

WORLD 9
UK CONFIRMS FIRST
2 CASES OF OMICRON**SPECIAL 11**
FIT FOR SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE**SPORT 12**
NEW ZEALAND ALL OUT
FOR 296 ON DAY THREEPublished From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI
RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD
VIJAYWADA

LUCKNOW, SUNDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2021; PAGES 14+4 ₹3

sunday pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



Now, stubble burning to be decriminalised

Centre agrees to farmers' demand even as stubble burning remains a big cause of pollution in Delhi

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After agreeing to repeal three farm laws, the Modi Government has agreed to meet the protesting farmers' demand to decriminalise stubble burning, a major source of air pollution in the national Capital.

Announcing this, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Saturday urged farmer groups to end their agitation as the Government has listed the farm laws' repeal Bill on the very first day of the Winter Session of Parliament on November 29.

On withdrawal of cases against farmers during the agitation, Tomar said this is in the domain of the State Governments and they can consider withdrawal of cases.

In the note on the farm law repeal Bill, sent to Parliament members, Tomar has defended



the three contentious farm laws and wrote "the Government has tried hard to sensitise the farmers on the importance of the farm laws and explain the merits through several meetings and other forums. Without taking away the existing mechanisms available to farmers, new avenues were provided for trade of their produce. Besides, farmers were free to select the avenues of their choice where they can get more prices for their pro-

duce without any compulsion". "...the farm laws are proposed to be repealed. It is also proposed to omit sub section (1A) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act 1955 which was inserted vide the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020," the Bill said.

"As we celebrate the 75th year of Independence — Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav — the need of the hour is to take everyone together on the path of inclusive growth and devel-

opment," reads the note written by the Agriculture Minister.

To repeal a law, a new law has to be enacted and a specific repealing clause is added to it. Therefore, the amendment bill for the three farm laws would have to be tabled in Parliament the same way as any other bill. Once both Houses of Parliament pass the bill, it will be ratified by the President of India and the previous Act would be withdrawn.

Continued on Page 9

Modi: Maintain intensive containment, surveillance

PM briefs about global trends on Covid, Omicron

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In wake of the new variant Omicron, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday convened a high-level meeting to review the situation relating to Covid-19 and vaccination.

Modi urged the officials to be proactive and maintain intensive containment and active surveillance and make people cautious. He also said States should be sensitised on the need to ensure that all those who have got the first dose are given the second dose timely. The PM was also given details about the seropositivity in the country from time to time and its implications in public health response," said the PMO in a statement about the two-hour-long review meeting chaired by the PM.

Continued on Page 9

and the efforts being made under the 'Har Ghar Dastak' campaign. The PM directed that there is a need to increase the second dose coverage and that States need to be sensitised on the need to ensure that all those who have got the first dose are given the second dose timely. The PM was also given details about the seropositivity in the country from time to time and its implications in public health response," said the PMO in a statement about the two-hour-long review meeting chaired by the PM.



PM Narendra Modi chairs a meeting on the situation relating to Covid-19 with top officials, through video conferencing in New Delhi on Saturday

PTI

Maha makes quarantine must for fliers from Omicron-hit nations

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Hours after the Maharashtra Government decided to screen air passengers arriving from at least 10 countries where a deadly new coronavirus variant has been detected, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Saturday announced that all the passengers arriving here from the Omicron "high-risk nations" would undergo compulsory institutional



quarantine. Making an announcement

about the civic body's plans to quarantine all those passengers from the ten Omicron-hit countries, Additional Municipal Commissioner Suresh Kakani said that the BMC — in consultation with the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport — would make available a list of all the passengers who have arrived from abroad in the past 14 days to the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

Continued on Page 9

CAPSULE

DEAD MAN WINS PANCHAYAT POLL!

Jamui (Bihar): A dead man has won a panchayat poll held on Wednesday riding on a "sympathy wave" generated by his own death. The real-life tragicomedy was detected in this impoverished district, situated about 200 kms from the State capital, when officials were handing over certificates to candidates who won the polls held on November 24. Sohan Murmu, who won ward no. 2 of Deepakharhar village, falling under Khairi block, was nowhere to be found. "On enquiry, we learnt that Murmu had died on November 6, more than a fortnight before voting took place," Khairi BDO Raghavendra Tripathi said with a sense of bewilderment.

TWO VESSELS COLLIDE NEAR GULF OF KUTCH

Ahmedabad: Two merchant vessels (MVs) with at least 44 crew members from India and the Philippines on their boards collided in the Gulf of Kutch in the Arabian sea off the Gujarat coast but no casualty or oil slick has been reported in the incident.

Farmers defer their march to Parliament tomorrow

Ask PM to fulfil all demands, to meet on Dec 4 to decide their next course

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Two days before the tabling of the farm Bill in Parliament to repeal the three legislations, protesting farmer groups on Saturday deferred their November 29 march to Parliament and urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to fulfil their six demands.

The march to Parliament on November 29 was announced by Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait.

The demands include written assurance about giving legal guarantee to procurement of crops at minimum



Farm leader Darshan Pal with others addresses a Press conference at Singhu border in New Delhi on Saturday

PTI

support price (MSP) by December 4, sacking and arrest of Union Minister Ajay Mishra, and compensations to the family members of farmers who lost their lives during the protests.

Now, the farmer groups will wait for the Government's formal response to their demands and then meet again

on December 4 to decide the further course of action.

The decision of the framers to defer the march to Parliament has come as big relief to the Government, which is trying to buy peace with the farmers ahead of the crucial Assembly elections of UP, Uttarakhand, and Punjab.

Continued on Page 9

All schools in Delhi to reopen from Monday

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday announced that schools for all classes in the city will reopen from November 29. Sisodia, who also holds the portfolio of Education Minister, shared an official order on micro-blogging site Twitter and wrote, "All the schools in Delhi will reopen from November 29, 2011, for all classes."

The City Government has closed all schools and colleges in view of increased air pollution. Environment Minister Gopal Rai on November 24 gave orders to reopen schools mentioning Capital's air is improving.

On November 13, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced to close all schools and colleges till November 20 in view of the severe air pollution while allowing schools to conduct the classes in virtual



mode from November 15.

Again, the City Government had shut down schools earlier from November 21, as no improvement in air quality was observed in the national Capital. However, the online classes will continue, the Directorate of Education (DoE) had said then.

Meanwhile, Delhi's air recorded at the higher end of the very poor category with overall air quality index (AQI) settling at 372 on the National Ambient Air Quality Index (NAAQI), due to unfavorable weather conditions.

Uphaar cinema blaze: Court reserves order on 7-yr jail for Ansals

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi court on Saturday reserved for December 3 its order on whether to suspend the seven-year jail terms awarded to real estate barons Sushil and Gopal Ansal for tampering with evidence in the 1997 case of Uphaar cinema fire, which had claimed 59 lives.

Additional Sessions Judge Anil Antil reserved the order on appeals filed by the Ansals against their conviction and jail terms by a magisterial court. Besides challenging their conviction and punishment, the Ansals had urged the sessions court to suspend their jail terms till the appeal is decided.

The court heard the arguments of the accused as well as the victim and police and reserved the order.

Senior advocate Vikas Pahwa, appearing for the Association of Victims of



Uphaar Tragedy (AVUT), had opposed the appeals and told the court that the offence of tampering with evidence is extremely serious in nature as it affects the entire criminal justice system.

The Delhi Police had also opposed the appeals filed by the Ansals and told the court that suspending the jail terms of the convicts would trigger the mental trauma and agony of the victims.

Continued on Page 9

CM Yogi targets Akhilesh Yadav again on Jinnah remark

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Attacking Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav once again over the Jinnah controversy, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that those who were "rioters and followers of Jinnah" can never understand the "mithaas of ganna (sweetness of sugarcane)".

Speaking at a function after laying the foundation stone of Asia's biggest ethanol plant to be built in an area of 65.61 acres at Majapur Sugar Mill in Gonda, Yogi said, "Before 2017, the condition of farmers was miserable in Uttar Pradesh. Now the farmers are marching ahead on the path of prosperity under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This new plant, to be built at a cost of Rs 450 crore, will be ready by May 2022 and will benefit some 60,000 farmers while 250 people will get direct employment."

The chief minister also mentioned the year-long farmers' agitation and said that all



three agricultural laws had been withdrawn in the larger interest of the country.

Taking a jibe at the previous governments in Uttar Pradesh, Yogi said, "Earlier, when the prices of petroleum products increased in the international market, some part of it was taken away by the people involved in anti-India activities as profits. Our own money was misused against us. Now the situation has changed. Prior to the BJP-led UP government, farmers were committing suicide in large numbers across the state. Farmers were toiling hard to produce food, but there was no arrangement for the

purchase of their produce. People were dying of hunger and farmers were compelled to commit suicide for not getting the right price for his produce. All these things have changed in the state."

In a scathing attack on the Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party, the chief minister

said, "Earlier, 'bua and babua' did not get the development work done. Electricity, toilets and houses could have been provided to the poor earlier too, but it was not done. All ration used to be directed to Saifai but when the government changed, everyone started getting facilities. The previous regimes instigated riots during festivals. But after the BJP came to power, festivals are being celebrated peacefully and with gaiety."

The chief minister further said, "Nepotism plagues every project and even small development works. Today the state government is working for the welfare of every poor. When the SP was in power in the state, several starvation deaths were reported from Kushinagar, Sonbhadra and Chitrakoot. When I went to Kushinagar to enquire the matter as Gorakhpur MP, I found that the ration card of the family, belonging to the Musahar community, was with some SP leader."

BJP has always fulfilled its poll promises: Rajnath

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Defence Minister and former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Rajnath Singh, said that the Bharatiya Janata Party had always fulfilled the promises it made during elections.

He said the biggest promise was clearance of all obstacles for the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya and removal of Article 370 relating to Jammu and Kashmir, and both these promises were duly fulfilled by the Narendra Modi government.

"We have also done work for doubling the income of farmers besides increasing employment opportunities and ensuring transparency in appointments," he said.

Addressing the BJP booth chiefs of Kashi region along with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and other leaders at TD College Grounds in Varanasi on Saturday, Singh exhorted booth workers to work hard to ensure the party's landslide victory in the coming assembly polls.

"Our booth workers are working like Army jawans on the frontiers. Both are serving with full dedication," he said.

"The image of the country has improved during the seven-year rule of the Narendra Modi government and now no country can take us for granted. We have shown to the world and our neighbours what we can do, if we are being attacked. We will not compromise on any issues related to country's unity and integrity," the defence minister said.

Singh further said that the



"WE HAVE ALSO DONE WORK FOR DOUBLING THE INCOME OF FARMERS BESIDES INCREASING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND ENSURING TRANSPARENCY IN APPOINTMENTS"

world had complimented the country, particularly Uttar Pradesh, for effectively controlling novel coronavirus and providing free vaccines to crores of people.

Claiming that the BJP would again win over 300 seats in the 2022 UP assembly polls, he said that the opposition parties themselves knew what the poll results would be in 2022.

In his address, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that all corrupt elements had ganged up against the BJP but the people of the state had come to analyse them very well and they would give them a befitting reply through their ballots.

"The opposition insulted Sardar Patel on his birth anniversary by comparing him with Jinnah. Where were the opposition parties and their leaders during the COVID-19 pandemic period when the BJP workers and leaders and the state government were working for the people? The fact remains that the opposition leaders were in isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic and now people will isolate them during elections," Yogi said.

BJP state president Swatantra Dev Singh and Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya along with other BJP leaders of Kashi region attended the meeting.

UP witnessed riots under SP rule, seeing 'dangal' now: Thakur

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Targeting Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, Union minister and BJP leader Anurag Thakur on Saturday said there were "dange" (riots) in Uttar Pradesh under the SP rule whereas "dangal" (wrestling matches) are being organised now.

The minister attended the 'Sansad

Khel Mahakumbh' organised in Baraut in Baghpat district of the poll-bound state.

Addressing the event, he said, "If we are giving the youth a chance to progress in sports, then what is the harm. Akhilesh Yadav complaining that these MPs organise 'Khel Mahakumbh'. Brother Akhilesh, you orchestrate riots and we organise 'dan-

gal', so what is wrong in it."

"I know that the people of Baghpat do not know about riots, they believe in 'dangal' only. If a politician promotes sports, what can be better than this," he said.

Thakur is the BJP's co-incharge for the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections slated for early next year.

In a tweet later, the minister said,

"Akhilesh Yadav, the difference is that under SP rule there used to be riots in UP and now 'dangal' are being held."

Talking to reporters at the sporting event, Thakur said BJP MPs have carried forward the idea of Prime Minister Narendra Modi because since the Olympics, the country now wants to promote sports and sportspersons.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Kishan Chand to Kishan Chand Bhagwani for all future purpose, Kishan Chand Bhagwani s/o Narayan Das R/O H- N° 111-A /109 Ashok Nagar Kanpur

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Rafat Wakeel Khan to Smt. Rafat Wakeel. In future I shall be known as Smt. Rafat Wakeel W/o Shri Shoeb Ahmad Siddiqui, 128, Ward No. 6, Quaziyaana, Hamirpur. U.P.

NOTICE

I, Hafeeza Bano (As per POR/Pension Certificate) spouse of Farid Ahmad resident of A-777, HAL Town Ship, Faizabad Road, Lucknow (U.P.) 226016, have changed my (Spelling) name and date of birth from Hafeeza Bano / 20-12-1968 (as per POR/ Pension Certificate to Hafeeza Bano/01-07-1969 (Correct name and date of birth) as per affidavit dated 02.09.2021.

सूचना

सूचित हो कि मैं अपनी पत्नी श्रीमती सूरज मनी देवी अग्रवाल के निधन दिनांक 26.04.2021 को हो जाने के बाद दुकान सं० 315, तृतीय तल कुसुम दीप काम्प्लेक्स नीबू पार्क चौक लखनऊ को अपने नाम हस्तांतरित करा रहा हूँ यदि किसी को आपत्ति हो तो 10 दिनों के अन्दर सूचित करें। कृष्ण चन्द्र अग्रवाल पुत्र श्री मोहर चन्द्र अग्रवाल फ्लैट सं० 605, कुसुमदीप काम्प्लेक्स एडि को चौक, लखनऊ

NOTICE

I Ahmad khayyam S/o late lqbal pasha declare that my Doughter Miss Tube Hasan , studing in Sherwood Acadamy lucknow. Be some Mistake my daughter in school records is mis printed as tuba hasan D/o Arman.Instead of tuba pasha D/o ahmad khayyam so in future my daughter name miss tuba pasha D/o ahmad khayyam should be used in school records tuba hasan D/o Ahamad khayyam

UP govt acting on caste lines, alleges AAP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Rajya Sabha member and UP incharge of Aam Aadmi Party, Sanjay Singh, on Saturday said the Yogi Adityanath-led government in UP was acting on caste lines.

He also criticised the state government for incident in which a minor was gang-raped and her family was annihilated later. He said the Phaphamau case was even more brutal than the Hathras incident.

He alleged that goons perpetrating crime against people of deprived sections, exploited and poor had got free hand in Yogi Adityanath rule.

"On November 24, four persons, including a deaf and dumb and a minor girl of a Dalit family, were brutally killed in Phaphamau area of Prayagraj. The minor was raped before being killed by the miscreants," he said.

He took a jibe at the state government, saying the Bharatiya Janata Party was busy in preparation for celebrating Constitution Day at that time.

"This incident has exposed the claims made by the state government which works on caste lines," he said.

The AAP leader said he met the kin of the deceased persons on Friday. "They told me that they were being harassed since 2019 and they succeeded in getting an FIR registered after several efforts. But the police did not file the chargesheet even after two years had passed. The same family was thrashed by the goons in 2020 and

in 2021. The victims made rounds of the police station for a week and a case was registered thereafter. But no action was initiated this time either. All of them finally were killed on November 24," he claimed.

Singh said it was a matter of regret that the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh did not have time to meet the kin of the deceased.

"The brother of the head of the victim's family is an Army man and serves the country. His wife is apprehensive of her safety as her husband is posted outside," he pointed out.

The AAP leader said the police in Yogi's regime acted on the basis of the caste of the complainant. "The police see the caste to decide if justice is to be ensured to him/her or they have to make the person make rounds of the police stations," he alleged.

He cited the incidents of Ballia, Hathras and also the cases of custodial deaths and said the law and order had touched nadir in the Yogi regime.

He said the law and order had deteriorated to such level in UP that a woman aspirant of SI exam was gang-raped.

He demanded punishment to the accused within six months by fast tracking the case in the court. He also demanded a hearing of the Phaphamau case in fast track court so that the criminals were punished.

He said the AAP would stage demonstrations at the district headquarters in protest against the Phaphamau incident.

Priyanka Gandhi addresses rally in Mahoba

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary and in-charge UP, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, launched attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath while addressing a 'Pratigya Rally' at Mahoba on Saturday.

Priyanka was earlier scheduled to arrive in Bundelkhand on November 23, but her visit was suddenly postponed and the rally was rescheduled to November 27 instead.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has arranged comforts for himself and uses costly aircraft of Rs 8,000 crore for domestic and international travel but the Modi government has no money for waiving the loans on farmers," Priyanka Vadra said.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel was also present and he too addressed the rally.

This is the second visit of Priyanka Vadra to Bundelkhand region in last ten days. Earlier she had visited Chitrakoot and addressed a rally of women.

Priyanka and the Congress party do not want to keep any stone unturned as they push for a comeback in the region after three decades. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had recently addressed a big public rally in Mahoba and the prime minister had inaugurated the Arjun Sahayak project.

Addressing the rally, Baghel attacked Modi. He said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi insulted Yogi Adityanath by keeping his arms around the neck of the UP chief minister. He said the prime minister was patronising Yogi Adityanath even as the latter was the head of the important religious institution Gorakshnath Peeth of Gorakhpur.

"After eastern Uttar Pradesh, Congress will now demonstrate its strength in western UP and Bundelkhand," UP Congress president Ajay Kumar Lallu said.



"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has arranged comforts for himself and uses costly aircraft of Rs 8,000 crore for domestic and international travel but the Modi government has no money for waiving the loans on farmers"

The Congress is eyeing the 19 assembly seats of Bundelkhand.

Mahoba itself remains the hotbed of political future in Uttar Pradesh ahead of the assembly polls. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had both addressed people from Mahoba earlier this month, galvanising the Bharatiya Janata Party supporters and workers and boosting the saffron party's morale in the run up to the elections. Now, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other Congress leaders are looking to do the same for the opposing faction, and this will be followed up by a visit by Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on December 1.

Maya slams govt for murder of four Dalits in Prayagraj

Lucknow (PNS): Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati termed the recent murder of four members of a Dalit family in Prayagraj as shameful and blamed the poor law and order situation under the Bharatiya Janata Party government for the incident.

In a series of tweets posted in Hindi on Saturday, the BSP chief said, "Very sad and shameful murder of four people of a Dalit family in Prayagraj, UP recently. This incident also shows the poor law and order of the government. It seems that the BJP is also following in the footsteps of the Samajwadi Party government in this matter."



In a related tweet, Mayawati said, "After this incident, a BSP delegation led by Babulal Bhanwra that had reached there said 'dabangs' (strongmen) in Prayagraj are terrorising the people due to which the murderous assault took place. The BSP demands

that the government should take strict legal action against all the strongmen who are guilty of the gory murder."

On Wednesday night, four members of a Dalit family were brutally murdered in Gohri village in Phaphamau police station area of Prayagraj. The head of the family, aged around 50 years, his 45-year-old wife, 16-year-old daughter and 10-year-old son were sleeping in their home when the assailants attacked them. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visited the village and met the bereaved family in Prayagraj on Friday.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Lucknow only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया

Union Bank of India

Kanpur Regional Office : 117/H-1/240, Pandu Nagar Kanpur-208005

Head Office : 239, Vidhan Bhavan Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY | Date of e-Auction : 16-12-2021

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable assets under the securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Read with Proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the authorized officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is Where is," "As is What is," and "Whatever there is" on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price & the Earnest Money Deposit or also mentioned hereunder.

