ambitions in West Asia.

The fall of Mr Assad offers an opportunity for Syria to rebuild, but it also brings enormous risks. The fragmented opposition, a mix of moderate and hardline groups, must now transition from military success Syria's future. determine

the

descends into further

chaos or begins a slow

journey toward peace will

country

Whether

### Can ONOS transform Indian research?

India's research ecosys- The scheme's reliance on tem stands on the cusp of a centralized

access seismic shift with the assumes that all institutions Moreover, the ONOS researchers face signifi- access models. impending rollout of the have the means to effec- scheme raises another crit- cant financial barriers. In One Nation, One tively utilize these ical issue: the uneven 2020, Indian authors paid a research in these fields

top-tier and resourced

under- process itself. In the age of funding and market size to institutions. openaccess publishing, adopt sustainable open-

Garvi Gujarat were voters attracted to Trump?

> sensus was sacrificed at Sandel points out that the for caring for cheap labour Democratic party did not and cheap goods rather address four concerns: (1) income inequality,

ing support to the incum-As a result, there is bents and especially with Trump promising to be a transformational president, the Democrats have enough space to regain their authority and support torate did not take Harris' within the next 24 months provided the new leadership rectifies mistakes of

Ahmedabad. Dt. 10-12-2024 Tuesday

War, and a Depression. the

Subscription (ONOS) scheme, a Rs 6,000-crore initiative aimed at dismantling the long-standing barriers to accessing global academic resources. Boasting the promise of providing 13,000 international journals to over 6,300 institutions and nearly 18 million researchers and students, ONOS seeks to upend the narrative of knowledge, restricted which has long hampered Indian academia.

amidst Yet. the applause, one cannot help but ask: can this scheme genuinely revolutionize the Indian research landscape, or will it remain another incomplete policy, leaving many behind? The promise of ONOS is indeed significant. For institutions that to premium journals, ONOS currently cannot afford subscriptions, this initiative has the potential to level the and universities in tier-2 playing field. It aligns with India's growing aspirations to enhance its research output, which saw a 54 per cent rise between 2017 and lack not only access to 2022, more than double the global average of 22 per cent. India now ranks fourth globally in terms of research publication vol- India spends only 0.7 per ume, producing over 1.3 cent of its GDP on million academic papers.

achievement is tempered by the quality and impact of the research. India lags China, the US, and the UK. neglect of R&D.

This disparity raises critical questions about the acces- ments in research capacity sibility and visibility of and infrastructure, merely Indian research – a prob- providing access to jourlem that ONOS can nals may not be enough to

resources. For elite institutions like the IITs, IISc, and AIIMS,

Technology, Engineering, which already have access While it will undoubtedly work in openaccess jour-

focus on STEM (Science, staggering \$17 million in Article Processing Charges and Medicine) disciplines. (APCs) to publish their

borne

disciplines often lack the

by

Indian



offers a cost-saving advantage. However, for colleges and tier-3 cities, the chalresearch lenges run deeper. These institutions, often operating with meager budgets, global journals but also the research infrastructure, training, and funding to conduct impactful studies. social research and development, However, this numerical compared to the global average of 1.8 per cent. This figure is alarmingly

low when juxtaposed with behind in global citation China's 2.2 per cent and indices, ranking ninth in the Israel's 4.9 per cent, sigworld, well below peers like nalling a deeper systemic Without parallel invest-

address, but only partially. bridge the gap between access to the publication

benefit researchers in nals.

these fields, the humanities This represented more and social sciences remain than half of the \$30 million an afterthought in India's spent globally, with health ecosystem. sciences alone accounting These disciplines already for \$7 million of the total. suffer from poor output and These costs are predomivisibility. For nantly instance, in 2020, India researchers themselves, produced 26,127 gold as most Indian institutions open-access (OA) articles, lack dedicated funding predominantly in STEM mechanisms for APCs. This fields, while research in contrasts sharply with sciences and developed countries where humanities barely made a national policies often subdent in global databases. sidize such expenses, This neglect is exacerensuring that research bated by the lack of fundremains accessible to globing for humanities research, al audiences. Without simifurther marginalizing discisupport, lar researchers struggle to disseminate their work widely,

plines crucial for understanding societal issues. Can ONOS truly address further limiting its impact the inequities across disciand citation scores. Even for STEM researchers, plines, or will it reinforce the STEM-centric nature of APCs pose a significant India's research priorities? burden, but the humanities The problem extends and social sciences are hit beyond subscription hardest. Journals in these

remains confined to limited local publications or locked behind expensive paywalls, accessible to only a few. This creates a vicious cycle: without global visibility, Indian social science research struggles to attract citations, funding, or recognition, perpetuating its marginalization.

