

**OPINION 8**  
CONTOURING STRATEGIC  
STUDIES IN OUR COUNTRY**WORLD 11**  
ATTACKERS TRY TO STAB  
INTERIM PRESIDENT OF MALI**AVENUES 12**  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
CONTENT CREATORS

LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY JULY 21 2021; PAGES 14 ₹3



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# '2/3rd Indians have Covid antibodies'

40 crore people  
are still at risk,  
says sero survey  
by ICMR

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The fourth round of the national sero survey conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) that covered 70 districts across 21 States in June-July showed that two-thirds of the country's population aged above six has developed antibodies against the coronavirus. The findings imply that a third of the population did not have antibodies against the Covid-19 which means that about 40 crore Indians are still vulnerable to the virus.

Releasing the findings of the survey, the Director-General, ICMR, Dr Balram Bhargava, said on Tuesday that the latest national sero survey included children between six and 17 years of age and it was found that two-third of the general population, i.e., above the age of six years had SARS-CoV-2 infection. This was first time that children above six years were included in national sero prevalence survey. The highest sero-prevalence was



People gather at a hospital to receive a vaccine dose in Noida on Tuesday PTI

found in the age group 45-60 years (77.6 per cent), followed by those above 60 years (76.7 per cent) and those in the age group 18-44 years (66.7 per cent). In the survey, children were divided into two age groups: 6-9 years and 10-17 years. Sero-prevalence in the 6-9 years category was 57.2 per cent and in the 10-17 years category, it was 61.6 per cent.

Dr Bhargava said implications of the fourth sero survey clearly showed that there was a ray of hope, but no room for complacency. "We must maintain Covid-appropriate behaviour and community engagement. The national-level sero survey is not a substitute of the State/district-level sero surveys," he added.

<b>Covid-19 IN INDIA</b>
<b>TOTAL CASES: 3,12,14,307</b> (+41,279)
<b>DEATHS: 4,18,491</b> (+3,978)
<b>RECOVERED: 3,03,81,702</b> (+35,558)
<b>ACTIVE: 4,01,720</b>
<b>MAHA: 62,29,596</b> (+9,389)
<b>KERALA: 31,87,716</b> (+16,848)
<b>K'TAKA: 28,86,702</b> (+1,464)
<b>TN: 25,39,277</b> (+1,904)
<b>DELHI: 14,35,609</b> (+44)

## Global tender for six desi submarines worth ₹50K cr floated

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major boost to indigenisation, the Government on Tuesday floated a global tender for construction of six submarines in the country. These submarines will be built under the Strategic Partnership (SP) model where in Indian manufacturers will tie up with foreign builders for production here. The deal is worth over Rs 50,000 crores.

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in June this year had approved the floating of the tender. The public sector Mazagaon Docks Limited (MDL) and private player Larsen and Toubro were selected for the mega project.

They will now tie up the foreign original equipment manufacturer (OEM) to build



the diesel powered submarines within the country. Five global giants are in the race for bagging the big-ticket deal.

Giving details of the latest order, Defence Ministry officials said here on Tuesday the Government has issued Request of Proposal (RFP) or tender for the first acquisition programme under the Strategic Partnership Model for construction of six air independent propulsion (AIP) fitted Conventional Submarines named Project 75(India) [P-75(I)].

Continued on Page 11

## PM on Covid fight: All Govts must work as team Rise above politics, Modi says as Cong skips all-party meet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With some Opposition parties, including the Congress, skipping an all-party meeting on the Covid-19 management, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called for the Centre and States to work together as a team and rise above politics to combat the pandemic.

Speaking at the meeting called by the Central Government, Modi said India was in a better position than many other countries in terms of the ratio of the population hit by the disease but underlined the need to remain vigilant as he cited the resurgence of the infection in some countries like the UK. He said vaccines from more companies are likely to be available in some time and spoke about the push being given by the Government to vaccination.

The PM said that the pandemic should not be a matter of politics and is a matter of



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah and others at the BJP parliamentary party meeting during the Monsoon Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

concern for entire humanity. He added that mankind hasn't seen such a pandemic in the last 100 years. He also spoke about the efforts being made to ensure one oxygen plant in every district across the country.

Modi informed leaders about the rising speed of India's vaccination programme and how the first 10 crore doses



list of potential spyware targets since 2018. "I was surprised to know that Pegasus compromised my phone when I was Deputy Chief Minister and that of Siddaramaiah and the Chief Minister's secretary.

The snooping activity by Pegasus is highly condemnable... Without the permission of the Government of India, either the Ministry of Home or the PM's office, they cannot do it. I am sure that the Government is involved. I condemn this... They have misused their power to topple Governments in this country," said Parameshwara.

The phone number of former Congress Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's personal secretary Venkatesh was also added in same period. Sources close to Siddaramaiah said that former Chief Minister hasn't been using a personal phone for many years, and relies on his aides for phone conversations.



## French prosecutors open probe in snoopgate

Paris: Prosecutors in Paris said Tuesday that they had opened a probe into allegations that Moroccan intelligence services used the Israeli surveillance software Pegasus to spy on several French journalists.

The investigation will examine 10 different charges, including whether there was a breach of personal privacy, fraudulent access to personal electronic devices, and criminal association. Investigative website Mediapart filed a legal complaint on Monday over the spying claims, which Morocco has denied, and the satirical weekly Le Canard Enchaîné has said it plans to do so as well. A collaborative investigation by The Washington

Post, The Guardian, Le Monde and other media outlets, based on a leaked list of 50,000 phone numbers, claimed Monday that spying worldwide using the technology from the NSO Group had been far more extensive than previously thought.

Mediapart revealed that the phones of its founder Edwy Plenel and one of its journalists were among those targeted by Moroccan intelligence services. In an article published Monday, it said that Morocco had "violated the privacy of two journalists, undermined the profession of informing people and the freedom of the media, stolen and exploited personal and professional data." AFP

## SC terms Kerala Govt's relaxations for Bakrid 'wholly uncalled for'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday termed "wholly uncalled for" the Kerala Government's relaxations for Eid-al-Adha (Bakrid) in areas with high Covid-19 positivity rate and said giving in to pressure from traders discloses a "sorry state of affairs".

Pressure groups of all kinds, religious or otherwise, cannot in any manner interfere with the most precious fundamental right to life of all the citizens of the country, the apex court said.

The apex court directed the Kerala Government to give heed to Article 21 (protection of life and personal liberty) of the Constitution and follow the law laid down in its orders passed in Uttar Pradesh Kanwar Yatra matter.

While hearing the Uttar



Pradesh Kanwar Yatra matter on July 16, the top court had observed that all sentiments, including religious, are subservient to the Right to Life. A Bench of Justices RF Nariman and BR Gavai noted it is "extremely alarming" that in category D areas, where infection is the highest at 15 per cent, a full day of relaxation was granted in Kerala on Monday. Continued on Page 11

## Speculation rife about Yogi Cabinet expansion

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

After two senior BJP leaders were summoned to Delhi, speculations are rife about possible expansion in the Yogi Adityanath-led Government ahead of the 2022 State Assembly polls soon.

UP BJP chief Swatantra Dev Singh and organisation general secretary Sunil Bansal went to Delhi on Monday evening to discuss the issue with central leadership. They had detailed discussion with the national leaders and are likely to return on Wednesday. A senior BJP leader said caste and region would be the important factor to decide on expansion.

"Efforts were being made to balance the caste equation during the expansion of the Union Cabinet recently as seven new Ministers from UP were inducted in the Modi Ministry. Continued on Page 11

## Bezos has a blast in space with young and old alike

AP ■ VAN HORN (US)

Jeff Bezos blasted into space Tuesday on his rocket company's first flight with people on board, becoming the second billionaire in just over a week to ride his own spacecraft. The Amazon founder was accompanied by a hand-picked group: His brother, an 18-year-old from the Netherlands and an 82-year-old aviation pioneer from Texas — the youngest and oldest to ever fly in space.

"Best day ever!" Bezos said when the capsule touched down on the desert floor at the end of the 10-minute flight. Named after America's first astronaut, Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket soared from remote West Texas on the 52nd anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, a date chosen by Bezos for its historical significance. He held fast to it, even as Virgin Galactic's Richard Branson pushed up his own flight from New Mexico in the



From left to right: Mark Bezos, brother of Jeff Bezos; Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon and space tourism company Blue Origin; Oliver Daemen, of the Netherlands; and Wally Funk, aviation pioneer from Texas, pose for a photo AP

race for space tourist dollars and beat him to space by nine days.

Unlike Branson's piloted rocket plane, Bezos' capsule was completely automated and required no official staff on board for the up-and-down flight. Blue Origin reached an altitude of about 106 kilometers, more than 16 kilometers

higher than Branson's July 11 ride. The 18-meter booster accelerated to Mach 3 or three times the speed of sound to get the capsule high enough, before separating and landing upright.

The passengers had several minutes of weightlessness to float around the spacious white capsule. Continued on Page 11

## Kundra 'key conspirator' in porn app case, say cops

His aide Ryan also held in case of broadcasting porn via app Hotshots

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Skeletons began tumbling out of the arrested businessman Raj Kundra's closet on Tuesday, as the police told a city court that Kundra and his brother-in-law Pradeep Bakshi were allegedly involved in the streaming of pornographic videos through an app called "Hotshots".

A day after they arrested actress Shilpa Shetty's husband Raj Kundra in connection with the alleged racket involving the making of pornographic content, the Mumbai crime branch sleuths named him as a "key conspirator" and Bakshi as co-conspirator involving the



Raj Kundra being brought to the Crime Branch office, after being produced at the Esplanade Court in Mumbai on Tuesday PTI

creation and publication of pornographic films through some apps.

Simultaneously, the investigators arrested Kundra's aide Ryan John Tharpe, a techie who looked after Kundra-Shetty's companies, from Nerul in Navi Mumbai, for his alleged role and involvement in this

pornographic scam. Kundra and Ryan were produced before a Mumbai court which remanded them in police custody till July 23.

With the arrest of Kundra and Ryan, the number of arrests made in the scam involving the creation and circulation of pornographic content has gone up to 12.

The crime branch sleuths told the court that the role of Kundra, Ryan and Bakshi came to light after they arrested nine persons, including Gahna Vashisht and Umesh Kamat. Gahna and Kamat were both involved in producing and shooting porn, writing scripts; they also sent copies of their scripts to Kundra.

Kundra is the owner of Viaan Industries Ltd, jointly promoted by the couple, while Bakshi — a British citizen, who is married to Kundra's sister — is the Chairman of Kenrin Ltd., London. Continued on Page 11

## SC seeks reply of Manipur Govt on compensation to released activist

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Manipur Government to file its response on granting compensation to political activist Leichombam Erendro, who was released last evening from detention after being booked under the National Security Act for having criticised BJP leaders on the use of cow dung and urine as cures for Covid-19.

A bench of justices DY Chandrachud and MR Shah told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that it was a serious issue as someone lost his liberty since May and the petitioners have prayed for a grant of compensation to Erendro for detention. The bench said it was issuing notice to the State Government and posted the matter for further hearing after two weeks. Continued on Page 11



## CLASSIFIEDS

### सूचना

मैं मो० राशीद पुत्र स्व० मो० रमजान निवासी 11/10 डकनापुरवा कालोनी कानपुर में अपनी बहन परवीन बानो से समस्त सम्बन्ध विच्छेद कर लिया है इनके किसी कार्य की हमारी कोई जिम्मेदारी नहीं होगी।

### NOTICE

I Desai Rahul Krishna R/o Post -Kalamwadi, Tel-Walwa, Dist-Sangli, Pin-415406 (MH) have changed by son's name from Jayesh to Jayesh Rahul Desai (born 12/3/2013) vide affidavit date- 18/06/2021 at-Islampur Maharashtra.

### AUCTION NOTICE

दिनांक 30.07.2021, प्रातः 10:00 बजे ए.एम.सी. सेंटर एण्ड कालेज (सी. क्यू.एम. डिपार्टमेंट), लखनऊ में निष्प्रयोज्य स्टोर्स सामग्रियों आदि की नीलामी, सिक्योरिटी रुपये 10,000/- बैंकड्राफ्ट "कमार्सेन्ट, ए.एम.सी. सेंटर एण्ड कालेज, लखनऊ" नामित साथ में G.S.T. पंजीयन व I.D. प्रूफ जमा करना होगा/आई.पी. सिंह एण्ड सन्स

### NOTICE

I have changed my name from Intkhab Alam to Intkhab Alam S/o Intijar Ahmad warsi Rio34 pachim Kheda, Civil Lines Unnao. for all my future purposes

### NOTICE

In my service record my wife Jyoti Yadav and my daughter Anjali, named mention as Jyoti Devi and Anjni that is wrong in other records including high school certificate name Jyoti Yadav and Anjali is mentioned that is true. Hansraj Yadav, Nayab Subedar, Army No. JC772319 H, Vill/Post Dwarikaganj, District-Sultanpur (U.P.)

### NOTICE

I, AMINA BEGAM spouse of No 1589363P HAV MUHAMMAD MUKIM residing at vill PUREACHARYA PO TEJGARH TEH SADAR DIST PRATAPGARH UTTAR PRADESH PIN230138, have changed my DATE OF BIRTH from 19/8/1980 to 26/8/1980 vide affidavit dated ---- in the notary of civil court prayagraj UP

## CLASSIFIEDS

### NOTICE

I have changed my name from SanjeevGandhi to Sanjeev Gandhi S/o Dhanraj Gandhi R/o 127-N2 road, Harjinder Nagar Kanpur. for all future purposes.

### NOTICE

I, Sana D/o Mohammed Ekram Siddique W/o Khalid Iqbal, R/o- BBB-5, Doctors Residence Era's Medical College, Sarfrazganj, Lucknow have changed my name from Sana to Sana Siddique for all future purposes. That Sana and Sana Siddique is the one and same person

### NOTICE

I, PRAMILA DEVI spouse of JC-339447M Sub Maj Prem Chandra Yadav residing at Vill BELSARI PO KHAPARAHA TEH JAUNPUR DIST JAUNPUR UTTAR PRADESH PIN 222131, have changed my name from PARMILA DEVI to PRAMILA DEVI vide affidavit dated ----in the notary of civil court prayagraj UP.

### NOTICE

I, No 1589363P HAV MUHAMMAD MUKIM residing at Vill PUREACHARYA PO TEJGARH TEH SADAR DIST PRATAPGARH UTTAR PRADESH PIN 230138, have changed DATE OF BIRTH of my son MOHD AMIR from 01/09/2006 to 18/04/2007 vide affidavit dated ---- in the notary of civil court prayagraj UP.

### NOTICE

### NOTICE

The Original Lease Deed of Plot No. B-16, J-Road, Mahanagar, Extension, Lucknow between Mrs. Prem Lata Goyal w/o Mr. Shri Prakash Goyal and Nagar Mahapalika, Lucknow entered in Register No.1, Jild 1876, Page 274 of Book No.1, Jild 1881, Pages 21/22 at Sl. No. 2110 on 14 June 1967 has been lost. The use of the abovesaid lost original Lease Deed by anyone in any manner or form shall be considered fraudulent and illegal and I will not be held accountable and/or liable for the same. In case the said lost original Lease Deed is found by someone, the same may please be returned to me SANJAY GOYAL (s/o Mrs. Prem Lata Goyal and Mr. Shri Prakash Goyal) Mobile No. 9910397605

## AIMPLB not to appeal for votes for any party

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

All-India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) said that it had no say in elections nor it could exhort anyone to vote for any particular political party.

The AIMPLB is an important organisation and com-

mands considerable sway in the Muslim community.

Through a statement issued in Lucknow on Tuesday, AIMPLB chairperson Maulana Rabe Hasani Nadvi clarified that anyone could vote for any party in the country.

"People should vote wisely as per their wish. Voters cannot be coerced, nor could anyone be forced to vote for any party. The AIMPLB has never appealed to any individual or group and will not do so in future. There has been no announcement of anyone's support from the AIMPLB, nor will there ever be. There may be an attempt to mislead through false statements, which should be ignored," Nadvi said in the statement. However, the AIMPLB chairman advised people to vote wisely.

"Some people and parties want us to issue an appeal because these people are not aware of the customs of the AIMPLB. It is your right to vote. You have to decide whom to vote for. We cannot ask you to dictate terms. Exercise your right to franchise wisely. Keep an eye on the favour of the country and Millat," Maulana Nadvi said.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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## Yogi slams Oppn for uproar in Parl over Pegasus spying scandal



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attacked opposition parties over the uproar over the Pegasus espionage scandal in Parliament, saying that the opposition leaders were engaging in negative politics and bringing disrepute to the country.

Addressing a press conference in Lucknow on Tuesday, the chief minister said, "The opposition has become a part of a conspiracy to defame India. Similar conspiracy was hatched during the India visit of former US President Donald Trump. The opposition is defaming democracy as well. This is part of a bigger conspiracy where such fabricated allegations are made even before the commencement of the session of Parliament."

Yogi further said, "Farmers issues and coronavirus catastrophe are to be discussed in this session of Parliament but the opposition is bent on disrupting the session. This is an insult to democracy. This malicious thinking of the opposition to defame the country will never succeed."

Slamming the Congress, the chief minister said that when the US President came to India, riots were planned at that time.

"All this is an attempt to disturb the country. The opposition is maligning the image of the country. They do not want the people of the backward society of the country to come forward. This is the reason that when ministers from Dalit and Backward Classes were to be introduced on the first day of Parliament session, there was a lot of uproar. They are misleading the farmers but these people will never succeed in their cause," he added.

Yogi said that he had been a member of Parliament for 19-20 years and it was a tradition for the prime minister to introduce the new ministers to the House at the beginning of the session.

"The opposition did not allow the prime minister to introduce leaders from deprived sections who have been made ministers. The opposition should tell the people as to why they did not allow the proper introduction of ministers," he said.

Referring to the ongoing farmers' protest, the chief minister said that the agitation had also been turned into a protest against India due to the opposition's negative politics. "The people of India will respond in the same manner as they did in 2019," Yogi said.

### 'RESOLVE PROBLEMS OF STATE EMPLOYEES

Whether it is the issue of pay discrepancy, delay in promotion or any other problem related to the government employees, they will be resolved without any delay as Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed that one day of the week will be reserved for redressal of such issues in government departments.

"In every office, high officials should take cognisance of the problems and complaints of employees for one hour a day in a week. Reserve the last one hour of the office hours of the day to resolve these issues," Yogi said in a high-level meeting held at Lok Bhawan on Tuesday.

The chief minister said there were many complaints of employees which could be resolved by taking little cognisance at the local level. He said "due to the busyness of day-to-day work, it was often ignored due to which the matter remains pending. In such a situation, it is necessary to fix an hour's time on one day of a week to listen to the problems of the government employees". He said the complaints should be disposed of in a time bound manner.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has instructed that if any employee working in any department under the state government dies of COVID-19 infection, the department should cooperate with the family concerned with full sensitivity and sympathy.

## Prez to offer prayers at Ram Lalla temple in Ayodhya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

President Ram Nath Kovind is slated to visit Ayodhya to offer prayers at Ram Lalla temple and lay the foundation stone of AYUSH University at Gorakhpur between August 27 and 29.

As per preliminary programme, the President will be flying into Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport at Amausi by a special plane on August 27.

On August 28, the President will go to Gorakhpur by a special aircraft to lay the foundation stone of AYUSH University and also inaugurate a hospital building in Gorakshnath Peeth before returning to Lucknow the same evening.

On August 29, the President will go to Ayodhya by the presidential train and return the same day after offering prayers at Ram Lalla and Hanuman garhi temples. The President will return to Delhi on August 30.

# मुश्किल समय में साथ संवेदनशील सरकार

## कोरोना से निराश्रित हुए बच्चों के भरण-पोषण, शिक्षा और सुरक्षा के लिए

# उत्तर प्रदेश मुख्यमंत्री बाल सेवा योजना

<b>बाल देख-रेख करने वाली सरकारी संस्थाओं में आवास</b>	<b>देखभाल हेतु रु. 4,000/- प्रतिमाह</b>	<b>कस्तूरबा गांधी बालिका/अटल आवासीय विद्यालयों में निःशुल्क शिक्षा</b>
<b>चल/अचल सम्पत्तियों की कानूनी सुरक्षा</b>	<b>बेटियों के विवाह हेतु रु. 1,01,000/-</b>	<b>लैपटॉप/टैबलेट का वितरण</b>

# शुभारम्भ

## योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

## आनंदीबेन पटेल

राज्यपाल, उत्तर प्रदेश

द्वारा

**गरिमा मयी उपस्थिति**

# स्वाती सिंह

राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार), महिला कल्याण तथा बाल विकास एवं पुष्टाहार, उत्तर प्रदेश

दिनांक : 22 जुलाई, 2021 | समय : मध्याह्न 12:00 बजे

स्थान : लोक भवन सभागार, लखनऊ

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# Focused sampling to prevent third wave

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

Indiranagar and surrounding areas, which recorded over 16,172 cases in the second Covid wave, is gearing up to prevent the devastation in the third wave. Superintendent of Indiranagar CHC Dr Rashmi Gupta said focused sampling is being carried out in the hot-spot areas on a daily basis to ensure that the local areas which had the second highest Covid cases in the second wave could be able to prevent the third wave. She said they have identified 6-7 hotspots where they are maintaining a vigil.

She said that the total population coming under the Indiranagar CHC is around 4,17,912 and the number of vaccine doses administered since January 16 is 1,32,750. Talking about the second wave, she said: "It was a situation where every house had patients. We are now carrying out focused testing in all the 6-7 hotspots which we have identified. Focussed sampling is being carried out in the residential apartments and in A, B & C blocks which are adjacent to Bhoothnath market."

She said they have 11 teams that have been sent for the targeted sampling on a daily basis. "We have not had a single case in the past four to five days. One case was detected today and the patient had been to Uttarakhand. We have sent teams for contact tracing," Dr Gupta said. Regarding why cases were high in both the first and second waves, she said the area has a large number of senior citizens whose children are settled outside. "These people may have lesser



immunity as compared to those living in slum areas. Also, there is a lot of movement of children of these residents through air, rail or bus which makes them more vulnerable," she pointed out.

She said they were trying to have a maximum coverage in terms of testing. "This, despite the fact that we are facing challenges when health workers reach the houses of people and they say that they don't want to get tested and

they do not require testing," Dr Gupta said. Dr Gupta said they were also carrying out vaccination to prevent or delay the third wave as much as possible.

"If we get sufficient doses, we would be able to vaccinate more than 600 people at the CHC itself because we have the rapid response teams and also the vaccinators. We would also get the vaccination done at the 7 primary health centres (PHCs) which we

have under our jurisdiction, and a minimum of 200 vaccinations can be carried out at each of these centres if we have more vaccines," she said.

Dr Gupta said nigrahi samitis are also active and they give information regarding the residents having cough and other health problems, and the CHC then sends the rapid response teams to give them medicines. "These teams are also distributing medicines for children since it has been predicted that the are likely to be the worst-affected in the third wave," she added.

Meanwhile, a free vaccination camp was organised at CSIR-CIMAP on Monday. "To ensure immunisation and safety of scientists, staff, research scholars and project staff against Covid-19, the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants scheduled a free vaccination camp in which around 300 people were vaccinated. The camp was organised for maximum immunisation of the institute employees and the support was provided by BRD Hospital, Mahanagar," CIMAP director Dr Prabodh Kumar Trivedi said.

Meanwhile, teams from the district administration and Health department are applying the T3 formula (testing, tracking and treating) at all the transit points such as airports, railway stations and bus stations. A physical inspection of the transit points was carried out by the district administration officials. Directions were given to the teams at the airport to carry out RT-PCR tests.

# 70 new +ve cases in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Seventy new cases of coronavirus infection were reported in Uttar Pradesh during the last 24 hours while 155 infected persons recovered, according to Additional Chief Secretary (Information) Navneet Sehgal.

At present, the number of active cases of coronavirus infection in the state is 1,093. In the last 24 hours, 2,36,546 Covid tests were conducted in the state. So far, a total of 6,28,26,817 Covid tests have been conducted in the state. The recovery rate of coronavirus infection in the state is 98.6 per cent. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who reviewed the COVID-19 situation in the

state on Tuesday, said that due to the active efforts of the state government, the coronavirus epidemic had been effectively controlled. It was informed in the meeting that there is not a single patient of COVID-19 in Shravasti, Sant Kabir Nagar, Mahoba, Lalitpur, Hathras and Aligarh districts. These districts are free from coronavirus infection. No new cases of coronavirus infection have been found in 41 districts, while in 33 districts fresh cases are in single digit.

It was also informed in the meeting that more than 98 lakh Covid vaccine doses have been given so far in the month of July. So far, more than 4,10,51,000 vaccine doses have been given in the state.

The CM said that in view of the possibility of a third wave of COVID-19, all arrangements should be kept effective. He said adequate availability of all necessary medical equipment such as BiPAP machines, mobile X-ray etc. and human resources should be ensured in medical colleges and hospitals.

He said that during the coronavirus period, there were complaints of financial exploitation of patients by some private hospitals, which was not good. He said action had been taken in many such cases. He said that taking cognisance of each such complaint, investigation should be made and if found true, strict action should be taken against the hospital concerned.

## 1 cr vaccine doses administered this month

**Lucknow (PNS):** Uttar Pradesh achieved the target of administering one crore vaccine doses on Tuesday (July 20), according to State Immunisation Officer Dr Ajay Ghai. It was significant since in June, one crore doses were administered by June 24, he pointed out.

