

OPINION 8
THE LEGACY OF THE
DIVISION OF INDIA**WORLD 11**
GERMANY SET FOR NEW GOVT
THAT WILL END MERKEL'S RULE**VIVACITY 12**
ALL ABOUT
LOVE

LUCKNOW, THURSDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2021; PAGES 14 ₹3



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SP stitching ties to take on BJP

Akhilesh meets AAP leader Sanjay Singh and Apna Dal leader Krishna Patel

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■
LUCKNOW

Shedding its Covid-period inertia, the Samajwadi Party is racing ahead with its plan to stitch up alliances with smaller parties to take on the BJP in the forthcoming Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh.

In an attempt to strengthen the caste alliance further, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav met senior Aam Adami Party (AAP) leader and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh and Apna Dal (Krishna Group) president Krishna Patel separately on Wednesday, fuelling speculation of further alliances.

Krishna Patel later declared that her party will share stage with the Samajwadi Party in near future but did not elaborate on the seat arrangement. The meeting between Akhilesh and Singh took place at Janeshwar Mishra Trust building in Lucknow and lasted for about an hour. This was the third meeting of the AAP leader and Akhilesh.

"In an attempt to give respite to the people of UP from the BJP, we are trying to come together and talks regarding a possible alliance have been initiated," Singh said.

Recently Singh had visited the residence of SP patriarch



Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav meets AAP leader Sanjay Singh in Lucknow on Wednesday

Mulayam Singh Yadav and greeted him on his birthday.

Political pundits believe that if the SP and the AAP forge an alliance, it will boost their chances in the urban areas where the BJP has stronghold.

Earlier in the day, Patel met Akhilesh. She claimed that her deal with the SP is final now and very soon leaders of both parties would share a common platform.

Another faction of Apna Dal led by Union Minister Anupriya Patel has an alliance with the ruling BJP.

Akhilesh has already forged alliance with Suheldeo Rajbhar Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) which has a strong base among Rajbhar community in east UP. Besides, the SP also has tied up with Mahan

Dal, which has influence among the Maurya-Kachi and Kushwaha community in east and central UP. Last month, the SP had entered into an alliance with the Jan Kranti Party dominated by Lonia community.

Earlier on Tuesday, Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) chief Jayant Choudhury had met with Akhilesh regarding alliance for the coming UP Assembly elections.

Vandana was suspended by the BSP for anti-party activities. She said the BSP never heard her side and suspended her without any reason. "Thereafter I met Yogi Adityanath and he asked me to join BJP," she said. Leaders of various political parties took the membership of the BJP in the presence of BJP State president Swatantra Dev Singh in



Rebel Congress MLA Aditi Singh (L) and BSP MLA from Azamgarh Vandana Singh join the BJP at the party office in Lucknow on Wednesday

Rebel Cong, BSP MLAs join BJP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Congress and the BSP received another setback in Uttar Pradesh before the crucial Assembly polls when rebel Congress MLA Aditi Singh from Rae Bareilly's Sadar seat joined the BJP; and rebel BSP MLA from Sagri seat of Azamgarh district Vandana Singh did the same.

Vandana was suspended by the BSP for anti-party activities. She said the BSP never heard her side and suspended her without any reason. "Thereafter I met Yogi Adityanath and he asked me to join BJP," she said.

Leaders of various political parties took the membership of the BJP in the presence of BJP State president Swatantra Dev Singh in

Lucknow. Welcoming both the leaders, Singh said joining of these sitting MLAs gives a clear picture of what will happen in 2022 Assembly polls.

Aditi has been criticising the Congress and hailing the policies of the BJP Government for a long time. Recently, Aditi had said she wanted to be a part of Yogi's team and claimed Yogi is the most popular CM.

Aditi had even criticised Priyanka Gandhi saying she is only doing drama. "If she had been aware of women's pride, she would have first acted against her personal secretary Sandeep Singh, who has been booked for molesting a woman," Aditi had said.

Continued on Page 11

Mamata meets Modi, Swamy hogs limelight

Bengal CM urges Modi to withdraw order on extension of BSF jurisdiction

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss a range of issues, including demand for withdrawal of the order extending the BSF's jurisdiction in the State. She also invited the PM to inaugurate the Global Business Meet scheduled in Kolkata for April 2022.

However, what caused

more attention during the day was senior BJP leader Subramanian Swamy calling on the TMC chief a day after the regional party inducted several senior party members of the Congress and the JD(U). Swamy, however, obliquely scotched the possibility of him joining the Trinamool Congress. "I was already with her (Mamata). There is no need for me to join the party," he told the media.

Swamy who has often praised Mamata on social media met her at TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee's official residence in the national Capital. After meeting the Trinamool Congress chief, Swamy said they discussed the political scenario in Bengal.

Continued on Page 11



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in New Delhi on Wednesday

Congress' loss is TMC gain: Sangma joins Didi's party

New Delhi/Shillong: The Trinamool Congress (TMC) received yet another shot in the arm on Wednesday after former Chief Minister of Meghalaya Mukul Sangma, along with 12 Congress MLAs, joined the TMC giving West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's party presence in three north-eastern States after Assam and Tripura.

Sangma met TMC MP and party's general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on September 21 first, fuelling speculation of him and his entire team joining the TMC. Congress leaders Kirti Azad and Ashok Tanwar joined the TMC a day earlier in the presence of Mamata, who is in national Capital. The late evening development came as a huge setback for the grand old party in Meghalaya and particularly in NE region as 12 of the 18 party MLAs joined the TMC on Wednesday.

Sangma, the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, was reportedly unhappy with the Congress's top leadership. Reports suggested that Sangma felt cornered in the party and he had given enough indications of quitting the party of things does not work. **PNS**

CAPSULE

ISIS THREAT TO GAMBHIR: SECURITY AT RESIDENCE

New Delhi: Security has been beefed up outside the residence of BJP MP Gautam Gambhir here after he received an alleged death threat from "ISIS Kashmir", officials said.

3 TERRORISTS KILLED IN ENCOUNTER

Srinagar: Three unidentified terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in Rambagh area of the city on Wednesday, officials said.

NITI AAYOG FLOATS IDEA OF FULL-STACK DIGITAL BANKS

New Delhi: Government think-tank Niti Aayog proposed setting up of full-stack 'digital banks', which would principally rely on the internet and other proximate channels to offer their services and not physical branches, to mitigate the financial deepening challenges being faced in the country.

UK PARL REVIEWS RULES FOR BABIES IN CHAMBER

London: The Speaker of the House of Commons announced a review of the rules around babies being allowed into the Parliament chamber after a parliamentarian complained she was carrying her three-month-old into the House.

Delhi schools, colleges to reopen from Nov 29 as air quality improves

CNG, electric, emergency service trucks to be allowed to enter Delhi from November 27

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With a significant improvement in the Capital's air quality, the Delhi Government on Wednesday decided to resume physical classes in schools, colleges and all educational institutions and reopen Government offices from November 29.

Addressing the media, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said CNG and electric trucks, along with the emergency service trucks, will be allowed to enter Delhi from November 27.

To encourage Delhi Government employees to use public transports instead of personal vehicles, Rai said the AAP Government in Delhi



will provide shuttle bus service from the Delhi Secretariat to ITO and Indraprastha metro stations.

"There are colonies and areas like Nimri Colony, Gulabi Bagh, Timarpur, where a majority of Delhi Government employees come from. In all such places, the Kejriwal Government has decided to start special buses to facilitate

the employees' commute," said Rai.

Stressing his Government commitment to fight air pollution in all possible ways, Rai said violation of 14-point guidelines by construction and demolition sites will lead to immediate termination of work and a penalty.

"Since the last three days, there have been improvements

in Delhi's pollution levels. If we look at the average air quality index from before Diwali, Delhi has reached those levels again. The pollution levels had been steadily rising after Diwali. Considering that, multiple restrictions were put in place, apart from the routine processes. Today, we held a review meeting with the higher officials of Delhi, and many important decisions were taken.

"We are reopening things, but our fight against pollution will continue. Therefore, it is necessary for everyone to cooperate, because together we can reduce this pollution further so that Delhi can have better air. So far 1,221 sites have been inspected. Out of which construction work was stopped at 105 places. Close monitoring is being done daily by the government. Conditions will definitely improve. But the Government will not shy away from taking any tough step if needed," he said.

CBI charges 2 naval commanders in submarine retrofitting leak info case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In its third chargesheet in connection with the submarine retrofitting information leak case, the CBI has charged two Naval commanders Jagdeesh and Abhishek Shaw.

In the latest chargesheet in the case, the CBI has also named Commander Ajit Pandey and retired Naval officer commodore Randeep Singh for the alleged leak of information related to advance payment for INS Sindhuratna-MRLC (Medium Refit Life Certification) project, sources said.

Earlier, the agency had filed two chargesheets against six persons and Hyderabad-based firm Allen Reinforced Plastics Limited (ARPL). The third chargesheet came after the agency completed the probe against Commander Jagdish, who was arrested on September 21.

The agency has also named Commander Abhishek Shaw in the chargesheet filed on



Saturday, they said.

Several accused, including retired officers commodore Randeep Singh and Commander SJ Singh, serving officer Commander Ajit Pandey, Commander Jagdish and the executive director of Hyderabad-based Allen Reinforced Plastics Ltd, have already been granted default bail in the matter, they said.

While the CBI admitted the Officials Secrets Act (OSA) probe was on against the accused persons, but it did not mention it in the chargesheet, leading to the grant of default bail to the accused persons.

An accused becomes eligi-

ble for default bail if the investigating agency does not file a chargesheet within the stipulated period of 60 days in cases relating to the Prevention of Corruption Act or 90 days for offences under the Indian Penal Code.

The CBI had conducted searches against retired naval officers Commodore Randeep Singh and Commander Satwinder Jeet Singh, a day after registering the case on September 2 after getting information that the latter was going to share crucial details related to a meeting in the Navy on the procurement.

Continued on Page 11

Covaxin shows 50% effectiveness against symptomatic Covid cases in real-world assessment: Lancet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Two doses of Covaxin, also known as BBV152, are 50 per cent effective against the symptomatic disease as per the first real-world assessment of India's indigenous vaccine against the deadly infection, published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal.

The number is significantly lower than the 77.8 per cent efficacy that Bharat Biotech, manufacturer of the Covaxin, had claimed on the basis of the interim phase 3 trial results of the vaccine. It was released earlier in November.

The latest study published in The Lancet assessed 2,714 hospital workers at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi, from April 15-May 15, who were symptomatic and underwent RT-PCR test for Covid-19



detection.

Researchers noted that the Delta variant was the dominant strain in India during the study period, accounting for approximately 80 per cent of all confirmed Covid-19 cases.

Covaxin, developed by the Hyderabad-based pharma firm in collaboration with the National Institute of Virology, Indian Council of Medical Research (NIV-ICMR), Pune, is an inactivated whole virus vaccine administered in a two-dose regimen, 28 days apart.

Govt extends 5 kg foodgrains/month for free under PMGKAY till March

80 crore people to be benefited

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In view of the upcoming Assembly polls in five States, the Narendra Modi Government on Wednesday approved a proposal to extend distribution of 5kg foodgrains per month for free under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) to over 80 crore ration card holders for four months from December 2021 to March 2022.

The decision to extend the scheme was taken by the Union Cabinet on Wednesday. The phase V of the scheme will cost an additional ₹53,344.52 crore to the exchequer.

Free foodgrains under the



PMGKAY scheme, which was announced in March last year to provide relief to poor people during the Covid pandemic, is over and above the normal quota provided under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) at a highly subsidised rate of ₹2-3 per kilogram.

Briefing about the decision,

I&B Minister Anurag Thakur said the Cabinet has extended the PMGKAY programme by four months till March 2022. This will cost an additional ₹53,344 crore to the exchequer, he said, adding that the total cost of PMGKAY would reach about ₹2.6 lakh crore, including all five phases of this ongoing programme.

The scheme provides 5 kg of rice or wheat per person and 1 kg of dal to each family holding a ration card.

Earlier, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal wrote to Modi requesting him to extend the Central Government's quota of free ration supply until May 2022.

In the wake of economic disruptions caused by the unprecedented outbreak of Covid-19 in the country last year, the Government had in

March 2020 announced the distribution of additional free-of-cost foodgrains (rice/wheat) to about 80 crore National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries.

The Phase-I and Phase-II of this scheme were operational from April to June 2020 and July to November 2020, respectively. The Phase-III of the scheme was operational from May to June 2021, while Phase-IV of the scheme is currently operational for July-November, 2021.

"The PMGKAY scheme for Phase V from December 2021 till March 2022 would entail an estimated additional food subsidy of ₹53,344.52 crore," an official statement said. The total outgo in terms of foodgrains for PMGKAY Phase V is likely to be about 163 lakh tonnes.

Cabinet approves Bill to repeal all three farm laws

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In line with Prime Minister's Narendra Modi's announcement, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the Bill to repeal the three controversial farm laws.

"The Cabinet has completed the formalities to repeal the three farm laws," I&B Minister Anurag Thakur told reporters. "In the upcoming session of Parliament, it will be our priority to take back these three laws," he said. The Winter Session will begin on November 29 and conclude on December 23.

The Bill titled the Farm Laws Repeal Bill, 2021, will seek the rollback of the three laws, namely, Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation)



Act, The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act.



NOTICE

I have changed my name from Mehraj Ahmad to Meraj Ahmad S/o Rehmat Ali R/o 381-D, Ompurwa, Nai Basti, Kanpur.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Hina to Hena Abdul Razzaq W/o Mohammad Mudassir R/o 88/117A Prem Nagar, Chamanganj, Kanpur.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Raja Rastogi to Rajkumari Rastogi W/o Alok Kumar Rastogi for future purpose. add- Shahganj Bharwari Kaushambi

NOTICE

I Sunita Upadhyay w/o Shri Bhaskar Upadhyay Resi. B1/1 Sector-G Jankipuram, Lucknow Declared that my Original Free hold Deed Book No. 2, Khand-1426 Page 337/336 Sl. No. 4696 lost somewhere. Its use by someone else would be inappropriate.

NOTICE

I Ujjwal Goel S/o Rishi Goel R/o 110/81 Naya Gaon Purv, near Vidhyant College, Latouche Road Lucknow-226001. Inform that my son Ujjwal Goel Date of Birth has been wrongly written in his Class X Marksheet as 01-07-2005 his correct Date of Birth is 07-01-2005

NOTICE

My name is Shobha Jain W/o Shri Sandip Kumar Jain resident 16/12A, Civil Lines, Kanpur Nagar, My name is wrongly marked as Shubha Rani Jain on My Passport which is wrong. my real and correct name is Shobha Jain and I will known with the same name in future

NOTICE

My Name was TEJBEER SINGH which I have changed as TEJBEER SINGH CHADDHA and My father's name was SURJEET SINGH CHADDHA which has been changed as SURJEET SINGH. Henceforth We shall be known with this New Name.Tejbeer Singh Chaddha, H-1/4,Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur.

NOTICE

I USHA SINGH YADAV spouse of Army No. 15343588H Banarsi Singh Yadav Residing of Vill- Jamalpur, Naicot, Chahaniya, Distt. CHANDALI, (UP). 232109 have changed my name SMT USHA DEVI to USHA SINGH YADAV and changed my Date Of Birth 06/04/1981 to 28/03/1977. This is enrolled Aadhar Card 646908761177.

NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that Original Sale Deed registered dated 26.12.1991, Document No. 1826, executed by Sitaram and others in favour of Kishun Lal S/o Mathura Prasad, Ramnath S/o Janku Ram and Ramji S/o Bahadur, for Property C 11/1-C measuring 4059 Sq.Ft. Situated at Mauza Jyapura Ward Chetganj and Distt. Varanasi, Registered with Sub Registrar Office-Varanasi, at Book No. 1, dtd 3056, Page 379/388, Document No. 1826, has been lost on 01.09.2021, around 2 AM at Beniabagh Varanasi, when coming from Panditba Chouraha, Chetganj, for going to market for getting its photocopy. Please return to undersign if find by anyone or raise objection if anyone having any claims /objection, within 7 days from today since Premises No. C 11/1-C measuring 628.27 Sq.Ft. of said property is going to mortgaged with PNB Housing Finance Limited against housing loan. Its use by anyone is void. M/s SAR Associates, through Advocate, Mr. Amar Singh, Chamber No. 112, New Banaras Bar Building, Civil Court Campus, Varanasi. Mo.9415374743

‘Rural and agricultural development building blocks of a nation’

PNS ■ KANPUR

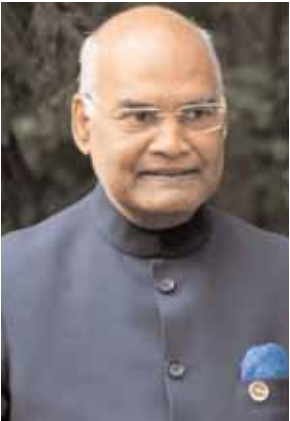
President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, while addressing a massive rally at Harmohan Paramedical College and Nursing Institute grounds at Meharban Singh Ka Purwa, on Wednesday, said the prominent building blocks of nation building were rural and agricultural development along with gram panchayat.

Emphasising upon the need for development of education, he said a nation could grow with leaps and bounds with the momentum of education.

He said Kanpur had pararely carved a niche for itself not only in the field of industrialisation but in the field of education as well and this stood substantiated with the fact that today there was a web of educational institutions equally contributing in the development of India in their own respective ways.

He said Kanpur was well linked with every direction and thus tapping this benefit it had become an educational hub as well. He said in the present circumstances the onus for further development, through education, rested on the people of this city.

Paying tributes to Chaudhary Harmohan, President Kovind gave the credit of educational expansion in the area to the family and hoped they would continue to give further momentum to it. He added that the achievement



of the millennium development goals was the centre of sustainable development as sustainable rural development was vital to the economic and social viability of a nation.

He added that similarly a healthy and dynamic agricultural sector was equally an important base of rural development, generating strong linkages to other economic sectors and much rested on the gram panchayats also which were at the helm of affairs.

President Kovind, going down the memory lane, said Chaudhary Harmohanji believed in the spirit of fellowship and camaraderie. He hoped that this fellowship, which was envisioned by Chaudhary Harmohanji, could become a reality and help end the existing wide chasm in the current social system. He said once this was adopted in the true letter and spirit by each and every person then factors

like caste, fraternity, denomination, upper and lower would end once for all, giving rise to a new India focused on equality and progress. He hoped that the existing social evil would end, making India like a heaven.

President Kovind said Kanpur was his native place and had a rich cultural and historical heritage and added that it was a matter of concern that the current generation was gradually distancing itself from reality and contributions of many others in the freedom struggle.

He said it was ironical that people remember Nanarao Peshwa, Tatyia Tope, Rani Laxmibai, Chandra Shekhar Azad and Bhagat Singh but they were ignorant of celebrities and patriots like Azizan Bai, Jaidev Kapoor, Shiv Kumar Verma, Vijay Kumar Singh, Dr Gaya Prasad and thus the onus rested on the present generation to create awakening among the future generation to understand and pay due respect to these martyrs who had sacrificed their lives for the nation.

Kovind said he had deep roots in Kanpur as he had been born and brought up and pursued education in this city and finally rose to be the President of India and thus he had deep connections and sentiments for Kanpur to ensure that it made massive development in every sphere and emerge as a living example to the rest of the country.

First flight to take off from Kushinagar on Nov 26

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

It's a dream come true for Uttar Pradesh as the first flight is all set to take off from Kushinagar International Airport on November 26.

The first passenger flight from the Kushinagar International Airport in Kushinagar district will take off for New Delhi at 12:00 pm on Friday, reducing the 14-hour journey to less than two hours.

The SpiceJet airplane will take off from Delhi at 12 O'clock in the day and reach Kushinagar at 1:35 pm. According to officials, the fare of the Kushinagar-Delhi flight, which will be four days a week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday), will range between Rs 3,500 and Rs 4,000.

The operationalisation of the airports is already bringing in investment, establishing industries, and creating employment opportunities in the eastern part of the state, ensuring its social and economic development

On October 20, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Kushinagar International Airport and welcomed the first flight from Sri Lanka with a delegation that landed at the airport.

Nearly 876 km distance between Kushinagar and Delhi otherwise takes 14 hours to cover by road and would now be traveled in less than two hours, said officials, adding that they were also gearing up to commence flights to Kolkata and Mumbai from December 17 and 18 respectively. The SpiceJet aircraft will take off from Kolkata

at 1:35 pm on December 17 and reach Kushinagar at 3:20 pm. The flight from Kushinagar will take off at 3:40 pm and will return to Kolkata at 5:15 pm. Air service between Kushinagar and Kolkata will be for three days a week-- Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Similarly, on December 18, SpiceJet's first flight from Mumbai to Kushinagar will take off at 12:10 pm and reach the destination at 2:25 pm. The return flight from Kushinagar to Mumbai will be from 3 pm. The return flight will reach Mumbai at 5:35 pm. Flights between Kushinagar and Mumbai will be available thrice a week on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Kushinagar is an important place for Buddhist pilgrims from all over the world as it is believed that Gautam Buddha attained Nirvana here more than 2,500 years ago. It provides connectivity to many places of Buddhist pilgrimage such as Lumbini in Rupandehi district of Nepal; Sarnath in Varanasi, Shravasti near Bahraich, and Bodh Gaya, Rajgir and Vaishali in Bihar.

At present, Uttar Pradesh has eight operational airports, while 13 airports and seven airstrips are being developed. The operational airports handling commercial flights in Uttar Pradesh are Lucknow, Varanasi, Kushinagar, Gorakhpur, Agra, Kanpur, Prayagraj, and Hindon (Ghaziabad).

The prime minister will lay the foundation stone of the Noida International Airport (Jewar airport) on November 25.

Government approves posts for new forensic science institute

Lucknow (PNS): On the instructions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, efforts are being made seriously to include more and more scientific evidence in the investigation of the police.

In this series, it has been decided to create academic and non-academic posts for the operation of Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Sciences to be set up in Lucknow.

The main objective of establishing the UP State Institute of Forensic Sciences is to build capacity in the field of better policing, crime control and forensic sciences and to develop awareness and scientific attitude towards scientific institutions.

Apart from studies, training will also be provided to police, prosecution, forensic, scientific and judicial officers, which will increase the professional efficiency of the officers

of the police and justice department of the state and ease the work of the court.

Giving this information here on Wednesday, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi said that a mandate had been issued in this regard. He said that a total of 131 posts of academic and non-academic cadre had been created by the government and appointments to these posts would be made on deputation basis and through direct recruitment.

One post each has been created for director, additional director, administrative officer, finance officer, library assistant, accounts officer, accountant, campus supervisor and security officer for the operation of Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Sciences.

According to the mandate, two posts of deputy director, assistant accounts officer, com-

puter programmer have also been created. Apart from this, five posts of assistant registrar, three of professor, six of associate professor, 16 of assistant professor, five of scientific officer, six of scientific assistant, eight of senior assistant, 16 of junior assistant, 14 of laboratory assistant, four of stenographers, three of computer operator and four of record keeper have been created.

The appointments to these posts will be made on deputation basis and through direct recruitment. Action will be taken by preparing the rules of academic and non-academic cadres on the basis of norms of NFSU, Gandhinagar, Gujarat for appointment through direct recruitment.

It has also been said in the mandate that apart from this 20 posts of Class IV and six posts of drivers have also been created which will be filled through outsource.

Over 15 cr people administered vaccine in UP

Lucknow (PNS): The COVID-19 vaccination drive in Uttar Pradesh has gained further momentum after the implementation of the Cluster Model 2.0 in rural areas under which special teams have been deputed in the rural areas to go from door-to-door and make people aware of the need to get the vaccine cover.

In Uttar Pradesh, around 72.69 per cent of the eligible people have been given the first dose of the Covid vaccine and 30.36 per cent of the eligible people have received both the doses of the vaccine.

On Monday, Uttar Pradesh reached a new milestone in the battle against COVID-19 as the number of people administered vaccines crossed the 15-crore mark in the state. Till now, the state has administered

over 15.30 crore doses of anti-COVID-19 vaccine.