India's education and research funding landscape amplifies challenges ONOS the seeks to address. Allocating just 3.85 per cent of its GDP to education well below the global average of 4.22 per cent and far behind Cuba's 12 per cent India underfunds a system where over 50,000 colleges and 1,100 universities struggle with uneven quality, particularly in rural areas.

Research funding fares no better, with Rs 2,985 crore spent on journal subscriptions between 2019 and 2022, largely benefiting elite institutions while leaving smaller colleges and researchers behind. This imbalance stifles innovation and limits equitable access to knowledge. While ONOS is a step forward, it is no panacea. Addressing systemic barriers - like inadequate funding, exorbitant APC costs, and the neglect of humanities and social sciences - is critical. Without national APC funds, open-access mandates, and investments in underrepresented disciplines, India's vision of global research leadership by 2047 risks becoming a pipe dream. Will ONOS empower all or widen existing gaps? The answer lies in what comes next.

role could exacerbate tensions, particularly if its interests clash with those of other regional actors. The humanitarian challenges are immense.

munity must prioritise aid depend on the collective Years of civil war have and security to prevent fur- resolve of Syrians. left Syria shattered, with ther suffering and chaos.

The international com-

### Fadnavis Ministry wins trust vote as **Thackeray snipes at Maha Speaker**

The Devendra Fadnavis- Maharashtra led Ministry won the trust vote in the 15th Maharashtra legislative assembly on Monday in what could be decided not to put up even a called an 'easier done than said' affair.

The trust motion, which was tabled by Eknath

Shinde-led Shiv Sena MLA Uday Samant, was a predictable affair. It was passed by a voice vote after which Speaker Rahul Narvekar, who was elected unopposed, announced that the motion had been approved. The 15th Legislative Assembly offi-

cially began its tenure on December 7.

Since the **BJP-led** alliance secured 230 seats in the 288-member lower house, the floor test was a fait accompli, with the Opposition Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena "boycott" of the event being the only note of dissent. Since the BJP-Shiv Sena-NCP Mahayuti coalition has an overwhelming majority of 230 seats in the 288-member state assembly, well above the majority mark of 144 seats, the floor test was a mere formality. Earlier on Monday, BJP

MLA Rahul Narwekar was elected unopposed as the Speaker of the 15th

legislative MLAs; Congress 16; NCP assembly since the badly beaten opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance token contest.

Fadnavis, in his congratulatory speech, highlighted that Narwekar is the second



member of the lower house to be re-elected to the post the state since of Maharashtra was formed in 1960. With Narwekar's appointment as Speaker, the Mahayuti now enjoys the support of 229 MLAs, including small parties as well as independent MLAs.

The party positions in the 15th Maharashtra assembly are: Mahayuti - BJP 132 MLAs; Shiv Sena 57; NCP 41; Jan Surabaya Shakti Party 2; Rashtriya Yuva Swabhiman Party Rashtriya Samaj Paksh 1; Independents 2; Rajarshi Shahu Vikas Aghadi 1. The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) opposition party positions are — Shiv Sena (UBT) 20

(SP) 10; CPM 1; PWP 1; AIMIM 1: Samajwadi Party 2 However, Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray said his party

had "boycotted" Rahul Narwekar's election on Monday because the Maharashtra assembly Speaker Narvekar helped run "an unconstitutional government" during his previous tenure. "Everybody knows about the MLAs who first escaped to Surat and then Guwahati (after Shiv Sena split in 2022).

Everybody has seen how this person, who has been elected as the Speaker (Rahul Narwekar), helped run an unconstitutional government in the last two and half years. It is still fresh in our minds how he gave a ruling that affected Shiv Sena and NCP. We hope Narwekar won't do injustice as a Speaker in the next five years," Aaditya Thackeray said.

Incidentally, Rahul Narwekar, who happens to be the BJP MLA from the 1: upmarket coastal Colaba in South Mumbai, had served as the Speaker of the 14th Legislative Assembly for two and a half years.

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### Garvi Gujarat

### **Kejriwal Slams Amit Shah Over Delhi's Escalating** Law and Order Crisis Amid Bomb Threats

#### (Gns).

The threats, which tarsuch as Delhi Public School (DPS) RK Puram, DPS Vasant Kunj, GD Goenka, and Doon Public School, triggered a major security response, as reported by Times Of India. However, after thorough checks by the police, bomb disposal squads, and dog units, nothing suspicious was found at the schools.

In response to the growing security concern, Kejriwal strongly criticized the central government for

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind maintain order. He posted to grapple with escalating on X (formerly Twitter), crime and security issues, saying, "The people of its failure to ensure the Delhi have never seen threats to daily incidents of safety of Delhi residents. such a deteriorating state violence. In light of this, he Referring to the series of of law and order before. guestioned Union Home threatening incidents, Amit Shah ji must answer Minister Amit Shah's lead- situation continues to including extortion and to the people of Delhi for ership and accountability unfold.

violence, Kejriwal lambast- this collapse in security." Kejriwal's ed the BJP-led central remarks geted high-profile schools government's inability to come as Delhi continues



ranging from ransom

in addressing the alarming rise in threats across the city, as reported by Times Of India.