Dr Ghai said that vaccination gathered pace because of the awareness exercises carried out in the state. He said

there was no shortage of vaccines which were being administered at a rapid pace. "The vaccine hesitancy which existed earlier is no longer the problem. There is a huge vaccine demand and people are showing a lot of eagerness in getting vaccinated, thanks to awareness drives. If we send 300 doses to a centre, they finish by the afternoon. There is no shortage because the vaccine centres are getting their

daily supplies," he added. Meanwhile, UP will now get vaccines as per the population size. Dr Ghai said the number of vaccines received in a month would increase. "UP will get a 2 crore vaccine doses. Private sector will also get their share even as the Health department will receive 1.5 crore vaccine doses. In June, we had received 1 crore vaccine doses," he pointed out.

## Elaborate security arrangements for Eid-ul-Azha

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Elaborate security arrangements have been made in the wake of Eid-ul-Azha on Wednesday. A meeting to review arrangements for law and order and traffic movement was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner of Police DK Thakur.

A spokesman said two officers of additional deputy commissioner rank, an assistant commissioner of police, two additional superintendents of police, four deputy superintendents of police, four companies of PAC, one platoon of paramilitary force, 10 inspectors of commissionerate police, 50 sub-inspectors, 172 head constables/constables and 15 women constables have been deployed for the west zone of Lucknow commissionerate. Besides, quick response & polygon teams and mounted police will also be deployed.

The police earmarked the sensitive places in the city and the deployment will be made accordingly. The west zone has been earmarked as sensitive and senior police officers will be keeping a close watch on the minutest of developments.

The police have been asked to ensure Covid protocol and remain in contact with the district administration. "People celebrating Eid-ul-Azha have been asked not to assemble in a group of over more than 50 at a place at a time while animal sacrifice (qurbani) should be done at houses instead of public places," the spokesman said.

The police have been asked to remove remains or vestiges of the sacrificed animals immediately and on the same day by coordinating with the district administration.

Earlier, the commissioner of police held a meeting with senior officers, including the joint commissioner of police (law and order), DCPs of all the five zones, DCP (Traffic) and DCP (Intelligence), and asked them to keep a close watch on the minutest of developments in each zone and supervise the working and security arrangements assigned to the sub-ordinates and local police station incharges.

On Tuesday evening, senior police officers swung into action to comply with the instructions of the CP. Officers of DCP rank held meetings with their subordinates and supervised the arrangements made to ensure peaceful celebrations.

## Celebrations under Covid-19 cloud

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The banter and laughter over delicious biryani and other non-veg delicacies with Hindu friends gathering at the Muslim brethren's houses will be missing this year again on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha as a majority of people have decided to celebrate the festival in their houses due to the third Covid wave looming large. In-house gatherings with mango desserts is what is being planned by Muslim families refraining from calling their friends to their houses owing to the pandemic.

Parvez Ahmad, a teacher in a local college in the old city, said they have not invited their friends in adherence to the Covid protocols. "However, we are a joint family with three brothers staying together, and we also have two sisters who live close by. We have decided to assemble at our house and celebrate with all the nephews and nieces together," he said. He admitted that there is a fear of the third wave. "There are apprehensions about the onset of third Covid wave, and we witnessed so many deaths in the second wave that it is better to observe precautions," he said. However, he said that this being a mango season, they have planned to prepare mango ice-cream.

Farhana Maliki, a resident of the old city, said they have not invited any guests. "Covid protocols have to be followed, otherwise the third wave is imminent. We have decided against inviting friends and the celebrations will be limited to family members," she said.

Shabnam Siddiqui, who lives in Gomtinagar, said she has decided to send biryani to her Hindu friends. "My friends have been ardent admirers of the biryani which I cook. Since I cannot invite them, I will send it over to my friends," she added.

# मिशन रोजगार

## निष्पक्ष एवं पारदर्शी भर्ती प्रक्रिया के अंतर्गत

### उत्तर प्रदेश लोक सेवा आयोग द्वारा चयनित

# 130 आबकारी निरीक्षकों को

## नियुक्ति पत्र वितरण

# योगी आदित्यनाथ

### मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा

— गरिमामयी उपस्थिति —

## राम नरेश अग्निहोत्री

### मंत्री, आबकारी एवं मद्यनिषेध, उत्तर प्रदेश

एवं अन्य गणमान्य महानुभाव

दिनांक : 21 जुलाई, 2021 | समय : अपराह्न 4:00 बजे

स्थान : लोक भवन सभागार, लखनऊ

## प्रधानमंत्री जी का विज़न हो रहा साकार

## युवाओं के साथ योगी सरकार

आबकारी विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

विकास की रीत सबकी जीत

कार्यक्रम का लाइव प्रसारण

DD Channels व

Youtube.com/DDNEWS

Youtube.com/dduttarpradesh

यूट्यूब एवं

UPGovtOfficial

CMOUttarpradesh

CMOfficeUP

सोशल मीडिया हैण्डलर के माध्यम से देख सकते हैं।



## ‘LU should be kept out of common minimum syllabus purview’

**Lucknow (PNS):** In the general body meeting of Lucknow University Teachers Association (LUTA) held on Tuesday, it was decided that LU should be kept out of the purview of the common minimum syllabus. It was said that the syllabus prepared by Lucknow University under the directions of the vice-chancellor should be implemented.

LUTA president Vineet Kumar Verma said it was unanimously resolved that the Lucknow University should be

kept out of the purview of the common minimum syllabus because it was against the basic tenets of the New Education Policy which stresses on the autonomy of higher education institutions. He said the decision taken by the departments in the past regarding the common minimum syllabus would be the last decision. “The executive body of the teachers’ association is authorised to prepare the protest strategy. The prime minister, University Grants Commission, Union Ministry of Human Resources, the chief minister and registrar will be informed of all the resolutions passed in the meeting” he said. The meeting was also critical of the letter sent by the registrar directing the heads of the departments to pass the syllabus prepared by the state government in the next seven days. The meeting also made a demand for immediate withdrawal of the letter. Verma said they have been supported by Lucknow University Retired Teachers Association, DUTA, LUACTA in their stand against the common minimum syllabus.

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**  
**Corrigendum/Modification in e-Auction date**  
**Auction/Corrigendum Notice No. 06/2021-22.** Following correction/amendment is carried out in published e-auction dates of July-2021.  
Published e-Auction dates : 13 & 23 July 2021, Amended e-Auction dates : 13 & 30 July 2021, Jurisdiction of lots : Sr. DMM/BSB. Other e-Auction dates and terms and conditions, as published vide Auction Notice No. 05/2021-22, will remain unchanged. This notice is also available on NE Railway website on [www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in)  
Principal Chief Materials Manager  
CPROS-28  
About any passenger amenity complain  
SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955  
"Never travel on roof and foot boards"

**PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**  
(Regd. Office: PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)  
Corporate Identity Number: U41032010SGC33813  
Website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in), Contact No. 96461-20691

**Tender Enquiry NO. 104/SE/Th.Op./F&S-43Vol-X/O&M/GHTP/2021 Dated: 20-07-2021**  
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Thermal Operation Circle, GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-Tender for the work: To provide assistance in the work under Fire & Safety Cell under Thermal Operation Circle in the execution of Fire & Safety Jobs in General Duty/ Shift Duty (Round the clock) at GHTP for Stage-I & II units GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat.  
For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to <https://proc.punjab.gov.in> from 20-07-2021 from 15:00 hrs onwards. Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at <https://proc.punjab.gov.in>

RO NO. 76155/12/363/2021/6172 GHTP-37/21

**NATIONAL SUGAR INSTITUTE**  
An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Institute  
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution  
Department of Food & Public Distribution  
Government of India

Kalyanpur, Kanpur  
Dated: 20.07.2021

**Notice Inviting Tender**  
Director, National Sugar Institute, Kanpur, on behalf of President of India invites Sealed Tenders for purchase of 'Flow Meter' from Indian Manufacturers/Authorized Dealers/Firms of the Central State Government Organization/Autonomous Bodies/Public Sector/ Private units having prior experience etc.  
The Tender document with complete details of equipments including technical specifications and other terms & condition can be downloaded from the website [www.nsi.gov.in](http://www.nsi.gov.in) and e-procurement portal of the Government of India <http://eprocure.gov.in> and e-procurement portal of the Government of India <http://eprocure.gov.in> Bids must be submitted on or before the 06.08.2021 upto 01:00pm. The Bids will be opened on the same day at 03:00 PM onwards.

(Yogesh Chandra Srivastava)  
Admn. Cum Purchase & Sales Officer

**OFFICE OF THE CANTONMENT BOARD, KANPUR**  
B. No. 64, Subhash Chandra Bose Marg, Kanpur-04

Online tender through two bid system are available to experienced & eligible contractors through the Government e-procurement portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> by the Cantonment Board Kanpur. The contract of work detailed in the table given below:-

S. No.	NIT NO.	NAME OF WORK	COST OF TENDER	EARNEST MONEY (EMD)	Last Date & Time of tender
1	CBK/RS/ /K-396/1	Right for providing installation and display of hoarding at earmarked sites/locations, berms in Kanpur Cantonment Area for a period of 2 years.	₹ 5,000/-	₹ 12,00,000/-	10-08-2021 at 1600 hrs.

For any query, pls write to (ceokanpur@gmail.com) or contact on the above mentioned address.  
(Arvind Kumar Dwivedi) Chief Executive Officer, Cantonment Board, Kanpur

**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SW)-III**  
**SECTOR-VII, R.K. PURAM, NEW DELHI-110022**

**"STOP CORONA ; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene. N.I.T. No.14(2021-22) SW-III**

S. No.	Description	Amount put to Tender, Tender Fee	Date of release of tender in E-procurement Solution	Last date/Time of receipt of Tender Through E-procurement Solution
1.	Improvement of sewer line by Replacement of damaged sewer line at Ring Road, Gurudwara Moti Bagh to near Shiv Mandir Tempo stand under SW-III, AC-44	Rs. 31,20,625/- Rs. 500/-	19.07.2021, Tender I.D. No. 2021_DJB_205971_1	03.08.2021 at 2:00 PM.

Further details in this regard can be seen at (<https://govprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)

Sd/-  
(Naveen Kumar Khare)  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SW)-III

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

पत्र सं 0 : 204/EE-8/21-22 दिनांक : 20.07.2021

**अल्प कालीन निविदा सूचना**

निम्नलिखित कार्य/आपूर्ति हेतु अनुभवी ठेकेदारों से मोहरबन्द निविदा दिनांक 28/07/2021 को अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो उसी दिन साँझकाल 4.00 बजे उपस्थित निविदादाताओं के सम्मक्ष खोली जायेगी। सन्दर्भित कार्य हेतु निविदा किसी भी कार्य दिवस में दिनांक 28/07/2021 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 बिना कारण बताये महाप्रबन्धक, जलकल विभाग में निहित होगा। पूर्ण विवरण कार्यालय से किसी भी कार्य दिवस में देखा जा सकता है। कार्यालय में अपकाश होने की दशा में समयानुसार अगले कार्य दिवस में खोली जायेगी।

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	धरोहर राशि	निविदा मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	टिप्पणी
1	Reparing of 27 Nos. damaged sewer manhole & fixing of frame at different places of , Shardanagar Ruchikhand I & II Rashmikhand, Eldico I & II Rajnikhand & Ratan Khand	4400.00	Rs.200	07 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**

## 6 Dalits who embraced Christianity arrested on HJM complaint

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Six Dalits, who had embraced Christianity, were arrested on charges of rioting and acts to outrage religious feelings after a Hindu Jagran Manch member, Arvind Kumar Gupta, filed a complaint accusing them of converting Dalits to Christianity at Sikandarpur Vaish police station of Kasganj.

The police, however, said that there was no evidence to suggest that the group of men was involved in religious conversion and said that the charges were being proved.

As per reports, Shrinivas, Kuldeep, Rahul Kumar, Shiv Kumar, Durgesh and Kishan, all in the 30 to 50 year age bracket, are Dalits who converted to Christianity. On Sunday, they visited Gangpur village to meet a friend Rampal, when five of them were arrested on the basis of Gupta's complaint who claimed that he saw them distributing money and religious literature among the villagers. One of the accused Kishan, however, managed to evade arrest by slipping away from the scene. While the complainant Gupta wanted them to be

charged under UP Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Ordinance, 2020 which bans 'forced' conversions, CO (City) Kasganj, Deep Kumar Pant, said, "As of now, the police had found no evidence to suggest that these men were preachers or they were trying to convert villagers through allurements or coercion. The six men were having food at a friend's place when they were nabbed. They were however booked for other charges listed in Gupta's complaint -- rioting, assault, intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace, criminal intimidation, mischief and deliberate and malicious act to outrage religious feelings.

About the charge of 'malicious act to outrage religious feelings', the police said that "some abusive and objectionable" content about Hindu deities was found in a page of a diary found inside the van in which the six men drove to Gangpur. He said on being quizzed about the literature recovered from their vehicle, they were unable to provide any plausible explanation. The accused were sent to jail and further investigations were on in this regard.

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**  
**E-Tender Notice**  
On behalf of the President of India, acting through Chief Administrative Officer/ Con., North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur invites the following E-works Tenders.  
S.No.1. E-Tender No.: DYCEICBSB-2021-05, Dated 16.07.2021. Name of work: Provision of barricading/ fencing along the running track at different locations between Dobhi-Jaunpur stations in connection with doubling work of Aunrihar-Jaunpur section of Varanasi Division of Northern Eastern Railway. Approximate Value: ₹ 1,31,74,512.00. Earnest Money ₹ 4 As per tender conditions. Cost of Tender Form: ₹ Nil. Completion Period: 02 (Two) Months. • Bidding Start date: 26.07.2021. • Last date of submission of above E-Tender upto 14.30 hrs. on 09.08.2021. • Date of opening of above E-Tender on 09.08.2021 after 14.30 hrs. • Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria, terms & conditions is available on website <https://trecps.gov.in>. • In case any disparity arises between Hindi and English version of tender notice, English version will hold good and will be followed.  
Shri D.P. Singh, XEN/Con/MAU Mob. No. 9794844287  
Dy. Chief Engineer/Con/1/ Varanasi  
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955  
Do not travel with inflammable article in train

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता**  
**विद्युत प्रेषण मण्डल चण्डा पार**  
**द्रास्यमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड**  
**औद्योगिक**  
**ई-निविदा सूचना**  
**ई-निविदा सूचना-28 (ईटीओसी(सी)) / 2021-2022-132** केवीओ विद्युत उपकेंद्र राजा का तालाब पर क्षतिग्रस्त 33/0.4 केवीओ, 250 केवीओ स्थान परिवर्तक के रिपेयरिंग का कार्य। निविदा खुलने की तिथि-06-08-2021। निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य-₹ 236/-—जीएसटीओ सहित। धरोहर राशि-₹ 2,000/-—(₹ 20 हजार मात्र)। (2) **अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा सूचना-29 ईटीओसी(सी)) / 2021-2022-132** केवीओ विद्युत उपकेंद्र बीएचओ पर 01 नम 33 केवीओ के निर्माण का कार्य। निविदा खुलने की तिथि-06-08-2021। निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य-₹ 177/-—जीएसटीओ सहित। धरोहर राशि-₹ 1,500/-—(₹ 15 हजार पांच सौ मात्र)। (3) **अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा सूचना-30 ईटीओसी(सी)) / 2021-2022-132** केवीओ विद्युत उपकेंद्र मुंडाडीह पर 33 केवीओ फिडर्स के लिए मास्टर रिले तथा 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र राजा का तालाब पर 40 एमपीओ सोलरप्लेन मेक परिवर्तक के रीपेयरिंग एवं ओपीडीआई हेतु विधेटर की आपूर्ति एवं स्थापना का कार्य। निविदा खुलने की तिथि-06-08-2021। निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य-₹ 236/-—जीएसटीओ सहित। धरोहर राशि-₹ 2,000/-—(₹ 20 हजार मात्र)। (4) **अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा सूचना-31 ईटीओसी(सी)) / 2021-2022-132** केवीओ विद्युत उपकेंद्र मुंडाडीह पर 33 केवीओ फिडर्स के लिए मास्टर रिले तथा 220 केवीओ उपकेंद्र राजा का तालाब पर 40 एमपीओ सोलरप्लेन मेक परिवर्तक के रीपेयरिंग एवं ओपीडीआई हेतु विधेटर की आपूर्ति एवं स्थापना का कार्य। निविदा खुलने की तिथि-06-08-2021। निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य-₹ 236/-—जीएसटीओ सहित। धरोहर राशि-₹ 2,000/-—(₹ 20 हजार मात्र)। (5) **अल्पकालिक सूचना-33 ईटीओसी(सी)) / 2021-2022-विद्युत उपकेंद्र** हेतु Kent/Livpure/Aqua Guard make वाटर पुरीफायर की आपूर्ति एवं स्थापना का कार्य। निविदा खुलने की तिथि-23-08-2021। निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य-₹ 236/-—जीएसटीओ सहित। धरोहर राशि-₹ 2,000/-—(₹ 20 हजार मात्र)। निविदा सम्बन्धी अन्य विवरण जैसे निविदा में संशोधन अथवा निविदा खुलने की तिथि में विस्तार होता है तो इसकी सूचना ई-टेंडर वेबसाइट [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत प्रेषण मण्डल वाराणसी पत्रांक 679 दिनांक 20.7.2021 "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये"

## All eligible residents of Kharela village in Jhansi vaccinated

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

All eligible residents of Kharela village in Jhansi have been vaccinated with the first dose against COVID-19, making it a model village for Uttar Pradesh and setting the bar high for vaccinating rural masses.

"With the sustained efforts of the UP government and awareness campaigns by Surveillance committees, all 310 eligible beneficiaries of Kharela village were administered the first dose of Covid vaccine. The village located in Moth block has a population of around 568 inhabitants, out of which 310 were eligible to be vaccinated. The Jhansi district administration managed to successfully help the villagers in overcoming vaccine hesitancy," a government spokesman said in Lucknow on Tuesday.

Expressing happiness over the feat, Jhansi's District Magistrate Andre Wamsi said,

"We do congratulate the entire village, surveillance team, Health department officials, ASHA, ANM, Panchayati Raj department, Revenue department, self-help groups, local farmer producer organisations (FPOs) for this unique achievement. The cluster model approach adopted by the administration worked well in the villages along with community participation. The administration ensured there was zero wastage of the vaccine."

Of the total beneficiaries, around 205 were vaccinated in the 18-44 age category and nearly 105 got their dose in the 45 plus age group which included 147 females and 163 males, who got their first dose of the vaccine.

"We faced a lot of resistance initially from villages due to lack of awareness. Then we asked the surveillance committees to run awareness campaigns in the village. Members of surveillance committees

went door-to-door and told the residents about the benefits of the vaccine and encouraged them to get the jabs," Andre Wamsi said.

Officials said that at present their focus was on another set of villages of the district, where the vaccination drive was in full swing and they expected to achieve 100 per cent coverage in these villages soon.

Newly-elected and first woman gram pradhan of Kharela, Sangeeta Yadav, said, "In view of the threat of the third wave of COVID-19, this was an important step taken by the villagers for their safety and they should be complimented for awareness. I would like to appeal to all to get vaccinated as soon as possible."

A few days ago, Nota village of Bangra block in Jhansi, became the first village to achieve 100 per cent vaccination target with all its 2,447 inhabitants in the 18 plus age group getting the first jab.

## Kalyan Singh's condition stable

**Lucknow (PNS):** Despite facing breathing problems, the condition of former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Kalyan Singh, continues to be stable, doctors attending on him at Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences here disclosed on Tuesday.

On Monday, Singh was put on a high pressure oxygen mask (non-invasive ventilation) as the shortness of breath worsened.

SGPGIMS Director Prof RK Dhiman said on Tuesday that the BJP leader was put on non-invasive ventilation on Saturday evening due to difficulty in breathing. "All his blood markers are being closely monitored. Specialists in CCM, Cardiology, Nephrology, Neurology and Endocrinology are keeping a close watch on all aspects related to his health. Antibiotics and antifungals are being pressed to control sepsis," he said. Prof Dhiman said that a slight improvement in his condition was being felt since Tuesday morning as compared to Monday.

## Priyanka revokes expulsion of 3 leaders

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A total rout in the recent panchayat elections, poor show in both bypolls held in Uttar Pradesh after the 2019 parliamentary elections, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra seems to have finally started leaning back on the old guards as she revoked the expulsion of three senior Congress leaders and former MLAs, Nek Chandra Pandey, Bhudhar Narayan Mishra and Rajendra Singh Solanki on Tuesday.

Though Priyanka gave no time to party dissidents, who wanted to shun differences and get into the mainstream and contribute to strengthening the

party, a Congress communiqué claimed on Tuesday that the expulsion of three former MLAs, earlier expelled along with eight other party veterans in November 2019, was revoked. The internecine conflict within Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC) came out in the open in November 2019 when the state party chief Ajay Kumar Lallu unceremoniously expelled 11 veteran Congress leaders, including 87-year-old Ram Krishna Dwivedi, once a trusted aide of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, for six years. The leaders who were expelled included Santosh Singh (former MP), Ramakrishna Dwivedi (former home minis-

ter of UP), Satyadev Tripathi (former minister), Siraj Mehndi (former MLC), Rajendra Singh Solanki, (AICC member), Bhudhar Narayan Mishra (former MLA), Hafiz Mohammad Omar (former MLA), Vinod Chaudhary (former MLA), Nek Chandra Pandey (former MLA), Swayam Prakash Goswami (former president of Youth Congress), and Sanjeev Singh (former president of Congress district Gorakhpur).

Unable to handle the trauma meted out by the party he served his entire life, a disturbed Dwivedi died a few months after the action. To save them from embarrassment, Lallu got Dwivedi's expulsion withdrawn a few days prior to his death, cit-

ing the leader's poor health. The expelled leaders were accused of publicly lambasting the Congress leadership for its decisions on overhaul of the UPCC, holding separate meetings and unilaterally interacting with the media to tarnish the party's image. A statement issued by the Congress while announcing the expulsion of 11 leaders said that the leaders concerned indulged in anti-party activities, convened independent meetings and opposed decisions taken by the Congress brass. All these leaders later addressed a press conference in which they claimed that they were being sidelined while efforts were being made to sabotage the party's organisation in UP.

## Fraudster lands in STF net

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A team of Special Task Force (STF) claimed to have nabbed a fraudster who had duping people of Rs 60 crore on the pretext of investment by floating companies like Shine City, Hello Ride Limited, Infinity World Infra Venture Limited, Vastum InfraLand India Private Limited etc. The accused was identified as Mohammed Sharif of Kanpur City and was bearing a cash reward of Rs 40,000 on his arrest. He is the president of Dreams Group of Companies. He was arrested from near Transportnagar metro station on Tuesday. The team recovered two mobile phones, two debit cards, three cheques, seven SIMs and other documents besides Rs 760 in cash.

The team working in the case was tipped off that Sharif was in Lucknow. The cops laid a trap near the metro station and nabbed Sharif, who was absconding. He had taken shelter in Manali and Delhi. Sharif disclosed that he worked as a team leader in Shine City, owned by Rashid Naseem. He said he floated his company and duped several people. Sharif further disclosed that he was in contact with the owners of other companies mentioned above and worked with Abhay Kushwaha and others.

Meanwhile, a youth jumped into the Gomti river in Gomatnagar police station area on Tuesday afternoon after informing his friend. A police spokesman said Abhay Srivastava (20) of Indiranagar worked in a toy shop at Patrakarpuram crossing. In the afternoon, he called his friend Mohammed Sadan and told him that he was mentally upset and was going to jump into the river. Abhay later reached Ambedkar Nagar Udhyan police outpost where he parked his cycle before jumping into the river.

## CITYBRIEFS

### SURESH RAINA AT SBI

Cricketer Suresh Raina was at the State Bank of India local head office in Lucknow on Tuesday to showcase his memoir, 'Believe- What Life And Cricket Taught Me'. Raina shared success mantra with the bank staff and media. He shared special moments which he collected in the book and how he encountered challenges as a young cricketer. He also spoke about his long-time association with the SBI.

### CMS STUDENT ENTERS RECORD BOOK

Pihu Saxena, a talented KG student of City Montessori School, Rajendra Nagar Campus I, has brought laurels to the city of Lucknow by securing place in the India Book of Records at five years of age. Due to her natural talents and the all-round education being provided by the school, Pihu has been successful in earning a place in the India Book of Records for winning the maximum of 23 certificates in this age group in various fields. Pihu's talents and skills have been acknowledged and approved by the editorial board of India Book of Records and her name would be printed in the next edition of the book.