Branch Name : Jhansi Main, Jhansi • Address : Elite Chauraha, Civil Lines, Jhansi, Branch Head : Shri Shiv Sen • Mob. : 9649578999

Borrower : Shri Prem Narayan S/o Shri Bhawani, R/o : House No. 181, Naya Gaon, Pal Colony Distt. Jhansi, Guarantor : Shri Jagdish Prajapati, R/o : House No. S-06, nai Basti, Jhansi. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 23,25,531.41 + Intt. + Other Charges

Property : Residential House situated at Part of Arazi No. 176 , Mauza Naya Gaon, Distt. Jhansi . Owner of Property : Shri Prem Narayan S/o Shri Bhawani, Area : 2100 Sq. Ft., Bounded : North- Rasta 5.49 Mtr., South- Plot of Jagdish, East- Plot of Jagdish, West- Plot of Jagdish, Date & Time of E-Auction : 16-12-2021 at 11.00 am to 4.00 pm, Reserve Price : Rs.23.00 Lac, Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 2.30 Lac. For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/english/TenderViewAllAuction.aspx

For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp

Date : 28-11-2021 Place : Jhansi Authorized Officer, Union Bank of India

Omicron threat: Int'l travellers to be screened rigorously

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■
LUCKNOW

Rigorous screening of travellers coming from Botswana, South Africa and Hong Kong to Lucknow will be carried out in view of the threat of new coronavirus variant, Omicron, which has been detected in South Africa.

CMO Dr Manoj Agarwal said that genome sequencing of all the samples would be done while tracing would be carried out at all the points witnessing international visitors' footfalls.

He said they are still waiting for the directives regarding the quarantine measures and those for nigrani samitis.

"Testing of these travellers will be carried out as and when required if they do not have a 72-hour RT-PCR negative report," he said.

Asked about those international traveller who can enter UP through any mode of transport, he said, "There are embargoes imposed for the international traveller and not even a single airline across the world is allowing a traveller not carrying an RT-PCR negative report. Similar protocols are being followed at all the international airports and shipyards. Besides, we are going to test rigorously."

Head of the Respiratory Medicine department of KGMU, Dr Surya Kant Tripathi said the new variant is a threat and one needs to be cautious. "Even minor mistakes can wreak havoc," he said.

Visitors coming from affected countries to be quarantined necessarily for 10 days

Lucknow (PNS): In view of Omicron, the new coronavirus variant, the Health department held a meeting with the officials of Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport in Lucknow, Pravasi Vibhag and airport health officers on Saturday evening. They were informed that international travellers coming from countries at risk, such as Botswana, South Africa, Hong Kong, Brazil, Bangladesh, China, New Zealand and Zimbabwe, would have to undergo RT-PCR tests.

The officials said that those testing positive would be hospitalised or put in home isolated while those testing negative would have to be quarantined for 10 days. The Integrated Control and Command Centre will review their health condition on a daily basis. The meeting was attended by Director of Health and Family Welfare Dr VK Chaudhary, district surveillance officer, terminal incharge SC Hota and Vinamra Mehrotra.

He said it is necessary to contain this variant and international flights are a major threat. "If the international flights are not restricted, we do not know how many people will come from the affected countries. Thermal screening alone will not help because majority of the cases are asymptomatic," he pointed out. "Even if people are fully vaccinated, they can still be carriers of the virus, and therefore, thermal screening and full vaccination won't be enough to prevent the spread of the new variant," he said.

Dr Tripathi said strict quarantine measures must be followed for all international

travellers. "In India, the first case was detected in January last year when a student came to Kerala from Wuhan, and we have to be cautious to prevent a repeat of a similar scenario. It underlines the need for a very strict quarantine policy," he asserted.

He pointed out that the new virus has had 50 new mutations, which is another cause of concern. "The Delta variant which led to a hue and cry from March to May earlier this year had only two new genetic mutations. This new variant Omicron is 25 times genetically stronger than the Delta variant and its infectious rate is 15 times more than that

of the Delta variant," he explained. He said its spread can be stopped if it is controlled at the first point of contact, that is the international airports.

Secretary of Organised Medical Academic Guild Dr Ishwar Gilada said that the Omicron variant originated from South Africa and put the world in fix again. He said they have written to the Central government to make the suggestions. "There should be a complete travel ban from other countries by halting all the international flights, not merely those coming from South Africa, Belgium, Israel and Hong Kong. We had already made that mistake at the beginning of the pandemic by banning flights only from China, Thailand and Singapore," he said.

"Besides, we need to escalate the Covid-9 vaccination and fully vaccinate all the eligible people at the earliest. The gap between the two doses of Covishield needs to be reduced, vaccine hesitancy of any sort addressed, vaccines approved for 12-17 age group be operationalised, different approved vaccines stuck for various reasons be given the green signal, and supply-chain mechanism be streamlined," he said.

Dr Gilada said that Covid-appropriate behaviour needs to be strictly adhered to. "Escalate genome sequencing to study if the Omicron has already sneaked in," he added.

One of 3 zebras brought from Israel dies

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

One of the three zebras brought to Lucknow zoo from Israel on November 25 died on Saturday morning. Zoo director RK Singh said the zebra turned aggressive all of a sudden in the morning, started running in the cage in which it had been quarantined, and then banged his head against the wall.

"The zebra fell down after which he was hospitalised at the zoo hospital. We consulted experts in Israel but he succumbed at 11:30 in the morning. He did not die of the injuries which he inflicted on himself but because of cardio-respiratory failure due to traumatic shock," he said.

Singh said such incidents happen when animals are brought to a new environment. "It cannot be stopped and is considered a hazard associated with the shifting of animals. We will be procuring three more zebras from Israel. The total amount spent on these animals has been Rs 1 crore," he added.



Governor Anandiben Patel distributing quilts among families of daily wage workers in Lucknow on Saturday

Pioneer

One arrested for highway robbery

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Madaion police on Saturday claimed to have arrested an accused who robbed a truck driver and conductor.

He was identified as Zakir Sayed of Wazirganj. The police recovered the getaway car and Rs 4,000 in cash from the possession of the accused. The accused reportedly disclosed the name of one of his aides as Fakhruddin who arranged for two more partners in crime. The police said the group chalked out a plan of

highway robbery and targeted the truck near Bhitauli police outpost in Madaion on November 24 night.

As per report, truck owner Pramod Agarwal of Indiranagar deals in sale of iron rods and his shop is situated in Hardoi. His driver Brijmohan and conductor were ferrying the goods from Patna in Bihar to Balamaun in Hardoi. Brijmohan told the police that he stopped the truck after he heard an unusual engine sound. The car-borne accused reached there in the meantime.

Three of them bundled Brijmohan and the conductor in the car. They looted Rs 20,000 from Brijmohan and also the mobile phones. Later, two of the accused took the truck to Balrampur hospital while Zakir and Fakhruddin took the truck driver and the conductor to Jajmaun in Kanpur where they dumped them.

Zakir said he and his aides threw the looted phones into a river on the way. He further said that they used pistols to intimidate the victims. Thieves made off with cash

and ornaments from a house in Gontinagar police station area. The incident came to light when house-owner Ila Dutt Tripathi of Vinay Khand and her family returned home from a wedding. In her complaint, the woman said the theft took place between November 20 and 29 when they were out of the city to attend a wedding. "The thieves made off with Rs 1.5 lakh in cash, four gold bangles, two gold chains, two gold rings, silver ornaments and other valuables," she said.

Only five test +ve for Covid in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh witnessed a further decline in the number of fresh COVID-19 cases with only five people testing positive for novel coronavirus infection across the state during the past 24 hours.

With this, the active Covid caseload in the most populous state of India came down to 86 on Saturday evening.

The Covid control mechanism got a further boost as 44 districts of the state became coronavirus free with active and new cases declining to zero. The drop in fresh and active Covid cases in Amethi, Amroha, Ayodhya, Azamgarh, Budaun, Baghpat, Balrampur, Banda, Barabanki, Bareilly, Basti, Bhadohi, Bijnor, Bulandshahr, Chandauli, Chitrakoot, Etah, Etawah, Fatehpur, Firozabad, Gonda, Hamirpur, Hardoi, Hathras, Jaunpur, Jhansi, Kasganj, Kaushambi, Kushinagar, Lakhimpur Kheri, Mahoba, Mainpuri, Mau, Mirzapur, Moradabad, Pilibhit, Pratapgarh, Rampur, Shahjahanpur, Shamli, Shravasti, Siddharthnagar, Sitapur and Sonbhadra indicate

5-day vax campaign begins today

Lucknow (PNS): The district administration will be holding an intense vaccination campaign from November 28 to December 2 for those who are due for their second dose and also those who have still not taken even a single jab. District Magistrate Abhishek Mishra appealed to people to turn up in large numbers to get vaccinated. The DM said the idea is to reach a saturation point in terms of Covid vaccination. He directed officials concerned to form clusters of unvaccinated people before taking up the exercise. The DM said micro-plans should be made for the exercise and it be given wide publicity in social media by



community health centres and medical officers incharge. *Bulawa parchi* should be distributed in schools, he added. "Common sites such as melas, haats and ration shops should be chosen for administering vaccine doses. To expedite the vaccination drive, it should also be carried out in religious places and religious heads be urged to spread awareness about it," the DM

said. Prakash said the officers who ensure a hundred percent coverage in their respective areas would be felicitated at the Lucknow Carnival. The DM has also fixed targets for rural areas. The target of first and second doses is 11,554 and 10,606 respectively for Kakori, 20,000 & 15,311 for Mall, 25,000 & 6,975 for Malihabad, 13,000 & 20,000 for Gosainganj, 15,000 & 22,723 for Mohanlalgarh, 10,000 & 26,629 for Chinnhat, 12,500 & 24,615 for Bakshi-Ka-Talaab, and 15,863 & 24,615 for Sarojinagar. The DM said people can walk in and get vaccinated without having to register for their doses.

government spokesman said. "Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh has administered over 15.72 crore Covid vaccine doses so far and the impressive pace of vaccination has set an example for other states to emulate. Maharashtra lags behind UP with 10 crore vaccine doses administered so far," the spokesman said.

complete elimination of coronavirus from over 64 per cent of the state.

In what comes as another relief, none of the 75 districts in the state have reported fresh coronavirus infections in double digits lately.

"Scaling up stringent testing mechanism, the state has managed to break the novel

coronavirus chain with effective protocols in place and by sticking to the time-tested strategy of case isolation and contact tracing, combined with an alert community surveillance system.

Uttar Pradesh has tested the maximum number of 8.71 crore samples for the coronavirus infection in India," a

KGMU dept working on project to diagnose eye diseases in kids

Lucknow (PNS): The Ophthalmology department of King George's Medical University is working on a project that will help in the diagnosis of eye diseases in children through a simple photograph of eyes captured with a mobile phone camera.

Dr Siddharth Agarwal from the Ophthalmology department of KGMU said that the project involves assessing whether the photographs of eyes of schoolchildren are helpful in indicating diseases.

He said it is the first-of-its-kind project called "Validation of Smartphone Photography, Screening Ocular Morbidity in School Children of Central Uttar Pradesh," which includes schools of Lucknow and surrounding areas. He said they are covering 50 schools under the project.

Dr Agarwal said the project

has been sanctioned by the UP government and that they have already screened over 2,500 schoolchildren aged 6-12 years. He said they have worked on the project for two years and will continue for another year.

Dr Agarwal said that the ultimate aim is that these photographs can be uploaded on the website through which it can be estimated whether the children need further examination or not.

"The photographs of the eyes will be taken and at the same time they are examined, and the photos will be interpreted by a third expert who is unaware of the diagnosis. It means that the expert will interpret the pictures independently. In one way, the eyes in the photograph will be seen the way they are seen normally and in the other, one can also see a reflection in the eyes, and we

are trying to capture this 'red eye' which is the light from the reflection of the retina, and it will be studied by two ophthalmologists who will give their diagnosis. It will be compared to the diagnosis made earlier during the medical examination. We are trying to find out how accurate the method is," he said.

He added that it could help in the screening of the children. "Even today when children are admitted to schools, their vision is checked. This method will be more sensitive in detecting not only the anomalies in the vision but many other diseases which are missed at that time," he said.

He pointed out that taking the vision is not easy because sometimes the child is not ready, the light conditions may be poor in which the vision is taken and sometimes the child memorises the alphabets.

Children made aware of organ donation's importance

Lucknow (PNS): Director of Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences Prof RK Dhiman addressed children in a programme organised on the occasion of Indian Organ Donation Day on Saturday.

In order to take forward the mandate of the National Organ Transplant Programme and to create awareness about organ donation, subsequently to augment the organ donor pool of Uttar Pradesh, the State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation, Uttar Pradesh, and the department of Hospital Administration, SGPGI, held a webinar on stakeholders obligation and a prize distribution on the occasion of 12th Indian Organ Donation Day.


Dhiman made the children, who participated and won the competitions, aware about who can donate organs. He also informed them that when a person is brain-dead, his or her organs are working and the same can be donated. "Unfortunately, this is not common in India, thanks to lack of public awareness and education. National Organ Donation Day should be celebrated everyday. In India, it is open to those who want to donate their organs can do so, but Spain is the only country where one has to give a reason as to why they want to opt out of organ

donation," he pointed out. The SGPGI director said anybody can donate an organ when alive, and even as brain-dead person can give life to over 50 people because the body can be used for donation of so many organs such as liver, heart, skin, cornea, tissues etc.

He said that there are more than 1.70 lakh patients of kidney failure who require a kidney, but we are doing only 6,000-7,000 kidney transplants. "The demand is more than the supply, and this gap has to be bridged because 20 years from now, the demand will increase further because of a better average life-span," he said. He added that because of lifestyle changes, there would be an increase in diabetes and hypertension, which can lead to kidney and heart failure, and it would also lead to demand for transplantation.

Governor Anandiben Patel said people have to be encouraged to donate organs. She appreciated the role which SGPGI is playing in motivating the youths.

Earlier, the programme began with a session in which opening remarks were made by nodal officer Dr R Harsvardhan while Principal Secretary (Medical Education) Alok Kumar delivered a talk on 'Organ and tissue donation need of the hour'.



HUDDARD HIGH SCHOOL


(A Centrally Airconditioned School For Girls Only)

15/54, CIVIL LINES, KANPUR - 208 001


REGISTRATIONS OPEN FOR ACADEMIC SESSION 2022-2023

Wednesday, 1st December, 2021

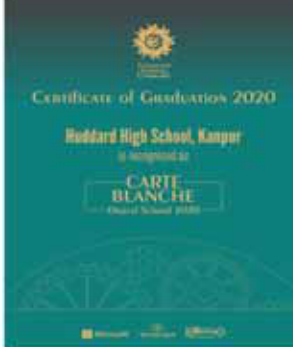
(Office Timing: 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon)




Language Lab




Computer Lab



Microsoft Certified Digital School



Loving & Caring Atmosphere



Hybrid Teaching-Learning

Play Group : 3 years

Nursery : 4 years

Preparatory : 5 years

(LIMITED SEATS ARE AVAILABLE IN CLASSES I TO V)

Mob. : 7704018000 website : www.huddard.in PRINCIPAL

<



DyCM Dr Dinesh Sharma addressing Regional Games closing function at UP College in Varanasi on Saturday.

Pioneer

Modi, Yogi fulfilling dreams of people, says Dy CM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Deputy Chief Minister Dr Dinesh Sharma said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath are fulfilling the dreams of the people by accelerating the pace of growth and spreading the concept of development. He was speaking as the chief guest in concluding function of two-day Regional Games and Cultural Meet 2021-22 at Udai Pratap College here on Saturday.

During his visit and prior to going to Jaunpur to attend the meeting of booth workers of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Dr Sharma also inaugurated housing complex of the employees built with a cost of Rs 1.47 crore in Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth (MGKV) campus where during his inspection, he expressed displeasure over the

poor quality of construction work and instructed the engineers concerned to get it repaired soon and send the video and photo to him. Dr Sharma also attended a programme of Guru Teg Bahadur at Guru Nanak Khalsa English School where Dr Sharma highlighted the contributions of Guru Teg Bahadur for the unity of the nation.

Speaking at UP College, Dr Sharma said that about 1.5 lakh teachers have been appointed in the state on the basis of merit in a fair and transparent manner. "The teachers in Sanskrit schools and the posts of the principals falling vacant for 25 years were appointed," he said and making an attack on previous governments, he said that earlier the state was known as 'Nakal Pradesh' but now under the surveillance of CCTV cameras, copy-less examinations are

being conducted. 'Action is taken against the copying mafia by imposing National Security Act (NSA). Not only this, the examinations which lasted for two-and-a-half months are now being finished in just 10 to 15 days apart from improving the quality of education with the implementation of NCERT syllabus in high school and intermediate,' he said.

Highlighting the achievements of the state, he said that now UP has become a capital investment state. 'If 100 mobiles are being sold in UP, then 75 mobiles are made in this state. Defense corridor, five expressways, metro in five cities, 23 airports have made the state prosperous. Not only this, health services have been improved with the opening of 33 new medical colleges as the state government has decided to open a medical college in

every district,' he said, adding that the placement cells have been constituted in every university so that students can get jobs easily after completing their studies.

On the occasion, the students presented various colourful cultural programmes.

Earlier, UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal welcomed the guests, while the function was also attended by Chairman of Udai Pratap Education Committee Justice SK Singh, Joint Director (Education) Dr Pradeep Kumar, AD (Basic) Awadh Kishore Singh, former MLC Chetnarayan Singh, Principal of UP Degree College Dr Dharmendra Kumar Singh, BSA Rakesh Singh, Principal of UP Inter College Dr Ramesh Pratap Singh and many others. The function was conducted by Ashutosh Pandey.

CM for complete adherence to Covid protocols at Magh Mela

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Although the number of Covid-19 cases has substantially come down in the state and across the country, the state government is not taking any chances when it comes to organising the Magh Mela 2022. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, during a meeting, made it clear that only those who have been fully vaccinated should be allowed inside the Magh Mela area.

"In the meeting, the chief minister made it very clear that only those devotees, who have taken both the doses of coronavirus vaccine would be allowed to enter the Magh Mela area. Besides, we have been told to follow all the protocols that were followed last year and not to take things lightly and monitor the Mela

area so that protocols are followed," said SDM, Prayagraj Mela Pradhikaran, Sant Kumar Srivastava. "As per CM's directives, all the norms like social distancing, wearing of masks etc., would be strictly adhered to," he added.

The Mela Pradhikaran was told to limit the expansion of the Mela area by taking all possible precautions given that the pandemic is not over yet. "Like Magh Mela 2021, we have been asked to maintain and enforce all the norms to check the spread of Covid-19 infection and that's the reason why only those who are fully vaccinated can enter Mela area. In case any devotee has taken the first dose of the vaccine, the second dose would be administered in the Mela area itself", said the official. Besides, random RT-PCR and antigen tests

would be conducted in all the sectors of the Magh Mela, he added.

Every Kalpawasi or seer, who would be camping in the Mela area, will have to present proof of having received both doses of the Covid-19 vaccine. Moreover, the Kalpawasi would be requested to minimise the number of visitors in their camps. Authorities have been instructed that no one without a face mask should be allowed in the Mela area.

According to sources, the district administration had prepared a proposal requiring funds worth around Rs. 67 crores. However, the state government has sanctioned around Rs 59 crores so far. "The instructions given by the chief minister in the meeting, for holding a safe Magh Mela while keeping the tradition

intact, would be followed by us," said Srivastava.

In Magh Mela 2021, the state government had made an RT-PCR report (taken not more than 72 hours before entering the Mela area) mandatory for every Kalpawasi and seer which is an effective deterrent in checking the spread of the pandemic, authorities said.

In 2022, the Kalpawasi would commence on January 17 (Paus Purnima) and would conclude on February 16 (Maghi Purnima). This would minimise the number of days of stay at the Magh Mela area by the devotees because almost everyone arrives on Makar Sankranti itself as Paus Purnima falls on January 17. This year Paus Purnima was on January 28 and Maghi Purnima on February 27, thus the stay was over one month.

Priyanka meets kin of 4 who were axed to death

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Vadra reached Prayagraj to meet the relatives of the four people of a family in Phaphamau who were axed to death.

Vadra said that justice is only for those who have power and those who are big industrialists, and not for the Dalit farmers and women and minorities in Uttar Pradesh.

"I have been working here for two years and I got to see time and again that the Constitution is being destroyed in Uttar Pradesh," she said.

Priyanka said that in 2019, a complaint was made to the



Congress General Secretary Priyanka Vadra meeting the relatives of the four people of a family who were axed to death.

