

2 more Omicron cases detected

One each flier from S Africa, Zimbabwe found positive in Maha, Gujarat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Two more new cases of Omicron infection, SARS-CoV-2 variant of Covid-19 were reported on Saturday in India, one each from Maharashtra and Gujarat. With this, the number of infections from Omicron has gone to four in two days. Two cases of the new variant of Covid-19 were reported from Karnataka on Friday. On Saturday, one case was reported from Jamnagar in Gujarat, another one from Mumbai.

A 72-year-old man from Jamnagar, who reached Jamnagar last week, was found infected with the Omicron variant of the coronavirus disease becoming the first case in the State, the State health department confirmed.

Dr S Chatterjee, the nodal officer for Covid-19 at the State-

ICMR says booster shot needed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Derivatives of the Covid-19 Delta variant have the potential to reduce the neutralisation ability of the Covishield vaccine, especially among those who have never been infected with the virus, said ICMR researchers calling for booster doses.

They, however, added that even with reduced neutralisa-

tion ability, Covishield will protect against severe disease and fatalities.

"Delta variant has slowly dominated other variants of concern. Subsequently, Delta has further mutated to Delta AY.1 to Delta AY.126. Of these, Delta AY.1 has been reported from several countries, including India. It's considered highly infectious and probable escape mutant," researchers

said in the latest study posted on bioRxiv (a repository of pre-print studies). An escape mutant is one that can escape human immune response or vaccine-induced immune response. Researchers had previously evaluated the efficacy of Covaxin against Delta AY.1 (because it is an escape mutant) and found the vaccine to be effective.

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sengers coming from Dubai to Ahmedabad and a woman who reached Vadodara from London have tested positive for Covid-19. Their genome sequencing is being done to ascertain if they have been infected with the Omicron mutant.

India is on a list of at least 30 countries where the variant has been detected though, so far, the evidence doesn't suggest it to be more lethal than the Delta variant. However, the sharp rise in cases in South Africa and the significant number of mutations it bore that potentially gave it a growth advantage are factors that prompted the World Health Organisation (WHO) to label it a Variant of Concern within days of it being reported by the South African medical authorities. India currently reports around 9,000 coronavirus cases a day, with the bulk of them being reported out of Kerala. The India Sars-Cov-2 genome consortium, which is in charge of testing a portion of positive samples to ascertain their genomes, in an update on Monday underlined that most of the cases being detected in India were of the Delta variant and its associated sub-lineages.

has been classified as an "at-risk" country, for many years. In the second instance, a 33-year-old man, who arrived in Mumbai from South Africa via New Delhi, tested positive for the latest variant on Saturday. The passenger, who is exhibiting mild symptoms, including fever, is currently under treatment at a Covid centre in Kalyan-Dombivali.

The infected person arrived from Capetown on November 24 and complained of mild fever, but no other symptoms were noticed.

Meanwhile, 30 other pas-

Shiv Sena raps Mamata for bid to damage Cong

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Slamming the Trinamool Chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's move to sideline the Congress and emerge as the key Opposition's face against the BJP, the Shiv Sena on Saturday said that Mamata's bid to push the grand-old party away from national politics and create a new Opposition front along lines of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) was tantamount to strengthening the "fascist" ruling party at the Centre.

"Mamata's politics does not augur well for the Congress. Though it is true that TMC finished the Congress, the BJP and the Left in West Bengal, Mamata's effort to push the grand-old party away from national politics and create a new Opposition front along lines of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) was tantamount to strengthening the fascist forces in the country," the Shiv Sena said.

In an editorial published in its official mouth-piece "Saamana", the Shiv Sena said, "We can understand Prime Minister Modi saying the BJP would wipe out the Congress from the political map of the country, because that is a part of the current ruling party's agenda. But, any thought of finishing the Congress which is fighting

Modi and his fascist tendencies poses a serious danger to the country".

"There are no two opinions about the fact that the weakening of the Congress during the last ten years is a serious cause for concern. But, the attempt to prevent the derailed Congress from getting back onto the tracks reflects the destructive mindset of some people," the editorial said. The Sena's criticism of Mamata's efforts to occupy the Congress' space by negating the very existence of the UPA comes as a big boost to the beleaguered Congress at a time when it is fighting not just the BJP but also the detractors within and outside the non-BJP parties.

Battling for the UPA strongly, the Shiv Sena made no bones about its displeasure over the statement made by Mamata in Mumbai: "What's UPA? There's no UPA." "The BJP under Modi's leadership may not need the NDA, but the Opposition needs UPA. Forming a parallel opposition alliance to the UPA is akin to strengthening the BJP. The question is who should lead the UPA. Those who are opposed to the Congress leading the UPA should come out openly rather than indulging in shadow boxing. This kind of shadow boxing will only lead to suspicions," the Sena mouth-piece said.

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Protesting farmers form 5-member panel for talks with Govt on 6 issues

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Protesting farmers' groups on Saturday formed a five-member committee for dialogue to talk with the Government on their six issues, including a legal backing of the minimum support price (MSP) after Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to two farmers leaders on Friday late evening and assured them that the Government was serious about their demands.

After a meeting under the aegis of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), farmer groups have decided to continue their protests till a formal and satisfactory response from the Government was received. The next meeting of farmers' groups would be held on December 7.

After the meeting, farmer leader and Bharatiya Kisan Union spokesperson Rakesh Tikait said the committee will consist of Balbir Singh Rajewal, Shiv Kumar Kakka, Gurnam Singh

Charuni, Yudhvir Singh and Ashok Dhawale.

"Farmers' Morchas will hold its next meeting on December 7 at 11 am to finalise the agenda for talks with the Government. The committee will decide on who will hold talks in various States from the farmers' side. Farmers would not end their protests until gets confirmation from the Government on their demands," he said.

On Tuesday, the Government had sought five names from Kisan Morcha to discuss the pending demands. "Whatever we talk about with the Centre, we will have that agenda ready. In Haryana, we already have a committee. If the Haryana Government wants to talk, they are ready. Our five-member committee will handle all affairs, and we hope the Centre will be in touch with us through them. It will be responsible for deciding who will talk in respective States," Tikait added.

Continued on Page 5





Uttar Pradesh Unfolds Biggest Initiative in PRIMARY HEALTH CARE



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by

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Jai Pratap Singh

Minister, Medical & Health, Family Welfare, Maternal and Child Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

Atul Garg

Minister of State, Medical & Health, Family Welfare, Maternal and Child Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

Date : 5 December, 2021

Time : 4 to 5 PM

Venue : 5 Kalidas Marg, Lucknow











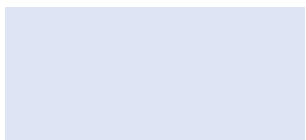
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सूचना

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दिनांक 15.12.2021 प्रातः 11:30 बजे उग्रप्र राय पर्यटन विकास निगम, 'पर्यटन भवन', सी-13, विपिन खण्ड, गोमतीनगर, लखनऊ में निम्नोप्य मारुति सुजुकी (SX-4) संख्या : यूपी0-32 जी0टी0-4030 की नीलामी, सिक्योरिटी रु0 10,000/- नगद/आई.पी. सिंह एण्ड सन्स

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Omicron threat: 4,000 beds reserved in 38 hospitals

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Over 4,000 beds have been reserved in 38 city hospitals in view of the Omicron threat. According to a senior official from the CMO office, the beds have been reserved at all the major hospitals, including KGMU, SGPGI, RMLMS and ERA's Medical College and Hospital.

"Twenty beds have been reserved at Lok Bandhu Hospital for international travellers who test positive during the screenings being carried out at the Amausi airport," he said. He added that out of a total of 80 hospitals in Lucknow which were functional during the second Covid wave, nearly 40 were de-notified after things became normal, but the rest are still operational.

He pointed out that the preparations made for the third wave have been useful amidst the Omicron threat, and the doctors and anaesthetists are all geared up in case there is a surge in fresh Covid cases. Officials of the Health department officials appealed to people due for the second dose to get jabbed at the earliest. State Immunisation Officer Ajai Ghai said there is no dearth of vaccines and vaccinators, and people should step out and get vaccinated.

"Omicron is highly infectious but if people take both the doses, the severity of the infection will be less," he asserted. More than half the population of senior citizens (54.66%) has been fully vaccinated while 81.24% of them have taken at least one dose.

In the 45-60 years category, 96.20% have taken at least one dose while 60.73% have

‘No need to panic’

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Medical Health Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna claimed that COVID-19 pandemic was under control across the state and there was no need to panic over Omicron, the new variant of novel coronavirus.

He also stressed that since fear was not a solution to any problem, people should neither be afraid nor panicky and not spread fear.

Khanna told reporters in Lucknow on Saturday that the state government has taken effective steps for controlling the coronavirus infection and achieved great success in it.

"In COVID-19 control, the model of Uttar Pradesh

was also appreciated by the World Health Organisation (WHO), NITI Aayog and the prime minister. We did a decent job and that's why our positivity rate is relatively low. Dedicated efforts were made in this direction by the government and we are fully prepared in view of the emergence of the Omicron variant," he said.

"Premier medical institutions like SGPGIMS, Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences and KGMU in Lucknow have arrangements for genome sequencing. Also, experts are of the opinion that the Omicron variant of coronavirus is less dangerous than the Delta variant and hence there is no need to create any kind of panic," Khanna said.

been fully vaccinated.

In the 18-44 years group, 83.91% have been taken at least one dose while 42.79% have taken both doses.

Regarding the booster dose, Ghai said there is no information as yet.

Meanwhile, Dr Piyali Bhattacharya from SGPGI said that looking into the Omicron threat, it is important to understand that Uttar Pradesh should have been carrying out genome sequencing continuously since August. "This is important to know how the mutations occur in the virus. Since genome sequencing is extremely expensive, one sample from any cluster should be taken for study. The Omicron variant was detected in South Africa because of genome

sequencing. However, there is a possibility that a mutation takes place in India and the variant becomes a super-spreader. Therefore, there is need to carry out genome sequencing on a regular basis," she said.

"This is important also in the light of the fact that policies regarding the booster dose can be chalked out once we know how the virus is mutating. If we see that mutations are already taking place in the virus, the booster dose can be started in keeping with the policy that is chalked out for it," she added.

Dr Bhattacharya said that vaccination should be a must and there should be some form of a penalty against people not getting jabbed.

Sudden spike in Covid cases as 27 test +ive

Lucknow (PNS): After a lull of almost three months, novel coronavirus infection cases spiked in Uttar Pradesh with 27 people testing positive in the last 24 hours while during the same period eight COVID-19 patients recovered.

A UP government spokesman said that the maximum of nine new COVID-19 cases were reported from Gautam Buddha Nagar (Noida) followed by five in Mainpuri, three in Varanasi and two each in Lucknow, Mathura and Bareilly and one each in Ghazipur, Prayagraj and Maharajganj.

At present there are 116 active cases in the

state while 1.51 lakh samples were tested for novel coronavirus infection in the last 24 hours.

"Following a sudden spike in COVID-19 cases, the UP government has intensified screening and strengthened surveillance across the state. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has instructed officials to intensify genome sequencing of the Covid samples. In pursuance of the directive, genome sequencing of samples is being carried out at a rapid pace in at Lucknow's KGMU and SGPGIMS," the official said. The facilities of genome sequencing are available in BHU, CDRI, IGIB, Ram Manohar Lohia Institute and NBRI in UP.

New variant throws spanner in winter vacation plans

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Just when the domestic tourism was picking up, Omicron arrived to upset the winter vacation plans. Chairperson of Indian Association of Tour and Travel Operators (IATO) Prateek Hira said that tourists are wary of a plethora of protocols and getting quarantined.

He said people had booked even for foreign travels, but now they want to wait and watch for at least 15 days before taking a call. "People are not sure how serious the new variant and whether or not vaccination is enough protection against it. There is also a fear that they may get stuck at some place," he said.

Hira said the delegations scheduled for foreign travels have been trimmed and those who going to foreign destinations for individual visits have shelved their plans.

"The main holidays (Christmas and New Year) may be a little ahead, but tourists and travellers want some assurance from reputed health organisations regarding how safe it is to travel. The work-from-home culture also impacted the tourist traffic since most of the holidays went into online training, discussions and extra classes," he pointed out.

Hira said it would again take some time before the confidence is rebuilt and travelling resumes.

Regional tourism officer Anupam Srivastava said that domestic travel is happening but there have been very few international tourists.

ZyCoV-D vaccine a painless option for protection

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

Those afraid of the pin pricks now have the option of taking the painless vaccine, ZyCoV-D.

A senior official from the CMO office said a needle-free injector is used to give this vaccine and for one dose, two intradermal 0.1ml shots of the vaccine are given in each arm. He said the use of a needle-free injector makes it a painless experience.

He further said that a training programme was organised by the Central government for the officials in Lucknow on Saturday for the administration of this vaccine, and a state government-level training would be held shortly.

The official said that this vaccine would be administered to people above 18 years of age who have not taken any vaccine so far. This vaccine will be given in 14 UP districts — Lucknow, Agra, Aligarh, Ayodhya, Azamgarh, Bareilly, Ghaziabad, Gorakhpur, Kanpur Nagar, Meerut, Moradabad, Prayagraj, Saharanpur, and Varanasi.

The official said the liquid plasmid vaccine has an emergency use authorisation. "A total of three doses will be given to a person. The second dose will be given 28 days after the first and the third dose will be given 56 days after the second. The common adverse effects of the vaccine are redness, pain, itching and swelling at the vaccination site besides fever, muscle pain,



THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT THIS VACCINE WOULD BE ADMINISTERED TO PEOPLE ABOVE 18 YEARS OF AGE WHO HAVE NOT TAKEN ANY VACCINE SO FAR

headache, nausea, diarrhoea and fatigue," he said.

Those who have a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose of this vaccine and those who have a severe allergic reaction to any other vaccine should not get the ZyCoV-D vaccine, he added.

The vaccine is currently being introduced in selected districts of seven states which include Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Two drug peddlers held in Bahraich

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A joint team of UP Anti-Terrorists Squad and Narcotics Control Bureau, Lucknow arrested two drug peddlers on Friday from Bahraich district and recovered 470 gram of heroin from their possession.

Those arrested were identified as Sharif and Aquil

Ahmad aka Mahto of Bahraich district. The officials said the recovered goods worth over Rs 50 lakh in the international market.

As per reports, Sharif planned to deliver the drugs to a customer and this was tipped-off to the ATS and NCB which conducted the raid.

Sharif disclosed the

name of Aquil, who was the brain behind the deal, and a team nabbed him also.

The team is further working in the case to collect the names of other suspects in the drug peddling racket and also the names of the persons who used to arrange the drugs for these peddlers.

5 pc increase in second dose coverage across in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The 'cluster approach' and door-to-door visit statewide Covid vaccination campaign has resulted in a significant hike of around 5 per cent in the second dose coverage across Uttar Pradesh.

While more than 77 per cent of the adult population has received at least the first dose of Covid vaccine, over 35 per cent have been covered with both doses.

Keeping in mind the new variant of coronavirus, Omicron, the state government is committed to providing vaccine shields to the people of the state at the earliest. In wake of the emerging situation, work is being undertaken under a special strategy to expedite the vaccination campaign in rural areas with the cluster approach and 'har ghar dastak' strategy.

So far the state has administered 16.66 crore doses of Covid vaccine with around 11.40 people being covered with the first dose and over 5.26 crore being fully vaccinated in the state.

Uttar Pradesh has played an important role in the pan-India vaccination campaign with its wide coverage of the population under the vaccine umbrella. From the very beginning, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has laid special emphasis on the vaccination campaign, underlining it as a strong weapon in dealing with the novel coronavirus epidemic. The sustained availability of vaccines and accurate strategy, mainly the Cluster Model 2.0 being adopted by the state government, along with the hard work of the health workers is behind this achievement.

"Teams are going from village to village in Uttar Pradesh and giving call slips (containing information of place and date of vaccination) to the people. Before the arrival of the vaccination team in a cluster, the cluster mobilisation teams are clearing out the misconceptions related to the Covid vaccine among the people and motivating them to get vaccinated. Two quick response teams have been activated to manage any adverse events during vaccination in the cluster," the government spokesman said.

Tax collection in November 84.2 pc of target: Minister

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Khanna said the total tax collection in November was Rs 12,962 crore against the target of Rs 15,389 crore, or 84.2 percent of the target. He said the revenue collection in the same month during the last fiscal 2020-21 was Rs 10,904 crore which showed a clear increase of Rs 2,058 crore in current fiscal 2021-22.

The UP finance minister said here on Saturday that the total tax revenue collection during the current fiscal till November was Rs 90,411 crore against the target of Rs 1,19 lakh crore, i.e. 75.8 per cent of the target.

The total revenue from non tax revenue head till November this year was Rs 5,148.66 crore against the target of Rs 16,415 crore. The total revenue from goods and services tax (GST) till the end of November in the current fiscal was Rs 50,944 crore against the target of Rs 65,632 crore, which is 77.6 percent of the target. The collection from value-added tax (VAT) till the end of November 2021 was Rs 16,938 crore against the target of Rs 17,707 crore, or 95.70 per cent of the target.

During the current fiscal



2021-22, the total revenue collection from excise till November was Rs 21,896 crore against the target of Rs 26,916 crore which is 81.30 per cent of the target. In 2021-22, the revenue from stamps and registration till November was Rs 12,784 crore against the target of Rs 16,785 crore.

Khanna said the total GST collection in November 2021 was Rs 4,583 crore against Rs

3,712 crore in November 2020-21. The collection from VAT was Rs 2,651 crore against Rs 2,147 crore in November 2020. The revenue collection by the Excise department from the sale of alcohol was Rs 3,101 crore against Rs 2,464 crore in November 2020.

The tax collection from stamps and registration department in November this year was Rs 1,620 crore against Rs 1,628 crore in November 2020. The revenue from motor vehicle tax was Rs 764 crore against Rs 697 crore in November 2020-21.

The finance minister said that the tax collection from non tax revenue heads like mining in November this year was Rs 240 crore against Rs 253 crore in November 2020.

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1	M/s Sonal Sari Center, Proprietor : Shri Anand Kumar Gupta alias Pappu S/o Shri Ram Shanker Gupta, Mohalla-Shastri Nagar Chakor Gali, Post-Gurshaiganj, Distt. Kannauj. Details of Documents : Book No. 1, Zild No. 757, Page No. 163, to 182 Serial No. 425 Dated 07-02-2000	Bearing : Eqt. Mortgaged of Land and Building is name of Shri Anand Kumar Gupta, Mohalla-Shastri Nagar Chakor Gali, Post-Gurshaiganj, Distt. Kannauj. Boundaries : East: Plot of Ram Autar & Ram Babu West: House of Ram Gopal Tiwari North: House of Ram Gopal Tiwari South: Road of Nagar Palika	Rs. 8,17,466.00 + Interest + Other Charges Date of Notice 01.07.2021 Possession Date : 29.11.2021

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- प्रतिदिन 3,850 मीट्रिक टन यूरिया का उत्पादन • प्रतिदिन 2,200 मीट्रिक टन लिक्विड अमोनिया का उत्पादन • 20,000 लोगों को रोजगार • विश्व का सर्वाधिक 150 मीटर ऊंचा प्रीलिंग टावर • सुरक्षा के लिए ₹30 करोड़ से रबर डैम का निर्माण • खेतों की उर्वरा शक्ति बढ़ाने के लिए नीम कोटेड यूरिया का उत्पादन • उत्तर प्रदेश, सीमाई राज्यों के साथ नेपाल को भी उर्वरक की उपलब्धता



₹1011 करोड़ से 112 एकड़ में विस्तृत अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान एमएस, गोरखपुर

- विशेष रूप से पूर्वांचल, बिहार एवं नेपाल के मरीजों के लिए उच्च स्तरीय चिकित्सा सुविधाएं • 125 एमबीबीएस की सीट • आयुष ब्लॉक, मेडिकल ब्लॉक एवं नर्सिंग कॉलेज का निर्माण • 300 बेड का अस्पताल • 14 मॉड्यूलर ऑपरेशन थियेटर • सीटी स्कैन, एमआरआई एवं अल्ट्रासाउंड जैसी अन्य आधुनिक चिकित्सा सुविधाएं

एवं

तथा



बाबा राघवदास मेडिकल कॉलेज, गोरखपुर के रीजनल मेडिकल रिसर्च सेंटर (आरएमआरसी) की अत्याधुनिक 9 लैब्स

- जापानी इंसेफेलाइटिस के कारगर परीक्षण और शोध को बढ़ावा • 7 जनपदों के लोगों को सुविधा • कोविड-19 की जांच और शोध • राज्य स्तरीय वायरस रिसर्च और परीक्षण लैब • अन्य विषाणुजनित बीमारियों पर शोध • ट्रेनिंग की सुविधा

का

राष्ट्र को समर्पण नरेन्द्र मोदी

प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा

दिनांक: 7 दिसम्बर, 2021

सोच ईमानदार, काम दमदार

2 lakh more girls to be linked to Kanya Sumangala Scheme

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a bid to empower women across Uttar Pradesh, the Yogi Adityanath government will link as many as two lakh new eligible girl beneficiaries with the Kanya Sumangala Scheme by December 15 and transfer the grant amount directly to their bank accounts.

Director, Women Welfare and Child Development, Manoj Rai, said that under the Mission Shakti Abhiyan, the work of adding new eligible girls to this scheme was going on at a fast

pace. He said so far, over 1.50 lakh girls had been added to the scheme so that they could be well educated and become self-reliant.

Rai also said that the government had given targets to all the 75 districts to provide the advantage of the scheme to about two lakh new girls in less than three months so that they could be well educated and become self-reliant.