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संख्या : 58/मु.अ./21-22 दिनांक : 20.07.2021

**अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना**

पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से उनकी पंजीकरण की सीमान्तर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु दिनांक 04.08.2021 को मोहरबन्द निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 03.08.2021 तक अपरान्ह 2.00 बजे तक कार्यालय दिवस व अवधि में काम कोपर कार्यालय के ऑफिसर, मुख्य अभियन्ता एवं वरिष्ठ वित्त लेखाधिकारी कार्यालय से प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं या नगर निगम की वेबसाइट [upgov.nic.in](http://upgov.nic.in) से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। निविदा दिनांक 04.08.2021 को अपरान्ह 3:00 बजे तक जिलाधिकारी महोदय के कार्यालय एवं मण्डलाधिकार लखनऊ के कार्यालय कक्ष में एवं मुख्य अभियन्ता के कार्यालय कक्ष में रखे निविदा बॉक्स में डाली जा सकती है। प्राप्त निविदाओं को दिनांक 04.08.2021 को अपरान्ह 4:00 बजे बाबू राजकुमार श्रीवास्तव नवीन समिति कक्ष में निविदा समिति के समक्ष खोला जायेगा। यदि निविदा तिथि को अपकाश होता है तो निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस को डाली एवं खोली जायेगी। किसी भी निविदा को स्वीकार एवं अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार सभ्य अधिकारी में निहित होगा। पेपर कार्य हेतु निविदादाता के पास स्वयं का कम्प्यूटराइज्ड हार्ड प्रिन्ट लाउट व ब्राउज़र रोलर होना आवश्यक है।

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित प्रस्तावित (₹ के.)	प्रस्तावित वस्तु का क्रमांक	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य	12% GST	कुल निविदा मूल्य
1.	खारिका द्वितीय वार्ड के अन्तर्गत बुन्दान सेक्टर-6बी में म.सं.-6बी/194 से 6बी/179 के सामने सड़क की साइड पट्टी का इण्टरलाकिंग द्वारा सुधार कार्य।	783670.00	78367.00	2 माह	784.00	94.00	878.00
2.	खारिका द्वितीय वार्ड के अन्तर्गत बुन्दान सेक्टर-5बी में म.सं.-5बी/813 से 5बी/81 तक सड़क व नाली का कार्य।	842515.00	84252.00	2 माह	843.00	101.00	944.00
3.	खारिका द्वितीय वार्ड के अन्तर्गत बुन्दान सेक्टर-6 सी. में सम्पत्ते से म.सं.-6सी/780 तक नाली व सड़क का कार्य।	862799.00	86280.00	2 माह	863.00	104.00	967.00
4.	खारिका द्वितीय वार्ड के अन्तर्गत बुन्दान सेक्टर-5 में म.सं./140 से कैप्टन ऑफिसर के घर तक नाली व कैप्टन ऑफिसर के घर से म.सं.-5बी/ए-56 इण्टरलाकिंग का कार्य।	670563.00	67056.00	2 माह	671.00	81.00	752.00
5.	स्वच्छ भारत मिशन के अन्तर्गत स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण 2021 को दृष्टिगत रखते हुए शाहदानगर द्वितीय वार्ड के अन्तर्गत साऊथवेस्टी पावर हाऊस के पास इकोग्रिन परिसर से मिट्टी भराई एवं समरसिख लगाने का कार्य। पार्द-बी.	476368.00	47637.00	2 माह	476.00	57.00	533.00
6.	स्वच्छ भारत मिशन के अन्तर्गत स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण 2021 को दृष्टिगत रखते हुए शाहदानगर द्वितीय वार्ड के अन्तर्गत साऊथवेस्टी पावर हाऊस के पास इकोग्रिन परिसर में एम.आर.एफ. एवं रोड लगाने का कार्य। पार्द-बी.	741057.00	74106.00	2 माह	741.00	89.00	830.00
7.	राजबिजली पार्सी द्वितीय वार्ड के अन्तर्गत ओमेक सिटी गेट के सामने से शहीद पथ सॉलिस रोड तक सड़क चौड़ीकरण का कार्य।	811200.00	81120.00	2 माह	811.00	97.00	908.00
8.	राजबिजली पार्सी द्वितीय वार्ड के अन्तर्गत न्यू रहीमाबाद सी.आर.पी.एफ. कैम्प कैंप ट्रेडर्स के बगल से श्रीमती कृष्णाती सिंह के मकान तक रोड तथा नाली का निर्माण कराये जाने के सम्बन्ध में।	725107.00	72511.00	2 माह	725.00	87.00	812.00
9.	शाहदानगर प्रथम वार्ड के अन्तर्गत रविचंद्र में म.सं.-1/195 के पास व पार्क के किनारे साइड पट्टी पर इण्टरलाकिंग का कार्य।	739968.00	73997.00	2 माह	740.00	89.00	829.00
10.	शाहदानगर प्रथम वार्ड के अन्तर्गत रविचंद्र में म.सं.-ई/187 के सामने पार्क का सुधार व इण्टरलाकिंग का कार्य।	798074.00	79807.00	2 माह	798.00	96.00	894.00
11.	शाहदानगर प्रथम वार्ड के अन्तर्गत रविचंद्र में म.सं.-ई/457 के सामने पार्क का सुधार कार्य।	592847.00	59285.00	2 माह	593.00	71.00	664.00
12.	इब्राहिमपुर द्वितीय वार्ड के अन्तर्गत चरन भट्टा रोड पर साई कालोनी में मिथलेश के घर से सुधाकर के घर तक नाली व इण्टरलाकिंग का कार्य।	621655.00	62166.00	2 माह	622.00	75.00	697.00
13.	इब्राहिमपुर द्वितीय वार्ड के अन्तर्गत चरन भट्टा रोड पर साई कालोनी में एस. पी. यादव से मिथलेश के घर तक नाली व इण्टरलाकिंग का कार्य।	535807.00	53581.00	2 माह	536.00	64.00	600.00
14.	इब्राहिमपुर द्वितीय वार्ड के अन्तर्गत पंचमखेड़ा में जगदीश वाली मली में इण्टरलाकिंग व नाली का कार्य।	439915.00	43992.00	2 माह	440.00	53.00	493.00
15.	इब्राहिमपुर द्वितीय वार्ड के अन्तर्गत एडिचो डोमन-2 में बजरंग मार्बल से मोलू माकेंट चौराहे तक नाली व सड़क का सुधार कार्य (शहीद एवं सम्पर्क) का कार्य।	862999.00	86300.00	2 माह	863.00	104.00	967.00

**शर्तें 1. 15** प्रतिशत से अधिक निम्न निविदाओं को स्वतः निरस्त माना जायेगा। **2. 15** प्रतिशत कम की निविदा हेतु अतिरिक्त जमानत धनराशि (Extra Performance Guarantee) जमा करनी होगी। **3. 10** प्रतिशत निम्न निविदा डाले जाने पर 0.50 प्रतिशत प्रति 1 प्रतिशत की दर से तथा 10 प्रतिशत से निम्न निविदा डाले जाने पर 1.00 प्रतिशत की दर से स्विकोरिटी/परफारमेंस गारन्टी ली जायेगी। **4. शासनार्देश सं 962/नौ-9-2017/81न/17** दिनांक 17.10.2017 के अनुसार जी.एस.टी. का मुगुलत कर्म द्वारा वास्तविक वाउचर प्रस्तुत करने के उपरान्त प्रतिपूर्ति की जायेगी। **5. शासनार्देश सं 715/नौ-5-18-120 बजट/2013**, नगर विकास अनुभाग-5 दिनांक 17.03.2018 के द्वारा लिया गया निर्णय की 'नगरीय सड़क सुधार योजना'तन्तर्गत सीमेन्ट कंक्रीट (सी.सी.) की सड़क पर 05 वर्षों तक रख-रखाव किये जाने की जिम्मेदारी सम्बन्धित ठेकेदारों की होगी। विद्युत रोड के 05 वर्षों तक रख-रखाव हेतु आगमन में अतिरिक्त धनराशि सम्मिलित की जाये। परीोजना लागत की 05 प्रतिशत धनराशि परफार्मेंस गारन्टी के रूप में 05 वर्षों के उपरान्त सड़कों के समुचित रखरखाव होने की दशा में भुगतान सम्बन्धित ठेकेदार को किया जाये के अनुसार अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करना होगा। **6. आवेदक निविदादाता को शासनार्देश संख्या-3890/नौ-5-19-149सा/2019**, दिनांक-20.09.19 का अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करना होगा।

**मुख्य अभियन्ता**



# DM reviews preparations for third Covid wave

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The district administration has started the work of resource development to deal with the third wave of COVID-19 and District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma sought a report from Chief Medical Officer Dr VB Singh regarding the availability of resources in the government and private Covid hospitals like medicines, doctors, paramedical staff, nursing staff, etc.

Reviewing the preparations for dealing with the challenges to be posed during the impending third Covid wave at his camp office here, the DM informed that the work of resource development in view of the threat of third wave has already started. He directed the CMO to make an assessment of resources such as HFNC, oxygen concentrators, BiPAP machines, etc available in the government hospitals — BLW Hospital, BHU Hospital, Dr Bhabha Cancer Hospital, ESIC Hospital and Heritage Hospital. The DM sought a report from the CMO regarding the availability of medicines, doctors, paramedical



DM KR Sharma reviewing preparations to prevent third wave of corona in Varanasi on Tuesday

Pioneer

staff, lab boy, nursing staff, ambulance driver and assistants in the government and private hospitals and also about their training.

The DM directed him to furnish details of equipment available for the treatment of kids and adults against the available beds hospital-wise. He also sought the details of equipment required for the

purpose. He asked the authorities concerned to make available the resources and equipment to the community health centres of Arajilina, Cholaipur, Narpattur and Gangapur for which the same were brought.

Emphasizing on human resources development, the DM directed for the refreshing training of the doctors and paramedical staff who had

provided their services during the second wave so that their services could also be available in the possible third wave of the pandemic.

He directed the CMO to prepare a separate training programme for the new medical staff. The in-charge of hospitals and officers concerned were present in the meeting.

## Block pramukhs, BDC members take oath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The newly-elected block pramukhs and members of Kshetra Panchayat, also known as Block Development Council (BDC), on Tuesday took oath of post and secrecy in a swearing-in ceremony held at block offices. District Magistrate/Electoral Officer Kaushal Raj Sharma had appointed officers to administer the oath to the newly-elected block pramukhs and BDC members. As per schedule, the swearing-in ceremony was held in two shifts at

11.00 am and 12.00 noon. The officers, appointed by Sharma, administered the oath of post and secrecy to block pramukhs. The block pramukhs then administered the oath of post and secrecy to the BDC members. After the oath ceremony, the block pramukhs held a meeting with the BDC members of their respective blocks and discussed the strategy to develop the kshetra panchayats.

It is noteworthy that there are eight blocks in the district and the election for the Block Pramukhs of three blocks was

held on July 10 last. In the election, the BJP supported candidates Nutan Singh, Abhishek Kumar and Dharmendra Vishwakarma won the election from Badagaon, Chiraigaon and Pindra block respectively. The BJP's ally Apna Dal-S candidate Renu Patel registered victory from the Kashi Vidyapith block. BJP supported candidates Lakshmeena Devi, Reena Kumari and Vinod Kumar Upadhyay had already been declared winner unopposed from Cholaipur, Devapuri, and Harahua Block

respectively while Nageena Singh Patel, supported by the AD-S had been declared unopposed from Arajilina Block.

The election for a total of 1007 BDC members in all eight blocks was conducted with the election for Gram Pradhan and Zila Panchayat members. Out of total 1007, the number of total BDC members in Aarajilina, Pindra, Sevapuri, Cholaipur, Kashi Vidyapith, Badagaon, Chiraigaon and Harahua is 181, 138, 119, 119, 116, 115 & 100 respectively.

## Rakhi envelopes up for sale at POs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Rakshabandhan, a symbol of brother-sister love in the midst of a corona pandemic, will be celebrated on August 22 and for this, the Postal department has already started preparations. Postmaster General (PMG) of Varanasi Region Krishna Kumar Yadav released special colourful designer waterproof rakhi envelopes in a function at Cantt Head Post Office here on Tuesday. These envelopes will now be available for sale in the post offices of Varanasi Region.

The PMG said: "These designer rakhi envelopes are waterproof and strong from the point of view of security. Even in the rainy season, the rakhis



PMG KK Yadav releasing Rakhi envelope in Varanasi on Tuesday

Pioneer

sent by sisters can reach their brothers safely. The cost of these rakhi envelopes of size 11X22 cm is Rs 10, which is in addition to postage charges."

He further informed: "Rakhi envelope is written in

English with the logo of India Post and design of Rakshabandhan on the upper left side of the waterproof envelope and 'Happy Rakhi' written on the lower right side." According to Yadav, being

colourful and designer, it would be convenient to differentiate them from other mails resulting in saving time and also in getting them delivered before the festival.

Assistant director Sanjay Verma informed that rakhi envelopes are being sent for sale to all Head Post Offices in Varanasi Region, from where Superintendent of Post Offices can make it available for sale in other Post Offices as well. Rashmi Srivastava, who came to the Varanasi Cantt Head Post Office to buy envelopes, said that her brothers are working in distant cities and during the pandemic period of COVID-19, she will now be sure of sending Rakhi by the Postal department through this designer envelope.

## Manoj Maurya's film screened in Germany

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A local talent has brought laurels to the city, hogging limelight at international arena when 'Con Anima', a German film of Manoj Maurya, who hails from Varanasi, was screened in Germany. It was the first time that an Indian director's German film was screened at Metropolis Cinema in Neuwied (Germany). A filmmaker and a painter, Manoj was born in Varanasi and he also completed Bachelors in Fine Arts from Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth (MGKV) here. Later, he did PG in Advertising & Public Relations from Indian Institute of Mass communications, Delhi. As a professional painter, he has many exhibitions to his credit, solo as well as in group. His paintings have been exhibited at various galleries and online art fairs such as Nehru Art Gallery, Mumbai; Creative Rising, New York; Year in Review, Miami; Nehru Art Gallery, Lalit Kala Vibhag (both in Varanasi); NGMA Kala Ghoda, Mumbai and Connaught Place, Delhi, just to name a few.

As a filmmaker, he has written and directed several short films and documentaries that have been selected and screened at many prestigious national and international film

festivals. His films incorporate a nonlinear approach to storylines and radical filmmaking techniques that manifest in disruptive visual aesthetics, which comes from the virtue of his being a painter. His first feature film is a German fiction titled 'Con Anima'. His second feature film is titled 'The Icecake', shot at the height of 12,500 feet above sea level in the Himalayan range of Spiti Valley in India. The film is a story of 12 motorcycle riders on a dangerous and adventurous journey. He is a vagabond traveller who loves filming stories across the globe. He made five documentary films during his 17,000 km travel on an experimental trip to 23 states of India for 55 days conducting 25,000 personal interviews and 2.5 lakhs mass interviews. The documentary series titled "India@Tomorrow 8pm" is based on how India is evolving in the 21st century.

**MGKV TO NOT CONDUCT PRACTICALS EXAMS:** Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth (MGKV) has decided not to conduct practical examinations in the academic session of 2020-2021 and thus, the marks of the practical subjects will be given on the basis of marks to be obtained in the written examinations.

As per the decision taken by the examination committee of MGKV on June 29 last, in

light of the guidelines of the Additional Secretary, UP State Council for Higher Education, the practical examination will not be conducted in the academic session of 2020-2021 and the marks of the practical subjects will be given on the basis of marks to be obtained in the written examinations. The viva-voce examinations will be conducted online, MGKV PRO Dr Navratna Singh informed. The colleges incapable of conducting online viva-voce or the subjects for which the marks of the viva-voce examination is not received in time, the marks of the viva-voce will be determined by the departments/colleges on the basis of theory examination and the remaining 40 percent marks will be determined by the departments/colleges on the basis of internal assessment.

Hence, the departments/colleges are expected to send the internal assessment marks to the university within one week of the completion of the examination. The internal assessment marks should not exceed 80 percent. The marks in the oral examination of individual candidates will be determined on the

basis of the marks to be obtained in the theory examination, Dr Singh said.

In the meantime, Governor and Chancellor of the university Anandiben Patel has nominated Prof Akhilesh Pratap Singh, Vice-Chancellor of Rajendra Singh (Rajju Bhaiya) University, Prayagraj, Justice (Retired) Sakharam Singh Yadav, Prof Prabhat Kumar Dixit of Civil Engineering Department in IIT, BHU and Prof Prem Narayan Singh, Dean of Faculty of Modern Knowledge & Science, Department of Education, Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) as members of MGKV Executive Council for two years or till further orders, whichever is earlier, the PRO informed.

**SINGLE COVID CASE IN VARANASI:** Only one case of Covid was detected out of the 5,879 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, taking the tally of confirmed cases to 82,338, as per the figures released by the Health department on Tuesday evening. With no death from COVID-19, the toll remained at 773.

Three Covid patients recovered during the past 24 hours, all in home isolation. With this, 81, 524 COVID-19 patients have been cured in the district, 75, 222 in home isolation and 6,302 in Covid hospitals.

## Only 50 allowed to gather for prayers at mosques

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Eid-ul-Azha namaz will not be offered at Eidgah and the number of Namazis will remain restricted to 50 at the mosques on Wednesday. The district administration has made it clear, and elaborate arrangements have been made to ensure strict implementation of Covid guidelines.

Shahar Qazi and other Muslim religious leaders have requested people not to throng mosques but offer namaz at home and maintain cleanliness after animal sacrifice.

PAC and para-military forces have been deployed to maintain peace and order on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, popularly known as Bakrid.

It may be mentioned here

that the corona pandemic has spoiled the festivities of all big religious occasions including Eid, Bakrid, Holi, Diwali for the past one year. The government has also put a blanket ban on the Kanwar Yatra, which was scheduled to begin on July 24.

Priests and religious leaders have expressed hope that the sacrifice of people will bear fruits and from next year,

the situation will become normal and the festivals will be celebrated with gaiety and fervour.

Muslim clerics have issued the qurbani and namaz schedule for all the mosques, with a request that only 50 persons will get entry at a time. They have issued an appeal for people in general to stay at home and follow Covid guidelines in toto.

## Opposition only doing politics of appeasement: Sharma

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

These days the central leadership of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is engaged in uniting the party workers. For this, top office-bearers are visiting places and holding meetings. On the other hand, factionalism is also being exposed in some places. The same thing happened in Prayagraj too.

On Tuesday, newly-

appointed state vice-president AK Sharma held an introductory meeting with party workers and office-bearers. The opposition was targeted and the back of the government was also patted. During this, something happened which also showed factionalism.

In the meeting, BJP state vice-president AK Sharma said that the present state government and the Centre are busy

in making all-round development while the opposition is only doing politics of appeasement. Meanwhile, BJP's corporator Kiran Jaiswal also exposed the functioning of the municipal corporation. She openly alleged irregularities. She said that the image of the party is being tarnished by this.

In the meeting held with the party workers, the state vice-president also glorified

the city of Sangam. He said that he has also studied in this city and prepared for competitive exams.

"This city definitely gives fruits to everyone according to their hard work. I too got the fruits of my hard work after studying from here. Whether people come to this city to study or for any other purpose, they do not return empty-handed," he added.

## Kaudihar block pramukh fails to take oath as court rejects bail plea

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

On Tuesday, only 22 block pramukhs took oath while one could not be sworn in. The reason was that he was in jail. Kaudihar block pramukh Mohd Muzaffar could not attend the swearing-in ceremony on Tuesday as the court had rejected his bail application on Monday.

In such a situation, only the 22block pramukhs of the district took oath. The winners of the UP block chief elections were sworn in on Tuesday.

The swearing-in ceremony of the newly-elected block pramukhs in 23 blocks of Prayagraj began at 11 am.

The administration had made preparations for the swearing-in ceremony of the block pramukhs. The ceremony was held from 11 am in the first shift and from 2 pm in the second shift. For this, District Magistrate Sanjay Kumar Khatri had also nominated an officer. Out of 23 block pramukhs in the district, 22 block pramukhs took oath.

Kaudihar block pramukh

Mohd Muzaffar is lodged in jail and did not get bail. He had surrendered in court in an old case just three days before the block pramukh elections. He has more than a dozen cases registered against him. Action was also taken against him under the Gangster Act.

However, while in prison, he won the election to the post of block pramukh. To attend the swearing-in ceremony of the block pramukh on Tuesday, Muzaffar had filed an application for bail in the court of ADJ V Chandrapal. Special Public

Prosecution Atul Singh opposed the bail application saying that Muzaffar had serious cases registered against him and bail could not be granted. Therefore, the court rejected his bail application.

Muzaffar, a resident of Chafri village of Nawabganj, had surrendered in the court in an old case on the second day of SP nominated him as Kaudihar block pramukh candidate. He didn't even come to file the form. His mover and approver had filed the form.

## Serious lapses in screening of passengers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The guidelines being given at railway stations seem to be redundant amidst the fear of a third wave of COVID-19. The authorities concerned are apathetic about screening of the passengers. Dozens of trains pass through Maharashtra at Prayagraj Junction and Prayagraj Chheoki station. The orders to check all the people entering UP are limited to papers only.

The situation is that passengers are not even wearing face masks in the trains. At the same time, health teams are deployed at the stations. But, only 10 percent of the passengers are being screened.

When 01071 LTT-Varanasi Kamayani Express reached Prayagraj Junction, the negligence was visible in the coach. Far from physical distance, most of the passengers did not even wear face masks whereas the railways has allowed travel on reserved tickets with compliance with the Covid



protocol. In anticipation of the third wave of Covid in Uttar Pradesh, people arriving from Maharashtra, Kerala and Tamil Nadu will be allowed entry only after showing the test report or certificate of both doses. Most of the passengers do not even have test reports.

Dozens of trains going to

various cities of Maharashtra including Mumbai and Pune pass through Prayagraj Junction and Prayagraj Chheoki everyday. About 12,000 to 14,000 people come daily by these trains. Mobile teams have been deployed in two shifts by the district administration to check the

passengers. These teams are able to take samples of about 600 to 1,000 people every day for examination.

Trains passing through Mumbai to Prayagraj Junction including - 02293 LTT Prayagraj Duronto Special, - 09041 Bandra-Ghaziपुर City Superfast Special, -02129 LTT-Prayagraj Tulsi Special, -02165 LTT-Gorakhpur Special, - 05017 LTT-Gorakhpur Kashi Express Special, -01055 LTT-Gorakhpur Godan Express Special, -01061 LTT-Jaynagar Pawan Express Special, -01071 LTT-Varanasi Kamayani Express Special, -02049 ATT-Faizabad Superfast Special Special. Similarly, trains from Mumbai to Prayagraj Chheoki include -02193 CSMT-Varanasi Mahanagari Special, -02336 LTT-Bhagalpur Superfast Special, -13202 LTT-Patna Janata Express Special, -02167 LTT-Prayagraj Chheoki Special, -02141 LTT-Patliputra Superfast Special, -09091 Bandra-Gorakhpur Humsafar Special.

## Congress opposes Kangana's proposed visit to Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Actor Kangana Ranaut's proposed visit to Prayagraj in connection with her upcoming film on emergency imposed by former PM Indira Gandhi has riled Congress. The party opened a front against Ranaut though the date of her visit to Prayagraj is yet to be announced. Branding Ranaut as a BJP agent, they said that the proposed film is being made with an intention to tarnish the image of the former prime minister and Congress.

The BJP activists, on the other hand, said that the Congress starts shivering whenever an emergency is discussed. If the emergency was justified and Indira Gandhi was a clean leader, why Congress opposes this film, which will be based on

facts, they asked.

According to the statements of Kangana, she wants to visit the birth place of Indira Gandhi to know about her in detail.

Emergency is the weakest point of the Congress and the party does not want to revisit the black days of the 1970s. This film will deal with all pluses and minuses of the emergency and it is obvious that Kangana will leave no stone unturned to expose Indira. Inspired by the film on Jayalalitha, Kangana will portray Indira Gandhi in this film. The Congress leaders know much about the darker side of Indira Gandhi, so they do not want those facts to go in public, so they are out to oppose the project and especially the visit of Kangana to Prayagraj.

**MAN SHOT AT IN**

**PRATAPGARH:** In a shocking incident, a 32-year-old man was shot at in Pratapgarh district of UP while a youth who accidentally suffered bullet wounds in the firing on Tuesday.

Police launched a man-hunt for the accused. The man was shot after a dispute with some people over some trivial issue.

Victim Manoj Dubey is the son of Suraj Dubey and lives in Sacholi village of Raniganj police station area of Pratapgarh district. On Tuesday, he went to Binda Ganj market for some work. About half-a-dozen youths approached Manoj in the market. In the meantime, a dispute erupted between Manoj and the youths over some issue.

When the matter escalated, the assailants targeted

Manoj and opened fire.

When the bullet hit Manoj in the chest, he collapsed bleeding profusely. Meanwhile, 23-year-old Abhishek Mishra, son of Pramod Mishra, resident of Rampur Aadharganj, was also standing there and he received bullet injuries. The miscreants fled the scene.

Locals tried to chase the miscreants but failed to catch hold of them. On receipt of the information, the police reached the spot and got both the injured admitted to the Government Medical Hospital for treatment. In no time, Additional Superintendent of Police (East) Surendra Dwivedi also reached the hospital and reviewed the situation. He took information about the incident from the people accompanying the injured.



# ODOP scheme reviving aboriginals' arts and craft products: SP Yadav

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Deputy Director Industries SP Yadav said the One district One Product scheme was introduced by the Uttar Pradesh government in a bid to encourage and revive aboriginals' arts and craft products and the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) would promote the products that were exclusive in Uttar Pradesh.

Addressing a virtual session on 'One District One Product', Yadav said the Yogi Adityanath government had decided to extend employment to over 25 lakh unemployed youths which would help in pushing up the gross domestic product (GDP) by around two per cent.

He said initially 400 youths would be provided tool kits.

Yadav said Uttar Pradesh had many talents and preserving, reviving and popularising local arts and crafts, would ensure sustainable livelihood for millions of people engaged in them. He said the state government wanted to recognise, safeguard and nurture the traditional skills and thus it had come up with the ODOP scheme to create a product-specific traditional industrial hub.

Yadav said even the remotest areas of UP were famous for products which were exclusive like chikankari and zari-zardozi work on clothes, and the intricate and stunning horn and bone work that used the remains of dead animals rather than live ones, a nature-friendly replacement for ivory. He said many products were GI tagged, which meant they were certified as specific to that region in Uttar Pradesh.