In terms of people, more than 10.76 crore individuals are partially vaccinated in the state, while 4.53 crore have taken both the doses of the Covid

In terms of people, more than 10.76 crore individuals are partially vaccinated in the state, while 4.53 crore have taken both the doses of the Covid vaccine

vaccine. Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the fastest state in India to carry out Covid vaccination.

The sustained availability of vaccines and accurate strat-

egy, mainly the Cluster Model 2.0 being adopted by the state government, along with the hard work of the health workers is behind this remarkable achievement.

Teams are going from vil-



lage to village in Uttar Pradesh and giving call slips (containing information of place and date of vaccination) to the people. Before the arrival of the vaccination team in the cluster,

the cluster mobilisation teams are clearing out the misconceptions related to the Covid vaccine among the people and motivating them to get vaccinated. Two quick response teams have been activated to manage any adverse events during vaccination in the cluster. Vaccination is being carried out in the combined district hospital till 10 pm to ensure that no one is left out of the anti-coronavirus vaccination campaign.

Meanwhile, novel coronavirus cases have fallen sharply in UP since the devastating months at the start of the year. The active caseload has reduced to 94. In the last 24 hours 10 fresh cases have been reported and as many COVID-19 patients have recovered during this period.

Govt allows autopsies after sunset

Lucknow (PNS): To facilitate better handling of law and order along with helping in quick investigation, the government has issued directives both to the police department as well as the health department to carry out post-mortems even after sunset. The entire process will be videographed.

An order in this regard was issued by Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad on Tuesday.

Significantly, on November 15, the Central government had issued an order to conduct a post-mortem after sunset. In this, all the states were asked to make arrangements for conducting post-mortem even after sunset. On Tuesday, Amit Mohan Prasad, in an order sent to the director general of health and its copy to the police department, said that arrangements should be made to conduct post-mortems in all hos-

pitals even during the night.

Where there are arrangements, the post-mortem should be started at night. In other places, similar arrangements will be made as soon as possible, the order stated. The director general of health said that this decision would give relief to the families of the deceased as well as help the police in maintaining law and order besides facilitating investigation. Organ transplantation will also be encouraged by not delaying the post-mortem process. The post-mortem will be videographed so that in case of any legal dispute, it can be put up as evidence. The post-mortem of murder, suicide, suspicious cases, mutilated bodies etc. will not be done at night, but in these cases, the post-mortem will be done by forming a panel if there are circumstances related to law and order.

आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION

उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार

सुरक्षित मातृत्व आश्वासन

सुरक्षित मातृत्व आश्वासन

सुमन अभियान के अन्तर्गत निःशुल्क सुविधाओं का लाभ पाकर सुस्थहली करें दोगुनी

कम से कम 4 प्रसवपूर्व जांच सेवा

माँ के लिए गर्भावस्था से प्रसव के 6 माह तक तथा शिशु के लिए 1 साल तक जाँचें व दवाई

एम्बुलेंस सेवा-102/108

आदर सम्मान के साथ देखभाल

डिलीवरी-नॉर्मल/ऑपरेशन

शिकायत निवारण सुविधा टोल-फ्री नंबर 104

गर्भावस्था, प्रसव के दौरान एवं प्रसव पश्चात 42 दिन तक गर्भजनित कारणों से समुदाय में होने वाली मातृ मृत्यु की सूचना टोल फ्री नम्बर : 104 में देने पर ₹1000/- की धनराशि, प्रथम सूचना प्रदाता को देय।

राजकीय स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं अथवा निःशुल्क सुविधाओं में किसी भी प्रकार की असुविधा होने पर सम्पर्क करें।

तरीके तीन, सुरक्षित मातृत्व पर करें यकीन

तुरंत टोल फ्री नं. पर कॉल करें: 104

पोर्टल पर दैनिक अपडेट करें <https://eumam.nhp.gov.in>

सरकारी अस्पताल की सहायता कीय पर असुविधा दर्ज करें



Uttar Pradesh soars high on India's Aviation Map
World's Fourth Largest International Airport in Jewar, Noida



**Foundation
Stone Laying**

of

**Noida International
Airport**

by

**Narendra Modi
Prime Minister**

— In august presence of —

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister
Uttar Pradesh

Jyotiraditya M. Scindia
Minister, Civil Aviation
Govt. of India

Keshav Prasad Maurya
Deputy Chief Minister
Uttar Pradesh

Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi'
Minister, Civil Aviation, Political Pension,
Minority Welfare, Muslim Waqf and Haj,
Uttar Pradesh

Dr. Mahesh Sharma
MP
Gautam Buddha Nagar

Surendra Singh Nagar
MP
Rajya Sabha

Dhirendra Singh
MLA
Jewar

Date : 25 November, 2021
Time : 12:00 PM
**Venue : Noida International
Airport Site, Jewar,
Gautam Buddha Nagar**

Watch the
live telecast at
DD News
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UPGovtOfficial
CMOUttarpradesh
CMOfficeUP

Investment of more than
₹ 5730 crores, construction
on 3300 acres of land in
the first phase

Creation of more than
1 lakh employment
opportunities for youth

Film City, Medical Device Park,
Apparel Park and Construction of
Aligarh Node of Uttar Pradesh
Defence Industrial Corridor will
boost investment prospects
and provide special benefits to
western Uttar Pradesh

Plan to construct aerocity
along with airport

Boost to hospitality and
tourism sector

Operations with
net-zero emission

Digital technology-based
operations

Development of airport
along with surface transport
centre for seamless
connectivity integrated
with road, rail and metro

Target to complete the
project by 2024

Historic step in line with
Prime Minister's vision to
create a future-ready
aviation sector

For the first time,
construction of an airport in
India is being
conceptualised with
integrated multi-modal
cargo hub, reduction in total
cost and time for logistics

Local products and
produce will become more
competitive in
international markets

The airport will serve
crores of people in cities
including Delhi, Noida,
Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Agra
and Faridabad

Capacity to serve around
1.25 crore passengers a year

The only state in India to
have five international
airports

Uttar Pradesh to emerge
as 'logistics gateway
of northern India'
on global logistics map

Soch Imaandaar, Kaam Dumdaar

Rajnath to give tips to booth workers on November 27

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Taking the upcoming assembly elections seriously by not allowing the opposition parties to succeed in denting its strongholds in Purvanchal (eastern UP), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has already started intensifying its poll activities. In this direction, the party will also increase the activities further in the coming weeks. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who hails from this region (Chandauli), is going to address the booth presidents of Kashi regional unit of the BJP at TD College in Jaunpur on November 27 in which it is expected that 29,500 booth presidents of this region would attend the meeting.

Besides, national president of Bharatiya Janata Yuva

Morcha (BJYM) and young BJP MP Tejashvi Surya is also coming to Varanasi on November 27 to address a meeting of meeting of young workers of BJP in connection with the forthcoming assembly elections in the state. Almost daily, some senior leaders of BJP or its alliance partners have started arriving here to change the mood of the voters. In this direction, a couple of days ago, president of Republic Party of India (RPI) and Union Minister Ramdas Athawale came here.

The BJP circles are confident about completing their preparations at organisational level by the visit of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to his parliamentary constituency on December 13. Though the programme has yet not been confirmed, it is expected

that the PM will come here in mid-December to inaugurate his 'dream project' Kashi Vishwanath Corridor. Earlier, the Divisional Commissioner Deepak Agrawal had instructed the concerned construction agency to complete the work by December 10 but later on, the District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma has fixed the deadline of December 5 for the completion of work, giving a clear indication about the arrival of the PM.

Meanwhile, Raya Sabha MP and election state co-incharge of the party Saroj Singh continued holding meetings with the party workers here and in this direction she held a meeting of senior local office-bearers of the BJP at Circuit House here on Wednesday and gave instructions to the party workers to

strengthen the organisation at booth level. She had already held meetings with the office-bearers of various local Mandal units including Rajashri, Bagheswari, Dhoopchandi, Deendayal, Kashi Vishwanath and others. She stressed the need for appointment of Panna chiefs at every booth so that they by visiting their areas can mobilise the voters about the achievements of central and state governments and their various schemes related to housing, health, water, LPG cylinder apart from more than 100 crore free vaccination. The meeting was presided over by city BJP chief Vidyasagar Rai while it was also attended by Navin Kapoor, Jagdish Tripathi, Rachna Agrawal, Madhukar Chitransh, Rajesh Trivedi, Santosh Solapurkar and many others.

Previous govts only made plans, didn't implement them: Minister

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

If there is water, there is life. If there is water, then there is tomorrow, the farmer is our God. Water reaches the farmer's field and the farmer's income should be doubled, trebled and quadrupled. If anyone is worried about this, it is Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Previous governments only made plans but didn't implement them.

This was said by Jal Shakti Minister Dr Mahendra Singh at Circuit House in Prayagraj.

He said that the previous governments had not even repaired the leaking pipelines. "The opposition parties pretend to be sympathisers of farmers for votes. Even if this does not work, they use caste, religion and sects. Prime Minister Modi has given the answer to all these things through development works," he added.

The minister said that at present, the nationalist government is working. This is the reason why Vande Mataram is being sung all over the country. Bharat Mata is being hailed.

If someone abuses Mother India, then the whole country will stand up. This change has been given by the BJP government. In whose veins Jinnah's blood is flowing, they have to be told that this country belongs to immortal sacrifices. No one will tolerate the insult of Mother India.

These days a membership campaign is being run under the leadership of BJP city unit president Ganesh Kesarwani. In this sequence, BJP Minority Front and Backward Class Morcha Mandal Khulabad also held a camp. In Roshan

Bagh, people were given membership under the leadership of Mandal, Vice President Danish of Minority Morcha and Mahendra Jaiswal, President of Backward Classes Morcha.

Media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani said that 422 people of minority community and 313 people of backward class society have taken membership of BJP. On this occasion Ramesh Pasi, Askari Zaidi, BJP Mandal Vice President Rohit Vishwakarma, Abhijit Srivastava, Vikay Singh, Vipin Gupta, Sujit Srivastava etc. were present.

9 new dengue cases detected in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Sangam city on Wednesday reported nine new dengue cases, taking the tally to 1,028. Fresh cases were detected from Salori (1), Rasoolabad (1), Kalindipuram (1), Alopibagh (1), Railgaon (1), Preetam nagar(1), Naini (1), Koraon (1) and Meja (1).

Out of the nine cases detected, seven were from city areas, while the rest two from

rural areas. Moreover, out of total 1,028 dengue cases in the district so far, 758 were reported in urban pockets, while the rest 270 in rural areas.

Officials of the health department, however, claimed that there has been a declining trend in the cases of dengue in the district that was proved by the fact of the tally of the last 48 hours. On Tuesday, Sangam City reported 11 cases while the cases reported on Tuesday were

nine only.

However, after detecting new dengue cases in urban areas, an anti-larvae spraying drive has been intensified in city areas including Salori, Alopibagh, Naini, Preetam Nagar, Rasoolabad and adjoining localities.

A senior health official said health teams are still constantly making people aware about the preventive measures to check the spread of dengue

and have appealed to them to use mosquito nets and repellents.

He added that we are also conducting door-to-door campaigns and surveys in city infected colonies and urban areas.

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

GM launches sticker distribution in BLW

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

General Manager (GM) Anjali Goyal launched the distribution of the stickers of National Foundation for Communal Harmony in Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) here on the penultimate day of ongoing Quami Ekta Week on Wednesday. During the week since November 19 last, a national harmony campaign is being run at the BLW. On the occasion, the sticker received from the National Foundation for Communal Harmony was presented to the GM by Tara Meri Minj, District Commissioner/Guides and Poonam Tigga, District Organisation Commissioner/Guides. An amount was presented in the donation box by the GM.

Addressing the Bharat Scouts and Guides organisation, the GM said that it has always been a commendable contribution of this organisation in every field like adverse circumstances of Covid, successfully running the vaccination programme, organisation of Chhath Puja festival and various other programmes. "This organisation executes the work in a disciplined and well planned manner. If everyone is



GM Anjali Goyal launching sticker distribution during Quami Ekta Week at BLW in Varanasi on Wednesday.

Pioneer

responsible towards the country like this, then the development will take place on its own. Scouts and guides inculcate a sense of discipline and all-round development in the children," she said.

The stickers of National Foundation for Communal Harmony were distributed in the Administration Building, factory, hospital and other

offices. The programme will also be continued on Thursday. Under the Quami Ekta Week being organised in BLW, in the past, Sarva Dharma Prarthana Sabha by the Scouts and Guides and essay competition were successfully organised in BLW Inter College, in which the employees of BLW and their wards participated enthusiastically. Chief District

Commissioner and Chief Personnel Officer Pradeep Kumar Singh, District Commissioner and Senior Material Manager Animesh Verma, Deputy General Manager Vijay, Senior Personnel Officer Raj Kumar Gupta, Public Relations Officer Rajesh Kumar and others were also present on the occasion.

Infection from dengue more dangerous to pregnant women

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The infection from dengue can be more dangerous particularly to pregnant women and thus, they should pay additional precautions during the pregnancy, alerted the senior gynaecologist in MCH Wing of the Pt Deen Dayal District Government Hospital, Orderly Bazar Dr Rashmi Singh.

The resistance power is very low during the pregnancy period and the last three months of the pregnancy is more important because there is more chance of the attack of virus, said Dr Singh alerting, the pregnant women need to pay an extra precaution in these three last months of the pregnancy.



Dr Rashmi Singh

The infection from dengue is more dangerous particularly to the pregnant women because there is threat of bleeding in pregnancy in case of dengue and this situation could lead to the abor-

tion, said Dr Singh and added, moreover, there could also be high bleeding during the delivery and the virus of dengue could also transmit in the child after the birth. So, the pregnant women should be alert from dengue, she said further. Hence, there is a need to have the places inside and outside the house clean where there is more possibility of the water lodging such as old tyre, broken bottles, cooler, nullah, etc, she advised adding, there is also need to use mosquito net at the time of sleeping. The mosquitos enter the room through windows or doors and so, the dengue could be avoided by using nets at windows and doors, Dr Singh said

and advised that the persons should wear the clothes which could cover the entire body. The persons particularly the pregnant women should avoid going to park or open place where there is possibility of the mosquitos, she advised.

In case of the occurrence of the symptoms of the dengue such high fever, frequent vomiting, difficulties in breathing, dryness of tongue and lip, etc, the pregnant women should immediately consult the doctor without wasting anytime otherwise there is threat of life to both mother and child in foetus, said Dr Singh advising, the patients should not take any medicine without consulting the doctor.

Oral sex with minor not 'penetrative sexual assault': Allahabad HC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Allahabad High Court has held that oral sex with a minor amount to "penetrative sexual assault" under Section 4 of the POCSO Act, but can't be treated as "aggravated penetrative sexual assault" that invites stricter punishment under Section 6 of the same law. In making this observation, the court reduced the jail term of a man convicted of forcing oral sex on a child from 10 to seven years.

Hearing the appeal filed by Sonu Kushwaha, who was convicted by a Jhansi court, the single-judge bench of Justice Anil Kumar Ojha said, "After going through the records and provisions of the Pocso Act, I

am of the considered opinion that the appellant should be punished under Section 4...because the act done by the appellant falls in the category of penetrative sexual assault."

Kushwaha had offered Rs 20 to the survivor to keep quiet. He threatened the child with dire consequences if anyone came to know about what happened. The trial court pronounced him guilty of aggravated sexual assault, as defined by Section 5 of the Pocso Act, and sentenced him to 10 years in prison.

The high court ruled that the offence couldn't be categorised under sections 5 and 6 of the legislation as the act of oral sex was not "aggravated

penetrative sexual assault", as defined by the law. It said the quantum of punishment should, therefore, be determined by Section 4 of the act rather than Section 6.

RALLY HELD: The National Service Scheme of Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS) organised a rally, poster competition, talk and lecture series at the Faculty of Health Sciences, Shalom Institute of Allied Health Sciences, on the occasion of Communal Harmony Week from November 19 to 25.

NSS Coordinator Dr Rohit Lal said the rally was inaugurated by the Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, Dr Shekhar and Associate Dean, Dr P

Malairajan, Dr Neena Gupta, Programme Officer.

The aim of the event was to honour each community and their culture. India has a wide range of Culture and each culture has rich traditions to make togetherness and prosperity of Unique India .

On the occasion, Dr Neena Gupta and Dr Hira Bose emphasised on the need to respect communal harmony in their lectures.

Students participated in the talk event, made colourful posters from different Schools and departments of the university, and participated in the rally to make other students as well as the community aware that students are the pillars of the nation .

Credit Outreach Programme held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Central Bank of India (CBI) approved the loan of Rs 15.75 crore during the district level Credit Outreach Programme. It may be mentioned here that the district level Credit Outreach Programme was organised at the auditorium in the office of the Divisional Commissioner here as per directive of the DDS and State Level Banker's Committee, UP. The Union Minister of State for Finance Dr Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad on had attended the programme and distributed loan certificates among the beneficiaries of various schemes besides handing over the cheque of Rs 3.8 crore to as many as 308 beneficiaries of the various government schemes. The Chief Manager of the CBI Dinesh Sinha informed that the branches of the bank approved the loan of Rs 15.75 of as many as 127 applicants during the programme.

CONG TAKES OUT PROCESSION: Under the on-going assembly-wise protest



Central Bank of India distributing a loan at an outreach programme in Varanasi

march against the price rise, the workers of Congress Party on Wednesday took out procession from Town Hall in City South assembly constituency which culminated at Azad Park in Lahurabir by passing the areas of Daranagar, Jaitpura, Ambiamandi and Baluabir. The excess rise in the price of medicines, vegetables and other daily use items besides the gradual rise in the petro products exposes the real face of the BJP-led Government in the state, the Congressmen said adding, the increase in inflation has made the com-

mon people fed-up and so, the change in the power is certain in 2022. The life of common man has become miserable in the government at Centre and in the state as both the governments benefitted only a few of capitalists, they blamed Each section of the society whether including farmers and labourers are feeling betrayed from this government, they said and blamed that the government is trying to divert the attention of people from these issues by making false branding and propaganda. The Congressmen will apprise the people of the

real face of the saffron brigade and faulty policies of the government, they said. The city chief of the party Raghendra Chaubey led the protest march while many participated in it including Sayyed Hasan, Durga Prasad Gupta, Sitaram Keshari and Ganesh Shankar Pandey.

BHU'S DOCTOR BAGS MRS INDIA QUEEN AWARD: A gynecologist of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has brought laurels for the city when she was honoured with Mrs India Sensational Queen Award. Major Professor Anjali Rani, specialist in the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), BHU, was honoured with Mrs India Sensational Queen Award-2021 in Mrs India International Queen's Contest held in New Delhi recently. Major Prof Anjali Rani was given this honour for her work in the field of reducing the mortality rate of pregnant women so that babies get their mother's love and to make people aware in this direction.

ALLAHABAD (PNS): After the festive season (Diwali and Chhath Puja), Prayagraj junction is witnessing a huge rush of passengers returning to the city. Sleeper coaches carry twice the number of seats. The bathroom, gallery and space between the seats are occupied.

Due to a huge rush of ticketless passengers, those with reserved tickets are not getting seats. In such a situation, those returning to work after celebrating the festivals are facing a lot of problems. When the Howrah-Jodhpur-Bikaner Express reached the junction, people were sitting in the bathroom and corridor in the sleeper coaches. When the Kamakhya-Anand Vihar Northeast Express arrived, the situation was even worse. The seats were full as were the

spaces next to the seats and the gallery near the door. The passengers sat outside the bathroom. Kamlesh, Bukun, Samar Bahadur, Shanti, Kalavati, who were traveling in Howrah-Jodhpur, said the general ticket was not available at the station. They were told at the ticket counters that reservations had to be made in advance. In such a situation, they had to travel without tickets.

Similarly, in the Northeast Express too, people sitting near the doors did not have tickets. Purushottam Shukla said he took the ticket as did most of the people present in the coach, but there were no seats available. Nirdi Dev said the reserved seats were also occupied by ticketless passengers.

AU PROF ADDS ANOTHER FEATHER TO

CMP CAP: An assistant professor at the department of Botany, CMP Degree College, Vijay Pratap Singh added a new feather in the golden cap of CMP, a constituent college of Allahabad University. For his research work, his name has been included in the list of researchers who have published 'influential and most cited research work' by America's reputed agency 'Clarivate Analytics' and listed among the top 1% most cited scientists of 2021. The list comprises 6,602 researchers from more than 70 countries in the world, of which 22 scientists are from India. Clarivate Analytics is the world's most reputed agency that keeps a statistical record of a database of research work done by the researchers and scientist and

the number of times their work has been cited across the research being done in the world. Singh is the only assistant professor to achieve this feat from AU. His research expertise is in plant physiology and biochemistry. His research focuses on the regulation of abiotic stresses like heavy metal by nitric oxide, hydrogen sulfide, reactive oxygen species and phytohormonal crosstalk in crop plants. "Our research outcomes may help in curtailing abiotic stress related loss to crop plants, and also in generating stress tolerant crops," said Singh. Singh completed his PhD from the university in 2012 under the supervision of Prof SM Prasad and has published 112 research papers in reputed international journals.

Concern over increasing pollution in Kanpur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Uttar Pradesh State Pollution Control Board Regional Officer Anil Mathur has expressed concern over the increasing pollution levels of the city. He said this was because of the industrial units and the increasing number of fuel driven vehicles.

He said the bursting of firecrackers during the Diwali festival celebrated recently and the ongoing marriage ceremonies was another reason for the increasing air pollution. He said of late it had become a fashion to explode fire-

crackers for over three to four hours in marriage ceremonies and on the route of the wedding procession.

He said cars were increasing dangerously on the city roads along with two-wheelers and three-wheelers and something needed to be done in this regard. He said rising urbanisation, booming industrialisation and associated anthropogenic activities were the prime reasons for air pollutant emissions and poor air quality.

He said it was expected that by 2030, around 50 per cent of the global population

would be residing in urban areas. He said more than 80 per cent of the population in urban areas was exposed to emissions that exceeded the standards set by the World Health Organisation.

He said air pollution was one of the key global health and environmental concerns and had been ranked among the top five global risk factors of mortality. He said particulate matter pollution was considered the third important cause of death and this rate was found to be highest in India.

Mathur said the rising

trends in population growth and the consequent effects on air quality were evident in the Indian scenario. He said growing pollution in cities like Kanpur Nagar, Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata was a cause of concern. He said in the last few decades, the greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions resulting from anthropogenic activities had increased drastically. He said the consistent population growth had also led to an excessive strain on the energy consumption, thereby affecting the environment and the air quality of the cities.

Library on wheels inaugurated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Dr Raghavendra Shukla, a noted author and former president of Science and Technology, Student's Foundation of India, while inaugurating the 'Library on Wheels' on Wednesday, said it was true that reading habits were becoming extinct, especially among children, and this engendered the need to promote reading in children and revive libraries in schools.

He said reading stirred the mind and made children visualise and understand what they read and thus the onus rested on parents, peers and teachers to ensure they revived the habit of reading books among the children.

He said this mobile library would be accessible to the students on all the floors moving on wheels, hence the name 'Library on Wheels'. He said this initiative had been taken up to inculcate reading habit in students and hoped that children would surely enjoy reading their favourite books.

He said it was also true that when it came to developing the habit of reading in kids, many parents were in a fix as children just did not want to read. He said they preferred to play outdoors, watch TV, or, most commonly these days, play on mobile phones and tablets, but they did not pick a book willingly to read. He said the prime reason was the introduction and added that the sooner one introduced children to books the easier it would be to instill reading as a habit.

Delhi Public School organised a Gala Fest (Fete) for the students of Classes PG to 8 to break their monotonous routine since the pandemic. Director Rachana Mohotra and Principal Punita Kapoor and Dr Raghvendra Shukla graced the event. The playground was adorned with beautiful decor, a myriad of appealing game stalls were put up and these stalls were inaugurated by the parents of the pre-primary students who were invited as special guests. Games like, 'Hit the Tin', 'Pot the Ball', 'Dice game', had the children thrilled. 'What's in the Box', 'Give me Red', 'Treasure Cups' and various other games also saw enthusiastic participation and the children won many gifts.