The bomb threats, which initially sparked widespread panic, highlight the urgent need for stronger security measures in the capital. The authorities had already been directed by the Delhi High Court to implement a comprehensive action plan for handling bomb threats, but incidents like these have raised doubts about the effectiveness of current procedures, as per

media reports. The BJP, on the other hand, has yet to respond to the criticism from the Delhi Chief Minister, as the

her role, highlighting the

balance between embrac-

# Meet Rekha Sharma, BJP Candidate For Haryana Rajya Sabha Bypolls

(Gns)

The Bharativa Janata Higher Party (BJP) has fielded seasoned politician Rekha Rekha Sharma was linked with the National Commission for Women (NCW), serving as a member since August 2015 before ascending to the chairperson role in 2018, a position she held until August 2024. Her tenure at NCW was marked by her advocacy for gender sensitization among police personnel, stressing their crucial role in supporting victims of gender-based violence. Sharma's career also encompassed a stint as a Member of the District Consumer and Redressal Forum in the Government of Haryana.

Rekha Sharma's academic journey includes a related to BJP-ruled states diverse education from Dehradun's DAV college, Sharma remained a comwhere she earned degrees mitted in Political Science, History, women's rights. She has and English Literature, always denied allegations alongside diplomas in of inaction, emphasizing also delve into the personal

Fashion Designing, and a throughout her tenure. Touching Moments and Diploma in Computers System Management. This eclectic

Sharma from Haryana for academic background laid the Rajya Sabha bypolls. the foundation for her multi-Prior to her nomination, faceted career in public service and politics.

Learnings Reflecting on her tenure at NCW, Rekha Sharma

shared poignant experiences that underscored the impact of her work. She

asylums who



During her time leading recounted moments of prothe NCW, Rekha Sharma found connection with was at the forefront of sevwomen from various walks eral initiatives aimed at of life, including those in enhancing the welfare of mental women across showed her overwhelming India. affection, an elderly woman Despite facing criticism for her handling of certain in the Vrindavan Ashram issues, particularly those who treated her like a daughter, and numerous and the violence in Manipur, women in prison who confided in her. These interacadvocate for tions, she noted, left a lasting impression on her heart. Sharma's reflections

ing the love and support from those she helped and learning to handle criticism constructively. She maintained that criticism pushed her to strive for better and acknowledged the gratitude she felt for both her supporters and critics. This gratitude, she stated, was for the encouragement and the constructive criticism that kept her motivated and focused on her mission to better serve the women of India.

Ending her service at NCW, Sharma the expressed no regrets, only a deep sense of gratitude for the journey and the opportunities to make a meaningful difference. Her tenure was a testament to her commitment to improving women's lives and ensuring their voices were heard and respected. Despite the challenges and controversies, Sharma's time at the NCW was characterized by her relentless pursuit of justice and empowerment for women

Marketing and Advertising, her dedication to the cause growth she experienced in across the country.

### Hindustan Will Run As Per Majority's Wishes: Allahabad **High Court Judges Statement Sparks Debate**

(Gns). Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav, a judge at the are not new to controversy. not expect other communi-Allahabad High Court,

recently sparked contro-

versy with his comments

on the Uniform Civil Code

(UCC) during a Vishwa

Hindu Parishad event in

Prayagraj. He stated that

"Hindustan would run as

per the wishes of the

majority people" living in

the country. Justice

Dinesh Pathak, another

sitting High Court judge,

was also present at the

ate uniform personal laws

for all citizens, irrespective

of religion, gender, or caste.

It covers areas like mar-

riage, divorce, adoption,

inheritance, and succes-

sion. Justice Yadav criti-

cised practices such as

having multiple wives, triple

talaq, and halala without

directly naming any com-

munity. He emphasised

that these practices are

"unacceptable" and cannot

be justified by personal law.

Justice Shekhar Kumar

Justice Shekhar Kumar

Yadav. Image courtesy:

https://x.com/TelanganaMa

The UCC aims to cre-

event.

Yadav

ata

and Past Statements Justice Yadav's remarks pointed out that Hindus do

practices. Justice Yadav commented on cultural dif-



In September 2021, he ties to adopt their culture made headlines by claimbut expect respect for ing that "scientists believe Indian culture and its that the cow is the only anirevered figures. mal that exhales oxygen."