He said the government was resolving issues of economic disparity and regional imbalance and by pushing the ODOP products to national and international markets, it intends to increase incomes of locals and generate employment at the local level to minimise migration for jobs.

He said the government had worked out plans to boost overall exports of the selected products. He said under the ODOP scheme, the UP government offered various credit facilities and subsidies under four different categories for promoting infrastructure development, providing seamless access to finance, initiating skill development and providing marketing

assistance to manufacturers of the unique product in a particular district.

Yadav said the ODOP scheme had been a transformational step towards realising the true potential of a district, fueling economic growth and generating employment and rural entrepreneurship. He said the scheme's implementation in Uttar Pradesh had enhanced the state's export capacity by over 30 per cent since 2018 (the year ODOP was launched by the Uttar Pradesh government). He said over five lakh youth had established their ventures under the ODOP scheme by receiving loans under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Stand-Up and Startup India.

He said to provide easy access to finances, an online loan portal had been launched in partnership with the Bank of Baroda. He said the portal had a dedicated tab, solely for ODOP artisans, manufacturers and traders to apply for a loan and get an approval for it within one hour. He said the UP government had allocated funds for units with a total project cost of up to ₹ 25 lakh, and under this 25 per cent of the project cost or a maximum of ₹ 6.25 lakh, whichever was less,

would be paid as margin money.

He added that for units with a total project cost of more than ₹25 lakh but less than ₹ 50 lakh, the amount payable as margin money was ₹ 6.25 lakh or 20 per cent of the project cost, whichever was higher. He added that for units having a total project cost of more than ₹50 lakh but less than ₹150 lakh, the amount would be paid in the form of ₹10 lakh in margin money or 10 per cent of the project cost, whichever was greater.

Yadav said for units having a total project cost of more than ₹150 lakh, the margin money would be paid at 10 per cent of the project cost or a maximum of ₹20 lakh, whichever was less.

He said the youths were extended benefits of One District One Product training and tool kit scheme. He said the district had a product training and tool kit distribution plan in place to satisfy the current and future needs of a competent workforce.

He said apart from this, as part of the post-training programme, artisans and labourers would receive an upgraded tool kit.

## Accused wanted in duping Americans arrested

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A crime branch team of Kanpur police, on Tuesday, arrested a wanted accused involved in duping Americans through a fake call centre near Gita Nagar when he arrived here from Delhi for some work in his BMW car.

He was identified as Jasraj Singh, a resident of C5A/34, First Floor, Janakpuri, New Delhi.

Police recovered 25 ATM cards of different banks, two PAN cards, one Aadhaar card, nine cheque books, two pass-books, three mobile phones and two laptops from him.

It may be recalled that the police had earlier arrested four persons, including a software engineer, Mohinder Sharma, for running a fake call centre in Kakadeo and duping over 12,000 US residents of crores of rupees.

Commissioner of Police Asim Arun said during investigation, the crime branch team had come across the involvement of Jasraj Singh of Janakpuri, New Delhi, in the racket.

He used to arrange the payment gateway to facilitate the transfer of money from America to India.

Arun said Jasraj runs a cloth showroom under the name of JRS Hot Couture in Delhi and often went to America.

The accused disclosed that on pretext of computer maintenance, he would steal data from foreigners' mobile phones and then easily get the ATM card's PIN and CVV numbers. As the transfer of money from their accounts requires an online payment gateway, he had managed it through a US resident Taud L Thomas to get the money transferred to India through mpidigitalonline.com gateway. Thereafter, after withdrawing money from the ATM card of Bank of America, he would hand it over to gang leader Mohinder Sharma for distribution among other gang members, including Zikar Ullah, Sanjiv Gupta and Suraj Suman.

The ATM cards recovered by the police from Jasraj Singh also included the ATM card of the Bank of America.

Asim Arun said efforts were on to nab other gang members.

## Special campaign soon to create awareness about viral hepatitis

KANPUR (PNS): The Uttar Pradesh government will run a special campaign to create awareness among the masses about viral hepatitis which of late has emerged as the major public health challenge that requires an urgent response. Viral hepatitis causes a large number of deaths and it is estimated that 325 million people worldwide are living with chronic HBV or HCV infection. This was stated by Dr AK Gupta from the SPM department of GSVM Medical College while informing press persons about the 10-day drive to combat viral hepatitis in Kanpur Nagar and surrounding districts.

He said many viral hepatitis patients in India usually approached traditional healers as there was a belief that allopathy had no cure for this disease. He said people reached modern system health facilities only if there were complications, like liver failure or primary cancer of the liver and that too in urban India.

He said due to paucity of data, the exact burden of the disease for the country was not established. He said it was estimated that in India, approximately 40 million people were chronically infected with Hepatitis B and 6-12 million people with Hepatitis C and chronic HBV infection accounted for 40 per cent of hepato-cellular carcinoma (HCC) and 20-30 per cent cases of cirrhosis in India.

Dr Gupta said in Uttar Pradesh more than 20,000 cases were identified annually, 26.96 per cent of them caused by HAV (hepatitis A virus) which was the most common cause of acute hepatitis.

# Electronic interlocking of signalling system done at all NER stations

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The North Eastern Railway (NER) has secured a remarkable achievement in the direction of efforts being made for ensuring safe rail transportation. At all the stations of NER electronic interlocking of signalling system has been done and the stations have been equipped with suitable equipment for 25 kV (AC) rail electrification. Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said due to the provision of electronic interlocking at Ramnagar, the last remaining mechanical interlocking station in Izzatnagar division, now there is no mechanical interlocking station left in NER. This work



has been completed with full quality even before the targeted date. With the completion of this work, all the broad gauge

stations of NER have been equipped with colour light signal. It may be pointed out that here the panel interlocking of Gorakhpur railway station was done in the year 1984. In the old signalling system in the yard the maximum speed 50 km/h per hour only was permissible whereas in the new system the maximum speed 110 km/h per hour is permissible. The signalling process in the old system took more time and required more maintenance, whereas in the new system it is less time consuming and is also maintenance-free. The night visibility of the colour light signal is also much better than the old semaphore signal. With interlocking along with safety the speed of trains increases in the yard.

## Tanakpur-Singrauli spl to run from Aug 2

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The restoration of the following special trains has been revised by the railway administration, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said.

**TPU-SGRL SPECIAL:** The 05074 Tanakpur (TPU)-Singrauli (SGRL) special train to be run from Tanakpur from July 26 will be run from August 2 till further advice. Likewise, the 05076 Tanakpur-Shaktinagar special train to be run from Tanakpur from July 27 will be run from August 3 till further advice.

**SGRL-TPU SPECIAL:** The 05073 Singrauli-Tanakpur special train to be run from Singrauli from July 27 will be run from August 3 till further advice.

**SKTN-TPU SPECIAL:** The 05075 Shaktinagar (SKTN)-Tanakpur special train to be run from Shaktinagar from July 28 will be run from August 4 till further advice.

ONE CAUGHT

The Railway Protection Force (RPF), North Eastern Railway (NER) makes constant efforts to provide security to the passengers. In this sequence the staff of RRF post, Lucknow City, found a 17-year-old boy in an unclaimed condition at Daliganj railway station recently, CPRO PK Singh said. He was handed over to his family members before the CWC and station master. Besides the staff of RPF post, Basti, found a boy, aged 11 years, in an unclaimed condition at Basti station, who was later handed over to Child Line, Basti. On the other hand, the staff of RPF post, Azamgarh, caught a person along with two illegal e-tickets from a shop. After taking action under the Railway Act a case was registered in this connection. Likewise the RPF post, Siwan, caught a person with one illegal e-ticket recently. After taking action under the Railway Act a case was registered in this connection.

## Two liquor smugglers arrested

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Chilh police arrested two liquor smugglers and recovered 30 boxes of beer on Sunday night. The police was busy during routine vehicle checking when a pick-up driver on seeing the police tried to flee but was caught by the police team. The driver failed to show any document of the vehicle as well as of loaded material. During the search police found 30 boxes of beer there, registering a case the police seized the vehicle under Motor Vehicles Act. The two arrested accused were identified as Rajesh Kumar Yadav, a resident of Balapur and Bimal Kevat, a resident of Raslapur, both under Dhanaura police station in Patna of Bihar. Meanwhile Lalgaon police arrested three persons accused of fraud. Sarju Devi, a resident of Raahkala under Lalgaon police station, had lodged an FIR that by showing her as dead fraudulently the accused had got her property registered in their favour. Investigation into it was on and the police arrested the accused on Monday.

**SEMINAR:** CDO Srilaxmi VS opined that timely sowing of seeds had an important role for the higher production of crop. These views were expressed by her while chairing the agriculture productivity kharif seminar organised



by the Agriculture department at Zila Panchayat on Monday. In his address Deputy Director (Agriculture) Ashok Kumar Upadhyay said the purpose behind the seminar was to have an interaction between the farmers and agriculture experts. He said the department had made available facilities, including fertiliser, seeds, subsidies as per the provisions for kharif season. He threw light over different schemes under which the farmers were being benefitted. The experts

# JK Group gives ₹1.46 cr to medical college for oxygen plant

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

GSVM Medical College Principal Dr Sanjay Kala, while thanking the Morning Gloring Infra Ltd a member of JK Group, for its generous donations for the preparedness of the apprehended third wave of COVID-19, on Tuesday said the Group had donated a sum of ₹ 1.46 crore for setting up oxygen plant.

He said there was no exaggeration to state that the JK Group had always been in the forefront during the COVID-19 pandemic and was still volunteering all possible help to minimise its impact on human lives.

Addressing the gathering while handing over the cheque, Sanjay Dubey of JK Group said they had been always in



Principal, GSVM Medical College, Dr Sanjay Kala receives the cheque of ₹ 1.46 crore for oxygen plant from Morning Gloring Infra Ltd a member of JK Group on Tuesday.

the forefront in philanthropy and during the pandemic they had donated generously for

saving lives.

He said it had emerged that COVID-19 affected the lungs

of human beings and oxygen was the most important and life-saving object for this. He said keeping in view the acute oxygen crisis which took several lives, the groups decided to ensure that in view of the approaching third wave enough arrangement and preparations for oxygen supply should be made to minimise losses.

He expressed that in the third wave of COVID-19 there shall be no oxygen crisis and thus the medical college needs to speed up setting up the oxygen plants both on the campus and other campuses of the college as well.

He assured all possible help on behalf of the JK group.

Those present included Dr Saurabh Agarwal, Dr Mahish and several others.

# Lawyers observe Black Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Lawyers observed Black Day on Tuesday in protest against the non-implementation of gazette notification for bringing back the judicial area of Bilhaur and Ghatampur tehsils to Kanpur Nagar.

Rallying under the banner of Bilhaur-Ghatampur Nyayik Kshetradhikar Vapas Lao Sangharsh Samiti, the lawyers took out a procession wearing black armbands and staged demonstration at the Shatabdi Gate.

Speaking on the occasion, convener Pt Ravindra Sharma said on July 20, 2013, the judicial area of Bilhaur and Ghatampur tehsils was shifted

to Mati in Kanpur Dehat. He said thereafter, the Sangharsh Samiti had started opposing the government's move and after agitation during past six years, the UP Governor, in consultation with the Allahabad High Court, had issued a gazette notification on June 14, 2019 to include the judicial area of both the tehsils to Kanpur Nagar but the implementation of this gazette notification was yet to take place.

He said the Sangharsh Samiti had already sent memorandums to Chief Minister Yogi Aditya Nath and the judge (administration) urging them for early implementation of the gazette notification.

Prominent lawyers present

in the agitation were BL Gupta, Gurmeet Singh, SK Sachan, PK Pandey, Jafar Ullah Khan, Vijay Sagar, Yashi Dwivedi, Priti Tripathi, Radha, Ashutosh Shukla, Ankur Goel, PK Chaturvedi and Ansar Ahmad.

**PENSIONERS FORUM:** General secretary of Pensioners Forum, Anand Awasthi, has expressed concern over the sudden refusal of treatment of CGHS beneficiaries by a big private hospital here in Sarvodaya Nagar. He said the hospital's move was in the wake of non-payment of its long-pending dues of around Rs17 crore by the CGHS.

The hospital is affiliated to CGHS to provide treatment to retired Central government

employees and their family members. There are around 46,000 pensioners in the city.

Awasthi said for the past one week, the hospital management had refused treatment of pensioners and their dependents.

CGHS Additional Director Dr Bachan Singh said the payment of hospital dues was made according to receipt of its bills from time to time. He said the hospital had entered into a contract with CGHS and it could not stop the treatment of pensioners and their family members.

He said for the breach of contract terms, the hospital management would be served a notice by the CGHS.

# Scientists develop test to reveal all secrets of brain

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Scientists of the Indian Institute of Technology at Kanpur, in association with the University of Alberta, have developed a test to reveal all secrets of the brain.

The test assesses cognitive flexibility, inhibition control, working memory, fluency, planning and complex problem-solving, configuration and successive processing.

Now the intellectual ability of a person can be known using this test. By this test, parents will be able to choose a suitable career for their children based on their abilities. Besides, employers will be able to assess how beneficial an

applicant will be for their organisation and thereby select the most suitable candidate with the help of this test.

IIT-K Director Prof Abhay Karandikar congratulated the team for devising a unique method for testing cognitive abilities.

The brain-based approach is an integration of biology and cognitive processes. BBIT is based on the theories and systems of brain mechanisms responsible for cognitive processes that are localised in different brain areas.

Besides the traditional use of tests of intelligence/cognitive abilities, BBIT will be of tremendous use for predicting school achievement and career

planning, assessing intellectual strength such as relative strength and weakness in STEM or humanities. It will also be useful for cognitive profiling of those with learning and intellectual disabilities, traumatic brain injury, neurological impairments, and chronic poverty.

Prof JP Das from the University of Alberta, Canada, along with a team of top psychologists and clinical psychiatrists created the Brain-Based Intelligence Test (BBIT). Other team members include Prof Braj Bhushan of IIT-Kanpur; UN Das of Utkal University, Prakash Padakannaya of Ashoka University and clinical practitioners Renu Goyal,

Swagatika Samantray, Dr Pooja Jha and Ragesh Nair who worked hard to develop and standardise the test. After three years of research and hard work, the team achieved success.

The BBIT was launched in the country on Saturday. The marketing of this test has been assigned to a Hyderabad-based company.

In inventing this test, head of the humanities and social sciences department of IIT-Kanpur, Prof Brij Bhushan made an important contribution. Prof Bhushan said that recognising the intellectual potential of a man was considered very important in psychology.



The Covid protocol in the Corona period due to which very few of them employees got infected with it as compared to other places. More than 95 per cent of the employees have been vaccinated in Varanasi division. To provide high quality treatment to the ailing railway personnel and their families, contracts have been signed with advanced medical institutions. UMID card has been issued to ensure medical benefits to the employees. Divisional Hospital, Varanasi, is being equipped with modern equipment and oxygen plant. While promoting paperless working in the division through e-portal EPF, e-pass and salary list are being made available. Through HRMS portal employees and their dependents have been catalogued. The Varanasi division railway administration is paying special attention to the welfare of employees. On the occasion Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM-Infra) Praveen Kumar, ADRM (Operations) SPs Yadav, Chief Medical Superintendent Dr MS Nabyal, Senior Divisional Personnel Officer (SDPO) Samir Paul, Senior Divisional Stores Manager AK Jaiswal, Divisional Finance Manager (DFO) Rajesh Kumar, Divisional Personnel Officer (DPO) Vivek Mishra and a limited number of divisional employees were present. The programme was conducted by SDPO Sameer Paul and the vote of thanks was proposed by DPO Vivek Mishra.



# No State/UT reported death due to O2 shortage: Govt

## Refutes Opp charges of suppressing data, says only compiles data sent by States



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Despite the hullabaloo over the issue during the second wave of Covid-19, it turns out, States and UTs did not report any death due to lack of medical oxygen. Informing this to the Rajya Sabha, the Government on Tuesday also countered the Opposition allegations of suppressing actual Covid death figures saying the Centre only compiles and publishes the data sent in by the State Governments.

"We haven't also told anyone to show fewer numbers (of deaths) or less positive cases. There's no reason for that," the new Health Minister Mandaviya said during a short duration discussion on the issue of Covid management in the Rajya Sabha.

His deputy, the Minister of State for Health Bharati Praveen Pawar, for her part, in

a written reply said: "All states and UTs report cases and deaths to the Union Health Ministry on a regular basis. However, no deaths due to lack of oxygen have been specifically reported by States and UTs."

But there was an unprecedented surge in demand for medical oxygen during the second wave and it peaked at nearly 9,000 MT compared to 3,095 MT in the first wave following which the Centre had to step in to facilitate equitable distribution among the states, she said.

Responding to the Opposition members' criticism of the handling of the Covid pandemic by the government, Mandaviya made a point-by-point counter to all allegations and enlisted how medical oxygen and API supplies were augmented, how vaccination production was increased and

## US eases travel curbs for India amid falling Covid cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the Covid situation easing significantly in the country, the United States has eased travel restrictions for India, lowering it from the highest Level 4, which means no travel, to Level 3, which urges citizens to reconsider travel.

According to US state department's advisory, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a Level 3 Travel Health Notice for India due to Covid-19, indicating a high level of Covid-19 in the country. "Your risk of con-

tracting Covid-19 and developing severe symptoms may be lower if you are fully vaccinated with an FDA authorised vaccine.

Before planning any international travel, please review the CDC's specific recommendations for vaccinated and unvaccinated travellers," it said.

In India, US embassy's website said that the U.S. embassy and consulates continue to monitor COVID-19 conditions in India. Case numbers continue to decrease in most regions of India. "However there continue to be local hotspots,

and some patients recovering from COVID-19 or persons with diabetes or compromised immune systems have become infected with mucormycosis, also known in media reports as "Black Fungus", a serious infection that carries an extremely high mortality rate. Availability of medicines to treat mucormycosis is limited," it said.

According to the embassy website, US citizens who must travel to India are strongly urged to get fully vaccinated before travel and continue to take personal health safety measures

## Canada allows fully vaccinated to fly from Sept 7

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Canada, which has extended suspension of flights from India by a month till August 21, will open to those fully vaccinated with recognised jabs from all countries on September 7 for non-essential travel subject to the overall pandemic situation.

to protect themselves, including practicing social or physical distancing, cleaning hands with soap/hand sanitizer, wearing masks, and avoiding crowded areas with poor ventilation.

## Min misled the House, says Cong KC Venugopal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

"The Government has given a reply that nobody in the country died due to a shortage of oxygen. In every State, we saw how many

patients died due to lack of oxygen. The Minister misled the House. We will move a Privilege Motion against that Minister," senior Congress leader KC Venugopal

pared for this. But DMK's Triuchi Siva said, "Had this MPLAD fund not been suspended, the 800 MPs would have taken up thousands of hospitals and provided funds for manufacturing of oxygen units."

CPI (M)'s Elamaram Kareem raised his concern over the job loss of 12.2 crore Indians during the lockdown, citing data from CMIE while SP's Ram Gopal Yadav suggested the government to increase the spending on health from the current 1.2 per cent of GDP to 3.5 per cent in the next 3-4 years.

BJP MP Swapan Dasgupta said: "In handling the pandemic the role of the state has become paramount" Manoj Kumar Jha (RJD) said it was a collective failure of the governments from 1947 till now as

no dispensation focused on creating healthcare facilities to take care of such a pandemic.

Sanjay Raut (Shiv Sena) alleged that while the pandemic was spreading in the country, the government was busy sending vaccines and oxygen abroad.

A total of 26 members spoke from 21 parties. The nearly five-hour long discussion on Corona pandemic in the Rajya Sabha signaled normalcy after one and half day of disruptions starting Monday. The smooth conduct on Tuesday came about after Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu and Leader of the House Piyush Goyal held discussions with opposition leaders including Anand Sharma and Jairam Ramesh (Congress), Derek O'Brien (TMC) and Tiruchi Siva (DMK).

## Modi accuses Oppn of spreading lies about Covid

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As Congress sought to derail the Parliament proceedings for the second-day and took potshots at Government's Covid-19 management, Prime Minister Narendra Modi retaliated on Tuesday accusing the Opposition party of "spreading lies" and "politicising" the Covid-19 pandemic and sought party MPs to counter it.

"It has not been able to come out of the coma (that) we have come this far. Congress' behaviour is unfortunate, they are not able to digest the fact that we have reached this far and that there is no shortage of vaccine.

Even in Delhi, 20% of the frontline workers have not been vaccinated, "said Modi attacking the Congress in the BJP Parliamentary Party meeting. Congress and other Opposition parties have charged the Modi-government with being caught off-guard during April-May second-killer-wave of the pandemic and declaring 'early victory' over the Covid19.

Thousands of people died in the national Capital itself during the second wave of the pandemic. A party MP quoted Prime Minister saying that Covid-19 was not a matter of politics but a "matter of humanity" for the BJP. "Corona is not a matter of politics for us, it is a



matter of humanity. Earlier during an epidemic, more people used to die of hunger rather than the disease but we did not let that happen," Modi said to have told MPs.

The Prime Minister asked the them to be battle-ready for the third wave of the pandemic which, according to the medical and research fraternity, is anticipated to hit the country from late August to September.

Modi asked his party members to counter the 'lies' being spread by the opposition about Covid-19 and government's policies.

The Prime Minister urged the MPs to make adequate efforts to bring correct facts before the people and create awareness about what all government has done to check and mitigate the suffering inflicted by the pandemic, he said.

He also understandably asked MPS to visit Public

Distribution Shops apparently to see that ration is reaching in right hands.

The Prime Minister also accused the Congress of playing politics of obstructions. "Despite losing elections one after another, Congress has still not woken up from its stupor. If you look at the current record they have virtually evaporated from the political spectrum.. they only believe in the politics of obstruction and don't want to debate and discuss," Modi said in the backdrop of detailing of parliament proceedings. Congress and the other opposition have for the second-day disrupted the business in both the houses of the Parliament on a host of issues, including price-rise and farmers agitation.

Lok Sabha proceedings on Tuesday ran for barely four minutes, 10 minutes and two minutes before being adjourned for the day at 3 pm by Speaker Om Birla.

## No caste-wise data on population in census: MHA



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Government on Tuesday yet again made it clear that it will not include caste wise data on population other than Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the national census. The Ministry of Home Affairs said this decision has been taken as a "matter of policy".

Responding in the Lok Sabha, the MHA noted that a request for the collection of caste data in the Census had been made by some State Governments.

"The State Governments of Maharashtra and Odisha have requested to collect caste details in the forthcoming Census. The Government of India decided as a matter of policy not to enumerate caste wise population other than SCs and STs in Census," the MHA said in the Lok Sabha.

In March this year too, the

rriors like her.

Initiating the discussion, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjuna Kharge said that the Government's Covid-19 death toll figure of 4-5 lakh is "false" and conservative and claimed the average number of deaths cannot be less than 52.4 lakh so far in the country.

## NIA files chargesheet against CPI ultra

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a chargesheet against Vijith Vijayan, an alleged CPI (Maoist) ultra, in Kozhikode Maoist Case of 2019.

The chargesheet was filed on Monday before Special Court for NIA Cases, Ernakulam, Kerala, under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code and relevant provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Vijayan, 26, was arrested by NIA on January 21 this year. He was also known by aliases Pachha, Balu, Musafir and Ajay.

The case was originally registered on November 1, 2019 at Pantheerankavu Police Station, Kozhikode City, Kerala against Allan Shuaib Thwaha Fasal and CP Usman for their role in furthering the activities of CPI (Maoist), a proscribed terrorist organization.

The case was re-registered by NIA on December 18, 2019. After investigation, the agency had earlier filed chargesheet against three accused persons on May 27 last year, the NIA said.

Further Investigation has revealed that Vijith Vijayan was an active member of CPI (Maoist) and was part of the publication division.

## SC upholds cooperative societies' amendment

But annuls part relating to their functioning

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday in a 2:1 majority verdict upheld the validity of the 97th Constitutional amendment that deals with issues related to effective management of cooperative societies but struck down a part related to their setting up and functioning.

A Bench of Justices R F Nariman, K M Joseph and B R Gavi said, "We have struck down part IX B of the Constitution related to cooperative societies but we have saved the amendment".

Justice Nariman said, "Justice Joseph has given a partly dissenting verdict and has struck down the entire 97th constitutional amendment".

The 97th constitutional amendment, which dealt with issues related to effective management of co-operative societies in the country was passed by Parliament in December 2011 and had come into effect from February 15, 2012.

The change in the Constitution has amended Article 19(1)(c) to give protection to the cooperatives and inserted Article 43 B and Part IX B, relating to them.

While Article 19(1)(c) guarantees freedom to form

association or unions or cooperative societies subject to certain restrictions, Article 43 B says that States shall endeavour to promote voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management of cooperative societies.

The Part IX B of the Constitution inserted by 97th amendment deals with incorporation, terms of members of board and its office bearers and effective management of cooperative societies.

The Centre has contended that the provision does not denude states of their power to enact laws with regard to cooperatives.

The apex court's verdict came on the Centre's plea challenging the Gujarat High Court's 2013 decision striking down certain provisions of the 97th constitutional amendment while holding that Parliament cannot enact laws with regard to cooperative societies as it is a state subject.

The top court also examined a question whether the provision denuded states of their exclusive power to enact laws to deal with management of cooperative societies.

## Pegasus snooping row rocks RS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Pegasus snooping controversy rocked the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday with the Opposition raising a din over it and forcing two adjournments in the morning session.