Pioneer

police on behalf of the family but no action was taken. "Another complaint was made to police again in September

2021. The question is why didn't the police stop them. Apart from this, she raised questions on the working style of police

even after not providing security," she said.

In the afternoon, the Prayagraj administration became alert after Vadra reached the victims' house in Phaphamau. The administration was preparing to stop Priyanka Vadra at the airport itself. From there the administration along with a committee of five members had made preparations to take Vadra to the spot.

While the Congressmen were preparing to go to the victim's village with full force, security was beefed up. When Priyanka reached the spot in the evening, the police force remained active.

Surya confident about BJP win in UP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

National president of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) and BJP MP Tejashvi Surya expressed his confidence about the thumping win of BJP in upcoming assembly elections in the state and inspired the young party's workers to work hard helping the party to continue its success story of development. Emerging youth icon of the party was addressing the Yuvotthan Programme at Rudraksha Convention Centre at Sriga here on Saturday. It was an important day when several top leaders of the BJP arrived here to intensify party's campaigning in this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP) as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, both Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dr Dinesh Sharma and many others were in Jaunpur to address the party's booth presidents of Kashi



National BJYM president Tejashvi Surya addressing Yuvotthan Programme in Varanasi on Saturday.

Pioneer

regional unit.

Besides, Tejashvi Surya was in the city where he inaugurated the Yuvotthan Programme by garlanding the portraits of Bharat Mata, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay. Terming the Kashi as the spiritual epicenter of Bharat, he spoke a lot about the cultural

stature of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and praised the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for remarkable progress of the state. He expressed his confidence that the people of the city would surely vote for the BJP to continue the growth story. He expressed his happiness over attending the function in this land of Kashi Vishwanath

which is a land of great legacy, spiritual and cultural significance.

For the success of the programme for the last many weeks, the BJYM workers were working hard and the function was attended by senior state BJYM leaders. As UP is the most populous youthful state in the country and BJP has recognised the importance of youth, the party has always tried to establish dialogue with the youth.

To know the aspirations and suggestions of the youth, the 'Yuvotthan Programme' is an initiative to encourage the meritorious and professional youth of UP to contribute to the progress of their state. Through the programme, the youth of the state can communicate directly with the senior leaders of the country. The BJYM has planned to organise as many as 14 such programmes in big cities across the state prior to the upcoming elections.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The BJP has worked to achieve the goals of the Constitution of India and the government is working for a Smart India with a firm commitment in front of the world, Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma made this claim on Friday. He was addressing the enlightened conference organised at the District Panchayat Auditorium on the occasion of Constitution Day.

Sharma said all the leaders of the opposition were lurking in their homes when the corona crisis spread. On the other

hand, every BJP worker and office-bearer was distributing food packets and ration kits, he claimed. When the situation became more serious, efforts were also made to arrange beds, medicine, oxygen to the people in the hospital, he added. "The BJP government has started 518 oxygen plants so far. Work is also underway on the plan to set up a medical college in all the districts," he said.

Sharma also targeted the Congress, saying every work of the government was criticised. "There was an advocacy of getting the vaccine from outside,

but Prime Minister Modi worked for a self-reliant India. Vaccines were made in the country. In Uttar Pradesh alone, more than 15 crore people have been vaccinated," he said. Earlier, Jal Shakti Minister Mahendra Singh saluted the freedom fighters and the framers of the Constitution. The stage was organised by Mrityunjay Tiwari and District Panchayat President VK Singh expressed his gratitude. MP Rita Bahuguna Joshi was also present on the occasion.

Sharma called upon everyone to take precautions in view of the corona threat. He also

appealed to the masses to wear masks. "Corona comes in a different disguise. A little carelessness can land you in big trouble. We have to take precautions and keep using masks and sanitisers," he said.

Sharma also kept an account of the development works of the state. He said the BJP government got five expressways ready along with giving Rafale to the army while work was also going on to build the Defense Corridor. "So far, 12 new universities have also been approved along with the opening of 33 medical colleges," he added.

1,058 dengue cases in Prayagraj so far

ALLAHABAD (PNS): Even as the graph of dengue cases is declining for the past four days in Sangam city, it certainly looks like Prayagraj district will be registering the highest number of dengue cases this year as compared to the last three years.

The Sangam city's dengue count is currently 18 times more compared to the dengue cases recorded the previous year. Of the total 1,058 cases reported so far, around 74 per cent of the cases have come from the urban areas while rural pockets including trans-Ganga and trans-Yamuna reported 26 per cent of the cases. The count of dengue

cases in the year 2020 was merely 56.

As per the latest figures revealed by the health department, out of 1058 cases detected so far, urban areas reported 781 cases while rural areas have accounted for 277 cases so far. Last year, the Sangam city recorded a total of 56 cases while the figure in 2019 and 2018 stood at 1,116 and 800 respectively.

A senior health official said, "This year, the Sangam city has already reported 1058 cases so far and at least 8 to 10 cases are being reported daily". He added, "The graph of dengue cases is likely to cross the 1,116 mark (reported in

2019) in days to come. If we currently compare the graph of three years, the Prayagraj district reported the highest number of cases in 2019. However, the graph stood at 56 in 2020, before the high number of cases this year. "Officials claimed that the graph of the dengue cases varies year per year and if there are more cases reported this year, the next year would report fewer cases. This all relies on the developed immunity among the citizens against the vector-borne disease. Officials claimed that the cases have once again increased in 2021 and till now, the tally of dengue patients has already reached above 1,050.

Dengue is known to affect urban areas as the mosquitoes responsible for spreading vector-borne diseases like dengue find more breeding grounds in city area limits as there are more drains, deserted coolers, flower pots, unused tyres etc., in homes in the city compared to dehat pockets. Most dengue cases were being reported from urban areas, as population density is more there as compared to rural areas. Dengue cases are mostly reported in October and November. Officials, meanwhile, said the municipal corporation and department teams are carrying out extensive fogging drives in the city to end the menace of mosquitoes.

CBSE Secy exhorts teachers to bring change in their teaching methods

VARANASI (PNS): Laying an emphasis on exploring and creating the knowledge and making the students as explorers and creators, the Secretary of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Anurag Tripathi on Saturday exhorted the teachers to bring a change in their teaching methods so that the schoolchildren could be made the good human being with obtaining knowledge and this is also the main objective of the New Education Policy. Delivering a keynote speech in the Education Stalwarts Ceremony organised at Sunbeam School, Varana, here by Sunbeam Group of Educational Institutions on the inaugural day of the year long celebration being celebrated to commemorate the Golden Jubilee Year of Sunbeam English School, Tripathi said, the main objective of the new education policy is to build a good human being by making

the students strong mentally, intellectually, culturally, economically, physically and eternally and added, in short, the holistic development of the students is the key feature of the new education policy. There is a need to develop competency and skill among the schoolchildren and this is possibly only with the good parentancy and teaching, he said and emphasised on making the students explorers and creators instead receivers and this is possible only when the teachers will change their teaching methods. To bring a change in the education there is a need to explore and create the knowledge, he emphasised saying, if the teachers fail in changing their teaching approach, the nation will not go ahead. There is a need to transform the education towards sensitivity and research undressing of making money. He exhorted the teachers and parents as well

to read the new education policy and then make analysis that how it could be implemented in the schools. Earlier, the Chairman of the Group Dr Deepak Madhok narrated the story how the Sunbeam English School achieved a reputed recognition in the field of education by facing ups and downs during its 50 years of journey as the school started its journey with just 38 students in 1972 and the number of students increased to 32,000 at present. A panel discussion on "Competency based learning and skill development- The way forward" was also held. The Secretary of the CBSE facilitated a few personalities of the fields of education, art and literature for their excellent contributions in their respective fields. On the occasion, many were present including the Director of the group Dr Bharti Madhok, honorary Director Harsh Madhok,

Deputy Director Amrita Berman.

MALLICK GIVEN EMOTIONAL FAREWELL IN BLW: The farewell ceremony of popular Principal Chief Medical Officer (PCMO) Dr Sujit Mallick was organised at the Hall of Fame in Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) here on Saturday. Dr Mallick has been transferred from BLW to South Eastern Railway (SER), Kolkata. In her address at the function, General Manager (GM) Anjali Goyal said that under the leadership and dedication of Dr Mallick, during the corona pandemic period, the effect of COVID-19 was very less due to speedy vaccination to the BLW employees and their families as well as the people of nearby areas. "His leadership skills and cooperative behaviour towards all, dedication and loyalty towards work teaches us a lot to all of us," she said.

MPs, representatives meet NCR GM

ALLAHABAD (PNS): A meeting of MPs of North Central Railway Agra Division area with the General Manager of North Central Railway was organised in Agra. In the meeting, Dausa MP Jaskaur Meena and Agra MP Prof SP Singh Baghel's representative Digambar Singh Dhakre, Mathura MP Hema Malini's representative Janardan Sharma, Etawah MP Prof Ram Shankar Katheria's representative Surendra Singh, Alwar MP Mahant Balak Nath Yogi's representative Sukhwant Singh, Bharatpur MP Ranjita Koli's representative Santosh Kumar

were present. Jaskaur Meena was elected as the chairperson of the meeting by the representatives. In the beginning of the meeting, NCR General Manager Pramod Kumar welcomed the MPs and MP representatives. After this, the Preamble of Constitution was recited by all the MPs, representatives and officers present on the occasion of Constitution Day. Kumar in his welcome address said that direct dialogue and exchange of ideas with public representatives helps in fulfilling the expectations of the citizens. Informing about the achievements of

North Central Railway, the General Manager said that North Central Railway is using such a technology for constructing underpasses that there will be no problem of waterlogging. The General Manager said that due to the persistent efforts of diligent railwaymen/officers, during the financial year 2021-22 till the month of October, passenger earnings are Rs 156.60 crore, which is 509.45% more than last year in the same period, in the year 2021-22.

Other coaching income through parcel, luggage, ticket checking is Rs 16.99 crore,

which is 414% higher than last year. Along with this, the total income of Agra division till the month of October of the year 2021-22 is Rs 493.94 crore which is 24.91% more than last year in this period. The General Manager informed that in the year 2020-21, 15 RUB and one ROB and in the year 2021-22 so far five RUBs have been constructed in Agra division. He informed that the construction of the fourth line in Hodal-Kosi Kalan-Chhata section has been completed and toilets and ramps have been made for the differently-abled at all the stations of the division.

Rai: Hindi played a major role in keeping the country united

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Union Minister of State for Home, Nityanand Rai, while chairing the Rajbhasha Conclave and prize distribution ceremony at Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, on Saturday, said Hindi played a major role in keeping the country united and added that for any country its native language symbolised its identity.

He said from the Freedom Struggle till date Hindi had been the most potent element of integration. He said Hindi was not only our mother tongue but a language of the common people and to say that Hindi was the easiest, prosperous and powerful language would not be an exaggeration.

He said historical evidence clearly proved that it was Hindi which kept the nation united and played a vital role in awakening and instilling self-esteem. He said during the Freedom Struggle, emphasis was laid on indigenous and native language and it was a firm belief that without Hindi, Swaraj would not be meaningful.

He said it was also very clear that without a native language no country could explain the meaning of freedom.



State Minister for Home, Nityanand Rai, lights the ceremonial lamp along with Vice Chancellor, CSAUAT, Dr DR Singh while chairing the Rajbhasha Conclave and prize distribution ceremony on Saturday.

Pioneer

Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, he said that "freedom struggle is not only for Swaraj but also for the native language as well".

He said Hindi was playing an important role in passing on the benefits of the government schemes to the people at the grassroots level. He said Hindi had the potential to end corruption so that real benefit could pass on to the entire people of the country. He said all this could be done provided people used Hindi in person-

al and official work. He said if people wanted to promote Hindi they should end the craze for foreign language.

He said apart from Hindi all other regional languages needed to be promoted and said the majority of work was being done in Hindi.

Addressing the gathering, Rajbhasha Adhikari Ajai Kumar Mishra said Hindi played an important role in ending the British rule and after Independence the coun-

try chose Hindi for its Constitution.

He said the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi and Acharya Vinoba Bhave could be fulfilled if Hindi was given the right place in India.

He said today people took pride in speaking in Hindi and there was no embarrassment as was witnessed earlier. He said the prime minister had also in the National Education Policy (NEP) given more emphasis on Hindi starting from the school to higher levels.

He said democracy meant 'Sarvajan Hitay' which could be defined as welfare of the masses and said democracy could flourish when the welfare schemes of the government could be explained to the people at the grassroots level. He said to promote Hindi, focus was being laid on e-tools and applications along with e-mahashabd-kosh mobile app.

Others who spoke on the occasion were Anshuli Arya, Vice Chancellor of the university Dr DR Singh. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Meenakshi Jolly.

Later the Rajbhasha department inaugurated its twitter handle.

'Cyber security important to protect data from theft'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Jet King director Dharendra Singh, while addressing the cyber security workshop at Bhagwati Education Centre for BBA and BCA students on Saturday, said it referred to protecting systems connected to the internet from threats in cyberspace.

He said it involved protecting software, data, and hardware and helped prevent cyber criminals from gaining access to devices or networks. "Cyber security is important because it protects all categories of data from theft and damage, which includes sensitive data, personally identifiable information (PII), protected health information (PHI), personal information, intellectual property, data, and governmental and industry information systems etc," he added.

He said the dependency on the internet had become immense and that provided enough opportunities to the fraudsters to dupe one of money or other crucial data if one were not cautious. He said big organisations with many employees had a higher risk of getting attacked mainly on two grounds firstly, because the data was of huge importance and secondly even if a single employee did not follow the security protocol the entire organisation landed into trouble.

He said it was just a matter of minutes to hack an internet-connected device and that was why cyber security mattered. He said infiltrators had designed numerous ways to hack into the system so it was important to be aware of these online threats and the significance of cyber security.

Singh said the most common was phishing attack which was technique to attack the general public online. He said in this method, fake text messages and emails were sent to get access to the private information of a particular user. He said another was malware and it had importance of cyber security awareness because even emails from suspicious sites were not safe.

He said downloads or emails from some insecure sites carried ransomware, worms, spyware, and viruses that may compromise security. He said another was to steal data, and the attacker attacked places secretly in a two-party communication.

He said another was password attack where the hacker tried to crack a password by hit and trial method and added that it was easy to crack main-

ly for poorly chosen passwords.

He said first and foremost cyber security was always to keep the Wi-Fi network secure. He added that to gain access to the system, the attacker could use Bluetooth or GPS connection so it was important to always keep them off on any device when not in use.

He advised people to keep strong passwords having 8 to 12 characters. He said above all most internet providers would use antivirus software with the service they provide. He said one need not forget to check whether the antivirus was running when installing something.

Prominent among those present were chairman JS Saluja, PS Saluja, principal Dr Girish Kumari. The vote of thanks was proposed by Archana Singh.

'Cardiovascular emergencies need immediate treatment'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Noted consultant cardiologist at Regency Healthcare, Dr Abhinait Gupta, while addressing a session on 'Cardiac emergencies with uncommon presentation' at the IMA-Kanpur seminar hall on Saturday, said cardiovascular emergencies were life-threatening disorders that must be recognised immediately to avoid delay in treatment and to minimise morbidity and mortality.

He said patients may present with severe hypertension, chest pain, dysrhythmia, or cardiopulmonary arrest. He added these symptoms were so commonly encountered in the emergency department and they may result from disease in many organs other than the heart.

Discussing acute coronary syndrome (ACS) he said it developed from blood flow that was insufficient to meet the metabolic needs of the myocardium. He said patients with an acute coronary syndrome existed on a clinical continuum from unstable angina to non-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction to ST segment elevation myocardial infarction.

He said acute myocardial infarction (coronary occlusion) resulted when arterial blood flow to the myocardium was suddenly decreased or interrupted. He said it was usually due to atherosclerotic coronary artery disease with plaque rupture and sudden

occlusion by thrombus and vasculitis or emboli were less common causes.

He said complete occlusion, most often with thrombus, was found in 80-90 per cent of patients with chest pain and ST segment elevation and occasionally, patients dying of myocardial infarction were found to have non-occluded coronary arteries, and infarction in such cases was presumably due to spasm of a coronary artery or thrombosis with complete lysis.

He said primary angioplasty was a treatment to re-open a blocked coronary artery and when an angioplasty was used to re-open a coronary artery when someone was having acute myocardial infarction, it was called a primary angioplasty. He said myocardial infarction, commonly known as a heart attack, was the irreversible death of heart muscles due to ischemia (prolonged lack of oxygen) and it was a medical emergency which usually occurred due to obstructed blood flow due to blood clots. He said over the past decades, treatment for myocardial infarction had evolved considerably and mortality rates had fallen as a result of early diagnosis and treatment, and improved management of its complications. He said most attention was given to restore antegrade coronary blood flow in the affected artery of the patient with evolving acute myocardial infarction.

Dr Gupta said a 'clot-breaking' medicine was given to dissolve the blood clot that

was blocking the coronary artery and thus it was a treatment to re-open a blocked coronary artery. He said angioplasty was used to re-open a coronary artery when someone was having acute myocardial infarction, and it was called a primary angioplasty and it should be performed as immediately as possible after the symptoms of a heart attack started and added successful primary angioplasty resulted in a reduction in time to first balloon inflation by 30-40 minutes. Prominent among those present were Dr RPS Bharadwaj, Dr Mohd Ahmed, Dr AC Agarwal, Dr AK Trivedi and Dr Pallavi Chaurasia.

ASST COMM EXPLAINS GST REGISTRATION BENEFITS: Assistant Commissioner of Goods and Service Tax Vikas Kumar while addressing a workshop on 'Benefits of Registration, said trader tax status came with a number of benefits, including the ability to deduct interest as an expense.

He said traders could deduct educational expenses, like stock trading seminars and educational materials, provided that these expenses were itemised and exceeded two per cent of their adjusted gross income. He said traders whose turnover was below Rs 20 lakh, or who dealt with exempted goods, were not required to register for GST. He added that GST registration was mandatory if the trader was involved in intra-state supplies. He said the aggregate turnover threshold for GST

registration was lower in certain special categories. He said composition levy rates under GST were 1 per cent of the turnover for traders and other suppliers eligible for composition scheme registration; 2 per cent of the turnover for manufacturers apart from manufacturers of products not eligible for GST composition scheme; 5 per cent of the turnover for restaurant services. He said under the GST Composition Scheme, the trader was required to furnish quarterly return only, and thus one need not worry on record keeping and focus on one's business more rather than being occupied in compliance procedures. He said another benefit of getting registered under the composition scheme was that the tax rate for such taxpayers was nominal under the GST law. He said interest relief had been provided for filing and for any delay, interest was not charged whereas 9 per cent of reduced interest was charged if filing was thereafter until June 17 and 18 per cent later on. He said the maximum late fee for GSTR-4 that could be charged would be restricted to Rs 500 per return for nil filing and Rs 2,000 for other than nil filing. Explaining the composition scheme, he said Section 10 of the GST Act contained the provision with respect to the registration of a taxpayer under composition scheme. He said the basic principle underlying the composition scheme was to minimise the burden of compliance for small taxpayers.

Maithani flags off BJP Vijay Rath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

In view of the forthcoming 2022 assembly elections, convener of Bharatiya Janata Party's NGO Cell, Jyoti Shukla, launched the 3-day 'Vijay Rath' in the city on Saturday. Party legislator from Govind Nagar constituency, Surendra Maithani, flagged off the Vijay Rath.

Speaking on the occasion, Maithani said the BJP Vijay Rath launched on Saturday was not going to stop. He said during the 2022 assembly elections, BJP would emerge victorious to continue the developmental works being carried out under the stewardship of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

He said the BJP would be voted to power and win 350 to 400 seats.

Jyoti Shukla said the BJP would register a thumping victory on all the seats of the state as people were well aware of the bluffs of rival parties. He said BJP was the only party which could bring development in the country and the state as well. Shukla said people had full faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Prominent party workers present on the occasion were Ajit Saxena, Dr Parvez Akhtar, Harmeet Singh Gulati, Raj Gupta, Sunil Meghwal, Arvind Singh (Mandal President), Ajit Srivastava (general secretary), Ashish Srivastava, Archana and Dharmendra Shukla.