Hope for Nationwide Uniform Civil Code

declare the cow as India's Expressing hope for a nationwide UCC, Justice He stressed that rights national animal and make Yadav compared it to the а "Fundamental Right of construction of the Ram Hindus." These statements Temple in Ayodhya. He mentioned that although it were made while denying took time, he believes "the bail to an individual accused under the UP Cow day is not far when it will be clear that if there is one He also highlighted country, there should be social evils within Hinduism one law." He warned against those trying to like child marriage and Sati but praised reformers like deceive or pursue their own Ram Mohan Roy for their agendas.

Justice Yadav further India.

compassion. In 2021, Justice Yadav suggested postponing Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections due to Covid-19 risks and recommended banning election rallies. His remarks often stir debate due to their controversial nature and strong opinions on various issues.

ferences regarding com-

passion and tolerance. He

noted that Indian teach-

ings discourage harming

even small creatures like

ants. In contrast, he

claimed other cultures

expose children early to

animal slaughter, ques-

tioning how they can learn

The judge clarified that UCC isn't solely advocated by organisations like VHP or RSS but is also discussed by India's top court. claimed under personal laws must align with broad-

er societal welfare and hap-

piness. The judge's comments have reignited discussions around UCC implementation in India. The debate continues over balancing personal freedoms with uniformity in laws across diverse communities in

**India Calls For Preserving Syria's Unity Amid Rebel Takeover** 

ousting President Bashar al-Assad after decades of rule.

As the situation continues to unfold, India has emphasized the importance of preserving Syria's unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, as reported by Hindustan Times.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) issued a statement on December 9, 2024, noting that it is closements in Syria. India reiter- further stressed the impor- calling for a political resoluated its stance that all par- tance of respecting the tion China's foreign min-

line the need for all parties

to work towards preserving

the unity, sovereignty and

territorial integrity of Syria,"

towards

the MEA said in its state- community in Syria to ensure their safety and India also called for a security amid the rising ten-



ical process, urging that it should be led by Syrians has drawn international ly monitoring the develop- themselves. The statement attention, with China also

He urged Parliament to

COW

Controversial Remarks efforts to eradicate these

Slaughter Act.

protection

tal interests and find a political resolution as soon as possible," said Mao Ning, spokesperson for China's foreign ministry.

As the crisis continues, both India and China have highlighted the need for a diplomatic and peaceful solution to restore stability in Syria, with India emphasizing the importance of a Syrian-led process to address the aspirations of the country's diverse population.

The takeover of Damascus by rebel forces marks a significant shift in the political landscape of Syria, a country already grappling with years of civil war and political instability uncertain, with the international community calling for urgent dialogue and negotiations to avert further violence and ensure the safety and security of its citizens.

Damascus,

(Gns). India has expressed its ment.

concern over the ongoing developments in Syria, where Islamist-led rebels have seized control of

### **National Agriculture Day celebrated in** Sanskriti University, inspired for research

chaudhry) Mathura. A special program Prasad and his important happening rapidly. India was organized by Sanskriti role in shaping School of Agriculture at it. He told the Sanskriti University on the students that occasion of National rapid changes Agriculture Day. Former are President of India DrDuring the Agriculture Day organ- environment. ized on the occasion of the Due birth anniversary of Rajendra Prasad, who was weather, crops also the first Agriculture are also being Minister of India, the speakers remembered the former President by highlighting his contribution in the agriculture sector.

place in our changes affected. Not only this, agri-

cultural conditions are also changing in different parts of the country. Keeping Program coordinator these things in mind, stu-DrWhile starting the pro- dents should remain contin- in mind that a lot still gram, Satish Chandra told uously engaged in research remains to be done which about National Agriculture work. He said that innova- can make the life of our members of the School of Day. Also highlighted the tion and technological future generations comfort- Agriculture.

legacy of Dr. Rajendra progress in agriculture is



today is self-sufficient in production of grains, milk production and vegetables. But it should always be kept

able. He said that this requires sustainable practices and development of technologies that are farmer friendly and environmentally safe.

To prepare the students for the future, the speakers said that students will have to master the art of balancing conservation and ecology to ensure long-term agricultural development while facing the challenges posed by climate change and resources. The program ended with a heartfelt vote of thanks from Assistant Professor Dr. Akash Shukla. He expressed his gratitude to the Dean and faculty

about your rights, Uttar Pradesh government is with women

manship Magistrate organized in in all the departments of the district, women police

personnel, Anganwadi workers and victimized women communicated with the District Magistrate regarding their problems and rights. The objective of this program is to make

women and girls self-reliant. One Stop Center Unit I and II, District Child Protection Unit, Anganwadi workers, representatives of organizations working in the interest of women and children and about 30 victim women participated in the program. District

Magistrate Shailendra Kumar Singh said that the state govern-

ties involved should work safeguarding all sections of Syrian socie-Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity. "We undersolution.