After sustaining the pandemic for the last one and a half years, the children enjoyed the event with a lot of fervour, following all the Covid protocols.

Stress on conserving water

KANPUR (PNS): Conserving water is most important because it keeps water pure and clean while protecting the environment. It also means using water supply wisely and responsibly as keeping water safe and pure will protect water for the generations to come. Water is a vital part of functioning, which is true for the rest of life on this planet. Plants, animals, and the environment all needed water to survive and function. Water is an important and essential part of every ecosystem on the planet, and if it is damaged or reduced, there will be serious repercussions and consequences for human and animal life.

This was stated by Dr KN Mishra, principal of Armapore Degree College, while addressing the NCC cadets of 54th Battalion NCC who took out a massive rally to create awareness among the people towards water conservation.

He said water scarcity was an enormous problem in most parts of the world and while conserving water domestically was not going to necessarily help, conserving it locally could make sure that the community had access to food and clean water for drinking, cleaning, hygiene, and sanitation in daily life.

Addressing the students, Dr Neeraj Goel said water was a key component of sanitation and waste management in many countries. He said what if one had to walk a big distance to fetch clean water? He said water was a limited and valuable resource (it literally makes life possible), and one had to pay for its use.

NER GM honours rly personnel

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

On the instructions of GM, North Eastern Railway (NER), Vinay Kumar Tripathi, for months in NER every month the morale of railway personnel doing excellent work in the field of safety is boosted by honouring them at the GM level with 'Man of the Month' Award.

In this sequence in September this year a total of 12 railway employees, including three of Izzatnagar division, four of Lucknow division and five of Varanasi division were selected for being rewarded for their excellent work in the field of safety who were honoured by GM by being presented cash prize and commendation letter at GM's conference room here on Tuesday. Izzatnagar Division's Zafir Ahmed track maintainer (Rudrapur City) during patrolling on seeing stock rail broken while taking quick action protected the track and immediately informed his officers so that rail fracture could be repaired in time. Satyendra Kumar, track maintainer (Fatehgarh), while on duty noticed broken rail at Kaimganj station and taking immediate safety measures informed the officer concerned so that no untoward incident could take place. Anoop Kumar, gateman (Shamshabad), during work on seeing the angle hanging down in Up goods train, immediately informed the station master/Rudain due to which it was stopped at Rudain station and angle was tied. Lucknow Division's Dinesh Kumar, technician/mechanical, Lucknow, during rake testing at washing pit on noticing a crack in bio-toilet bracket of a coach got it fixed immediately due to which an untoward incident en route could be prevented. Prashant Kumar Tiwari, station master (Jahangirabad) on coming to know about the defective track informed about stopping train



No 09033 at Saryu station. Arvind Kumtainer (Khalilabad), on information about signal failure after seeing the broken rail at the site immediately informed the control room and got the joggled plate tied. After that the rail

was changed so that a possible accident could be avoided. Ravi Shankar Yadav, helper/Signal & Telecom, Khalilabad, on information of track circuit failure noticed a broken rail at the site and gave information to the control room immediately due to which the track was protected by tying the joggled plate. Varanasi division's Prabhu Nath Choudhary, pointsman (Siwan) noting down the number of the truck running away after breaking the boom of Siwan yard informed the station master so that necessary action could be taken against the truck driver.

Satyanaarayan Prasad, pointsman/Chainwa, after seeing the smoke rising due to brake binding in the sixth coach of train No 05028, immediately informed the guard, station master and controller due to which the train could be stopped at the next station and saved from an untoward incident. Hemant Kumar, loco pilot/Varanasi and Anil Kumar, assistant loco pilot/Varanasi, on seeing a spark coming out of a wagon of goods train passing through immediately informed the person concerned so that untoward incident could be avoided by releasing the wheel of the train. Sudhanshu Kumar, MCM/Siwan did the break down work in Kusumhi-Gorakhpur Cantt section in less time maintaining safety and security. For their commendable work these railway personnel were honoured by the GM by being presented the monthly safety award.

Gkp-Hyderabad spl to run on Nov 28

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

For the convenience of the passenger public, the railway administration will run the 07745 Hyderabad-Gorakhpur special train on November 25 (Thursday) and the 07746 Gorakhpur-Hyderabad special train on November 28 (Sunday) for one trip. All coaches in these trains will be of reserved class and passengers traveling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention norms, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said.

The 07745 Hyderabad-Gorakhpur special train will be run on the route of the 12590 Secunderabad-Gorakhpur Express which has been cancelled on November 25 (Thursday) due to non-availability of rake. The 07745 Hyderabad-Gorakhpur special train will on November 25th depart from Hyderabad at 21.05 hrs, from Secunderabad at 21.30 hrs, from Kazipet at 23.19 hrs, on second day from Peddapalli at 00.10 hrs, from Manchiryal at 00.50 hrs, from Balharshah at 03.20 hrs, from Nagpur at 06.25 hrs, from Itarsi at 12.05 hrs, from Bhopal at 13.50 hrs, from Jhansi at 18.35 hrs, from Kanpur Central at 23.10 hrs, on the third day from Lucknow City at 01.10 hrs, from Barabanki at 02.05 hrs, from Gonda at 03.30 hrs and reach Gorakhpur at 06.30 hrs. In the return journey the 07746 Gorakhpur - Hyderabad special train will on November 28 (Sunday) depart from

Gorakhpur at 08.30 hrs, from Gonda at 11.05 hrs, from Barabanki at 12.20 hrs, from Lucknow City at 13.25 hrs, from Kanpur Central at 15.10 hrs, from Jhansi at 18.45 hrs, from Bhopal at 23.15 hrs, from Itarsi on second day at 01.00 hrs, from Nagpur at 05.40 hrs, from Balharshah at 08.55 hrs, from Manchiryal at 10.32 hrs, from Peddapalli at 10.59 hrs, from Kazipet at 12.17 hrs, from Secunderabad at 14.30 hrs and reach Hyderabad at 15.20 hrs. A total of 24 coaches, including two of LLR, six of general second class, 12 of sleeper class, three of AC third class and one of AC second class will be attached in the train.

RAMNAGAR-AGRA FORT EXPRESS

The 15056 Ramnagar (RMR)- Agra Fort triweekly express will from November 25 on every Monday, Thursday, Saturday depart from Ramnagar at 19.50 hrs, from Kashipur at 20.25 hrs, from Bazzpur at 20.45 hrs, from Lal Kuan at 21.59 hrs, from Pantnagar at 22.16 hrs, from Kichha at 22.28 hrs, from Baheri at 22.46 hrs, from Deornian at 23.02 hrs, from Bhojipura at 23.16 hrs, from Izzatnagar at 23.33 hrs, from Bareilly City at 23.51 hrs, second day from Bareilly at 00.06 hrs, from Budaun at 00.45 hrs, from Ujhani at 01.01 hrs, from Soron Shukar Kshetra at 01.29 hrs, from Kasganj at 02.02 hrs, from Sikandra Rao at 02.24 hrs,

from Hathras City at 02.51 hrs, from Mathura Cantt at 04.00 hrs, from Mathura Jn at 04.20 hrs, from Achhnera at 05.00 hrs, from Idgah Agra at 05.50 hrs and reach Agra Fort at 06.55 hrs. In the return journey 15055 Agra Fort - Ramnagar triweekly express will from November 26 on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday depart from Agra Fort at 20.40 hrs, from Idgah Agra at 20.56 hrs, from Achhnera at 21.40 hrs, from Mathura Jn at 22.50 hrs, from Mathura Cantt at 23.15 hrs, from Hathras City at 23.50 hrs, second day from Sikandra Rao at 00.20 hrs, from Kasganj at 01.15 hrs, from Soro Shukar Area at 01.40 hrs, from Ujhani at 02.15 hrs, from Budaun at 02.35 hrs, from Bareilly at 03.33 hrs, from Bareilly City at 03.48 hrs, from Izzatnagar at 04.08 hrs, from Bhojipura at 04.23 hrs, from Deornian at 04.37 hrs, from Baheri at 04.53 hrs, from Kichha at 05.14 hrs, from Pantnagar at 05.26 hrs, from Lal Kuan at 05.50 hrs, from Bazzpur at 07.00 hrs, from Kashipur at 07.50 hrs and will reach Ramnagar at 08.30 hrs. A total of 14 coaches including two of SLRD, 10 of general second class, one of AC third class and one of AC second class will be attached in the train. All coaches will be of reserved class and passengers traveling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention guidelines, CPRO PK Singh said. As a result of the run of this express train, the run of 05055/05056 Ramnagar-Agra Fort-Ramnagar special train will remain cancelled.

Workshop on dragline held in NCL

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

In NCL on Tuesday a workshop on operation, maintenance and increasing utility capacity of the giant machine dragline working in the mines was organised in the MDI building of NCL Headquarters CETI premises on Tuesday. NCL CMD PK Sinha, Director (Technical/ Operations) Dr Anindya Sinha, Director (Finance & Personnel) RN Dubey, former General Manager (Excavation) NB Singh, SC Vats, GMs of all areas, heads of departments and project level officers and employees related to dragline operations were present. The workshop discussed in detail the safe operation, maintenance and increasing productivity of dragline and rectification of common mistakes in its operation. Along with it guidelines and framework were also fixed to bring the suggestions



the dragline fleet of NCL and highlighted the role of draglines in the changing mining scenario. NCL Director (Finance & Personnel) RN Dubey explained the importance of dragline for production in NCL as well as explained in detail the financial aspects related to dragline and its inventory in the company. In the workshop the personnel of all the dragline machines projects also presented their presentations and papers in which various problems and suggestions were placed.

Truck driver shot at

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

A truck driver, Virendra Yadav (35), was shot at by car-borne miscreants under Chunar police station in the wee hours of Tuesday. He was on the way to Varanasi from Maihar with a cement-laden truck. When on Shivshankari flyover speed of his truck slowed down in between car-borne miscreants tried to stop him. When he ignored them they opened fire at him, the bullet hit his shoulder but he did not stop the truck and reached a hospital in Naraipur under Adalhaat police station. On getting information the Adalhaat and Chunar police reached the hospital and sent the driver to Trauma Centre, Varanasi. SP Ajay Kumar Singh and ASP (Operation) Mahesh Singh Atri also inspected the spot. The police registered a case

and were investigating the matter.

MEETING: Regarding the recommendations under 15th Finance Commission a meeting was chaired by ADM(F&R) Shiv Pratap Shukla for approving the proposals of Nagar Palika Parishad Mirzapur and Chunar at Collectorate on Tuesday. The proposals related with road

repair, installation and repair of handpumps, installation of water coolers, repair of water head tanks etc were approved after proper discussion. The ADM directed the officials to maintain quality in purchase and in the construction. CTO RK Gupta also spoke on the occasion. The meeting was attended by EOs and officials concerned.

Experiments help in understanding physics, make it interesting: Physicist

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Physics is all about curiosity while understanding and making it interesting through experiment. Today, the numbers of experts who understand and conduct experiments are decreasing day by day.

This was stated by eminent physicist and chief guest Padma Shri Professor HC Verma while speaking at the closing ceremony of the 2-week Science Academy refresher course organised by the physics department of Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, on Tuesday.

Prof Verma congratulated the CSJM University for organising this event and said that this refresher course would help the teachers to experiment hands-on, understand it and teach the subject to their students in an exciting manner.

"All of our lives are dependent on scientific inventions and techniques of modern times. We can neither understand science nor technology without doing experiments", he said.

In his speech, the CSJMU Vice-Chancellor Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak expressed concern over the declining level of experiments in science and technology. He stressed the need for the laboratories in colleges to be equipped with different types of equipment and ensure every student's participation. He said that there was an essential role of the laboratory in today's era for teaching social sciences and language.

The first refresher course was organised from November 8 to 23 under the five-year contract between CSJM University, Kanpur and three science academies, the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore; NASI Prayagraj and INSA, New Delhi, and it was efficiently directed by Dr RK Dwivedi, head of physics department of Christ Church College, Kanpur



CSJMU Vice Chancellor Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak felicitating the chief guest Padmashree Prof HC Verma at the closing ceremony of Refresher Course.

Pioneer.

and Director, College Development Council, CSJM, Kanpur.

The guests were welcomed with bouquets and shawls after the lighting of the lamp. UIET Director Prof Bristi Mitra welcomed all the scholars and guests in the programme.

While giving his feedback in the closing ceremony, Dr Rajesh Kumar Dwivedi, director of the refresher course, expressed his happiness on the successful completion of all the experiments by all the participants and called upon them to make one experiment in the future. He thanked Dr Manish Dev Sharma from Punjab University, Chandigarh, Dr SP Singh from Christ Church College, Kanpur, Dr Satish Chandra and Dr Dharmendra Pandey from PPN College and Dr Vishal Awasthi from CSJMU, Kanpur, coordinator Dr Ram Janma from CSJM University for successfully conducting this vital course.

All 32 participants were introduced to the principles of the respective experiments in the first four days of this 2-week course. After that, they were taught in 15 sessions to experiment in eight days. During the course, each participant group also had to give a presentation of an experiment. All the participants completed all the experiments with great enthusiasm.

In this refresher course, three subject-specific lectures were also organised by the experts of the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur. The first was 'Various applications of superconductivity' by Prof Satyajit Banerjee, the second was 'Different dimensions of nanotechnology' by Dr Prabhat Dwivedi and the third was 'Recent advancement in condensed matter physics' by Dr Amit Agarwal.

All the participants were

also given a tour of the Nano Center, in which they were informed about the experiments and new equipment.

Giving feedback in the closing programme, Dr Dharmendra Kumar Dwivedi from Indira Gandhi Government College, Bangaramau, Shlomi Kshetri from Christ Church College, Swapnil Gupta from PPN College, and others expressed happiness over their participation in this programme and said that it would help them in the field of research. All the participants, resource person, coordinator and director, were presented participation certificates and books and mementos by the chief guest.

The coordinator of the course Dr Ram Janma proposed the vote of thanks at the end of the programme.

Dr Deepti Agarwal conducted the programme.

IIT-K's SIIC organises workshop on REC Innovation Platform

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur organised a unique 2-day in-person workshop on first-of-its-kind REC Innovation Platform, supported by Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (RECL) through its corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds on Wednesday. The workshop extended participation to students across the 20 regional government engineering and science colleges from the state of Uttar Pradesh. It was part of the year-long programme aimed to drive the students and faculty members of the respective colleges towards developing a sound understanding of entrepreneurship and help them identify the potential challenges in their entrepreneurial journey.

The event commenced with an inaugural address by Prof AR Harish, Dean Research & Development, IIT Kanpur followed by key addresses from the core team members at SIIC, Dr Nikhil Agarwal, CEO, Foundation for Innovation & Research in Science & Technology (FIRST IITK), C3i



Workshop on REC Innovation Platform being conducted at IIT Kanpur on Wednesday.

Pioneer.

Hub, Piyush Mishra, Sudha Selvaraj and Rahul Patel. In addition to enlightening the audience about the well-equipped infrastructure at the incubation centre of IIT Kanpur, the sessions further outlined the process of product acceleration for a startup, accessing funding across various stages, and how SIIC's help can be extended towards fostering innovation-driven ecosystem at each of these colleges. Key insights and learning from successful national initiatives of SIIC. The Ventilator Project and Mission Bharat O2 Project were also shared by Rahul to participants of this workshop.

NK Maurya, CGM, RECL and member of the programme committee, in his address to participants encouraged students to take up bold and path breaking innovative projects to solve the challenges. He also invigorated the faculty members to support and acknowledge such innovative projects in their nascent stage through the incubation centre/cell in their respective colleges.

IIT Kanpur Director Prof Abhay Karandikar congratulated the SIIC team on the initiative, saying, "IIT Kanpur has always supported bringing change at the grassroots. The SIIC team has taken another positive step in the direction

and we believe that this collaboration with RECL will usher in a new era of building entrepreneurial ecosystems in the state of Uttar Pradesh."

DIGITAL BANKING: ICICI Bank has announced the launch of an online platform, 'Trade Emerge' to offer comprehensive digital banking as well as value-added services to exporters and importers across India.

The first-of-its-kind initiative makes cross-border trade hassle-free, expeditious and convenient, as it offers an array of services in one place, which eliminates the need for companies to coordinate with multiple touch points.

Pak allows India to send wheat to Af via its land

PNS ■ NEW DELHI / ISLAMABAD

Two days after Prime Minister Imran Khan announced that Indian humanitarian aid of 50,000 metric ton of wheat can be transported to Afghanistan through his country, Islamabad on Wednesday formally conveyed the decision to New Delhi in this regard.

Pakistan also said it has allowed transportation of life-saving medicines from India to Afghanistan via Attari-Wagah border on an "exceptional basis for humanitarian purposes."

The decision came weeks after India urged Pakistan to

allow the land route to ferry humanitarian aid. So far, Pakistan allows only Afghanistan to ferry goods to India through road but exports from Indian through land is not permitted.

Meanwhile, India on Wednesday reaffirmed the need for an inclusive negotiated political settlement to the Afghan crisis and said the territory of Afghanistan should not be used to the detriment of any other country.

Making this assertion here, Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla said New Delhi is in touch with all countries concerned over is in touch with all

countries concerned on the Afghan issue, noting that it will have to see how best to protect its interests and "make the best" of a difficult situation. He made these observations in a virtual interactive session at the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

As regards permission to India to ferry aid, "The decision of the government of Pakistan to this effect was formally conveyed to the Charge d' Affaires of India at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs," the Foreign Office (FO) said in a statement in Islamabad on Wednesday.

The FO said wheat and medicines to Afghanistan

would be allowed to enter through "Wagah Border on an exceptional basis for humanitarian purposes".

Last month, India announced 50,000 metric tonnes of wheat for Afghanistan as humanitarian assistance and requested Pakistan to ship the food grain via the Wagah border.

India has contributed to the humanitarian requirements of the Afghan people. This included providing more than 1 million metric tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan over the past decade.

Last year too India assisted Afghanistan with 75,000

metric tonnes of wheat, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had said at the United Nations High-Level Meeting on the Humanitarian situation in Afghanistan in September.

Imran Khan on Monday announced the decision as soon as modalities are finalized with the Indian side. He said this while approving a humanitarian assistance package for Afghanistan.

He visited the new Afghanistan Inter-Ministerial Coordination Cell (AICC) in Islamabad and chaired the first apex committee meeting of the cell. The meeting was

also attended by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and National Security Adviser (NSA) Moeed Yousaf.

An official statement after the meeting also said "Pakistan will also facilitate the return of Afghan patients who had gone to India for medical treatment and are stuck there, the Prime Minister announced."

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
Bank of India

NOTICE

Major Penalty of "Removal from Service, which shall not be a disqualification for future employment" in terms of Regulation 4(i) of Bank of India Officer Employees' (Discipline & Appeal) Regulations, 1976 is imposed upon you vide Penalty Order Ref. No. KZO: IRD: 43 dated 22.09.2021 in the matter of Articles of Charge Ref. No. KZO IRD: 93 dated 08.02.2021 issued undercovering Memorandum Ref. No KZO: IRD: 930 dated 08.02.2021 along with its enclosures. The said Penalty Order 22.09.2021 was sent to your last known residential address as well as your last communication address. However, efforts to serve the said Penalty Order 22.09.2021 at your last known address by Registered AD / Hand delivery could not be effected.

This notice is being issued to you to collect the Penalty Order Ref. No. KZO: IRD: 43 dated 22.09.2021 from Bank of India, Kerala Zonal office during office hours on any working day or Lucknow Zonal Office during office hours, on any working day within three days.

Office Address : Mrs. Geeta Dhami, PF No. 189158, Staff Officer - Manager (MMG-II), Ayyanthole Branch, Kerala Zone, Bank of India

Residential Address : 2/323 B Viram Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, U.P.

Date: 25.11.2021

(Sreeharsha M Jois)
Assistant General Manager & Disciplinary Authority

Resumption of regular international flights likely by end of year: DGCA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Regular international flight operations, which have remained suspended owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, is expected to return to normal soon. Civil Aviation Ministry Secretary Rajiv Bansal on Wednesday said that international passenger flight services are expected to be normalised soon and possibly by the end of this year.

As per the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the international flight operations have been suspended till November 30. The government has been allowing commercial international flights on a case-to-case basis.

Scheduled international passenger flights to and from India were suspended in March 2020 due to the covid-19 pandemic. However, the restrictions will not apply to international all-cargo operations and flights specifically approved by Directorate General of Civil Aviation

(DGCA), a circular added.

Currently, India has formed air-bubble pacts with around 28 countries, including the US, the UK, the UAE, Kenya, Bhutan and France. Under an air-bubble pact between two countries, special international flights can be operated by their airlines between their territories with specific restrictions.

After the first wave of COVID-19 subsided, a lot of countries opened their borders for tourists from India, especially Dubai, Maldives and Seychelles. However, we the arrival of second-wave and increasing cases, almost every country put India on a red list of international arrivals. Things, now, are again going back to normal and with India managing to reduce infection rate drastically, international travellers from India holding tourist visas are being allowed by many countries. With the vaccination meted out and countries allowing international travel, there is a great

relief.

On the other hand, domestic air passenger traffic has seen an uptick, almost reaching pre-Covid levels. On November 23, over 3.59 lakh domestic air passengers travelled via 2743 flights across India. Last weekend, 3.94 lakh domestic air passengers travelled, which is highest since the pandemic.

Last week, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said the government was evaluating the process for normalising international operations and asserted that it wants to return to normalcy while keeping in mind the coronavirus pandemic situation in certain parts of the world.

Speaking about its loss-making carrier Air India, Bansal said it is likely to be handed over to the Tata group by the end of the year. "We are making efforts to handover all operations of Air India by the end of December". Air India has been incurring a monthly loss of more than ₹600 crore, he noted.

CRPF enhances ex-gratia payment for its personnel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has enhanced the ex gratia payment from ₹21.5 lakh to ₹35 lakh for troops killed in combat action and from ₹16.5 lakh to ₹25 lakh for casualties due to other causes like accident, suicide or illness while in service. The ex-gratia amount is payable to the next of kin of the deceased personnel.

The decision to enhance the ex gratia payment was taken during the annual governing body meeting of the paramilitary force held in September, a senior official said on Wednesday.

These ex-gratia payments will be drawn from the voluntary contribution made by the personnel of the force under two heads — risk fund and central welfare fund.

The officials said a similar decision is being taken in other Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) or paramilitary forces on the directions of the Union Home Ministry.

The CRPF has also



enhanced the financial assistance given to the family members of its deceased personnel for the wedding of the daughter or the sister of the slain trooper. The financial assistance has been enhanced from ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh, they said.

The CRPF is the world's biggest paramilitary force with about 3.25 lakh personnel in its ranks and is designated as the lead internal security force for counter-terrorist and anti-Naxal operations. It is extensively deployed for counter-terrorist operations in Jammu and Kashmir and anti-insurgency role Naxal-hit States and the Northeast.

Rahul seeks credible data on Covid deaths

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday demanded that the government provide credible data on Covid deaths in the country and pay a compensation of ₹4 lakh each to families of those who lost their lives due to coronavirus. Stepping up its campaign against the BJP in Gujarat, which goes to polls late next year, the Congress leader also attacked the "Gujarat model" which the BJP has projected as the best in the country. Rahul Gandhi shared a video in which families, who lost their dear ones due to Covid in Gujarat, alleged that they did not receive timely help from the government. "The Congress party has two demands that credible data on Covid deaths be disclosed and compensation of Rs four lakh be given to the families of those who lost their kin due to Covid-19. The Government will have to ease the pain of people and they should get compensation," he said in a tweet in Hindi, using the hashtag #4LakhDenaHoga".

In the 4.31 minute video as part of "Congress Niyam campaign", Rahul said the Gujarat model is much talked about but the families whom they talked to said that during Covid times they neither got a hospital bed nor a ventilator.

"When you had to help them in the hospital, you were not there and when they lost Rs 10-15 lakh in hospital and also their family members, you were still not there to provide compensation. What type of Government is this," he asked.