“In this regard, the department has issued an action plan in which the districts have been assigned with their respective targets and they will be working accordingly,” he said. The commitment

to the safety, self-reliance and dignity of women and daughters has been the mainstay of the Yogi government.

Under the flagship Mission Shakti 3.0 campaign, more than 28.32 lakh people have been made aware in just four months. From August 7, 2021 to November 25, as many as 28,32,104 people, including 12,18,181 boys, 16,09,238 women and 4,685 others have been made aware by the department.

On behalf of the department, various programmes like ‘Haq Ki Baat with the district mag-

istrate’, Kanya Janmotsav, Swavalamban Camp, Mega Event, Legal awareness campaign, establishment of Gudda Guddi Board, honoring of meritorious girls and Gender Champions are being organised.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken a unique initiative to reach the eligible people of the state. Under the third phase of Mission Shakti, in the Swavalamban Camp, along with giving information about other schemes, including destitute women pension scheme, Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana, UP Chief Minister Child

Service Scheme, applications of schemes were also accepted under one roof.

As many as 24,728 applications were received for Kanya Sumangala Yojana out of which 12,931 had been accepted, 10,329 applications were received under Destitute Women’s Pension Scheme out of which 3,780 were accepted, 2,521 applications were received under Mukhya Mantri Bal Seva Yojana out of which 810 were accepted, 2,636 applications were received under Mukhya Mantri Bal Seva Yojana (General) out of which 529 were accepted.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
हमीरपुर वृत्त, लो०नि०वि०, हमीरपुर

पत्रांक :-829 / 30सी०-ह०यु० / 2021

ई-निविदा सूचना

श्री राज्यपाल उ०प्र० की ओर से उ०प्र० शासन के पत्रांक-480 / तेईस-7-2024 दि० 12.04.2021 द्वारा बिड सिक्थीरिटी के सम्बन्ध में दिये गये निर्देशों का अनुपालन करते हुए लोक निर्माण विभाग के निम्नानुसार मार्ग कार्यों में पंजीकृत पात्र निविदादाताओं से ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से नौसे दशहरे गये कार्यों हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। बिडर को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे बिड की क्वालिटी-4 में निविदा स्वीकृत करने के सम्बन्ध में न्यूनतम योग्यता हेतु बिडर को दिये गये निर्देशों को ध्यान से पढ़ लें।

क्रम सं०	जनपद का नाम	कार्य का नाम	लागत (लाख में)	धरोहर धनराशि (लाख में)	निविदा मूल्य	कार्य को पूर्ण करने अवधि	श्रेणी
1	महोबा	पहरेथा से रिङ्गनिया बैहारी समर्क मार्ग का नव निर्माण कार्य।	465.00	0.00	2720.00	06 माह	A
2	महोबा	जरीली से दबका के खुड़े तक मार्ग का निर्माण रपटा सहित	210.00	0.00	2720.00	06 माह	A
3	महोबा	उमरई से कोहनिया मार्ग तक का नव निर्माण कार्य।	198.00	0.00	2720.00	06 माह	A,B

बिड डाक्यूमेन्ट वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर दिनांक 06.12.2021 से 13.12.2021 तक उपलब्ध है जो कि दिनांक-13.12.2024 को समय 12:00 बजे तक अपलोड किये जा सकते हैं। इसकी तकनीकी बिड दिनांक-14.12.2024 को समय 12:30 बजे अपरान्ह खोली जायेगी। निविदाएं प्रहरी साफ्टवेयर पर अपलोड की जायेगी तथा निविदाओं का तकनीकी मूल्यांकन प्रहरी साफ्टवेयर के माध्यम से किया जायेगा, जिसका विस्तृत विवरण निविदा प्रपत्र में उल्लिखित है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित अधिक जानकारी वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

(ह० विपिन कुमार)
अधीक्षारी अभियन्ता
निर्माण खण्ड—1, लो०नि०वि०, महोबा
उ०प्र०-170537 दिनांक 4.12.21 विज्ञान वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

(ह० बी०एल० सिंह)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
हमीरपुर वृत्त, लो०नि०वि०, हमीरपुर
उ०प्र०-170537 दिनांक 4.12.21 विज्ञान वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

Shastri accuses Akhilesh of being anti-Dalit

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Social Welfare Minister Ramapati Shastri accused Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav of being anti-Dalit and alleged that all the decisions of the previous SP government bore testimony to this fact. In a statement issued in Lucknow on Saturday, Shastri said that no matter how many statements Akhilesh made in favour of Dalits due to political compulsions, the fact remained that during SP regime, he worked against the interests of Dalits, which the deprived section would never forget and would give a befitting reply in the elections.

He further said that during his tenure as chief minister, Akhilesh Yadav had renamed all those districts which were named after Dalit icons by former chief minister Mayawati.

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati, during her government, had created three new districts and had decided to change the names of eight districts including these. Of these, Bhimnagar, Prabhudha Nagar and Panchsheel Nagar came into existence in 2011, whose

names were changed by Akhilesh Yadav to Sambhal, Shamli and Hapur respectively. Simultaneously, the names of four other districts changed by Mayawati, namely Rama Bai Nagar, Mahamaya Nagar, Kanshiram Nagar and Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj Nagar were reverted to Kanpur Dehat, Hathras, Kasganj and Amethi respectively.

"Not only this, Mayawati had changed the name of King George's Medical University in Lucknow to 'Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj Medical University' but Akhilesh Yadav restored the institution's old name in the SP rule. Also, the SP government changed the name of Bhimrao Ambedkar Harit Park in Gomti Nagar, Lucknow to Janeshwar Mishra Park," pointed out the UP minister. Ramapati Shastri said that during the reign of Akhilesh Yadav, his anti-Dalit face had been exposed.

"During his reign, mafia and goons used to exploit Dalits and when they went to the police with their complaints, neither an FIR was registered nor any action was taken. Akhilesh's pro-Dalit face is a sham and he has no right to even talk about Dalits," he asserted.

Slugfest between SP, Congress intensifies

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The slugfest between the Congress and Samajwadi Party over positioning their party as the main opponent to the Bharatiya Janata Party ahead of 2022 UP assembly elections is intensifying with both firing barbs at each other.

The prime objective behind the battle is said to be to grab the Muslim vote bank.

Taking a potshot at former ally Congress, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said that the grand old party would not even be able to open its account in the upcoming assembly polls. In the 403-seat UP assembly, the ruling BJP has a majority with 312 seats and the state goes to polls in February, 2022.

"The public will refuse Congress and they will get zero seats in the upcoming assembly elections," said Akhilesh, a day after Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra tore into the SP chief's campaign.

Contending that the former chief minister of UP became active only at the time of election, Priyanka had pointed out that Congress workers had gone to jail for raising people's issues in contrast to the SP. The Congress leader fur-

ther accused both the Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party of perpetuating politics of caste and religion when in power.

Priyanka also hit out at the Samajwadi Party where it hurts the most, accusing Akhilesh Yadav of running the government of goons and casteism. She had also attacked the development plank of Akhilesh, pointing to SP's hoarding 'Aa rahe hain Akhilesh'.

Where was Akhilesh Yadav when millions of migrant workers were suffering on the streets post lockdown in April 2020?" she sought to know. Samajwadi Party sources claimed that the Congress was jittery as Akhilesh Yadav had refused to accept the grand old party's request for alliance.

"For the last one year, Akhilesh has said umpteen times that the SP is not interested in alliance with big political parties as it is a costly bargain for Samajwadi Party. Big parties want more seats and they also lose all the seats and fail to transfer their votes to the electoral partner," said a SP leader.


In 2016, Akhilesh Yadav had faced a massive family feud with his uncle Shivpal Yadav over who will take over the party's reins from patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav. The then-SP chief Mulayam Singh

Yadav had sided with his brother Shivpal Singh Yadav, throwing out then Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav and his cousin Ram Gopal Yadav from the party for six years for releasing a separate list of 235 candidates for the 2017 assembly polls, countering his father's 325 candidate-lists.

Later, Akhilesh was reinstated and he promptly threw out his uncle of the party and replaced Mulayam Singh Yadav as the party chief. Amid these tumultuous family fights, Akhilesh stitched an alliance with Congress, which failed miserably as the SP could bag only 48 seats and the Congress seven, while the BJP romped home with 312 seats in 2017.

With the BJP fighting under the leadership of incumbent Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, several fronts have cropped up to challenge the ruling party. Akhilesh Yadav has stated that his SP will only ally with smaller political parties for the 2022 assembly polls, holding talks with Mahan Dal, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP).

The Congress on its part has aggressively campaigned under the leadership of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in the state, eyeing its solo return.



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA

O-1160

By E-Mail/ e-Dispatch
E-MailID : sepcw@rediffmail.com
Ph-No-06792-261343/261344
Gangraj, Baripada

"e" Procurement Notice for PMGSYWorks

Identification No.- Online Tender- PMGSY N.C.B. No. 199 for 2021-22.
Letter No-3709/Date26.11.2021//


- Name of the work:- Balancework of PMGSY-I, Batch-II of 2017-18 & PMGSY-II, Batch-I of 2018-19 Packages in the district of Mayurbhanj.
- Total No. of works :- **02No. (Two)**
- Estimated Cost :- **Rs.53.41 lakhs to Rs.107.10 Lakhs (approximately).**
- Eligible Class of Contractor:- **As per Annexure.**
- Period of Completion :- **As per Annexure.**
- Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification.	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W. Circle, Baripada	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada.	PMGSY Online N.C.B. No. 199	Dt.06.12.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.26.12.2021 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.18.12.2021 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.21.12.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.29.12.2021 at 11.00 A.M.

- Further details can be seen from the website: www.pmgstenders.gov.in
- Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only.

Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Baripada.

OIPR-251310/11/0020/2122



Office of the Superintending Engineer
1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora

Phone/Fax: 05962-230295 Email: sepwdalm@rediffmail.com

Letter No. : 8370/ Nivida-01/2021

Dated : 03/12/2021

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Tendering)

E-TENDER NOTICE

The superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from dated 06/12/2021 & onwards on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money (Rupee in lakh)	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering
1	C/O 36M. Span Steel Girder Bridge Over Sai River in Village Dalmori near Dwarahat Someshwar Motor Road in Someshwar Constituency under C.M. Ghoshna 149/2020	Rs. 5000.00 + 18% GST	6.95 Lakh	60 Days	18 Months	Class "A" & Higher in Bridge work
2	Upgradation of Helipad to Heliport at Falsima Tatruck Near District Head Quarter Almora.	Rs. 5000.00 + 18% GST	4.44 Lakh	60 Days	15 Months	Category "B" & above in Building works

कार्यालय : अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जोन-8,
जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम, लखनऊ

पत्र सं० : 612 / EE-8 / 2021-22

दिनांक : 04.12.2021

अत्य कालीन निविदा सूचना

निम्नलिखित कार्य/आपूर्ति हेतु अनुमोदित वेकेंदरों से मोहरबन्द निविदा दिनांक 13/12/2021 को अपरान्ह 3.00 बजे तक अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो उसी दिन सायंकाल 4.00 बजे उपस्थित निविदादाताओं के समक्ष खोली जायेगी। सन्दर्भित कार्य हेतु निविदा किसी भी कार्य दिवस में दिनांक 13/12/2021 को समय 02.00 बजे तक कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। अर्नेस्टमनी एफ.डी.आर./सी.डी.आर./एन.एस.सी. के रूप में “**अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जोन-8**” के पद नाम से बन्धक होना अनिवार्य है। बिना अर्नेस्टमनी के प्राप्त निविदाओं पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। एक या समस्त निविदाओं को निरस्त करने का अधिकार बिना कारण बताये महाप्रबन्धक, जलकल विभाग में निहित होगा। पूर्ण विवरण कार्यालय से किसी भी कार्य दिवस में देखा जा सकता है। कार्यालय में अवक. [श. होने की दशा में निविदाये उसी क्रम में समानानुसार अगले कार्य दिवस में खोली जायेगी।

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	धरोहर राशि	निविदा मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	टिप्पणी
1	Construction of Pillar over Tubewell No-2 at Bhadrhukh, Sharda Nagar Ward-I	3400.00	Rs.150	05 दिवस	

निविदा प्राप्त करने की शर्त :-

1. निविदादाता का सेल्स टैक्स एवं आयकर तथा जी.एस.टी. में रजिस्ट्रेशन होना चाहिए।

**अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जोन-8,
जलकल विभाग, लखनऊ**

AK-203 assault rifle manufacturing unit to be set up in Amethi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a big boost to self-reliance in defence manufacturing in India, an Indo-Russian venture to manufacture over five lakh AK-203 assault rifles will be set up at Korwa in Amethi district of Uttar Pradesh.

The joint Indo-Russian venture has been approved by the Government of India. The proposed project reflects the ever increasing paradigm shift in defence acquisition from buy (global) to 'Make in India'.

The joint venture will provide business opportunities to various micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and other defence industries

for supply of raw material and components, leading to generation of new employment opportunities.

The project marks a significant stride towards making Uttar Pradesh a key contributor in the defence manufacturing prowess of India. With this, the much ambitious project of Uttar Pradesh government to establish a Defence Manufacturing Corridor in the state has also come a long way.

The 7.62 X 39 mm caliber AK-203 rifles will replace the in-service INSAS rifles inducted over three decades back for Army and paramilitary personnel. With an effective range of 300 metres, the AK-203 assault rifles are light weight, robust and easy to use modern

The project marks a significant stride towards making Uttar Pradesh a key contributor in the defence manufacturing prowess of India. With this, the much ambitious project of Uttar Pradesh government to establish a Defence Manufacturing Corridor in the state has also come a long way

assault rifles with proven technology that will enhance the combat potential of soldiers to adequately meet present and envisaged operational challenges. They will enhance the operational effectiveness of the Indian Army and para-military forces in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations.

The project will be implemented by a special purpose joint venture called Indo-Russian Rifles Private Ltd (IRRPL). It has been created with the erstwhile OFB, now Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL) and Munitions India Limited (MIL) of India and Rosoboronexport (RoE) and Kalashnikov of Russia.

CITYBRIEFS

URDU IN BOLLYWOOD

Actors Raza Murad and Feroze Khan participated in 'Jashn' on the first day at Urdu Akademi on Saturday. They took part in a session on 'Urdu in Bollywood'. Raza Murad said the language was sweet in Bollywood in the earlier days, but it is no longer the case. He said today's generation is unfamiliar with Urdu and children have to be taught with the help of tutors. Feroze Khan, who played the role of Arjun in Mahabharat, said everyone is very concerned about the future of Urdu and there should be more of the language seen in films and serials.

VISIT

Chief vigilance officer of PNB Vijay Kumar Tyagi visited Lucknow on Saturday. He garlanded the statue of Lala Lajpat Rai in the circle office premises and also planted a tree. Addressing the staff members present in the auditorium of Staff Training College, Tyagi spoke about the bank's preven-

tive vigilance and tracking monitoring staff accountability cases, which is a unique module. He said the bank as an industry has its wide reach among every caste, class and community of the country and it is supporting all the industries of the country and all the industries related to road, electricity, water and aviation and in order to be at the forefront of the banking industry, excellent work has to be done in the agriculture sector as well, he added. Zonal manager Sanjay Gupta said corruption is a major obstacle in the economic, political and social progress of India.

IEO FROM DEC 6 TO 9

A three-day International Environment Olympiad (IEO-2021) will be organised online by City Montessori School, Gomtinagar Extension Campus, from December 9 to 11. The olympiad will be inaugurated by Minister for Labour Swami Prasad Maurya. Students from 10 countries — Vietnam, England, Germany, Iran, Ireland, UAE, Qatar, USA, Australia and India — will participate in a variety of com-

petitions during the course of this event. The objective is to spread awareness among the youth about the critical condition of environment in the midst of global warming and climate change.

ANNUAL SPORTS DAY

City Montessori School, Kanpur Road Campus, organised its Annual Sports Day on Saturday. CMS founder Jagdish Gandhi inaugurated the event by lighting the sports torch. Earlier, the programme commenced with the school prayer and a display of variety of educational-cultural items by the students. There was a stiff competition amongst the participants to get medals in various sports competitions and the students gave their best, showcasing their strength, stamina, and talent. While the students of pre-primary section displayed their agility in balloon race, alphabet race, balancing the ball race, big fish race, tunnel race, collect the cones etc, students of primary section competed in carrot and rabbit race, obstacle race, 25-mt race, 50-mt race, 100-mt race etc.

Test, track, treat, give shots to stem Covid spread: Govt to States

K'taka, Kerala, J&K, TN, Odisha, Mizoram asked to monitor i'ntl fliers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid concerns about rising Omicron variant, the Centre on Friday cautioned Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Jammu & Kashmir, Odisha and Mizoram to take necessary steps under the “Test-Track-Treat-Vaccinate-Covid Appropriate Behaviour” strategy to curb the spread of Covid-19 and fatality. These States have been reporting surge in infections, weekly positivity rates and weekly deaths.

In a letter to these States, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Saturday advised them to undertake enhanced surveillance of international travellers, monitor emerging hotspots, prompt contact-tracing of positive people, and send all positive samples for genome sequencing. He also asked them to undertake early identification of cases and review of health infrastructure preparedness, and most importantly, to focus on IEC and community sensitisation. He pointed out that Karnataka has reported 8,073 new cases in the month ending December 3 (30 days) and witnessed a slight increase in weekly new cases to 2,272 cases (week ending December 3) from 1,664 cases (week ending November 26), along with an increase in weekly new deaths from 22 to 29 over the same period. An increase in weekly new deaths has been noted in Bengaluru Urban, from eight new deaths reported in the week ending November 25 to 14 deaths in the week ending December 2, he said.

Rise in weekly cases have



A health worker collects swab sample of a woman for Covid-19 test, in wake of recent surge in coronavirus cases, in Jammu on Saturday

PTI

also been noted in Tumakuru, Dharwad and Mysuru in the southern State. Similarly, Kerala has reported 1,71,521 new cases in the month ending December 3, with a contribution of 55.8 per cent to the country's new cases from over the past month. “Also, 13 out of 14 districts are reporting a high number of weekly new cases in the State. Districts of concern in the week ending December 2 are Thiruvananthapuram (5,541), Ernakulam, (4,976), Kozhikode (3,676), Thrissur (2,903) and Kottayam (2,478),” Bhushan noted. Four districts -- Thiruvananthapuram (11.61 per cent), Wayanad (11.25 per cent), Kozhikode (11 per cent) and Kottayam (10.81 per cent) -- are showing high weekly positivity of more than 10 per cent, while nine districts are reporting weekly positivity between 5-10 per cent.

Four other districts -- Thrissur, Malappuram, Kozhikode and Kollam -- are reporting high quantum of weekly new deaths in the state.

As for Jammu & Kashmir, Bhushan said, it has reported 4,806 new cases in the month ending December 3, with a few districts such as Kathua, Jammu, Ganderbal and Baramulla showing an increase in the previous week.

Vinod Dua passes away at 67

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran journalist Vinod Dua, who started his career with Doordarshan in the black and white era and went on to make his mark in the digital space in the decades that followed, died in Delhi's Apollo hospital on Saturday. He was 67.

The last rites of the pioneering television journalist, who was hospitalised with Covid earlier this year and lost his wife, radiologist Padmavati 'Chinna' Dua, to the virus in June, will be performed at the Lodhi crematorium here on Sunday, his daughter and actor-comic Mallika Dua said.

Vinod Dua breathed his last at 5 pm at the Indraprastha Apollo Hospital where he was battling chronic liver disease, the hospital said in a statement.

“He was admitted in the intensive care unit in a critical condition, and was monitored by a team of senior doctors. In this tragic time, our prayers are with his family and dear ones,” it said.

Mallika Dua announced the death of her “irreverent, fearless and extraordinary father” on Instagram.

“He lived an imitable life, rising from the refugee colonies of Delhi to the peak of journalistic excellence for over 42 years, always, always speaking truth to power.

“He is now with our mom, his beloved wife Chinna in heaven where they will continue to sing, cook, travel and drive each other up the wall,” she wrote on her Instagram Stories.

The couple, admitted in a hospital in Gurgaon when the second Covid wave was at its peak, is also parents to elder daughter Bakul Dua, a clinical psychologist. Vinod Dua's health had suffered ever since he contracted Covid and he had been in and out of hospitals. He was a pioneer in Hindi broadcast journalism who started his career with “Yuva Manch”, a programme for the youth on Doordarshan. But it was the election analysis he co-anchored with Prannoy Roy on



Doordarshan in 1984 that brought him real acclaim. Much later, the journalist with eclectic interests ranging from politics to cooking hosted the popular food programme “Zaika India Ka” for NDTV that saw him exploring distinct food cultures of different cities and towns in India.

He also anchored “Jan Gan Man Ki Baat” for The Wire Hindi. “Deeply mourning the loss of Vinod. He was not just one of the greatest, he was THE greatest of his time. I have always said that: THE greatest. An amazing talent I admired and respected-and from whom I learnt a lot in the many years we worked closely together. Rest in peace my friend,” Roy, his long-time friend and NDTV co-founder, wrote on Twitter.

Dua, who had a degree in English literature from Hans Raj College and later obtained his master's degree in literature from the University of Delhi, had won many laurels over the years. In 2008, he was honoured with the Padma Shri for journalism. He was also the first electronic media journalist to receive the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award.

Condolences poured in from all quarters. Congress leader Shashi Tharoor described Dua's death as a great loss to Indian journalism and our national discourse.

Historian S Irfan Habib said he was one of India's most credible media veterans. “Among few journalists with a spine, a dear friend and huge-

ly accomplished in talking about politics, food, music and Urdu poetry. Had a brief hello on phone last month,” he tweeted. Many in the media world expressed their shock.