in contact with the Indian Syrian people's fundamen-

interests and aspirations of istry urged all relevant par- The future of Syria remains ties to "find a political resoty in any future political lution" that aligns with the fundamental interests of the Additionally, the MEA Syrian people. "We hope all reassured that the Indian relevant parties will proembassy in Damascus was ceed on the basis of the

The situation in Syria

# Women and girls talked about their rights with the District Magistrate

Uttar Pradesh govern- ment is working on the pol- etc. Through which work is They have no idea where ment's intention, promises full rights to half the population

Break hesitation, talk

icy of zero tolerance being done to strengthen



District Magistrate while speaking in Haq Ki Baat program

towards crimes against and empower women/girls. women/girls. Besides, vari- So that their all-round ous schemes are also development can being implemented to make ensured. Through the them self-reliant. Now we above program, the probhave entered the 21st cenlems related to the schemes of women/girls tury. Now such bad pracare to be solved. Mrs. Anita tices have no place in a civilized society. There is no (name changed) said that difference between sons her husband and in-laws and daughters. Provide demanded dowry and beat education to daughters like her up. She also has two sons. We should always be small children who have ahead to provide good edubeen taken into custody by cation and good health to her in-laws and are not our daughters. allowed to meet me. In rela-The state government is running women welfare schemes like Destitute

(Covid/General),

tion to the above, the District Magistrate directed the Inspector in charge of Women Pension, Child Mahila police station to schemes of the department. Service Scheme for chiltake action as per the rules. After this, thanks were dren of widowed women Mrs. Savita Sponsorship, Chief Minister band had left her and their ticipants who participated Kanya Sumangala Yojana children 18 years ago. in the program

he is at present. Due to which their children are not getting the benefit of any kind of government scheme. Regarding the District the above. Magistrate can contact the District Probation Office, Room No. 43, Collectorate, Mathura for information regarding the form under the Chief Minister Child Service Scheme (General) or Sponsorship Scheme. Mrs. Lalita Chaudhary (Anganwadi worker) said that she is given Rs 750/per month for running the Anganwadi centre, which is not enough. It is not possible to run the center with such a small amount of money. Please take appropriate action in this regard. Regarding the above, the District Magistrate said that the above problem will be resolved as per the rules. District Probation Officer Vikas Chandra said that he will make every effort to ensure that women/girls get 100 percent benefit of all the public welfare (name expressed to the District changed) said that her hus- Magistrate and all the par-

be

# **Mumbai Woman Alleges Mother Was Robbed on IndiGo Flight, Airline Reacts**

Shetty on social media, where her mother was allegedly robbed on board an IndiGo flight, flight number 6E 17, while she was end there; according to response was far from helpful.

catching the thief red-handed as he attempted to replace her bag in the over- matic." head compartment, the crew allegedly failed to uproar, IndiGo issued a assist in a complaint against statement claiming that him. Shetty expressed her their staff had promptly frustration, noting that other addressed the complaint. line's crew to handle such

A concerning incident through their belongings, was reported by Trisha yet the crew's handling of the situation was criticized as inadequate.

Many expressed their empathy towards Shetty and her mother, highlighting asleep. The ordeal did not the distressing nature of being robbed mid-flight. The Shetty, the flight crew's situation sparked a broader discussion on airline safety, with some netizens recount-Despite her mother ing their own troubling experiences with describing them as "trau-

In response to the

also reported the thief rifling They mentioned that the situations more effectively, mother was asked to verify her belongings, confirming afterward that nothing was missing. However, this did

not quell the outrage or address the core complaints about the crew's conduct and the safety measures onboard.

Following the incident, Shetty has been proactive in seeking justice, stating on X, "I am in the process of filing complaints with all rel-IndiGo, evant authorities. Hope is that action taken against the thief makes it safer for

passengers to fly ... '

challenging IndiGo's assertion that the issue was resolved smoothly.

The 'AirHelp Score Report 2024' ranked IndiGo 103rd out of 109 airlines, positioning it among the world's worst airlines this vear.

challenged the accuracy of these rankings. According to PTI, the airline stated that the survey "does not disclose the sample size from India, nor does it consider the methodology or compensation guidelines fol-She has also called for lowed by the global aviation better training for the airindustry, raising questions about its credibility.

IndiGo, however, has

#### Mathura. Under the Mission Shakti Phase-5.0 campaign, under the chairof District Shailendra

Kumar Singh, the program 'Haq Ki Baat' with the District Magistrate was the Collectorate Auditorium, Mathura. During this, women employees working

### Garvi Gujarat

(Gns)

4

waning interest in Syria

International Calls for

Daniel B. Shapiro from

the US Department of

Defense stressed that

American military presence

in eastern Syria aims sole-

ly at defeating ISIS. He

urged all parties to protect

civilians and respect inter-

national norms. Shapiro

refrained from confirming

due to Ukraine.