The former Congress chief said while the Gujarat government claims that only 10,000 people died due to Covid, the truth is that three lakh people have died due to Covid. He claimed that Congress workers have gone house to house to ascertain this. "The official tally says 10,000 people died due to Covid, but the truth is three lakh," he claimed.

Naravane praises Bangladesh's efforts to deny space to terrorists

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Army Chief General M M Naravane on Wednesday lauded the people of Bangladesh for standing up for their right to liberty and independence in 1971. He also appreciated Bangladesh's efforts to deny space to terrorist groups who are trying to carry out subversive activities against India.

In a message played out during an event here on Wednesday to mark 50 years of India-Bangladesh ties, he also asserted that "the historic Land Boundary Agreement" (LBA) between the two countries has shown how an issue related to border can be "resolved with mutual negotiations and a constructive outlook".

This, at a time when "certain countries" have been trying to "alter the status quo by force, and bypassing traditional rules and protocols, with complete disregard to territorial integrity of others," Naravane said, without naming any country.

The LBA epitomises the 3Ms — "mutual respect, mutual trust and mutual commitment — to a rules-based order", the Army chief said. He also said the two countries share an important strategic space in the Indian subcontinent with a land boundary spanning over 4,000 km.

Marking a new high in bilateral ties, India and Bangladesh in 2015 had sealed a historic deal to settle the old land boundary dispute through exchange of territories, removing a major irritant in bilateral ties.

"We are conscious of Bangladesh's efforts to deny space to terror groups that are carrying out subversive activities



"WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF BANGLADESH'S EFFORTS TO DENY SPACE TO TERROR GROUPS THAT ARE CARRYING OUT SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AGAINST INDIA"

against India," the Army chief said. In turn, India "continues to prevent any terror outfit" from using Indian soil to undermine the interests of Bangladesh, he said.

The event was attended by Bangladesh High Commissioner Muhammad Imran, former Army chief of Bangladesh and 1971 war veteran Lt General (ret'd) Harun-ar-Rashid, a few 1971 India-Pakistan war veterans from Indian armed forces, and a number of senior defence officials, among others.

States slacken Covid testing momentum

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

At a time when States should have been closely monitoring prevalence of severe acute respiratory infection [SARI] & influenza-like illness [ILI])/ respiratory distress symptoms for early hotspot identification as winter sets in and pollution level increases, many of them have slowed the pace of conducting Covid-19 tests.

Fearing that this poor pace could undermine the actual infection spread within the community, the Centre has taken exception to this disturbing and casual approach, particularly in the backdrop of multiple surges in the Covid-19 caes in a majority of countries in recent times and a few developed nations reporting even fourth and fifth wave despite high levels of Covid vaccination.

The Union Health Ministry on Wednesday wrote to at least 13 states including the populated one like Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal and those in Northeast such

as Nagaland, Sikkim, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram to increase the pace of testing. The other three States are Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh.

The Ministry said that in the absence of sustained levels of sufficient testing, it is very difficult to determine the true level of infection spread in a geography.

"Nagaland has reported 342 average daily tests as of the week ending 22nd November. This is in a stark contrast to a high of 1,250 average daily tests conducted in the week of August 23-29. It is also worrying to note that the state has recorded a positivity of 1.5 per cent in the week ending 22nd November, having stagnated over the past 4 weeks, with an abysmally low share of RT-PCR tests i.e., 8.2 per cent," the Ministry cited the state to the States.

"Further, worrying trends with regards to tests, tests per million, positivity rate and higher dependence on Rapid Antigen tests have been observed in various districts of the State... The positivity in districts such as Mokokchung and Peren has been above

2.5 per cent, with RT-PCR share falling below a decent proportion of the total tests."

The Ministry has directed these states to maintain the momentum and build on the progress made so far to bring the pandemic situation under control.

"While there has been a significant decline in the new cases with 10,195, average daily cases reported in the week ending 22nd November, it has been observed that there has also been a decline in weekly testing rates," wrote Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan to these states and territories.

The letter said in the absence of sustained levels of sufficient testing, it is very difficult to determine the true level of infection spread. "With a majority of countries seeing multiple surges in Covid cases in recent times and a few developed countries facing even fourth and fifth waves despite high levels of Covid vaccination, there is a need for continued vigil given the unpredictable and contagious nature of the disease..."

बड़ौदा यू. पी. बैंक Baroda U.P. Bank
 (पूर्ववर्ती काशी गोमती संयुत ग्रामीण बैंक) (Sponsored by Bank of Baroda)
 प्रधान कार्यालय : बुद्ध विहार व्यावसायिक योजना, तारामंडल, गोरखपुर-273016
 क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, जे 12/140 डी 1, गुलाबबाड़ी, चौकाघाट, जनपद- वाराणसी 221001

कच्चा नोटिस (अचल सम्पत्ति हेतु)
 अधोस्तबाबरी, जो कि सिक्वॉस्टिडिजेशन एण्ड रिस्क स्ट्रक्चर ऑफ फाइनेंसियल एसेट्स एंड एन्फोर्समेंट ऑफ सिक्वॉस्टिडि इंटेस्ट एक्ट 2002, के अंतर्गत बड़ौदा यू. पी. बैंक के अधिकृत अधिकारी हैं, द्वारा उपरोक्त एक्ट की धारा 13(12) तथा सिक्वॉस्टिडि इंटेस्ट (एन्फोर्समेंट) रूल 2002 के रूल 9 में निहित प्रावधानों के अंतर्गत अधिकारों का प्रयोग करते हुए बकायेंदार/जमानतदार को बकाया ऋणों के सम्बन्ध में मांग पत्र भेजे गए तथा ऋण वापसी हेतु 60 दिनों का अधिकतम समय दिया गया। बकायेंदार/जमानतदार द्वारा, मांगी गई धनराशि जमा न किए जाने पर एतद्वारा बकायेंदार/जमानतदार एवं जन साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि उक्त एक्ट की धारा 13(4) व रूल 8 एवं 9 के अंतर्गत प्राप्त अधिकारों का प्रयोग करते हुए निम्नलिखित सम्पत्ति पर अधिकृत अधिकारी द्वारा उसके समक्ष दशांश दिए गए तिथियों पर कब्जा के लिया गया। बकायेंदार/जमानतदार को विशेष रूप एवं जनसाधारण को एतद्वारा सावधान किया जाता है कि निम्नलिखित परिसम्पत्तियों का किसी भी प्रकार का संयत्वहरन न करें। इस सम्बन्ध में किया गया कोई संयत्वहरन बड़ौदा यू. पी. बैंक को देर राशि उस पर ब्याज के प्रभार के शर्तों के अनुसार होगा। बकायेंदार का ध्यान आकषित किया जाता है कि धारा 13 की उपधारा (8) की अधिनियम के अंतर्गत जो प्रतिभूति सम्पत्ति छुड़वाने के लिए उपलब्ध समय के सम्बन्ध में हैं।

क्र.सं	बकायेंदार/जमानतदार का नाम, पता व खाता संख्या	सम्पत्ति का विवरण	मांग सूचना पत्र की तिथि व बकाया राशि	अधिग्रहण की तिथि
1.	श्रीमती शांती देवी पत्नी शिवनाथ सरोज एवं विनोद कुमार सरोज पुत्र शिवनाथ सरोज, पता: (1) म.नं 59/199, गांधी पार्क, शिवपुरा, पो महमूरगंज, परगना- देहात अमानत, जिला- वाराणसी, (2) आराजी नं 201, मौजा-साई, परगना- शिवपुर, जिला- वाराणसी, जमानतदार- (1) अनिल कुमार चौधरी पुत्र राजेन्द्र कुमार चौधरी, पता: सी-20/2ए-1-ए, नई पोखरी, शिवाच मोचन, वाराणसी, (2) विदु सरोज पुत्र स्व 0 शोभनाथ सरोज, पता: सी 65/243, लहरताव, वाराणसी शाखा: सारंग तालाब, वाराणसी खाता सं: 616586510000014	श्रीमती शांती देवी पत्नी शिवनाथ सरोज के नाम, आराजी नं 201, क्षेत्रफल (बेघक विलेख के अनुसार)- 1368 वर्ग फीट, मौजा-साई, परगना- शिवपुर, जिला- वाराणसी चौहद्दी (विलेख के अनुसार)- उत्तर: विक्रेता की जमीन, दक्षिण: शंभू पाण्डे खाई, पूर्व: 6 फीट गली, पश्चिम: विक्रेता की जमीन	16.03.2020 एवं ₹ 9,96,763.25 + ब्याज एवं अन्य खर्च (w.e.f. 30.06.2018)	20.11.2021
2.	श्रीमती प्रमोला मिश्रा पत्नी संजय मिश्रा एवं संजय मिश्रा पुत्र गोपालजी मिश्रा, पता: जीमना, थाना- सिकंदर लक, जिला- बक्सर, विहार जमानतदार- (1) रामेश्वर तिवारी पुत्र तालुकु राज तिवारी, पता: ए 38/13-15 ख, कज्जाकपुरा, कोनिया, वाराणसी, (2) चन्द्र भूषण भारती पुत्र रंजु श्याम लाल, पता: प्लाट नं 72/36, नई बस्ती, लहरताव, वाराणसी शाखा: सारंग तालाब, वाराणसी खाता सं: 616586510000059	श्रीमती प्रमोला मिश्रा पत्नी संजय मिश्रा के नाम, प्लाट नं 100/2, मौजा- हल, बार्ड- सारनाथ, क्षेत्रफल- 599.5 वर्ग फीट, परगना- शिवपुर, जिला- वाराणसी चौहद्दी (विलेख के अनुसार)- उत्तर: विकास गुप्ता का मकान व अन्य, दक्षिण: 6 फीट चौड़ा कच्चा सस्ता, पूर्व: भग्नु की जमीन, पश्चिम: शकुन्तला देवी की जमीन	05.03.2020 एवं ₹ 4,61,201.00 + ब्याज एवं अन्य खर्च (w.e.f. 23.05.2019)	20.11.2021
3.	श्रीमती हीरावती देवी पत्नी शंकर जायसवाल एवं शंकर जायसवाल पुत्र सत्यनारायण, पता: म.नं 19/46-एम-आर-1, दनियालपुर, बार्ड- सारनाथ, जिला- वाराणसी, जमानतदार- (1) श्री सुरेन्द्र प्रसाद पुत्र कल्याण लाल, पता: म.नं 19/29, दनियालपुर, नक्कीघाट, वाराणसी, (2) विनोद कुमार चौरसिया पुत्र कमल प्रसाद, पता: म.नं 19/46, दनियालपुर, नक्कीघाट, वाराणसी शाखा: सारंग तालाब, वाराणसी खाता सं: 616586510000043	श्रीमती हीरावती देवी पत्नी शंकर जायसवाल के नाम, आराजी नं 48, मौजा- दनियालपुर, क्षेत्रफल- 340 वर्ग फीट, परगना- शिवपुर, जिला- वाराणसी चौहद्दी (विलेख के अनुसार)- उत्तर: दीपक की जमीन, दक्षिण: 4 फीट कच्चा सस्ता, पूर्व: कथित आरजी का भाग, पश्चिम: राजेन्द्र की जमीन	05.03.2020 एवं ₹ 4,25,562.25 + ब्याज एवं अन्य खर्च (w.e.f. 31.12.2018)	20.11.2021
4.	श्रीमती बीना श्रीवास्तव पत्नी श्री अशोक श्रीवास्तव एवं दीपक श्रीवास्तव पुत्र अशोक श्रीवास्तव, पता: ग्राम व पोस्ट- रसूलगढ़, जिला- वाराणसी, जमानतदार- (1) मईदया लाल राजभर पुत्र स्व 0 रसुल प्रसाद, पता: रसूलगढ़, सलासपुर, वाराणसी, (2) राम आशीष पुत्र काशी नाथ, पता: रसूलगढ़, सलासपुर, वाराणसी शाखा: सारंग तालाब, वाराणसी खाता सं: 616586510000053	श्रीमती बीना श्रीवास्तव पत्नी श्री अशोक श्रीवास्तव के नाम, आराजी नं 373, मौजा- सलासपुर, पोस्ट- रसूलगढ़, क्षेत्रफल- 338 वर्ग फीट, परगना- शिवपुर, जिला- वाराणसी चौहद्दी (विलेख के अनुसार)- उत्तर: बदी की जमीन, दक्षिण: शिरा की जमीन, पूर्व: सोती की जमीन, पश्चिम: 8 फीट चौड़ा कच्ची गली	05.03.2020 एवं ₹ 4,42,418.25 + ब्याज एवं अन्य खर्च (w.e.f. 30.06.2018)	20.11.2021
5.	राज कुमार पाण्डेय पुत्र स्व 0 नंदलाल पाण्डेय एवं श्रीमती राकुन्तला पाण्डेय पत्नी श्री राज कुमार पाण्डेय, पता: (1) 163 रसूलगढ़, पोस्ट- रसूलगढ़ (सारनाथ), जिला- वाराणसी, (2) 66/1, मौजा- रसूलगढ़, परगना- शिवपुर, जिला- वाराणसी, जमानतदार- (1) कुन्ता राजभर, पुत्र रंजु जगन्नाथ, पता: ग्राम- रसूलगढ़, पोस्ट- रसूलगढ़, जिला- वाराणसी, (2) रामाधर पुत्र राम नाथ, पता: ग्राम- रसूलगढ़, पोस्ट- रसूलगढ़, जिला- वाराणसी शाखा: सारंग तालाब, वाराणसी खाता सं: 616586510000012	श्रीमती राकुन्तला पाण्डेय पत्नी श्री राज कुमार पाण्डेय एवं राज कुमार पाण्डेय पुत्र स्व 0 नंदलाल पाण्डेय के नाम, 66/1, क्षेत्रफल- 680 वर्ग फीट, मौजा- रसूलगढ़, परगना- शिवपुर, जिला- वाराणसी चौहद्दी (विलेख के अनुसार)- उत्तर: विक्रेता की जमीन, दक्षिण: 5 फीट गली उसके बाद भागीरथी देवी की जमीन, पूर्व: बीताई की जमीन, पश्चिम: रत्ने की जमीन।	16.03.2020 एवं ₹ 4,98,655.00 + ब्याज एवं अन्य खर्च (30.06.2018)	20.11.2021
6.	श्रीमती सावित्री देवी पत्नी बेबन प्रसाद एवं सुनील कुमार पुत्र बेबन प्रसाद, पता: आराजी नं मि 307, मौजा- सलासपुर, पोस्ट- रसूलगढ़, जिला- वाराणसी, जमानतदार- (1) अनिल कुमार पुत्र बेबन सिंह, पता: सलासपुर, रसूलगढ़, वाराणसी, (2) श्री बबलु सोहंन बबलु, पता: सलासपुर, रसूलगढ़, वाराणसी शाखा: सारंग तालाब, वाराणसी खाता सं: 616586510000036	श्रीमती सावित्री देवी पत्नी बेबन प्रसाद के नाम, आराजी नं मि 307, क्षेत्रफल- 949 वर्ग फीट, मौजा- सलासपुर, पोस्ट- रसूलगढ़, जिला- वाराणसी चौहद्दी (विलेख के अनुसार)- उत्तर: फरदौ पाटी का मकान व जमीन, दक्षिण: मन्ना का मकान व जमीन, पूर्व: 6 फीट गली, पश्चिम: राजनाथ की जमीन।	05.03.2020 एवं ₹ 4,42,318.25 + ब्याज एवं अन्य खर्च (w.e.f. 30.06.2018)	20.11.2021

नोट : प्रकाशन सावधानीपूर्वक किया गया है। किसी प्रकार की त्रुटि होने पर संबंधित शाखा से संपर्क किया जा सकता है।
 दिनांक - 25.11.2021
 स्थान - वाराणसी
 प्राधिकृत अधिकारी

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Woes continue

The Taliban may get aid but not recognition unless they start recognising women's rights

The Taliban are making it difficult for the world community to recognise their interim Government in Afghanistan. Their fresh diktat against women being the latest reason. They have a Ministry that seeks to regulate and control the lives of Afghan women – Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice. The Ministry has banned women from appearing in television dramas and entertainment shows. Women news presenters have to wear headscarves. These are part of the eight directives in the first tranche of restrictions imposed on the media. Films in opposition to Islamic law and "Afghan values" cannot be broadcast. Foreign films that promote "foreign values" are banned. Comedy shows cannot insult anybody. Shows depicting the "prophets and companions" are disallowed. Cynics would say the people have escaped with only a few restrictions because last time the Taliban were around, they had totally banned television and other forms of media. However, it is the Taliban's attitude to women that needs to be repeatedly highlighted. However much they profess to have moderated and modernised themselves, it is sadly true that at their core, they have not changed a bit since their rein between 1996-2001. That it is the Ministry on virtue and vice that deals with women's issues is a dead giveaway. Is that why the Taliban also did not find the need for a minister for women and child welfare?



It was only three months ago, on August 17, two days after the Taliban grabbed power, that Beheshta Arghand became the first-ever female television host to conduct a sit-in interview with a Taliban leader. There would be no second time as the Taliban's moderate make-up wore off fast. Women employees in the private and public sectors have since been asked to go home. Women-oriented jobs are under review. Girls were told they could attend segregated classes in universities. Some women, used to relative freedom in the last two decades, tried to protest but they were beaten and even whipped by Taliban enforcers. Contrary to the Taliban assurances that women's rights would be respected, women are being increasingly left out of the public sphere. The world should know that women would be worse off in the rural areas where the Taliban fighters and tribal heads hold sway and who alone have decided for decades how women ought to live. Many of the far-flung provinces have different rules for women depending on how radical the local Taliban chiefs are. Women's groups want the international community to leverage financial aid to Afghanistan to improve the women's lot. But that is a Catch-22 situation because the lack of aid can lead to mass hunger and deaths in the country. The United Nations has collected over \$600 million as distress aid. With the onset of winter, the supply of food and medicine is crucial. Ironically, most of the aid workers are women and one wonders if the Taliban have anything to say about that.

PICTALK



An anti-smog gun sprays water droplets to curb air pollution, in Gurugram

PTI

Gaining muscle

The TMC has been successful in nagging the BJP unlike the Congress ahead of the Assembly polls

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has started cementing her aspirations of a national footprint for the Trinamool Congress in the coming months, especially in the first quarter of 2022. Both Mamata and her nephew Abhishek, an official of the party's national organ, had declared soon after crushing the BJP in the State Assembly election that the Trinamool wouldn't contest a number of upcoming Assembly elections not just to mark presence but also to win the States and form a Government there, the Chief Minister has now declared that the "march to the Centre cannot be possible without the support of States". The Trinamool Congress supremo sent out this message after a number of prominent leaders from different political parties joined the TMC recently. Ever since her party bagged an undisputed victory against the BJP in Bengal, the TMC has been on the front foot against the ruling party at the Centre. It has courageously been staking its claim to the Chief Minister's chair even as far as in Goa. It's been signing up and roping in newer regional leaders, mostly at the cost of the Congress and possible dent in the fortunes of the BJP.



In the latest addition to its political and electoral arsenal, Ashok Tanwar, who had quit the Congress a couple of years back, has joined the TMC in New Delhi in Banerjee's presence. Tanwar, a former Haryana Congress chief, was considered to have had Rahul Gandhi's ears but later fell out with the party over his rivalry with other State leaders, including former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda. Tanwar had floated Apna Bharat Morcha after quitting the Congress but has now come out in strong support of the TMC supremo and has been throwing his weight in support of her party "across the entire country" and against the "misgovernance of the BJP". Tanwar's entry is sure to have given a shot in the arm to the TMC in Haryana, which is a State, apart from Punjab and regions in Uttar Pradesh, that played a major role in the farmers' unflinching demand against the BJP-led Union Government for the withdrawal of the three farm laws. However, that threat staring in the face of the BJP is still not over, what with the Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait warning the Centre of a prolonged agitation if it didn't agree of "all the demands" of the protesting farmers, including those involving the Minimum Support Price and punishing the Union State Minister Teri for the Lakhimpur Kheri incident.

The legacy of the division of India

Hindus and Muslims derive their inspiration from different sources of history. Very often, the hero of one is a foe of the other



PRAFULL GORADIA

There were two sides to the coin of Partition. One was that the Muslim community was well behind the Hindus as well as the other minorities. They were about a third in population or one-third in numbers compared to the Hindus. Therefore, if Independent India adopted a universal adult franchise, they would be out-membered by lengths. Secondly, the Muslims were less educated. As a matter of long-term strategy, Islam had played down education from its early days of the seventh century. For the last thousand years, Hejaz as well as Caliphs had prohibited *ijtihad* (reinterpretation or change) and enforced *taqlid* (orthodoxy). The less educated a person, the fewer the questions he/she is likely to think up and ask. Thus, ensuring the perpetuity of the religion. Incidentally, women's education was restricted to reading the Quran, especially the prayers.

When the British came to India, instead of using English, the clergy exhorted their followers to avoid the study of English and Western science. Sir William Hunter has made a lucid analysis of how and where the Muslim students fell back in the 19th century and even earlier. Then came the decision of Lt Governor of UP to make English the court language, Hindi and Persian was abolished. Such measures, although rational, put the Muslims back. Their fear was of diluting their identity which was dearer to them than their development.

The other difficulty was that very few Muslims took to business and industry, the only exceptions were the Khojas, the Memons and the Bohras, all based in Bombay. The Muslim elites of the rest of India were land based, whether agricultural, farming vegetables or cultivating orchards but had very few factories. In short, cultivating the Hindus had the economic lead. Timur Kuran, Professor at the University of Duke, has explained at length the financial disadvantage of Islamic communities. He has focused on West Asia and how Islamic ordainments have kept the common folk econom-



ically back. Imagine West Asia without petroleum! And imagine a business without banking and lending without interest!

The Viceroy had called an all-India election in December 1945 to January 1946. By that time, Jinnah's speech preceding the passing of the Pakistan resolution on, March 23, 1940, at the Lahore session of the Muslim League was humming to virtually all Muslim ears in India. Incidentally, Jinnah deliberately made Fazlur Rahman of Bengal sign the resolution. Rahman was a popular, prominent peasant leader of the eastern wing of what eventually became Pakistan and now Bangladesh. His Two Nation Theory is very briefly stated here: the Hindus and Muslims have different religious philosophies, social customs and literatures. They neither intermarry nor inter-dine and, indeed, they belong to two different civilisations which are based mainly on conflicting ideas and conceptions. Their views on life and of life are different. It is also quite clear that Hindus and Muslims derive their inspiration from different sources of history. They have different epics, different heroes in different episodes. Very often the hero of one is a foe of the other and likewise, their victories and defeats overlap.

MUSLIM INDIA CANNOT ACCEPT ANY CONSTITUTION WHICH MUST NECESSARILY RESULT IN HINDU MAJORITY. IF HINDUS AND MUSLIMS ARE BROUGHT UNDER A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, IT CAN ONLY MEAN HINDU RAJ

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FITNESS SHOULD BE GIVEN DUE IMPORTANCE

Sir — I strongly believe that every individual has the right to healthy living. Healthy living is not a privilege, but a right. Sadly, however, in our country, healthy living is more like a right in the pocket of people who are able and willing to pay for it. Therefore, a chain of health clubs needs to be opened and made accessible — to make fitness a part of every Indian's lifestyle. To provide easy access to superior quality and affordable fitness regimens that will be an integral part of every Indian.

Unlike the US, we do not have special cycling lanes; our offices are not equipped with lockers and shower-rooms that we can freshen up after walking or cycling our way to work. Also, the Indian weather does not permit exercise all year around — the summers are bad, the rainy season has its own woes and the winter is practically nonexistent. Such scenarios don't leave much scope for exercise. We haven't given due importance to fitness and working out and it's high time that we realised the benefit of a brisk walk or a jog in the morning so that we wake up fresh and sleep well.

MR Jayanthi Subramaniam | Mumbai

WHERE DID WE REACH AFTER 26/11?