The Press Club of India said on Twitter that Dua was a fearless symbol of the fourth pillar of democracy, a journalist who could hold forth on food, politics and culture equally. “We are poorer in his passing. The PCI stands by his family, especially his daughters who also lost their mother Chinna Dua earlier this year,” “Mourning Vinod Dua the pioneer of news television in India & probably the greatest TV presenter of our times. One of the first times I ever appeared on TV Vinod was the anchor & i admired his natural, easy style which none of us could match in the decades to come. A great loss,” added journalist Vir Sanghvi.

Senior journalist Ashutosh termed Dua a legend of TV journalism who never compromised with his values. “Always said what had to be said. Always unafraid. Will miss u sir.” Earlier this week, on Monday, Mallika Dua said her father's condition was “beyond critical”.

... He was moved to the Apollo Hospital ICU last night where he can be cared for better. He remains extremely critical and fragile. He has been a fighter his entire life. Uncompromising and relentless. His family is the same when it comes to him,” she added in her Instagram post on Tuesday.

Man held for raping 7-year-old girl

Lucknow (PNS): A day after a 7-year-old girl was raped in Banthra, police claimed to have arrested the accused following a night-long hunt on Saturday. The accused was identified as Shivam Singh of Banthra. He was spotted in a video of the wedding event on Thursday night. The girl was recovered from a field where she was lying unconscious. She was admitted to a hospital.

Earlier, Shiva was only accused of kidnapping the minor girl, but later a medical test confirmed rape after which he was booked under POCSO Act. The police recovered a knife and two pins from the possession of the accused, who confessed to have injured the girl using the knife and pins.

Shivam visited the village of the girl and also attended the function. When the programme was in full swing, Shivam took the girl to a field where he forced himself upon her. It was also alleged that he attempted to destroy the evidence. As the girl went missing from the wedding, her parents started searching for her. In the video footage, the girl was

seen along with Shivam and later, a case was lodged against him.

On Friday, she was found lying unconscious in the field and was rushed to a hospital. Her parents suspected sexual assault and demanded that her medical test be conducted. According to the police, the medical test confirmed rape with the girl. The police said the accused had earlier been challaned for theft by the Government Railway Police in Kanpur and under NDPS Act for using drugs in Kanpur.

Meanwhile, two jail guards were suspended for dereliction of duty after an undertrial brought to KGMU hospital from Sultanpur fled from their custody on Saturday. Jail officials informed police about the incident and the cops launched a manhunt for the undertrial.

As per reports, Ansar Ahmad of Sultanpur was challaned under NDPS Act and sent to Sultanpur jail on August 10 earlier this year. On November 29, he fell sick and vomited blood. The jail officials sent him to sought a police

team to escort him to Sultanpur district hospital.

However, they did not get any police escort, following which Ansar was admitted to Sultanpur district hospital by the jail staff. His condition was said to be serious and he was referred to KGMU hospital in Lucknow.

On Friday, two jail guards — Rambali Nishad and Abhishek Kumar — escorted Ansar to KGMU. Around noon on Saturday, the jail guards got busy in getting the admission papers prepared and Ansar fled from their custody. Both the jail guards immediately informed their seniors about the incident and also gave a formal complaint at the KGMU police outpost.

Taking a serious note, the Jail department ordered suspension of both the jail guards. SP, Jail, Umesh Singh said efforts to track down the absconding undertrial were underway. He said he had written to the SSP to suspend the jail guards for laxity. “Rambali Nishad informed Sultanpur jail officials about the incident around 12.25 pm,” he said.

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POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immoveable Property) [Rule-8(1)]		
Whereas The undersigned being the authorized officer of Union Bank of India, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors of account to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being of dues with contractual rate of interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount in full, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him u/s 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules. The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with property and any dealing with the property will subject to the charge of Union Bank of India, for an Amount and Interest thereon. We also wish to draw kind attention of all concerned towards section 13(8) of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.		
Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property and O/S Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand & Possession Notice Date		
Borrower : M/s Radhe Krishna Enterprises, Proprietor : Shri Dharmesh Singh S/o Shri Raj Bahadur, Address: Village-Gajumau, Tehsil-Akbarpur, Distt. Kanpur Dehat. Guarantor: Shri Abhishek Kumar Yadav S/o Shri Dharmesh Singh & Shri Deepak Kumar S/o Shri Man Singh, Both R/o : Village-Gajumau, Tehsil-Akbarpur, Distt. Kanpur Dehat. Demand Notice Date: 04-08-2021 • Date of Constructive Possession: 29.11.2021 Property : Open Land Khata No. 00137, Gata Arazi No. 664, Village-Gajumau, Tehsil-Akbarpur, Distt. Kanpur Dehat, Owner of Property : Shri Abhishek Kumar Yadav S/o Shri Dharmesh Singh. Area : 672 Sq. Mtr., Bounded -North : Arazi of Ramesh Singh, South : Left part of Gifted Land Arazi No. 664, East : Left part of Gifted Land Arazi No. 664, West : Pakka Road 16 Ft. Width. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 11,91,800.72 + Intt. + Others Charges		
Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India		

IIA signs MoU with Uganda NCCI

Lucknow (PNS): Indian Industries Association (IIA) and Uganda Embassy in India jointly organised a high-level 'India-Uganda Investment-Business Meet' in which IIA business delegation took part under the leadership of national president of IIA Ashok Agarwal.

President of Uganda Yoweri Museveni was the chief guest on the occasion. Uganda's High Commissioner to India Grace Akello, Uganda's Minister of Foreign Affairs Jeje Odongo, State Minister for Trade Ntabazi Harriet, Deputy Director-General of Uganda Investment Authority Paul Kyalimpa and General



Secretary of Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industries Owomugisha Blessing were also present.

The IIA president said this visit would act as a major link in promoting bilateral trade between India and Uganda. Keeping in view the resources

available in Uganda, the main objective of this delegation is to try to work on the possibilities of setting up industries here.

“Indian entrepreneurs can find a favourable market for their products in African countries. Those areas that can be exported from Uganda to India

will also be worked upon and discussed,” he said. A memento was presented by the IIA president to all the officials of Uganda.

During the programme, the IIA president and Owomugisha Blessing signed a memorandum of understanding for bilateral trade between the two countries and to provide handholding to micro, small and medium entrepreneurs.

Senior vice-president of IIA Neeraj Singhal and chairperson of IIA International Affairs Committee Rekha Sharma, along with 18 other entrepreneurs, were in the IIA delegation.

Continued from page 1

PROTESTING FARMERS...

A farmer leader said Balbir Singh Rajewal and Yudhvir Singh got a phone call from Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday late evening to sort out the issues. The committee was formed following that, the farmer leader added.

“The Home Minister said the farm legislations have been repealed and wanted a committee to communicate with the Government, so we finally have made that committee now,” farmer leader said.

In a statement, SKM said the next meeting has now been fixed for December 7, with the next two days kept for the Government to respond it and work along with the five-member committee to resolve this agitation to its logical conclusion. The farmers groups believe the Government was attempting to divide the farmers by making individual calls to certain farmers requesting to establish a communication channel.

Meanwhile, the talks between Haryana farm unions leaders and Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Friday remained inconclusive after the two sides failed to reach an agreement over the demands put forth by the farmer leaders' delegation.

Although Parliament had repealed the three farm laws on Monday, but the stalemate continues with the protesters pressing their other demands such as a legal guarantee on the

minimum support price (MSP), compensation to families of farmers who died during the movement and withdrawal of cases against the farmers.

SHIV SENA...

“Sonia Gandhi or Rahul Gandhi should come out and speak about the issue of UPA leadership. The need of the hour is to strengthen the UPA. They should take the lead in strengthening the UPA,” the “Saamana” editorial said.

Taking strong exception to poll strategist and Mamata's advisor Prashant Kishor's statement that Congress's leadership of the Opposition was not the “divine right of an individual, especially when the party has lost more than 90 per cent elections in last 10 years,” the “Saamana” editorial said : “No one has divine right of Opposition leadership. No one knows as to what will happen in 2024. There was a time when people felt that the BJP would remain in the Opposition all its life but its fortunes changed”.

“Today, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi are fighting against those who are trying to undermine them politically. Time will tell as to who will lead the UPA,” the Sena mouth-piece said.

Hitting out at senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad for his statement that he did not see the Congress winning 300 seats in the 2024 gen-

eral elections, the Sena mouth-piece said: “Azad has predicted that the Congress' performance in the 2024 will be disappointing. This is a curse coming from a senior Congress leader who has enjoyed the fruits of power when the Congress was ruling the country. He is a part of the G-23 group of disgruntled party leaders, all of whom have enjoyed power in the past. What have these leaders done to improve the strength and prospects of the Congress? As much as the ruling BJP thinks, these leaders also feel that the Congress will put up a miserable performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls”

ICMR SAYS...

The study is yet to be peer-reviewed. Researchers evaluated the neutralising potential of blood samples from people who had received two doses of the Covishield vaccine. They studied three types of blood samples. The first was from people who have been fully vaccinated with Covishield and have never been infected with Covid. The second was from people who have been fully vaccinated after recovering from Covid infection in the past. The third was from people who got infected with Covid after being fully vaccinated, that is people who suffered breakthrough infections.

They observed the highest reduction in the level of neu-

tralisising antibodies against the Delta — a reduction of 27.3-fold — among fully vaccinated individuals who had never been infected with Covid, compared to other groups and variants.

Neutralisation was reduced against Delta and AY.1 in all three groups.

However, the team said vaccines will continue to provide sufficient protection against the severity of the disease and fatality, based on breakthrough infections data they analysed.

“Several studies have reported the increase in immune response in Covid-19 recovered cases and breakthrough infections post-vaccination,” the team noted in the study.

They said that such a rise in immune response actually helps effectively neutralise the immune escape variants in breakthrough Covid cases.

“Once the individual gets re-infection after vaccination or vaccination post-recovery, memory B cells (a type of white blood cells involved in immune response) are triggered that generate higher levels of immune response,” the team noted.

They added that a booster dose vaccination among fully vaccinated people who have never been infected with Covid-19 would achieve a protective immune response to fight against emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants.

कार्यालय — मुख्य चिकित्सा अधिकारी, सोनभद्र

पत्रांक— एन.एच.एम./संवि.नियु./2021–22/2948

दिनांक : 01 दिसम्बर, 2021

वॉक-इन-इन्टरव्यू हेतु विज्ञप्ति

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन के अन्तर्गत चिकित्सक विशेषज्ञ (संविदा) एवं चिकित्सक (संविदा) पर भर्ती करने हेतु नवीन जनपदीय कार्ययोजना मिशन निदेशक, राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, उ०प्र० लखनऊ के पत्रांक सं०-एस०पी०एम०यू०/नियोजन/17/2021–22/3045–2 दिनांक 29.08.2021 एवं जिलाधिकारी/अध्यक्ष जिला स्वास्थ्य समिति सोनभद्र के अनुमोदनोपरान्त संविदा पर निम्नलिखित संविदा विशेषज्ञ एवं चिकित्सक (एम०बी०बी०एस०) की नियुक्ति वॉक-इन-इन्टरव्यू के माध्यम से किया जाना है। जिसका विवरण निम्नवत् है—

क्र० सं०	कार्यक्रम का नाम	पदों का विवरण	रिक्त पदों की संख्या	शैक्षिक आईता	मानदेय प्रतिमाह
1	मातृत्व स्वास्थ्य	विशेषज्ञ चिकित्सक (प्रसूति एवं स्त्री रोग)	03 (अनारक्षित)	किसी मान्यता प्राप्त संस्थान से डिप्लोमा/एम०डी०/एम०एस०डी०जी०ओ० तथा उत्तर प्रदेश मेडिकल काउन्सिल में पंजीकरण	1,20,000.00
2	मातृत्व स्वास्थ्य	विशेषज्ञ चिकित्सक (निश्चेतक)	03 (अनारक्षित)	किसी मान्यता प्राप्त संस्थान से डी०ए०/एम०डी० तथा उत्तर प्रदेश मेडिकल काउन्सिल में पंजीकरण	120000.00
3	मातृत्व स्वास्थ्य	महिला चिकित्सक (एम०बी०बी०एस०)	02 (अनारक्षित)	किसी मान्यता प्राप्त संस्थान से एम०बी०बी०एस० तथा उत्तर प्रदेश मेडिकल काउन्सिल में पंजीकरण	65,000.00
4	बाल स्वास्थ्य	विशेषज्ञ चिकित्सक (बाल रोग)	01 (अनारक्षित)	किसी मान्यता प्राप्त संस्थान से डी०सी०एच०/डी०एन०बी०/एम०डी० तथा उत्तर प्रदेश मेडिकल काउन्सिल में पंजीकरण	120000.00
5	ब्लड बैंक	चिकित्सक (एम०बी०बी०एस०)	01 (अनारक्षित)	किसी मान्यता प्राप्त संस्थान से डी०सी०एच०/डी०एन०बी०/एम०डी० तथा उत्तर प्रदेश मेडिकल काउन्सिल में पंजीकरण	60000.00
6	एन०सी०डी० सम्पूर्णा	महिला चिकित्सक (एम०बी०बी०एस०)	01 (अनारक्षित)	किसी मान्यता प्राप्त संस्थान से एम०बी०बी०एस० तथा उत्तर प्रदेश मेडिकल काउन्सिल में पंजीकरण	60000.00
7	राष्ट्रीय मानसिक स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रम	Consultant Psychiatrist (विशेषज्ञ)	01 (अनारक्षित)	किसी मान्यता प्राप्त संस्थान से एम०डी०/डी०एम०बी०/डिप्लोमा इन साइकाट्रि (Minimum 02 year Duration) तथा उत्तर प्रदेश मेडिकल काउन्सिल में पंजीकरण	175000.00
8	राष्ट्रीय शहरी स्वास्थ्य मिशन	चिकित्सक (एम०बी०बी०एस०)	02 (अनारक्षित)	किसी मान्यता प्राप्त संस्थान से एम०बी०बी०एस० तथा उत्तर प्रदेश मेडिकल काउन्सिल में पंजीकरण	55000.00

आवेदन हेतु निर्देश—

- वाक-इन-इन्टरव्यू के अन्तर्गत विज्ञप्ति प्रकाशन के दिनांक से किसी भी कार्यदिवस को प्रातः 11:00 बजे से अपराह्न 02:00 बजे के मध्य मुख्य चिकित्साधिकारी सोनभद्र के कार्यालय में वाक-इन-इन्टरव्यू किया जायेगा। अभ्यर्थी अन्य जानकारी हेतु मुख्य चिकित्साधिकारी के मोबाइल सं० 9415243543 एवं जिला कार्यक्रम प्रबन्धक एन०एच०एम० के मोबाइल सं० 8005193090 पर सम्पर्क कर सकते हैं एवं www.upnrhm.gov.in पर भी निर्धारित अर्हता, मानदेय एवं दिशा-निर्देश ऑनलाइन देख सकते हैं।
 - इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी वॉक-इन-इन्टरव्यू के समय नवीनतम बायोडाटा, समस्त वांछित मूल अभिलेख, रजिस्ट्रेशन सर्टिफिकेट, दो नवीनतम कलर फोटोग्राफ तथा वांछित प्रमाणपत्रों की स्वप्रमाणित प्रतियों के एक सेट के साथ साक्षात्कार में प्रतिभाग कर सकते हैं।
 - यह पद पूर्णतया नियत मानदेय पर संविदा शर्तों के अधीन है, तथा उक्त पद पर स्थायीकरण का कोई दावा स्वीकार नहीं होगा। भर्ती प्रक्रिया के किसी भी स्तर पर रिक्त पदों की संख्या में परिवर्तन किया जा सकता है।
 - उपरोक्त पदों पर नियुक्ति 01 वित्तीय वर्ष के लिए मान्य होगी। जिसे भारत सरकार के अनुमोदनोपरान्त आगे बढ़ाया जा सकता है।
 - कोई भी प्रतिकूल तथ्य पाये जाने पर चयनित अभ्यर्थी की संविदा समाप्त की जा सकती है।
 - साक्षात्कार हेतु किसी प्रकार का यात्रा भत्ता आदि देय नहीं होगा।
 - इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी की आयु विज्ञप्ति प्रकाशन होने की तिथि पर 65 वर्ष से अधिक न हो।
- आवेदन का प्रारूप** — 1. संविदा पद नाम 2. अभ्यर्थी का नाम 3. पिता/पति का नाम 4. जन्मतिथि 5. मोबाइल नं० 6. ई० मेल आई०डी 7. जाति/उपजाति 8. शैक्षणिक योग्यता (विवरण स्पष्ट रूप से अंकित करें) 9. गृह जनपद 10. स्थायी पता 11. पत्र व्यवहार का पता 12. प्रशिक्षण एवं अनुभव सम्बन्धी विवरण। 13. दाहिनी ओर अपना पासपोर्ट साइज का फोटो अवश्य चरपा करें।

घोषणा— मैं एतद द्वारा घोषित करता/करती हूँ कि मैंने विज्ञापन में पात्रता की शर्तें सावधानी से पढ़ी हैं। वे मुझे मान्य है तथा वे शर्तें पूरी करता/करती हूँ। इस आवेदन पत्र में दिये गये सभी विवरण/सूचना सत्य है और इस विवरण/सूचना में कोई तथ्य छिपाई नहीं गई है। यदि विवरण/सूचना असत्य/गलत पायी जाये अथवा कोई तथ्य छिपाया जाय तो मेरा अभ्यर्थन समाप्त कर दिया जाये। मैं यह भी घोषणा करता/करती हूँ कि इस संविदा की सेवा के उपरान्त राजकीय नियमित/स्थायी सेवा हेतु किसी भी प्रकार का दावा प्रस्तुत नहीं करूँगा/ करूँगी।

संलग्नक— शैक्षणिक योग्यता के समस्त प्रमाण पत्र, प्रशिक्षण सम्बन्धी समस्त प्रमाण पत्र, पंजीकरण प्रमाणपत्र, जाति प्रमाणपत्र।

दिनांक—

अभ्यर्थी का हस्ताक्षर
नाम व पता

CM to review preparations for KVC Project inauguration

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As the date for inauguration of Kashi Vishwanath Corridor (KVC) Project is inching close, the activities have been intensified in the city. Union Education Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) election in-charge of the state Dharmendra Pradhan arrived here on Saturday and offered prayers at Kal Bhairav and Kashi Vishwanath temples apart from inspecting the arrangements in connection with the proposed visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will be arriving here on his two days visit on Sunday and during his stay, apart from going to Chandauli district and offering darshan of Sant Keenaram at Ramgarh, he will also hold a meeting with the top administrative and police officers to review the arrangements in connection with the proposed two days visit of the PM.

According to unconfirmed information, the PM will come to his parliamentary constituency on December 13 to inaugurate his KVC Project, which is one of his 'dream projects'. The PM will also visit Umrha to attend the annual function of Swavedra Mahamandir and address a function on Vihangam Yog. During his stay, the Yogi will also visit the Officers' Guest House at Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) to see the arrangements as the PM is expected to stay there during



Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan offering prayers at Kal Bhairav temple in Varanasi on Saturday.

Pioneer

the night and address the intellectuals. Yogi will also go to Umrha to inspect the arrangements. For inaugurating the KVC Project, the PM may land at Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) ground. From there, he may go to Khirkiya Ghat and then by boat he may reach Lalita Ghat as at both the places, jetties are being constructed.

Earlier, in connection with the CM's visit to Chandauli on Sunday, the UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism, Culture, Religious Affairs and Protocol Dr Neelkanth Tiwari visited

Chandauli and held a meeting with the officials after on-site inspection of the proposed sites where the CM would go. He first went to have a darshan of Sant Keenaram located at Ramgarh and then inspected public meeting place, helipad etc in the grounds of Baba Keenaram Inter College. He also reviewed the security and other arrangements holding a meeting with top officers of Chandauli district.

Besides, on the third day of the series of Bhajan Sandhya being organised by the Culture department on the occasion of KVC Project inauguration, a

programme was held at Shailputri temple, Saraiya on Friday evening. The programme began with a bhajan presentation by Santosh Kumar Mishra. He was supported by Uday Shankar Mishra (tabla), Neeraj Kumar Mishra (sitar), and Brijesh Prajapati (pad). Besides, a similar programme was also held at Sheela Mata Mandir at Dashashwamedh Ghat where Shradha Pandey presented bhajas and she was accompanied by Anil Rai (on tabla), Ashok Kumar Gaur (dholak), Nanhe Singh (pad) and Jiya Ram Verma (banjo).

'Topi waale', 'lungi waale' goons used to terrorise traders earlier: Maurya

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

"Gone are the days when 'topi waale' and 'lungi waale' goons used to terrorise traders' community and extort money from them during the previous SP and BSP regimes," Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said at the traders' convention in Prayagraj.

"The goons have disappeared since the BJP-led state

government came to power and tightened the noose around them," Maurya said. He added that the BJP-led state government always worked for the benefit and welfare of traders, farmers and poor, and even provided them security. Maurya said the future of the traders and industrialists was secure and bright under the BJP rule.

"It was traders who sup-

ported the BJP in all elections held between 2014 and 2019," he said.

Maurya said that BJP has been working for "sabka sath, sabka vikas and sabka vishwa". He claimed that BJP would win over 300 seats in the forthcoming assembly elections with the support and blessings of people, including traders. Maurya also appealed to traders to make more and

more voters among them aware as the party took many initiatives for them.

Targeting the Samajwadi Party, BJP leader Sidharth Nath Singh said, "Former CM Akhilesh Yadav was claiming that bulldozers would be taken back once they came to power in the state, and now people could understand better as to what would happen if the BJP does not come to power."