Youth killed in road accident

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A motorcyclist was killed and his friend seriously injured when their two-wheeler rammed into a stationary truck on Kalyanpur Panki highway under Panki police station late Friday night. Both the youths were returning from a marriage ceremony. Police got the injured admitted to a private hospital in Naubasta where his condition was stated to be critical. Guddan Rajput (30) of Gambhirpur, Sachendi, was a painter. On Friday evening, he along with neighbour Rajesh had gone to attend a marriage ceremony at his relative's house in Ramaipur. When they were returning late in the night, their motorcycle rammed into a stationary truck near Bhaunti bypass. While Guddan died on the spot, Rajesh was seriously injured. The station house officer of Panki said the truck was parked at the roadside as its engine had developed some fault.

Psychologist gives students the mantra for success

KANPUR (PNS): Psychologist and former professor at National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, Dr P Swaranlatha, while addressing a virtual seminar for students on how to concentrate on studies and get success, at Riverdale Public School, said the first and foremost mantra was to practice the unfailing trioka -- hearing attentively, retention and reproducing at the opportune moment. She said first one should develop a good study programme to improve concentration and focus on the end goal for successful completion of school with decent grades. She said good study habits did not come naturally, they were developed and practiced daily and added that to improve focus and concentration it may seem like a hard task, but if one followed a set of established steps, it would improve focus in school, improve concentration, and provide the means and ways to develop student focus. She advised teachers to create a dedicated study area to improve student focus. She advised to designate a specific area for study and keep it free from clutter, have all study aids and tools ready and only use the space to study. Dr Swaranlatha said one need to avoid distractions while studying and the most important was to turn off the cell phone and place a notice or sign indicating study time.

Trains to be cancelled

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Due to block given for the construction work of limited height subway (LHS) at level crossing No 293 between Rati Ka Nagla-Mendhu stations on Kasganj-Mathura Jn rail section of Izzatnagar division on November 30 from 10.30 hrs to 16.30 hrs by the railway administration the cancellation of the following trains will be done as follows, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said.

KASGANJ-ACHHNERA JN SPECIAL: The 05347 Kasganj-Achhnera Jn unreserved special train will remain cancelled on November 30. Likewise, the 05348 Achhnera Jn-Kasganj unreserved special train will remain cancelled on November 30.

KASGANJ-MATHURA JN SPECIAL: The 05345

Kasganj-Mathura Jn unreserved special train will remain cancelled on November 30. On the other hand, the 05346 Mathura Jn-Kasganj unreserved special train will remain cancelled on November 30.

CELEBRATED

The Constitution Day function was organised in the



General Manager's office premises here on Friday in which General Manager, North Eastern Railway (NER) Vinay Kumar Tripathi was the chief

guest. Under the leadership of GM the preamble to the Constitution was read. On the occasion Additional General Manager (AGM) Amit Kumar Agrawal, Senior Deputy General Manager (SDGM) DK Singh along with principal heads of departments, railway officers and employees were present. On the occasion of

Constitution Day, similar functions were organised in all the offices, the three divisions – Izzatnagar, Lucknow, Varanasi besides various workshops.

Pledge administered at NTPC Rihand

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

Constitution Day is celebrated in India on

the Constitution of India. On the occasion on Friday Law Officer of NTPC Rihand Vasu Prajapati administered the



pledge by reading the Preamble to the Constitution. Along with

NTPC Rihand plant premises people in colony premises too were informed about the Constitution and made aware. Prominent among those present during the programme were Additional General Manager (HR) SVD Ravi Kumar, Deputy General Manager (BE) Kaushalesh Dubey, Deputy General Manager (Human Resources) Zakir Khan, Deputy General Manager (HR) Anit Kumar, among senior managers — Neeraj Kumar, Amit Dhiman, Reena Kumari etc along with other employees.

DM, SP jointly inspect dist jail

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

DM Praveen Kumar Laxkar and SP Ajay Kumar Singh jointly conducted the surprise inspection of district jail on Friday. During it no objectionable thing was found. At the occasion the barracks, mess and office were inspected. The DM interacted with PAC personnel and the jail staff about the arrangements and directed to perform their duties honestly. The DM became aware about the facilities available by interacting with prisoners and directed the jail staff to follow the jail manual strictly besides Covid-19 prevention guidelines and maintain social distancing.

MEETING: Divisional Commissioner, Vindhyachal, Yogeshwar Ram Mishra, while presiding the over meeting of Divisional Udyog Bandhu on

January 15. When the members raised the issue about the miserable condition of some roads in Bhadohi the DC directed to SE PWD to get them repaired and inform him. The DC was also apprised by the SE PWD that the four lane road from Bhadohi to Jaunpur was in pipeline and construction process will start shortly. Regarding progress in the construction of Chunar Bargavaan road on which some industries had been set up, the PWD official said that the matter to get NOC from forest department was in process and then the work will be started. The Electricity department apprised that to provide unhindered supply in Khamaria town the proposal was under process to be sanctioned. The meeting was attended by joint director industries, Bhadohi SP, Mirzapur ADM(F&R) Shiv

Srilaxmi VS visited Patehra block area and became aware with the problems of farmers on Friday. The CDO inspected the paddy purchase centres and directed the officials concerned to make available all possible amenities there and asked them to work with transparency. The farmers at Pathaur paddy purchase centre praised the administration as it had been reopened after four years. The farmers said that the centre will help the locals to sell their crop at reasonable price. The CDO was informed by the centre incharge that till date only 58 quintals of paddy had been purchased.

SENT TO JAIL: Halia police sent an accused of creating hindrance in government work to jail on Friday. A team of officials comprising SDM Laganj Vijay Narain Singh, CO Laganj Uma Shankar and ARTO Vivek Shukla while checking vehicles on Halia-Manigarha road caught 24 overloaded sand-laden trucks coming from MP. Two persons escorting the trucks on a car opposed the team's action, threatened the ARTO with dire consequences and created a ruckus on the spot. After handing over the trucks to Halia police station the ARTO lodged an FIR. police arrested the accused, Pappu, in this connection.



DC YR Mishra presiding the over meeting of Divisional Udyog Bandhu on Friday

Friday assured the entrepreneurs that the industrial estate of Mirzapur will have its own feeder for power supply till

Pratap Shukla, JDC Suresh Chandra Mishra and other officials concerned. **DIRECTIVE:** CDO

DRM visits coaching depot

PNS ■ VARANASI

Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Ramashray Pandey reached Banaras Coaching Depot on Friday afternoon. He conducted an extensive inspection of the coaching depot. He inspected the site for the pit wheel lathe to be installed in the coaching depot and held detailed discussions with the officials related to its provision. After this he reached the newly established automatic train washing plant in the coaching depot, inspected the plant thoroughly and tested the work efficiency and functioning. By getting automatic train washing system started he saw the automatic cleaning. Thereafter, he reached the multidisciplinary training institute established at Banaras Coaching Depot, inspected the model room and instructed to maintain the training centre, run useful training programme and improve the surface of the classroom. After that Pandey reached the washing line of the depot and inspected the under construction washing pit line and instructed to remove the practical difficulties coming in its construction work as per 24 coaches without delay.

After this the DRM reached the mechanised laundry installed in the coaching depot premises, instructed to restart the laundry and keep it



ready for use till next month. After the inspection the DRM along with the officers planted saplings of medicinal properties like amla, tulsi and giloy in the Ayush garden of Banaras Coaching Depot. On the occasion Senior Divisional Engineer (SDE-Coordination) Rakesh Ranjan, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (SDME- Carriage & Wagon) SP Shrivastava, Senior Divisional Operations Manager (SDOM) NK Joshi, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (DEE) AK Singh, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (SDME-O&F) Alok Kesharwani and senior supervisor were present.

CONSTITUTION DAY

Constitution Day was organised in Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) on Friday along with the entire Indian Railways. At the headquarters of Varanasi division at 11:00 am under the leadership of DRM Ramashray

Pandey, all the departmental officers and employees were administered a collective pledge by reading the Preamble to the Constitution. On the occasion Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Infra) Gyanesh Tripathi, Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Administration) Rahul Srivastava, Senior Divisional Engineer (Coordination) Rakesh Ranjan, Chief Medical Superintendent (CMS) Dr MS Nabiyal, Senior Divisional Operations Manager (SDOM) NK Joshi, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (SDCM) Sanjeev Sharma, Senior Divisional Personnel Officer (SDPO) Sameer Paul, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (SDEE) AK Singh, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Carriage & Wagon) SP Srivastava, Senior Divisional Engineer (III) Anuj Verma, Assistant Personnel Officer (APO) Ramesh Upadhyay and all the employees of DRM's office were present.

Maha lifts all lockdown restrictions to restore pre-pandemic situation

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Twenty months after it imposed a slew of Covid-19-induced protocols in line with the directives from the Centre, the Maharashtra Government on Saturday lifted all the lockdown restrictions, thus paving way for normal economic, social, cultural, sports and entertainment activities that prevailed in the state prior to the pandemic days, subject to Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) and other conditions.

“All economic cultural, sports and entertainment activities will now be allowed as per

the normal timings decided by various local or other competent authorities before the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic,” Chief Secretary Sitaram Kunte stated in a 5-page order issued here.

Apart from adherence to CAB, the other conditions that will continue are: requirement of full vaccination, entry norms for passengers arriving in the state from international destinations and compliance to protocols relating to attendance in any programme or event held in closed places like cinema halls, theatres, marriage halls and convention halls where utilisation of 50

per cent of the capacity is allowed.

The CAB norms include wearing face-masks, maintaining at least 6 feet physical distance, ensuring hygiene, sanitising/washing hands frequently and greeting people without physical contract.

The CAB applies to all citizens, including the service providers, owners of premises, oprganisers, visitors, service takers, guests etc. As part of the order, the state government notified CAB guidelines, under which the violators shall be fined Rs 500 for each instance of default.

“If an organisation or establishment fails to follow CAB or SOP itself, it will be liable for a fine of Rs 10,000 for each instance,” the government order stated.

The CAB defaulters in public transport like buses or taxis shall be fined Rs.500 along with the driver, conductor, etc, while the operators will be slapped with Rs.10,000 penalty, or withdrawal of licence till the disaster norms remain in force.

In case the total number of people attending events or programmes exceeds 1,000, then the organisers must inform the District Disaster

Management Authority which will send its officials to ensure compliance of CAB, and if the same are violated may order closure of part or full venue.

As part of the vaccination requirement, the state government has decided to allow only fully vaccinated people to use public transport, while all shops, establishments, malls, event and gathering venues where people frequent shall be fully vaccinated and it is necessary for all visitors to such places to have been administered two doses of vaccines.

Similarly, it is mandatory for all those visiting/ performing at various programmes, events or shows to have been vaccinated fully.

The Universal Pass created by the Maharashtra government shall be valid proof for status of full vaccination. Alternatively, the people can

carry Cowin certificate with a valid ID photo proof. For those below 18 years, they can carrying ID proofs issued by their schools. All those arriving in Maharashtra from any international destination shall be governed by the Government of India rules, but all domestic passengers must be fully vaccinated or carry a RTPCR test report with 72 hours validity.

NOTICE	
A Proposal for the mortgage residential Plot part of Khasara No. 139 & 141 admeasuring 141.75 Sq. Meter situated at Mouza-Devar, Pargana-Nizamabad, Tehsil-Sadar District-Azamgarh is pending before L.I.C. Housing Finance Ltd. The Original Sale Deed is registered at the office of Sub-Registrar, Sadar, Distt.-Azamgarh vide Book No. 1, Zild No. 5588, Pages 271 to 302, at Serial No. 5614, dated 03.09.2016 executed by Mr. Ravi Kumar Yadav S/o Babunandan Yadav & Sonari Devi W/o Babunandan Yadav both R/o Village & Post-Hirapatti Pargana-Nizamabad, Tehsil-Sadar, District-Azamgarh at present Dillya. Post-Mubarakpur, Tehsil-Sadar, District-Azamgarh, in favour of Mrs. Shashi Mishra W/o Deepak Mishra R/o Moh-Elawal, Post & Tehsil-Sadar, City & District-Azamgarh. It is informed to us that the above noted original sale-deed lost. If this original sale-deed is mortgage with any person(s), Financial Institution(s) Bank(s) or any other one, may inform immediately to LIC Housing Finance Ltd. Office Main Branch Contact No. 965540872 or Sanjay Kumar Singh Advocate Mob No. 9919972269 & 8765360669, otherwise the above noted proposal shall be finalize immediately after the expiry of 15 day of this publication.	

Dead man wins panchayat poll in Bihar!

Jamui (Bihar): A dead man has won a Panchayat poll held on Wednesday riding on a “sympathy wave” generated by his own death. The real-life tragicomedy was detected in this impoverished district, situated about 200 kms from the state capital, when officials were handing over certificates to candidates who won the polls held on November 24. Sohan Murmu, who won ward no. 2 of Deepakharhar village, falling under Khairra block, was nowhere to be found. “On enquiry, we learnt that Murmu had died on November 6, more than a fortnight before voting took place”, Khaira BDO Raghavendra Tripathi said. **PTI**

विधान सभा सचिवालय उत्तर प्रदेश


(अधिष्ठान अनुभाग)

संख्या:1953 / वि०स० / अधि० / 31 / 2015 दिनांक : 26 नवम्बर, 2021

सूचना

श्री प्रशान्त कुमार अनुसेवक, विधान सभा सचिवालय दिनांक 27 अगस्त, 2021 से बिना किसी सूचना के कार्यालय से अनुपस्थित हैं, जिसके कारण उन्हें दिनांक 12 अक्टूबर, 2021 को कार्यालय में उपस्थित होने हेतु 09 दिन का समय देते हुये उनके स्थाई एवं स्थानीय पुते पर नोटिस भेजी गयी थी, लेकिन श्री प्रशान्त कुमार दिनांक 25.11.2021 तक कार्यालय में उपस्थित नहीं हुए हैं। अतः उन्हें आदेश दिया जाता है कि वह सूचना प्रकाशित होने के एक सप्ताह के अन्दर अपनी ज़ुददी पर उपस्थित हों अन्यथा उनके विरुद्ध अनुशासनात्मक कार्रवाई की जायेगी।

संयुक्त सचिव, (अधिष्ठान अनुभाग)
विधान सभा सचिवालय, उत्तर प्रदेश।



OFFICE OF THE CANTONMENT BOARD, KANPUR
64, Subhash Chandra Bose Marg, Cantt Kanpur -208004
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tenders are invited on behalf of Cantonment Board, Kanpur from registered and eligible contractors as per category of MES, PWD, CPWD, BSNL & Cantonment Board Kanpur for the work detailed below:-

S. No.	NIT NO.	Name of work	Last Date of Uploading tender	Estimated cost of tender
1	CBK/SS/ K-1260/1	Upkeep, Desilting & Maintenance of Sewer Line-Main Holes, Gali pits, Traps in Ward No. 1,2,3,4,5, 6,7 & 8 Kanpur Cantt.	08-12-2021	Rs. 66 Lakh

The detail may be obtain from kanpur.cantt.gov.in and <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.
(A.K. Dwivedi) CEO, Kanpur Cantt

ARYAVART BANK
(A Joint Undertaking of Govt. of India, U.P. Govt. & Bank of India)
Regional Office: Lucknow Aryavart Bhawan 569/20/K/1 Sneh Nagar VIP Road Opp Awadh Hospital Alambagh Lucknow


आर्यावर्त बैंक
(महात्त सरकार, उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार एवं बैंक ऑफ इंडिया का संयुक्त उद्यम)
Regional Office: Lucknow Aryavart Bhawan 569/20/K/1 Sneh Nagar VIP Road Opp Awadh Hospital Alambagh Lucknow

Possession Notice Under Rule-8(1) (for Imovable Properties)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized officer of ARYAVART BANK, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the securities Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand notice in the account mentioned hereunder on the dates mentioned before the names calling upon the borrower and guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notices along with interest within 60 days from the date of receipts said notices. The borrower/legal heirs of borrower and guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notices are hereby given to the Borrower /legal Heirs of borrower and guarantor in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the possession of the properties described here below in exercise of power of conferred on him under sub-section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each property. The borrower /legal Heirs of borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealing with the under noted property will be subject to the charge of ARYAVART BANK for the amount with interest and other charges etc. thereon. **The Borrower's/Guarantors attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets**
Details of Properties whose possession has been taken are as follows:-

Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors/Branch	Description of the properties	Amt. due as per demand notice Date Demand Notice Date of Possession
Borrower : (1) Mrs. Pushpa w/o Santosh Yadav and (2) Mr. Santosh Yadav s/o Jagannath Yadav, Both R/o 32, Allu Nagar Digauria, Madiyaon Lucknow- 226021 Branch : Mohibullapur	Residential Property: Plot No. 6A, Khasra No.34 minj, situated at village Daudnagar,Ward-Faizullaganj, Lucknow, As Per Sale Deed Dated 01.08.2011, TITLE HOLDER- Mrs. Pushpa w/o Shri Santosh Boundaries: EAST- Plot No 5, WEST- Plot No. 6B, NORTH- Road 20 ft., SOUTH- Khet Ram Kishor AREA- 64.12 Sqm.	Rs. 5,54,002.03 and Interest thereon 03.07.2021 25.11.2021
Borrower : (1) Mrs. Pooja Devi w/ Jitendra Singh R/o Plot No 19, at Gata No. 80 Sa, Mirzapur, Lucknow- 226021 and (2) Mr. Jitendra Singh s/o Satyapal Singh, Both R/O 48, Katethi, Kanpur Dehat, Kanpur- 209121 Branch : Bhitauli Khurd	Property: Part of Plot No-19 Gata No. 80 Sa minj situated at Village- Mirzapur, Pargana- Lucknow, Tehsil- Bakshi ka Talab District- Lucknow, As Per Sale Deed Dated 27.04.2017, TITLE HOLDER- Mrs. Pooja Devi w/o Mr. Jitendra Singh Boundaries: EAST- Part of Plot No. 19, WEST- Road 18 ft. wide, NORTH- Road 22 ft. wide, SOUTH- Plot No-18 AREA- 74.349 Sqm.	Rs. 3,60,039.11 and Interest thereon 31.05.2021 25.11.2021
Borrower : M/s Baba Amarnath Barfani Prop.- Mr. Shailesh Mehrotra R/O 538K/984, Shripuram Triveni Nagar-2, Nirula Nagar, Lucknow-226020 Branch : Vikas Nagar	Residential Property: Plot No. 01 at Gata No. 114 Sa minj Rudhi Pargana-Mahona, Tehsil-BKT, Lucknow, As Per Sale Deed Dated 17.12.2013, TITLE HOLDER- Mrs. Sunita Gupta w/o Suresh Chandra Gupta Boundaries: EAST- 22' Wide Rasta, WEST- Land Deegar Shaks, NORTH- Plot No. 02 (Urmila Tiwari), SOUTH- Air Force Road AREA- 226.765 Sqm.	Rs. 8,35,319.01 and Interest thereon 21.08.2021 24.11.2021
Borrower : M/s Ranjana Enterprises Prop. Mrs. Ranjana Singh w/o Vimal Singh R/O Village- Kesharmau Kalan, Post- Mahona, Tehsil- Bakshi ka Talab Lucknow- 226203 Branch : Itaunja	Property: One Plot of Khasra No.236Kh minj situated at Kesarmau Kala Pargana- Mahona Tehsil-Bakshi ka Talab Distt-Lucknow, As Per Sale Deed Dated 21.10.2010, TITLE HOLDER- Mrs. Madhurani w/o Awadhraj Singh Boundaries: EAST- Khet Gata No.228, WEST- Gata No.237, NORTH- Gata No.237 & 227, SOUTH- Gata No.253 AREA- 0.025 hect.	Rs. 21,05,171.08 and Interest thereon 31.07.2021 24.11.2021
Borrower : Mr. Jalees Ahmad S/o Anees Ahmad, R/o 543/492/2, Sangam City Malhpur, Rajajipuram, Lucknow-226017 Branch : Rajajipuram	Residential Property: One kita plot min khasra No.487 situated at Malhpur Ward Haiderganj, Lucknow, As Per Sale Deed Dated 03.12.2014, TITLE HOLDER- Mr. Jalees Ahmad s/o Anees Ahmad Boundaries: EAST- Arraji Deegar, WEST- Road 15 Ft.wide, NORTH- Plot Shahjahan, SOUTH- Plot Kaniza Khatoon AREA- 46.468 sq. mt.	Rs. 2,75,378.02 and Interest thereon 27.07.2021 25.11.2021
Borrower : M/s Zaigum Interior Decorator (Prop. Late Zaigum Ali), Address:- Plot No. 25 Dhania Mehri Pul, Ashok Nagar, Mohan Road Near Desh Bharti Public School Rajajipuram, Lucknow-227107 and Legal heirs (1). Mohd. Ibraheem s/o Late Zaigum Ali R/o Plot No-4, Near Dhania Mehri Pul, Ashok Nagar, Alamnagar, Rajajipuram Lucknow-226017 (2). Ms. Zainab Ali D/o Late Zaigum Ali R/o 355/25, Alamnagar, Rajajipuram Lucknow-226017 (3). Ms. Zoha Ali D/o Late Zaigum Ali through Natural Guardian Mohd. Ibrahim s/o Late Zaigum Ali, R/o 356/225/384 Ashok Nagar, Dhania Mehri Pul In front of Desh Bharti Public School Rajajipuram Lucknow-226017 Branch : Rajajipuram	Residential Property: Plot No.25, Khasra No. 136 & 138 minj, Shekhpur, Habibpur, Lucknow, As Per Sale Deed Dated 22.12.1998, TITLE HOLDER- Mr. Zaigum Ali s/o Mushtaq Ali Boundaries: EAST- Plot No. 26, WEST- House Mrs. Fatima, NORTH- Plot No.24, SOUTH- Road 20 Ft. wide AREA- 120.817 sq.mt.	Rs. 2,43,266.26 and Interest thereon 28.07.2021 25.11.2021

Date : 28.11.2021
Place : Lucknow
Authorised Officer

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
UNION BANK OF INDIA
A Government of India Undertaking


Union Bank of India

Regional Office AYODHYA, 436, Atardeep complex, Devkali Bypass, Ayodhya-224001, Email – Shyamla@unionbankofindia.com

MEGA E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE (UNDER SARFAESI ACT)

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **constructive/physical possession** of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India, Secured Creditor, will be sold on “**AS IS WHERE IS**”, “**AS IS WHAT IS**”, “**WHATSOEVER THERE IS**” and “**WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS**” on 16.12.2021 in between 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM, for recovery of respective amounts due to the Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor) from the respective Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) as mentioned below. The reserve price and the earnest money will be as mentioned below. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link provided in Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor) website i.e. www.unionbankofindia.co.in. Bidder may also visit the website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>.
The under mentioned properties will be sold by Online E-Auction through website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp> on 16.12.2021 for recovery of respective amounts plus interest and other expenses in the respective borrowers' accounts.