Members of Opposition parties, who had given as many as 15 notices under rule 267 requiring setting aside of the business of the day to take up the issue they want to raise, raised slogans on the Pegasus issue besides others including fuel price rise and farmers agitation. The protesting members also rushed into the well of the house.

Chairman M M Venkaiah Naidu urged the members to let the house run but of no avail. Sensing the mood of the house, he adjourned the proceedings till 12.00 pm shortly after the house met for the day at 11.00 am

The Opposition made its intentions clear at the outset and disrupted proceeding as soon as the House condoled the death of a former member, Ramadhar Kashyap. Members of Congress, TMC, Left and DMK were up on their feet raising various issues.

With the chairman disallowing all the 15 notices as he

did for the 17 served on Monday, Anand Sharma (Congress) said either the rule 267 should be removed or the Chairman should consider notices given under them as long as it is there in the rule book.

"These are issues of concern. We should not only read about it in newspapers or see on television," he said.

Naidu said he agrees with Sharma. "There is a need for (rule) 267."

I have been there in the House and I understand the problem of national security, something serious happens, you have to suspend the business and then take up that matter," he said.

When the house reassembled at 12.00 pm, members again protested and did not pay heed to the Deputy Chairman request to allow the Question Hour to function. He then adjourned the proceedings till one pm.

Rajya Sabha proceedings were adjourned for the third time amid uproar by YSR Congress members demanding special status for Andhra Pradesh.

Harivansh asked protesting members several times to go back to their seats and allow the debate on the COVID-19 pandemic.

## CPI seeks JPC probe into snooping case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CPI on Tuesday demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the snooping incident by Israeli spy software Pegasus. It accused the Modi Government of sabotaging the constitutionally guaranteed rights of citizens.

"The National Secretariat of the Communist Party of India is shocked to learn that Israeli spy software Pegasus has been snooping into number of phones of opposition leaders, journalists, activists and numerous others. The Modi government is in good relations with the government of Israel. People are

questioning how such surveillance can be conducted without the knowledge and consent of the Indian government. Truth therefore should come out," the CPI said.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitram Yechury ridiculed the "international conspiracy theory" claimed by the BJP leaders and Union Ministers. "Modi Govt's conspiracy to destroy the secular democratic Republic of India as ordained by our Constitution. A high level enquiry and fixing of responsibility for this violation of fundamental rights and liberties must be conducted speedily. Heads must roll," he said.

Leader of the House Piyush Goyal also appealed to the protesting Members.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Chairman asked Leader of Opposition Party

Mallikarjun Kharge to initiate the debate. He, however, said since the house

was not in he was not able to speak.

The chair then asked Swapan Das Gupta (nominated) to speak and the member gave his views amidst the din. The chair then adjourned the house for 15 minutes.

## Cong charges Govt with ripping democracy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Following the alleged disclosure that the Pegasus software was used to snoop in on Congress-JD (S) leaders and Ministers in Karnataka, the Congress on Tuesday charged the Modi Government with hijacking and ripping apart the democracy through Operation Kamal which was instrumental in the fall of its government in the southern State.

Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said that the chronology is that Pegasus software was used to buy the elected government so that the Congress government could be brought down.

Surjewala, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjuna and Leader of Congress Party in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and KC Venugopal, Leader of Opposition in Karnataka Siddaramaiah held a press conference to express the party's displeasure over the controversy that had rocked the nation in the last three days. While Kharge said that Pegasus software may have been used not only in Karnataka but in many states, Venugopal it may have been used even in the government that fell in Madhya Pradesh.

## Nadda to step into late Vajpayee's room in Parliament House

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Nameplates often denote and bear the stamp of the changing power equations in politics. It happened with BJP president JP Nadda too on Tuesday. He will be stepping into the room in the Parliament House which once displayed the nameplate of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Vajpayee's nameplate was removed on Tuesday from the room in the parliament building, 17 years after he was voted out of office.

The nameplate had stayed at the entrance of Room No. 4, alongside that of another BJP patriarch, LK Advani.

Nadda who has, so far, been using a room reserved for the leader of the Rajya Sabha would now move into the hallowed room which was, though, rarely used by the late Prime



Minister.

It is interesting to remember how after Prime Minister Narendra Modi took reins of the government at the Centre in 2014, veteran Advani 'lost' his nameplate from the door of his room allocated to him for years in the Parliament building. Advani was then visibly upset.

The nameplate was, however, restored after a day or two for the same unknown reasons for which it was 'unceremoniously' removed. Advani used it until 2019 when he along with another party veteran, Murli Manohar Joshi, were ruled out for contesting the Lok Sabha elections.

## 'Govt open to talk to farmers to resolve issue'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday said it will remain open to discussions with protesting farmers' unions to resolve issues over three new agriculture laws passed by Parliament in September last year. In another reply to the Lok Sabha on the PM KISAN scheme, the Government said that Rs 2,992 crore is to be recovered from 42.16 lakh ineligible farmers who got money under the PM-KISAN scheme.

In written replies to Lok Sabha on several questions related to farmers' protest, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said the government had stressed that instead of insisting on the demand for the repeal of the said Acts the Farmer Unions should discuss about their concerns on the clause of farm Acts, so that their concerns can be resolved.

Tomar said that the government had so far held 11 rounds of negotiations talks with agitating farmers' unions to resolve the issues. The government has been engaged in serious, sensitive and active discussions with the farmers' unions to resolve the issues.





## Recklessness

Owing to laxity by the States and citizens, the Supreme Court is forced to intervene

Does the Supreme Court have to stand between India and a third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic? It appears so, considering the casual approach of some States and the people alike to respecting the safety protocols. The apex court on Tuesday rapped the Kerala Government for bowing to traders' pressure and ordering relaxation of the lockdown in view of Eid. It was "shocked" by the "sorry state of affairs" and warned Kerala that action will be taken against it if the relaxation is found to have led to increased COVID-19 positive cases. As it is, Kerala is registering a steady rise in the number of cases. As late as on Monday, the Kerala Government was explaining to the court that the pre-Eid relaxations were a humanitarian gesture as well as an economic necessity. Uttar Pradesh needed a prodding from the Supreme Court before it announced that the Kanwar Yatra was being deferred as a precautionary measure. Till then, it was preparing for the yatra and, at one point of time, even asked the neighbouring Uttarakhand to hold the yatra. The Supreme Court's concern is not misplaced as after a steady tapering of the second wave of the pandemic, cases are beginning to rise again even if the rise is limited to Kerala and Maharashtra, for now. The intervention of the courts and some alert State Governments last fortnight ensured that the assembly of thousands of tourists at hill stations was prevented with stricter safety measures.



Reacting to the current situation, the Institute of Mathematical Sciences said active cases persisting for a long time can create conditions for a super-spreader that can lead to another pandemic wave. The Supreme Court's attention needs to be drawn yet again to the vaccine shortage that is hitting the States. In Delhi, several vaccine centres were reported shut last week. The Health Minister of Maharashtra claimed some centres were operating below their capacity because of shortage of stock. Rajasthan and Punjab are also reporting similar situations. The apex court is aware of the pace at which vaccines are being procured. An affidavit filed by the Union Government also spells out the true picture about the availability of vaccine doses for the period between August and December. In the last week of June, the pace of vaccination came down by 39 per cent. It went up by six per cent in July first week, with an average of 42 lakh doses administered per day, before falling again. Reports reaching us from the US and the UK under the circumstances do not bode well for India. In the US, where the cases are rising fast, nearly all the new ones involve unvaccinated people. And in the UK, ironically, its Health Secretary tests positive after getting both doses even as the Government lifts all remaining restrictions. The two instances only reinforce the fact that a faster pace of vaccination and strictly following safety protocols are the only ways to avoid a third wave.

### PICTALK



Priests pull a chariot during Lord Jagannath's Bahuda Yatra, in Puri

PTI

## The fifth coming

Nepal's new PM must work hard to repair ties with India and to regain his people's trust

Finally, Sher Bahadur Deuba has made it to the Nepal Prime Minister's seat for the fifth time, easily securing the confidence of the Lower House in the country's Parliament. The road back to the throne, making a stubborn and resilient KP Sharma Oli fall by the wayside, has not been easy but it certainly gets harder from here. Deuba has several challenges to address. First, there are voices for him to step



down as the president of the Nepali Congress Party as there are demands for a younger leadership. Therefore, putting his party in order before anything else will be an arduous task. Second, there are big payoffs pending for other parties supporting the Nepali Congress, and one single dispute may jeopardise Deuba's position. Maoists are unpredictable as they had supported the Nepali Congress in 2016, yet joined KP Oli in 2017 despite being in the Government. Third, the foreign policy of Nepal is clearly in a shambles with no clarity on friends or encroachers. Then, Deuba is seen as leaning towards India and that sure isn't

pleasing for China that has been pumping in finances and building infrastructure in the Himalayan country to maximise its influence in the region.

As Nepal acts as a buffer between the two Asian giants and can't afford to antagonise either, it would be a tightrope for the new Prime Minister though he has already traversed this path four times. However, Beijing's frustration and belligerence at the elevation of Deuba and the humiliating ouster of its protégé Oli is already showing. In an article titled "China-Nepal ties solid despite pro-India leader", the *Global Times* reported on Monday that "Observers believe the Nepali Congress will likely lead Nepal's foreign policy toward a favorable direction for India". Pointing to the congratulatory messages by US ambassador Randy Berry and Indian envoy Vinay Mohan Kwatra to Deuba, the paper surmised that "their eagerness to promote ties with the new Prime Minister is quite obvious". Putting up a brave face despite China's clear and resounding failure in retaining Oli in the Prime Minister's seat, the article mentioned that Nepal's foreign policy has already taken shape. However, Deuba and Narendra Modi have already spoken on the phone and talked about "working together to further enhance the wide-ranging cooperation between India and Nepal". Let's hope for happier times ahead!

# Contouring strategic studies in our country

In this time and age, nobody can afford to be aloof from international politics. That's why a closer strategic understanding through various tools is important



RAJESH KHARAT

In a tumultuous world order facing the challenges of COVID-19, terrorism, border disputes, political instabilities, religious extremism, climate change and so on, the world may seem more at peace than in the previous decades. Yet, tensions between and among the nations are far higher at present. From two World Wars to Cold War, Globalisation to Great Recessions, there have been drastic changes in the world order. However, the contest for the apex title continues to be the same. Although the ongoing decade has so far avoided a war-like situation globally, the conflicts in Africa, West Asia and other parts of the world have impacted the global community one way or another. With none aloof from the happenings of international politics, be it individual or countries, understanding the global political system is the utmost need of the time. Political scientists have theorised, conceptualised, argued and defined the politics, State, power, system and governance according to their understanding of contemporary international politics. In the meantime, it has impacted almost every country's bilateral and multilateral relations with the rest of the world. It needs closer scrutiny through the tools of diplomacy, foreign policy, strategy, geopolitical analysts and strategic understanding of the situation. While members of the diplomatic community, intelligence agencies, political leaders/spokespersons and journalists remain at the forefront to assess the situation, dedicated institutions help these agencies or individuals to prepare better to deal with the issues.

By the first half of the 20th century, India found herself as the epicentre of the South Asia region, encircled by landlocked countries (Bhutan and Nepal), small island nations (Maldives and Sri Lanka) and politically volatile Myanmar and Pakistan and a giant in the form of China next door. Amid this background, India had set up the Indian Council for World Affairs, Indian School of International Studies, followed by many other independent think tanks working towards understanding the events of international politics and helping the Government in assessing the risks involving while pursuing national interest. Since then, the



Government has established public think tanks and research centres in various universities to train the scholars for study and research the issues of international politics and relations with an India-centric approach.

With the resurgence of China, India's challenge to strengthen its regional power status and reinforce its strategic presence in Asia, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region, has doubled. There are risks of regional and international alliances falling apart due to failure of common ground to cooperate. In this situation, universities and research institutions have a more significant role in assessing the risks and coming up with potential solutions that may help pursue the national objective and protect national interest. In a recent speech, while inaugurating the newly established School of International Relations and Strategic Studies at the University of Mumbai, Indian Army chief, General Manoj Mukund Naravane, said that "there is renewed interest in assimilating indigenous thoughts of a glorious past. This, coupled with the growing stature of our country in the dynamic global world order of today, aspires us to draw valuable lessons from an ancient heritage" of India's global strategic thoughts and thinkers.

While India's diplomatic

and defence community are well equipped to chalking out an impenetrable strategic plan for India's development, progress, safety and security, India also needs to produce young minds in international and strategic studies. However, the subject does not find adequate representation in universities across India. As the Army chief stated that "India is a land of great strategic thinkers and scholars", and with thinkers like Chanakya, Manu, Tiruvallur and in the modern day K Subramaniam, India needs to evolve and retrace this knowledge.

International relations and strategic studies are vital components of various professional courses and career-oriented examinations either by the Union Public Service Commission, State Service Commission or Staff Selection Boards. With the JNU in north India, Jadavpur University in the east and Pondicherry University in South hosting the Schools of International Studies, Mumbai being the HQ of Western Naval Command of Indian Navy and Naval War College, affiliated to the University of Mumbai, Pune HQ of Southern Command of Indian Army, the National Defence Academy and College of Military Engineering setting up the School of International

Relations and Strategic Studies at the University of Mumbai, Mumbai brings together the armed forces, thinkers, research scholars, academicians and journalists to study and discuss the future of strategic studies in India.

With India as a hub to prominent think tanks like the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis, IDSA, New Delhi, United Service Institute, Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) and Centre for Airpower Studies, an active infrastructure at the university level in teaching and training the future generations of strategic community will help India to seek and secure its national interests. India also has fine journalism, and global events infrastructure is an integral part of their print and visual reporting. Therefore, professional training in this regard, especially in cities like Mumbai, is the need of the hour. Also, in the near future, India will need more aspiring diplomats and strategic thinkers. This vacuum can be filled by more such centres coming up at the university level.

(The author is Director, the School of International Relations and Strategic Studies, and Dean Humanities, University of Mumbai. The views expressed are personal.)



THE GOVERNMENT HAS ESTABLISHED PUBLIC THINK TANKS AND RESEARCH CENTRES IN VARIOUS UNIVERSITIES TO TRAIN SCHOLARS FOR STUDY AND RESEARCH OF THE ISSUES OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND RELATIONS WITH AN INDIA-CENTRIC APPROACH

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### STATE'S TOLERANCE IS MISSING

Sir — Which way is the country moving and what's wrong with Modi and various other State Governments who are unable to digest any kind of criticism? They forget that it's all part of democracy. As a result, the Supreme Court (SC) tells the Manipur Government to release political activist Erendro Leichombam (40) from prison, that too within six hours, as his continued detention would have been in violation of his fundamental right to life.

Without the SC's iron hand, even the law-abiding citizens are worried whether they are living in the land of Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi and other noble souls? Along with journalist Kishorechandra Wangkhem (41), Leichombam was arrested for a controversial Facebook post while condoning the death of State BJP president S Tikendra Singh. After Singh succumbed to COVID-19, the duo said that cow urine and cow dung were no cure for the virus. Based on this post, the duo was arrested. Before they could be released on bail, the State slapped the NSA on them though Leichombam was released quickly. But what happens to co-accused Wangkhem?

This is the right time for India to have a relook from the sedition law to some other Acts also.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

### TAINT ON FARMER-FRIENDLY SCHEME

Sir — The Prime Minister's Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-KISAN), formulated keeping in mind farmers' interests, is also becoming a victim of fraud. The ruling Government has told Parliament that part of the scheme's money has gone to the accounts of more than 42 lakh ineligible farmers and the Government suffered a loss of about ₹3,000 crore. The Ministry of Agriculture told the House that the Government is making efforts to recover the money from the ineligible farmers.

The maximum number of such cases has come from Assam, where more than ₹554 crore have gone to the accounts of more than 8.35 lakh ineligible farmers. Tamil Nadu is at the second spot, where

## Clear the air over Pegasus affair



The term 'Pegasus' is now finding its place in India's political lexicon; it is gaining wide currency. The latest startling revelation that Pegasus, a penetrative, powerful and sophisticated software developed by NSO Group, an Israeli company, was used to snoop on Indian citizens for questionable motives clearly shows that the Modi Government does not believe that snooping is unethical and antithetical to high standards of democratic practice.

The Government's rebuttal that the allegation is without substance is belied by clear forensic evidence of Pegasus infections. Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement that it was done by "disrupters for obstructors to show India in bad light and to derail India's development tra-

jectory" was unconvincing. India is defamed on the international stage more by the act of snooping than by its disclosure. Being a client of Israel's NSO Group, which owns Pegasus, is not something to be proud of.

In this digital era, hacking smartphones and other devices for political ends is nothing short of weaponising technology. Illegal snooping or surveillance is a cybercrime; it invades privacy, it infringes on civil liberties, it puts phone and computer users in a very vulnerable position in terms of personal safety and security; it gives prior information and an undue advantage to the ruling party in the game of politics; it is unbefitting of a democratically elected Government.

The question arises as to whether or not Prime Minister Narendra Modi knew of the large-scale snooping. He owes the nation an honest answer and steps to get to the bottom of the snoogate rocking the country. He needs to do more than just hit out at the Congress that it is spreading "negativity". He should accede to the demand for a probe by a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) or a sitting Supreme Court judge.

G David Milton | Tamil Nadu

about ₹340 crore have gone to the accounts of more than 7.22 lakh ineligible farmers. Punjab is number three, with ₹437 crore going to more than 5.62 lakh ineligible farmers. Under the scheme, the Government gives ₹6,000 annually in three installments to small farmers. But now that this scheme for poor farmers has also turned into a scam under the current regime, the poor farmers are suffering while dishonest people are making hay.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

### CONGRESS CALLING THE WRONG SHOTS

Sir — The Congress and Rahul Gandhi are acting excited like a kid given a new toy. Here is a past news item to lower their sugar-high excitement. An RTI reply reveals that the UPA Government snooped on 9,000 phones, 500 emails every month, and now the pot is calling the kettle black? The consortium that has come out

with this tabloid-level expose with no evidence but several innuendos, is a known anti-PM cabal. The journalists propagating this in India are known Congress sympathisers. Who knows, perhaps another tool kit aimed at regime change? But Indians are tired of such undemocratic methods by the Congress and its cabal (Indian and foreign) and treat them with the contempt they deserve.

The question is will the GOI communicate with Indians effectively or falter as usual? The Congress should play a constructive role and participate in the House debate; let's hear both the sides. Since these anti-national elements have nothing constructive to offer, they are indulging in this drama at the behest of neighbouring countries and other forces inimical to India.

MR Jayanthi | Vashi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

The Government's number on (COVID-19) deaths is not correct... The Government is releasing incorrect data, so it's necessary to expose them.

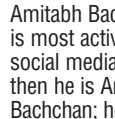


Congress leader in the RS — Mallikarjun Kharge



Our experts believe and the data shows that most of the price increases we've seen were expected and are expected to be temporary.

US President — Joe Biden



Amitabh Bachchan is most active on social media. And then he is Amitabh Bachchan; he is knowledgeable.

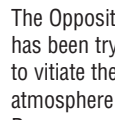


Actor — Arbaaz Khan



You want to win a medal for your country, so you are no longer an individual. If I lose there, I lose with my team.

Spanish tennis star — Garbine Murguza



The Opposition has been trying to vitiate the atmosphere over Pegasus and it only proves their sick mentality.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister — Yogi Adityanath



FIRST COLUMN

AFGHANISTAN:  
AFTER THE FALL

Everybody in the Afghan national army already knows that the war is lost



GWYNNE DYER

Five times in the past two weeks, government soldiers in Badakhshan and Takhar provinces in northern Afghanistan have fled across the border into Tajikistan after clashes with Taliban militants. They didn't lose the firefights, and they're not cowards; 1,600 trained soldiers – over 100 a day – just fled abroad to avoid further combat. Nobody wants to be the last man to die in a lost war. Everybody in the Afghan national army already knows that the war is lost. So, the U.S. intelligence reports predicting that Ashraf Ghani's puppet government (the term is not too harsh) could fall within six to twelve months of a U.S. troop withdrawal are too optimistic. The last German, Italian and British troops left Afghanistan last week, and the last US troops are leaving right now, apart from some 650 soldiers to guard the American embassy and the airport. (Always hold the airport, because people lined up on the embassy roof waiting for the last helicopter out is a bad look.) But Kabul may fall in a lot less than six months.



The Taliban already hold at least half the country. The army is just melting away, and the air force will be grounded within weeks once the foreign technical support goes home.

The mujahideen group that became the Taliban spent ten years fighting the Russian occupation, then seven years fighting the local regime and rival mujahideen groups; then five years in power; and then another twenty years fighting the US occupation. Unsurprisingly, they have learned a few things in that time. Most importantly, they have expanded their membership and influence among the non-Pashtun groups: the northern provinces that are now falling to them so fast are the areas they never controlled during their last time in power.

Then there will be a period of vengeance-taking in which 'traitors' who worked for the Americans or other NATO countries will be hunted down and killed. Women will be driven out of the work force, girls' schools will be closed, music will be banned, and men will be beaten for not wearing beards. The Taliban's extreme version of Islam will reign unchallenged. The notion that Afghanistan will become a major terrorist base again once the Taliban regain power is based on the foolish belief that it was an important base for terrorist activity the first time around. Terrorists don't actually need 'bases'; the essence of the enterprise is to be invisible until you strike, and the weapons you need are neither large nor hard to obtain. Most of the 9/11 hijackers got some 'training' in Osama bin Laden's camp, but they were Arabs, not Afghans, and how much training do you need to hijack an airplane? Well, OK, four of them needed flight training, but they did that in the United States. Bin Laden was only in Afghanistan because American pressure got him expelled from his previous 'base' in Sudan. The Taliban leader, Mullah Omar, let him set up in Kandahar because the two men had become close friends when working in the 1980s in the American-backed jihad against the Russians in Afghanistan.

But did Bin Laden tell Omar about his plan to kill thousands of Americans by hijacking commercial aircraft? The first principle of all secret work is 'need to know', and Omar didn't need to know. Indeed, he might have objected if he did know, because he would have realised that Afghanistan would get invaded if the 9/11 attack went ahead. Afghanistan wasn't a 'major terrorist base' in the past, and it probably won't become one in the future. And if it does, so what? At least then you'll know where they are.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy (and Work)'. The views expressed are personal.)

Is honesty alone enough for officers?

The 'honest-only' officers forget the fact that they are paid not merely to remain honest but to perform as well



ANIL SWARUP

As mentioned in the previous article, "Honesty Still Pays" (published on July 13, 2021) bureaucracy may be condemned, criticised, castigated, and ridiculed all around the world but it has not withered away. In fact, it has retained its significance as an essential tool to carry out the business of governance. However, as I point out in my book, "Ethical Dilemmas of a Civil Servant" released last year, in order to do that effectively, the bureaucracy has to not only survive but also thrive in the interest of the country and its people. But that cannot happen on the strength of honesty alone. Honesty is necessary but not a sufficient condition for the welfare of the people.

A civil servant is paid to perform, to deliver. Ironically, though, on account of the emerging socio-political environment, this performance is not always expected to be for the public good. It is also a pity that, on occasions, the civil servant is expected to uphold the interest of a selected few. Unfortunately, such occasions are increasing by the day and those civil servants who do not conform are not only shown the door but are also inevitably harassed. What is even more appalling is the fact that far from recognising good performance, there are instances of officers being penalised for doing what they had taken the oath to do. Needless to say, such signals do not augur well either for the system or for society. However, all is not lost. There is still a huge area where such pressures either do not exist or, if they do, can be managed tactfully.

However, it would also be wrong to assume that all honest officers fall into a single category. There are honest officers who think that the entire world around them is falling apart. They then take upon themselves the task of cleansing the system. The 'crusader' in them gets the better of them and media attention adds fuel to fire. A campaign is launched against those whom they perceive as dishonest. Honesty becomes an end in itself. Such 'honest-only' officers forget the fact that they are paid not merely to remain honest but to perform as well. They evaluate their performance in terms of punitive actions that they take against others, i.e., the number of people or institutions they expose (becoming quintessential whistle-blowers, a role that brings 'name' and 'fame' to them), the number of disciplinary proceedings they get initiated, and the number of First Information Reports (FIRs) they lodge. In fact, in the final analysis, such precipitate actions by these 'crusaders' do not even serve their professed goal of cleansing the society. In their enthusiasm to hunt down the bad guys, they end up making no effort toward evolving systems that can reduce, if not eliminate, the



A CIVIL SERVANT IS PAID TO PERFORM, TO DELIVER. IRONICALLY, THOUGH, ON ACCOUNT OF THE EMERGING SOCIO-POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT, IT IS NOT ALWAYS EXPECTED TO BE FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD. IT IS ALSO A PITY THAT, ON OCCASIONS, THE CIVIL SERVANT IS EXPECTED TO ENSURE TO UPHOLD THE INTEREST OF A SELECTED FEW. UNFORTUNATELY, SUCH OCCASIONS ARE INCREASING BY THE DAY

(The author is a former IAS officer. The views expressed are personal.)



incidence of corrupt practices. After all, evolving systems is a time-consuming process and may not provide immediate fodder for publicity.

The 'honest-only' civil servant stops being the prime instrument available with the State to execute plans and programmes. He smells a rat in every file. Hence, he brings execution to a grinding halt. Even for projects which do get delivered, it usually is too late to attain the desired impact. More often than not, these situations result in 'paralysis of analyses'. For him, honesty pays because he leads an honourable life as an honest officer. He revels in being recognised by many as a crusader against the dishonest, his professional achievements being the trophies of the victims of his crusade. In this way, he does a huge disservice to his 'Key Responsibility Area', i.e., service to the nation and its people. Moreover, he also does precious little to encourage initiative or instill motivation among those working with him.