Sir — Even though Mumbai's lauded as a business hub, the 26/11 terror attack tells a different story. No commercial Capital of a country would be so ill equipped as to not be able to detect and prevent such attacks on time. While some may argue that Manhattan was a victim of 9/11, too, I point out that Mumbai has been a soft target since times immemorial. Terror has sneaked up on us not once but thrice — the 1992 riots, 2006 blasts and 2008 attacks; all caught Mumbai unawares. In short, for Mumbai to truly become India's commercial hub, the quality of life, quality of infrastructure, quality of security and attitude — all need improvement.

The 26/11 attacks saw the world in a state of disbelief at one of the most audacious acts of terrorism ever committed. Although we have lived with terrorism

Tigers are shy, but they kill



A 10-year-old tigress called Maya attacked and killed a 45-year-old Swati Dumane, a forest guard at the Tadoba Andheri Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra. The guard was on beat duty for the All India Tiger Estimation survey at the TATR. Generally, tigers are nocturnal hunters. Attack on Swati took place early — at around 8 am. The slain Swati and three of her colleagues are said to have waited, for half an hour or so, for Maya to move away after spotting her a mere 200 metres away. When the tigress did not

for decades, the attacks were frightening as we learned what that these terror outfits were capable of. However, over the last few years, India has significantly improved its intelligence network and anti-terror measures. It's the need of the hour to save the youth from being influenced and brain-washed by these outfits. Every Indian can contribute to national security just by staying vigilant.

CK Ramani | Pune

THE GOVT SHOULD RECONSIDER THE CAA, TOO

Sir — The repeal of the three farm laws has inclined many people into thinking that the repeal of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) is not beyond the realms of possibility. The anti-CAA movement could not (and did not have to) go ahead despite gathering momentum each day in the face of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Government's preoccupation with the fight against the pandemic including national lockdowns and its lukewarm approach to its implementa-

tion due to the unprecedented public health crisis and opposition to the legislation from unanticipated quarters. Even though no rules have been framed to implement the law, the CAA is ominously still there on the statute book.

The Government cannot be unaware of what the implementation of the CAA will signal to the outside world — India's retreat from secularism. No amount of rationalisation can justify CAA's enactment or validate its discriminatory provisions. The CAA is wholly unacceptable and it has to go for the simple reason that it does not jibe with secularism and the equality of religions guaranteed in the Constitution. The legacy of the freedom movement and the Constitution do not discriminate between the religions that 'originated' in India and that did not.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

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G David Milton | Maruthancode

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

In Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rule, there is nothing left that hasn't been made expensive.



Congress leader —Rahul Gandhi

There is also a time for the Government to step back, so Australians can move forward.

Australian Prime Minister —Scott Morrison

Thank you all for your prayers for my father's health. He is recovering well and looking forward to interacting with all of you soon.



Actor —Shruti Haasan

As long as I keep battling well and keep contributing to the team's total, I am happy.

Indian batsman —Cheteshwar Pujara

There used to be riots every third or fourth day in UP, but now the State has a 'riot-free' identity.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister —Yogi Adityanath

FIRST COLUMN

UNIFORM CODE FOR EDUCATIONAL BODIES

In private colleges, there are no uniform rules in salary structure or promotions



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

The so-called quality maintained by private schools is only in physical infrastructure and English communication promotion and not at the intellectual level. Good quality education can be provided even in open spaces. The digital revolution in education that happened during the pandemic has made the physical structure of schools irrelevant. It is the willpower and dedication of teachers that matter. However, teachers are not paid well in most private schools and the COVID situation has made things worse for them as they have to do extra duty without additional pay. Across the country, private school teachers are the lowest-paid. There is no job security also as any time managements can dismiss teachers if they are not complying with the management rules. The situation in the higher education sector is no different. During the pandemic time, hundreds of teachers were made to resign from private colleges and universities. Even otherwise in private colleges, there are no uniform rules in salary structure or promotions. Many private institutions are recruiting people who do not meet required qualifications. These private institutions just need a workforce that would just obey them. There are also private aided colleges that take hefty dona-



tions for the recruitment process. Teachers working in all private higher education centers are not satisfied and their dissatisfaction is transferred to the students through their teaching. Recently, the Kerala legislative assembly passed a landmark Kerala Self-Financing College Teaching and Non-Teaching Employees (Appointment and Conditions of Service) Bill, 2021, that puts in place a law to guarantee service conditions for employees in private colleges. The legislation, which had been recommended by the Kerala State Higher Education Council, is being viewed as one that would standardize rules to ensure service conditions for those employed in the unaided sector. Even though this is a progressive step in removing the perils of higher education, one area of concern is the special privilege mooted for minority institutions. In Kerala, most of the private colleges are managed by minority communities and over-exploitation of teachers happens in these centers. As per the privileges enjoyed by the minority institutions, government cannot completely control them. The private medical and dental colleges run by these agencies rarely provide a full stipend for students as per government norms. In some cases, PG students have to return the stipend that is credited into their account, fearing backlashes by management. The staff members from the management side, usually from the same community, get undue favours and members from other communities are harassed mentally and curtail their professional advancement. The unhealthy atmosphere prevailing among the teachers is transferred to students and the whole system gets vitiated.

When an educational institution is managed by the fees and donations from students and teachers belonging to other communities, how can an institution claim special minority status? If they want to enjoy that status they should teach students from their community alone, and also recruit teachers from the same community. Even in private government-aided educational institutions managed by minority communities (even non-minority also) teachers are recruited after taking lakhs of rupees as donations. This is an open secret and none of the political parties have the courage to take on these managements, fearing backlash in elections. In such a situation we have to appreciate the effort taken by the government of Kerala. However, it would be hard to see how the government will implement the new bill effectively in institutions enjoying minority status. It is high time we develop a nation-wide common law controlling the functioning of private schools and colleges, for education is common for everyone, irrespective of class, gender, or racial discrimination.

(The writer is a popular science writer and academician. The views expressed are personal.)

Interests of Indian fishermen in danger



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

If the problems of overfishing and depleting marine resources continue, it can badly impact the catch by small fishermen and their livelihood

For some time, a round of negotiations has been going on in the WTO, in which an agreement is expected to be made aiming to ending subsidies to curb alleged illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. These talks are said to be the part of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which seek to end subsidies for illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing while ensuring special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries. But if this agreement is reached, it may adversely affect the livelihood of small fishermen in India and other developing and underdeveloped countries.

It is true that the world is facing the problem of overfishing and depleting marine resources. If this situation continues, this can impact catch by small fishermen and their livelihood. The idea of the United Nations that overfishing will affect sustainable development is always justified. But the big question is, who is responsible for overfishing in the ocean? At least the small fishermen of India or other developing countries having very low fishing capacity are nowhere to blame for this.

Fishing is done in two ways. One, by small fishermen who catch fish in their boats; and second by trawlers and large ships of large companies. Over the past few decades, the evidence of fishing by large ships and trawlers in a mechanized manner by large companies has increased significantly.

Small fishermen in India do not catch fish in the ocean during the rainy season. Know why? Because it is the breeding season for fish. But the big trawlers do not mind fishing during the same period. However, since the big trawlers come under the organized sector, the small fishermen will be considered as illegal, unreported and unregulated; and the subsidy given to them by the governments will end but the big trawlers and ships will continue to be entitled to catch fish from the sea by mechanical processes and also the government subsidies. In such a situation, the livelihood of small fishermen of India and other developing countries will be adversely affected while big companies will benefit at their cost.

Unfortunately, under pressure from developed countries and big corporates, in the WTO, the exercise is going on to push the agreement on this subject. Director General of the World Trade Organization, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, says that completing these negotiations on fisheries subsidy is the top priority of WTO, not only for fisheries but also for the WTO system. And this is being done under the guise of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

It is noteworthy that after the grant of fishing licenses to large trawlers in India in the early 1990s, due to excessive fishing by them, the availability of fish from the sea was getting depleted. As a



SMALL FISHERMEN IN INDIA DO NOT CATCH FISH IN THE OCEAN DURING THE RAINY SEASON BECAUSE IT IS THE BREEDING SEASON FOR FISH. BUT BIG TRAWLERS DO NOT MIND FISHING DURING THIS PERIOD. AND, SINCE BIG TRAWLERS COME UNDER THE ORGANISED SECTOR, SMALL FISHERMEN WILL BE CONSIDERED ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED

(The writer is Professor, PGDAV College, University of Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)



result, the livelihood of small fishermen was getting adversely affected. At that time there were major agitations to highlight this problem of fishermen, including those led by Swadeshi Jagran Manch and Fr Thomas Kochery, due to which the then government had to stop the renewal of licenses to large trawlers.

After some time, the trawlers again started getting permission. Once again, the demand for re-banning of trawlers by environmentalists is gaining momentum. A committee of the Government of India is working towards regulating these trawlers. Environmentalists say that banning these trawlers is the appropriate solution to the problem of overfishing. Although these trawlers have not been outrightly banned, many states including Kerala and Orissa have been banning trawlers in monsoon (rainy season) on the demand of traditional fishermen so that the breeding of fish is not affected.

It is being argued that the agreement on fishing subsidy will ensure the availability of fish and the protection of marine resources for the future generations. In this regard, if at all any international organization can ban subsidies for fishing, it is the World Trade Organization. The exercise to make rules in this regard has been going on since the year 2001, with the start of Doha Rounds of Negotiations. However, the interesting thing is that though all the remaining provisions of the Doha development Round, under have already been rejected outright by the developed countries, surprising-

ly, exercise is going on to end the fishing subsidy.

It is true that today 34 percent overfishing is taking place, whereas in 1974 it was only 10 percent. Due to overfishing, the availability of fish is gradually reducing, due to which the livelihood of the people living in the coastal areas is getting adversely affected and their poverty is increasing. Today, about 40 million people in the world depend on the fishing, so the security of their lives is linked with the protection of marine resources.

Although the current negotiations are focused on eliminating subsidies for illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, these efforts are being strongly opposed by developing countries. Developing countries, including India, believe that ending subsidies on fishing will adversely affect the livelihood and rights of their small fishermen. Although it has been said in the resolution that special and differential treatment for developing and less developed countries is part of the proposals, but it seems that the small fishermen of developing countries will suffer the most from this agreement.

Surprisingly, while everything was stand still during, these talks continued unabated. Therefore, due to restrictions on movements, views of small countries whose missions are not in Geneva could not be appropriately incorporated in this document. For this reason, also, there is anger in this context amongst developing countries. Recently, when the Director General of the World Trade Organization came to India, India had clearly stated that although

due to the irrational subsidies given by various countries for fishing, India's small fishermen have been suffering the most, due to overfishing by developed countries. Therefore, it is necessary to eliminate the subsidy being given to big vessels in these developed countries. Therefore, India has clearly stated in this context, that the draft text is not balanced. In this regard, special treatment will be required for developing countries and this agreement can be balanced only by incorporating India's suggestions.

India's demand is that developed countries stop subsidizing fisheries that go beyond their natural geographical boundaries. Industrial fishing countries are not ready to concede this. India wants that the provision of subsidies should continue to protect the interests of its poor and small fishermen. There is no illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in India. India maintains that since the creation of the WTO, developed countries received special concessions, and their agricultural subsidies continued unabated, while the rights of developing countries were restricted. That mistake should not be repeated in this agreement on fisheries subsidies.

Today, the need of the hour is that India and other developing and least developed countries should face this bigotry of rich countries and there should be no unbalanced and irrational agreement in respect of fisheries subsidies, so that we can protect the interests of our small and poor fishermen.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

NEITHER YOU HELPED THE COVID PATIENTS IN HOSPITALS, NOR PROVIDED ANY COMPENSATION. WHAT TYPE OF GOVERNMENT IS THIS? —CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI



COMPENSATIONS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED. THE CENTRE HAS DONE MORE THAN WHAT ANY GOVERNMENT COULD HAVE POSSIBLY IMAGINED. —BJP SPOKESMAN TOM VADAKKAN

Farm laws to be repealed in upcoming Parliament session

The burning question, however, remains: Why were these legislations enacted in the first place if they were to be repealed without implementation?

During the protracted farmers agitation against the three farm laws, a view was advanced especially by those in support of the impugned legislation that it is not easy to suspend operation of a parliamentary enactment or that it is not constitutionally permissible to repeal a law by issuing an ordinance. Such an argument, besides ex facie specious, stands completely annihilated with the announcement of the Prime Minister to repeal them.

Article 73 of the Constitution says that the executive power of the Union is co-extensive with the legislative powers of parliament. The Government, in exercise of its executive power, can suspend, amend or repeal an Act



DEVENDER SINGH ASWAL

(The writer is former Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha and a member of Delhi Bar Council. The views expressed are personal.)

of parliament as long as it commands parliamentary majority. Any subsequent statute may repeal any Act in whole or in part, either expressly or impliedly by enacting a new legislation. Clause 6 of the General clauses Act, 1897 provides that any Act or Regulation can be repealed by the legislature. Unless a different intention appears, the repealing Act cannot revive anything not in force or existing at the time at which the repeal takes effect; or affect the previous operation of any enactment so repealed or anything duly done or suffered thereunder, etc.

The executive power of the Union extends (a) to the matters with respect to which Parliament has power to make laws; and (b) to the exercise of



such rights, authority and jurisdiction as are exercisable by the Government of India by virtue of any treaty or agreement. So, on matters which parliament can legislate, it is the prerogative of the executive to pilot legislative proposals and get them enacted, including an enactment of repeal, with parliamentary support. Laws may also be repealed if they are found detrimental in

course of time or in case there is a ground swell of public opinion against them.

The three farm laws were originally promulgated as ordinances by the government and later replaced by the duly passed Acts of parliament. Since the winter session of parliament will convene in a week, it is not an edifying parliamentary practice to promulgate an Ordinance for the repeal. The Government will bring a Bill to repeal the three laws during the ensuing session. There will be a fierce debate and the opposition would leave no stone unturned to show that they were right in their opposition to the original Bills and the government palpably wrong. The government, in turn, would say that they were unable to convince

the misguided agitating farmers. Once passed by both the Houses of parliament, and assented to by the President, the three laws would stand repealed.

The burning question, however, remains: why were these legislations enacted in the first place if they were to be repealed without implementation? It needs to be borne in mind that in a robust democracy, public opinion, likened to a rope of multiple fibers capable of taming even an elephant, matters. It is for the government to discern whether the opposition is orchestrated by vested interest or it is genuine, broad-based and the real voice of all the farmers of the country.

The Union Government could not have remained

impervious to the farmers' agitation for long especially when elections are round the corner in the largely affected States. But it is also a fact that agro-economists continue to be divided over the proposed repeal. Many nonpartisan experts consider it a setback to agrarian reforms. Incontestably, the fear of losing the impending election is a great deterrent to reforms, regardless of the general perception of bold, visionary and transformative leadership.

It is in this context that the practice of referring the contentious legislation to the committees holds good as the committees crystallise different shades of opinions and help build consensus and unity out of plurality. The National Commission Bill and the

National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professionals Bill were referred to the Standing Committee, and based on the recommendations of the Committee, new Bills were introduced and passed by Parliament. So were many other legislations. The great hurry in which the farm laws were passed during the Covid-19 time without referring the Bills to the standing committee only added fuel to the fire. The lesson is clear and unmistakable that in a parliamentary democratic set up it is not possible to impose laws on an utterly hostile community despite the best of intention and the promise of long-term national gains, without due consultation, consensus and credible parliamentary scrutiny.

Teachers’ killers among 3 terrorists neutralised

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Three terrorists, including one of the commanders of The Resistance Front (TRF), believed to be involved in the killing of two minority school teachers, were gunned down by the jawans of the Jammu and Kashmir police in a brief encounter near Rambagh area of Srinagar late Wednesday evening.

According to the preliminary reports the terrorists were travelling in a private car when they were intercepted by the police teams in the middle of the road. In the brief exchange of fire all three terrorists were neutralised.

The vehicular movement also remained suspended till

the time police authorities cleared the area. Several local residents stepped out of their homes and shouted pro-Azadi slogans while the security forces shifted the dead bodies to the police control room for an identification parade.

Inspector General of Police, Kashmir range Vijay Kumar told a Delhi based news agency, "one of the three terrorists killed in the encounter has been identified as Mehran. The identities of two others was yet to be established". Kumar said Mehran, a 'C' category terrorist, was involved in the killing of a school principal and a teacher in the month of October in Srinagar.

Highly placed sources in the Jammu and Kashmir police

also revealed the name of TRF terrorist commander Mehran Yaseen Shalla had surfaced during a high level security review meeting chaired by the Union Home Minister. While briefing the Union Home Minister senior police officers had named Mehran as one of the TRF commanders behind the targeted killings. Directions were given to the security forces to identify and neutralise perpetrators of terrorist violence involved in the targeted killings of minorities in the Kashmir valley.

Till the time of filing the report the police had not released any official statement as the identities of two other slain terrorists were yet to be ascertained.

CBI PROBE INTO SSC RECRUITMENT SCAM

HC interim relief for Bengal Govt

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Much to the relief of the Mamata Banerjee Government, a Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court on Wednesday granted an interim stay on the CBI investigation — into the School Service Commission recruitment scam — ordered earlier by a single bench of the same Court.

Granting an interim stay of three weeks the Division Bench directed the SSC to submit before it all the documents related to the matter in a sealed envelope which would be kept with the Registrar General of the Court.

Earlier in a damning order the single bench of Justice Abhijit Banerjee had ordered a CBI investigation into the alleged irregularities in the appointment of the Group C

and D (non-teaching) staff in the Government aided schools that function under the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education.

The appointments were made upon purported recommendations coming from unspecified sources in the SSC. While the Commission later said that no such recommendation had been made after May 4, 2019 the WBSEE which had directed the schools to provide appointment letters to the recruited persons said in an affidavit that it had done so following the stated recommendations vouching to produce such letters before the Court if asked to.

Subsequently the Court directed a CBI investigation into the irregularities asking the investigating agency to probe the money trail too if that had

taken place. While the case related to the appointment of 25 people, the subsequent revelations suggested that more than 500 such people could have been appointed through the backdoor.

The SSC is already under the court scanner regarding another recruitment scandal related to the appointment of teaching staff. Justice Banerjee in his order had earlier directed the CBI to constitution a committee headed by an officer “not below the rank of a Joint Director with officers not below the rank of DIG to initiate the enquiry,” adding it was expected that “no person will be left out of the enquiry ... the CBI should also enquire ... as to whether there is any money trail in issuance of such recommendation letters and subsequent issuance of appoint-

ment letters...”

Meanwhile, a moribund Left Front descended on the streets of Kolkata after many months with hundreds of its cadres storming the SSC headquarters seeking removal of the top officials of the Commission and sacking of the State Education Minister.

Following a two-hour skirmish a dozen of Left supporters were injured and at least 250 members of CPI(M)’s students and youth arms Students Federation of India and Democratic Youth Federation of India were arrested and the streets they had blockaded cleared by the police. Presently the SFI and the DYFI cadres were protesting in front of the Bidhannagar and Rajarhat Police Stations seeking the release of the arrested people.

Do more Corona tests, Centre tells Bengal

PNS ■ KOLKATA

With Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee out in Delhi State ministers and senior officials on Wednesday preferred to maintain a studied silence on the Centre’s letter asking the State Government to augment weekly corona tests in view of the increasing number of cases in many parts of the world.

“A letter has come from Delhi and a decision would be taken at an appropriate time,” a senior official of the State Health Department said adding the State Government had been following guidelines given by the Centre from time to time.

A Minister on the other hand said Bengal was one of the pioneer states in maintaining steady vaccination record despite non-cooperation from the Centre adding New Delhi had “no right to lecture the States without itself doing nothing on the issue.”

Earlier, the Centre wrote letters to thirteen states including Bengal expressing its concern over the decline in the number weekly testing for corona virus.

A letter from the Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said that there should be high testing rates considering the fact that international traveling had increased in the recent weeks.

“A decrease in testing would undermine the actual infection spread within the community,” the letter said.

Pointing out to the fact that many other countries were “seeing multiple surges in Covid cases ...” the letter reminded how a few developed countries were facing even fourth and fifth waves despite high levels of vaccination suggesting there was need for continued vigil.

BSF lodges protest with Pak for border violation

Jammu: Indian border guards on Wednesday lodged a strong protest with their Pakistani counterparts during a commandant level border meeting held at the Octroi post along the International border in RS Pura sector of Jammu frontier. According to a Public Relations Officer of BSF, Jammu frontier, “A strong protest was lodged by BSF regarding violation of IB by Pakistan based drones and also apprised the Pak commander to refrain from such activities”.

The BSF delegation was led by Ajay Suryavanshi, Commandant and the Pakistan delegation was led by Wing commander Lt. Col Aquil of 13 Wing Chenab Ranges.

"During the meeting commanders of both border guarding forces discussed various issues including maintenance of border pillars and latest infrastructure activities on the border, Pakistan Drone operations and other activities", BSF PRO said in a written statement.

During the meeting both the commanders also agreed to resolve all the operational matters and border issues with a mutual understanding. "The meeting was held in a cordial & constructive atmosphere and both commanders agreed to work for maintaining a peaceful atmosphere on the border", spokesman added.

Fadnavis meets Raj Thackeray, sparks buzz about BJP-MNS ties for BMC polls

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Amid speculation about the changing political equations in the metropolis ahead of the crucial February 2022 Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections, Maharashtra’s former chief minister and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis met MNS chief Raj Thackeray at the latter’s new residence “Shiv Thirth” at Dadar in north-central Mumbai on Wednesday afternoon.

Fadnavis, who was accompanied by his banker-wife Amruta, spent nearly two hours at “Shiv Thirth” interacting with the MNS chief and his wife Sharmila over lunch.

As the speculation over the import of the luncheon meeting between Raj and senior BJP leader, MNS Spokesperson Sandeep Deshpande said that Thackerays had invited the Fadnavis couple to their new house for lunch. Notwithstanding the clarification issued by Deshpande, the speculation was rift that the BJP and MNS may try to forge an alliance for the

crucial BMC polls scheduled to be held in February 2022.

For many years since they formed an alliance in the late eighties, the Shiv Sena used to rule the BMC in alliance with the BJP. However, after the Shiv Sena broke its alliance with the BJP at the state and national levels and formed the government in alliance with the NCP and Congress in the state in the last week of November 2019, the saffron alliance broke at the BMC. Currently, the Shiv Sena rules the BMC on its own.

It may be recalled that the BMC polls held in 2017 had thrown up a hung house. The Shiv Sena had emerged as the single largest party with 84 seats in the 227-member BMC, followed by BJP- 82, Congress- 31, NCP- 9, MNS- 7 and others-- 14. During the first two and a half years in power, the Shiv Sena increased its strength to 94, by inducting among others seven corporators from the Raj Thackeray-led NCP.

However, after it aligned with the NCP and Congress in the state in November 2019, the ruling Shiv Sena

has been enjoying the support of the two parties for the past two years

Given that all the three constituents of the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) nurse the ambition of expanding their base in Mumbai, it is not clear as yet whether the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress will contest the 2022 BMC polls as an alliance.

Despite the fact that it had won as many as 92 seats in the 227-member civic body in the 2017 polls, the BJP – which is the principal Opposition party in the state – will have a tough time in the 2022 BMC polls. No wonder, ahead of the 2022 civic polls, the BJP is cosying up to the MNS, which had won seven seats in the 2017 polls.

BJP leaders Ashish Shelar and Prasad Lad had earlier met the MNS chief at the latter’s residence.

On his part, the MNS spokesperson reiterated that not much should be read into the MNS chief’s meeting with Fadnavis. He said that every legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar had met Raj Thackeray at the latter’s residence a few days back.

Construction of 3.61 lakh houses under PMAY(U) approved

New Delhi: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has approved the construction of 3.61 lakh houses in 17 States and Union Territories under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), taking the total number of houses sanctioned under the scheme to 1.14 crore. This includes construction of 19,535 units, for urban migrants/poor, involving Technology Innovation Grant of ₹39.11 crore in Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

The approval was given by the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC) chaired by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra on Tuesday. These houses would be constructed under Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), Beneficiary-Led Construction (BLC), In-Situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR) verticals of PMAY-U. In the statement, the Ministry said that out of the 1.14 crore sanctioned houses, over 89 lakh have been grounded for construction and 52.5 lakh completed and delivered to the beneficiaries. It asked that the secretary has asked states and union territories to resolve the issues without delay so that construction of houses can be expedited.