Online E-Auction through website <https://bankeauctions.com>
Date & Time of Auction : 16.12.2021 at 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M (With Unlimited Extension of 10 Minutes), Submission of Bid/EMD : 15.12.2021 upto 5.00 P.M.

Sl. No	1. Name of Borrower 2. Name of Guarantor 3. Branch	Description of the property to be auctioned	1. Reserve Price 2. Earnest Money Deposit 3. Last date of submission of EMD 4. Increment Amount	Mode of EMD payment	1.Date and time of inspection of property 2.Name and contact No. of Authorized Officer 3.Email id Authorized Officer 4. CM (Recovery)/ Contact S. Branch Head/ Contact	Debt due with interest & cost	Details of encumbrance POSSESSION SYMBOLIC/ PHYSICAL
1.	1(a) M/s Sant Agro Industries Vill. & Post Siddhaur, Tehsil Haidergarh, District- Barabanki (Partnership Firm) A/c No.560101000067836 1(B) Mr. Kuldeep & Mr. Sushil Verma Both S/o Shyam Lal Verma Village Mehandidpur H/O Harakh Post Harakh Tehsil Nawabganj, Dist- Barabanki.-225121. 1(C) Mr. Digvijay Singh & Mr. Harsh Patel S/O Mr. Babu Lal Village Mehandidpur H/O Harakh Post Harakh Tehsil Nawabganj, Dist- Barabanki.-225121. 1(D) Mr. Vipin Kumar S/o Ram Kewal Village Mehandidpur H/O Harakh Post Harakh Tehsil Nawabganj, Dist- Barabanki.-225121. 2(A) Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Verma S/O Mr. Shyam Lal Verma Village Mehandidpur H/O Harakh Post Harakh Tehsil Nawabganj, Dist- Barabanki.-225121 2(B) Mr. Digvijay Singh S/o Mr. Babu Lal Village Mehandidpur H/O Harakh Post Harakh Tehsil Nawabganj, Dist- Barabanki.-225001. 2(C) Mr. Vipin Kumar S/o Ram Kewal Village Mehandidpur H/O Harakh Post Harakh Tehsil Nawabganj, Dist- Barabanki.-225121 2(D) Mr. Shyam Lal S/o Ram Adhar Verma Village Mehandidpur H/O Harakh Post Harakh Tehsil Nawabganj, Dist- Barabanki.-225121. 2(E) Mr. Babu Lal S/O Ram Adhar Verma Village Mehandidpur H/O Harakh Post Harakh Tehsil Nawabganj, Dist- Barabanki.-225121. 2(F) Mr. Ram Kewal S/O Ram Adhar Verma Village Mehandidpur H/O Harakh Post Harakh Tehsil Nawabganj, Dist- Barabanki.-225121 2(G) Mr. Harsh Patel S/O Mr. Babu Lal Village Mehandidpur H/O Harakh Post Harakh Tehsil Nawabganj, Dist- Barabanki.-225121. 2(H) Mr. Suneel Verma S/O Shyam Lal Verma Village Mehandidpur H/O Harakh Post Harakh Tehsil Nawabganj, Dist- Barabanki.-225121 3. Branch: Barabanki (10662)	Rice mill building constructed on land of Khasra no. 17 Ka- Min- Jumla on Barabanki- Sidhaur to Deviganj Road, Village Khapraich (Special Village) Pargana- Siddhaur, Tehsil- Haidergarh, District- Barabanki, Owned by (1) Shri Kuldeep & Shri Sushil Verma both S/o Shri Shyam Lal (2) Shri Vipin Verma S/o Shri Ram Kewal (3) Shri Digvijay Singh & Harsh Patel both S/o Shri Babu Lal, Boundaries of the property:- East:- Chak Road & thereafter khet of Shakir, West:- Khet of Shri Munna, North:- Barabanki-Sidhaur to Deviganj Road, South:- Khet of Sri Vijay Sankar	1) 86.69 Lacs 2) 8.60 Lacs 3) 15.12.2021 4) 1.00 Lacs	A/c No. 506701980050000 IFSC: UBIN0910660	1) 15.12.2021 from 1.00 PM to 3.00 PM 2) Mr. Arvind Mishra 9451071508 3) crld.roayodhya@unionbankofindia.com 4) Mr. K.K.VERMA 9773832060 5) Jitendra Narayan 6306641071	Rs. 40,20,667.88/- + int. from 01.04.2020 & charges and costs due to Union Bank of India	Not known to A.O. Symbolic
2.	1(A). M/s Maa Durga Industries Village Damaura, Pargana Pratappganj, Tehsil Nawabganj, Distt. Barabanki (Proprietorship) A/c No. 560101000069103 1(B). Mrs. Daisy W/o Mr. Shailesh Kumar Verma, House No. 324, Shakti Nagar, A Block Indira Nagar, Lucknow 1(C). Mr. Ram Sajeewan S/o Mr. Ram Nath Village Damaura, Pargana Pratappganj, Tehsil Nawabganj, Barabanki-225001 2(A). Mrs. Daisy W/o Mr. Shailesh Kumar Verma, House No. 324, Shakti Nagar, A Block Indira Nagar, Lucknow 2(B). Mr. Ram Sajeewan S/o Mr. Ram Nath Village Damaura, Pargana Pratappganj, Tehsil Nawabganj, Barabanki-225001 2(C) Mr. Rishi Kumar Verma S/o Mr. Beni Prasad Verma A-1/66, ViramKhand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow 3. Branch: Barabanki (10662)	1). CGI roofed shed & Slab situated at Khasra No. 414 ka-min-jumla, sonauli, village Dhamaura, pargana-Pratapganj, Tehsil Nawabganj, Barabanki. Owned by Mr. Ram Sajeewan S/o Ram Nath, Boundaries of the property as per deed & actual: Khet of Shri Nand Kishore, West: Chak Marg, North: Jalapur link marg, South: khet of Shri Mahadev 2). Vacant Non agriculture Plot No. 1 & 2 on Khasra No. 250, Ka-min-jumla, Village Paisar, Deen Dayal Nagar Colony, Near Ganga Memorial Girls Degree College, Tehsil Nawabganj, Barabanki. Owned by Smt. Daisy Singh W/o Mr. Shailesh Kumar Verma, Boundaries of the property as per deed & actual: plot no 1: East: Plot of Bharat Ram, West: Plot of Smt. Kamlesh, North: 25 ft wide B.O.E Rasta, South: Land of khasra no 251 of Shri Satya Narain Boundaries of the property as per deed: Plot no 2: East: Plot of Khasra No. 250, West: Plot of Khasra No. 250, North: Agriculture land of Shri Hari Ram Maurya, South: 25 Ft. wide B.O.E. Rasta Boundaries of the property as per Actual: Plot no 2: East: House of Shri Ram Lakhan & the House of Shri Daya Shankar Gupta, West: House Shri Rajendra, North: Plot, South: 25 ft. wide B.O.E Rasta	1) 98.66 Lacs 2) 9.75 Lacs 3) 15.12.2021 4) 1.00 Lacs	A/c No. 510101003569747 IFSC: UBIN0910660	1) 15.12.2021 from 1.00 PM to 3.00 PM 2) Mr. Arvind Mishra 9451071508 3) crld.roayodhya@unionbankofindia.com 4) Mr. K.K.VERMA 9773832060 5) Jitendra Narayan 6306641071	Rs. 90,78,868.04 /- + int. from 01.01.2018 & charges and costs due to Union Bank of India	Not known to A.O. Symbolic

Bidders are requested to visit the Bank's website : www.unionbankofindia.co.in for detailed terms & conditions of e-auction rule and other details before submitting their Bids for taking part in the e-auction. Bidder may also visit the website for <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>, Help Line Email id: eauctionhelpdesk@unionbankofindia.com. The intending bidders must have valid e-mail ID to participate in on-line Auction. The terms and conditions of sale shall be strictly as per the provisions of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) / RULE 9(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.
This may also be treated as notice u/r 8(6) / Rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, to the borrowers / guarantors of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date.

Date : 28.11.2021, Place: Ayodhya
Authorized Officer, Union Bank Of India

Delhi HC nixes CRPF DG's plea on ₹20K fine waiver

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has rejected CRPF DG Kuldiep Singh's plea for waiver of the ₹20,000 fine imposed on him in a contempt plea.

Earlier this week, Justice Najmi Waziri in an order said, "This application seeks waiver of the cost imposed vide order dated 29.10.2021. Since no ground is made out, the application is dismissed."

"An order is stated to have been passed on the petitioner's representation and the same has been communicated to him. However, costs of ₹20,000 has not been paid in terms of the previous order. Let the same be paid within two weeks. List for compliance on 21.12.2021," reads the latest order.

The contempt plea was filed by a serving deputy commandant for non-compliance of the court order dated June 9 on a writ petition filed by a group serving CRPF officers aggrieved by the discriminatory provisions and differential policy for promotion for medical officers and combatant officers.

Through an order on October 29, the Delhi High Court had slapped a fine of Rs 20,000 on CRPF Director General Kuldiep Singh in response to a contempt petition.

Through its order in June, the court had directed the CRPF chief to address the grievances of the combatant officers within 12 weeks.

The petitioners were aggrieved with the anomalies in the promotional entitlement of the medical cadre officers of the paramilitary who were getting a faster promotion than the combatant officers.



"Since the petitioner had to approach this court on account of non-compliance of the aforesaid order, costs of ₹20,000 is imposed upon the respondent (CRPF DG) to be paid to the petitioner on or before the next date," the court had said in its October order.

The petitioner Ranjeet Kumar Singh, a combatant in the rank of Deputy Commandant, and other serving officers had filed a contempt petition against CRPF Chief and had sought exemplary costs to be imposed on him on account of non-compliance of the court order.

The court posted the matter of the contempt petition after four weeks on November 24 and sought a compliance affidavit to be submitted by CRPF, Director General. However, the fine was not deposited as ordered by the court.

A division bench of the court had on June 9 directed the petitioner's representation dated March 28, 2020 to be disposed-off by the respondent (CRPF DG) within 12 weeks and failure of compliance led to the contempt plea.

"However, there is not even a whisper of compliance of the said order, thereby constraining the petitioner to

approach this court by way of instant contempt petition for which he has expended monies," the court had noted in its order while slapping the fine on the CRPF, DG.

Through the writ petition filed last year, the petitioner had sought quashing of a CRPF order dated June 10, 2010 and signal (internal message) dated February 21, 2019 relating to assignment of rank and badge to Medical Officers of CRPF in accordance with CRPF (Medical Officers Cadre) Rules.

But the CRPF, through its order in June 2010 and a Signal (internal communication platform of CRPF) message in February 2019 diluted the position postulated by the Ministry and made provisions to grant promotion to the medical officers without any link to the cadre officers getting a promotion.

After being slapped a fine of ₹20,000 by the Delhi High Court for failing to pass a reasoned order on discriminatory promotion policy of medical and cadre officers, CRPF DG Kuldiep Singh had subsequently trashed the petitioner's February 2020 plea to remedy the differential promotion of the two cadres in grant of badge and uniform.

Factionalism led to HP poll debacle: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reviewing the Himachal Pradesh bypoll debacle where it lost one Lok Sabha and three Assembly seats, the BJP has blamed wrong choice of candidates selection and "internal resentment" as the main causes for the Congress making a stunning comeback in the State.

The State BJP that reviewed the reasons of poll defeats this week from November 24 to November 26 also listed factionalism for the party's defeats in all four byelections held on October 30.

BJP president J P Nadda who hails from the State also addressed the BJP unit after the latter carried-out an extensive postmortem of the poll reverses.

The BJP lost the four Himachal seats that held bypolls — the Mandi parliamentary seat, and the Assembly constituencies of Arki, Fatehpur and Jubbhal-Kotkhair.

The reports prepared by the State BJP said the party failed to gauge the sympathy for Pratibha Singh, the Congress candidate for the Mandi seat and widow of former Chief Minister Virbhadr Singh. Selection of candidates for assembly bypoll 'without ascertaining their local base' and internal resentment were assessed to be the factors weakening BJP's challenge to the Congress.

Besides pocketing the prestigious Mandi Lok Sabha seat, the Congress also bagged assembly seats of Arki, Jubbhal-Kotkhair and Fatehpur in the state and managed to resurrect itself where the BJP held its sway for over one decade.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, BJP state president Suresh Kashyap, former chief minister Prem Kumar Dhumal, and state-in-charge Avinash Rai Khanna participated in the review meeting.

BJP is also in the process of reviewing party's performance in the byelections in the states like West Bengal and Rajasthan where it did not perform to the expectations and is likely to affect major changes in these state units in coming month.

The BJP lost the two bypolls in Rajasthan and ran third and fourth in the Dhariawad and Vallabh Nagar seats in Rajasthan.

The feud of former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raj's differences with state unit president Satish Punia seem to have played a negative factor in the bypoll debacle that went on to strengthen hands of a 'shaky' Congress Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot facing 'dissidence' from within his own party.

In West Bengal it Lost all four assembly seats including the one it held in the North Bengal

The remarkable comeback of the Congress in Himachal Pradesh had put question mark on the leadership of the Chief Minister Thakur who put blame on the "price rise" for the defeat instead of 'owning-up' the bypoll reverses in the state.

According to sources, Thakur would be allowed to make suitable changes in the party structure in the state and "continues" to enjoy the confidence of the central leadership.

Assembly polls are due in Himachal Pradesh in November, next year.



Chief Minister of Nagaland Neiphiu Rio, Minister of State for Tourism & Defence, Ajay Bhatt and MLA & Advisor Tourism, Government of Nagaland H Khehovi Yepthomi jointly inaugurated the three-day long 9th International Tourism Mart for the North East Region at Kohima, Nagaland on Saturday. Union Secretary, Tourism, Arvind Singh, ADG Tourism, Rupinder Brar and other dignitaries of Central Government and North Eastern States were also present on the occasion

Pioneer photo

CBI arrests ASI for accepting ₹20K bribe



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested an Assistant Sub Inspector, Police Station Bishnah, Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir) for demanding and accepting a bribe of ₹20,000 from the complainant who had approached the SHO for registering a case against certain persons who were trying to encroach and sell his land.

A case was registered on a complaint against the accused ASI Sham Lal on the allegations

of demanding a bribe.

It was alleged that in September, 2020, the complainant had submitted a complaint to SHO, Bishnah for registration of an FIR against certain persons who were trying to encroach and sell his land, the CBI said in a statement.

It was further alleged that the said ASI initially threatened and pressured the complainant to compromise with the encroachers and later, demanded a bribe of ₹50,000 for taking action on the complaint and for

clearing all disputes related to the complainant's land, it said.

Later, the bribe amount was allegedly negotiated at ₹20,000.

The CBI laid a trap and caught the accused red-handed while demanding and accepting negotiated bribe money of ₹20,000 from the complainant.

Searches were conducted at the premises of the accused at Jammu.

The accused is being produced before the Court of Special Judge, CBI Cases, Jammu.

Rahul terms new Covid-19 variant as 'serious threat'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Saturday termed the new Covid-19 variant as a "serious threat" and said bad vaccination figures can't be hidden for long.

"New variant is a serious threat. High time the Government of India gets serious about providing vaccine security to our countrymen. Bad vaccination figures can't be hidden for long behind one man's photo," the Congress leader said in a tweet.

Rahul had on both the occasion, first wave and pre second wave claimed to have alerted the government to take preventive and precautionary measures against the covid. His party also on several occasions remarked that Rahul was the first one to have alerted the government on the the pandemic.

According to the Ministry of Health and Family welfare, till now, 121.06 crore vaccine doses have been administered so far under Nationwide Vaccination Drive.



Amid rising concern about a new COVID-19 variant 'Omicron' first detected in South Africa, India has also added several countries to the list from where travellers would need to follow additional measures on arrival in India, including post-arrival testing for infection.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare adds Hong Kong and Israel to the list of countries from where travellers would need to follow additional measures on arrival in India, including post-arrival testing considering the detection of the new COVID-19 variant 'Omicron' in South Africa.

This variant is reported to have a significantly high number of mutations, and thus, has serious public health implications for the country, in view of recently relaxed visa restrictions and opening up of international travel.

Robust regulatory mechanism and draft 'agreement for sale' prescribed under provisions of RERA: Centre to SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has told the Supreme Court that there is a robust regulatory mechanism and draft 'agreement for sale' has already been prescribed under the provisions of RERA, which seeks to balance the rights and interest of home buyers and promoters in an accountable and transparent manner.

The Centre has filed an affidavit in the top court on a plea seeking direction to to frame model pacts for builders and agent buyers to protect customers and bring in transparency in the realty sector in line with the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) Act, 2016.

"There is a robust regulatory mechanism and a draft 'agreement for sale' has already been prescribed under the provisions of RERA, which seeks to balance the rights and interest of home buyers and promoters in an accountable and transparent manner," it said.

It said that according to section 84 of RERA, the appropriate government that is state government save in the instances involving its application in the territory of union territories has to notify rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act. The union government said that it has shared the



draft 'agreement for sale' in 2016 itself after the enactment of RERA with all the states and union territories and currently, all the states and union territories have notified rules under RERA except Nagaland with which the Centre is in discussion.

"It must be brought before the consideration of this court that prior to 2014 Real Estate Sector was largely unregulated. Under the regulatory regime of RERA, the ongoing projects which have not received the completion certificate; need to get registered under RERA," it said, adding that RERA ensures transparency, accountability, and financial discipline in the real estate sector.

The affidavit said that RERA mandates for registration of projects before adver-

tising, marketing, booking, selling and the law ensures the timely delivery of real estate projects and the entire fund flow is also subject to strict monitoring by the regulator to avoid diversion of funds, which will also secure the interest of home buyers."

"The RERA seeks to address vital issues of fair transactions, timely delivery, and quality construction through speedy adjudication of disputes, thus empowering the home buyers," it said.

The Centre said that under the provision of RERA, if the developer fails to complete the project as per terms of agreement for sale, a home buyer can either seek a refund of paid amount along with interest or ask for interest for every month of delay, till the handing over of the possession.