Nine fresh dengue cases detected

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Sangam city on Saturday reported nine dengue cases, taking the tally to 1,103. Fresh cases were detected from Teliyarganj (1), Mutthiganj (1), Phaphamau (1), Jhansi (1), Beligaon (1), Mundera (1), Preetam Nagar (1), Chaka (1) and Holagarh (1).

Out of nine cases detected, seven from city areas, while the rest two from debat pockets were reported. Moreover, out of a total 1,103 dengue cases in the district so far, 816 were reported in urban pockets, while the rest 287 in rural areas.

Officials of the health department, however, claimed, "Despite the graph of the dengue cases showing a declining trend, sincere efforts are underway to check the disease." Officials, meanwhile, also claimed that dengue cases will be wiped out within a period of eight to ten days.

City pockets reporting

fresh dengue cases, particularly those areas which reported cases on frequent intervals, are under scanner and an anti-larvae spraying drive has been intensified in these areas, including Teliyarganj, Mutthiganj, Phaphamau, Jhansi, Beligaon, Mundera, Preetam Nagar and Chaka localities.

City residents have also been urged to take preventive measures to check the spread of dengue, said a senior health official, adding, "We are appealing to the people to use mosquito nets and repellents."

Fogging and anti-larvae spraying exercises have also been intensified in the identified pockets of city and trans-Ganga and Yamuna areas, the official added.

IIIT-A BARS ENTRY OF STUDENTS TO CAMPUS DUE TO OMICRON: The Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad (IIIT-A) has banned the entry of stu-

dents to the campus due to Omicron, the new variant of coronavirus. Along with this, instructions have also been issued to the talented technocrats who have returned to the campus to go back home. This important decision has been taken in a high-level meeting chaired by Professor P Nagabhushan, Director of the Institute in Prayagraj.

According to the information released by Dr Vijay Kumar Srivastava, Associate Dean Student Welfare, IIIT-A, the institute had called an emergency high-level meeting recently. In the meeting, there was a discussion regarding the conditions of the new variant Omicron of Corona. A new variant has arrived in the country.

In this context, it was unanimously decided that no student would be allowed to enter the campus. It was also decided that those who were earlier allowed to join the cam-

pus but could not join the institute due to personal reasons, would also not be allowed to join the campus till further orders.

In the information released by Dr Vijay Kumar Srivastava, it has been said that the institute is trying to prepare a strategy to deal with the new variant of Corona along with protecting the interests of the students. In such a situation, everyone's support is needed to deal with the current situation.

According to the situation of Covid in the country and the instructions of the Ministry of Education, the institute will take a decision in this matter soon. The students have also been asked to send their request to the Gymkhana (Student Association) for admission to the campus instead of sending an individual e-mail. The rationale behind this is that all decisions will be taken as per the recommendation of Gymkhana.

Covid +ve patient puts Health dept on alert

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Amidst of threats of arrival of new variant Omicron, the finding of a positive COVID-19 patient returned from abroad has increased the heartbeats of both the district administration and Health department, especially when recently Dev Deepawali was celebrated here with a grandeur with the support of the state government and the locals rarely followed the COVID-19 guidelines in all recent festivals as well as hectic preparations are being done to give a grand shape to the inauguration of Kashi Vishwanath Corridor (KVC) Project in the coming days. In such a scenario, the finding of a young woman of Nadesar area who came from France via Mumbai as a COVID-19 positive has put the Health department on alert. As the genome sequencing testing facilities are not available here, it cannot be confirmed whether she is suffering from Omicron or not till the test report is not received from the Pune located lab, though she was detected positive in RT-PCR test. The Health department is keeping close watch on all those who



Health workers mobilising a woman for vaccination in Varanasi on Friday.

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came here from different 'at-risk' countries including South Africa. Meanwhile, a doctor of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) who returned from Guwahati recently was also found positive, though it could not be confirmed. In connection with these developments, Microbiology department in Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), BHU, is planning to start genome sequencing tests.

Meanwhile, the Health department has intensified its vaccination process and the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Rahul Singh has instructed all the recently installed oxygen plants at different hospitals to run them at least one hour

daily so that in case of emergency, they can be used properly. The focus is also being given on intensifying the vaccination drive. Besides, an awareness campaign is also being launched to mobilise the people for vaccination in different areas where the residents are not showing interest in the same. On Saturday, thousands of beneficiaries were vaccinated in 284 sessions in rural areas and 112 in urban apart from one special centre each for women and international travellers, two day-night centres and with the help of 22 Tika Express vehicles whereas a day before, 57,817 beneficiaries were vaccinated by organising

400 sessions which included 38,146 who got the first doses and 19,671 second doses. Among them, 4,627 people were above 45 years of age while 53,190 beneficiaries of the 18-44 age group including 34,431 vaccinated for the first dose and 18,759 second dose.

According to the CMO, the pace of vaccination is increasing continuously in the district as from January 16 to December 3 this year, more than 36.78 lakh doses of vaccines have been applied. Out of them, about 19.68 lakh men and 17.09 lakh women got vaccinated. 'So far 36,78,972 vaccines have been administered in the district which included 24,40,963 taken the first dose, while 12,38,009 both the doses,' said that CMO, adding that so far 30,736 vaccination sessions have been conducted administering vaccines to about 22.78 lakh youth of above 18 years, 8.13 lakh 45-60 age group, 4.65 lakh above 60 years, 60,648 health care workers and 90,187 frontline workers. Among them, about 32.91 lakh people have been vaccinated with Covishield while 3.87 with Covaxin vaccines.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The junior doctors demanding the counselling of NEET PG have taken a somewhat sharp stand, angered by the obstinate attitude of the Motilal Nehru Medical College administration. The doctors who were on strike on Saturday closed the registration counter of Swaroopnagar Nehru Hospital and did not allow any patient's prescription paper to be prepared for about two hours.

Due to this, hundreds of patients were disappointed and had to return without treatment. The principal of the medical college reached and explained to the doctors and opened the window of the registration counter. Saturday marked the eighth day since the junior doctors went on strike from the OPD. The strike is still on and the junior doctors have already boycotted the services of the OPD. Meanwhile, the displeasure of the doctors has increased because there is no



focus of any senior medical officer or administrative officer towards their agitation. Angered by this, junior doctors have now started taking steps to disrupt the system.

On Saturday, doctors closed the registration counter at Swaroopnagar Nehru

Hospital. No patient was registered for about two hours, whereas the daily average of 500 to 700 people is registered in two hours.

Due to non-registration, people coming from Prayagraj city, Gangapur, Yamunapur and other neighboring districts also

had to face a lot of trouble. If the registration was not done, then no one could show his patient to the doctors in the OPD. Everyone was disappointed. On the other hand, senior doctors in OPD also sat empty handed for most of the time.

As soon as the information about the closure of the registration counter was received, the principal doctor of Motilal Nehru Medical College, SP Singh reached around 12:00 noon.

He got the doctors sitting on dharna in front of the registration counter removed and asked them to hold a sit-in demonstration outside the registration counter premises. He said that talks are going on at the government level, and a decision will be taken soon. On the persuasion of the principal, the junior doctors lifted the dharna from there and only after midnight, the registration prescription paper could be made.

Pharmacists stage dharna

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under its phase wise agitation, the Varanasi unit of the Diploma Pharmacist Association, UP on Saturday staged a dharna to draw the attention of the government regarding its demands pending for the long time. The association threatened to go on an indefinite strike from December 20 if the government fails in meeting its demands by then.

As per their earlier decision, the pharmacists gathered at the CMO office, here and staged a dharna to draw the afternoon of the government towards their demands which are pending for the long time.

The agitated pharmacists blamed the government for not sticking to its promises made during the meetings with the representatives of the association. The discussions were held a number of times in the high level meetings between the representatives of the association and the senior officers sitting in the government on the demands regarding the irregularities in pay scale of pharmacist category, standard determination of category, creation of senior posts, reconstitution of posts, creation of the



Pharmacists staging dharna in Varanasi on Saturday.

Pioneer

post of pharmacists in trauma centres, promotion, appointment, etc but despite this, the government order was not issued till now regarding the implementation of these demands, blamed the agitators and said that the association has no option except to follow the way of agitation to draw the attention to its demands. They demanded the government to implement these demands at the earliest. They also submitted a memorandum of their demands to be forwarded to the Chief Minister.

As per the decision taken by the executive committee of the association, the employees of the pharmacist category will protest in favour of their demands by tying black ribbons on their hands from December 5 to 8, while they will boycott the medical services barring emergency and

postmortem work for two hours from December 9 to 16, informed the district secretary Abhijay Srivastava adding, there will be complete boycott of the work except emergency services from December 17 to 19, while the officers and employees of this category will go on an indefinite strike remaining away from all the services from December 20 including the emergency service and postmortem work if the demands are not met by then. Among those who joined the dharna were JS Upadhyay, Anil Rai, Arvind Singh, Vimal Tiwari, Aditya Kumar Pandey, Bhanu Pratap, Radheyshyam and Manoj Patel.

HIGH PROTEIN MUNGBEAN VARIETY RELEASED: A new mungbean variety, HUM 27 (Malaviya Jankranti) of high protein content (28.9%) devel-

oped by Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has been released by UP State Variety Release Sub-committee in its 59th meeting held at Krishi Bhawan, Lucknow recently. The principal breeder Dr Mahendra Narain Singh informed that this variety has bold seed (5g/100 seed), 44 cm plant height, maturity period 62-76 days with average production of nine quintal per hectare and maximum productivity being 18 q/ha.

According to him, this variety is highly resistant to mungbean yellow mosaic virus (MYMV) and has given yield superiority of more than 15% over other prevailing mungbean varieties of the region. The best time of sowing is from 10-25th March under irrigated conditions. Since it has high protein content, it may be able to combat dietary protein deficiency. The other contributors credited to develop this variety include Dr Ramesh Chand, Dr Prem Shankar Singh and Dinesh Kumar from the same institution. It is pertinent to mention that this is the 6th mungbean variety developed by Dr Mahendra Narain Singh.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

A case has been registered against many police personnel, including CO Pankaj Kumar Singh in Prayagraj's Shivkuti police station. Following the orders of the court, Shivkuti police have started investigation by registering a report on the written complaint given by one Janki Jaiswal. The matter pertains to a dispute over a house.

The incident took place in

May 2018. Janki Jaiswal, a resident of Fatuha village of Saraiinayat police station area, alleged that her house is located near the crossroads of Shivkuti police station area. Gayadin Sharma lived in that house on rent. He used to pay rent of 3000 per month to her. In the meantime, he stopped paying the rent. When she went to the house with her mother to demand rent, the accused assaulted her indecently.

It is also alleged that the then Shivkuti police station Inspector Pankaj Kumar Singh did not file the report despite giving a complaint. After this, she went to the CO fourth office and gave a complaint from where no help was received. Apart from this, the police did not cooperate in the whole matter. She kept wandering from door to door to get justice but there was no hearing from anywhere.

Disturbed by this, the vic-

tim approached the court. After hearing the matter, the court had ordered SSP Prayagraj to register a case in the matter.

On the orders of the court, the Shivkuti police has now registered a report against the then CO court, the then SHO, Shivkuti Pankaj Kumar Singh, the then investigating officer and some other policemen. Police said that the matter is being investigated. Necessary action will be taken based on the evidence.

Construction of Ram temple a matter of happiness: Togadia

ALLAHABAD (PNS) : Praveen Togadia, founder and president of Antarrashtriya Hindu Parishad, said that Shri Ram temple being built in Ayodhya is a matter of happiness and 'Ram Rajya' will be possible only when more than one crore homeless Hindus will get houses and their standard of living improved. Those unemployed have to be given jobs and every farmer will also have to get the right price of his crop, he said.

Togadia, who played a leading role in the Ram Mandir movement but separated from the Vishwa Hindu Parishad,

said he is working for an organised and strong nation. On Saturday, he visited the Bade Hanuman temple in Bandhwa and paid obeisance to the deity. He also took blessings from Shri Babagham Bripethadheeshwar Mahant Balveer Giri. He condoled the death of Mahant Narendra Giri, who was the president of Akhara Parishad. Commenting on Deputy Chief Minister Keshav's tweet regarding Mathura, Togadia said those in power do not have resolve. "They should act with strong will power. If the resolve is expressed sitting away from the

power, the matter is understandable. BJP should make a law and build a grand temple in Mathura. Every ruling party will have to tell what is the road map for providing employment to the youth, cheap education, healthy life and a happy farmer. With the solution of these problems, 'Ram Rajya' will come to the country," he said. On the purpose of his visit to Prayagraj, Togadia said that due to corona, all the activities were closed for two years and people came to know about the skills of workers. "Our organisation has taken a pledge of Veer Hindu, Vijeta Hindu with

Akhand Bharat. For this campaign, I will run an exercise. Rashtra puja will also be done in 20,000 local families by holding trishuls (tridents). The youth are also being called upon to join the army in large numbers," he said. "There were four pillars of the Shri Ram Mandir movement. VHP chief Ashok Singhal, Mahant Avaidyanath, Ram Chandra Paramhans of Ayodhya and Balasheeb Thackeray. Bharat Ratna should be given to all these people. Due to their sacrifices, the temple movement could reach its goal," he added.

Some parties trying to divide people on caste, community basis: Sharma

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Deputy Chief Minister Dr Dinesh Sharma said that the forthcoming assembly elections were a big challenge for all political parties.

Speaking at the 'Yuva Utthan' programme organised by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha at Andh Vidyalaya in Nehru Nagar here on Saturday, Dr Sharma said while some political parties were trying to divide the people on caste, community, region and family basis, the BJP governments were providing employment, fair examinations and job-oriented education.

He said the battle was to develop Uttar Pradesh and the assembly elections were a testing time for youth who needed to devote themselves to it. He said earlier politicians never used to visit any religious place but now, to woo voters in the coming elections, they were



Deputy Chief Minister Dr Dinesh Sharma speaking at 'Yuva Utthan' programme at Andh Vidyalaya, Nehru Nagar, on Saturday

seen ringing 'ghanta-ghariyal' and this became possible due to the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He said during the BJP

rule, the progress of Uttar Pradesh had gathered momentum and this was not possible under any other political party. "Today, instead of pelting

stones at Kanwar yatras, people welcome the Kanwariyas with the flowers," Dr Sharma said and added that people wanted such a government which could increase capital investment in the state.

He called upon youths to work for BJP's thumping victory on all assembly seats of Kanpur, including those which the party had lost in the previous elections, by ensuring that the candidates of other political parties forfeited their security deposit.

"For this, it is necessary that all the forward, backward and general people unitedly work for the victory of BJP," he added.

Thereafter, the deputy chief minister met children at the Andh Vidyalaya and felicitated the leaders of the winning team of general knowledge competition, Alok Kumar Prajapati, and the runners-up team, Aman Singh, with the trophy.

Cheques, keys of houses given to beneficiaries of govt welfare schemes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Deputy Chief Minister Dr Dinesh Sharma handed over cheques and keys of houses to the beneficiaries of different government schemes at a programme organised at GIC grounds in Chunniganj on Saturday.

He also delivered tractors to farmers on this occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sharma said some people were upset at seeing bulldozers demolishing the ill gotten houses of mafias. He said earlier, these mafias used to run bulldozers on the houses of poor people but today, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had ordered demolition of the illegally occupied buildings of mafias to construct dwellings for the poor people there.

He said earlier Uttar Pradesh was known to be a state of mass copying in examinations, kidnapping and corruption but now it was recognised for its developmental works.

"Construction of five expressways, including Purvanchal Expressway and the defence industrial corridor are among the development works of the UP government," he added.

The deputy chief minister said some political leaders used to ridicule BJP's slogan 'Ramkala Hum Ayenge, Mandir Wahin Banayenge' but now when the construction of a grand Ram temple had started, these leaders had started proving themselves to be devotees of Lord Ram as the assembly elections were approaching fast.

He said the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had doubled the quantity of ration being distributed to the poor people. "Earlier, they used to get 5 kg free ration per unit which has now been increased to 10 kg per unit. Besides, they are also being given edible oil, pulse and salt," he added.

Dr Sharma said there was a double engine government under the stewardship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Centre and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in UP and only because of this double engine government, investment of over Rs 65,000 crore was made in the state during the COVID-19 pandemic as many giant industrial units were being installed in Uttar Pradesh.

He said during the pandemic period, some political

leaders had claimed that India could not manufacture a vaccine to combat the novel coronavirus, but when the country succeeded in launching the vaccine under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, they asked people to boycott it as it belonged to the BJP.

"Now, around 100 crore people of the country have already got the jab. Treatment and testing of novel coronavirus infection is being done in every government hospital. Vaccination is also available there. In private hospitals, free treatment to poor people up to Rs.5 lakh is being provided under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana," Dr Sharma said, adding that this was possible as there were BJP governments at the Centre in UP.

Raids on to nab doctor who killed wife, son & daughter

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Raids were on to nab the doctor involved in a triple murder case.

During electronic surveillance, as the police found the location of the doctor near Ganga Barrage and Sarsaiya Ghat, search operations were launched there on Saturday. Four police teams have been deputed to conduct raids at the places of the doctor's relatives and friends to nab him.

It may be recalled that Dr Sushil Kumar, head of forensic science department at Rama Medical College in Mandhana, had killed his wife Chandra Prabha (50), son Shikhar Singh

(21) and daughter Khushi Singh (16) in flat No. 501 of Divinity Home Apartment in Indira Nagar, Kalyanpur, late Friday evening.

After sending a message to his brother on WhatsApp about committing the crime, Dr Sushil Kumar absconded. Till late Friday night, police had got his location near Mandhana. Now after finding his location near Ganga Barrage and Sarsaiya Ghat, a police team, led by DCP (West) raided the spots on Saturday. Efforts are on to collect information about the possible locations of Dr Kumar through his friends, relatives and other acquaintances.

Station House Officer, Kalyanpur, Ashok Kumar Dubey, said on the basis of the written statement of Dr Sushil Kumar, it appeared that he was suffering from depression but the modus operandi of the murders hinted at some conspiracy behind it. He said as Dr Kumar repeatedly hammered his wife to death, it showed his extreme hatred of her.

"He used to get upset whenever anything big occurred relating to novel coronavirus infection. He was also worried after the emergence of the Omicron variant of novel coronavirus," said Sunil Kumar, brother of Dr Sushil Kumar, Commissioner of Police

Asim Arun said, "Three people have been found murdered in the Divinity Home Apartments. Going by the messages that the accused Sushil sent to his brother, there are chances of him being alive. Three teams have been deputed to search the accused. At the same time, the help of electronic surveillance is being taken." Asim Arun said, "A 10-page letter has been found from the spot in which the accused has written about himself being in depression. At present investigation is going on from various angles. Accused Sushil has stated depression to be the cause for committing the murders".

DC awards citations to students of BNSD Shiksha Niketan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Dr Raj Shekhar awarded citations to all students (boys and girls) of BNSD Shiksha Niketan at his camp office on Saturday.

Teachers of BNSD Shiksha Niketan were also present on this occasion.

These students were felicitated for their astounding services and speech delivered in a programme organised at the Shiksha Niketan School on November 26 on the occasion of Indian Constitution Day.

Many public representatives, officers and other dignitaries had also attended the programme.

FUN FIESTA AT DPS: Delhi Public School at Kidwai Nagar organised a fete, Fun Fiesta, on Saturday. The fete was inaugurated by Rachna Mohotra, Director of Delhi Public School, Kanpur. Incharge of DPS Kidwai Nagar, Alka Joshi, welcomed the dignitaries present. Pro vice chairperson Bandana Misra graced the occasion. The games stalls



Divisional Commissioner Dr Raj Shekhar along with students of BNSD Shiksha Niketan at his camp office on Saturday

were inaugurated by the parents. The fete offered all age groups a great opportunity to have fun, frolic, a reason to smile, relax and unwind. The faculty and staff put up various food and game stalls based on themes like Halloween, Jungle Safari, Disco and many more. Added attractions of the event were activities such as tattoo making, fashion show by tiny

tots and dance corner. The students volunteered in all the stalls and it developed their confidence and skills to conduct such events independently.

CITY SWIMMERS EXCEL: City swimmers excelled in the 17th National Master Swimming Championship 2021 held in Mangalore (Karnataka) from

November 26 to 28.

They won one gold, four silver and four bronze medals.

Of the total 11 swimmers representing the state team, eight belong to Kanpur and one each to Lucknow, Ghaziabad and Noida.

Honorary general secretary of Kanpur District (Urban & Rural) Swimming Association. Prakash Awasthi (65-69 years) won two bronze medals followed by Anubhav Mishra (30-34 years) one gold, two silver and one bronze; Monu Nishad of Nagar Nigam (30-34 years) one bronze; Saurabh Bhardwaj of Allen House Panki (30-34 years) one silver; Ranjana Saffad (60-64 years) one silver medal.

Vikas Awasthi, Ram Kumar Gupta and Pankaj Jain also performed well in the event.

It is noteworthy that Prakash Awasthi of the city has been taking part in the championship regularly since 2004 and is the only swimmer from the state to win a medal every year.

44 CSA agri varsity students get campus placements

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Director of Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Dr DR Singh, extended his wishes to the students who have been successful in the campus placement. He said the university, despite the impact of COVID-19, arranged campus placement so as to boost the morale of the students. He said 44 students were selected in the campus placement.

He said CSA University of Agriculture and Technology was among the finest agriculture universities and it had successfully chiselled the students to fight for their place in the current scenario. He said it was also hoped from the students that wherever they were, they would prove to be brand ambassadors and work with full dedication and honesty.