A civil servant, especially in the higher echelons, has to evolve as a leader and has to cultivate such leadership qualities as to not inspire awe or fear but respect. This is done through leading by

example, with focus, objectivity, consistency, empathy, commitment to the tasks, and an ever-burning desire to make a real difference. All these are essential virtues that need not necessarily be consumed in the crusade against the dishonest. These virtues need to be used for evolving better systems and for inspiring colleagues to perform. Fortunately, there are a number of civil servants who are honest and efficient. They may not be as visible as those who are going hammer and tongs after the 'dishonest'. They are not 'crusaders'. They are the 'doers'.

Take the recent example of committed and efficient officers like Iqbal Singh Chahal who handled the COVID-19 pandemic in a truly exemplary manner in Mumbai as did many other officers in other parts of the country. Similarly, this young Collector, Dr. Rajendra Bharud, ensured that there was no shortage of oxygen during the pandemic wave in Nandurbar, a remote district in Maharashtra. There have been many more instances in the past as well. The thrust on efficiency and integrity in the railways by the erstwhile Chairman of the Railway Board, Ashwani Lohani, yielded results. One could witness

the impact of the changes he brought about in the functioning of the Railways. He did not go to town with what he had done. But the results were there for all to witness. Sandhya Rani from the Postal Service excelled in Andhra Pradesh in her capacity as Education Commissioner and transformed school education in many ways. The team of Indu Bhushan and Dinesh Arora that initially led the successful implementation of the Prime Minister Jan Aarogya Yojana (PMJAY) as a part of Aayushman Bharat (the largest-ever health insurance programme), provides another example of honest and efficient working. What was done by a technocrat, E Sreedharan, to us her in the Metro Rail revolution is legendary. The likes of Julio Ribeiro and Prakash Singh are role models for police officers. There is a long list of such officers who were/are honest, efficient, and committed to the cause for which they were/are paid from the public exchequer. They performed their tasks as professionals. Their yearning to transform was/is directed towards the tasks assigned to them. However, unfortunately, there are equal numbers of bureaucrats who stop at just being honest.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

IT SEEMS THAT DALITS, WOMEN... OBCs BECOMING MINISTERS DOES NOT GO DOWN WELL WITH MANY PEOPLE SITTING HERE IN PARLIAMENT.

— PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI



THE PM BELIEVES THAT HIS DECISION TO RESHUFFLE THE CABINET IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ECONOMIC BURDEN HE HAS IMPOSED.

— CONGRESS DEPUTY LEADER IN THE LOK SABHA GAURAV GOGOI

Tackling India's growing population

The Prime Minister should try to form a national policy on population and bring a consensus on the issue of managing its growth

There is a raging debate about regulating the population growth in India. Three BJP-ruled States – Uttar Pradesh, Assam, and Karnataka – intend to bring a two-child policy norm with incentives and disincentives. Even though they have not openly spelled out that the measure is meant to send a signal to the Muslim community, the message is clear. Some BJP MPs are preparing to push for a national population control law through private members' Bills during the monsoon session of Parliament.

In 1976, population control and family planning were added to the third list of the Seventh Schedule under the 42<sup>nd</sup> amendment of the Constitution. This has enabled the Union government and the



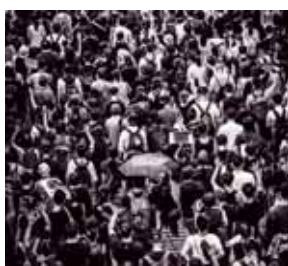
KALYANI SHANKAR

The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.

state governments to make laws for population regulation. At least a dozen states had brought the two-child norm at some time or the other and some states like Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Himachal Pradesh revoked the policy.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself, in his Independence Day speech in 2017, flagged the issue and stressed the need to counter the population growth. He announced from the ramparts of Red Fort that "keeping one's family small is an act of patriotism" and that "time has now come that we should take such challenges head-on".

After implementing the core agenda of the party – revocation of Article 370 and building a Ram Mandir –



Modi might now turn to the other issues on the schedule like Uniform Civil Code and population control, etc.

Successive Union governments have tried to regulate population growth. It became a sensitive political issue after the compulsory sterilization drive during the Emergency in 1975. The P-word is a no-no for many political parties. No politician wants to touch it after that forced sterilization drive.

The Union health ministry has even changed the name of the Family Planning Department to Family Welfare Department.

India's population, which was just 30 crore at Independence has now become 1.34 billion. In contrast, China's population had doubled over the same period. The pace of India's population growth, now at 15 million per year, is the world's fastest. It is projected to reach 1.8 billion by 2050. Millions still do not have access to clean water, proper meals, healthcare, and education. The unmanageable number and more mouths mean more strain on the resources.

Had the population even doubled since 1947, it would have been manageable, but it has grown almost five times,

which should be a cause for concern.

The opponents of the population policy point out that national fertility has been declining steadily. Over the past decade, the trend has been a steady decline in the reproductive rate, with the southern states registering a steeper decline than the Hindi heartland in the north.

States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh account for nearly half of India's population (48 percent). They continue to have very high fertility rates. States like Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal are now well below replacement fertility. Almost all central states have experienced a significant decel-

eration in population growth and the pace of net addition is decreasing.

The opponents are also against any harsh measures to contain the population. They argue that the one billion-plus population would yield a demographic dividend. For poor families, more hands mean more income. Also, it has brought in higher per capita entitlements. The migration from the northern and the eastern states has helped maintain growth in the south and the west, where fertility rates are low.

However, it is necessary to manage the population growth. More positive steps are needed to control it. The best way to do so would be to create awareness, provide education for the lower strata of society,

and more incentives for voluntary family planning. It should not be compulsory at all costs, or it will be a repeat of 1975.

It has to be remembered that India is expected to add nearly 273 million people to its population between now and 2050, according to a 2019 UN report. If no steps are taken, India will overtake China to become the most populous country and likely to hold the number one rank throughout the 21st-century, according to population experts.

The narrative needs to be changed for the better. After consulting all other political parties, the prime minister should try to form a national population policy and bring a consensus on this issue. Above all, no policy would succeed without people's cooperation.



# Pegasus: TMC seeks Shah’s resignation

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Displaying a trailer of what Mamata Banerjee was likely to deliver in Wednesday’s Trinamool Congress martyrs’ day speech from a pan-Indian platform, the Bengal ruling outfit on Tuesday launched a scathing broadside against the BJP Government demanding resignation of Home Minister Amit Shah for trying to turn India into a “spying democracy.”

“There is no point diverting the Pegasus issue which the BJP is trying ... they are guilty of breaching citizen’s privacy which they will have to account for ... everyone knows that not a leave turns in India without the direction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah ... so the least they should do is ... a resignation of Amit Shah as the Home Minister ... because without their approval no spyware could have entered India from Israel ... We want a full investigation into the matter,” TMC MP Sukhendu Shekhar Roy said.

Trinamool Lok Sabha MP Mohua Moitra wanted to know “whether India is a client of the NSO” the Israeli concern that makes Pegasus spyware. She said if the Prime Minister, Home Minister and the IT Minister did not lie in the floor of the House then they should

first answer a list of questions raised by her party.

“We have a list of questions for the government and we will not allow Parliament to run unless these questions are answered,” she said asking whether any department of the central government purchased Pegasus or for that matter whether the spyware was still being used and which agency requisitioned this data (of spying).

Her senior colleague and Rajya Sabha MP Derek O’Brien said that his party would not let the situation die down until there was a full-fledged investigation... He said “This is a serious issue and the TMC will not compromise on it. We will not let either House run till this government comes clean on the charges of snooping and surveillance,” alleging how the government spent millions to hack into phones at a time when the country was fighting pandemic.

Former TMC MP and spokesperson Kunal Ghosh wondered the cash for purchasing Pegasus came from the hiked petroleum prices.

But the most biting remark came from party national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee who took a jibe and the Home Minister saying despite “you made big efforts by bringing in CBI, ED and Election Commission along

with huge money power backed by the spyware you failed to win Bengal ... that should be a shame for you.”

The Trinamool Congress’ concerted attack against the BJP comes a day ahead of the Chief Minister’s TMC martyrs’ day speech which her party organizes every year on July 21. This year the speech will be delivered nationally from Delhi in a virtual mode and will be heard and seen over hundreds of giant screens put up across a dozen states--- including Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Tripura, Assam, Tamil Nadu and elsewhere --- where the BJP has its interest dug in.

Meanwhile, in an apparent bid to counter the TMC’s propaganda drive the BJP has lined up a sit-in programme at Rajghat in Delhi on Wednesday.

The dharna would be held to protest against the reported incidents of post-poll violence in Bengal, State party spokesperson Shamik Bhattacharya said alleging 38 BJP workers had been killed post Assembly elections in Bengal.

“Tomorrow, the party will pay homage to the martyrs who were killed during post-poll violence in... Similar programmes will be organized in all the districts of Bengal,” he said.

## Adhikari booked for call detail access claims

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal Police on Tuesday slapped snooping charges on State Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari a day after he warned the East Midnapore Superintendent of Police K Amarnath against “playing partisan games.”

The SP said that cases under section 295 A of the IPC and Section 5 of the Official Secrets Act had been lodged against Adhikari for threatening Government servants and possessing information that he should not have possessed. Besides the BJP leader has also been charged under Disaster Management Act.

Adhikari had on Monday threatened the SP with transfer to Baramula or Anantnag in Kashmir if he continued to receive calls from TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee’s office and act accordingly.

“The TMC is in power in

Bengal and we are in power in Delhi ... like they snoop into our phone calls we also have information about what calls come from where to your office and how you (SP) act accordingly,” Adhikari told in the meeting saying he would file a PIL and seek CBI investigation into the acts of the SP and the entire police brass.

“We have lodged suo motu complaints against Adhikari under Disaster management Act, IPC and Official Secrets Act for possessing information that he should not have possessed,” the SP said.

The controversy started after a three-year-old case of an alleged unnatural death of a former Adhikari security officer was revived recently with the victim’s family alleging that he did not commit suicide.

The CID probing the case questioned Adhikaris thrice --- in the past one week --- at their house in Contai in East Midnapore.

## SC examines if a person getting quota benefits in undivided State, loses it upon reorganisation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Will a Schedule Caste person availing of reservation cease to get the same benefit in the successor State upon reorganisation of the parent state, the Supreme Court examined the “peculiar question” on Tuesday.

The apex court said that such a question has cropped up before it for the first time and there are no case laws available as far as substance of the case is concerned and therefore it would like to examine the matter threadbare as the issue can happen anywhere.

It has sought the assistance of Attorney General K K Venugopal, who submitted that reservation in bifurcated states for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) would remain the same as the conditions of backwardness, which affected members of particular castes would be nearly identical for residents in the erstwhile unified state.

A bench of Justices U U Lalit and Ajay Rastogi was faced with question while examining an appeal filed by Pankaj Kumar, an SC who has challenged the Jharkhand High Court’s order of February 24 last year.

The high court’s 2:1 majority verdict held that the peti-

tioner cannot avail the benefit of reservation in both Bihar and Jharkhand and hence cannot get qualified for state civil service examination.

Kumar was born in 1974 in Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand and at the age of 15 in 1989 shifted to Ranchi, the state capital which came into effect after Bihar’s reorganization on November 15, 2000.

He was appointed as assistant teacher in a school in Ranchi from December 21, 1999 and continued his job as teacher till 2008 in the same school. In 2008, Kumar applied for the 3rd Combined Civil Services Exam in Jharkhand and was called for an interview.

He has submitted his Caste Certificate dated January 12, 2007 showing him as resident of Ranchi along with his application for the Civil Services, which showed his ‘original residence’ as Patna.

Additional Advocate General for Jharkhand, Arunabh chowdhury said the state is supporting the majority verdict of the High Court and is of the view that Kumar cannot be allowed to avail the benefit of reservation in both Bihar and Jharkhand.

The bench said that it agrees with the contention that a belonging to SC or ST cannot

be allowed to avail the benefit of reservation in both the states but since the caste of Kumar is recognised as scheduled caste by both Bihar and Jharkhand, then why can’t the benefit be extended to people of both the states, as they may belong to same clan.

It said that sometimes area specific reservation is given to the SCs or STs; in that case, Parliament clearly specifies that the quota will be given in that particular state.

Chowdhury referred to earlier verdicts of the top court dealing with related issues and a circular said that even if a particular caste is reserved in both the States, the place of permanent residence will hold importance and not the place of temporary residence.

He said the court has to take into account that Jharkhand has the highest percentage of Schedule Tribe population in the country.

The bench said that people belonging to the same caste irrespective of their residence in both the states should get the same benefit like it was given during the unified state.

Dealing with Kumar’s case, the bench said that he was born and brought up in Hazaribagh and in a way his family tree has two branches one in Patna, other in Jharkhand.

### IAF BASE ATTACK

## J-K DGP: Probe points at involvement of ordnance factory across border

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Drones have added a new dimension to security threats from terror groups and investigations into the attack on the Jammu IAF station last month show the involvement of “non-State actors” supported by State actors such as the ordnance factory of Pakistan, Jammu and Kashmir DGP Dilbag Singh said on Tuesday.

He also pointed out that in the past, drones from across the border have been used to drop currency, arms and ammunition inside Indian territory and with the introduction of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in terror activities, more efforts are required to see to it that this new and emerging threat is neutralised effectively.

Singh, a 1987-batch IPS officer, spoke on various issues during an interview with PTI, and these included the present situation on the militancy front and the new threats that have emerged with the use of drones by terror outfits like the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

“Drones have come recently, say in September last year.

First, that came as a big surprise, but we were able to gear up our resources to counter that threat. I am happy to report that in cases of use of drones carrying weapons and narcotics and other explosives... our security grid, intelligence grid of police and security agencies, was very effective in taking countermeasures,” the DGP said. “We were able to intercept around 32 sorties out of roughly 40 sorties which were made,” Singh said.

However, what happened during the intervening night of June 26 and 27 at the Jammu Indian Air Force (IAF) station, where drones were used to drop improvised explosive devices (IEDs), was “a very condemnable incident and very wrong kind of doing on the part of non-state actors (terror groups) who are likely to have been supported by state actors (Pakistan army or ISI),” he said.

“Picking up this kind of a target has added a new dimension to our security threats from terrorists. We have taken the countermeasures. Certain additional technologies have been deployed along the border”, Singh said.

## Srirangam township dismayed over selling of temple's cows to slaughter houses

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

A sense of uneasiness and discernible in Srirangam township in Tiruchirappalli district. Home to the historical Sriranganatha Temple, known as one of the Divya Desams (Divine Land), devotees of the presiding deity as well as local population are upset over the handing over of cows from the temple’s Goshala to slaughter houses.

According to Rangarajan Narasimhan, a Vedic scholar based in the township, the cows were offered to the Sriranganatha Temple by devotees to meet the daily pooja requirements of South India’s leading Vishnu Temple. “Only a fraction of the milk is being used for pooja rituals. Rest of the milk is given to the calves. This is as per the directives in Rig Veda,” Narasimhan told The Pioneer.

But officials of the Sriranganatha Temple have sold off more than 100 cows to slaughter houses, alleges Narasimhan whose daily life commences and concludes by worshipping in the temple. “The Vedas prescribe that cows reared in the Goshalas are not to be sold to anybody. The donors of these temples are expected to



visit the temple regularly to monitor the well being of these cows. But what has happened is that the temple authorities are disposing infirm, old and dried up cows to slaughter houses which is against the directives mentioned in Vedas,” said Narasimhan.

Officials of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Department of Tamil Nadu Government that administers the temple said that 60 cows were recently handed over to the poor archakas and priests to help them supplement their livelihood. “The cows were handed over as per the rules of the HR acs CE Department,” said a release issued by the joint commissioner of the temple.

Narasimhan and other

devotees are questioning the veracity of the joint commissioner’s version. “These are cows that have stopped yielding milk. In what way the poor priests would get additional income from non-milking cows?” asks Narasimhan.

Parthasarathy, another devotee in the temple premises is of the view that a thorough probe should be ordered into the affair as the cows have been disposed of in violation of the Sasthras and Vedas.

Narasimhan says a government order issued in 2013 (which has been accessed by The Pioneer) says that cows from Goshalas in major temples could be donated to priests of other temples so that they could use the milk from these cows for rituals in their temples.

# 12,900 companies struck off records in 2020-21

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 12,889 companies were struck off from official records in the financial year ended March 2021 and 87 companies dissolved during the same period, according to official data.

As per the data provided by the corporate affairs ministry to Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, a total of 2,38,223 companies were struck off and 651 dissolved during the period from 2018 to June 2021 under Section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013.

Under the Section 248, a company can be struck off the official records subject to certain conditions. These include

instances where the Registrar of Companies has a reasonable cause to believe that companies that are not carrying on any business or operation for two immediately preceding financial years and has not made any application within such period for obtaining dormant company status would be struck off after following the due process of law.

Further, companies are dissolved through amalgamation or otherwise with the approval of courts.

In 2020-21, a total of 12,889 companies were struck off and 87 companies dissolved, as per the data provided along with a written reply by Minister of State for

Corporate Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh.

“Thus, it cannot be said that 13,000 big companies and lakhs of small and tiny companies have shut down during 2020-2021,” Singh said.

He was responding to a question on whether it is a fact that over 13,000 registered big companies and over lakhs of small and tiny industries have shut down operations in 2020-21, including 1,200 companies based in North India.

The minister also noted that big companies, small and tiny industries are not defined under the Companies Act, 2013, and that the term ‘closed company’ is also not defined under the Act.

## TN auto drivers quitting profession over rising fuel prices, post-Covid issues

IANs ■ CHENNAI

With fuel prices touching an all-time high and Covid-19 leading to shutdown of businesses, auto drivers in Tamil Nadu are calling it a day.

Trade Union leaders and activists are of the opinion that a large number of auto-rickshaw drivers in the southern State have quit and are selling their autos at low prices.

Mohammed Shabeer, an auto-rickshaw driver from T. Nagar in Chennai, told IANS, “Yes I have already sold my auto and am planning to work in some shop to support my family. Fuel prices are touching an all-time high and are increasing daily so we don’t have any other option other than quitting. I have not paid my EMI for the past four months and have sold all the gold available at home. Hence, I thought that it is better to quit rather than move on with huge losses.”

“Banks never showed any leniency even after the markets were shut for more than two months due to Covid-19 coupled with hiked fuel prices. I have decided after long thought to call it a day. I can’t carry on with these liabilities,” Shabeer added.

The trade unions are of the opinion that the auto-rickshaw drivers are not in a position to carry on their day-to-day activities after the daily fuel price hike.



K.K. Kathiravan, a trade union leader associated with the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), who lives in Kanyakumari told IANS, “The union has strongly recommended to the state government to somehow settle this issue. The Union government is creating problems by unnecessarily hiking fuel prices and there is no hope for the auto-rickshaw drivers.”

The auto drivers complain that while they fill their fuel tanks with petrol worth Rs 400, they did a business of Rs 200 to Rs 300 only. This has led to many auto drivers looking for other work.

Selvaraj Manicakam, Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) leader and auto-rickshaw union General Secretary at Madurai, speaking to IANS said, “A rough estimate finds that nearly 15 to 20 per cent of the auto-rickshaw drivers have

quit the profession and have sold their autos to settle the liabilities and are scouting for other jobs. The decade-old unrevisted fares are the main reason for this and with a heavy hike in fuel prices and post-Covid shutdown, the auto drivers are a harried lot. We are submitting a detailed memorandum to the government to revise the fares.”

After Tamil Nadu announced free travel for women in state-run buses, they are not using auto-rickshaws. Most of the women are now travelling in buses.

Kumar Ganeshan, an auto-rickshaw driver at Pammal in Chennai, told IANS, “I am selling my auto and even at a reduced price, takers are less. Prices of fuel are at an all-time high. Shops and establishments were closed for the past two months due to Covid-19 and we didn’t have any work.

## K’taka CM tells seers he will abide by BJP high command’s decision

IANs ■ BENGALURU

A mid talk of a leadership change in Karnataka, Balehosur Mutt seer Dingaleshwara Swamiji led a delegation of Veerashaiva-Lingayat saints to the official residence of Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Tuesday.

He said Yediyurappa had told them that he will abide by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) high command’s decision.

Asked about a change of Karnataka CM, Yediyurappa said he did not wish to speak on the issue, adding that the decision by the party high command would be final,

Swamiji added. “Yediyurappa told us to let the high command take their call. He seemed to be happy,” Dingaleshwara Swamiji said.

The seer’s statement has led to speculation that Yediyurappa had already been told to quit his post and had prepared himself for the situation.

However, the Mutt seer warned the central BJP leaders that if they were unhappy with Yediyurappa’s leadership, it showed that the party did not think about the future of the state. As many as 500 religious seers from across the state will hold meetings to chalk out future plans supporting Yediyurappa, he said.

## Employees giving away over 11 hrs/week for free on average to their employers in India: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The amount of unpaid overtime that workers around the world are doing has soared in the past year and in India, employees are giving away more than 11 hours per week for free on average to their employers, according to a report. According to a new study by the ADP Research Institute titled ‘People at Work 2021: A Global Workforce View’, the average amount of “free time” worked has increased by

almost two hours per person per week since Covid-19 hit.

The “free time” worked can range from working over breaks and starting early or staying late, to regularly putting in extra work for no additional pay.

Globally, the average amount of free overtime being worked each week is now 9.2 hours per person – up from 7.3 hours pre-pandemic, according to the findings of the survey of more than 32,000 workers in 17 countries.

In India, workers believe

that they work an extra 11.1 hours per week for free. More than 82 per cent of the respondents surveyed in India believe they have been underpaid at some point in time.

Additionally, about 40 per cent of the respondents are working longer hours during normal working weeks, and almost 39 per cent are increasing efforts to network and develop contacts within the organisation.

Rahul Goyal, managing director (India & Southeast Asia)

of ADP, a global leader in payroll and HCM solutions, said: “Workers are now routinely clocking up what amounts to more than a working day’s worth of unpaid overtime every single week.” “Non-essential workers may be going the extra mile due to concerns about their job security, to compensate when colleagues have lost their jobs, or because the boundaries between work and home life have been blurred when working remotely,” he said. One in 10 workers (10

per cent) globally are now giving away in excess of 20 hours per week for free to their employers. Moreover, given the demanding nature of their jobs, essential workers are putting in more unpaid overtime than non-essential workers — at 10.1 hours per week on average, compared to 8.1 hours. The pandemic has also made individuals more digital-savvy, and about 50 per cent of the respondents started using mobile applications or tools to manage their finances.



# 3 rockets land near palace

## Attack took place before Af Prez Ghani’s Eid address

AP ■ KABUL

At least three rockets hit near the presidential palace on Tuesday shortly before Afghan President Ashraf Ghani was to give an address to mark the major Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha.

There were no injuries and the rockets landed outside the heavily fortified palace grounds, said Mirwais Stanikzai, spokesman for the interior minister.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the rocket attack, but police quickly fanned out across the area. One car parked on a nearby street was completely destroyed; the police said it was used as launching pad for the rockets. The palace is in the middle of a so-called Green Zone that is fortified with giant cement blast walls and barbed wire, and streets near the palace have long been closed off.

The barrage came as the US and NATO complete their final withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Many Afghans are worried whether their war-ravaged country will fall deeper into chaos and violence as foreign forces withdraw and the Taliban gain more territory on the ground, having captured several districts and key border crossings with neighboring countries over the past weeks.

The withdrawal is more than 95 per cent complete and the final US soldier will be gone by August 31, President Joe Biden said in an address earlier this month.



Security personnel inspect a damaged vehicle which was firing rockets in Kabul, Afghanistan on Tuesday

AP

“This Eid has been named after Afghan forces to honor their sacrifices and courage, especially in the last three months,” Ghani said in his address to the nation following morning prayers for Eid al-Adha, or the “Feast of Sacrifice.”

“The Taliban have no intention and willingness for peace,” Ghani said.

“We have proven that we have the intention, the willingness and have sacrificed for peace.”

However, Afghan forces have complained about being left without reinforcements and supplies, often running low on food as the Taliban advanced. In many instances, Afghan troops surrendered rather than fight. Washington’s watchdog monitoring U.S. Spending in Afghanistan reported that troops are deeply demoralized and corruption

is rampant.

After their pullout, the US and NATO are committed to spending USD 4 billion annually on Afghan forces until 2024, the majority of that money coming from Washington.

Ghani said he deplored his government’s decision to release 5,000 Taliban prisoners to get peace talks started last year as a “big mistake” that only strengthened the insurgents.

Yet Ghani has released other prisoners, including several sought by warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, with whom he signed a peace deal in 2017.

Among those freed at Hekmatyar’s request was Abdul Basir Salangi, who killed two US military personnel in 2011 in Kabul. Meanwhile, Abdullah Abdullah, the No. 2 official in the government, was inside

the palace during the rocket attack on Tuesday, having returned on Monday from peace talks with the Taliban in Qatar. Those inside the palace, however, were far removed from where the rockets landed.

The two days of meetings in Doha — the highest level of negotiations between Kabul and the Taliban so far — aimed at jumpstarting stalled talks but ended with a promise of more high-level talks.

In his speech, Ghani also assailed neighboring Pakistan, which Kabul blames for harboring the Taliban leadership and providing a safe haven and assistance to the insurgents. In the most recent fighting in the Afghan border town of Spin Boldak, Taliban fighters were seen receiving treatment at a Pakistani hospital across the border in Chaman.

# Biden admin urges court to extradite Rana to India

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The Biden administration has urged a federal court in Los Angeles to extradite Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman Tahawwur Rana to India where he is sought for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack.