Kharge blames Centre for surrendering Indian territory to China

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge accused the Government on Saturday of surrendering Indian territory to China and said the BJP has transformed itself into the "Beijing Janata Party".

"In Arunachal Pradesh, BJP government lets China to build villages. In Uttar Pradesh, BJP government showcases Chinese airport as its own. In Ladakh, government surrenders and cedes our territory to Chinese. BJP has transformed into Beijing

Janata Party," Kharge said.

The Congress has been criticising the government over Chinese incursions in Ladakh and Uttarakhand and now in Arunachal Pradesh.

The opposition party has also been demanding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi take action against China and reclaim Indian territory.

A meeting of parliamentary party group chaired by Party president Sonia Gandhi also decided to corner the government on this Chinese loopholes during the Winter Session beginning Monday.

Centre forms panel to ensure timely completion of Vista projects

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Modi Government constituted a five-member committee to ensure timely completion of various projects executed under the Central Vista Redevelopment Plan. The five-member committee will be headed by former finance secretary Ratan P. Watal. Other members of the panel are Deputy CAG P.K. Tiwari, former director of L&T Shailendar Roy and IIT Delhi professor Mausam and the ministry's joint secretary.

The terms of reference of committee stated that the

panel will ensure continuous monitoring of the pace of execution of various projects of Central Vista with respect to targeted milestones to ensure their timely completion. The committee has been formed for next two years or next order (whatever is earlier) by the government.

The redevelopment of the Central Vista, the nation's power corridor, envisages a new parliament building, a common central secretariat, revamping of the 3-km-long Rajpath from the Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate, new office and resi-

dence of the prime minister, and a new vice-president enclave. The ministry said that the five-member committee will meet regularly and undertake site inspections for an independent review.

It will submit its reports and recommendations to the HUA ministry on a regular basis. Apart from this, it will also ensure that project is executed according to the approved scope of work and prescribed standards and specifications.

Earlier this month, infrastructure firm Kamladitya



Construction Pvt Ltd was awarded the contract for constructing the vice-president enclave

In October, Larsen & Toubro Limited had won the tender work for the con-

struction and maintenance of the first three buildings of the Common Central Secretariat under the Central Vista redevelopment project. Tata Projects Limited is constructing a new parlia-

ment building while Shapoorji Pallonji and Company Limited is executing the redevelopment work of the Central Vista Avenue from the Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate.

South Africa: Punished for detecting Omicron variant

AFP ■ JOHANNESBURG

South Africa complained on Saturday that it is being “punished” for detecting a new Covid-19 variant Omicron which the World Health Organization has termed a “variant of concern” and is more transmissible than the dominant Delta strain.

The decision by a number of countries around the world to ban flights from southern Africa following the discovery of the variant “is akin to punishing South Africa for its advanced genomic sequencing and the ability to detect new variants quicker,” the foreign affairs ministry said in a statement.

“Excellent science should be applauded and not punished,” it said.

The ministry pointed out that new variants had been discovered in other parts of the world.

“Each of those cases have had no recent links with Southern Africa, but the reaction to those countries is starkly different to cases in Southern Africa,” it said.

Israel and Belgium announced after South Africa that they also had detected cases of Omicron.

Government insisted that South Africa’s “capacity to test and its ramped-up vaccination



A woman wearing a face mask to curb the spread of Covid-19 holds a child on her back on a crowded sidewalk in Pretoria, South Africa on Saturday. As the world grapples with the emergence of the new variant of COVID-19, scientists in South Africa — where omicron was first identified — are scrambling to combat its spread across the country

AP

The decision by a number of countries around the world to ban flights from southern Africa following the discovery of the variant ‘is akin to punishing South Africa for its advanced genomic sequencing

programme, backed up by a world-class scientific community should give our global partners the comfort that we

are doing as well as they are in managing the pandemic.”

With more than 2.95 mil-

lion cases and 89,783 deaths, South Africa is the worst-hit country in Africa by the pandemic.

SA President advances crucial Covid meeting

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has advanced an urgent meeting with the National Coronavirus Command Council (NCCC) to Saturday, amid growing global concern about the potentially more contagious new Omicron variant, which was first detected in the country.

The meeting was originally scheduled for Sunday.

The meeting comes as a growing number of European countries are following UK’s lead in banning travel to and from South Africa and neighbouring countries of Namibia, Zimbabwe and Botswana, as well as Lesotho and Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), both of which are landlocked within South Africa.

The latest to impose the ban are Mauritius, the US, Israel, Sri Lanka and the Netherlands.

Speculation is rife that Ramaphosa will announce a stricter lockdown and other measures to curb the spread of the new variant.

The new Covid-19 variant B.1.1.529, first detected in South Africa this week, was on Friday designated as a “Variant of Concern” by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which named it “Omicron”.

A “variant of concern” is the WHO’s top category of worrying Covid-19 variants.

UK confirms first 2 cases of Omicron

PTI ■ LONDON

The UK on Saturday detected two cases of the new Covid-19 variant, Omicron, according to health secretary Sajid Javid as he added four more African countries to Britain’s travel red list.

The patients were detected in Chelmsford and Nottingham, Javid was quoted as saying by the BBC.

He said that the cases are linked and the two people are self-isolating alongside their households while further tests and contact tracing takes place.

“We have been made aware by @UKHSA of two UK cases of the Omicron variant. The two cases are linked and there is a connection with travel to southern Africa. These individuals are self-isolating with their households while further testing and contact tracing is underway,” Javid said on Twitter.

“As a precaution we are rolling out additional targeted testing in the affected areas - Nottingham and Chelmsford - and sequencing all positive cases. This is a fast-moving situation and we are taking decisive steps to protect public health,” he said in another tweet.

The new variant has also been identified in South Africa, Botswana, Belgium, Hong Kong and Israel.

On Friday, the UK placed



South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho and Eswatini on the list.

In his announcement on Saturday, health secretary Javid said Angola, Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia would be added to that list.

“We’ve always been very

clear that we won’t hesitate to take further action if that is what is required.

“Today I can announce one thing that we are doing immediately is carrying out targeted testing and sequencing of positive cases in the two areas that are affected,” he said.

“We are also adding Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Angola to the travel red list — effective from 4am Sunday. If you have returned from there in the last 10 days you must isolate and get PCR tests. And if you are eligible for your booster jab — now is the time to get it,” Javid tweeted.

Top UK scientist says Omicron ‘not a disaster’, vax likely to protect

PTI ■ LONDON

The new potentially highly-transmissible variant of Covid-19, named Omicron by the WHO, is not a disaster as vaccines are still likely to protect against the serious disease from it, a UK scientist, who advises the government, said on Saturday.

Professor Calum Semple, a microbiologist from the UK government’s Scientific Advisory Group for

Emergencies (SAGE), struck a note of caution on the worldwide headlines around the new B.1.1.529 variant detected in South Africa.

The UK imposed travel restrictions on six southern African countries — South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini, Zimbabwe and Namibia — as health authorities said that they are investigating the “most significant variant” which could be potentially more infectious and vaccine-resistant.

Doctor killed by Taliban for not stopping at checkpoint

Kabul: Taliban have killed a young physician in Afghanistan’s Herat province, local media reported citing sources on Friday.

According to Khaama Press, the doctor, identified as 33-year-old Amruddin Noori was killed in Herat city after he did not stop at a police security checkpoint, the victim’s family members claimed while speaking to media.

According to sources, Noori used to have a small private medical clinic had newly got married. **ANI**

Travel bans imposed on SA ‘draconian’, ‘misdirected’: Min

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

The travel bans imposed on South Africa by a growing number of countries due to the new potentially highly-transmissible variant of Covid-19 in this country is “draconian” and “misdirected”, Health Minister Joe Phaahla has said.

The new Covid-19 variant B.1.1.529, first detected in South Africa this week, was on Friday designated as a “Variant of Concern” by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which named it “Omicron”.

“We feel that it’s a wrong

approach. It is misdirected and it goes against the norms as advised by the WHO. We just feel that some of the leaderships of (these) countries are finding scapegoats to deal with what is a worldwide problem,” Phaahla said at a news briefing late Friday evening.

A “variant of concern” is the WHO’s top category of worrying Covid-19 variants. It was first reported to the WHO from South Africa on November 24, and has also been identified in Botswana, Belgium, Hong Kong and Israel.

High alert: World scurries to contain new Covid variant

AP ■ THE HAGUE

With each passing hour, new restrictions were being slapped on travel from countries in southern Africa as the world scurried on Saturday to contain a new variant of the coronavirus that has the potential to be more resistant to the protection offered by vaccines.

A host of countries, including Australia, Brazil, Canada Iran, Japan, Thailand and the United States, joined others, including the European Union and the U.K. In impose restrictions on southern African countries in response to warnings over the transmissibility of the new variant — against the advice of the World Health Organisation.

Despite the shutdown of flights, there was increasing



Travellers queue at a check-in counter at OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg after several countries banned flights from South Africa

AFP

evidence that the variant is already spreading. Cases have been reported in travellers in Belgium, Israel and Hong Kong, and Germany also has a

probable case. Dutch authorities are checking for the new variant after 61 passengers on two flights from South Africa tested positive for Covid-19.

FROM PAGE 1

NOW, STUBBLE BURNING TO BE DECRIMINALISED

Farmers believe that the three agriculture laws passed in September 2020 would benefit large corporations and immensely hurt their livelihood. The Government wanted to implement the laws to loosen rules around sale, pricing and storage of farm produce.

Observing that there is no point in continuing the farmers’ protest after the announcement of the repeal of three farm laws, Tomar urged the protestors to end their agitation and return to their homes.

The Minister also informed that the Centre has agreed to the farmers’ demands to decriminalise stubble burning. He said another demand of the farmers was to have a discussion on the minimum support price (MSP) and crop diversification. This demand will also be fulfilled with the setting up of a panel as announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 19 on the day of Gurupurab.

“The farmers’ demand was to decriminalise stubble burning. The Government of India has agreed to this demand,” the Minister said.

MODI: MAINTAIN INTENSIVE CONTAINMENT, SURVEILLANCE

Officials briefed Modi about the new variant of concern “Omicron” along with its characteristics and the impact seen in various countries. Its implications for India were also discussed. Modi spoke about the need to be proactive in light of the new variant. He said in light of the new threat, people need to be more cautious and the need to take proper precautions like masking and social distancing. The PM highlighted the need for monitoring all international arrivals, their testing as per guidelines, with a specific focus on countries identified “at risk”.

“The PM was given an overview of the sequencing efforts in the country and the variants circulating in the country. The PM directed that genome sequencing samples be collected from international travellers and community as per norms, tested

through the network of labs already established under INSACOG and early warning signal identified for Covid-19 management. PM spoke about the need to increase the sequencing efforts and make it more broad-based,” said PMO.

Modi also directed officials to work closely with State Governments to ensure that there is proper awareness at the State and district level. He directed that intensive containment and active surveillance should continue in clusters reporting higher cases and required technical support be provided to states which are reporting higher cases presently. The PM also asked that awareness needs to be created about ventilation and the air-borne behaviour of the virus.

The meeting was attended by Rajiv Gauba, Cabinet Secretary, Dr VK Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, AK Bhalla, Home Secretary, Rajesh Bhushan, Health Secretary Dr Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary (Biotechnology, Dr Balram Bhargava, DG ICMR; Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary (AYUSH), Durga Shankar Mishra, Secretary (Urban Development), RS Sharma CEO NHA; Prof K Vijay Raghavan (Principal Scientific Advisor to Govt. of India) along with other senior officials.

MAHA MAKES QUARANTINE MUST FOR FLIERS FROM OMICRON-HIT NATIONS

From the list, the officials will segregate the passengers arriving here from at least 10 “high risk countries” South Africa, Botswana, Brazil, China, Israel, Belgium, Hong Kong, Mauritius, New Zealand and others where the new and more dangerous Omicron had been detected.

Kakani said the BMC had taken all precautions to deal with Omicron. “Institutional segregation would be made compulsory for passengers who landed at the airport and they would not be segregated at home under any circumstances.

“If any patient of Omicron is found in any building of the city, the entire building will be sealed as a precaution,” Kakani said.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra Urban Development Minister Eknath Shinde directed all hospitals and their Intensive Care Units (ICUs) “to inspect and ensure

that all treatment infrastructure is working well”, with sufficient number of beds, stocks of liquid medical oxygen and ventilators to tackle any eventuality.

An emergency meeting, called by Shinde, was attended by several top officials including Principal Secretary UD Bhushan Gagrani, Kakani, Collectors of Thane, Raigad, Palghar and other districts, all municipal commissioners and civic heads in the State.

Coming as it does on the heels of recession of a severe Covid-19 wave, the new Omicron variant has triggered a global scare with many countries clamping fresh air travel restrictions, world stock markets crashing and several nations imposing fresh curbs on passengers coming from these countries.

UPHAAR CINEMA BLAZE: COURT RESERVES ORDER

The police had told the court that the punishment provided a solace to the victims of the tragedy and reinforced their faith in the justice delivery system, that too after 24 years.

If the jail terms awarded to the convicts are suspended within a month of incrimination, it will further erode the faith of the country’s common citizens in the criminal justice system, Additional Public Prosecutor A T Ansari had told the court.

The case is related to tampering with evidence in the main fire tragedy case, in which the Anshals were convicted and sentenced to a two-year jail term by the Supreme Court.

The apex court had, however, released the Anshals, taking into account the prison time they had done, on the condition that they pay a fine of ₹30 crore each, to be used for building a trauma centre in the national Capital.

The magisterial court had also sentenced former court staff Dinesh Chand Sharma and two others — P P Batra and Anoop Singh — to seven years in jail and slapped a fine of ₹3 lakh each on them.

It had imposed a fine of ₹2.25 crore each on the Anshals.

The tampering was detected for the first time on July 20, 2002 and a departmental enquiry was initiated against Sharma, who was suspended subsequently. Later, he was terminated from services on June 25, 2004.

Japan PM to step up defence amid China, N Korea threats

AP ■ TOKYO

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, at his first troop review Saturday, renewed his pledge to consider “all options”, including acquiring enemy base strike capability, and vowed to create a stronger Self-Defense Force to protect the country amid growing threats from China and North Korea.

Kishida said the security situation around Japan is rapidly changing and that “the reality is severer than ever,” with North Korea continuing to test-fire ballistic missiles while advancing its capability, and China pursuing a military buildup and increasingly assertive activity in the region.

“I will consider all options, including possessing so-called enemy base strike capability, to pursue strengthening of defense power that is necessary,” Kishida said in an address to hundreds of Ground Self-Defense Force members in olive-colored helmets and uniforms.

Kishida, who took office in October, served as top commander for the first time

at Saturday’s Self-Defense Force troop review held at the main army base Camp Asaka, north of Tokyo. About 800 troops gathered for the inspection, according to the Defense Ministry.

“The security environment surrounding Japan has been rapidly changing at an unprecedented speed. Things that used to happen only in science-fiction novels are today’s reality,” Kishida said. He said his government will lead “calm and realistic” discussions to determine what is needed to protect people’s lives and gain their understanding.

The possibility of possessing so-called enemy base strike capability has been a divisive issue because opponents say it violates Japan’s war-renouncing Constitution.

Kishida has shifted his dovish stance to a more hawkish one, apparently to please influential leaders within his governing party, including former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and to strengthen his grip on power. He now advocates increasing Japanese military capability and spending.

Cash-strapped Pakistan to get \$3 bn from Saudi

To park money in central bank

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Cash-strapped Pakistan will soon get USD 3 billion as loan from Saudi Arabia as the Cabinet led by Prime Minister Imran Khan has approved an agreement to keep the amount in the country’s central bank, media reports said on Saturday.

The Saudi government had promised to maintain a reserve of \$3 billion at the State Bank of Pakistan, *Geo News* reported.

According to the agreement, the aid will remain in the SBP’s deposit account

for a year. “The SBP has finalised all arrangements and now everything is in place and the amount of the agreed deposit will be received within the next couple of days,” official sources told *The News*. The federal Cabinet approved the agreement to keep the USD 3 billion aid from Saudi Arabia in the SBP, the reports quoted an official document as saying. The Cabinet approved the State Bank’s retention of \$3 billion from the Saudi Development Fund.

Pakistan’s entire liquid foreign reserves, according to the central bank, stood at USD 22.773 billion as of November 19, according to *Geo News*.

The numbers indicate that the SBP held USD 16.254 billion in foreign reserves, while commercial banks kept USD 6.519 billion in net foreign reserves.



‘More than tough, it was very exciting and fun’

MADHUR MITTAL, who plays Raju in MX Player's *Matsya Kaand*, speaks with SUPRIYA RAMESH about his role, his experience of doing a thriller-con and how acting happened

■ **What is *Matsya Kaand* about?**

It's basically a cat and mouse game between two equally intelligent and genius people. That's *Matsya* played by Ravi Dubey and Ravi Krishan ji is playing Tej Raj, the guy is trying to catch *Matsya*. It's just a brilliant back and forth, trying to outwit each other. Which I think is fabulous. It's more like brains over brawn, which is more interesting to watch and along with that you have an incredible ensemble of cast playing all of these characters that make the show come to life.

■ **What is your role?**

I play Raju, who I think in some ways the heart of the show. In the sense that he is very *jugaadu*. The trait that leads him to meet *Matsya* and become a part of his team. The three people team where Raju is the glue that holds the team together. He is a little clumsy, he is very disarming, full of heart, warmth and very loyal. That's what attracted me to this character. A sweet boy that I don't think people have had the chance to see this character before. That's the main reason why I wanted to do this.

■ **How did you land this project?**

Mr Gautam Talwar, who is the chief content

officer of MX player was very kind enough to set up a meeting with me and Ajay sir. That's because he thought I was right for the character. We met and instantly clicked. I love Ajay sir's energy, the way he is so calm and incredibly supportive. With him, it felt free. We had a couple of meetings and he thought I was right for the part and I obviously loved it because I haven't done something like this before. The show was great and fantastic people in it from the creators to the cast.

■ **How tough was this role?**

More than tough, I would like to say it was very exciting and fun. I mean every job is tough in its own way but for me, because I love acting so much, they seem like opportunities rather than obstacles.

This was a team effort. You can make paintings alone, songs alone, most of the arts alone but you can't make a show alone. You need a great team around you and luckily we found amazing people that all just fit like a Legos together. It was like clockwork and we were working. It was just a fantastic experience.

■ **How has your experience been with your co-stars?**

Ravi *bhaiya* and Zoya are so fun to be with. All three of us bonded a lot after work. Zoya's mom was with us as well.

All of us would go out to so many dinners and lunches as much as we could during COVID with the places that were open. We had a tremendous time gorging on all sorts of food.

I always made everyone jealous of my samosas because I would eat everything while Ravi *bhaiya* and Zoya would watch what they eat. That was my favourite thing to do. We had an incredible time. The whole show has been fantastic.

■ **You have been on screen from a very young age. How did acting happen?**

Acting happened a little late. I started my career as a dancer. I won Boogie Woogie back in 1997. After that me and my father, we all came to Bombay so that I could have a career. Through dancing a lot of people suggested that because I was very expressive in dance and I should try acting. I started giving a few auditions and then my first film was *One Two Ka Four*. I got another one with Salman called *Kahi Pyaar Na Hoiyaye*. So then the acting journey started and somewhere down the line I felt that I was a better actor than a dancer. So around the age of 14 I focused all my energy into acting and the universe has been kind. At the age of 18 I was at the Oscars with *Slumdog Millionaire*.

■ **You are known for *Slumdog Millionaire* and your role and acting is highly appreciated. How tough was it to get into that character of Salim?**

For Salim, the main thing was, before that I had never played a grey character. Even now, people associate to that sort of characters. Before that I was this very timid sort of nice guy. I was a kid so I played a kid, all of the things that I had done before, there is nothing grey about that. So to get someone like Salim who was more complicated under the surface. It's not just a guy who is doing bad things to get money. There are layers there and obviously you get to see them as the film progresses.

It was super intense and luckily Danny Boyle was a director who sat down with me because I was a young actor. We had workshops with him for couple of months. Almost two and a half to three months before the film began. It was very guided, that time I wasn't even evolved enough as an actor to bring a lot of myself to the character.

I did my fair share of research like I went out with some guys who had a similar vibe like Salim and I realised that people who do bad things aren't that bad inherently. Things have happened to them which doesn't really justify what they do but you can understand it in a way. That's how I started approaching that character.