He said India was an agricultural country and agriculture and its allied activities acted as the main source of livelihood for more than 80 per cent population of rural India. He said it provided employment to approximately 52 per cent of labour. He said India had achieved significant growth in agriculture especially oilseeds, fruits and vegetables owing to green, white, blue and yellow revolutions and all these revolutions had brought prosperity for the farmers. He said the products of the university had somewhere been the tool to this progress.

Dr AL Jatav said that 21 students were selected in Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission while 23 students had been selected for BB Technology Private Ltd, Sahibabad.

KDA letter to DM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Development Authority Secretary Shatrohan Vaishya has sent a reminder to District Magistrate Vishak G lyer for calling a meeting for discussion on developing multistoreyed housing projects on the vacant lands of different government departments in the city.

He said during the last KDA Board meeting, it was decided lands of various government departments would be identified to develop multistoreyed residential colonies by demolishing the existing dilapidated structures, including those of the Labour department. A report on this subject is to be put up in the next KDA Board meeting.

Vaishya said the KDA had sent a letter to the DM on September 25 itself to call a meeting but it could not be held so far.

GTB HOSPITAL WINS: The inaugural cricket match of the IMA Fortune Cup 2021-22 was played between GTB Hospital and Regency Hospital at the Green Park stadium on Saturday. GTB Hospital won the match by defeating Regency Hospital by 17 runs.

Chief Guest Dr Sanjay Kala, Principal and Dean of GSVM Medical College, Kanpur, inaugurated the match along with special guests Dr Nepal Singh, CMO Kanpur, and state co-convenor (economic cell) of BJP Sanjiv Pathak.

In the tournament, five teams will play eight matches of 20 overs each with each other.

IMA Kanpur president Dr Brijendra Shukla welcomed the guests and said the tournament was organised to keep the doctors physically fit as they were always found ready at the disposal of the general masses.

The proceedings were conducted by games secretary Dr Manish Yadav while the secretary Dr Devijoti Debroy proposed the vote of thanks.

Other prominent members present on the occasion were Dr VC Rastogi, Dr Kiran Pandey, Dr Rita Mittal, Dr Dinesh Sachan, Dr Sapan Gupta, Dr Vikas Mishra, Dr Anurag Mehrotra, Dr VS Sharma, Dr Fahim Ansari, Dr Nishant Saxena, Dr Manisha Bajpai and Dr Amrita Shah.

NCL registers increase in coal production, despatch

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA



Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), a Miniratna company of the Government of India (GoI), has registered an increase in both coal production and despatch in the same period compared to last year. By the end of November while registering a remarkable increase in coal despatch, with 15.57 per cent growth, the company despatched a total of 80.46 million tonnes (MT) of coal to the consumers. Also in coal production compared to the same period last year with a growth of 1.94 per cent the company has produced 75.11 million tonnes of coal. The com-

pany on November 24 since its inception till now had despatched 4.15 lakh tonnes of coal the highest in a day. On November 24 only, NCL sent a total of 111 coal rakes to the consumers in which 42 rakes have been sent to remote consumers through Indian Railways. In the financial year 2021-2022 NCL has been given a target of 119 MT of coal production and 126.5 MT of coal despatch. Significantly, NCL from 10 most advanced mechanised opencast coal mines produces about 16 per cent of the nation's coal. The company had produced over 115 MT of coal in the last financial year.

Thiruvananthapuram Central-Gkp special to run on December 6

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration for the convenience of passengers with the rake of North Eastern Railway (NER) on December 6 (Monday) has decided to run the 02512 Thiruvananthapuram Central-Gorakhpur reserved special train for one-way journey. The passengers during the journey will have to follow social distancing and Covid-19 prevention guidelines, CPRO PK Singh said. The 02512 Thiruvananthapuram Central-Gorakhpur reserved special train will on December 6 (Monday) depart from Thiruvananthapuram Central at 19.40 hrs, from Kollam at 20.40 hrs, from Kayamkulam at 21.25 hrs, from Alappuzha at 22.10 hrs, from Ernakulam at 23.55 hrs, the second day from Aluva at 00.25 hrs, from Thrissur at 01.50 hrs, from Palakkan at 03.10 hrs, from Coimbatore at 04.40 hrs, from Tiruppur

at 05.30 hrs, from Erode at 06.35 hrs, from Salem at 07.25 hrs, from Jolarpettai at 09.30 hrs, from Katpadi at 11.00 hrs, from Perambur at 13.00 hrs, from Guttur at 15.52 hrs, from Nellore at 16.20 hrs, from Angole at 17.39 hrs, from Vijayawada at 20.05 hrs, from Khammam at 21.45 hrs, from Warangal at 23.10 hrs, the third day from Balharshah at 03.25 hrs, from Nagpur at 06.25 hrs, from Itarsi at 12.40 hrs, from Bhopal at 14.30 hrs, from Jhansi at 19.40 hrs, from Orai at 21.02 hrs, from Kanpur Central at 01.15 hrs, from Aishbagh at 02.50 hrs, from Gonda at 06.00 hrs, from Basti at 07.18 hrs, from Khalilabad at 07.47 hrs and will reach Gorakhpur at 08.40 hrs.

A total of 22 coaches, including one of AC first class, two of AC second class, seven of AC third class, one of AC Economy third class, seven of sleeper class, two of general second class, one of SLRD and one of generator-cum-luggage van will be attached in this special train.

Vivek adjudged Man of the Match

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR



The Under-19 North Eastern Railway Cricket Cup is being organised under the aegis of North Eastern Railway Sports Association (NERSA) at Railway Cricket Ground from December 3 to January 3. The competition was inaugurated on Friday by Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) and NERSA

tributed 11 runs in 21 balls. ATM Cricket Academy's Adesh Tiwari took four wickets for 45 runs in eight overs, Virendra Yadav three wickets for 25 runs in eight overs, Suraj Ranjan took one wicket for 41 runs in eight overs and Vikas Rai took one wicket for 37 runs in eight overs. The ATM Cricket

Academy, Basti team which came out to bat in response was all out for 58 runs in just 21.2 overs. As a result Royal Udyans Club won the match by a huge margin of 125 runs. On behalf of the ATM Cricket Academy, Vikas Rai contributed 17 runs in 18 balls with the help of one four and one six, Divyansh scored 10 runs in 31 balls, Vinay scored nine runs in 14 balls and Vivek contributed seven runs in 10 balls. Royal Udyans bowler Vivek Paswan took three wickets for three runs in five overs (three maidens), Honey took three wickets for 19 runs in five overs and Furkan took one wicket for nine runs in five overs. Vivek Paswan of Royal Udyans Cricket Club was awarded the Man of the Match Award by Senior Accounts Officer Sanjay Mishra for his splendid bowling and batting.

Cyber crime awareness workshop held

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Cyber crime awareness workshop was organised at Shrimati Indira Gandhi PG College, Lalgaon, under the aegis of cyber police station of Vindhychal range on Friday. S-I Dr Chandra Shekhar Yadav interacted with students of graduate and postgraduate classes and gave them tips. He said in case of being a victim of cyber crime, we should immediately inform the police, especially the cyber branch, and cooperate with investigating personnel. He appealed to the gathering to use toll-free number 155260 in case of cyber fraud. Among those present were college principal Abhay Chand, Dr Sujeet Kumar Singh and Dr Shivmangal.

PROGRAMME: Under Mission Shakti Phase-3 a programme 'Hak Ki Baat Ziladhikari Ke Saat' organised in Collectorate on Friday, CDO Srilaxmi VS heard the problems of women and girls and disposed of five cases out of 11. Responding to the problem related to counselling for youth CDO directed the CMO

to appoint a counsellor in block Padari without delay. Another participant drew the attention about lack of any government inter college under Padari block and told her problem that after passing class VIII girls were deprived of education. The



CDO sought the list of girls interested in studying and assured to make some arrangement. On the issue of lack of dustbin at Lohia Talab locality CDO directed EO Nagar Palika Parishad Mirzapur to make arrangement for it. When a participant raised the issue of crime against girls CO (City) Prabhat Rai advised to inform the nearest police outposts and police stations and gave his mobile phone number to inform him directly for instant relief.

4 employees retire in NTPC Vindhyachal

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA



In NTPC Vindhyachal Project, a total of four employees retired on November 30 after rendering their long service. They were — Chief General Manager (SSC-NR) Vipran Kumar, General Manager (EEMG) Mahendra Kumar Mangla, Senior Manager (CHP) Umesh Kumar and Engineer SLPs (Operations) BK Roy. All the retiring employees were honoured by the NTPC Vindhyachal management in the administrative building of the project CV Raman auditorium. General Manager (Operation & Maintenance) ES Phani Kumar and heads of departments welcomed all the retiring employees by presenting a bouquet. The union/association representatives of the project welcomed the guest employees by garlanding them. Thereafter the head of the Department (HR) Prabir Kumar Biswas welcomed the retiring employees and also gave a brief introduction of the services rendered by all the employees in NTPC.GM (O&M) while appreciating all the retiring employees said that their contribution in taking NTPC Vindhyachal to present heights will always be remembered. Kumar conveyed his

best wishes to all the retiring employees for a fresh start in their new innings of their life and wished good health to all. On the occasion, General Manager (Operations) Akshay Kumar Patra while appreciating all the retiring employees said NTPC Vindhyachal will always be grateful to them for their service. GM (O&M) honoured all the retiring employees by presenting them mementoes and shawls. While honouring all the retiring employees, an attempt was made to make this emotional moment memorable for them by inviting their families. Apart from this, long service certificates, 'shreefal' etc were also provided to all the retiring employees for the long services rendered by them in NTPC. After this all the retiring employees took turns to share their memories related to NTPC. All the retiring employees specially thanked all the colleagues for their cooperation. During the felicitation ceremony heads of departments, representatives of the unions and associations, the employees and their families were also present. The ceremony was conducted by Deputy Manager (HR) LM Pandey who proposed the vote of thanks too.

Ranks upgraded in RAF, CoBRA by Centre

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has accorded sanction to upgrade the post of one deputy commandant (operations) to second-in-command (operations) in each of the 15 battalions of the Rapid Action Force (RAF), 10 CoBRA battalions and six Mahila battalions of the CRPF to temporarily stem stagnation at the level of deputy commandants.

The proposal was pending for over two years when a cadre review was undertaken in 2016-17 and one deputy commandant (operations) in each of the General Duty battalions was upgraded to second-in-command (II-I/C). GD battalions refer to operational battalions of the Force.

While the purpose of the cadre review was to undertake a thorough cadre management, the CRPF opted for ad hoc promotion of the deputy commandants to II-I/C. This led to stagnation at the level of the deputy commandants which was affecting operational profile, CRPF veterans said.

The move will lead to promotion of 31 deputy commandants in the RAF, specialized anti-Naxal unit Combat

Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) and Mahila Battalions.

While officials welcomed the move to promote the deputy commandants in the RAF, CoBRA and Mahila Battalions, they termed it as a temporary measure which will not alleviate the long term problem of stagnation at the junior and middle level hierarchy of the cadre officers.

While the rank of the deputy commandants have been upgraded to II I/C but the number of the posts of the deputy commandants has been simultaneously reduced, they said, adding the cadre review conducted in 2016-17 was an eyewash.

An Assistant Commandant rank officer in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) as well as the Border Security Force (BSF) takes 11 to 12 years to get the first promotion to the rank of deputy commandant as against the army officers getting their first promotion in just four years. A deputy commandant is promoted to the next level of II-I/C in six to seven years. "This leads to an increased age profile of the junior and middle level leadership in the armed

forces under the Union Home Ministry which is alarming and detrimental for both the morale of the officers and operational efficiency," officials said.

While yet another cadre review is underway but the same has not been finalized. A scientific career progression management of the cadre officers is required to improve the bleak promotion prospects of the officers who are recruited by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), they added.

"The undersigned is directed to refer to CRPF's (note on the subject) and to convey approval of the competent authority for upgradation of one post each of Deputy Commandant (Ops) to the rank of Second-in-Command (Ops) in 10 CoBRA Bns, 15 RAF Battalions and 06 Mahila Battalions of CRPF at par with male GD (General Duty) Battalions subject to the filling up of these posts by the officers who are already drawing NFFU (non-functional financial upgradation) or higher ranks," reads an order issued on Tuesday by Under Secretary Ashutosh Kumar of PF III desk of the Union Home Ministry.

Govt working to ensure healthcare, housing for CAPF jawans: Shah

Jaisalmer (Rajasthan): The Narendra Modi government is working to ensure better healthcare facilities and increased housing satisfaction and family time for personnel of the Central Armed Police Forces, who are guarding India's fronts under very difficult conditions, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday.

Addressing Border Security Force (BSF) personnel at the 'Rohitash' post along the India-Pakistan border here in Rajasthan, the Minister said the Government will do "everything for the welfare of troops who spend the golden days of their life in protecting the motherland".

Shah, who is on a two-day visit to Jaisalmer in the desert state, is spending the first night of his trip at the 'Rohitash' border post, where he will share meals with jawans during the 'bada khana' (feast).

"I am going to stay here tonight with you at this post and this is an attempt to understand your difficulties and to find ways to ease problems," Shah told troopers during an evening address at a 'Sainik Sammelan'.

He said the 'Rohitash' post

was witness to the glory and bravery of BSF and army personnel during wars with Pakistan.

Shah said his government has made it a point to ensure healthcare of jawans and their families and that is why the 'Ayushman CAPF' scheme has been launched.

"You can get all the health benefits for your families by just swiping a card... This new scheme will lessen the administrative burden on forces like the BSF, unlike earlier where they had to clear a number of health bills," the minister said.

Quoting official data, Shah said 25 lakh 'Ayushman CAPF' health cards have been distributed among personnel of various central armed police forces (CAPFs) till December 2.

In the BSF, 4.5 lakh cards have been distributed, he said.

"We want to distribute these cards, which will ensure easy healthcare facilities to jawans and their families, to each and every personnel and their kin by February next year," he said.

"We are also working to improve the housing satisfaction level for CAPF personnel," he said.

PTI

Congress begins online drive for families of those who died of Covid

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday launched the party's online campaign demanding compensation for the families of those who died of Covid and accused the government of sleeping while people coped with pain and loss.

The Congress said the aim of the "#SpeakUpForCovidNyay" campaign was to demand that the central government disclose the actual number of Covid deaths in the country and "properly compensate all families of the victims with Rs 4 lakh".

"When it comes to people's pain and loss, Government of India is sleeping. Let's wake them up," Rahul tweeted while launching the campaign.

The party alleged the Narendra Modi government has very tactfully tried to cover up its failures in managing the Covid-19 pandemic by distorting the number of Covid deaths, the party alleged.

"#SpeakUpForCovidNyay so the govt is forced to disclose the correct number of Covid deaths," it said on its official Twitter handle.

The party alleged that the government lacked the intention to support the distressed



families.

"If the government doesn't have data of Covid deaths, the entire country is willing to share it with the government. There is no dearth of fund... The real issue is the government is lacking in the intention to help Covid-hit families. We demand Rs 4 lakh each for the kin of those who died of the pandemic," AICC spokesperson Pawan Khara said.

"By making up false numbers, the Modi government is not only withholding compensation for lakhs of families, but it is simply trying to cover up its failure in managing and controlling the pandemic," party said in a statement.

The Congress said that

under the disaster management guidelines, the government is required to compensate the families of COVID-19 victims with Rs 4 lakh.

"The Modi government has carefully tried to wriggle its way out of compensating the fair amount and is trying to settle for compensation of a meagre amount of Rs 50,000," it alleged.

Several state Congress units and leaders across the country put out videos in support of the online campaign and to press the government for providing compensation of Rs 4 lakh each to the families of the COVID-19 deceased. The party has raised the demand in Parliament too.

Relief for Andhra, Odisha, WB as storm Jawad weakens

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a relief for Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday said that cyclonic storm 'Jawad' weakened into a deep depression on Saturday and is likely to weaken further into a depression by the time it reaches Puri on Sunday.

The cyclonic storm weakened into a deep depression and lay centered over west-central Bay of Bengal, about 180 km east-southeast of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, and 330 km south-southwest of Puri, Odisha at 5:30 pm, the IMD said in a statement.

"It is likely to move north-northeastwards and weaken further into a depression by tomorrow morning. It is likely to reach near Puri around Sunday noon. Subsequently, it is likely to continue to move

north-northeastwards along the coast of Odisha towards the coast of West Bengal and weaken into a well marked low pressure area during the subsequent 24 hours," it said. Saudi Arabia has given the cyclone its name 'Jawad' -- the liberal or merciful.

A low-pressure area had developed over the Andaman Sea on November 30. It intensified into a depression on December 2 and further into a deep depression on Friday morning. It turned into a cyclone on Friday noon, the IMD said.

The IMD has forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places over Gangetic West Bengal and north Odisha on Sunday, and heavy rainfall at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura on Sunday and Monday. Sea conditions will remain unsafe for shipping and fishermen in the central and north Bay of Bengal till Sunday.



Focusing on improving passenger experience through world-class stations: Railways Min



New Delhi: The Railway Ministry's focus is on improving passenger experience through world-class railway stations, Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday.

Speaking at an event of the Confederation of Indian Industries, he maintained that spending on new railway lines, doubling of tracks and electrification among others is on track.

With the stations at Bhopal and Gandhinagar now with world-class features in terms of city integration and passenger flow, 40 more stations will be tendered shortly, he said.

The Minister also said that tourism is being created as a new growth segment for the railways and invited the industry to participate in this objective. Modern train sets with air cushions are being designed and will be rolled out at the end of the next year, he said.

For reducing cargo costs, Vaishnaw noted that it is important to raise the share of freight carried by the railways. For this, the ministry is working on stepping up investment in new tracks, capacity and other infrastructure, he said.

"The customer interface must be made simple with not more than three months for clearances on cargo terminals and other facilities. Wagon designs are being changed to cater to different commodities and products. The railways is working on a hybrid BOT model for greater private participation," he added.

In telecom, the railway minister said India is developing its own 5G system. The Postal Life Insurance (PLI) scheme for telecom manufacturing has been very encouraging with 35 applications.

In the electronics and

information technology sector, Vaishnaw said electronics manufacturing is likely to exceed the expectation of USD 250 billion of production by FY-26. Similarly, Startup India had targeted 100 unicorns by 2025, but more than 70 are already in place, he noted, adding that a user-centric and trust-based regime is being developed.

He also said that the bulk of government's revenues is going on capital investment in areas such as healthcare infrastructure.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for changing the government's operating systems under the Atmanirbhar Bharat package. Capacity utilisation is now rising as a result of this strategy. If the capital investment by the government rises, private investment will also pick up," Vaishnaw added.

PTI

NEW CORONAVIRUS VARIANT

No need to panic, follow Covid appropriate behaviour: VP

New Delhi: Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday urged people not to panic about the emergence of new Covid-19 strain Omicron and advised them to remain vigilant and keep following Covid-appropriate behaviour till the pandemic is over.

Addressing a gathering at a book launch event at the Upa Rashtrapati Nivas here, he also urged people to shed hesitancy and get themselves vaccinated against coronavirus at the earliest.

The vice president said the coronavirus pandemic has come as a big challenge for the entire human race, and appreciated the world's largest vaccination drive currently underway in India, an official statement of the Vice President Secretariat said.

Naidu also referred to the transformational changes brought in governance over the past seven years.

These changes are both empowering and enabling 1.3 billion people to deliver on their potential, he said.

"Be it life expectancy, financial inclusion, access to healthcare, employment, owning a house, or honouring entrepreneurial ability, the quality of Indian lives is getting better with each passing day," Naidu said.

Quoting the prime minister's three word mantra - 'reform, perform and transform', the vice president praised the tremendous progress made by the nation over the past few years in various fields such as financial inclusion, insurance coverage, number of LPG connections for poor women and tap water connection to households.

He said following the principle of 'minimum government and maximum governance', the government is leveraging technologies to bring transformation in every sector, and expressed satisfaction over India becoming the third



largest startup ecosystem in the world.

"It is a testimony to the government's resolute commitment to improve the business environment in the country that India's ranking rose to 63rd place in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index 2020," he said. Naidu noted that India's strategic partnerships are based on mutual respect and the nation has given a resolute response to inimical forces who dared to challenge its integrity and sovereignty.

"We are guided by our unwavering self-belief and our dedication to becoming 'atmanirbhar' (self-reliant) in every possible way," he noted.

PTI

PAC upholds prudence, wisdom in Parl system: Prez



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On the occasion of the 100th year of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday said that the PAC upholds prudence, wisdom and propriety in the Parliamentary system.

Kovind said Gandhiji considered account keeping as essential for clean public life. He underlined that the philosophy of public accounts has not been changed from the time of Kautilya.

PAC was constituted in 1921 in the pre-Independent India. Since the sixties, an opposition member has been heading the committee.

The PAC examines the

accounts showing the appropriation of the sums granted by Parliament to meet the expenditure of the central government, the Annual Finance Accounts of the Government of India and such other accounts laid before the House as the Committee may think fit.

Several high dignitaries along with central ministers and members of Parliament of both the houses attended the function in the Parliament.

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu said, PAC reports always strive for improvement in the system. PAC has detected many financial lapses in its glorious work traditions. Naidu also suggested that Parliament should meet 100 days in a year.

Loc Sabha Speaker Om

Birla said this is one of the most important Committees of Parliament and complimented the PAC members for their dedication to the cause.

In his first address in the function, PAC Chairman Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said, the PAC is committed to uphold transparency and accountability of the government money. He said the committee always acts in an impartial manner.

The President released a special souvenir depicting the 100 glorious years of PAC's journey and 67 special articles including 15 from Commonwealth countries. Mr Kovind also inaugurated an exhibition depicting the milestone moments of PAC from 1921 to 2021.