Civility

### **Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan Receives Death Threat Call**

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Monday Kalyan on received a death threat call. The incident occurred at evening when an unknown caller used abusive language and threatened him. Authorities have been alerted, and a probe into the matter is underway.

Kalyan, who transitioned from acting to politics, recently advocated for a Social Media Abuse Protection Bill in the state Assembly. He urged the government to address online harassment issues, especially those targeting public figures and women.

Cyber Concerns

Pradesh should set an In his Assembly speech, example by safeguarding Kalyan highlighted the mis- its citizens' rights against use of digital platforms by such cyber threats.



**Assad Flees To Russia: Rebels Take** 

**Damascus, US Targets ISIS In Syria** 

political figures to manipuhaving become "sadistic."

marks a historic end to

US Launches Airstrikes

**City Kotwali police caught** 

In a dramatic turn of Assad's 13-year rule

events, Syrian rebels cap- amidst a brutal civil war

tured the capital city of and six decades of auto-

Damascus on Sunday, forc- cratic governance by his

The proposed bill aims late and intimidate others. to curb online harassment He described the abuse as He stressed that this trend and protect individuals from poses a threat to democra- digital abuse. Kalyan's call

Hours after the rebel

victory, the United States

launched a series of

airstrikes targeting Islamic

State (ISIS) camps in Syria.

The US military confirmed

strikes on over 75 targets.

employing multiple Air

Intimidation cy. Kalyan believes Andhra for action reflects growing concerns about the impact of social media misuse on public discourse and personal safety.

> The investigation into the threatening call continues as authorities seek to identify the perpetrator. The incident underscores the urgent need for legislative measures to combat online harassment effectively.

Kalyan's efforts in addressing these issues demonstrate his commitment to ensuring a safer digital environment for all citizens. The outcome of this investigation may influence future policies on

cyber safety in Andhra

Force assets, including B-

52 bombers, F-15 jets, and

addressing the nation, reaf-

firmed Washington's com-

mitment to preventing ISIS

from exploiting the power

vacuum in Syria. "The

Islamic State will not be

Pradesh.

A-10 aircraft.

Syrian people."

grip on power.

great victory.'

in Russia

Bashar Assad's regime in Syria marks a significant shift in the Middle East, according to President Joe Biden. He described it as a "fundamental act of justice" after years of repression. However, he also acknowledged the uncertainty and

The sudden collapse of

risks this brings to the region. Biden spoke following the rebels' takeover after more than a decade of civil war. Biden Calls Assads Fall a Justice Act

Assad's whereabouts remain unknown, though there are reports he may be seeking refuge in Moscow. The outgoing Biden administration and incoming President-elect Donald Trump are assessing the new dynamics in the Middle East. Biden credited the efforts of the US and its allies for weakening Syria's supporters,

Hezbollah. **US Military Presence** and Actions President Joe Biden,

namely Russia, Iran, and

The US maintains around 900 troops in Syria, collaborating with Kurdish allies in the northeast to prevent an Islamic State resurgence. Biden confirmed that US forces con-

itored.

Regional Implications platform highlighted Putin's able for his actions.

# **Martial Law: Implications for Global Democracies**

Assad Granted Asylum matic attempt to impose Bashar al-Assad and his family reportedly fled to Moscow, where they have been granted asylum. The collapse of his regime came just 11 days after a swift offensive led by the Islamist Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) group challenged his decades-long

Rebel leader Abu al-Golani Mohammed addressed a large crowd in Damascus, declaring, "A new history is being written

Yoon's for the region after this November 27: Rebels

ducted "dozens" of preci- and Reactions sion airstrikes on Islamic

**Biden Describes Assad's Fall in Syria as a** 

**Fundamental Act of Justice Amidst Regional Risks** 

The fall of Assad adds State targets in Syria. The complexity to an already Syrian opposition, led by tense regional situation, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, is including Israel's conflict



designated as a terrorist group by the US due to its past ties with al-Qaida.

Biden emphasised vigilance regarding rebel groups with histories of terrorism and human rights ened. He suggested abuses. "We will remain vigilant," he stated. "Make no mistake, some of the rebel groups that took down Assad have their own grim record of terrorism and human rights abuses." He added that while these groups are currently saying the right things, their actions will be closely mon-

Assad's deposition but noted no sympathy should be spared for his regime if true. As rebels advanced towards Damascus, they freed political prisoners from government jails. The family of missing US jourwith Hamas and its fragile ceasefire with Hezbollah. nalist Austin Tice renewed Trump linked the upheaval calls for his return. Tice in Syria to Russia's war in disappeared Ukraine, noting that Damascus in 2012 during escalating conflict. His Assad's allies are weak-

mother, Assad's ouster could aid appealed for help through social media advocacy peace prospects in Ukraine. Vice President-elect JD Vance expressed skepticism about the insurgents on social media, noting their connections to ISIS. "Many of the rebels are a literal offshoot of ISIS. One can hope they've moderated. Time will tell," he said. House, adding that Assad Trump's comments on his should be held account-

groups. Biden reiterated commitment to bringing Tice home, stating they believe he is alive despite lacking direct evidence. "We have to identify where he is," Biden said at the White