Rana, 59, has been declared a fugitive by India, where he is facing multiple criminal charges for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack in which 166 people, including six Americans, were killed. He was rearrested on June 10, 2020, in Los Angeles on an extradition request by India.

In a submission before the US District Court, Central District of California in Los Angeles, the US government argues that India’s extradition request contains sufficient evidence of probable cause on each of the criminal charges for which India seeks Rana’s extradition.

“Having found that all of the requirements for certification of extradition have been satisfied, the Court certifies the extradition of Tahawwur Hussain Rana to the Secretary of State and commits him to custody pursuant,” according to a draft order proposed by the US attorney in his submission before the court last week.

“Based on the evidence submitted by India, RANA allowed fraud against the Indian government to occur through the creation and submission of forged documents. The purpose behind such fraud is irrelevant under the Indian criminal provisions,” said the document titled proposed findings of facts and conclusions of



law. Rana is wanted by the Indian authorities for his alleged involvement in the deadly attacks that are sometimes referred to as India’s 9/11. An Indian warrant for his arrest was issued in August 2018.

Indian authorities allege that Rana conspired with his childhood friend David Coleman Headley to assist the Pakistani terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), or Army of the Good, in the orchestration of the 2008 terror attacks in Mumbai.

“In any event, RANA knowingly allowed Headley to obtain the business visa and the cover that he needed to conduct terrorism-related surveillance operations in India, ultimately leading to the three-day terrorist attacks in Mumbai. Accordingly, the Court finds there is probable cause that RANA conspired to forge a document for the purpose of cheating and use a forged document as genuine, in violation of IPC 120B, 468, and 471,” it said.

According to the court document, the evidence establishes that the Mumbai attacks

were committed by LeT, a terrorist organisation targeting India. Thus, an attack on Indian soil, especially one that would result in mass casualties, injuries, and damage to property, would strike terror in the Indian people.

“Rana was aware that Headley was involved with LeT, and that by assisting Headley and affording him a cover for his activities, he was supporting the terrorist organisation and its associates. Rana knew of Headley’s meetings, what was discussed, and the planning of the attacks, including some of the targets. Further, it was foreseeable that these attacks would lead to death, injury, and destruction of property,” it said.

“Accordingly, this Court finds that there is probable cause that Rana committed the crimes of conspiracy with the object of committing a terrorist act, in violation of IPC 120B and UAPA 16, and conspiracy to commit a terrorist act, in violation of UAPA 18. The court further finds that under an agency theory or an abetting theory (as contemplated by UAPA 16), there is probable cause that Rana committed the substantive crime of commission of a terrorist act in violation of UAPA 16,” said the document submitted by the US attorney.

India has charged forgery for purposes of cheating, in violation of IPC 468, as an object of the alleged criminal conspiracy. India also charged the crime of using as genuine a forged document or electronic record, in violation of IPC 471, as an object of the alleged criminal conspiracy.

## GLOBE TROTTER

### JAPAN, UK TO EXPAND DEFENCE TIES AT SEA

**Tokyo:** The British aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth and its strike group will visit Japanese ports in September for joint exercises, defence ministers from Japan and Britain said on Tuesday as the two countries step up military ties amid increased Chinese assertiveness in regional seas. British defence secretary Ben Wallace said the visit by the Royal Navy’s largest warship is part of his country’s “Indo-Pacific tilt” that shares goals with Japan.

### RUSSIAN HACKER TO BE SENTENCED IN US

**Connecticut:** Federal prosecutors are seeking a lengthy prison sentence for a Russian hacker known internationally as the “bot master” on charges he operated a network of devices used to steal computer credentials, distribute spam emails and install malicious software.

### TAIWAN, LITHUANIA TIES GROW

**Taipei:** Taiwan will exchange representative offices with Lithuania, the self-governed island said on Tuesday, in a breakthrough for its foreign relations that are under constant pressure from China. The offices will seek to enhance economic and trade relations, along with cooperation in various other fields, the island’s Foreign Ministry said.

### 3 BODIES FOUND IN CHINA TUNNEL, 11 STILL MISSING

**Beijing:** Rescuers have recovered the bodies of three workers in a flooded tunnel under construction in a southern Chinese city and are continuing to look for the 11 other workers trapped since Thursday. The cause of the collapse is still under investigation.

# Pak Min says Afghan envoy’s daughter wasn’t kidnapped; urges her to join probe

**Islamabad:** Pakistan’s Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid on Tuesday reiterated the police’s claim that the daughter of Afghanistan’s ambassador was not kidnapped even as he urged her to come forward and join the probe, in a case that has further soured relations between the two neighbours. His statement came a day after the police in Islamabad said that they have found no evidence that Salsila Alikhil, the 26-year-old daughter of Afghanistan’s ambassador to Pakistan Najibullah Alikhil, was abducted from the capital city, an incident that has triggered a major diplomatic row between the two neighbouring nations.

The Minister told the media that she used four different taxis to commute to different locations in Islamabad and neighbouring Rawalpindi and police have all details of her travels.

“Nobody sat in her car. There is no case of kidnapping. We have given FIR as per laws. And hope that she will join the probe and come forward to recognise the four tax drivers

whose vehicles she used on that day,” Rashid said.

He said that the Pakistan government was fighting her case but it would have been better if the Afghan ambassador and his daughter had not gone back.

The minister said that the complete footage and other relevant details were given to the Foreign Office which will decide whether to share it with the diplomatic community in Islamabad.

Ambassador’s daughter Alikhil was abducted, tortured and assaulted on Friday by unknown persons in Islamabad. She was abducted while riding a rented vehicle and was held for several hours before being released. She was found near F-9 Park area of the capital with torture marks on her body.

The kidnapping and assault incident has soured the ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan. On Sunday, the diplomatic crisis between the two nations deepened after Kabul announced that it will withdraw its ambassador and other senior staff from Islamabad. **PTI**

# Attackers try to stab the transitional President of Mali

AP ■ BAMAKO

A man tried to stab Mali’s transitional President Col. Assimi Goita Tuesday at the Grand Mosque in the capital amid celebrations for the Muslim holiday of sacrifice, Eid al-Adha.

The attempted stabbing happened after the holiday prayers and sermon at the mosque and the imam went to slaughter the sheep, according to witnesses. One man with a knife and another with a gun participated in the attack, said the witnesses. Goita was not hurt and his security team quickly took him away, but one person was injured, they said.

This attempted attack on the interim president comes as Mali has seen several attacks by jihadis in the central part of the country in recent days.

Col. Assimi Goita grabbed power in August 2020 by overthrowing Mali’s democratically elected president. He eventually agreed to a transitional

government led by a civilian president and prime minister but on May 24 he ousted those civilian leaders after they announced a Cabinet reshuffle that sidelined two junta supporters without consulting him.

Goita was then sworn in as president of the transitional government in June. He has pledged to keep the country on track to return to civilian rule with an election in February 2022.

Mali has been unsettled since 2012 when mutinous soldiers overthrew the president of a decade. The power vacuum led to an Islamic insurgency that took control of the country’s northern cities, including Timbuktu and Gao. A French-led campaign ousted the jihadis from the northern cities in 2013.

A peace agreement was signed in 2015 by three parties — the government, a coalition of groups that seek autonomy in northern Mali, and a pro-government militia.

# Biden: ‘Killing people’ remark was call for big tech to act

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden tempered his assessment that social media giants are “killing people” by hosting misinformation about the Covid-19 vaccines on their platforms, saying Monday that he hoped they would not take it “personally” and instead would act to save lives.

While companies like Facebook defend their practices and say they’re helping people around the world access verified information about the shots, the White House says they haven’t done enough to stop misinformation that has helped slow the pace of new vaccinations in the US to a trickle.

It comes as the US sees a rise in virus cases and deaths among those who haven’t gotten a shot, in what officials call an emerging “pandemic of the unvaccinated.”

# America asks Pakistan to keep working with FATF To ‘swiftly complete’ its 27-point action plan

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US has urged Pakistan to continue working with the FATF to “swiftly complete” its 27-point action plan by demonstrating that terrorism financing probes and prosecutions target senior leaders and commanders of the UN-designated terror groups.

At its virtual plenary meeting last month, the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) retained Pakistan on its ‘grey list’ for failing to check money laundering, leading to terror financing.

It asked Pakistan to investigate and prosecute UN-designated terrorists based in the country like Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) founder Hafiz Saeed.

The global body against money laundering and terror financing also asked Pakistan to

work to address its strategically important deficiencies.

At his daily news conference on Monday, State Department spokesperson Ned Price said while Pakistan had made progress on its first action plan of the FATF, it needed to work on its second action plan.

“We do recognise and we support Pakistan’s continued efforts to satisfy those (first action plan) obligations. Pakistan has made significant progress on its first action plan with 26 of 27 action items largely addressed,” Price said.

“We encourage Pakistan to continue working with the FATF and the international community to swiftly complete the remaining action item by demonstrating that terrorism financing, investigations and prosecutions target senior leaders and commanders of UN-designated groups,” he said.

The UN-designated terrorists based in Pakistan include Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Azhar, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) founder Saeed and its ‘operational commander’ Zakaur Rehman Lakhvi.

Azhar, Saeed and Lakhvi are the most wanted terrorists in India for their involvement in numerous terrorist acts, including the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks and the bombing of a CRPF bus in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pulwama district in 2019.

Price also said the US encourages Pakistan to expeditiously work on its new second action plan.

Pakistan was placed on the grey list in June 2018 and asked Islamabad to implement a plan of action to curb money laundering and terror financing by the end of 2019 but the deadline was extended later on due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

## FROM PAGE 1

### GLOBAL TENDER...

The RFP was issued to shortlisted Strategic Partners (SPs) or Indian Applicant Companies for the project Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T).

Project-75(I) envisages indigenous construction of six modern conventional submarines (including associated shore support, engineering support package, training and spares package) with contemporary equipment, weapons and sensors including Fuel-Cell based AIP, advanced torpedoes, modern missiles and state of the art countermeasure systems.

This would provide a major boost to the indigenous design and construction capability of submarines in India, in addition to bringing in the latest submarine design and technologies as part of the project, officials said.

### SPECULATION RIFE ABOUT YOGI CABINET EXPANSION

This helped in stemming the revolt within the OBCs but the murmur still persists among the Brahmins,” he said.

Among the seven new faces that were inducted into the Modi’s Cabinet two were from the backward community, two from the OBCs, two Dalits and one Brahmin, in the form of Ajay Kumar Mishra.

At present there are 17 Ministers from UP, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the Union Cabinet.

Despite such a large representation of UP in the Union Cabinet there is a feeling in UP BJP that some castes and regions are less represented in the Cabinet.

“Both the leaders have gone to Delhi with a list of probable Ministers who could

be accommodated in the State Cabinet,” he said and added that the issues like selection of candidates for four vacant seats in Vidhan Parishad could also be discussed.”

At present UP Cabinet has 54 Ministers against the allotted strength of 60. Of this, there are 23 Cabinet Ministers, nine Ministers of independent charge and 22 Ministers of State. Thus, there is a vacancy to accommodate six Ministers.

### KUNDRA ‘KEY CONSPIRATOR’...

The HotShots app — described as the “world’s first 18+ app” showcasing some of the hottest models and celebs globally in exclusive photos, short films and hot videos (implying soft-to-hard porn) — was removed from mobile platforms. Similarly, Apple and Google have removed the app because of the pornographic content in it.

Talking to media persons here, Joint Commissioner of Police Milind Bharambe said: “We found agreement papers, emails, accounts WhatsApp chats and pornographic clips from his office during the search”. Confirming the removal of the app from the Apple and Google play stores, Bharambe said: “The free-to-download app was removed by both Apple and Google play store for the type of its content. We have recovered incriminating evidences like several HotShot films, video clips, WhatsApp chats, etc. during the investigation”. However, the police said that investigations had not revealed any role of Shilpa Shetty in the scam.

On his part, 46-year-old Kundra has denied any involvement and has claimed that he had sold the “Hotshots” app to Pradip Bakshi. However, the police said

Kundra was kept in the loop about the finances of the app.

The police said that Kundra had allegedly also set up a WhatsApp group on which matters relating to the production, distribution and selling of Hotshots clips were discussed.

Kundra, who lives in Mumbai with his wife Shilpa Shetty and two children, has been booked under various sections of the Information Technology Act, 2000, Indian Penal Code and the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act for alleged cheating and “obscene and indecent advertisements and displays” If convicted, Kundra may end up being behind the bars for five to seven years.

Among other things, the investigations have revealed that Kundra-led company paid Rs 10,000 to the female artists for the clips. Some of them alleged that they were lured into the scam with offers of roles in web series. However, the hired artists were forced to shoot for porn films.

However, the police have clarified that investigations have revealed no active role of Shilpa Shetty.

The Mumbai crime branch sleuths began investigating the pornographic scam, after a woman lodged a complaint with the Malwani police station on February 4 complaining about pornographic content being shot at some bungalows in the remote Madh Island and its surroundings of Malad in north-west Mumbai. The investigations have revealed that new aspiring actresses came to Mumbai from various parts of the country after they were lured with work offers in short films, web series and other movies.

“The aspiring actresses were called for auditions and after selection made to do

bold scenes, which went onto semi-nude and then full-nude shoots. Some of them strongly opposed this and had approached the police,” Bharambe said.

Kundra, who was earlier linked to the IPL match fixing scam, was grilled after his associate Umesh Kamat was caught for uploading obscene videos through a UK firm, named him.

The police said that the UK-based firm was allegedly set up by Kundra and his brother-in-law, and registered in the UK so it could evade the Indian cyber-laws.

The Kundra-linked two firms — Viaan and Kendrin — made available porn content on mobile apps, offering subscriptions akin to the mainstream OTT platforms, advertise them on social media, all of which were illegal as pornography in any form is banned in India

Publishing and transmitting “obscene material” are considered illegal in the country, while watching pornography in private is legal. The modus operandi involved in the production and circulation of pornographic films was: the porn films were allegedly shot in India, transferred using WeTransfer to the UK and released as paid mobile apps there.

### SC SEEKS REPLY ...

During the hearing, Mehta said that this case was brought to light three months ago and as soon as the State Government had noticed the fact, the charges were revoked. He said the State Government has not defended the plea for release of the activist and therefore the matter should be allowed to rest here. The bench noted Mehta’s submission that Erendro was released in compliance with the interim direction issued on Monday

and charges against him under the NSA provision and the detention were revoked.

Advocate Shadan Farasat, appearing for Erendro’s father who moved the plea, said that his prayer is for compensation as five cases were cited against the activist and no charge sheet was filed in any of them. The bench said, “We issue notice on the compensation aspect and you (Mehta) can file a reply on this aspect”. Mehta said that this could have been avoided by a pragmatic approach but he will again urge that the matter should be allowed to rest as the petition was filed after three months. He said the state will have to satisfy the order on merits and this could have been avoided by a little pragmatic approach. Farasat submitted that in this case responsibility has to be fixed for the “illegal detention” since May 17.

### SC TERMS KERALA GOVT’S RELAXATIONS ...

“The aforesaid facts disclose an alarming state of affairs. To give in to pressure groups so that the citizenry of India is laid bare to a nationwide pandemic discloses a sorry state of affairs,” the Bench said. “Even otherwise, homilies such as ‘as far as possible’ and assurances from traders without anything more, do not inspire any confidence in the people of India or this court,” it said.

The apex court noted that affidavit filed by Kerala discloses a “sorry state of affairs” and does not in any real manner safeguard the right to life and health guaranteed to all the citizens of India under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had announced the concessions at a Press

conference on July 17. In view of Eid-al-Adha being celebrated on July 21, textiles, footwear shops, jewellery, fancy stores, shops selling home appliances and electronic items, all types of repairing shops and shops selling essential items shall be allowed to open on July 18-20 from 7 am to 8 pm in category A, B and C areas, he said.

### BEZOS HAS A BLAST IN SPACE...

The window-filled capsule landed under parachutes, with Bezos and his guests briefly experiencing nearly six times the force of gravity, or 6 G’s, on the way back. Led by Bezos, they climbed out of the capsule after touchdown with wide grins, embracing parents, partners and children, then popped open bottles of sparkling wine, spraying one another.

Sharing Bezos’ dream-come-true adventure was Wally Funk, from the Dallas area, one of 13 women pilots who went through the same tests as NASA’s all-male astronaut corps in the early 1960s but never made it into space. Joining them on the ultimate joyride was the company’s first paying customer, Oliver Daemen, a last-minute fill-in for the mystery winner of a \$28 million auction who opted for a later flight. The Dutch teen’s father took part in the auction, and agreed on a lower undisclosed price last week when Blue Origin offered his son the vacated seat.

Blue Origin — founded by Bezos in 2000 in Kent, Washington, near Amazon’s Seattle headquarters — hasn’t revealed its price for a ride to space. Two more passenger flights are planned by year’s end, said Blue Origin CEO Bob Smith.



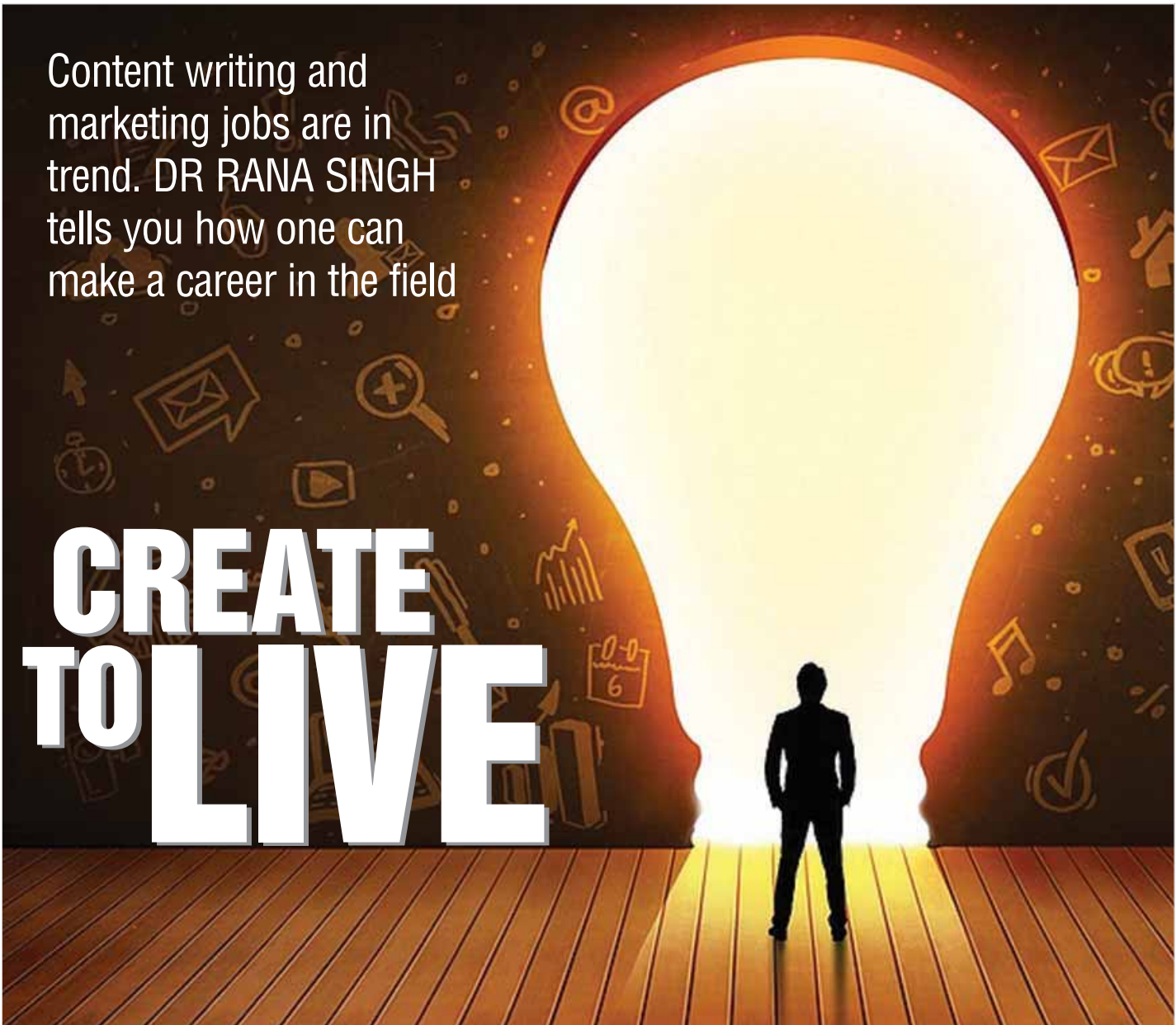
Every content creator has a significant career to start in this field, which is one of the most demanding jobs across the globe. The pandemic situation has led to loss of many jobs and industry people have been facing a huge financial crisis as well as job crisis. Sometimes it happens we never consider such things to earn or make a good amount because we haven't heard about it. We always get the recommendation from our parents, elders or society to work only on the things which are coming from generation to generation but sometimes we miss the good opportunities.

The graduates from mass communication and journalism are preferred for content writing jobs as they are taught in their semesters about making effective content. But this doesn't mean that a person with basic knowledge of grammar and vocabulary will not get a chance. As everyone from school is being taught basic grammar and we all give the English grammar exams till Boards, utilising those studies we can earn a good job in the modern world which has high demand for content writers or creators.

Here is a list of new opportunities and career scope for job seekers in content marketing or content writing:

**E-commerce company**  
Content writing plays a very important role in E-commerce companies in making their business finance high, as the increasing traffic on websites ultimately increases business growth. The website's content is required for updating new products and blog pages. This boosts the SEO and website's organic rankings on Google which drives high engagement turning visitors into buyers. One must know the basic Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) knowledge, keywords before entering an E-commerce Company.

**Video Content Specialist**  
This job profile is eye-catchy for the young generation looking to make a career in a production house. There is a requirement of a basic combination of creativity, market knowledge, and target audience. They are responsibly using their creativity and content creation skills where they can tell the stories through videos which include marketing videos, social media campaigning, brands or advertisement, etc.  
The skills required for this job role may include understanding technical skills and software such as Final Cut Pro X, Adobe Premiere, and Adobe Effects. Some more capabilities are required other than writing skills i.e. communication skills. Nowadays it's a digital and social savvy generation where everyone wants to highlight their name on the Internet. This will only work when



you have the influencing power of creating content as per the market demand; this is the only key to make your video production name as a brand through utilising good skills.

**Blog writer**  
The companies from IT, MNC, Fin-tech, Software-based sectors hire blog writers in their firm to maintain their blog regularly. Many people are unaware of new software in the market due to which companies update their blogs with different topics relatable and use SEO to float in the search box. This benefits B2B or B2C marketers also to understand the work or product details that blog writers describe on the official websites.  
Nowadays many people make blogs and write their thoughts, opinions and earn if they reach a large number of people and audience. This creates a good short of income through small efforts or skills which you can show on a digital platform.

A LARGE NUMBER OF FREELANCE WRITERS EARN THROUGH A PODCAST OR BY WRITING A BOOK AND SELF-PUBLISHING IT. THERE ARE MANY OTHER SECTORS LIKE TRAVEL AND TOURISM WHERE THEY CAN BE HIRED BASED ON TRAVELLING CONTENT

**Freelance writer**  
The writer who has good experience in creating content on any given topic or in their beat can work on different projects of any company. A large number of freelance writers earn their income through a podcast or by writing a book and self-publishing it on Amazon Kindle. There are many other sectors like travel and tourism where freelance writers are hired based on travelling content, sometimes companies pay for visiting and writing the content on tourist places.  
Nowadays, hospital or health sector is looking for a freelance writer for updating their content required on a website like new technologies used, healthy diets, health-related issues, and many more projects.  
Hotels are now more advanced and not in the lesser demand than any other industry. They use blog writers for telling their dish stories and also for highlighting their name in the market. Sometimes social

media platforms also require pretty attractive content for the visitors on their social media pages which is handled by writers themselves.  
**Editorial department**  
The editorial department is found in the Media and PR Industry, where the content writer is hired on their educational qualification. Recruiters prefer the students from Journalism and Mass communication. The role and responsibility of the content writer in the media industry are also known as Editor/Sub-Editor where they have to maintain the content as per the 5W 1H rule and look after their subordinates.  
Content writers in the PR industry are responsible for drafting press releases, email drafting, content creating, article write-ups, stories, etc. If the person has the skills of creating such stories they are a good fit in this job-role of the PR Industry.  
The writer is Vice-Chancellor, Sanskriti University

QUOTE OF THE DAY  
Change is the end result of all true learning.  
— Leo Buscaglia

## VIT-AP signs MoU with MKCI

The signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Mitsui Kinzoku Components India Private Limited (MKCI) and the School of Advanced Sciences, VIT-AP University was held virtually on July 20, 2021.  
Dr SV Kota Reddy, Vice-Chancellor, VIT-AP University, said that this collaboration will help faculty and students to get an opportunity to conduct advanced level collaborative research in Sciences and Technologies and they can get enough scope to involve themselves in different career development activities. Moreover, this collaboration may bring excellent research projects and industrial consultancy. Many events like training and faculty development programmes, workshops, conferences may be organised together. Industry professionals can share their knowledge with the students during guest lectures. They can share their expertise to develop the courses and to prepare the curriculum industry-ready.  
Shimada Masakazu, Managing Director, MKCI emphasized that this collaboration will bring industry and academia together. Industry professionals, scientists, professors, students can perform joint research ventures under this agreement. Many patents can be published and granted jointly. Dr Sekar Viswanathan, Vice President, VIT, Dr CLV Sivakumar, Registrar, Dr Pradeep Reddy CH, Deputy Director, Career Development Centre and Dr Rajesh Kodiyath, Assistant General Manager, R&D, MKCI along with many others witnessed the ceremony.