Kovind felicitates individuals, organisations for contribution towards PwDs empowerment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Friday conferred the National Awards on individuals, institutions, organisations and state/district etc. for their outstanding achievements and work done towards empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

The president was the Chief Guest at a function to celebrate "International Day of Persons with Disabilities" organized by the DEPWD, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment on Friday.

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar, Ministers of State for Social Justice & Empowerment Ramdas Athawale, Pratima Bhaumik were also present in the function.

In his address, Dr. Virendra Kumar expressed his gratitude to the President for his presence and guidance from time to time towards empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

Dr. Kumar said that the Divyangians are valuable human resources and the Prime Minister gives priority to the issues of persons with disabilities in the National Development Agenda. His motto is "Inclusive growth, development of all and confidence of all". The Government has enacted the Right to Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 which came into effect from 19.04.2017. The Act provides for 4% reservation in government jobs for persons with disabilities. In January 2021,



the Ministry has identified 3566 posts suitable for persons with disabilities, he said.

He also said that the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India Campaign) was launched by the Government on 03.12.2015 to provide universal accessibility to persons with disabilities so that they can live a meaningful life with dignity. Public buildings, transport system and information and communication technology have been included under this campaign. Keeping in view the problems related to accessibility faced by the masses, the Department has developed a Mobile APP to address those problems in a quick and systematic manner as possible.

The Government has set up Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre to promote the empowerment of hearing-impaired persons and to create sign language in India. The Institute, among other functions, is continuously preparing sign language dictionaries that have so far included more than 10,000 words.

Going to courts should be last resort: CJI

Only after exploring arbitration, mediation, conciliation

Hyderabad: Chief Justice of India N V Ramana on Saturday said that the option of going to courts for dispute resolution should be used as the "last resort", only after exploring Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms like arbitration and mediation.

"My advice, after practicing in the legal profession for over 40 years in different capacities, is that you must keep the option of going to courts as a last resort. Use this last resort only after exploring the option of ADR- arbitration, mediation and conciliation," he said.

Justice Ramana, who was speaking at the Curtain Raiser and Stakeholders' Conclave of International Arbitration and Mediation Centre (IAMC) here, recalled Lord Krishna's attempt to mediate between the Pandavas and Kauravas in the epic Mahabharata.

"It may be worthwhile to recall that the failure of mediation led to disastrous consequences," he said.

The reasons for conflicts are many, including misunderstandings, ego issues, trust and greed. Ultimately, small differences of opinion can lead to a big conflict and even big conflicts can be resolved with some effort in understanding one another, he said.

If conflicts arise in personal life, they can be resolved by avoiding

the people we do not like or by sacrificing some money to get mental peace, among others, the CJI said.

A prudent person tries to find ways to resolve conflicts amicably, he said.

But in a business, money, honour or reputation cannot be lost and the interests of business or industry cannot be sacrificed. In such a situation also, an easy way of settling disputes without wasting much time or money or losing peace of mind can be thought of, he said.

"Now to come back to the reality, in business you might have a difference of opinion and disagreements. One would usually start by initiating a dialogue to clarify issues. If it doesn't happen, you may still look for people who can help you resolve such issues by negotiating. If this also doesn't work, then the only option people consider is to go to courts," he said, advising that going to courts should be the last option.

Observing that arbitration and mediation are efforts at restoring a relationship, he said the most important factor behind the resolution of any dispute is having the right attitude of leaving aside ego, emotions and embracing practicality.

Once the conflicts enter a Court, much gets lost in the practice and procedure, he said.

PTI

GLOBE TROTTING

SHAKESPEAREAN ACTOR ANTONY SHER DIES AT 72
London: The award-winning theatre and film actor Antony Sher has died aged 72 after suffering from cancer, the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) announced on Friday. South Africa-born Sher was widely considered to be one of Britain's finest contemporary actors, playing almost all the great Shakespearean roles from King Lear to Shylock. In 1985, he won an Olivier Award for his energetic portrayal of Richard III as a villainous hunchback, propelling himself around the stage on crutches. While at the RSC, Sher — once described by Prince Charles as his favourite actor — met his husband, Gregory Doran, who would become the company's artistic director.

3 INDIANS HELD IN US FOR ILLEGAL ENTRY
Washington: Three Indian nationals, who were earlier deported to India, have been arrested once again in the US Virgin Islands for illegally entering into the country an American attorney has said.

210 MIGRANTS FOUND PACKED INTO TRUCK
Mexico City: Mexican immigration authorities say they discovered 210 migrants packed into a truck trailer in the central part of the country. The National Migration Institute said the truck failed to stop as directed at a checkpoint in Puebla state on Friday and it was pulled over after a pursuit near the city of Tecamachalco.

GAMBIANS VOTE IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
Banjul (Gambia): Lines of voters snaked around corners outside polling stations in Gambia's capital Saturday as the nation holds a presidential election that for the first time in decades does not include former dictator Yahya Jammeh as a candidate. Polls opened to high turnout, with many people lining up at the capital's Independence Stadium before sunrise.

POLICE SHOOT PALESTINIAN ATTACKER
Jerusalem: Israeli police shot a Palestinian after he stabbed and wounded an ultra-Orthodox Jew on Saturday near Damascus Gate just outside Jerusalem's Old City. Video circulated online appeared to show an Israeli Border Police officer shooting a Palestinian man who was lying on the ground. Another video appeared to show police with guns drawn keeping medics from reaching the man.

Lot of unhealthy speculation on crypto taking place: FM



New Delhi: Asserting that a lot of speculation is taking place on cryptocurrencies, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said these speculations are not "healthy at all." Her comments come against the backdrop of the government preparing to come out with legislation to regulate cryptocurrencies. Speaking at the HT Leadership Summit, the Finance Minister said there is certainly a well consulted bill which is coming in Parliament after the Cabinet nod. "There is a lot of speculation... That's not healthy at all," she said in a reply to a question if she thinks that a lot of unregulated speculation is taking place on crypto. The Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021, has been included in the Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II for the introduction in the ongoing Winter Session. The bill seeks to create a facilitative framework for the creation of the official digital currency to be issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI),

Merkel: Virus death toll 'so bitter because it is avoidable'

AP ■ BERLIN

Outgoing Chancellor Angela Merkel on Saturday made what is likely her final appeal before leaving office next week for Germans to get vaccinated against Covid-19. Merkel gave what is expected to be her last weekly video message two days after federal and state leaders decided on a series of measures meant to break a wave of coronavirus infections. The measures include excluding unvaccinated people across the country from nonessential stores, restaurants and sports and cultural venues. In a longer-term move, parliament will consider a general vaccine mandate.

At least 68.9 per cent of Germans are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, short of the Government's aim of a minimum 75 per cent vaccination rate. The number of unvaccinated residents has been blamed as a key factor in a surge of new virus cases in recent weeks. Official figures suggest that the infection rate may now be stabilising, but at too high a level. The national disease control center on Saturday reported 64,510 new daily cases and a 7-day infection rate of 442.7 new cases per 1,00,000 residents. Another 378 deaths in 24



hours brought Germany's total in the pandemic to 102,946. "Every one of them leaves behind families or friends, stunned, speechless and helpless," Merkel said in her video message. "This is so bitter because it is avoidable. With the effective and safe vaccines, we have the key to this in our hands." She renewed a plea to Germans to take the virus seriously, adding that the new omicron variant "appears to be even more contagious than the previous ones." "Get vaccinated, no matter whether it's a first vaccination or a booster," Merkel said. "Every vaccination helps." Merkel is expected to leave office on Wednesday and be replaced by Olaf Scholz of the center-left Social Democratic Party, who is currently vice chancellor. Scholz said on

Zambia detects 3 cases of Omicron

Zambia: Zambia has detected its first cases of the Omicron coronavirus variant in three people who tested positive for Covid-19 in the past week, the health ministry said.

The three cases are a man living in the district around the capital Lusaka who travelled abroad recently and is showing mild symptoms, a man in

Chibombo District who also travelled abroad recently but is asymptomatic, and a woman in Lusaka District who had not travelled abroad recently and had mild symptoms.

The Omicron variant has been detected in 39 countries, up from 23 just two days ago. **Agencies**

NSO Group spyware used to hack US Govt employees: Sources

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The phones of 11 US State Department employees were hacked with spyware from Israel's NSO Group, the world's most infamous hacker-for-hire company, a person familiar with the matter said on Friday. The employees were all located in Uganda and included some foreign service officers, said the person, who was not authorised to speak publicly about an ongoing investigation. Some local Ugandan employees of the department appear to have been among the 11 hacked, the person said. The hacking is the first known instance of NSO

Group's trademark Pegasus spyware being used against US Government personnel.

It was not known what individual or entity used the NSO technology to hack into the accounts, or what information was sought.

"We have been acutely concerned that commercial spyware like NSO Group software poses a serious counterintelligence and security risk to US personnel," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said at briefing on Friday.

Senior researcher John Scott-Railton of Citizen Lab, the public-interest sleuths at the University of Toronto who have been tracking Pegasus

infections for years, called the discovery a giant wake-up call for the US Government about diplomatic security.

"For years we have seen that diplomats around the world are among targets," he said, "and it looks like the message had to be brought home to the US Government in this very direct and unfortunate way. There is no exceptionalism when it comes to American phones in diplomats' pockets."

News of the hacks, which were first reported by Reuters, comes a month after the US Commerce Department black-listed NSO Group, barring US technology from being used by the company.

India exemplary in publishing its foreign exchange market intervention: US Treasury

Washington: India has been exemplary in publishing its foreign exchange market intervention, the US Treasury Department said on Friday adding that New Delhi should allow the exchange rate to move flexibly to reflect economic fundamentals.

"The (Indian) authorities should allow the exchange rate to move flexibly to reflect economic fundamentals, limit foreign exchange intervention to circumstances of disorderly market conditions, and refrain from further significant reserve accumulation," it said.

"As the economic recovery progresses, the authorities should continue to pursue structural reforms that can help lift productivity and living standards, while supporting an inclusive and green recovery," the Treasury said.

In its semi-annual Report to Congress on Macroeconomic and Foreign Exchange Policies of Major Trading Partners of the United States, the Treasury reviewed and assessed the policies of its major trading partners, comprising more than 80 per cent of its foreign trade in goods and services, during the four quarters through June 2021.

In accordance with the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (the 1988 Act), the Report concludes that no major US trading partner manipulated the rate of exchange between its currency and the US dollar for purposes of preventing effective balance of payments adjustments or gaining unfair competitive advantage in international trade.

Saturday that his Government's "most important first task" is to "fight the corona pandemic with all the strength that we have."

"There would be a different situation now if just a few more citizens had also made the decision to get vaccination," he said at a convention of the Social Democrats. "We must again make a whole new effort, set in motion a whole new campaign" to get more shots in arms, Scholz said.

Senior members of the party denounced a Friday evening protest outside the home of Saxony state's health minister, Petra Koepping, a Social Democrat. About 30 people gathered with torches and placards outside the home in the eastern town of Grimma.

The demonstrators chanted against coronavirus policies before fleeing in cars when police arrived.

S Korea sets daily records for new Covid cases, deaths

Seoul: South Korea again broke its daily records for coronavirus infections and deaths and confirmed three more cases of the new omicron variant as officials scramble to tighten social distancing and border controls.

The 5,352 new cases reported by the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency on Saturday marked the third time this week the daily tally exceeded 5,000. The

country's death toll was at 3,809 after a record 70 virus patients died in the past 24 hours, while the 752 patients in serious or critical conditions were also an all-time high.

As the delta-driven surge threatens to overwhelm hospital systems, there is also concern about the local spread of the omicron variant, which is seen as potentially more infectious than previous strains of the virus. **AP**

US intelligence finds Russia planning Ukraine offensive

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden has pledged to make it "very, very difficult" for Russia's Vladimir Putin to take military action in Ukraine as US intelligence officials determined that Russian planning is underway for a possible military offensive that could begin as soon as early 2022.

The new intelligence finding estimates that the Russians are planning to deploy an estimated 1,75,000 troops and almost half of them are already deployed along various points near Ukraine's border, according to a Biden administration

Lanka's Parl condemns lynching in Pakistan

PM Rajapaksa seeks justice

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Parliament and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on Saturday condemned the brutal lynching of a Sri Lankan national in Pakistan and hoped that Prime Minister Imran Khan will keep his commitment to bring all those involved to justice and ensure the safety of the rest of the island nation's expat workers.

In a grisly incident on Friday, Priyantha Kumara Diyawadana, who was in his 40s, was lynched and his body burnt by angry supporters of a hardline Islamist party which attacked a garment factory in Pakistan's Punjab province over blasphemy allegations.

Diyawadana, a Sri Lankan Christian from Kandy city, was working as the general manager of the garment factory in Sialkot district, some 100 kms from Lahore.

New footage shot prior to the lynching showed a colleague trying to protect the victim on the roof of the factory where he had fled while the mob of around two dozen people slowly grew in number.

In the video, some among the mob can be heard chanting slogans and saying "he (the manager) will not escape today," while the colleague tried to shield Diyawadana with his body, who clung to the

man's legs, the *Dawn* newspaper reported.

The workers had later overpowered the colleague and dragged Diyawadana out on the road and tortured him with kicks, stones and iron rods, killing him on the spot. The mob had then set the body on fire.

The Sri Lankan Government and the Opposition were united in urging the Sri Lankan authorities to have talks with Islamabad to ensure the safety of the rest of the Sri Lankan workers in Pakistan.

Pakistan Prime Minister Khan said he had spoken to Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa "to convey our nation's anger and shame to

people of Sri Lanka at the vigilante killing of Priyantha Diyawadana in Sialkot".

"Spoke to Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa today in UAE to convey our nation's anger & shame to people of Sri Lanka at vigilante killing of Priyantha Diyawadana in Sialkot. I informed him 100+ ppl arrested & assured him they would be prosecuted with full severity of the law," he said in a tweet on Saturday.

Khan's response came after Sri Lankan Prime Minister Rajapaksa said in a tweet that he was shocked to see the "brutal and fatal" attack on Diyawadana by extremist mobs in Pakistan.

Over 800 booked under terrorism charges in lynching of Lankan

Lahore: Over 800 people have been booked under terrorism charges while 13 prime suspects are among 118 arrested so far in the horrific lynching of a Sri Lankan national over allegations of blasphemy in Punjab province of Pakistan, a top police official said on Saturday, as pressure mounted on the government to bring the guilty to justice.

In a shocking incident on Friday, angry supporters of the hardline Islamist party Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) attacked a garment factory and lynched its general manager Priyantha Kumara Diyawadana before setting his body on fire over allegations of blasphemy. Diyawadana, who was in his 40s and was from Sri Lanka's Kandy city, was working as the general manager in the Rajko industries (dealing in garments — sportswear) in Sialkot district, some 100 kilometres from Lahore, for the last seven years or so. **PTI**

Pakistan receives \$3 bn from Saudi to help stabilise economy: Official

Islamabad: Pakistan on Saturday received \$3 billion from Saudi Arabia as part of a financial assistance sought from the Kingdom to stabilise the country's economy, according to a senior Government official.

Saudi Arabia's financial support comes more than one month after PM Imran Khan visited Riyadh and held talks with the Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman.

Following the talks, Saudi Arabia had agreed to provide \$4.2 billion worth of assistance to Pakistan, out of which \$3 billion was to be transferred as deposit in Pakistan's central bank. **PTI**

Automotive R&D body ARAI working on developing fast chargers for EVs: Minister

Canacona (Goa): Automotive research and development body Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) is working on developing fast chargers for e-vehicles, Heavy Industries Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey said on Saturday.

The Pune-based autonomous institution has already developed a prototype of the product, he told PTI on the sidelines of the 'Round Table To Promote Electric Mobility' event organised by the Ministry of Heavy Industries here.

When asked about the challenges related to the usage of e-vehicles, he said, "This (issue) is being talked about that it consumes more time (to charge an e-vehicle battery). ARAI has been directed to work on it. In fact they have developed a prototype of a fast charger and the product is expected to be ready by December 2022."

The ARAI has been asked for completion of the project by October 2022, so by December, it can be made available to the

users for use, he informed.

The launch of fast chargers will address the issue of charging and boost demand for the battery vehicles, the Minister said adding the research is still underway and after its completion, the specific charging time of a two-wheeler e-vehicle, three-wheeler and four-wheeler e-vehicle will be known.

Pandey further said his ministry is also in talks with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for installation of chargers at 22,000 petrol pumps across the country.

Without sharing any timeline, he said there are about 70,000 petrol pumps across the country, and as per the plan a charging station would be at an interval of 25 km on highways and with a radius of 3 km in cities.

The minister also said that at the round table he has asked the industry stakeholders to apprise his ministry of their issues. "I have asked the players to discuss and inform about

their concerns. I assure them of full support in addressing the issues brought to my notice."

Transport ministers of eight states, top officials from 19 states and industry leaders from the automotive sector attended the round table deliberate about ways to promote electric vehicles in the country and attract investments.

Meanwhile in a statement issued by the Ministry of Heavy Industries, quoted Pandey as saying, "India's transition to Electric Mobility System can save ₹20 lakh crore by 2030 on avoided oil imports alone."

The statement said that the minister directed the Indian automakers to look for major share of global electric vehicle market.

Growth of the auto industry will also help India achieve the commitments given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in COP26, he said. During the round table, the minister also stressed on to accelerate the manufacturing and adoption of electric vehicles in India.

Over 550 applicants for BEE energy conservation awards

New Delhi: More than 550 applicants are in fray for the BEE energy conservation awards that have been instituted to push industries and sectors to develop innovative energy efficiency efforts in their units as well as reduce power consumption, the Power Ministry said on Saturday. Under the National Energy Efficiency Innovation Awards (NEEIA), a total of 149 applicants participated by the due date. Online applications were invited from Category A (industry, transport, building) and Category B (students & research scholars) under the NEEIA awards.

The Ministry said that 408 applicants participated in the National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA), which have been instituted to promote industrial units, institutions

and establishments to reduce energy consumption.

The Ministry explained that the National Energy Efficiency Innovation Award is the need of the hour to promote newer technologies, ideas, and pave way for the adoption of these innovations by larger groups. As promotion of energy efficiency and Renewable energy are major pillars for low carbon energy transition, recognition of such efforts undertaken by various participants stimulate further action in accelerating the transition. Outcomes of which eventually contribute towards meeting India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and broader climate goals, it stated.



AJAZ TAKES ‘PERFECT 10’

...But India bowl out NZ for 62 to inch towards massive win

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai-born New Zealand left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel had an unforgettable afternoon when he entered the annals of Test cricket history with a 10-wicket haul but Indian bowlers made it a forgettable evening for him as well as his team by dismissing the visitors for a paltry 62, taking a massive stride towards a series victory.

By the end of the day, India were 69 for no loss in their second innings with Virat Kohli deciding against

enforcing the follow-on in the second and final Test.

Cheteshwar Pujara, coming out to open in place of an injured Shubman Gill, looked good during his 29 not out while Mayank Agarwal, after his fine 150 in India's first innings total of 325, remained unbeaten on 38.

The lead swelled to 332 for the hosts and in these conditions, the Indians will brace up for a three-day finish to earn some rest before boarding the charter flight to Johannesburg on December 16.

The second day of the second Test should have solely belonged to the 33-year-old Patel, who had figures of 47.5-12-119-10, to join the 'Elite List', where he has late Jim Laker and Indian great Anil Kumble for company.

By keeping India's first innings total down to a manageable level, Patel must have had a sense of elation but before the

plethora of congratulatory messages on social media would stop coming, his batters just flattered to deceive as they managed to bat out only 28.1 overs.

The team ended up scoring the lowest total by an overseas side on Indian soil.

The Black Caps batted 14.4 overs less than what their premier spinner took to get all the Indian players out.

They didn't even let the feat sink in before Mohammed Siraj's (3/19) hostile four over spell literally decimated them. There were two deliveries that straightened and had enough pace to beat the batter's defence while the other was a mean bouncer.

Ravichandran Ashwin (4/8 in 8 overs) and Axar Patel (2/14 in 9.1 overs) were expectedly just too good on this track. The opposition batters simply couldn't counter the turn and bounce.

The New Zealand innings finished even before the Indian bowlers were nicely warmed up and it was understandable that Kohli wanted some batting time against a battered opposition

which would give him and Puara requisite confidence.

With the match all but in their pocket, Pujara stroked freely and also got a pulled six off Patel — a rarity from an exponent of defensive batting.

While Pujara will certainly value these welcome runs but it can't be seen in isolation that it came when the pressure was already completely released due to a mammoth 263-run first innings lead.

Patel started the day with two quick wickets before Agarwal and Axar added 67 runs for the seventh wicket to take the score towards the 300-run mark. Axar got his first 50 and batted with a lot of caution and occasional aggression.

The best delivery of the six wickets that he got on the day, was the one that got Ravichandran Ashwin out as he drew the batter forward and turned enough to clip the bails.

Ashwin hilariously appealed for DRS without realising that he has been bowled as he thought that the bowler had appealed for caught behind.

The review was wasted as he had already asked for it and once he realised that he was beaten lock, stock and barrel, he didn't wait for the final verdict.

No wonder when Patel got Siraj as his 10th and final victim, Ashwin was seen giving him a standing ovation from the Indian dressing room.

But little would Patel have known that it would turn into an anti-climax after Siraj's opening burst which was as good as one saw in home Test matches where pitches aren't conducive for pace bowling. However, this one had extra bounce.

The delivery that got Ross Taylor out was perhaps the best of the match.

The ball came in as Taylor shaped to play a defensive shot only to find enough deviation which beat the outside edge of his bat and knocked back the off-stump.