Debra

near

Tice,

#### allowed to re-establish South Korea's Democracy Holds Firm Against itself," Biden said, calling Assad's ouster a "fundamental act of justice" and a "historic opportunity for the

In South Korea, a dra-

martial law was thwarted, showcasing the resilience of democracy. President Yoon Suk Yeol's declaration aimed to suppress opposition and control the media. However, swift action by lawmakers and public support for democratic principles led to the cancellation of his decree. This event highlighted the

importance of checks and balances in maintaining democratic governance. President

actions were reminiscent of past authoritarian regimes, with heavily armed troops deployed to enforce his orders. Despite this, the unched their offensive.

coming physical barriers to tion. The absence of violent myung's vote against the martial law clashes between protesters declaration. Their unani- and security forces was mous decision underscored notable. "We restored the strength of democratic democracy without having



a single casualty this time," institutions in South Korea. Public Support and Media Influence sociology The public played a cru-Jeonbuk

University. cial role in countering power grab.

said Seol Dong-hoon, a professor at National

Live broadcasts on that

announcement from the

Umayyad Mosque in

Damascus. He addressed

the nation and the world, calling this victory "historic"

for both Syria and the

broader Islamic nation. In a

powerful speech, al-Jolani

declared, "Today, Syria is

being purified," underscor-

ing the symbolic end of

Assad's ties with Iran and

Hezbollah, two key allies

that have been involved in

supporting the regime's

sectarian policies. Al-Jolani

framed the victory as a tri-

umph for the Syrian people

who had endured oppres-

sion under Assad's rule and

for the mujahideen (fight-

ers) who had "broken their

Rebel Chief Declares

This event marks the

dramatic collapse of the

Syrian government, which

had ruled with an iron fist

chains."

Victory

live-streamed journey to the National Assembly garnered millions of views, urging citizens to support lawmakers. The transparency of events through digital platforms was pivotal in rallying public sentiment against Yoon's actions. Global Implications and Concerns

This incident in South Korea serves as a warning about the fragility of democracy worldwide. In deeply divided societies like the United States, similar power grabs might succeed if public support is lacking. Tom Pepinsky, a government professor at Cornell University, noted Yoon's attempt

turn, Dhaulipyau. Is.

Senior Sub Inspector Sunil Kumar Joshi said that in relation to the above inciline, Dhaulipyau, Kashiram



son of Pappu, this after-Police Station, District noon from Railway gate dent, plaintiff Mohit Kumar before the arrest court

LuLu Beauty Fest 2024 organised by LuLu Hypermarket



Chaudhary Ashfaq Mathura city Mathura. Kotwali police has arrested two murder accused while revealing the murder of an unknown old man that took place on the railway ground

ing President Bashar al- family.

The fall of Damascus on ISIS Targets

Assad to flee to Russia.

on December 4. It is noteworthy that on 04.12.2024, the dead body of an old man was found under the railway ground. While successfully unveiling the same, Sunil Kumar Joshi, Inspector of City Kotwali Police arrested Bharat Singh son of Mula Singh, resident of Dahtora police station, Sikandra district, Agra Hall slum, railway



Mathura. Was registered vs unknown. In the said incident, the names of both the murder accused came to light, who will be produced has filed FIR No. 852/2024 today and sent to jail

wraps up with resounding success in association with Pond's and Tresemme, powered by Fiama & Yardley London, in association with Enchanteur and Dermafigue.

Lucknow,

More than 500 candidates registered their participation, shared their profile for audition and shortlisted 50 contestants entered the Semi finals, further Top 20 finalists contested in 3 rounds in LuLu Beauty Fest 2024 Grand Finale. Winner of the title "LuLu Nivea Beauty Queen -2024" won by Sukriti Chhetri, and "LuLu Royal Miraj Man of the Year -2024" won by Siddhant Talwar, while 1st & 2nd Runner up - Female & Male won by Priya Maurya, Prashant Dwivedi, Apeksha Singh Chauhan and Rishav Dev Singh, respectively. Winners were felicitated by Chief Guest Bollywood



Designer Asma Hussain and Bollywood Akarsh Alagh, choreographed by Srivastava.

Actress Harshaali Malhotra. Retail Lucknow exclaimed Assessed by Fashion that LuLu Hypermarket fresh talent to perform.