The total investment under the Mission is ₹ 7.52 lakh crore, with a central assistance of ₹1.85 lakh crore, the ministry said, adding that so far, ₹1.13 lakh crore has already been released. In the meeting, Mishra also laid renewed emphasis to accelerate housing construction and completion across the country within stipulated time under PMAY-U so that the goal of ‘Housing for All’ by 2022 can be achieved, the statement stated. At the CSMC meeting, an e-Finance module was also launched by the HUA secretary.

The e-Finance module has been integrated with all modules of the PMAY-U MIS system and designed, developed with-in PMAY-U MIS System with the objective to provide unique platform to all stakeholders for disbursement of funds through direct benefit transfer mode and to validate beneficiaries, it also stated.

MSRTC EMPLOYEES’ STRIKE

Maha announces hefty hikes in employees’ basic pay

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In an effort to end nearly a month-long agitation by the employees of the State run Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC), State Transport Minister Anil Parab on Wednesday announced hefty hikes in the employees’ basic salaries ranging from ₹2,500 per month to ₹7,000 per month, pending a decision on inclusion of the MSRTC employees in its state government’s pay rolls.

After holding day-long discussions with the leaders of the agitating MSRTC employee, Parab made a formal announcement about the hikes in the basic salaries of the agitating employees.

Talking to media persons after holding talks with the representatives of agitating MSRTC employees, Parab said: “The hikes announced in the basic salaries of employees

works out to nearly 41 per cent which is the highest-ever salary increase in the history of the MSRTC employees. The high-level committee is expected to give its reports within 12 weeks.”

“As far as the inclusion of the MSRTC employees in the state government’s employment roll, we will accept whatever the Bombay High Court suggests in the matter. If the HC-appointed three-member high-level committee recommends the inclusion of the MSRTC employees in the rolls of state government, we will do so,” Parab said.

The Minister appealed to the striking employees to resume work by 8 am on Thursday.

As per the decision to effect hikes in the basis salaries of the MSRTC employees, the employees with one to 10 years’ experience will get a monthly hike of ₹5,000 hike in their basic salaries.

For instance, those who have hitherto been getting a basic salary of ₹12,080 will now get ₹17,395 per month. Similarly, those with a basic salary of ₹17,070 will now get a basic salary of ₹24,584 per month.

In the case of employees with an experience ranging from 10 to 20 years, there will be ₹4,000 increase in the basic salaries.

As a consequence, their basic salaries will go up from ₹ 23,040 to ₹ 28,800 per month.

The employees with an experience of more than 20 years will get an increase of Rs 2,500 in basic salary every month.

As a result, the employees who are currently earning a basic of 26,000 per month and total salary of ₹37,440 will henceforth get a total salary of ₹41,040. Similarly, those getting a basic of ₹36,000 and total salary of 53,280 will now basic

salary of Rs 39,500 basic and a tota salary of Rs 56,880 per month.

Parab said that the MSRTC had suffered huge revenue losses during the Covid-19 period and the State Government had extended a financial assistance of ₹ 2,700 crore. “Owing to some reasons, the disbursal of salaries to the MSRRC was getting delayed earlier. Henceforth the MSRTC will get salaries within 10th of every month,” the Minister said.

It may be recalled that the MSRTC workers went on an indefinite strike from October 28 to press for their various demands. The striking employees intensified their agitation from November 9 when all the MSRTC depots were shut down.

Before holding talks with the striking MSRTC employees, Parab had met chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Ajit Pawar and NCP chief Sharad Pawar.

Andhra seeks ₹1,000 crore interim grant for flood relief

Amaravati: Pegging the overall damage caused by the recent heavy rains and floods at ₹6,054.29 crore, the Andhra Pradesh Government on Wednesday requested the Centre to immediately release ₹1,000 crore as interim relief towards flood relief and restoration works.

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy wrote an identical letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, detailing the havoc caused by heavy rains and floods between November 13 and 20, mainly in Anantapuramu, Kadapa, Chittoor and SPS Nellore districts.

"Despite arranging teams well in advance and serious efforts by the government to save the lives of people, 40, including a State Disaster Response Force constable, died and 25 others were reported missing. As many as 324 relief

camps have been arranged, accommodating 69,616 persons in the affected districts and they are still continuing," the Chief Minister said.

He said several highways, irrigation tanks and canals have breached in Kadapa, Chittoor, Anantapuramu and SPS Nellore districts.

"The worst affected were the farmers as crops (like paddy, Bengal gram, cotton, black gram, groundnut and sugarcane) ready for harvesting were damaged," Jagan added.

Agricultural crops in 1.42 lakh hectares suffered damage, with the estimated monetary loss being ₹1,353.82 crore. Horticultural crops in 42,299 hectares, worth ₹48.06 crore, were damaged.

Roads and irrigation systems were the worst hit, with the deluge causing a loss of ₹1,756.43 crore and ₹ 556.96 crore respectively, the Chief

Minister pointed out in the letter. Civic infrastructure like roads, pipelines, drains, school buildings and community centres in municipalities suffered a loss of ₹1,252 crore.

Panchayat Raj roads to a length of 2,254.32 km were battered, inflicting a loss of Rs 381.65 crore.

Rural Water Supply schemes worth Rs 453.33 crore were also damaged, the Chief Minister said. Hundreds of electricity feeders, substations and distribution lines were also damaged, causing a loss of ₹252 crore.

"Heavy rains caused inundation of low-lying areas and disrupted normal life. The gravity was such that 17 teams of NDRF and SDRF and two helicopters had to be deployed for undertaking search and rescue operations. In all, 1,402 villages in 196 mandals and four towns were affected," the Chief Minister said.



Women farmers harvest cauliflower on the outskirts of Jammu on Wednesday

China slams US for inviting Taiwan for ‘Summit for Democracy’

Beijing: Furious over the Biden administration’s invitation to Taiwan to take part in the “Summit for Democracy”, China on Wednesday warned the US that it will get “hurt” by giving Taipei the world stage as Beijing slammed the summit itself saying the event was aimed at pursuing Washington’s “geopolitical games”.

Taiwan, a self-ruling island as its own territory to be annexed by force if necessary, is among 110 invitees to the Washington-led Summit for Democracy to be held December 9-10, the US State Department announced on Wednesday.

President Joe Biden is to host the summit bringing together leaders from governments and civil society and China was omitted from the list of invitees, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

Invitees from the Asia-Pacific region also include India, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Pakistan and the Philippines.

Most European countries are also invited, including Serbia, but not Bosnia and Herzegovina or Hungary. China for some time has been attacking the democracy summit, saying that the US cannot hold a patent for it and the event is aimed at dividing the world.

But Beijing appears to have been surprised by the invitation to Taiwan to take part in the democracy meeting as it came in the backdrop of the recent virtual summit between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart Biden.

Sharply criticising the US move, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here that China “firmly opposes the invita-

tion to Taiwan by the US authorities for Taiwan to take part in the Summit for Democracy.”

“There is only one China in the world and the government of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) is the sole legal government representing China,” he said.

Taiwan is an inalienable part of China and the One China principle is a widely-recognised norm of international relations, Zhao emphasised. “Taiwan has no other international status in the international law than being part of China,” he said.

“We solemnly urge the US to abide by the One China principle, stop providing a platform for Taiwan independence forces, and stop emboldening them. Giving them the stage only makes the US hurt and puts it in a difficult situation. Playing with fire the pro-independence forces (of Taiwan) only getting themselves burnt,” he said.

He also attacked the Democracy summit, saying that the aim of the US in holding the meeting is to divide the world.

“Democracy is a common value of humanity and not a patent of a few countries. What the US did was that the so-called democracy is just an excuse for the US to pursue its geopolitical goals, suppress other countries, divide the world and serve its own selfish interests of maintaining its hegemony in the world,” Zhao said.

“In the name of democracy, the US is creating bloc politics and stoking confrontation. This is a revisit to the Cold War mentality. It is questioned and opposed by people holding fair views in the world,” he said. **PTI**

Pak cultural capital is now world’s most polluted city

Lahore: A thick cloud of smog that enveloped Pakistan’s cultural capital on Wednesday has earned it the ignominious title of the world’s most polluted city, according to a Swiss air quality monitoring company.

Platform IQAir said that Lahore now stands at the top of its polluted cities ranking — with an air quality index of 203 on the US AQI scale, versus runner-up Delhi, India, with 183. That standing was at 0949 GMT; the two cities had traded places at least once over the course of the morning.

Increasing smog and particle-laden air has sickened thousands of people with respiratory and other illnesses,

forcing many to stay at home on particularly dirty days like Wednesday.

Dhaka, Bangladesh came in third, with an index of 169, and Kolkata, India at fourth, with a reading of 168. Lahore stood at third place a day earlier.

Lahore was once known as the city of gardens, which were ubiquitous during the Mughal era of the 16th to 19th centuries. Intense urbanisation and surging population growth have left little room for greenery across the city, Pakistan’s second largest after the capital Karachi.

Doctors are advising people to wear face masks to avoid respiratory related diseases. **AP**

Germany set for new Govt that will end Merkel’s rule

AP ■ BERLIN

The three parties negotiating to form Germany’s next Government will finalise and present their coalition agreement on Wednesday, two of the prospective partners said. The deal paves the way for center-left leader Olaf Scholz to replace longtime Chancellor Angela Merkel in the coming weeks.

The center-left Social Democrats have been negotiating with the environmentalist Green party and the pro-business Free Democrats since narrowly winning a national election on Sept. 26. The latter two parties said the agreement will be presented on Wednesday afternoon.

If party members sign off on it, the three-way alliance — which has never yet been tried in a national government — will replace the current “grand coalition” of the country’s traditional big parties. The Social Democrats have served as the junior partner to Merkel’s center-right Christian

Democrats.

Merkel, who didn’t run for a fifth term, is expected to be succeeded by Scholz, 63, who has been her finance minister and vice chancellor since 2018.

The three would-be governing parties have said they hope parliament will elect Scholz as chancellor in the week beginning Dec. 6. Before that can happen, the coalition deal requires approval from a ballot of the Greens’ roughly 125,000-strong membership and from conventions of the other two parties.

News of the deal came as Merkel led what was likely to be her last Cabinet meeting. Scholz presented the 67-year-old, who has led Germany since 2005, with a bouquet of flowers.

The negotiations over the three-way alliance were relatively harmonious and speedy compared to previous coalition talks. But the political transition, with Merkel as a lame-duck caretaker, has hampered Germany’s response to the latest rise in coronavirus

cases.

Few details have emerged from the closed-doors talks, including how the parties will divide up the ministerial portfolios. The alliance is a potentially uneasy mixture because it brings together two traditionally left-leaning parties with one, the Free Democrats, that has tended to ally with the center-right.

A preliminary agreement last month indicated that Germany would bring forward its deadline for ending the use of coal-fueled power from 2038 to 2030, while expanding the rollout of renewable energy generation. At the Free Democrats’ insistence, the prospective partners said they won’t raise taxes or loosen curbs on running up debt, making financing a central issue.

Merkel’s Christian Democrats are currently preoccupied with a leadership contest over who will become their next leader and revive the party’s fortunes after it suffered its worst-ever election result.

Declining marriage numbers add to China’s demographic conundrum

Beijing: Fewer people are getting married in China in addition to the falling birth rates, hastening the demographic crisis in the world’s most populous country, according to official data.

The number of marriage registrations in China has fallen for seven consecutive years and hit a 17-year low last year, figures from the recently released China Statistical Yearbook 2021 showed.

A total of 5.87 million couples got married in China in the first three quarters of 2021, down slightly from the same period of last year, according to the data released by the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

It is expected that the number of marriage registrations in China will continue to decline in 2021, state-run China Daily reported on Wednesday.

This is in addition to the falling birth rates. The birth-rate in China last year was 0.852 percent, falling below one percent for the first time since 1978, figures from the China Statistical Yearbook 2021 book revealed.

As the demographic crisis deepened, China has permitted all couples to have two children in 2016, scrapping the draconian decades-old one-child policy and revised it this year permitting three children, which however drew a poor response.

The decision to permit the third child came after the latest once-in-a-decade census showed that China’s population grew at the slowest pace to 1.412 billion amid official projections that the decline may begin as early as next year. Outlining the reasons for the falling marriage registrations, He

Yafu, a demographic expert identified decline in the number of young people in China as one of the reasons.

The population of the post-80s, post-90s and post-2000s in China has been on the decline, he said, citing the National Bureau of Statistics.

Also, the desire of young people to get married has generally fallen due to reasons such as high work pressure and great improvement in women’s education level and economic independence, he told the China Daily.

Another major reason is the unbalanced ratio of male and female population. In China, men outnumber women by 34.9 million as per the seventh National Census.

Among them, there are 17.52 million more men in their 20s than

Putin tests experimental nasal vaccine against Covid-19

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday he has taken an experimental nasal vaccine against the coronavirus, three days after he received his booster shot, as Russia faces its worst surge of infections and deaths since the pandemic began.

Putin was vaccinated with Sputnik V, Russia’s domestically developed Covid-19 vaccine, in the spring. On Sunday, he said he received a booster shot of Sputnik Light, the one-dose version of the jab, and said he wanted to take part in testing the nasal version of Sputnik V.

Denis Logunov, deputy director of Russia’s state-funded Gamaleya Center that developed Sputnik V, told Putin on Sunday the nasal vaccine is yet to be tested on members of the public and is currently being studied “off-label mostly, as usual, we’re testing it on staff members, monitoring.”

In accordance with established scientific protocols, the vaccine

will need to go through several trial phases, including those involving thousands of people, to establish that it is safe and effective to use.

Putin told a Government meeting Wednesday that “exactly six months after vaccination my titers of protective (antibodies) have dropped, and specialists recommended the procedure of revaccination, which I did.”

He said he didn’t experience any unpleasant effects after taking the nasal vaccine. In recent weeks, Russia has been swept by its highest ever Covid-19 surge, with officials regularly registering record-high numbers of new infections and deaths.

The surge came amid low vaccination rates and lax public attitudes toward taking precautions. Fewer than 40 per cent of Russia’s nearly 146 million people have been fully vaccinated, even though the country approved a domestically developed Covid-19 vaccine months before most of the world. **AP**

No babies in Parl: UK lawmakers outraged by infant ban

London: Several British politicians demanded a change in parliamentary rules on Wednesday after a lawmaker was told she couldn’t bring her 3-month-old baby into the House of Commons.

Labour Party legislator Stella Creasy said she had received a letter from Commons authorities after she took her son Pip to a debate.

She said she had previously taken both Pip and her older daughter to Parliament without problems, but had been told the rules had

changed in September.

Members of Parliament are now advised that they “should not take your seat in the chamber when accompanied by your child.” Creasy said the rule undermined efforts to make politics more family-friendly.

“There are barriers to getting mums involved in politics, and I think that damages our political debate,” she told the BBC.

Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab, a Conservative, said he has “a

lot of sympathy” for Creasy, but said the decision is for the House authorities to make.

“I think we do need to make sure our profession is brought into the modern world, the 21st century, and can allow parents to juggle the jobs they do with the family time that they need,” Raab said.

Green Party lawmaker Caroline Lucas said the baby ban was “absurd.” She said babies were “far less disruptive than many braying back-benchers.” **AP**

Ethiopia says PM, a Nobel Peace laureate, is at battlefield

Nairobi: Ethiopia’s Nobel Peace Prize-winning Prime Minister has gone to the battlefield to take charge in a year-long war as rival fighters approach the capital, his Government announced Wednesday.

State media showed no images of Abiy Ahmed, a 45-year-old former soldier, and his

spokeswoman Billene Seyoum dismissed a request for details on his location as “incredible.”

He arrived at the front Tuesday, according to a government spokesman. Tens of thousands of people have died in the war between Ethiopian federal and allied troops and fighters from the country’s Tigray region. **AP**

FROM PAGE 1

CBI CHARGES 2 COMMANDERS IN SUBMARINE...

The duo was arrested following the searches on September 3. The CBI has filed two separate chargesheets against the accused serving and retired officials besides others for allegedly passing on confidential information about India’s Kilo Class submarines to “unauthorised persons.” They were allegedly passing confidential commercial information on the MRLC programme of India’s Kilo Class submarines to unauthorised people for illegal gratification, the CBI had said after filing two separate chargesheets on November 3. The case was registered following a reference from the Intelligence agencies that provided inputs that some serving officers in the Western Headquarters of Navy working on retrofitting of Russian Kilo class submarines were allegedly being influenced by retired naval officers and were receiving pecuniary benefits, the agency had said.

The agency is probing allegations into the leak of confidential information pertaining to procurements and maintenance of naval equipment for the submarines for pecuniary benefits and bribery in deal for the Mine Laying Saddle for the submarines from (ARPL).

MAMATA MEETS PM...

The duo even posed for photographs after their meeting. Swamy had met state’s Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar in Kolkata early this week.

During her meeting with the PM, Mamata told Modi that the federal structure of the country should not be disturbed in any way. Speaking to the media after the meeting, she said that she invited the Prime Minister to inaugurate the Global Business Summit which would be held in West Bengal next year. The chief minister said that she raised the

issue of violence in Tripura in which TMC workers were allegedly assaulted by BJP workers. On the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, the TMC supremo said, “If Akhilesh (Samajwadi Party chief) needs our help, then we are ready to extend help.”

On media speculation that during her this visit she chose to skip calling on Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, Mamata clarified that she did not seek time with anyone other than the Prime Minister, saying she understood that leaders are busy with the Punjab polls. In almost all her visits to the national Capital in recent years, Mamata always met Sonia. In her last visit, she had met Sonia, former party chief Rahul Gandhi, and few other senior party leaders. The TMC chief said she will meet Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and NCP chief Sharad Pawar during her visit to Mumbai on November 30-December 1. On Tuesday two Congress leaders - Kirti Azad (also a former BJP MP), Ashok Tanwar and JD(U) leader Pawan Varma joined the Trinamool Congress. Swamy later tweeted, “Of the all the politicians I have met or worked with, Mamata Banerjee ranks with JP (Jayaprakash Narayan), Morarji Desai, Rajiv Gandhi, Chandrashekar, and PV Narasimha Rao who meant what they said and said what they meant. In Indian politics that is a rare quality.”

REBEL CONG, BSP MLAS ...

Aditi is the daughter of former Sadar MLA Akhilesh Singh. Akhilesh Singh passed away in August in the year 2019. Akhilesh was a five-time MLA from Rae Bareilly Sadar seat. Aditi left the Congress after the death of her father. Not only this, she openly spoke against the Congress. On November 21, 2019, Aditi got married to Angad Saini, Congress MLA from Punjab.

Indian GDP to grow 7.8 pc in Q2: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Official data print on the GDP will show a 7.8 per cent expansion on a year-on-year basis for the September 2021 quarter, according to a report.

Real GDP will grow 9.4 per cent in FY22 and decelerate to 7.5 per cent for FY23 as the base effects result in the higher growth in the ongoing fiscal wear-off, according to the report by economists at HDFC Bank released on Wednesday.

In FY21, the GDP had contracted 7.3 per cent due to the pandemic. For FY22, the RBI expects GDP to clock a growth of 9.5 per cent, which will slow to 7.8 per cent in FY23. The GDP had expanded by over 20 per cent for the

first quarter on the lower base. The official data for the second quarter is set to be released on November 30.

The report by HDFC Bank said some part of the expected 7.8 per cent GDP growth in the second quarter will be due to a low base from a year when the economy contracted by 7.4 per cent but there is likely to be a sequential improvement in GDP growth in Q2FY22.

On a sequential basis, GDP is expected to grow 9.75 per cent in Q2 from a contraction of 16.9 per cent in the second wave-hit previous quarter, reflecting a revival in economic activity.

“With support from pent-up demand and easing of mobility restrictions in

the country, economic activity (as captured by a number of high frequency indicators) moved above pre-second wave levels in early

August and has remained robust since then,” the report said.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing growth will come at four per cent in Q2FY22, industry will be at 6.3 per cent and services at 8.6 per cent, it added.

When looked at from a gross value added (GVA) basis, the September 2021 quarter growth will come at 7.3 per cent, the bank estimated, explaining that the gap between GDP and GVA is likely to be driven by higher tax revenue collection and lower subsidy pay-outs in this quarter.

‘Cost-effective meditation can help reverse grey matter loss’

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

A simple, easy to follow, cost-effective meditation routine, when practised daily for several months, can help reverse grey matter loss in patients with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or those with mild Alzheimer’s disease—a neurological progressive degenerative condition—researchers have claimed.

Dr Amitabha Ghosh, Director and Head Department of Neurology, Apollo Multispeciality Hospital Kolkata, together with Dr S Bapi Raju [Cognitive Science lab at IIIT Hyderabad], in collaboration with other researchers had allocated patients with MCI or mild Alzheimer’s disease to meditation or control groups.

The meditation group practiced 30 minutes of silent, sitting meditation daily for 6

months. They did MRI scans at baseline and after 6 months all patients also underwent neuropsychological assessment. The meditation group showed significantly increased grey matter over the frontal brain regions that are responsible for control of attention and goal-directed decision-making and reduced grey matter posteriorly.

“The left hippocampus (memory) and the right thalamus also showed an increase in grey matter volume. The team found a trend towards improved attention among the meditators,” said the researchers. The study supported under the SATYAM program by the Department of Science & Technology is published in journal ‘Frontiers in Human Neuroscience’.

However, the researchers said that the meditation research in MCI and Alzheimer’s disease is still very young.

Court orders FIR against Sambit Patra for posting Kejriwal’s doctored video

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has directed the police to register an FIR against BJP leader Sambit Patra for allegedly posting a doctored video of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal supporting the farm laws, saying it may have resulted in rioting like situation across the nation.

Metropolitan Magistrate Rishabh Kapoor directed the Delhi Police to register the FIR under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and conduct a thorough investigation against the BJP Spokesperson while allowing the application of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Atishi.

Atishi had moved the court seeking registration of FIR against Patra claiming that the video contained statements that were diametrically opposite to the stand taken by the Delhi CM and the Aam Aadmi Party concerning the farm laws and caused discontent and dissatisfaction in the minds of farmers.

The judge noted, “The fact that the video was published on the Twitter handle of proposed accused with the caption ‘teno farm bills ke laabh ginate hue

(Counting the benefits of the three farm bills) Sir ji’...., prima facie proves that same was circulated with no intention but to cause the farmers to believe that Kejriwal is supporting the farm laws, which may have perpetuated the State of outrage with the protesting farmers and may have resulted in rioting like situation across the nation.”

The court said that a “thorough investigation” was required to be conducted considering the seriousness of the allegations and directed the SHO to register the FIR against Patra and initiate the probe.

The judge noted that in the original video, Kejriwal was seen replying to a question asked by a journalist by quoting that in the speeches given by leaders of BJP in support of farm laws, it was stated that due to the operation of said laws, the farmers will not lose their lands, the minimum support price assured to them will not be lost, the mandi system will not overturn.

“In this video itself, at the end of each sentence itself, Kejriwal can be seen saying that the above-quoted benefits of the farm laws were already in

existence even prior to the operation of said laws,” the judge said.

The chief minister was also seen responding to the questions regarding the solutions proposed by the farmers and in this context and he spoke in support of MSP measures, the judge said.

The court also noted that Kejriwal was seen saying that if MSP comes into operation, it would be the most revolutionary law made in the past 70 years. The impugned video clip running in 18 seconds, it was seen that the stances quoted by the Delhi CM in the original video were placed and doctored in such a way to give them colour as if he was speaking in support of farm laws,” the magistrate noted in an eight-page order.

The court further said that the findings in the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report reflected that the video was opined to have been altered. Atishi had claimed that she gave a formal complaint to the station house officer (SHO) of IP Estate police station and DCP Darya Ganj in February 2021 and was assured that the FIR will be registered.