That was one of a kind dismissal after which there was no chance of a recovery for the New Zealanders, who will now only look to delay the inevitable.



BEST BOWLING IN AN INNINGS IN TESTS				
Figures	Bowler	Opponent	Venue	Season
10-53	Jim Laker (England)	Australia	Manchester	1956
10-74	Anil Kumble (India)	Pakistan	Delhi	1998-99
10-119	Ajaz Patel (New Zealand)	India	Mumbai	2021-22
9-28	George Lohmann (England)	South Africa	Johannesburg	1895-96
9-37	Jim Laker (England)	Australia	Manchester	1956
LOWEST TOTALS AGAINST INDIA IN TESTS				
Score	Overs	Team	Venue	Season
62	28.1	New Zealand	Mumbai	2021-22
79	33.1	South Africa	Nagpur	2015-16
81	30.4	England	Ahmedabad	2020-21
82	51.5	Sri Lanka	Chandigarh	1990-91
83	48.4	Australia	Melbourne	1980-81

FAISEL FEATURES

India vs New Zealand DAY 1		
Scoreboard		
INDIA 1ST INNINGS: (OVERNIGHT 221/4)		
Mayank Agarwal c Blundell b Patel		150
Shubman Gill c Taylor b Patel		44
Cheteshwar Pujara b Patel		0
Virat Kohli lbw b Patel		0
Shreyas Iyer c Blundell b Patel		18
Wriddhiman Saha lbw b Patel		27
Ravichandran Ashwin b Patel		0
Axar Patel lbw b Patel		52
Jayant Yadav c Ravindra b Patel		12
Umesh Yadav not out		0
Mohammed Siraj c Ravindra b Patel		4
Extras: (B-13 LB-5) 18		
Total: (All out in 109.5 overs) 325		
BOWLING (New Zealand)		
Tim Southee	22-6-43-0	
Kyle Jamieson	12-3-36-0	
Ajaz Patel	47.5-12-119-10	
William Somerville	19-0-80-0	
Rachin Ravindra	4-0-20-0	
Daryl Mitchell	5-3-9-0	
New Zealand 1st Innings:		
Tom Latham c Iyer b Mohammed Siraj		10
Will Young c Kohli b Mohammed Siraj		4
Daryl Mitchell lbw b Patel		8
Ross Taylor b Mohammed Siraj		1
Henry Nicholls b Ashwin		7
Tom Blundell c Pujara b Ashwin		8
Rachin Ravindra c Kohli b J Yadav		4
Kyle Jamieson c Iyer b Patel		17
Tim Southee c sub b Ashwin		0
W Somerville c Mohd Siraj b Ashwin		0
Ajaz Patel not out		0
Extras: (LB-1 NB-2) 3		
Total: (All out in 28.1 overs) 62		
BOWLING (India)		
Umesh Yadav	5-2-7-0	
Mohammed Siraj	4-0-19-3	
Axar Patel	9.1-3-14-2	
Ravichandran Ashwin	8-2-8-4	
Jayant Yadav	2-0-13-1	
INDIA 2ND INNINGS:		
Mayank Agarwal batting		38
Cheteshwar Pujara batting		29
Extras: (lb-2) 2		
Total: 69 for no loss in 21 overs		
BOWLING (New Zealand)		
Tim Southee	5-0-14-0	
Ajaz Patel	9-1-35-0	
Kyle Jamieson	4-2-5-0	
William Somerville	2-0-9-0	
Rachin Ravindra	1-0-4-0	

India curtails tour of South Africa, T20Is to be played later

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The Indian cricket team's tour of South Africa will go ahead but the team's departure has been postponed by a week and T20 Internationals are no longer a part of the schedule, the two boards announced on Saturday, ending the speculation surrounding the series after a new COVID-19 variant triggered anxiety. The four T20s will be played at a later date and Cricket

South Africa said it will confirm the venues for the new schedule in the next 48 hours.

The Indians were originally set to leave on December 9 but the travel plans have changed, which means that the Tests are unlikely to start on December 17 as planned earlier.

India are scheduled to play three Tests and three ODIs during the tour. CSA and BCCI Secretary Jay Shah's statements came as the Indian Board offi-

cials met for an Annual General Meeting here.

"BCCI has confirmed (to the) CSA that (the) Indian team will travel for three Tests and three ODIs. The remaining four T20Is will be played at a later date," Shah said in a statement.

Cricket South Africa appreciated BCCI's commitment to the series. "Cricket South Africa can confirm that the India Tour will continue as originally scheduled, with a few adjustment to

the logistical arrangements, such as the arrival time of the India Team," the CSA said.

"...The tour is now confirmed and the arrival timings of the India team will be moved out by a week, to allow for effective logistical planning.

"...CSA is pleased to announce that this tour will also take place under the strictest COVID-19 guidelines," it added in a statement.

South Africa's discovery of

the Omicron variant has caused much trepidation as cases have soared in the country.

The Netherlands tour of the Rainbow Nation also had to be abandoned after the emergence of the new variant triggered panic all around the world with many countries imposing travel bans on the country.

CSA also had to postpone its domestic fixtures after some of the players tested positive for the virus on arrival.

Sindhu enters final of BWF World Tour Finals

PTI ■ BALI

Indian badminton ace P V Sindhu entered the summit clash of BWF World Tour Finals with a hard-fought win over Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in the semifinals here on Saturday.

Sindhu, the reigning world champion and two-time Olympic medallist, beat Yamaguchi 21-15 15-21 21-19 in a thrilling match that lasted one hour 10 minutes.

She will face Korea's An Seyoung, who beat Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand 25-23 21-17 in the other semifinal, in the summit clash on Sunday.

It will be Sindhu's third final appearance in the season-ending tournament. She had won the title in 2018 to become the only Indian to achieve the feat. The world number 7 Indian had come into the match with an overall head-to-head win-loss record of 12-8 against the world number three Japanese.

Sindhu has been in fine form after picking up a bronze in the Tokyo Olympics. She had reached the semifinals in her last three events — French Open, Indonesia Masters and



Indonesia Open — before coming into the BWF World Tour Finals.

She had finished runner-up in the Swiss Open in March.

But it won't be easy for Sindhu in the final against Seyoung who had come into the season-ending tournament with back-to-back titles in the Indonesia Masters and Indonesia Open.

The world number six Seyoung had also beaten Sindhu in the quarterfinals of the Denmark Open in October.

Against Yamaguchi, Sindhu trailed 0-4 in the first game but quickly came to level

terms at 4-4 and then 9-9. The duo were neck and neck but Sindhu zoomed ahead from 15-14 to reach 18-15. She then took three straight points to pocket the first game.

The second game was also a tight contest as the two players were levelled at 10-10 before Yamaguchi shifted the gear to pocket it without much fuss.

In the deciding game, Sindhu and Yamaguchi were tied at 5-5 before the Indian reeled off seven straight points. The Japanese made a sort of comeback by narrowing down the gap to 11-13 but Sindhu cruised to 17-12.

LOCAL EVENTS



HARYANA EMERGE CHAMPION

Haryana defeated Uttar Pradesh 43-31 to win the Mahant Avaidyanath 3rd All-India Invitation Prizemoney Men's Kabaddi tournament at Gorakhpur on Saturday. Champion Haryana received Rs 2 lakh as prizemoney while runners-up Uttar Pradesh walked away with Rs 1 lakh. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath gave away the winning trophy to the winners. Mohit and Raunak scored 10 and eight points respectively for Haryana. Present on the occasion were Vivek Thakur (MP), Ravi Kishen (MP), Sheetal Pandey (MLA), Radha Mohan Das (MLA), Vipin Singh (MLA), Seetaram Jaiswal (Mayor) and RP Singh (director sports).

KALARIPAYATTU DELEGATION MEETS ANURAG THAKUR



Kalaripayattu delegation, led by CEO Praveen Garg, paid a courtesy visit to Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on his visit to Lucknow and invited him to be the chief guest of Khelo India camp, to be held on December 13 to 17. Meanwhile, Thakur wished the UP players, who would be taking part in the Khelo

India Youth Games to be held in Haryana.

PARA SHUTTLERS SHINE

Indian para shuttlers bagged three medals, including 1 gold, one silver and a bronze, in the Asian Youth Para Games at Bahrain on Saturday. Sanjana Kumari won the gold in women's singles SL3 category while Nithya Sivan and Aditya claimed the mixed doubles silver in the mixed doubles. Aditya Kulkarni bagged the bronze in the men's singles SH6 category.



MUMBAI INDIANS: The five-time champions retained skipper Rohit Sharma, fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah, middle order batsman Suryakumar Yadav and all-rounder Kieron Pollard ahead of the mega auctions. And let go the likes of Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya, Trent Boult, and Quinton de Kock, among others. Even though MI retained the core of Rohit, Bumrah and Pollard, they could have picked Ishan over Surya as the pocket-sized dynamo is developing into an explosive batsman and could have served the franchise for many more years to come. Also, Hardik's departure is surprising considering he is one of the biggest match winners in the T20 circuit, but his inability to bowl might have worked against him.

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: The defending champions kept dynamic Ravindra Jadeja, inspirational leader MS Dhoni, 2021 Orange Cap winner Ruturaj Gaikwad, and English all-rounder Moeen

Star players — Retained and released!

The original eight franchises retained some of their yesteryear star performers for the upcoming IPL edition on Tuesday. Players like Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, MS Dhoni, Rishabh Pant, and Jasprit Bumrah were the few big names that were retained by their respective teams, but KL Rahul, Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer, David Warner, Rashid Khan, and Ben Stokes were all released despite being star performers all these years. **DRITI ATRI** takes a look at the player retention for 8 teams

Ali.The Dad's Army went for Ruturaj Gaikwad instead of Suresh Raina and Faf du Plessis, mainly because of the age factor and considering that he could be a long-term investment for the franchise. While Jadeja and Dhoni were the expected names before, what came as a surprise was that Jadeja was the team's first choice player, meaning that he will now earn 16 crore per season. The yellow army also went for Moeen Ali, maybe because, apart from being a dependable batter, Ali can prove very useful on a Chennai wicket.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE: Virat Kohli

and Glenn Maxwell were the two obvious choices for the team, but RCB surprised everyone by picking Mohammed Siraj over Yuzvendra Chahal, Devdutt Padikkal, and Harshal Patel for the 2022 IPL. Siraj, without a doubt, is one of the most talented bowlers in the Indian unit, but the franchise's decision to let go Chahal was shocking, especially when the leggie was the team's best bowler in the last five years. Also, letting go of 2021 Purple Cap winner Harshal Patel and upcoming star Devdutt Padikkal might come back to hurt RCB. Especially Padikkal, who's going to make a big



name for himself in the international arena.

DELHI CAPITALS: The Delhi Capitals have decided to keep Rishabh Pant as their captain for the upcoming seasons, effectively closing the door on Shreyas Iyer, who was looking for a leadership role in the IPL. The Delhi lad, Pant, was impressive in his first season as captain and led DC to the play-offs after they finished first in the 2021 league table. Apart from Pant, DC went with Axar Patel, Prithvi Shaw, and South African pacer Anrich Nortje and left out

Shikhar Dhawan, who still has a lot to offer despite him not getting any younger, and Ravichandran Ashwin, who is India's No. 1 all-format spinner. Also, leaving someone like Kagiso Rabada, who won the Purple Cap in 2020, was a massive call.

RAJASTHAN ROYALS: The winners of the inaugural edition retained skipper Sanju Samson, English keeper-batsman Jos Buttler and young Yashasvi Jaiswal, and let go English all-rounder Ben Stokes

and fast bowler Jofra Archer. The Royals had a tough choice to make between the three English superstars, but they stuck with Buttler alone, who had a good T20 World Cup outing in the UAE this year. Archer and Stokes have struggled with injuries this year, and this was one of the main reasons why the Royals didn't go with them.

PUNJAB KINGS: Their best batsman in the last four seasons, KL Rahul, wanted to move out, and PBKS respected that decision, which is going to be a blessing for whatever side he represents next. In the absence of the Karnataka stalwart, Punjab retained Rahul's best friend and opening partner Mayank Agarwal for the upcoming season, along with youngster Arshdeep Singh, who was impressive in the 2021 edition. The Mohali-based side didn't have much to choose from after the poor show the

players put on in the last few seasons, but they could have kept hold of Mohammed Shami or Ravi Bishnoi. The duo has impressed while representing Punjab.

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: KKR turned the tables the other way round in the second half of the 2021 IPL, where they reached the final as well. Their success in the UAE was primarily built around one batsman, Venkatesh Iyer, and the Kolkata-based franchise retained their prized asset, who will now earn eight crores per season - a 3900% increase from the 10 lakh rupees which he earned in the 2021 edition. But while they kept hold of Iyer, along with seasoned campaigners Andre Russell and Sunil Narine and mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy, KKR let go of Shubman Gill and skipper Eoin Morgan. Gill's exclusion especially raised eyebrows because the 2018 U19 World Cup winner was KKR's best batter in the last few years and was seen as the future captain as well.

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD: David Warner, Rashid Khan, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jonny Bairstow, Jason Holder, Jason Roy, Manish Pandey, and T Natarajan. Sunrisers Hyderabad had so much to choose from, but instead they chose to retain Kiwi captain Kane Williamson and two Indian youngsters from Jammu and Kashmir - Abdul Samad and Umran Malik - ahead of the mega auctions. The franchise's decision to let go Rashid Khan, who is the best T20 bowler in the last five years, is still not easy to digest for anyone in the cricketing fraternity. Even though Warner, who led them to the 2016 IPL title and was the Orange Army's best batter in IPL history, was excluded, it was expected following his sour relationship with the team management by the end of the 2021 edition.





the pioneer

agenda



I think there's a part of a woman that wants to be the thing that breaks a man down — Dakota Johnson

FROM THE INSIDE

Forgiveness & Peace

Forgiveness leads to inner peace, and inner peace blossoms into outer peace, enriching every heart

2



Astrology helps reshape destiny

Becoming aware, guided by a proven Guru, helps purify mind of its limiting tendencies. It helps one to look at things in the right perspective

4

Both India and Russia seek a multi-polar world, where “no single country is able to impose its will through domination or through military force”. This will be the key takeaway of the 21st India-Russia Summit scheduled to be held on December 6, writes ASOKE MUKERJI

COMING OF AGE: THE 21ST INDIA- RUSSIA SUMMIT

The 21st bilateral India-Russia Summit scheduled for December 6, 2021 marks the coming of age of the special and strategic privileged partnership between the two countries. This will be President Vladimir Putin’s second foreign visit after the onset of the Covid pandemic in March 2020, and his first to any country in Asia, signaling the salience and resilience of the India-Russia strategic partnership. The annual summit mechanism, proposed by Russia’s President during his first official visit to India in October 2000, has vindicated its role in steering the India-Russia strategic partnership through the momentous changes of the past two decades.

BACKGROUND

The 2019 India-Russia Summit at Vladivostok charted innovative approaches to sustain and broaden India-Russia relations. These included the long-term participation of both countries in each other’s strategic sectors such as defence, energy, and technology. The resource-rich Russian Far East was added as a new dimension for trade and economic cooperation between enterprises of India’s constituent states and Russia’s eastern regions, pushing cooperation in Asia as the new frontier of India-Russia relations. A \$1 billion Indian line of credit was earmarked to implement this initiative, which would be sustained by a new maritime link between Vladivostok and Chennai through the Pacific and Indian oceans.

THE COVID PANDEMIC

The unexpected Covid pandemic created a barrier to the smooth implementation of these objectives, leading to the postponement of the 2020 India-Russia Summit. Despite this setback, the close personal interaction between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Putin, who have met 19 times since 2014, bridged the physical gap by using digital communications technologies to maintain the momentum, trust, and dialogue that are the hallmarks of India-Russia strategic relations.

A phone conversation on March 25, 2020 between the two leaders resulted in an agreement on ways to maintain the progress and warmth of bilateral relations. A joint response to the pandemic began in April 2020, when India lifted its ban on export of medicines to Russia to mitigate Covid. By mid-2020, the Gamaleya Research Institute of Russia developed the Sputnik-V human adenovirus vector platform vaccine against Covid. In April 2021, after clinical trials in India, the Sputnik-V vaccine joined Covishield and Covaxin on the list of vaccines registered for emergency use in India. In May 2021, joint manufacturing of the Sputnik-V vaccine in India through the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) was initiated, adding to the pool of Indian manufactured vaccines against Covid for domestic and international use in third countries.

DEFENCE AND FOREIGN POLICY DIALOGUE

President Putin and Prime Minister Modi agreed in a telephone conversation on April 28, 2021 to institutionalise a 2+2 Ministerial India-Russia Dialogue on foreign and defence cooperation to anchor the bilateral strategic partnership. The first India-Russia 2+2 Dialogue is expected to take place on the margins of the 21st Summit.

The ferocious border confrontation between India and China in May 2020 at Galwan caused another challenge for India-Russia relations, as Russia was chairing the trilateral Russia-India-China (RIC) grouping in 2020. However, by par-

ticipating in the RIC videoconference meeting of foreign ministers on June 23, 2020, and subsequently in a physical ministerial meeting in Moscow on September 10, 2020, Indian and Chinese foreign ministers were able to hold a bilateral “frank and constructive discussion” and agree on the need for new confidence-building measures. India has acknowledged its appreciation for Russia’s regular arms supplies to India for Russian origin defence equipment during this period.

The focus on long-term India-Russia defence cooperation benefited from regular interaction between India’s Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and Russian Defence Minister General Sergei Shoigu during the past two years. The Raksha Mantri participated in the events in Moscow marking the 75th anniversary of the Soviet Union’s victory over Nazi Germany on June 24, 2020, and interacted bilaterally with his Russian counterpart during his visit to Moscow for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers meeting on September 3, 2020, and the SCO Defence Ministers meeting in Tajikistan on July 28, 2021.

The outcome of this interaction includes the first manufacturing joint venture between India and Russia with transfer of technology for about 600,000 world-class AK-203 Kalashnikov rifles at the Korwa Ordnance Factory in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh. Other outcomes include the manufacture and co-production of four Project 1135.6 naval Frigates; the supply of 400 more T-90 tanks; additional supplies of Su-30 MKI, as well as the MiG-29 aircraft; and additional supplies of the MANGO ammunition & VSHORAD systems. The supply of the first unit of the S-400 air defence systems from Russia to India contracted in 2018 is to be completed by the end of 2021. India and Russia are expected to sign an agreement on reciprocal logistic support for each other’s armed forces that come for exercises in either country.

The current value of India-Russia defence contracts is between \$9-10 billion, making Russia a top defence partner of India. By participating in the Make in India programme, Russia has committed to the transfer of defence technologies to India that it does not share with other countries, while Russian investments in Indian defence production will generate employment and boost defence exports. This approach mirrors India’s investments in Russia’s defence manufacturing sector two decades ago, which resulted in the supply of technologically advanced equipment for all three services of India’s armed forces, including the BrahMos missile system. The Summit is expected to extend the mandate of the India-Russia Military Technical Cooperation platform chaired by the two Defence Ministers by ten years to 2031.

A similar process of regular interaction between India’s External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has enabled the India-Russia strategic partnership to respond in a calibrated manner to international challenges. Besides the RIC meeting of 2020, India’s foreign minister has visited Moscow for the SCO Foreign Ministers meeting in September 2020 and for a bilateral visit in July 2021, while the Russian foreign minister visited India in April 2021. The two ministers have interacted in the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) framework twice through videoconferencing during Russia’s chairmanship in 2020, and once in 2021 under India’s chairmanship.

This interaction has been buttressed by consultations on India-Russia engagement on bilateral, regional, and multilateral issues. Experts



President Putin and Prime Minister Modi at Vladivostok Summit 2019

“THE FOCUS ON LONG-TERM INDIA-RUSSIA DEFENCE COOPERATION BENEFITED FROM REGULAR INTERACTION BETWEEN INDIA’S RAKSHA MANTRI SHRI RAJNATH SINGH AND RUSSIAN DEFENCE MINISTER GENERAL SERGEI SHOIGU DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS”

from both sides met in December 2020 to coordinate views on issues on the UN Security Council (UNSC) agenda, while discussions on the 21st Summit were held at foreign secretary level in Moscow in February 2021. The convergence of Indian and Russian positions in the UNSC on Myanmar, Syria, Yemen, Palestine, the UNSC Taliban sanctions regime, and UN peace-keeping operations during 2021 reflect the outcome of this cooperation.

MARITIME SECURITY AND CONNECTIVITY

The strategic rapport between the top leaders of India and Russia was on international display on August 9, 2021, when Prime Minister Modi chaired a special meeting of the UNSC on maritime security. President Putin was the only Head of State of a UNSC permanent member who spoke at this meeting, which endorsed a holistic approach to maritime security.

Russia’s proposal in August 2019 to establish “a security and cooperation organisation in the Gulf” has assumed a deeper significance for the India-Russia strategic partnership in 2021. Apart from its impact on stability in the Gulf region including Iran, such a regional structure can generate confidence in two major connectivity projects that India and Russia have pursued in recent years — the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) linking Russia through Iran with India proposed in 2000, and the Chabahar project linking India, Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia, and Russia proposed in 2016.

Greater regional cooperation in the western Indian Ocean will provide stability for the free flow of navigation along two major sea lanes of communication through the Red Sea and Yemen, and through the Straits of Hormuz. These routes transport a significant volume of India’s international trade, energy imports and international digital traffic.

A similar holistic approach to maritime security will sustain the Eastern Maritime Corridor proposed by the India-Russia Summit in 2019 to link Russia and India through the Pacific and Indian Oceans as part of India’s Act Far East policy. The first steps to modernise the port infrastructure of Chennai and Vladivostok have been initiated during the past six months. Eventually, the Eastern Maritime Corridor will connect India to ports in the Arctic.