Actor Sameer Mr. Noman Aziz Khan –

General Manager LuLu

concludes proudly groundbreaking event that not only showcased the latest trends in beauty indus-

try but also fostered a sense of community and empowerment in the city by providing a platform for

# 80 year old man donated **Rs 1 lakh for brave soldiers**

Ashfaq Chaudhary Mathura. Patriotic passion and dedication can happen at any age. Shri Uttam Chand Verma, about 80 years old, resident of Holy Gate area of Mathura, has donated Rs 1 lakh for the brave soldiers deployed on the border of the country on the occasion of Flag Day. Today, on 9 December 2024, Uttam Chand Verma reached the office of Magistrate District Shailendra Kumar Singh, where he gave a check of Rs 1 lakh to the District Magistrate in the name of



Uttam Chand Verma giving a check of one lakh to DM for soldiers on Flag Day

the officer of District Sainik that he has been a busi-Welfare and Rehabilitation nessman in the past and he Organization. During this, always respects patriotism Uttam Chand Verma said and brave soldiers.

coinciding with a ceasefire in neighbouring Lebanon Israel between and Hezbollah.

Timeline of Events

December 8: Damascus fell to the rebels, marking the end of Assad's regime.

December 9: US airstrikes targeted ISIS signalling a camps, renewed focus on eliminating the extremist group.

Syria's Ongoing Crisis Syria's civil war, which began in 2011, has claimed over 500,000 lives and displaced half of the population. The fall of Assad's government has raised hopes for a political reset but also heightened concerns over the resurgence of ISIS and regional instability.

The international community is closely monitoring the situation as Syria enters a pivotal phase in its history.

response from legislators Thousands gathered at the smartphones and social exposed vulnerabilities in and citizens was decisive. National

Lawmakers gathered at the demanding an end to mar- enced public opinion. tive dismissal of executives National Assembly, over- tial law and Yoon's resigna- Opposition leader Lee Jae- is challenging.

Yoon's

Assembly, media significantly influ- democracies where legisla-

# **Syria Being Purified: Rebel Chief Declares Victory as Assad Flees**

(Gns) Syria's long-running civil

war reached a historic milestone on Sunday when Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, the leader of the Islamist rebel group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), declared victory following the swift takeover of Damascus. The rebel forces, in a lightning offensive, captured the Syrian capital in under two weeks, leading to the collapse of President Bashar al-Assad's regime. The fall of Assad's government has led to widespread celebra-

across the region, marking using his real name Ahmed since 2000 under Assad the end of over a decade of al-Sharaa, made



authoritarian rule. tions within Syria and Al-Jolani, who is now

When Presidential Palaces Became Symbols Of Defiance: A Comparative Look At Sri Lanka, Bangladesh And Syria

In 2022, Sri Lanka faced

Palaces Became Symbols

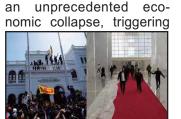
#### (Gns).

Historically, presidential palaces have always symbolised the power and authority of the state. However, in moments of national unrest, these iconic buildings have also become the focal points of public defiance, where the anger of the masses often erupts. Drawing parallels between Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Syria, we observe how public uprisings and rebellions led to the fall of presidents, with their official residences

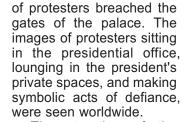
becoming the stage for political transformation. Sri Lanka: The Fall of

Rajapaksa When

Presidential



nationwide protests. The protests culminated in storming the presidential palace, the official resi-President dence of Rajapaksa. Gotabaya Amidst skyrocketing inflation, severe shortages of fuel and medicine and widespread discontent with the government's handling of the economy, thousands



The storming of the presidential palace was a dramatic representation of the people's frustration with years of mismanagement. Eventually, Rajapaksa fled the country, marking a key turning point in Sri Lanka's political history. The palace, once a symbol of authoritarian rule, became a symbol of public anger and resistance, signaling the fall of an entrenched political elite.

and his father, Hafez althe

Assad, before him. The regime's fall comes more than 13 years after the beginning of the Syrian Civil War, which erupted in 2011 after peaceful antigovernment protests were met with violent crackdowns by the Assad regime. Over the years, the conflict has evolved into a complex and deadly war, drawing in foreign powers, jihadist groups, and other factions, leaving more than half a million people dead and

millions displaced. HTS, originally an offshoot of Al-Qaeda, has become one of the most powerful groups in Syria since it broke ties with the terrorist organization in 2016. Despite being labeled a terrorist group by many Western countries, HTS has expanded its influence in northwestern Syria, particularly in Idlib, and has now achieved a significant military victory by capturing Damascus.

While al-Jolani's speech was met with cheers and chants of "Allahu Akbar" from the crowd, his victory comes with the recognition of the monumental challenges that lie ahead. HTS, having fought to dismantle Assad's government, now faces the daunting task of governing a war-torn nation. The transition to a new