■ **What has been the most challenging role till now?**

I think the most challenging role that I have done was in this Disney film called *Million Dollar Arm*. That was difficult because I had done a sports film before *Slumdog Millionaire*. This was about baseball and I had no clue about it. I had never picked up a baseball in my life before, which was great in a way because the character also goes through the same journey. But physically, it was very enduring because for three months, we had coaches and rigorous training programme. I had to put up some muscle so, it was very physically demanding and that was one of the first times I had to do that.

I would say that because of the physicality of it and the second one would be this film called *Matr* which was after this life-ending car crash that I had been through. In which I had almost completely lost my face. I had to get multiple surgeries done to look like myself again. Because of the accident, I thought I would never act again. The film was super exciting but also very scary. That character took a lot out of me as well.

■ **What genre do you prefer?**

I will always say yes to a genre that I haven't had the chance to do yet. Funny but yeah science-fiction is the one. A film like *Sunshine* by Danny Boyle or like the *Arrival*. I love films like that. I almost did get a show like that but I missed out on it due to date issues. Something in that realm, I would absolutely jump up.

Why I Killed Gandhi



Director: Ashok Tyagi
Producer: Kalyani Singh
Starring: Amol Kolhe (Nathuram Godse)
Presenter: Maann Singh
Release date: January 30, 2022

It is not often that you get to see films that are taken from real life, especially when it comes to life stories on people who gave up everything to get India free. Maann Singh's *Why I Killed Gandhi* is the picturisation of the legal statement that was submitted by Nathuram Godse to the honourable Court during Gandhi's murder trial. With the permission of Justice Atma Charan, the statement was read out by Nathuram Godse before the Court. It took almost four-and-a-half hours for the entire statement to be read out. It was later published as a book by the same title. This book is freely available at all popular e-commerce sites.

Everybody knows that Gandhiji was killed by Nathuram Godse. But the burning question – what prompted him to take such an extreme step – was never answered. However, a perception has been created that Godse was a terrorist or a mentally disbalanced Hindu extremist. However, when you read his statement, you realise that he was a freedom fighter and social activist from Pune and edited a newspaper *Agrani*.

In 1964, the Government instituted a one-man commission under the jurisdiction of Justice J.L. Kapoor, a retired justice of the Supreme Court to investigate into the causes that led to the murder of Gandhiji. Justice J.L. Kapoor submitted his report in 1970 and the 10-minute commentary in the beginning of the film is the reproduction of the selected passages from the Chapter 12 of that report. The remaining 35 minutes of the film, the edited version, is the legal statement submitted by Godse to the Court of law. Every word spoken in the film is the translation of words taken from this legal document. What the film reveals has been systematically suppressed since Nathuram Godse was hanged and it gives a radically alternative perspective to look at the history of 20th Century India.

TELLYTALE

‘I WAS A LITTLE SCEPTICAL ABOUT TAKING IT’



Actor Sharad Malhotra says that he was a little skeptical about taking his latest show *Vidroh*, which is historical.

"Frankly speaking, when I was offered the show, I was a little skeptical about taking it, but not in a negative way. I had neither heard about my character Bakshi Jagabandhu nor much was written about him in history. But when I researched about him, I found out that he was the first man in history to have started a people's revolt in the country. I have not done too many shows, I am very choosy about the ones I do. It's been less but it has been good work. I have done just a handful of shows in the last 15 years but most of them did pretty well and were etched in people's memories," he said.

According to him, earlier actors had a demarcation between a TV actor and a film actor, which is not there anymore. "The line has blurred and a TV actor is

working in web shows and films and vice versa. As far as shelf life is concerned, it is a very subjective matter. When I started acting, I wanted to just give it a shot, I didn't plan on continuing for so long. I was taking each day as it came," he said.

"I have been extremely blessed to be getting lead roles even after 15 years. But that didn't happen overnight, I had to work towards it. It took a lot of blood, sweat, and hard work to be where I am today," he added.

The Bharat Ka Veer Putra – Maharana Pratap actor calls himself a very greedy actor.

"A lot of male actors on TV complain of the screen space as the industry is still governed by women. TV is said to be a medium ruled by the women, for the women, and of the women. But a few men have been lucky enough to not fall into that category," he said.

HARSHALI ZINE ON TROLLS

It goes without saying that social media has redefined our lives. Things have become easier and good for us in more ways than one. However, many feel that the world of social media is fake, yet, at the same time, everyone wants that attention. Actor Harshali Zine decodes the whole thing.



"One has to understand that social media isn't free, it costs you your focus. These free apps ask for permission to read your emails, text messages, listen to your phone calls, etc. The less apps you are on is better. Privacy is a myth in the age of smartphones and social media," says the actor known for TV shows, CID, Diya Aur Baati Hum, web series, BOSS: Baap of Special Services, and Marathi film, Paach Naar Ek Bezaar, among others.

Social media has become an ego massage tool and it disrupts the regular life of actors as they are expected to put new content on a daily basis.

What's your opinion on trolls and how do you deal with trolling? "I don't think anything about them. They should not be given importance to. Nobody has that kind of power over me to affect my peace of mind. It's them reflecting their diseased mentality. Why should I take it personally? It has nothing to do with me. I send them healing," she replies.

LOMOTIF LAUNCHES IN INDIA

The Punjabi heartthrob and singing sensation Guru Randhawa rocked the stage at the launch of US-based Short-Format Video-Sharing App- *Lomotif* - Singer Shirley Setia, Big Boss Fame Asim Riaz, Popular actors Adaa Khan, Anushka Sen and Bhojpuri superstars Ravi Kishan & Akshara Singh were also a part of the launch.

Lomotif has made its official entry into India. Ted Farnsworth, Chairman and Co-founder of ZASH Global Media and

Entertainment Corporation, spearheaded the launch in New Delhi. On this occasion, the app also unveiled Lomotif India, a brand-new channel. Users can also participate in Lomotif India's weekly challenges by posting their videos to win amazing prizes. Founded by Singapore-based Paul Yang, Lomotif was acquired by ZASH earlier this year.

Its patent technology allows users to immerse themselves in a super-engaging reel format of content.

SOS! ATHARVA GETS KIDNAPPED

Sony SAB's *Wagle Ki Duniya* - Nayi Peedhi Naye Kisse y continues to garner a massive fan following with its lighthearted and relatable content. The current series of episodes brings the biggest twist of all time in the story as the Wagle family goes through harrowingly trying times with Atharva's (Sheehan Kapah) kidnapping.

Atharva and Vandana's (Pariva Pranati) day begins with a dispute as Vandana mistakenly blames Atharva for printing Dakku's (Deepak Pareek) picture with 'Wanted - Dead or Alive' written on it. Going about their usual day, the Wagle family is completely oblivious of the misfortune which looms over them. On his way to school, Atharva gets kidnapped by two goons. What has happened to Atharva is of complete mystery to the entire Wagle family as their simple lifestyle could not land them in trouble with goons.



WALT DISNEY ANIMATION STUDIOS CELEBRATE'S 60TH FILM — ENCANTO

Disney movies are special and have a surprise element in them that they transport the audience to the world of magic and laughter. With a legacy spanning more than 90 years, Walt Disney Animation Studios have created phenomenal movies which have received much love and appreciation from people of all ages from all over the world. To celebrate this love and joy, Disney has come up with its 60th animated musical — *Encanto*, releasing in your nearest theaters. This movie is about a family who has special powers of magic to make this world a better place. Here's a look back at some iconic movies by Walt Disney Animation Studios.

The *Lion King* (2019). If you are looking to watch a movie which is filled with love, adventure and motivation, then *Lion King* is your destination. Directed by Jon Favreau, this 2019 film was a mega hit globally. The gripping storyline, amazing music, astonishing animation kept the viewers hooked right from the start till the very end.

Raya and The Last Dragon (2021). Filled with a whole lot of intense drama and action, this movie will make the wildest and unimaginable of scenarios come true. The story is about a place where dragons and humans live together in harmony until one day when a sinister monster, returns after 500 years and threatens this land. Raya is given the responsibility to track down the last dragon to save the humans. Will Raya be able to give hope to all and return with a dragon?

Tangled (2010). Walt Disney Animation Studios is known to think out of the box. We all



know the story of Rapunzel but could we have ever imagined her to kidnap the most eligible bachelor, aka Flynn Rider, in town? Directed by Nathan Greno and Byron Howard, the movie is a treat to the viewer's eyes with a gripping storyline and amazing music.

Tarzan This movie has to be in this list. The famous and iconic - Disney's *Tarzan* is what the people who are in their 20's and early 30's watched and grew up with. This magnificent adaptation of Edgar Rice Burroughs's story of

the ape man begins deep within the jungle when Tarzan, a baby who's lost his parents to a leopard, is adopted by a family of gorillas. The phenomenal animation, great music and wonderful voiceover made this movie a blockbuster globally with people from all ages loving this movie and never getting bored even after watching it multiple times. It was the movie which raised the bar for Walt Disney Animation Studios and made a mark on people's hearts and minds forever.

Frozen. *Frozen* was inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale 'The Snow Queen'. Directed by Chris Buck and Jennifer Lee, this movie depicts a princess who sets off on a journey along with an iceman, his reindeer and a snowman to find her sister whose magical power acted as a curse on their kingdom in eternal winter. With a story and soundtrack that struck the right chord, the film took absolutely no time to shatter all box office records worldwide. It won multiple prestigious awards because of how magnificent it was and the love that was showered by the fans and viewers.

Walt Disney Animation Studio is all geared up for yet another theatrical release of *Encanto*. Directed by Byron Howard and Jared Bush, while the beautiful songs featured in it are by Emmy, Grammy and Tony Award winner Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Produced by Yvett Merino, this movie is geared up to give you a gala time in a lala-land which is filled with great songs and captivating sequences.

SAY NO TO DOMESTIC ABUSE

In an actor's career, we don manyhats, but rarely do we come across characters that leave us shaken to the core. Not because it lets you explore more as an artist, but it wakes you up to a reality, you knew little about. This is exactly what hit me when I got to portray Koel in *Ziddi Dil Maane Na*, a character subjected to domestic violence and an agonizing past that continues to haunt her and her little son. Reprising Koel, I realized how home has a completely different meaning for many women across the globe and how big a menace is domestic abuse.

I wasn't oblivious to this peril before. The alarming number of cases for domestic abuse in our country startled and shocked me as well. But what my character made me aware of, is the intensity of the problem, its relevance amongst majority of women and how as a society, we all have our bit to do to cause change. You, me, and everyone!

So, today, on International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women, I choose courage

to talk about the grave issue of domestic abuse and appeal everyone out there to Say NO to violence and Stand-up against this social evil. I would also want to appreciate Sony SAB for raising this issue and spreading awareness around this serious subject.

I shudder in fear to think of the abuse, a lot of women in this country live through and endure till the time they can't anymore. Yet, this is just the tip of the iceberg. As much as we read such cases, there are many more lurking in the dark waiting to be heard. It's hard to imagine the trauma, the pain and the stigma surrounding this vicious practice that causes women to stay silent.

As I navigate the journey of my character Koel in the show *Ziddi Dil Maane Na*, the reality of domestic abuse is enveloping me tight. My heart goes out to the women who endure through it all, either out of helplessness, or lack of awareness or both. The

sleepless nights, the fear of



survival, the fear of your kid's survival is something I cannot even begin to measure. And not to forget, even if you happen to tide over this crisis, the shame and stigma that trails a woman is hard to put in words.

But dear women, just like Koel, that shouldn't deter you from battling this menace. The bruises that you carry on your skin, heart and mind are worth fighting for. Because we all deserve a world full of love, compassion and respect.

I understand the responsibility of portraying your side of the story as authentically as I can. I need you to know that you're not alone, today and always. You're a queen, you just need to awaken and take your stride as the world awaits you with open arms.

I hope like Koel, you also find the strength to speak up and fight for your rights. Because if she can, so can you.



FIT FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Reduce, reuse, recylce and sustainability are no longer the buzz words. They are our present need and hold key to a better future. One company is trying to ensure that we live in a world that is cleaner by recycling plastic and making carpets out of it. SHALINI SAKSENA brings you a report

An alarming research came to light a couple of weeks back. Plastic waste from the COVID-19 weighing 25,900 tonnes, equivalent to more than 2,000 double decker buses, has leaked into the ocean. But what is even worse is that it doesn't end here. At the COP26, there were six facts linking the plastic lifecycle to climate change that must be taken into account. The most immediate being that South Asia is one of the largest generators of plastic waste; the region discards more than 26 million tons of plastics every day! This means that there is immediate need for action and reduce, reuse and recycle is the only way forward. Hence, the under the present situation, the success of any business is dependent on its sustainable development factor. In other words resource conservation protecting the environment is the need of the hour. Manufacturers and producers have to give importance to the sustainability factor while supplying products and services.

One such company that is trying its best to follow eco-friendly model is Carpets Inter. The company that originally started doing business in the 1950s is today recycling plastic to make carpets. From manufacturing all kinds of carpets in 1974 to relocating to Thailand in 2004 and getting acquired in 2017, the company is known for its customisation and innovation.

Richard Morris, global business director, Carpets Inter tells you that since their factory in the green field zone, they have had to be very environmentally conscious from the very beginning.

"Back in the 1990s also, we had adopted measures that were environment friendly. By the 2000s we

had started suing recycled material to manufacture our carpets. Over the years, recycling and sustainability has been a necessity because of the land where we are which has today become a residential area. This means that the factory has to be self-contained and that no waste goes into the landfill. We recycle our water through catchment area. All the wastage is also treated," Morris says.

The shift to sustainable manufacturing has not been as easy task. To run initiative one has to run for long period of time and learn along the way, Morris tells you.

"When it comes to conformity, there is a lot of investment. We are in a commodity-driven market. This means that we have had to keep the prices low. What has happened over the years is that several leading brands have raised their benchmark when it comes to conformity. Ten years back carbon foot print was not a term that was being used. It was all about recycle and reuse. This means that one has to look for recycling material and make a product.

As we started recycling plastic bottles to make carpets, the question staring at us was what happens to the carpets once they are past their shelf life? There is a challenge here. Thailand doesn't allow entry of refuse from another country. We have therefore had to look for ways to repurpose and recycle the product in the countries where we export. The good part is that within the country, we have been able to take back not only our product but our competitors and recycle it to make clean energy," Morris explains.

To manufacture one square metre of carpet, the company uses 55 reused 500 ml plastic bottles. These are either sources from within Thailand or China. To make plas-



tic carpets, the used plastic bottles are melted in a machine. It is then reverted into the pellet form. From the pellets, thin strands like a fishing line is made which is then cut up. This is then needle-punched into a fine felt. This is then laminated onto the carpets forming the base. The recycle plastic is the entire packing system that forms the entire layer under the modular carpet.

"What we using to manufacture the carpet itself are carbon-neutral nylons. We don't manufacture this nylon but source it from very large companies that are themselves recycling plastic like fishing nets. They use the similar process that we do and make filament and spin it into carbon-neutral fibres," Morris tells you.

There are several benefits of

using such carpets. First, they increase the life of the product. Usually, modular carpets come with hard packing because it is cheaper to use it. Today, the idea is to look for packing made from recycled material. The tile is going to be impacted by the foot fall and whatever is placed on top of the modular carpet. But if there is a cushioning, the underfoot impact is

absorbed by what is underneath increasing the longevity. The cushion packing has other advantages as well. There is cost-saving benefits — from the installation firm to the investor to the manufacturer. There is benefit at the users' end too.

Second, the felt acts as a thermal barrier. It can withstand very high to low temperatures. In other words, if you live in a hot region it

will help to keep the room cooler reducing depending on the air conditioning. In cold climate, it prevents the heat from escaping keeping the room warm. Not only does it reduce the electricity bill but one is also reducing carbon foot print.

The felt also takes care of the accoustics. There are several organisations that are looking to reduce noise pollution. The eco-soft material acts as an accoutic barrier. It will increase the noise reduction by 150 per cent.

"A typical tile is 50x50 cm or 25cmx1m tiles. But we can customise it and manufacture up to 2 metre sq tiles that are 20 cm long. They are rolls of modular tiles. Hence there are several benfits of using ourproduct," Morris says.

In India, the company has its presence is in Gurugram. The focus here is to cater to the hotel and hospitality industry and MNCs. The good part is that the prices are competitive since there are several companies already in the industry.

"While we are aware that our product is expensive, the advantages that our modular carpet has outweigh the slight increase in the price. Our carpets are also aesthetically pleasing and colourful which gives us an edge. Till now we have sold carpets that would fit 25-30 buildings from top to bottom and we are growing steadily in the market," Morris says.

For now, the company is concentrating only on the commercial side of business in India. "Unfortunately, there is no demand at the retail level in the country. This is because of the saturation and hand-knotted carpets have been in the country for centuring. In the retail sector, the company is working through distributors in countries like Australia.

‘WE ARE DOING A LOT BUT UNFORTUNATELY NOT ENOUGH’

SUPRIYA RAMESH speaks with STEFANO FUNARI, an upcycling entrepreneur about climate change, how much we are doing about it and his project where women from Mumbai slums are employed to make products

What exactly is climate change? What is causing it? How is it affecting the planet right now? Climate change refers to all the long-term changes in our climate, including Earth's rising surface temperature, sea level rise, extreme weather, and ocean acidification. The cause of current climate change is largely human activity like burning fossil fuels, natural gas, oil, and coal. Burning these materials releases greenhouse gases into Earth's atmosphere.

Global warming and climate change are two terms used interchangeably in colloquial language but global warming, which refers to the Earth's rising surface temperature, is just one of the manifestations of climate change.

Climate change is posing a serious threat to human health and putting our lives at risk. The effects of climate change cause less predictable weather patterns and increase the number of natural disasters that occur worldwide, such as hurricanes and wildfires. And it goes beyond that by altering where species live, how they interact, and the timing of biological events, which could fundamentally transform current ecosystems.

While everyone around the world feels the effects of climate change, the most vulnerable are people living in the poorest conditions. "We see this every day in Mumbai, a city which is becoming warmer and facing extreme and unpredictable rainfall," Stefano Funari, an upcycling entrepreneur tells us.

What are we doing about it? "My opinion is that we are doing a lot but unfortunately not enough. This is a challenge of epochal proportions that calls for extraordinary measures from all the major stakeholders, Governments and large corporations in the first place. The long term risk of climate change is bigger than the one posed by COVID-19 but the resources invested are by far not at the same level. Financial interests are still absolutely dictating the agenda and we are running out of time," he adds.

10 years ago, Funari left his job in Europe and moved across the world to the slums of Mumbai. Because he needed purpose. Working in technology was just not cutting it for him. He never looked back and understood from the very beginning that the



only way not to be constantly lost in translation was to rely on a trusted group of local people. "The cultural gap is big and I need a constant dialogue with friends, partners and colleagues to read the situations and make my decisions. My biggest challenge has probably been to create this trusted group," says Funari.

Funari is an upcycling entrepreneur. His 'I was a Sari' project is a Mumbai-meets-Milan fashion label, making bold accessories and ready to wear from pre-loved Indian saris. They work with women from marginalised communities so that they can carve out a better future for themselves. Women and men all over the world are now dressed in saris. Saris in different avatars-re-imagined as loungewear, shoes and bags. "Inspired by the work of Bangladeshi Nobel Laureate and the founder of Grameen Bank, Prof. Yunus, I was a Sari, is implementing a sustainable, eco-friendly model which focuses on a 'triple bottom line' - constantly analysing its social, environmental and financial impact and viability, and understanding the relationship each has with the others," Funari explains.

Upcycling, also known as creative reuse, is the process of transforming by-products, waste materials, useless, or unwanted products into new materials or products perceived to be of greater quality, such as artistic value or environmental value.

"Upcycling can be compared to the Japanese technique of Wabi Sabi - turning something discarded into something valuable and desirable," says Funari. He says that through such a process their goal is to reduce the impact on our planet. But in their case they have a second important goal too. In fact, they employ women from Mumbai slums to make products. And what's beautiful is that these women get upcycled themselves as they transform their lives in so many ways. They start off as unskilled and unemployed and become talented artisans, the designers of their own future.

Talking about the environmental benefits of upcycling, Funari tells us, "In the textile field upcycling replaces the need to produce new fabric by using textile products that already exist. So we save the water and land used for growing materials like cotton. And

we save oil and water used for making synthetic fibres like polyester. All this means a huge reduction in our carbon emissions."