ISIS Kashmir threat: Security tightened at Gambhir’s house

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following the ‘death threat’ from ISIS Kashmir, the Delhi Police has tightened security outside the residence of BJP, MP Gautam Gambhir.

According to Shweta Chauhan, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Central district, a complaint was received from Gaurav Arora, personal secretary to Gambhir, at Rajendra Nagar police station on

Wednesday.

“The complaint alleged that an unidentified person has sent an email on Tuesday on the email ID of Gautam Gambhir threatening to kill him and his family members,” she said. “On receiving the complaint, the district police increased (Gambhir’s) personal security as well as the security of his residence in Rajendra Nagar area. The police are currently enquiring into the source of the complaint,” the DCP

added. However, no FIR has been registered in the matter yet as an enquiry is in process,” police said. Police said that along with the Cyber Cell of the police of the Central district, an enquiry is also being carried out by the Special Cell. The complaint stated that a death threat from “ISIS Kashmir” was received on the official email ID of Gambhir at 9.32 PM on Tuesday. The mail read, “We are going to kill you and your family”, the officials said.



Bollywood
'Rajkumar Rao and Janhvi Kapoor's is a partnership to look forward to.'
—Karan Johar

A NEW ECONOMY

‘We wanted to take people back to that time (of demonetisation) and remind them that we all got past this together’, director RISHAB SETH and producer VISHESH BHATT define the thought behind their recent drama-comedy, *Cash*, in a tête-à-tête with KHUSHBU KIRTI

With the recent release of the film *Cash*, my mind was transported to the time of demonetisation in 2016, and how we had toiled in long lines in front of ATMS under scorching heat. The memory might be a bitter-sweet experience etched in our brains forever, but *Cash* definitely held my attention with its relatable and humorous take on it.

Cash, starring Amol Parashar, Smriti Kalra, Swanand Kirkire, Kevin Dave, and Gulshan Grover, started streaming on Disney+Hotstar. The light-hearted drama-comedy that centers around the period of demonetisation and entrepreneurship in India, is directed by Rishab Seth and produced by Vishesh Bhatt.

Read on for excerpts from a heart-to-heart with Vishesh and Rishab.

■Demonetisation was a very serious event, something that has been lodged in the recent history of India. What is your vision of the film? What do you wish to convey?

Rishab: Demonetisation was, obviously, a very important event in our recent history that we've all dealt with — I think we all have memories of that period — which we, sort of, wanted to laugh at to create some kind of catharsis or nostalgia. Many might say it was a terrible time, many people feel that it was a very petulant move by the government. Ah, so, we never really wanted to pass judgement on it and our stance on it, even today, remains very neutral. But, we thought that there is an opportunity here to take people back to that time and remind them that we all got past this together and these are the things that unfolded around us. And when you go back in time — even if you thought that it was dark time then — you can always, in retrospect, laugh it off. So, I think the

idea here was to use collective consciousness and evoke laughter instead of pain.

Vishesh: Like Rishab added, it was an important event and every important event always has certain serious takeaways, but the subject itself, or any serious event, for that matter, can have a humorous take-away, too. Personally, we have to take things in a stride. Humour is an important part of life and I feel more than demonetisation, this is a journey of a serious entrepreneur and how strong the resilience of the medium and small enterprises in India, even today, during the pandemic. They are extremely agile, take up challenges and manage to survive. We wanted to give that kind of a message that India is able to withstand the obstacles that come their way. It is, in a manner, inspirational, and also relevant to the time of the pandemic. So, we mixed the themes up. We wanted to highlight the new digital economy. Thus, this is a positive, upwards-looking, kind-of a narrative.

■Was there a personal incident/tragedy related to it that you know of? That you have built the story on?

Rishab: I know that there were neighbours giving money to their house helps to deposit it to their banks and so, a lot of what is happening in the film has been derived from real life incidents but the thing is, it had turned into a bit of a circus, hadn't it? (everyone chuckles)

So even if you don't know someone personally, someone knew someone who had to do something sketchy at the time to find some kind of solution to save their black money. And you will see reflections of that in the film, too.

■Because there are so many innovative ways of money laundering shown in the film that one wonders what the



inspiration behind the same was.

Vishesh: So this term, 'money laundering' which came in — I think what demonetisation did is — it made people, who had just general petty expenses as cash, try to figure out what black or white even mean. For most of the country, it was a term that political figures or quintessential villains would have and when demonetisation came about, people were like, 'okay, cash by itself is a problem'. After that, there were debates over what really would fall under black or white cash. We have a digital economy now, it was completely new, then. So this 'cash' was termed as toxic.

Rishab: Even people who did not have illegal money with them at that time, that is, unaccounted for money, some had cash withdrawal systems sitting at home, you know? And even they had to go stand in the line and they thought, 'what does this

ultimately entail?' 'Does this cash have any real value or not?'

Vishesh: Exactly. People got scared. Their savings would become zero.

Rishab: However, I must add, Vishesh and I were trying to make a film about entrepreneurship even before the demonetisation happened. A film about entrepreneurship, ambitions and dreams, specifically because Vishesh's company stands for youth-oriented content. It so happened that we got this idea and we married entrepreneurship with demonetisation. It is not just about scams that we all have heard of, it's actually about a guy who uses adversity and turns it into opportunity — that's the core of the film.

■The shift to home viewing through OTT, has it given an impetus to stories based on real events? Whether it's entrepreneurship or demonetisation.

Vishesh: What OTT has done is that it has opened a billion screens. It is another huge outlet where story-tellers can express themselves. The limitations have now been removed. You can make the screenplay that is correct for the story and talk to various audiences. The quality is more and more focussed onto who you are talking to.

Rishab: In a nutshell, I think, OTT has created a level-playing field and I don't think that is only true for films and shows based on reality but it also has openings for all types and all genres. For a theatrical film, you're beholding a larger audience, you're trying to find a greater commonality through taste and that comes with big compulsions. Whereas, in OTT, you can choose or target a more specific audience. Theatre is costly, for both the parties — the viewers and the film-makers.

■I had a word with Amol, Smriti and Kavin and they showered nothing but praises on both of you.

I think bringing new faces to the screen is something OTT platforms have supported a ton. Care to weigh in?

Vishesh: Very kind of them (hehe). And, yes, OTT has definitely given Vishesh Films, and even the new banner I'm coming up with, more strength to take narratives with upcoming super-talented people, actors, musicians and technicians. The music that we've done in this film is largely by newcomers. In theatre, these things could turn risky but in OTT, there is a larger openness which allows us to bring newer talents to the forefront. Now, it is not a mandate to tell the narrative from the point of view of senior actors or try to retro-fit them into a story. Now, we have the space to bring in a younger story and cast a correct fit/face. They no longer have to carry big banners or names to get cast, but just the skill. I hope this golden phase and trend continues.

Rishab: I think star power is undeniable. There are stars in this country who have this magic around them, they've created that image. You know, I do want to watch an Aamir Khan film or a Ranbir Kapoor starrer. But we're dealing with about 20 odd people, I mean we're talking about those who wield that kind of power. But luckily, I've seen a shift in the past 10 years where the audience is just very happy consuming good content and they can look beyond the external faces. If the content is good, they take

home as good an experience.

So, opportunities are more now. Where we can make films with fresher talent without having to rely entirely on big stars to carry your film. There are more stories than there are stars. So, we have to find a way to tell these stories and we're now getting more opportunities to do so.

■The actors completely adored the script, they said it was a perfectly written one. Can you give a background on that? What were some challenges you faced?

Rishab: Actually, we had a lot of fun, you know. There was a ton of anecdotal stuff available in newspapers and news articles, and stories from friends. The challenge was basically that we wanted to present everything in a comic light. The question we kept asking ourselves was 'how do we make this funny and entertaining?' It was a great and fun process.

Vishesh: There was an ocean of information and experiences that we all discussed. There was a wealth of data and we knew what was our take was our take on it. So, according to me, the challenge was to filter out. To streamline it, put it in an entertaining manner, have fun with it and communicate it without getting too indulgent or boring was the task at hand. Humour weaved in something that is engaging and fast-paced was the main challenge.

■Very excited for the film. What is one thing audience should look for when it releases?

Rishab: Um, this is two hours of pure fun. I would suggest you to watch it with your friends, enjoy it, revel in the nostalgia and just come out feeling good.

Vishesh: Agreed, comedy is community experience. Watch it with company, while having popcorn and perhaps, chilled beer. Everyone has a different interpretation of humour, so people might have different experiences.

Rishab: But I would like to mention, that this is not the comedy, hopefully, where we would advice people to leave their brains at home. So, keep your brains intact, watch it and enjoy the experience.

Vishesh: Adding to it, I'd like to request the audience to watch and support films with fresh talent and new narratives. If you want quality, you want new and fresh content, you have to support it yourself to see the change you're asking for.

Born in 1986 in Mumbai, India, Archana Phadke is a is an alumni of the Berlinale Talent campus and a National award winner. Her short film as a Director, *Uski Baarish* (2013) was screened at various international film festivals including Clermont-Ferrand International Film Festival, Aspen Shorts Fest, Toronto International Film Festival (KIDS), Seattle International Film Festival and 34 others. She has produced and edited, feature-length documentary *Placebo*. *Placebo* was an Indo-Finnish co-production that premiered at the International Documentary Film Festival of Amsterdam (IDFA), 2014, where it won the jury nomination for Best Film in First Appearance Category. She has co-edited the film *Raghu Rai, An Unframed Portrait* — winner of IDFA Europe fund and winner of Best International Pitch at Asian Side of the Doc and premiered at IDFA 2017 (mid-length competition).

Her debut as a director of the feature-length documentary, *About Love*, premiered at the Sheffield Doc fest in June 2019, where it won the New Talent Award. The film also won the Best film Asian Perspective award at DMZ Docs 2019, and Best film at the Hainan Island International Film Festival.

About Love is in the news since it is up for viewing on MUBI, the globally curated film streaming platform. The film is a story which underlines the place of a woman in Indian society. You can say that the film is super feminist, but in a non-preachy way. But it reflects the reality that exists in society today.

For the film, Phadke trains the camera on her household, making what's extremely personal at times, public. The film revolves around the daily happening, and conversations of three couples living alongside the director. Keep reading for excerpts of the interview with Phadke.

■Dealing with your own family members for *About Love*, start to finish, was it easy or difficult?

It's always a very difficult decision. I was filming there for around two and a half years and everyday I was wondering whether I was doing the right thing. Exposing my family to the world was a very difficult decision to take because I was able to capture not just the comfortable but the uncomfortable moments also of family life. It was quite a difficult process for me.

■Would your family members play nice in front of the camera?

Like every documentary, this is one of the first processes that one goes through — that you have to break that act in front of the camera. Sometimes it takes days, sometimes it takes months, sometimes it takes years for that to happen. But I was very fortunate that this never happened to me and this is probably because I was the one shooting them. When this was going on, they did not know this was going to be a film. But when this kept going on for an year or two, they were wondering, "Oh, she is still shooting us maybe she is just collecting random footage." Fortunately they never ever put up an act in front of the camera. They were always themselves in both comfortable as well as uncomfortable situations. I actually shot my grandfather's death on camera which was quite difficult for me to show. But both my family and I were honest, with respect to everything shown in the film.

■How long did filming take?

I started shooting the film in June 2015 but the film premiered in the 2019 edition of the Sheffield Doc Fest. Initially my lens was trained on my grandparents, but my brother actually decided to get married halfway through shooting and that's when I decided to make that a part of my story as well. But then I expanded the scope of my story and I started shooting my parents as well. It became an interesting landscape — three generations of couples and how love changes over time. And, oh, just for context, my *bhabhi* and my brother had a love

All About Love

Award-winning documentary filmmaker ARCHANA PHADKE, in a conversation with CHRISTY VARGHESE, reveals what made her train the camera on her family for her directorial debut



marriage. They met in IIM Lucknow. He was just following the example set by his ancestors; my grandparents and my parents also had a love marriage.

■While you were behind the camera, you were also an integral part of the household. You can't help unknowingly influence what happens in front of the camera, we get it. But did you ever knowingly influence the course of the film?

I made certain rules. When I would start filming, I would anticipate the flavour of what was going to be. So, I would make certain rules as a filmmaker which were sacred and unbreakable since that would not be good for the film. I wanted complete honesty in the film where I would not drive the narrative. I also knew that for a film like this the essence is important, which is why I was shooting for three and a half years, whereas I could have easily wrapped up shooting in three months since it was my family and I had easy access to them. But I knew that to get into the depth of the characters, I would have to spend a lot of time. So, I took my time to do it, but I did not make anything happen at all.

■While everyone is aware of the

process, ie. What happens ahead of a wedding in India, you trained the camera on your own family members. What led you to do so?

This is my first feature documentary as a director, I have produced a film before this, *Placebo*, and a filmmaker's first film is always about a subject that they hold dear. For me, I have always been obsessed with my family. We are very close, we tell each other everything. This film is sort of a love letter to them. I wanted to understand the workings of love in my family and that is exactly what I wanted to make a film on. It's a tragic-comedy that looks at the dysfunctionality of families and I tried to capture this in a sensitive and dignified manner.

With every film I make, I hope I learn something about myself. Part of the reason why I did this film is because I don't want to get married, I don't believe in the constitution of marriage. There have been numerous love marriages in my family, but how come I don't believe in marriage, that was my enquiry. So I wanted to observe my own family members to get to the bottom of it. My grandparents, for that matter, regularly pass snide comments at each other, but are very much in love, this is evident from what I could capture for the film. But back then, in the initial stages of the

shooting, I wasn't sure this would turn out to be a film.

■What is it about love that fascinates you?

You can call me a total romantic. I have grown up on all these Yash Chopra films, and I absolutely adore them. I don't think those type of films are made anywhere, where the romance is evidently there. I am talking about films like *Chandni* and *Dil Toh Paagal Hai*. That is the essence I am trying to capture, not through a Bollywood film but through life itself. It is so difficult to understand love, through my film I have come to makes sense of so many things about love. As an artist, it is natural to try and try again to understand the mysteries of life; love being one of them. I am trying to understand past notions I had of love while growing up.

■We are sure you had some solid ideas about this film when you started shooting. Did the final product match what you had in mind?

Well I did have some ideas in mind but documentary films are all about observing.

There is a very cool saying which one can read as you enter SRFETI (Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute), "In fiction films, the director is God and in documentaries, God is the director."

At certain points during the film, you have to be ready to receive, instead of trying to implement your notions. That is the magic of documentary cinema, it springs a surprise every now and then. You cannot be in control all the time, at times you have to let go of control and watch the magic unfold.

■Do you have any other projects, or thoughts about any projects in the pipeline?

Yes, of course! I am writing for two projects, one is a feature-fiction that revolves around farmer suicides. I hope I am able to make the project a reality within the next year.



LAWRENCE ADDS TO PAY DISPARITY DEBATE

JENNIFER LAWRENCE reveals there was a pay disparity between her and DiCaprio in the film, *Don't Look Up*.

"Look, Leo brings in more box office than I do. I'm fortunate and happy with my deal," she states.

"But in other situations, I've seen it's uncomfortable to inquire about equal pay. If you do question something that appears unequal, you're told it's not gender disparity but they can't tell you what exactly it is," Lawrence shares.

‘Even now, almost after 70 years, the Jews who survived make sure that nobody in the world forgets what the Germans did to them. Somehow, the Britishers for 100+ years colonised half of the world and I think they were worse than what the Nazis had done. But they are the ones with very good PR machinery, and that's the reason even today nobody talks about any of the massacres.’

dailytalk

RONNIE LAHIRI



fairtalk

RANI MUKHERJEE



‘My daughter is growing up and she is growing every day. She has become a very responsible child and understands the fact that I go to work, her father goes to work and that's what grown-up people do — they go out and make a living for themselves. It is important to understand that as a grown-up, you have to go out there and work to earn your place in the society.’

TRENDBLAZER

JERSEY IS SHAHID KAPOOR'S BEST

At the trailer launch of his upcoming film *Jersey*, SHAHID KAPOOR opened up about his film *Kabir Singh*'s success at the box office.

"I went like a beggar to everybody who has made these 200-250 crore films. It was completely new to me. Having spent 15-16 years in the industry, I never had such a huge grosser. So, when it finally happened, I didn't know where to go," he confessed.

"Credit goes to Gowtam Tinnanuri, the director, for still working with me, waiting for me. I'm so happy I did this and can safely say this is my best film yet," Kapoor added.



BEING VOCAL FOR LOCAL

Taste the unique flavours of tribal cuisine at the Tribes India Aadi Mahotsav at Dilli Haat. The event puts the spotlight on some exquisite GI-tagged products

One of the most interesting aspects of tribal life is the array of authentic dishes, unique to the different tribes. Authentic tribal cuisine is a major attraction of the ongoing Tribes India Aadi Mahotsav at Dilli Haat in New Delhi. The National Tribal Festival, an annual affair, showcases interesting dishes from across the country. Crowds visiting Dilli Haat have been thronging to the Aadi Vyanjan section, where food stalls from across the country, from states such as Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland and Chhattisgarh have been put up.

Tribal communities have a close connection with nature; their simplicity and reverence towards nature is carried over to the food. The same reverence is reflected in their cuisine; the tribals consider their food to be sacred. Tribal cuisine is not only interesting, but also nutritious and balanced. Be it the *daal baati churma* from Rajasthan or the *litti chokha* or Thapdi roti from Jharkhand, or the kadhi from Uttarakhand, tribal food is simple, nutritious and edible. There seems to be a preference of different types of millets among the tribals, hence dishes made out of major and minor millets are available such as ragi pakodas and *madwa* rotis from Jharkhand, ragi idlis and dosas from Tamil Nadu.

Over the past few days it has been observed that some dishes attracted more attention than the others. Chapda chutney or red ant chutney had many takers. Chapda



chutney, made from red ants, is said to be not only tasty but also helps keep diseases at bay. Mahua dishes also garnered much interest. Mahua trees are commonly available all over the forests of central and western India.

One can also enjoy other exotic, tasty foods such as dhuska (deep fried snack made of powdered rice), banjara biryani, thapdi roti, herbal teas and arakku coffee from different parts of the country.

GI products came to a special focus in the ongoing Tribes India Aadi Mahotsav, when Bhaskar Khulbe, Advisor to the Prime Minister of India visited the Aadi Mahotsav.

GI products occupy a prominent place in this edition of the Aadi Mahotsav, and more than 50



such identified products are displayed in stalls across the venue by the tribals. Many visitors have been visiting these stalls with much interest. Apart from this seven new GI-tagged products from Uttarakhand consisting of Aipan craft, Tamta product, Ringal craft, Thulma, Bhutiya Daan Carpet, Chyura oil and Munshiya rājma, was launched at Aadi Mahotsav taking the tally of TRIFED promoted tribal GI products to 66.

Speaking on the occasion, Khulbe remarked, "I am pleased to

note that TRIFED has actively taken up the cause to promote GI Tagged products and transform into a brand, thus empowering tribal artisans. This Aadi Mahotsav is an excellent way to bring all tribal artisans from across the country in a single place. I urge all Delhi-ites to visit this unique fair."

The GI products featured at the Tribes India Aadi Mahotsav include renowned, exquisite items such as Rajasthan's blue pottery, the Kota Dariya fabric, Madhya Pradesh's Chanderi and Maheshwari silk, Bagh print, Odisha's Patachitra, Karnataka's Bidriware, Banarasi silk from Uttar Pradesh, Darjeeling tea from West Bengal, Kala jeera from Himachal Pradesh, the extremely spicy Naga chilli, and the large cardamom from the North-east.

Geographical indication tagging has acquired a greater significance ever since the focus has shifted towards Vocal for Local and building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat. TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been facilitating the promotion of GI Tagged products along with tribal products and transform them into a brand, symbolising empowerment of tribal artisans. These initiatives are aimed help recognise and promote age-old tribal traditions and methods that in danger of being lost due to urbanization and industrialization.

The Geographical Indication technology, which has been recognized by the World Trade Organization, is used to denote the geographical territory from where

a product, be it an agricultural produce, natural product or manufactured, and also conveys assurance of qualities or attributes that are unique to that specific geographical region. India became a signatory to this convention, when, as a member of the WTO, it enacted the Geographical Indications (Registration and Protection Act), 1999, which came into effect from September 15, 2003.

The Aadi Mahotsav festival is TRIFED's attempt to familiarise the people with the rich and diverse craft, culture and cuisine of tribal communities across the country in one place.

Besides these GI products, one can also find other ethnic tribal handicrafts and products and organic items — from the natural and immunity-boosting tribal produce such as virgin coconut oil, organic haldi, dry amla, wild honey, black pepper, ragi, *triphalā*, and lentil mixes such as moong dal, urad dal, white beans, and dalia to artefacts such as paintings be it in the Warli style or Patachitra; from jewellery handcrafted in the Dokra style to bead necklaces from the Wancho and Konyak tribes of the North-East.

The Aadi Mahotsav- A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Crafts, Culture and Commerce is on at Dilli Haat, INA, New Delhi till the 30th November, 2021 from 11 am to 9 pm.

Visit Aadi Mahotsav and support the "Vocal for Local" movement and help in building a self-reliant India!

Working for the people

Rajasthan's Water and Groundwater Minister Dr Mahesh Joshi says that his focus would be on uninterrupted, regular and adequate supply to the public

Water Supply and Ground Water Minister Dr Mahesh Joshi has said that the department's full focus will be on uninterrupted, regular and adequate supply of clean drinking water to the public in the state. Along with this, vigorous efforts will be made at every level with the help of common people to prevent wastage of water.

Dr Joshi was interacting with the media persons after taking charge as the new Water Supply and Ground Water Minister of the State at the Government Secretariat on Wednesday. Appealing to the common people to save water, he said that water is priceless, people should understand its value and make maximum use of it their habit.

Work will be done according to the needs of the people

The Minister said that the time is changing rapidly and with this the priorities of the people have also changed, in such a situation, departmental projects and programs will be speeded up according to the needs of the people in daily life. He said that in the last three years, historical works of public interest have been done in all the departments including the water supply department in the state. During this, despite the circumstances arising due to Corona, the works of other drinking water projects including Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) have been taken forward in the state. Work in JJM has progressed very rapidly in the recent past. Under the department, the work of all the projects including JJM will be speeded up with the thought that the money being spent on them should be fully

benefited by the common man.

Stop wastage of drinking water

Dr Joshi said that at many places water gets wasted due to leakage in the pipeline. For this, wherever the pipelines have become obsolete in the state, they will be replaced and work will be done with a concrete strategy to prevent wastage of drinking water. He said that the entire team of the department would leave no stone unturned in the service of the public with the co-ordination of administrative officers, engineers and technical and subordinate personnel.

Dr Joshi was welcomed by senior officers under the leadership of Additional Chief Secretary, Water Supply and Ground Water Department, Sudhansh Pant by presenting a bunch of flowers. Dignitaries including Dr. Joshi's son Mr. Rohit Joshi and other well wishers, fans and supporters were also present on this occasion.

Dr Joshi's Joint Secretary of Government of Water Supply Department — First Pratap Singh, Joint Secretary, then Pushpa Satyani, Chief Engineer (Urban and NRW) CM Chouhan, Chief Engineer (Administration), Rakesh Luhadia, Chief Engineer (JJM), Dinesh Goyal, Chief Engineer (Special Projects) Dalip Kumar Gaur, Chief Engineer (Technical), Sandeep Sharma, Additional Chief Engineer (Rural) Devraj Solanki, Additional Chief Engineer (Urban), Amitabh Sharma, WSSO Director, Hukamchand Verma, Additional Chief Engineer (Jaipur-II), Manish Beniwal and Additional Chief Engineer (Jaipur-I) Arun Srivastava.

Railways to increase its freight basket

PHDCCI-Rajasthan chapter organised a Webinar on "Freight Incentives by Railways for Industries with North Western Railways" on November 24.

In his welcome address Shri Digvijay Dhabriya, Chair, PHDCCI-Rajasthan Chapter informed that PHD Chamber has been taking numerous initiative and pol-

icy advocacy measures for improving Ease of Doing Business, Reduction in cost of Doing Business and providing a level playing field for the industry so that Indian Economy can grow and achieve the target of USD 5 trillion given by our Hon'ble Prime Minister. He observed that logistic cost in India is over 14 per cent as com-

pare to 3-4 per cent in China adversely affecting the industry and exports from India. There is a need to reduce to logistic cost and transportation through Railway network can help reducing the freight cost with the proactive approach and incentive schemes offered by Railways.