## Accolades for VIT



A team of researchers from the Center for Biomaterials, Cellular & Molecular Theranostics (CBCMT) at Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Vellore, was declared the winner of MaterialNEXT 2.0 hosted by TATA Steel on July 9, 2021.  
Tata Steel Advanced Materials Research Centres (TSAMRC) has been actively associating with young college talents through their Campus Connect programme, while MaterialNEXT is an open innovation pan-India event to identify budding research talents and materialise potential ideas.  
Team Titans from VIT, Vellore, mentored by the Director & Senior Professor Dr Geetha Manivasagam of CBCMT, comprises of interdisciplinary research scholars Pearlin Hameed, Ansheed Raheem, Aswin G & Jishita R. They had bagged a cash prize of ₹5 lakh after marking a prolific win in the grand finale.  
The team innovated a novel 3D printed porous Titanium alloy that nearly mimics the properties of natural bone in contrast to conventional titanium alloys that are currently used. This would significantly alleviate many post-surgical complications, which otherwise contributed to implant failure. Currently, the Indian medical sector prevalently uses imported implants for bone repair, which is a cross to bear for an average Indian and a near to impossible luxury for the underprivileged. This material innovation is expected to churn out indigenous porous bone grafts, plates, fixtures, screws, and dental implants, with superior biocompatibility and an affordable price tag.

# Education is just a click away

Working with technology from a young age acquaints children with hands-on training in how modern methods are leveraged for professional duties in the future, says RITESH RAWAL



For the last decade or so technology had been making deeper inroads into the education system globally. Then the pandemic struck. And technology became the sole source of knowledge dissemination and procurement, for schooling and even kindergartens.  
The non-believers of introducing technology in education ate humble pie as all the real world learning environments were replicated in the virtual space.  
Technology does certainly make learning more experiential.  
Distance did not matter, travel time was ruled out of the equation and children would not be required to move out of their safety spaces amid a raging pandemic outside. All the knowledge came home, so to speak. There was no water wasted on uniforms, no paper wasted in notebooks, no wood wasted from pencils.  
However, the case for inte-

gration of technology into school curriculum goes further than the above reasons. Firstly, it should not be seen as a substitute to conventional paper pencil methods. It must be perceived as a complement, a force multiplier.  
For instance, certain subjects are often perceived as boring and staid. These are often those involving numbers and ancient history. They all can be tutored in an integrated manner, such as by cultivating graphics, interactives and Artificial Reality with traditional books, which makes learning them a delight.  
Secondly, tech simplifies creating, doing and evaluating homework. Also, the assignments are recorded in a natural chronology, easily accessible at a later date. A digital record can help hone individual weaknesses.  
Working with tech from a young age acquaints children with hands on training in how modern methods are lever-

aged for professional duties later in life. These makes young ones industry ready and make learning future proof.  
Then, game based learning, which is now a reality, in a classroom can make lessons fun, which students actually look forward to taking most as the joy quotient is high.  
Creative learnings, which may become a task when attempted offline can be an immersive experience digitally. These include storytelling, PowerPoint presentations, using video streaming to share global content, visiting digital museums, showcasing digital sketching so on and so forth.  
Then there are certain subjects which are in fact better off taught online. Nothing exemplifies this trend as the subject geography. With such advancements as digital maps, GPS, online routing and satellite imagery becoming commonplace, learning geography through digital means is the best bet.

Next, by using tech, students acquire vital soft skills which come in effect later. These are researching on net, understanding keyboarding, clicking, surfing, navigating etc.  
Students being encouraged to undertake content creation through own recordings lays the foundation for their podcast, vlogging careers later. So rather than being merely consumers, they are shaped to be leaders.  
Then, engaging social media for academic learning opens children to the making healthy use of seemingly addictive mediums.  
Another area where technology can help education is by reaching those who cannot come to schools for any reason.  
Having said that, on-boarded tech and expanding its scope in education will need better smartphone and laptop access to students, not to mention high speed internet connectivity.  
Also, digital learning cannot fulfil outcomes in various subjects requiring practical training and physical doing. These include physical education, sports, lab experiments, handling biological matter.  
Moreover, when a student puts pen to paper, they are actually honing their hand eye and hand brain coordination, sharpening their rational mind and intellectual center. So, computerisation might not offer a viable substitute for this.  
In summation, technology is transforming education, drastically altering how, when and where children learn and empowering them to be more creative and ready for the tech-tonic shift that today's jobs demand.  
The writer is Founder, Dudes & Dolls World, Adhyay School, and Ritesh Rawal Foundation

# All about post-study visas

Overseas education gives students international exposure to a cutting-edge curriculum. MAYANK SHARMA tells you how post-study visas work in different countries

Flying abroad for higher education can give students an amazing academic experience by exposing them to various cultures, life experiences, and education methodologies. Often, numerous students like to continue their career pursuits in the countries where they complete their higher education. Understanding this trend, Governments across the world have been providing post-study visas and study permits to attract and retain the best international talent.  
Here is how post-study visas and work permit processes work in different countries:  
**United States:** International students who want to attend universities in the US need to apply for an F1 Visa. However, if they want to gain a few years of work experience after their studies, they have two options they could pursue. The first one is to apply for an OPT extension and another is to get the H1-B visa. OPT extension to the F1 visa allows post-graduation students to work temporarily for a year in their major areas of study; or opt for an H-1B visa, which is a non-immigrant visa provision.  
This application is not submitted by the student, but by the sponsoring employer, which provides a guarantee that the applicant will work during the stay. While OPT extension is provided only to those who are studying or who have completed their study, the H-1B visa is for those who are sponsored by their employers, irrespective of their field of study.

Even though the US allows students to stay for a year (under OPT extension) after completion of their course on their F1 visa, those who are studying STEM courses (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) are eligible to get a 24-month extension.  
**United Kingdom:** The UK has brought back its Post-Study Work permit visa in 2021 after suspending it in 2012. Under this provision, students with an undergraduate or master's degree can stay back and work for two years, while those who completed their PhD can work for three years. These provisions are allowed for students who have a valid UK immigration status and are graduating in July 2021 and later. Students who applied online for degree courses from their home countries due to the pandemic restrictions, or who had to go back home, can also apply for a work visa. The Post Study Work permit also allows students to switch to a skilled work visa and provides worker rights for their dependents and access to the UK Labour market.  
**Canada:** A student wishing to study in Canada usually has to apply for a Canada Student Visa, which is similar to a Visitor Visa or Electronic Travel Authorisation, except that it includes a study permit.  
Students graduating from Canadian universities can stay for up to three years with a work permit to explore employment opportunities, depending upon the duration of the course. The Post-

Graduation Work Permit Program is applicable only if the duration of the course is a minimum of eight months. If the course is between eight months and two years, the permit will be for the duration of the course. However, if the course duration is of two years or more, the permit will be applicable for three years, which can be an added advantage to students pursuing a two-year master's degree or equivalent. However, one of the biggest advantages of applying for a work permit is that the experience gained through it may qualify the students to apply for permanent citizenship in the country.  
**France:** In France, a student who has completed a professional bachelor's degree, post-graduate or higher degree course needs to apply for a job search or business creation residence permit, if (s)he wants to stay for an additional 12 months to look for a job. According to an agreement signed with France in 2015, Indian postgraduate students are allowed a benefit of a two-year special residence permit to stay after their studies.  
**Germany:** A student who completes his graduate or higher courses in Germany can apply for a temporary residence permit, which is valid for 18 months, during which the student can search for job opportunities. If a student wants to accept a job role, (s)he can apply for a German residence permit or an EU Blue Card.  
The writer is Country Head — India, Prodigy Finance

# CSC and Amity University Online join hands

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

An estimated 15 lakh students in rural India can now access a range of graduate and post-graduate courses with the Common Services Centers (CSC) and Amity University Online joining hands to enable last mile outreach through CSCs which is an unit of Ministry of Information and Technology.  
In the first phase, graduate

and post-graduate courses of Amity University Online like BA, BCom, BCA, BBA and MCA will be made available to students through over 5000 CSC Academy centers, the education and CSR wing of CSC. Some of the courses like BA and BCom will also be made available in Hindi considering the language barriers faced by students in rural India.  
Elaborating on the part-

nership, 1979 batch IAS officer Dr Dinesh Tyagi, MD, CSC, said: "It has been our endeavour to provide quality education to students and youth in rural areas, particularly to women who miss out on higher education due to societal inequality and patriarchy. Our association with Amity Online is a significant step in that direction and meets Prime Minister's vision of Digital India fulfilling the education-

al needs of rural India." According to Ajit Chauhan, Chairman, Amity University Online: "Amity University Online has always envisioned providing world class quality education to all its learners. Our endeavour is to bring grassroot level change and enable professionals in remote areas of India. We hope more and more villages are able to benefit through this initiative."



## ‘Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together’, Oly motto gets Covid-era makeover

PTI ■ TOKYO

The Olympic motto was amended to ‘faster, higher, stronger — together’ during the International Olympic Committee’s session in Tokyo on Tuesday as the world waited for the pandemic-hit Games to begin on July 23.

The word ‘together’ after a hyphen has been added to the earlier motto, which was made up of three Latin words — *Citius, Altius, Fortius*, translating to ‘Faster Higher Stronger’ in English.

The proposal to include the word together was made by IOC President Thomas Bach, which was endorsed by the body’s Executive Board (EB) in April. Bach had suggested the motto should become ‘faster, higher, stronger — together’ in response to the Covid-19 crisis.

The motto now reads ‘*Citius, Altius, Fortius — Communis*’ in Latin.

The IOC members unanimously approved an amendment of the Olympic Charter.

During the session, Bach



stressed the importance of solidarity within the Olympic Movement and beyond.

“Solidarity is at the heart of everything we do. Solidarity fuels our mission to make the world a better place through sport. Because we can only go faster, we can only aim higher, we can only become stronger, if we stand together — in solidarity,”

“Strengthening solidarity in this way also helps us to accom-

plish our 3,000-year-old mission to contribute to peace through sport. Without solidarity, there is no peace.”

The Olympic motto was adopted with the launch of the Olympic Movement in 1894 at the urging of founder Pierre de Coubertin, who wanted a slogan that expressed excellence in sport.

It was also supported by the International Pierre de Coubertin Committee.

## Shooters feeling the ‘heat’

PTI ■ TOKYO

The shooters are feeling the heat, literally.

Three days before the Tokyo Olympics open, the marksmen and markswomen are struggling to carry out their last few training sessions, thanks to a combination of the Japanese capital’s hot and humid weather and the convertible practice facility at the Asaka Shooting Range.

The all-purpose practice hall means shooters of every event — 50m, 25m and 10m — are training in the same facility one after another.

The 10m competition is held in an indoor facility but, in this case, it is looking like an outdoor range.

Mostly bearing the brunt of the scorching summer heat here are the jacket and trouser-wearing rifle shooters.

When asked about the inconvenience facing the shooters, an official in the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) said the local organisers have provided the athletes with everything they need.

“There is a bit of an issue with the rifle shooters as they shoot wearing the jackets. We are sure that the air conditioners in the final hall are fine. Do we have the air conditioners when the qualifications for 50m and 25m events are held. So you can understand,” the official said.

“The only thing is that the training is being held at a convertible range which is being used for practice sessions of 50m, 25,



and 10m events.”

The Indian shooters underwent training sessions at the Asaka Shooting Range on Monday and Tuesday.

The shooting events will be held at the Asaka Shooting Range, which is located in Saitama Prefecture, north west Tokyo, from July 24 to August 2.

The venue also hosted the shooting competition at the 1964 Olympics.

## Fouaad Mirza changes horse, picks Seigneur Medicott

**Bengaluru:** Barely days before the Tokyo Olympics opens, Indian equestrian Fouaad Mirza has decided to change his horse, preferring to go with Seigneur Medicott, who helped him win two Silver medals at the 2018 Asian Games, as his equine partner.

Earlier, Mirza had announced that he would take his horse ‘Dajara 4’ to the Tokyo Games.

“Seigneur Medicott, lovingly known as ‘Micky’, helped Mirza win the two Silvers at the Asian Games and they both share a strong emotional connect with

each other,” stated a media release issued by the Embassy Group, which supports Mirza.

“At first, Fouaad picked Dajara 4 for the Olympics but in the last few gruelling weeks of competing and practise, Mirza felt that Dajara 4 had undergone a lot of pressure. This prompted the

change in the final entry with Seigneur Medicott for the Tokyo Olympics as the horse was moving better.”

According to the release, Seigneur Medicott has cleared quarantine in Aachen (Germany) and boarded the flight for Tokyo last midnight.

The horse will also be accompanied by Johanna Pohonen (Groom), Dr Grigorios Maleas (Veterinarian) and Veronica Sinz (Physiotherapist), it added.

Mirza will begin his campaign at the showpiece from July 29, with the eventing first horse inspection at 6 AM IST.

## Go for elusive medal: Tendulkar tells track and field athletes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar on Tuesday urged India’s athletics squad for Tokyo Olympics to enjoy the pressure and not be bogged down by it during the Games as he joined the national federation in giving them an online send-off.

In the virtual event, Tendulkar told them to chase the dream of winning an Olympic medal relentlessly.

“A lot of people say there is win or loss in sport but my message is that the loss should be for your opponent and the win for you. You should go for the medal,” Tendulkar said.

“Don’t stop chasing your dream and the dream should be the medal around your neck, National Anthem playing and the tri-colour flying high.”

The track and field contingent will have 47 members, including 26 athletes. There will be 11 coaches, eight support staff, one team doctor and one team leader.

The AFI has named a 26-member team and the contin-



gent leaves for Tokyo on July 23. Tendulkar said pressure is an athlete’s companion in all sports and it is crucial to channelise it into a better performance.

“Expectation of people has grown because of your improved performance. That is a good thing. I had always enjoyed pressure or expectation from the people. You have to change it to positive energy.”

Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, on whom the country is pinning its hopes to win a


medal, agreed with Tendulkar that expectations from the country’s athletes have increased because of their good performance.

“The country has expectations from us because we have produced better performance. We will do our best and try to meet the expectations by winning medal,” Chopra said.

AFI President Adille Sumariwalla also hoped that the athletics team can win the elusive Olympic medal this time.




1. Indian women’s hockey team players pose for photo before training. 2. Wrestler Bajrang Punia during practice session. 3. Judo Shushila Devi with her trainer. 4. Indian archers during practice @SAL\_media



**जल संरक्षण है एक संकल्प नहीं है इसका कोई विकल्प**

**भूजल महत्व, संरक्षण एवं संवर्धन के प्रति जन जागरूकता के लिए आयोजित**



**भूजल सप्ताह**  
16-22 जुलाई, 2021

का

**राज्य स्तरीय समापन समारोह**

**मुख्य अतिथि**

**योगी आदित्यनाथ**  
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

**गरिमामची उपस्थिति**

**डॉ. महेन्द्र सिंह**  
मंत्री, जल शक्ति विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

दिनांक : 22 जुलाई, 2021 | समय : अपराह्न 4:00 बजे | स्थान : इंदिरा गांधी प्रतिष्ठान, लखनऊ

भूगर्भ जल विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश



# Chahar's show at Colombo

...as India beat Lanka by 3 wickets to pocket series

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Deepak Chahar and Suryakumar Yadav slammed their maiden ODI fifties as India registered a series-clinching three-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the second ODI in Colombo.

Chasing 276 for a win, the Indian top-order failed to fire but a middle and lower order resurrection saw the visitors cross the finishing line, reaching 277 for 7 in 49.1 overs. After Suryakumar Yadav's 44-ball 53, Deepak Chahar remained not out on 69 off 82 balls.

Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal led India's decent effort with the ball as a self-destructing Sri Lanka slipped to 275 for nine in the second ODI here on Tuesday.

Pretty much like the series opener, most of the Sri Lankan batsmen got starts but failed to capitalise after the hosts opted to bat.

Avishka Fernando (50 off 71) and Charith Asalanka (65 off 68) struck fine half-centuries but the home team wasn't disciplined enough to post an imposing total.

Chamika Karunaratne (44 not out off 33) came up with another timely cameo to take the team past 270.

Chahal (3/50) was the pick of the bowlers while pacers Deepak Chahar (2/53) and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (3/54) too got wickets primarily due to profligacy of the home team batsmen.

Openers Fernando (50 off 71) and Minod Bhanuka (36 off 42) took Sri Lanka to 59 for loss in the first 10 overs.

The momentum shifted India's way drastically after Chahal removed Minod and Bhanuka Rajapaksa off successive balls in the 14th over. In Minod's case, it was a soft dismissal as the well-set southpaw charged down the wicket and flicked an eventual full toss straight to Manish Pandey at mid-wicket.



Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Deepak Chahar during their match-winning partnership in Colombo on Tuesday

The next one from Chahal was a beauty which held its line to a take faint outside edge of Rajapaksa's bat and wicketkeeper Ishan Kishan managed to clutch onto the catch.

Sri Lanka, who are among the worst performing teams in the middle overs, struggled again in the crucial stage of the game. They took 97 balls to take find their next boundary after the eight over.

From 77 for no loss in the 14th over, Sri Lanka slipped to 134 for four in the 28th over.

Asalanka and skipper Dasun Shanaka tried to resurrect the innings but their 38-run stand ended with the captain falling to a flatter one from Chahal.

Chahal took his second wicket with a perfect knuckle ball that crashed through Wanindu Hasaranga's defences.

Asalanka played some bold strokes alongside Karunaratne to give the innings some impetus towards the end.

Asalanka got to his maid-

en fifty with a lofted boundary over extra cover off Kuldeep Yadav before sweeping the left-arm wrist spinner for another four in the same over.

The pitch aided India's spinners like the first game. Bhuvneshwar kept things tight but bowled at a slower pacer than his usual.

Considering the form India's young batsmen displayed in the series opener, it should be another comfortable run chase for the visitors.

# Tamim hits ton as Bangla whitewash Zimbabwe

AFF ■ HARARE

Captain Tamim Iqbal hit his fastest century in one-day international cricket as Bangladesh beat Zimbabwe by five wickets to complete a 3-0 series whitewash on Tuesday.

Tamim shared an opening stand of 88 with Liton Das (32), while man-of-the-series Shakib Al Hasan (30), Mohammad Mithun (30) and Nurul Hasan (45 not out) were the other notable run-scorers. They reached 302-5 and won with 12 balls to spare.

After Zimbabwe was bowled out for 298 in what looked like a competitive total, Tamim smashed an 87-ball hundred, reaching his 14th ODI century with one of his eight boundaries.

He also hit three sixes by the time he was out for 112 off 97.

It was his last action for Bangladesh for at least two months. He returns home on Wednesday to rest a knee injury he's managed since April in order to be fit for the T20 World Cup.

He will miss the Zimbabwe T20 series, and home series against Australia and New Zealand.

Zimbabwe's total was built around opener Regis Chakabva's highest ODI score of 84, a calculated innings that ended on the first ball of the 35th over when he was clean bowled by seamer Taskin Ahmed.

Sikandar Raza (57) and Ryan Burl (59) rescued Zimbabwe's fragile batting in the middle order.

Pacers Mohammad Saifuddin and Mustafizur Rahman took three wickets apiece.

The teams meet in T20s on Thursday, Friday and Sunday.

# Rahul grabs opportunity with unbeaten hundred



KL Rahul raises his bat after fifty during warm-up game

PTI ■ DURHAM

Skipper Virat Kohli and vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane have opted out of the three-day first-class warm-up fixture against County Select XI along with senior-off-spinner R Ashwin.

Rohit Sharma is leading the side in Kohli and Rahane's absence as the game began on Tuesday.

Mayank Agarwal, who is likely to open with Rohit Sharma in the first Test at Nottingham will be watched keenly along with Mohammed Siraj, who could preferred over Ishant Sharma in the playing XI.

First team regular like Mohammed Shami has also been rested from the game, which is one of India's rare First-Class game in last 10 years.

It is understood that Kohli, Rahane, Shami, Jadeja will be sweating it out at the nets alongside Ashwin, who has already bowled a whopping 58 overs and taken seven wickets in a County game for Surrey last week.

Regular keeper Rishabh Pant and senior reserve glovesman Wriddhiman Saha are currently isolating in London

after the Covid scare but are expected to join the team before the intra-squad game scheduled at the Riverside ground during the last week of this month.

It is tentatively scheduled between July 26-28.

While Kohli, Rahane, Shami are also coming from a three-week break, playing a first-class match means that all the seniors will have to remain on field for a stipulated period of time.

The match also provides an opportunity to Hanuma Vihari to score a few runs and keep Rahane under pressure since he hasn't been scoring runs very consistently.

The five-Test series will be an acid test for both Cheteshwar Pujara and Rahane.

India: Rohit Sharma (C), Mayank Agarwal, Cheteshwar Pujara, Hanuma Vihari, KL Rahul, Jadeja, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Umesh Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Siraj.

# Avesh, Sundar turn up for 'home team'

Durham: In an interesting development, India's fringe players Avesh Khan and Washington Sundar turned up for ECB's Select County XI against their own country after the home team lost players due to injury and Covid-19 related isolation.

Avesh in fact bowled 9.5 overs before sustaining a thumb injury which looks like dislocation and is unlikely to take any further part in the three-day First-Class game.

"The ECB made a request to the Indian team management to let two players from the Indian contingent play for County Select XI after some of their players were deemed

to be unavailable either due to injury or close contacts of a Covid-19 positive person.

"Accordingly, Washington Sundar and Avesh Khan have been made available to play for their team," BCCI said in a statement.

In fact, Washington was seen avoiding the County XI huddle and only just bumped the bowlers who took wickets.

Players turning up against their own teams during practice games or warm-up games is not new and Washington, till the match nearing tea on first day, wasn't given a chance to bowl as captain Will Rhodes preferred his own team bowlers.

कोविड-19

से सम्पूर्ण सतर्कता के साथ

खुशहाल परिवार दिवस

प्रत्येक माह की 21 तारीख

(राजकीय अवकाश की स्थिति में इस बार 22 जुलाई को मनाया जायेगा)

परिवार नियोजन में पुरुषों की साझेदारी

जीवन में लाए स्वास्थ्य और खुशहाली

परिवार कल्याण हेतु विशेष ध्यान

1 वर्ष के अन्दर की जटिल गर्भावस्था की प्रसूताएं

नव विवाहित दम्पति

तीन से अधिक बच्चों वाले योग्य दम्पति

खुशहाल परिवार हेतु सभी सरकारी स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रों तथा हौसला साझीदारी में अधिकृत प्राइवेट अस्पतालों में प्रदान की जाने वाली नि:शुल्क सेवाओं का लाभ उठाएँ

मिरोच

आई.यू.टी.जी./पी.वी.आई.यू.टी.जी.

हुंजेयरन/डी.एम.पी.ए.

गर्भाशय की गर्भविद्या

महिला नरसंबंधी

पुरुष नरसंबंधी

हृदय रोग

समय से परिवार नियोजन अपनाइए, अनचाहे गर्भ की चिंता से मुक्ति पाइए

टीका असरदार, लगवाए समझदार

18 वर्ष से ऊपर के सभी व्यक्ति कोविड-19 का टीका अवश्य लगवाएँ

कोविन पोर्टल के माध्यम से बुकिंग हेतु क्लिक करें <http://selfregistration.cowin.gov.in>

WE-WIN

विशेष संचारी रोग नियंत्रण अभियान

1 से 31 जुलाई, 2021 तक

घर-घर पर दस्तक

12 से 25 जुलाई, 2021 तक

आपकी सुरक्षा हमारी जिम्मेदारी, आपदा में है सरकार की पूरी तैयारी

अभियान के अन्तर्गत टी.बी. के सक्रिय रोगी, डेंगू, फाइलेरिया, मलेरिया, इंसेफेलाइटिस सहित अन्य बीमारियों से ग्रसित मरीज खोजे जाएंगे

दिमागी बुखार पर सरकार का सीधा वार, सुरक्षित होगा हर परिवार

बुखार होने पर बच्चों को बिना किसी देरी के उपचार के लिए सरकारी अस्पताल जाएं। कोई भी बुखार दिमागी बुखार हो सकता है।

दिमागी बुखार की रोकथाम के लिए क्या करें

1 जेई के टीके 2 साल तक के बच्चों को नियमित टीकाकरण सत्र में लगवायें

2 घरों के आसपास साफ-सफाई रखें

3 मच्छर से बचने के लिए पूरी बाई काली कमीज और पैट पहनें

4 स्वच्छ पेयजल ही पीयें

5 आसपास जल जमाव न होने दें

6 कुपोषित बच्चों के प्रति विशेष ध्यान रखें

7 व्यक्तिगत साफ-सफाई का विशेष ध्यान रखें

खुले में शौच न करें

साबुन से हाथ धोने की आदत बनें

रोजाना स्नान करें

शिक्षक विद्यार्थियों की साफ-सफाई पर ध्यान दें

टीका असरदार, लगवाए समझदार

18 वर्ष से ऊपर के सभी व्यक्ति कोविड-19 का टीका अवश्य लगवाएँ

कोविन पोर्टल के माध्यम से बुकिंग हेतु क्लिक करें <http://selfregistration.cowin.gov.in>

प्रदेश में शुरू हुआ 18 वर्ष से कम उम्र के लक्षणयुक्त बच्चों हेतु नि:शुल्क दवा वितरण

समस्त जानकारियों हेतु सम्पर्क करें 104

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