India has emphasized the “centrality” of the ASEAN in any sustainable maritime security arrangement in the Indo-Pacific. The first-ever Russia-ASEAN naval exercises off Sumatra in early December 2021 demonstrates a similar emphasis on ASEAN-centrality, leading to India-Russia convergence in the maritime domain.

AFGHANISTAN AND COUNTERING TERRORISM

President Putin and Prime Minister Modi held a telephonic conversation on August 28, 2021 on the unexpected takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban disregarding calls for an “inclusive” government. The leaders agreed to cooperate in countering the common threats emanating from Afghanistan, such as terrorism, drug trafficking and the impact on Central Asian security. This objective has been integrated into the India-Russia strategic partnership by the first meeting of the India-Russia High Level Mechanism on Afghanistan on September 8, 2021. India’s official participation in the Moscow format talks on Afghanistan in Moscow on October 20, 2021, and Russia’s participation at the National Security Advisers Conference on Afghanistan hosted by India on November 10-11, 2021, in which Iran and the five Central Asian states participated, but Pakistan and China did not.

What is the conclusion then? If in trouble, do whatever to try to get out of it, but do not forget the given of real and absolute relief. Take God's shelter for guidance. But one must remember to have the right expectations.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com

The countdown for the post-Merkel era has just begun. The historic sixteen long years (four terms) of Angela Merkel chancellorship will be over by the end of this month. A new Chancellor is all set to take over. And once again, a rag-tag coalition has come to an agreement to form the next Government of Germany, the economic powerhouse of Europe.

Olaf Scholz, the Chancellor-elect, is a left-leaning leader of the SPD (Social Democratic Party). He was born on June 14, 1958. Scholz is currently serving as the Federal Finance Minister and Vice Chancellor in the Merkel Government since March 14, 2018. Earlier, he served as the Mayor of Hamburg from March 7, 2011 to March 13, 2013. He also worked as the acting leader of the SPD in 2018.

The national election in Germany took place on September 2021. And now the Germans have got a new Bundestag (the Lower House of the German Reichstag i.e. Parliament), the 20th one in its post-war federal history. The current German Constitution stipulates that Parliament must meet 30 days at the latest after the election day, ending the term of its predecessor.

It would be really difficult for Scholz to match his predecessor's record. Merkel is the first woman leader of Germany; the second longest serving Chancellor ever and the first modern Chancellor to hail from eastern part of the country. Helmut Kohl was the longest serving Chancellor of Germany and he was in office from October 1, 1982, to October 26, 1998. If there would have been no announcement of a new government by December 17, Merkel would have surpassed Kohl's record. But now, the new Traffic Light Coalition (TLC) has already declared Scholz as the new Chancellor of the country.

The TLC is named after the three parties' respective colours in the alliance. All the three partners wanted to accelerate the transition to a green economy and digitalisation while maintaining strict fiscal discipline according to a 177-page pact signed by the SPD, the Greens and the Free Democrats. Interestingly, at a press conference held recently in Berlin along with the leaders of the Greens and the FDP, Scholz recalled when the "first traffic light" was installed at the city's Potsdamer Platz in 1924,

many people doubted whether it could really work. But he told people that this traffic light partnership will be indispensable for Germany. This coalition will see the first woman Foreign Minister of Germany, i.e. the Green's co-leader Annalena Baerbock. Again, FDP leader Christian Lindner is going to take over as the Finance Minister and Green's co-leader Robert Habeck is expected to take on as the newly expanded Economy and Environment Minister. Further, the brand-new coalition will try to balance the Green Party's call for a tough stance on Russia and China on human rights. But Scholz is attempting not to risk a direct confrontation with the two authoritarian regimes on complex issues such as Taiwan and Ukraine. This government will also allow multiple citizenships and legalize the sale of cannabis for recreational use at all registered outlets across the country.

Again, Merkel has set a record in history for the fact that she will be the first Chancellor to leave her office at a time of her own choice. However, many political analysts say that she did face serious internal pressure in her CDU (Christian Democratic Union) party to step down after the refugee crisis (mostly refugees came from war-torn nations like Syria, Iraq) rocked Europe, particularly Germany. But she announced on her own that by autumn 2021, she will relinquish the top job of Germany. Interestingly, from Konrad Adenauer through Helmut Schmidt to Helmut Kohl, all of the country's great leaders left their offices either under extreme party pressure or through an outright defeat in a national election.

For now, Merkel will continue as caretaker Chancellor till the new government is formed. Generally, the formation of coalition takes longer than usual in Germany. In 2017, when Merkel formed her last alliance government, it took nearly six months to ink the pact with the partners.

German election heralds absolutely a messier political environment. It has gradually resulted into a much weaker leadership in comparison to Merkel for now. After the national election in this September, the new German Parliament looks like this: the Christian Democratic Union (CDU)/Christian Social Union (CSU) of Merkel gets 196 (-50) i.e. 24.1%; the Social Democratic Party (SPD) of

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Scholz gets 206 (+ 56) i.e. 25.7%; the Green Party 118 (+51) i.e. 14.8%; the Free Democratic Party (FDP) 92 (+12); the Alternative for Germany (AfD) 83 (-11) i.e. 10.3%; the Left (Linke) 39 (-30) i.e. 4.9% and others 1 (+1) i.e. 8.7%. Merkel's Conservatives is the most successful party in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany. The SPD is traditional Centre-Left party. It appears intermittently in successive governments, sometimes in alliance with the CDU. The FDP is little less socially conservative party than the CDU. Though it is small, it is coherent and known for its pro-business approach. The AfD is a strong right-wing party that firmly opposes immigration and is absolutely sceptical about the EU. The Greens are influential and have tied up with many governments both at the centre and in some states.

This election showed the most consequential gains for the SPD, particularly in East Germany. Besides, the party has also recovered grounds in its traditional homelands such as

the last 16 years in office. But at this time, with Scholz, the power arrangement with partners is quite different. His partners are the Greens and the SPDs which are handed over crucial ministries such as the foreign, finance, new economy and environment. Moreover, the Ministers and major leaders of these parties are much younger and dynamic than Scholz. They have a broader vision of Germany than him. Therefore, it would be too difficult for him to clip their wings or rather side-line them the way Merkel did with her political allies.

It seems Scholz has already convinced the German electorate that he would be able to replace the maverick Merkel. Truly speaking, her departure has not only ushered in a new era in Germany but also literally shakes up the fragile power balance among the competing powers in the coveted European Union. At a time when Russia under Putin is increasingly becoming aggressive and Lukashenko is pushing the migrants towards the border between Belarus and

Poland, the EU demands the role of accommodating and tough decision makers like Merkel. Her successor-in-waiting Scholz has a much bigger role to play — leveraging German power to handle the deadly pandemic Covid-19 and an ever-growing trend of migration of people from West Asian countries to Europe. Many in Europe today see huge potential in French President Emmanuel Macron, Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi and Scholz as contenders for leading Europe to the top stage. And probably to take over Merkel's mantle as the unquestioned leader of Europe, the world's another crucial power bloc. But the biggest hurdle for all these three statesmen would be to cope up with an EU minus the presence of the UK and the fast marginalisation of the group in global politics.

Scholz, a terse, well-briefed and a grounded professional politician, would be no less a competent figure than Merkel to steer Germany ahead in this time of crisis. Undoubtedly, he would be

offering his long innings in German politics both for the benefit of his country and for Europe. Thus, Robin Alexander, a long-time political observer of Merkel and Scholz, aptly describes his credentials: "He is like a soccer player who studies videos of another player and changes his game. From temperament and political style all the way down to facial expressions, Scholz now channels Merkel. If Scholz was a woman, he would wear pantsuits".

Now it remains to be seen how the new Chancellor will take Germany to the post-Merkel era to overcome both fears and challenges in the days ahead.

(Dr Makhan Saikia has taught political science and international relations for over a decade in institutions of repute and international reputation after specialisation in globalisation and governance from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He is the chief editor of the *Journal of Global Studies*, an international research journal)

As legendary Merkel is tipped to tiptoe into Germany's political sunset, Scholz is taking up all challenges and opportunities left behind by the CDU leader. Political observers say Scholz, a terse, well-briefed and a grounded professional political leader, would be no less a competent figure than Merkel to steer Germany ahead in this time of crisis. However, it remains to be seen how the new Chancellor-elect leads Germany to the post-Merkel era to overcome both fears and challenges in the days ahead



A female judge, Muska, was hiding with her family from newly empowered Taliban militants in Afghanistan when an apparent reading mistake 7,000 miles away helped to drastically change her life.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro opened his nation's doors to potential refugees from the Asian nation during remarks at the United Nations General Assembly on September 21. "We will grant humanitarian visas for Afghan Christians, women, children and judges," he read on the teleprompter — apparently mispronouncing the final word, which was "jovens" — youngsters — in his printed speech as "juizes," or judges.

Error or not, his government fulfilled that offer.

Muska and her family were taken by bus to the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif and were then flown to Greece with six female colleagues. By the end of October, they found themselves in Brazil — a country with very little in common with Afghanistan beyond their shared love of soccer.

Speaking to international

media for the first time, Muska told *The Associated Press* this week that she and the other judges still fear retribution from the Taliban — some of whose members had been sentenced for various crimes in their courts.

She asked that her true name not be used, nor her precise location — at a Brazilian military installation — be published. Her colleagues declined to speak to the news media. Muska had been a judge for almost 10 years before the Taliban captured power in August and she said her home in the capital, Kabul, had recently been searched.

Afghanistan had about 300 female judges, Muska said, and many are now in hiding, their bank accounts frozen.

"We knew they (the Taliban) wouldn't let the women judges work. We would have serious threats to our lives," she said. "They released all the criminals from the prison. These were the criminals that we sentenced."

The judges who remain "are very scared, in hiding. They have serious financial problems, no salary, lost their



jobs, had their bank accounts blocked. They are still in danger," the judge said. "It is not good in Kabul."

The Taliban won widespread support in Afghanistan in part because the toppled US-backed government was widely seen as corrupt. "But women judges were the bravest, the strongest and most honest officials in the previous administration," said Muska, who said the decision by US President Joe Biden to end American presence in the country meant

she quickly had to leave.
“Everything happened suddenly,” she said.
Judge Renata Gil, the head of the Brazilian Association of Magistrates that is sponsoring the refugees, said the Afghans arrived “in a lot of fear, still feel-

ing threatened." "They are being chased because they convicted Taliban fighters," she said noting that she herself had received death threats "because I sentenced drug dealers. For women this is much harder."

Speaking at the association's headquarters in the capital, Brasilia, she said, "I hope they are able to live their lives independently. But as long as they need, we will be here to help."

The judges and their 19 family members — apparently the only Afghan refugees who have come to Brazil since the Taliban returned to power — now have Brazilian bank accounts and health care.

Those who can are taking lessons in Portuguese. It's not clear yet what the future holds for them in Brazil, where at least they are protected. But Muska said they'd like to return home one day.

"I hope I can join my family members in Kabul. I have this dream I am in my house. I miss everything," the judge said. Muska hasn't seen much of Brazil due to security reasons, difficulties with the language and her own fears. But

she has found people with empathy for her situation. "They cry with us, we know they can sense our feelings," the judge said with tears in her eyes.

Muska's three children, including a toddler, are also having a tough time adapting. The judge used to have her parents and nannies to help, but in Brazil she's largely on her own, while worrying about her future, and theirs.

The children look happy and energetic as they run and jump at a public playground, speaking Dari among themselves. But the judge said her eldest daughter has questions she cannot answer. "She is always asking about my parents, her friends, her cousins," Muska said. "She always asks us questions about the Taliban, if they will kill us."

Despite the difficulties, Muska said she believes the future will be brighter for her children than for those still in Afghanistan.

"I have hope for them. That they have their studies in a good situation, in a good educational system," she said. "They will have their choice on what they can do."

AP

Afghanistan had about 300 female judges before the Taliban snatched power, and many of these judges are now in hiding and their bank accounts frozen



IT IS IN YOUR
MOMENTS OF
DECISION THAT YOUR
DESTINY IS SHAPED
— TONY ROBBINS

tarot 4

December 5, 2021



YOUR
WEEK
AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week foresees you indulging in social activities. You will be shifting the balance in your life from work to social activities. This will improve your health and give you more energy. On the career front, you may feel a little confused with your career. Try not to get too overworked about it. Your modest approach and shift into a different track/department would be helpful. This is the time to define yourself do not bother yourself with other people's perspectives. There will be a time when you think that everything has come to a standstill. Use this time to enhance your skill. On the personal front, your partner is supportive. You can try and talk to your spouse and relieve yourself from the stress.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Thursday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This is a good week for your emotional and physical well-being. Your positive approach to things will be of great help. Those waiting on health test results, know that the news will be good. You are likely to enter new realms in your spiritual exploration. You will get attracted to herbal ingredients and homemade remedies to cure health and you may join some courses. For some of you who are working from home, do not take it as leisure time, otherwise, this might turn negative. On the personal front, you may be involved in a serious conflict. Feelings of helplessness and lack of understanding are indicated. The situation may be lightened up with the support of a close family member.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Friday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

After recovering from certain health issues, you feel recharged with energy and stamina. During this time, you will find your self-confidence unharmed. Be grateful for all the blessings that surround you at this time. This week you will reflect on the positive influence and will prove to be a motivator for others. Career-wise, you will experience roadblocks and will find stagnation in your present job. The current scenario is not bright and this could demoralise you. Those in business will get some monetary gains. Prioritise your expenses and avoid unnecessary spending, this will help you now as well as in the long run. On the personal front, your maturity play's an important role at home.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Wednesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week count your blessings and enjoy the good things that life has to offer. Whatever you do, keep it simple and enjoy it. Stay safe and enjoy a good meal with your family. Some of you would like to stay close to nature, therefore, will spend time gardening. Females will feel sensitive and nurturing and make life meaningful. Professionally, good times on the card. Moneywise week is satisfactory, and your generosity will earn you goodwill. Overall, it is an extremely good period in your career life, and you should take full advantage of it. Do not indulge in gossip as it might hurt your image. On the personal front, you will find emotional stability. This is the time to enjoy your relationships.

Lucky number 6
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Friday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you will feel very charged up and ready to take up physical activity. You are focused and goal-oriented. Your enthusiasm and charismatic personality will impress others. You are optimistic about your future. Therefore, your overall health will remain good. On the career front, you are trying your best to be in your senior's good book. Your determination and ambition will make you move forward. Remember that you'll need to use both your intellect and your heart to be successful. On the personal front, it is advised not to let small issues blow out of proportion in your mind. Beware that there is someone who does not want your relationship to grow and who is working against you.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Saturday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

When it comes to following a healthy diet, you make the same mistakes — neglect. Give extra attention to your diet, and follow physical exercise for at least half an so that you can take better care of yourself. On the career front, it is time to take a stand and make some tough choices. Be straightforward in your communication and to the point. This will bring reasonable change and improvement to a specific concern in life. You will find happiness in accomplishment. This week if you implement certain important pending decisions that will have the potential to change the rhythm of life for the better. On the personal front, you have very forceful energy this week. You are likely to be diplomatic and know how to get things done in your favour.

Lucky number 7
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

You are likely to spend time in spiritual pursuits to find peace and inner calm. Follow meditation, yoga, and Pranayam etc to bring balance and gain strength to most of the issues of life. Don't be in a hurry for any work. Give time to pamper yourself. The divine connection will show you the right path. This week financial worries are indicated. Professionally, you are not happy and some of you feel demotivated. If possible, interact with people to keep up your morale. Do not give up on a temporary low phase. This is the time to wait for the good times. Things are not so good in the relationship. Your partner will have a long list of accusations, sit and discuss them. Things will move into a lighter phase.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Thursday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week your priorities will focus on others like children, spouse, and any elderly members in the family over your health. For those who follow an unhealthy diet, this is a wake-up call. A poor level of vitamins and protein will make you feel tired and irritable. The time is not favourable in terms of health, you must take care and eat healthy to increase metabolism. Professionally, those who are looking for a job will get hired in a few days that will test their skills and potentials. This will be a very demanding job. Believe in yourself. Some of you will be weighed down with far more responsibilities. On a personal level, you will have concern for others and people around you will be grateful and reciprocate well to your good intentions.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Beige
Lucky day Sunday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you may need a medical examination, to clear some doubts and lead a stress-free life. You are likely to face some confusion and it will make you feel low. This is the time to lift yourself and transform your lives. It is a crucial time when you must be honest with yourselves and decide what best action should be implemented to rise to the challenges and embrace the best life. Career-wise, this week will be in your favour. You are likely to appreciate your sincere and hard work. Financially the week will be satisfactory, but you need to follow a budget to avoid any tough times. Relationship wise, you will experience freshness and a blissful state. This week you will be passionate and energetic and will enjoy a charming personality.

Lucky number 2
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22

You can enjoy this week as you had planned. Your health, wealth and happiness are co-related. It is recommended that you learn some stress-free techniques to keep you healthy. Take some time out for a walk amidst nature that could be a great energy provider and refreshing for you. Career-wise, you need to ease your expectations. Those in business will see a good response and hike in financial matters. Those in the job need to sit down with a financial planner and figure out exactly your needs are and plan their finances accordingly. On the personal front, you are likely to feel a tight leash around you. There is a lack of understanding and feelings for each other. Married couples need to communicate well.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week take your time to identify hidden issues and other subconscious thinking that is preventing you from seeing the fact. Some of you may look out for emotional support from a female person to identify the emotional trouble and what can be done about it. Meditation is beneficial currently. Don't be disappointed about not getting the things done as this would spoil your day or maybe the week. On the career front, investing your time in attending a webinar or any online skill development class will be favourable. These programs will help you virtually connect with people. This will further provide you unique guiding light and moral force. This week relationship area needs your attention and clear expression. Express yourself before it is too late.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Mauve
Lucky day Monday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

You will feel great about yourself. Overall health remains good for you. This week is a period of great productivity. You will have a sense of fullness and confidence that will make you feel that you have finally found your niche. This time is the biggest changing point in your life, so getting stuck and aggressive about things that are not working in your favour could hold you back. Choose a middle path to live life fullest. On the career front, you will face opposition. Your colleagues might not agree with you. Aggression is indicated. You need to understand the mentality of others and stay away from conflicts. On the personal front, you will use your charm to attract people. Be careful as a complication is indicated in relationships.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Astrology helps reshape destiny

As we established in the previous two issues that human beings are empowered to guide their actions by choice and discrimination, this exclusive human prerogative also enjoins upon a being to make conscientious choice to modify even their destiny indications. The obvious implication is that 'freewill' has a role to play in human life, using which, we even reshape our destiny. How well we use that option is altogether a different matter. The fatalists may still insist that destiny is beyond change. What they forget that civilisation has successively grown thus far out of its primitive stage through human efforts only. If expectancy of life in India has risen to around 70 from below 50 since Independence, it is not that destiny of Indian people has changed by itself. Medical facility has improved and people have become more health conscious, which is nothing but human effort. If you still continue to be fatalist, you will be left behind in the run of time. The western world has been confidently using their power of freewill. They would be committing many mistakes in the way, yet they have grown faster and far beyond us.

It needs to be appreciated here that in

a unified world we live in, where no individual has a reality independent of the entirety, all set into an interdependent mechanism, 'freewill' cannot be absolute. In such a framework, we all have a shared destiny. So, you can't just blindly pursue your whims and fancies. You are within your right to pursue aspirational urges, but it will not yield desired result, if it is in conflict with the callings of collective existence. We, therefore, need to learn how to use our freewill option rightfully. It would be possible only when we remain alert to invoke our discriminatory faculty before taking any call. The irony, however, is that caught up in the flirtations of mind, we are not left with enough of mind-space necessary for due diligence before exercising our option.

Truth remains that human potential — mind power — is immense, which unfolded in full will know limits. But major part remains buried under the limitations of mind. The irony, however is that human beings have access to hardly 5 to 7 percent of the faculties of mind. That is available by default. More than that is subject to our conscious efforts. Even what is available by default, if it could be optimally utilised, one will be



able to negotiate the callings of life with relative ease. The paradox, however, is that engaged in unnecessary brooding and contemplation, dreaming, worrying, dealing with sense of fear and insecurity, we more often dissipate considerable amount of mind power towards unproductive ends. Consequently, we are hardly left with enough to do justice to our priority preferences. When we fail, we find it convenient to shift the blame on destiny. Going by what Swami Vivekanand says, we do not fail in life because destiny is so scripted. We rather don't strive sufficiently to unfold immense power within. It is believed that Einstein and those in his ilk would have used around 10 percent of their mental abilities to have created history. The ancient India's learned masters would have been able to access full landscape of mind to have realised even subtle realities of life operative at intangible level.

What's the way forward then? Identify and acknowledge limiting tendencies of mind by self-reflection and address them through fresh educative inputs. Our ego, however, doesn't let us acknowledge our infirmities. Here Astrology comes handy as an effective

diagnostic tool to dispassionately figure out the basic fabric of an individual's making. For, it does energy mapping of a being, which a horoscope is. And energy knows no bias. Becoming aware, thus, guided by a proven Guru, purify the mind of its limiting tendencies. Sufficient mind-space will then be available, necessary for processing your thoughts objectively, and thereby all actions on your part. With such an expanded vision, and thereby mind-power, first, you will not take things on its face value. So, you will not will upon any action without due diligence.

Second, you will look at issues in hand with an open mind without any limitations whatsoever. You will, therefore, be able look at things in the right perspective due. You may then be able to discriminate between 'what you want' and 'what is right', and accordingly make most appropriate choices. Also, you will be able to intelligently deal with unforeseen challenges coming your way, and with relative ease.

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