Speaking as Chief Guest Narendra,

Divisional Railway Manager, North Western Railway outlined the various measures being taken by Railways for increasing its freight basket with focus on service and providing competitive freight solutions to trade and industry with the ultimate objective of facilitating growth of Indian economy.

DDA meeting updates

Delhi Development Authority held its meeting on November 24 through video conferencing under the chairmanship of Anil Bajjal, Lt Governor of Delhi and the chairman of DDA attended by Manish Kumar Gupta, IAS, Vice Chairman, DDA, and other members of the Authority including Vijender Gupta MLA, Somnath Bharti MLA, O P Sharma MLA, Adesh Kumar Gupta Municipal Councillor, North Delhi Municipal Corporation and Kailash Sankla, Municipal Councillor, South Delhi Municipal Corporation.

Following major decisions were taken:

Launching of Housing Scheme: The Authority has approved launching of Online Special Housing Scheme for approximately 15,000 flats of different categories at various locations such as Dwarka, Narela, Rohini, Jasola etc. DDA will soon share the further details of the scheme on its website and leading Newspapers / Social media. The scheme has the following main features:-

The flats offered under this scheme are those which remain unsold in previous Housing schemes of DDA.

The flats are being offered at the old rates/cost in relaxation of the costing policy of DDA which is updated every finan-

cial year based on the appreciation/depreciation of land cost/building as the case may be.

The flats at Narela sub-city are being offered after taking several remedial measures in terms of improvement of infrastructure, security and connectivity on the basis of suggestions/feedback of the allottees/residents of the area.

The allottees will be eligible for subsidy under PMAY scheme of the central govt. if they avail home loan from the bank/financial institution.

The entire process from application to allotment and possession is being done through online mode.



Back to the old ways

With 40 token sanitisers installed in all metro stations, the smart token-system has been restored by Kolkata Metro

Tokens are going to be re-introduced in North-South and East-West Metro from today. For that, elaborate

arrangements have already been made to restore the old token system in the Metro. For the safety of Metro commuters, 40 token

sanitiser machines have already been installed at all stations.

Collected tokens will be sanitised in these machines with

the help of ultra-violet ray for about four minutes at each North-South and East-West Metro station. After U-V sanitization, these tokens will again be issued.

In each of the big stations two token sanitiser machines will be kept for use. In each of the small stations one token sanitiser machine will be kept.

Lady Irwin College to host National Conference on Learning

Department of Education, Lady Irwin College, a constituent college of University of Delhi, is organising the National Conference on Learning (NCL 2021) through virtual mode on November 26, 2021. The theme of the conference is gender and education.

Education plays a crucial role in spreading awareness and providing advocacy to all sections of society. This conference on 'Gender & Education' explores gender related issues and considers a broader vision of how investing in education can promote gender equality, gender equity as well as sensitivity and empathy.

The conference will start with the inaugural session at 9:30 am. The welcome address will be delivered by the Director of the College, Dr Anupa Siddhu. The chief guest of the conference is Prof Dr Asha Shukla, Vice-Chancellor of Dr B R Ambedkar Social Science University, Indore, who will reflect on 'Gender & Education'. The guest of honour, is Dr Poonam Aggarwal, NCERT. The guest speaker, Anuradha Krishnan, gender resource person, will also give valuable input on the theme. After that, tribute will be paid to Ms Kamla Bhasin (Indian feminist).

Educationalists, researchers, teacher educators from various universities and colleges will participate and give their presentations on the subthemes.

SAIL's iron ore mines receive national awards

Two iron ore mines of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Kiriburu Iron Ore Mines and Meghahatuburu Iron Ore Mines, received five-star rated awards for sustainable mining practices and all round performance in the Iron Ore category at the 5th National Conclave on Mines & Minerals held in New



Delhi on November 23. The Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pralhad Joshi presented the awards to Soma

Mondal, Chairman, SAIL in a glittering award ceremony. She was accompanied by Kamlesh Rai, Chief General Manager, Kiriburu Iron Ore Mines and Shri RP Selvam, Chief General Manager, Meghahatuburu Iron Ore Mines while receiving the awards.

SAIL's Kiriburu Iron Ore Mines was awarded for the year

2017-18 and 2018-19 while Meghahatuburu Iron ore Mines was awarded for the year 2018-19 and 2019-20. Both these SAIL mines are under the Jharkhand Group of Mines of SAIL, Bokaro Steel Plant.

SAIL fulfils its entire requirement of iron ore from its captive iron mines.

A helping hand

POWERGRID provides financial aid to Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority



restoration work shall be looked after by the Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority.

Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy, RK Singh handed over a joint cheque amounting to ₹22.31 crores to

Dhan Singh Rawat, Minister of State for Disaster Management, Uttarakhand on behalf of Power Sector CPSE's in the presence of the Uttarakhand's CM, Pushkar Singh Dhami, Minister of State for Power, Krishan Pal and other senior dignitaries from the Ministry of Power. The event was attended virtually by K Sreekant, CMD, POWERGRID and other senior officials of POWERGRID.

As a responsible Corporate Citizen, POWERGRID through its never ending efforts, not only ensures reliable transmission of Power but is also committed in ensuring unfading smiles for people.

Northern Railway GM meets Delhi MPs

Ashutosh Gangal, the general manager of Northern Railway held a meeting with ministers and MPs of constituencies that come under the jurisdiction of Delhi division in New Delhi. This is in accordance with the directives given by the Minister of Railways, Ashwini Vaishnav, advising GMs of Zonal Railways to increase public outreach to get feedback for providing better service to the nation. Railway related issues in each constituency falling under Northern Railway were discussed with the public representatives to find solutions for the benefit of the passengers.

Dimpy Garg, the divisional Railway Manager, Delhi Division presented a report regarding the completed, ongoing & planned works relating to passenger amenities, infrastructure and services at stations and trains over 22 constituencies in the states of UP, Haryana, Punjab and Delhi NCR, serviced by Delhi Division.

Gen VK Singh (ret'd), the Union Minister of State, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and Civil Aviation, MPs from Lok Sabha — Dr Harsh Vardhan, Dr Satya Pal Singh, Rajendra Agarwal, Ramesh Bidhuri, Ramesh Chander Kaushik, Sunita Duggal, Sanjay Bhatia, Brijendra Singh, Pradeep Kumar Choudhary and MPs



from Rajya Sabha — Sardar Balvinder Singh Bhunder, Ram Chander Jangra and Narayan Das Gupta put forward their views in the meeting.

The MPs highly appreciated the good work done by Northern Railway in their constituencies. They collectively thanked the Railways for helping the nation overcome the adversities of the corona pandemic in the last two years. They also put forward various demands, requirements and aspirations of the rail users of their respective areas. They also volunteered to help wherever there was any co-ordination required with the state administration for timely completion of the projects.

Gangal, assured the MPs that Northern Railway would resolve the public grievances and issues put forward by them as early as possible. He further said that Northern Railway would always remain committed to the passengers and rail users.

NRWWO president inaugurates refreshment counter at Central Hospital

Shikha Gangal, the president of Northern Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (NRWWO) inaugurated a beverage/refreshment counter run by NRWWO at Central Hospital, New Delhi on November 18.

On this occasion the vice-president of NRWWO, Anjali Gulati, the treasurer, Anjana Kumar, and other members of the committee and Medical Director of Northern Railway, Central Hospital, New Delhi, Dr Amita Jain, doctors and railway personnel were also present.

The NRWWO is a vol-



untary organisation, which runs various welfare activities for the benefit of railway workers and their families.

With the inauguration of the beverage/refreshment counter operated by NRWWO there has been a further increase in the facility of beverages/catering facilities to the patients and their relatives/relatives visiting this hospital.

RE-ENERGISED HYBRID WORKING

Jabra has announced the launch of Evolve2 75 - the latest in its Evolve range of professional headsets, specifically engineered to make flexible working simpler and more productive for everyone, everywhere.

The Evolve2 75 is the first of Jabra's Evolve headsets to include fully adjustable Jabra Advanced Active Noise Cancellation™ (ANC), so you can pick and choose how much (or how little) of your surroundings you hear.



World-class handball court inaugurated in Odisha

Inaugurated by Odisha CM on November 18, Keonjhar Handball Ground, located in Kendujhargarh Municipality, is first of its kind with provision of outdoor synthetic court in Odisha. The synthetic handball court has been built as per international standards (as per IHF - International Handball Federation). Additionally, the handball ground campus, with an area of around 1.6 acres, has been developed with best-in-class landscaping and provision of play areas.

Dual handball courts (with a synthetic pro-cushion surface), covering an area of 0.5 acres, were built with a seating capacity of around 200. The material used for preparation of the synthetic court has been certified under 'category 4-medium-fast' by the International



Tennis Federation (ITF).

The ground is armed with the ability to ensure play at night, with the installation of sports standard 'high mast lights'. In addition to the world-class handball courts, the campus has been developed for multi-disciplinary public use with the provision of walking pathways, acupressure track, children's play area, open-air gym, gymnastic, yoga platform, toilet block, seating arena and drinking water.

Lieutenant General Pradeep Chandran Nair awarded by President

Lieutenant General Pradeep Chandran Nair, Yudd Seva Medal (YSM), the 21st Director General of the Assam Rifles received the prestigious Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) from the President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind at an investiture ceremony held at New Delhi on November 22. He has been bestowed with this prestigious award for his successful command as the Inspector General of Assam Rifles (North) in Nagaland. He has also been decorated with the Yudd Seva Medal during his Command of a Brigade in Manipur and has also been



commended with the Chief of Army Staff Commendation Card on three occasions.

Lieutenant General Nair, AVSM, YSM holds vast combat experience in the North East. He Commanded his battalion (18 SIKH) in Assam, has been a brigade commander in Manipur. His vast experience in the North East especially as the Inspector General of Assam Rifles (North) has brought in peace and tranquillity in the region as well as controlled the insurgency. In his present appointment as the Director General of Assam Rifles, the Northeast region is to benefit tremendously.

Eyes on Rahane as ‘second string’ India take on gutsy Black Caps

PTI ■ KANPUR

A captain battling existential crisis, a veteran pacer about to be phased out and a white-ball maverick trying to earn his red-ball stripes makes for a heady combination as Ajinkya Rahane’s second-string India aim to size up a gritty New Zealand in first Test starting Thursday.

Rahane, with his career on line, gets to lead India may be one last time while 100-Test veteran Ishant Sharma will be praying that young turk Mohammed Siraj doesn’t nudge him out.

Shreyas Iyer is set for Test debut and would like to reaffirm ‘Bombay (not Mumbai) School of Batmanship’ whose philosophy transcends beyond the white-ball riches of Indian Premier League.

“Shreyas Iyer will be making his debut but I can’t reveal anything about combination,” skipper Rahane confirmed ahead of the match.

It is indeed a rarity to find an Indian Test team that is without its hit opening pair of Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul. Also missing from line-up is skipper Virat Kohli and a genuine match-winning keeper-batter Rishabh Pant.

But this also gives head coach Rahul Dravid a chance to check out what his back-up bench strength is before the away tour of South Africa which starts in less than a month’s time.

In the batting line-up for the first Test, only Rahane, Cheteshwar Pujara and Mayank Agarwal have played more than 10 Tests.



India vs New Zealand
Live from 9:30 am (IST)
STAR SPORTS

If Agarwal does well, that will keep KL Rahul on his toes and a good show from Shubman Gill will keep the team management interested in slotting him in the middle-order when the two regular openers come back.

In any sport, leader of the side is considered to have a secured slot in the side but in this Indian team, the skipper will be batting to save his career after an average of 19 in 11 Test matches in the current season.

Two more failures in two home games could effectively mean end of the road for Rahane. Even Dravid will also find it difficult to justify the Mumbaikar’s inclusion in the Johannesburg-bound flight next month.

A look at Rahane’s net ses-

sion doesn’t inspire much confidence. He tried an ugly hoick off Jayant Yadav’s off break and was clean bowled. Prasidh Krishna induced an outside edge which would have been regulation catch.

But it was scary to see net bowler Shivam Mavi bowling a perfect bouncer and hitting him on the chest.

It is never easy to lead a side when your own batting form has deserted you. How Rahane strikes a balance in this Test between being a ruthless captain and also the batter his team expects him to be will decide in which direction his career goes from here.

If he plays the game of survival against a Tim Southee or bumper-happy Neil Wagner, it might bring about downfall but as Pujara said, “being a bit fearless” will relieve him a bit from the gigantic pressure that’s on his shoulders to save his career.

Similarly, for Ishant, the senior-most player in the current set-up with 100 plus games and 300 plus wickets, the situation is getting bleak by the day.

He didn’t look in good rhythm during the net session and if Siraj is dropped from the eleven, the lanky pacer will once again need to prove that team management’s decision isn’t a travesty.

Umesh Yadav however remains the first-choice new ball bowler. Shreyas, who has had a decent red ball record but has not played a long for-



mat game since 2019, will have his task cut-out.

David made him negotiate short ball throw-downs from left-arm specialist Nuwan Yadav, to simulate Neil Wagner’s round the wicket tactic. A solid debut with an aggressive mind-set might give them a shot at permanent middle-order place in future.

If one goes by cues from nets, the sequence of batters appears to be Gill and Mayank, followed by Pujara and Rahane. Next in line was Shreyas, which confirmed that Surya will have to wait for his Test debut.

While it’s not known if Axar Patel’s workload is being managed but Jayant Yadav had an extended run in the nets

under watchful eyes of Dravid.

A middle-order with three defensive players like Pujara, Rahane and supposedly Hanuma Vihari, won’t be a great proposition when India plays away from home in coming days.

But one man, itching to go out there and reaffirm his status as world’s number one spinner will be Ravichandran Ashwin, who had been licking his wounds for the past few months after a royal snub by regular captain Kohli during the last series.

The third spinner is likely to be Axar Patel, who had a brilliant debut home series against England (27 wickets) when he last donned the

INDIA-NEW ZEALAND IN TESTS				
Venue	Played	Ind won	NZ won	Drawn
In India	34	16	2	16
In New Zealand	25	5	10	10
In England	1	-	1	-
Total	60	21	13	26
Last five matches:	5	2	3	-
At Kanpur	3	2	-	1

HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS			
India:	583-7 dec at Ahmedabad		1999-00
NZ:	680- 8 dec at Wellington		2013-14

LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS			
India:	81 in 26.3 (8- ball) overs at Wellington		1975-76
NZ:	94 in 38.2 overs at Hamilton		2002-03

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES			
India:	231 Vinoo Mankad at Chennai		1955-56
NZ:	302 Brendon McCullum at Wellington		2013-14

BEST BOWLING PERFORMANCE IN AN INNING			
India:	8-72 S. Venkatraghavan at Delhi		1964-65
NZ:	7-23 Richard Hadlee at Wellington		1975-76

FAISEL FEATURES

TEAMS	
INDIA Ajinkya Rahane (captain), Mayank Agarwal, Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Axar Patel, Umesh Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Siraj, Jayant Yadav, Srikanth Bharat (2nd wk) and Prasidh Krishna	NEW ZEALAND Kane Williamson (captain), Tom Latham (wk), Ross Taylor, Henry Nicholls, Tom Blundell (wk), Will Young, Glenn Phillips (wk), Daryl Mitchell, Tim Southee, Neil Wagner, Kyle Jamieson, William Somerville, Ajaz Patel, Mitchell Santner and Rachin Ravindra

whites even though Jayant looked in good rhythm.

For Black Caps, Tim Southee and Neil Wagner will be the two pacers with left-

arm spin duo of Ajaz Patel and Mitchell Santner along with off-spinner William Somerville likely to complete the attack.

KL Rahul gains a slot to fourth in T20I rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

India opener KL Rahul gained a slot to occupy the fifth spot while middle-order batter Suryakumar Yadav galloped 24 places to the 59th position in the ICC men’s T20I player rankings released on Wednesday.

Pakistan’s wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan, too, gained a slot to occupy the fourth position.

Rizwan’s upward movement is courtesy his 90 runs in the three-match series against Bangladesh that his side won 3-0, while opener Rahul is only six rating points behind after scoring 80 in two matches against New Zealand, a series also won 3-0 by India.

New Zealand’s Martin Gupthill has gained three slots to reach 10th position scoring 152



runs against India while Rohit Sharma is 13th, gaining two places after topping the series with 159 runs.

Pakistan’s Fakhar Zaman is another one to move up the batters’ list, from 40th to 35th. The rankings for bowlers

see Mitchell Santner gain 10 slots to reach 13th position with four wickets in the series against India and Bhuvneshwar Kumar up five to 19th with three scalps. Deepak Chahar has moved up 19 slots to reach 40th position.

NEUFC, Kerala Blasters eye first points

PTI ■ MARGAO

Coming off big defeats, both NorthEast United FC and Kerala Blasters would look to open their account and get their campaign up and running when they face off in the Indian Super League (ISL) here on Thursday.

While the Khalid Jamil-coached NorthEast United conceded four goals against an experienced Bengaluru FC, Kerala Blasters too lost by a 2-4 margin to last edition’s runners-up ATK Mohun Bagan in their opener.

Kerala Blasters’ pre-season performances provided hope but they found the going too tough against a strong and thoroughly professional ATK Mohun Bagan.

At the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Thursday, the southerners will get another opportunity to impress and open their account in this edition of the league.

It is not going to be easy though against the Highlanders who fought hard against a fancied Bengaluru FC outfit. The team from the eastern part of the country came back twice to level things in the first half, but the lack of concentration and inexperience at the back cost them dear, as they leaked four goals.

Paine should play in Ashes: Harris

AP ■ BRISBANE

Tim Paine has the full support of the Australian team and deserves to keep his place for the first Ashes Test against England, opener Marcus Harris said on Wednesday.

Paine suddenly quit as Test captain last week over a series of lewd text messages with a female colleague in 2017 that were about to be made public. Harris said the news came as a shock to the playing group who only learned about it 30 minutes before the official announcement. But he backed Paine to come through the scandal and said he deserved to play in the opening Test at Brisbane on December 8 on his wicket-keeping abilities alone.

“Yes, absolutely,” Harris said when



asked if he should be in the starting eleven. “He’s done a really good in the last few years under tough circumstances, and I think you can still probably argue that he’s the best gloveman in the country.”

“I know he’s got the support of all the players,” he added, with most of them personally contacting Paine in the wake of the scandal.

“Obviously Paine is a very popular member of the group, and he was as skipper as well. So we’re looking forward to him getting up here in the next week or so and getting on with cricket.” The 36-year-old Paine has made it clear he still wants to play for Australia with selectors needing to decide whether to cut him loose and start afresh or show loyalty.

Australia will be without captain for 15 years if it is looking for perfect skipper: Clarke



PTI ■ MELBOURNE

The Australian Test team will be without a captain for the next 15 years if the country’s cricket administrators are looking for someone with a “perfect” and unblemished record, feels former skipper Michael Clarke.

Cricketer Australia (CA) is set to appoint a new captain after Tim Paine stepped down from the post in the wake of a ‘sexting’ scandal. Fast bowling spearhead Pat Cummins has emerged as the frontrunner to succeed Paine and former skipper Steve Smith is also in the reckoning.

Clarke pointed out how Ricky Ponting became one of Australia’s greatest captains after overcoming an erratic start to his international career.

“Go back in my time even to Ricky Ponting. If that’s the case, he never would have captained Australia,” Clarke told ‘Big Sports Breakfast’.

“He had a punch up in the middle of a Bourbon & Beefsteak. Are you not going to give him the job because of that?” He’s a great example. He’s shown you how time, experience, maturity, playing at the highest level and even the captaincy turned him around.”

Paine is the only specialist wicket-keeper in Australia’s 15-man squad to face England in the upcoming Ashes but chairman of selectors George Bailey said he is not final for the first Test starting in Brisbane on December 8.

Clarke admitted that the Australian Test captain needed to be held to a high standard, but he said the team would end up with few options if it has unrealistic expectations.

Benzema handed 1-year suspended sentence

AP ■ VERSAILLES

France and Real Madrid forward Karim Benzema was given a one-year suspended jail sentence and a fine of 75,000 euros (\$84,000) Wednesday in a sex-tape case that rocked French soccer.

Benzema was found guilty of being involved in an attempt in 2015 to blackmail France teammate Mathieu Valbuena.

The Versailles court decision is unlikely to affect Benzema’s immediate sporting future. The forward is regarded as one of the favorites to win the Ballon d’Or award on Nov. 29 in Paris following an impressive season with Madrid. French federation president Noel Le Groat has already said Benzema would be allowed to keep playing with France even if found guilty.

Cristiano sends Red Devils into UCL last 16

Ronaldo, Sancho score in Man Utd’s 2-0 win in 1st game after Ole’s exit; Chelsea thrash Juve

AP ■ VILLARREAL

Manchester United booked their place in the Champions League last 16 as Cristiano Ronaldo scored in a 2-0 victory at Villarreal on Tuesday, while holders Chelsea also reached the knockout phase by thumping Juventus.

Three-time European champions United went into their first game since sacking Ole Gunnar Solskjaer at the weekend needing a win to confirm a top-two finish in Group F.

But they were under massive pressure as defeat would have left their fate out of their own hands.

David de Gea made two

crucial saves and United, with Michael Carrick in caretaker charge, took advantage through Ronaldo’s 78th-minute lob.

Jadon Sancho, so often a peripheral figure since his big-money move from Borussia Dortmund in the close-season, capped a fine individual display with his first goal for the club late on.

Ronaldo’s goal was the 799th of his career, his 140th in the Champions League and his sixth in the competition this season.

The other qualification spot in the group remains up for grabs after Young Boys and Atalanta played out a thrilling 3-3 draw in Bern.



Atalanta face a winner-takes-all match against Villarreal in Bergamo next month.

CHELSEA THRASH JUVE
Chelsea romped into the last 16 and to the top of Group H with an impressive 4-

0 thrashing of Juventus at Stamford Bridge.

Thomas Tuchel’s men knew that qualification would be secured if they could avoid defeat or if Zenit Saint Petersburg failed to beat Malmo.

The Blues dominated the early stages and took the lead through young defender Trevoh Chalobah’s third goal of the season.

It was a defender who doubled Chelsea’s lead in the 56th minute.

England right-back Reece James hammered a fine volley into the bottom corner to net for the fifth time already this term. Chelsea grabbed their third goal less than two min-

utes later, Ruben Loftus-Cheek prodding the ball to Hudson-Odoi, who smashed home from close range.

KEY NUMBERS

50 Chelsea vs Juventus was Thomas Tuchel’s 50th match in charge of Chelsea in all competitions, and 32nd win (D11 L7).

1 Jadon Sancho has scored his first ever Man Utd goal, in what is his 15th appearance in all competitions.

3 Juventus have lost a game with a margin of 4+ goals in all competitions for their first time since Feb 2004, vs AS Roma in Serie A (0-4).

Xavi’s Barca held by Benfica

Barcelona: Barcelona’s hopes of qualifying for the Champions League last 16 go down to the final Group E matchday after an entertaining 0-0 draw against Benfica on Tuesday.

With Xavi Hernandez taking charge of his second game since replacing Ronald Koeman in the Catalan dugout, the Catalan side produced a performance a world apart from the sorry outfit Benfica

saw off 3-0 in Lisbon in September.

A win would have earned Barca qualification alongside Bayern Munich, whom they must now beat on December 8, if Benfica down Dynamo Kiev, to progress. Bayern had already qualified for the last 16 before its 2-1 win at Dynamo Kyiv and the result secured the German champions first place in the group.



There was still time for Timo Werner, making his first appearance since an injury lay-off, to come off the bench and score in added time.

In Group G, Lille made Salzburg wait to reach the

last 16 as Jonathan David scored a first-half winner in a 1-0 victory in France.

All four teams in the group can still go through, after Sevilla saw off Wolfsburg 2-0.