To create desirable and soulful products that empower people and respect our planet, and a platform for sustainable fashion brands that share social and environmental values, Funari set up a social business called 2nd Innings Handicrafts. "The very reason we exist is to empower women from not so privileged backgrounds to become the architects of their future. Business becomes more beautiful when women start thriving," says Funari.

He says that there is a beautiful transformation that takes place — from beneficiaries, these women become artisans as they learn the skill and start transforming saris into contemporary fashion pieces. They work with pre-loved or post-consumer waste and not virgin materials, which helps us reduce our carbon footprint and save gallons of water. Their aim is to work with more women so that they can make a considerable social impact, while they continue to create beautiful products that minimise waste.

AXAR's high 5! NZ out for 296 on Day 3



PTI ■ KANPUR

Axar Patel continued his golden run in favourable home conditions, grabbing another five-wicket haul to put India in the driver's seat after New Zealand were bowled out for 296 despite an opening stand of 151 on the third day of the first Test here on Saturday.

The left-arm spinner had a couple of dream sessions when he finally found the ideal pace and turn off the surface to completely derail New Zealand's steady first innings. His final figures read 34-6-62-5 as India got a crucial 49-run first innings lead, which increased to 63 at stumps.

Ravichandran Ashwin was also on the money

as he bowled 42.3 overs to finish on 3 for 82, inching closer to becoming the third highest Indian wicket-taker in Test cricket.

Gujarat man Axar has been terrific since he donned the India whites at the start of the year and now has as many as 32 wickets in just three and half Tests.

The five-for was his fifth having already got four in the three Tests against England.

However, he will cherish this one a bit more considering that the track was not as diabolical as the ones in the England series (second Test in Chennai and the Pink Test in Ahmedabad).

At stumps, the hosts were 14 for 1 after losing Shubman Gill (1) for the second time to Kyle Jamieson, who again found a gaping hole between his bat and pad.

With the deliveries keeping wickedly low, New Zealand's chances of fighting it out in the fourth innings will be pretty low unless skipper Kane Williamson produces one of his steady knocks.

On the day, however, he managed just 18 and when Umesh Yadav's in-cutter brought about his downfall at the stroke of lunch, the wheels of fortune turned in favour of India.

This was after openers Will Young (89 off 214 balls) and Tom Latham (95 off 282 balls) added 151 for the opening stand but both, despite their dogged display, missed out on hundreds.

It was the second new ball that did the trick just before lunch as Umesh (1/50 in 18 overs) pitched one on off-stump, which cut back enough

to find Williamson's pads.

The next two sessions belonged to India as they got eight wickets for just 99 runs.

Axar's perseverance paid off as he changed his line from leg-middle to off-middle and the release was at a greater speed when compared to what he did on the second evening.

He removed Ross Taylor (11), Henry Nicholls (2) and Latham (95 off 282 balls) to completely upset Black Caps' rhythm.

It was in the post-lunch session that Axar finally sent down a classical left-arm spinner's delivery.

There was a delivery that had a bit of air and pitched on length drawing Taylor forward and then turned enough to take an outside edge which went to substitute keeper K S Bharat. Bharat came in after regular stumper Wriddhiman Saha

complained of a stiff neck.

Nicholls also tried sweeping a much fuller delivery which turned back in and he was found leg before.

Having understood that on a slower track like this one, the pace off the pitch needed to increase, Axar gave it a tweak at decent clip which saw Latham beaten all ends up. Bharat fumbled before he could effect the stumping.

Prior to that, Latham hardly had any lapse of concentration as he played 47 overs of the New Zealand innings.

Later on, Axar got Tom Bundell (13 off 94 balls), who looked to merely survive and finally got a 'shooter' that cleaned his defence.

Southie became his fifth victim trying to play inside an arm ball which turned enough to hit the off-stump.

The pitch on the third day

didn't change its character as it stayed low and slow but the Indian spinners did better as the time progressed by varying the pace of their deliveries.

During the session, Ashwin was seen involved in an animated discussion with umpire Nitin Menon after he decided to come round the wicket against Williamson and cautioned for walking on the dangerous area on his follow-through, which also obstructed the umpire's view.

The intention was to create a few roughs with his bowling spikes in the region.

Menon, having understood the motive, had a word with Ashwin and skipper Ajinkya Rahane and after some discussions, normalcy prevailed.

Later at the fag end of the day, Ashwin cleaned up the visiting team's tail.

► Scoreboard	
INDIA 1ST INNINGS: 345	
NEW ZEALAND 1ST INNINGS: (OVERNIGHT 129/0)	
Tom Latham st sub (KS Bharat) b Patel	95
Will Young c sub (KS Bharat) b Ashwin	89
Kane Williamson lbw b Yadav	18
Ross Taylor c sub (KS Bharat) b Patel	11
Henry Nicholls lbw b Patel	2
Tom Blundell b Patel	13
Rachin Ravindra b Jadeja	13
Kyle Jamieson c Patel b Ashwin	23
Tim Southee b Patel	5
William Somerville b Ashwin	6
Ajaz Patel	5*
Extras: (B-6, LB-4, NB-5, W-1) 16	
Total: (all out in 142.3 overs) 296	
Fall of wickets: 1-151, 2-197, 3-214, 4-218, 5-227, 6-241, 7-258, 8-270, 9-284	
Bowling (India):	
Ishant Sharma	15-5-35-0
Umesh Yadav	18-3-50-1
R Ashwin	42.3-10-82-3
R Jadeja	33-10-57-1
Axar Patel	34-6-62-5
INDIA 2ND INNINGS: 14-1	
Mayank Agarwal	4*
Shubman Gill b Jamieson	1
Cheteshwar Pujara	9*
Extras: 0	
Total: (1 wkts, 5 Overs) 14	
Fall of Wickets: 2-1	
Bowler (New Zealand):	
Tim Southee	2-1-2-0
Kyle Jamieson	2-0-8-1
Ajaz Patel	1-0-4-0



Never saw myself as a white ball specialist: Axar

PTI ■ KANPUR

The first Test against New Zealand.

It was his fifth fifer in just seven completed Test innings, an incredible feat in its own way even if he bowled in spin-friendly conditions.

"Whenever I have played first-class or India A, I have done well. I have never seen myself as a white ball specialist," Patel made it clear that he doesn't like being bracketed.

For the left-arm orthodox from Gujarat, it's all in the mind. "It's all in mind-set as to what you perceive yourself as - a white ball specialist or red ball specialist. I always had the belief that whenever I get a chance I will do well. "Obviously, I give credit to team members for having faith in me and I have been able to stand up to their expectations."

But does he feel extra pressure that two world class spinners in Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja are also in the same eleven? "Whenever I go to the ground, I try and enjoy and not think about whether Ashwin bhai and Jaddu are there," he made his thought-process clear.

"When I have ball in my hand, I just try and see to it that I am enjoying my bowling, trying to read the wicket and understand what's happening, how it's behaving and plan accordingly," he elaborated.

He is not at all bothered whether he has a lead role or a supporting one. "I don't think about whether my role is a lead one or whether there are senior bowlers around me, I only think about my bowling and what is required

to be done in that particular spell," he added.

USING THE CREASE

Axar made subtle changes while bowling on Saturday compared to his first spell on the second day and the key was to play with varied angles, mixing the pace of his deliveries. "I used the crease much more today and I didn't use the crease a lot in the 10 overs that I bowled yesterday. "I was using the crease by going wide and coming near the stumps, creating various angles, and that helped me get a lot of purchase," he said when asked about what kind of changes he brought about on Saturday.

CRACKS HAVEN'T OPENED MUCH

Patel assessed that the

pitch isn't as difficult as it may seem as only the odd ball is turning or keeping low but at the same time reminded that patience will be the key.

"Our batters were present at the ground and they also have a fair idea. We were discussing that cracks haven't opened much and only the odd ball is doing a bit, if you play the ball on its merit, there won't be much trouble," he said.

"There isn't any uneven bounce as such. An odd ball is either turning or keeping low. If they start bowling a disciplined line and keep patience then only our batters can face some trouble. I will advise our batters to keep patience and put the bad balls away," he said.

RAHUL SIR, AJJU BHAI WERE CALM

WHEN WICKETS WEREN'T COMING

Patel is happy that stand-in captain Ajinkya Rahane and head coach Rahul Dravid helped in keeping a calm dressing room when the team did not get any wicket for 67 overs.

"Obviously, if you don't get wicket for 67 overs, it's tough but the dressing room was calm as Ajju bhai and Rahul sir kept a calm environment. They said we have to keep patience because if we get one, we will get a few more and then we can make inroads," he said. "We got the reward for our persistence in the first and second session," he signed off.

Star players, new teams and Auction!

From the 2022 season onwards, the IPL is going to be a 10-team affair after the inclusion of two new teams from Lucknow and Ahmedabad. But before the action begins on the cricket field, the ten teams will battle against each other on the auction table to get the star players in their ranks. And the process of it has started, with the existing eight franchises having the option to retain as many as four players from the previous squad. While the two new teams will have the right to pick three players before the mega auction. The Pioneer's **DRITI ATRI** tells about the players that can be retained by their sides.

MUMBAI INDIANS

The Mumbai Indians are the most successful IPL team, having won five trophies and two back-to-back titles in 2019 and 2020. They will have to let go many star players like Quinton de Kock, Trent Boult, Suryakumar Yadav, or even Hardik and Krunal Pandya from that winning squad. But they will retain skipper Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Kieron Pollard and, most likely, Ishan Kishan. Rohit and Bumrah are irreplaceable players in the MI line-up and have played a big role in the Mumbai Indians' success over the years. Pollard has represented MI for 12 years now and is one of the most experienced 3D players in T20 history. As for Ishan, he is a young, explosive batsman who can serve the franchise for many more years to come.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE

Virat has represented RCB since the inaugural season of the IPL and, despite his decision to step down from the captaincy, he is the most important player for Bangalore.

With Ab de Villiers' retirement from cricket, Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell, on the back of his strong IPL 2021 performance, could be retained by the franchise. Apart from the duo, Yuzvendra Chahal, Devdutt Padikkal, Mohammed Siraj, and 2021 edition purple cap winner Harshal Patel could be retained.

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

Andre Russell, Sunil Narine, Varun Chakravarty, Shubman Gill, and Venkatesh Iyer. KKR will have to choose between the five, and the rest of the previous season's squad is likely to go to auction. Shubman is a young, talented Indian batsman who is one for the future and could also be the next captain for the Kolkata side. While Venkatesh Iyer has impressed everyone in the second phase of the IPL 2021, he has also been selected to represent India in the New Zealand T20s.

While Sunil Narine and Andre Russell are KKR legends and have served the franchise for almost a decade now, they have played a major role in two title wins.

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

Despite struggling for form in the previous two seasons, the Chennai Super Kings have all but confirmed that MS Dhoni will play for the four-time IPL champions again in the upcoming season.

Another player who Chennai would like to keep is Ravindra Jadeja. The ace all-rounder is one of the best finishers in world cricket at the moment and is also an exceptional fielder.

Also, the 2021 season's leading run getter, Ruturaj Gaikwad, and his opening partner, Faf du Plessis, could be retained by the yellow army. Sam Curran and Moeen Ali's names are also in the fray, but Suresh Raina is likely to part ways with CSK now after more than a decade of bonding.

PUNJAB KINGS

KL Rahul is the most in-form batsman in the IPL since he joined the Punjab Kings in 2018. He scored 659 runs in 2018, 593 in 2019, 670 in 2020 and 626 in 2021 for the Mohali-based side. But despite that, the team has failed to make any major impact in the tournament and is still struggling for its maiden IPL title.

If KL Rahul decides to leave Punjab, it will be a huge blow for the team.

In the event that KL leaves, Punjab can retain Mayank Agarwal and Mohammed Shami. Apart from being Indian players, the duo have performed well in the last few seasons and are the key players in the PBKS setup.

DELHI CAPITALS

DC, in all likelihood, will retain local lad Rishabh Pant ahead of Shreyas Iyer, who is likely to go in the auction pool, as he is looking for an opportunity to lead an IPL team and he will not be short of suitors as well, particularly after his impressive stint as DC captain in the 2019 and 2020 seasons.

According to reports, DC will retain young opener Prithvi Shaw, all-rounder Axar Patel and South African pacer Anrich Nortje ahead of the mega auctions, which means Shikhar Dhawan, Ravichandran Ashwin and Kagiso Rabada will go to the auction pool.

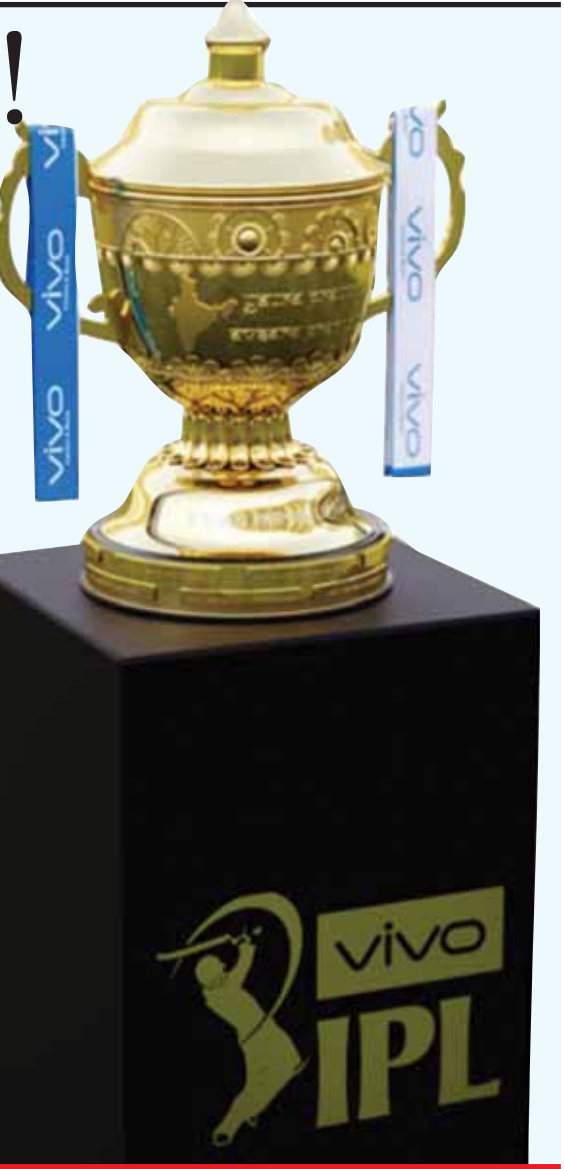
Shaw and Axar are young and have made a name for themselves in the IPL circuit and can serve DC for many more years to come.

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

Sunrisers Hyderabad finished last in the 2021 IPL and are likely to undergo major changes in their team combination ahead of the new season.

With the BCCI stating that only two overseas players can be retained, one of David Warner, Kane Williamson, or Rashid Khan must depart, and it is most likely that David Warner will be the one to go, especially after being dropped from the squad during the second phase of the 2021 IPL.

Even though he redeemed his pride by being the Man of the Tournament in the 2021 T20 World Cup, SRH is unlikely to retain him.



RAJASTHAN ROYALS

Sanju Samson is the first player the inaugural champions would like to keep for the upcoming season, and they can only choose two from the English trio of Ben Stokes, Jos Buttler, and Jofra Archer.

All three are among the best players in T20

cricket and it will be a tough call to decide between them. But RR can go with Buttler and Archer over Stokes because of the impact they had on the franchise during their stint.

Both Archer and Stokes are struggling with injuries at the moment, and the RR management will keep a keen eye on that injury development as well ahead of making any decision.

ICC calls off Women’s WC Qualifier after new COVID-19 variant emerges

PTI ■ DUBAI

The ICC on Saturday called off an ongoing qualifier for next year’s Women’s ODI World Cup in Harare following the emergence of a new COVID-19 variant in the African region, paving the way for Pakistan, West Indies and Bangladesh to make the cut on the basis of rankings.

Travel restrictions have been introduced from a number of African countries after detection of the new variant in South Africa stoked fears around the world.

The ICC said the decision to stop the event was based on its concerns about how the participating teams would head back in the wake of Omicron variant’s rise.

The decision was taken during the preliminary league phase of the nine-team tournament, that was to decide the final three qualifiers for the World Cup 2022, to be played in New Zealand, as well as two additional teams for the next cycle of the ICC Women’s Championship.

“The qualifiers will now be decided according to the



team rankings as detailed in the tournament playing conditions.

Therefore, Bangladesh, Pakistan and the West Indies will now progress to the event

in New Zealand,” said the ICC in a statement.

Play in two of the three matches scheduled for Saturday – Zimbabwe v Pakistan and USA v Thailand

– started as scheduled but the third fixture of the day, between the West Indies and Sri Lanka, could not be staged as a member of the Sri Lanka team support staff tested pos-

itive for COVID-19.

“We are incredibly disappointed to have to cancel the remainder of this event but with travel restrictions from a number of African countries being imposed at such short notice there was a serious risk that teams would be unable to return home,” ICC Head of Events Chris Tetley said.

“We have explored a number of options to allow us to complete the event but it isn’t feasible and we will fly the teams out of Zimbabwe as soon as possible.

The teams who have qualified for the World Cup are Australia, England, India, South Africa, New Zealand (hosts), Pakistan, West Indies and Bangladesh.

The mega event will be held in New Zealand from March 4 to April 3.

“The number of teams in the third cycle of the ICC Women’s Championship (from 2022-2025) has been increased from eight to ten, and these teams will be Australia, England, India, South Africa, New Zealand, Pakistan, West Indies, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Ireland,” the statement added.

Italy, Portugal drawn in same WC playoff bracket



AP ■ GENEVA

The World Cup in Qatar is sure to be without either Italy or Cristiano Ronaldo.

Italy and Portugal, the current and previous European champions, were drawn into the same qualifying playoff bracket on Friday, meaning at least one will fail to qualify for next year’s tournament.

Italy will first face North Macedonia at home in a playoff semifinal next March, and the winner will play away at either Portugal or Turkey for a spot at the World Cup.

Four-time champion Italy failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, missing the tournament for the first time since 1958 after losing in the playoffs to Sweden. Now, after winning Euro 2020 in July, it may have to beat Euro 2016 champion Portugal to avoid a second straight failure.

“It’s not a great draw and it could have gone better,” Italy coach Roberto Mancini acknowledged.

“Just like we wanted to avoid Portugal, they would have wanted to avoid Italy.”

Ronaldo has led Portugal to every World Cup since 2006 and this could be his last attempt

at winning international soccer’s biggest trophy. He will turn 37 before next year’s tournament starts.

Ronaldo helped Portugal get through the playoffs for the 2014 World Cup, scoring a hat trick in a 3-2 win over Sweden that featured an epic duel between superstars, with Zlatan Ibrahimovic netting twice for the Swedes.

“It’s not worth thinking about (Italy),” Portugal coach Fernando Santos said.

“It’s important that we concentrate on beating Turkey.”

Also in the 12-team draw, Scotland will face Ukraine at home, and the winner will play at Wales or Austria in the final of their bracket.

Russia will host Poland for the right to face Sweden or the Czech Republic in their bracket final. Russia or Poland will host the final.

Scotland looks to end a 24-year wait to play at the World Cup while Wales’ only appearance was in 1958.

“At the moment, the way the team is playing, the confidence the boys have got, we would be happy to play anyone, anywhere,” said Scotland coach Steve Clarke, whose team has won six straight since September.

However, Ukraine won at Hampden Park in June, in the Euro 2020 round of 16 against Sweden, and went unbeaten through a World Cup qualifying group won by France.

Sweden will not have Ibrahimovic for its semifinal against the Czechs. The 40-year-old forward has a one-game ban for getting yellow cards in the qualifying group.

“We already did it last time (in 2018) and we of course (know) that we can do it again,” said Sweden coach Janne Andersson.

The six playoff semifinals will be played as single-leg games March 24. The three finals are played five days later.

Pakistan in charge, 145 for no loss v Bangladesh in 1st test

AP ■ CHATTOGRAM

Pakistan made a strong reply and reached 145 for no loss after fast bowler Hasan Ali claimed 5-51 to dismiss Bangladesh for 330 on day two of the opening test on Saturday.

Openers Abid Ali and debutant Abdullah Shafique played out the second and third sessions comfortably in a good batting track to cut the deficit to 185 runs.

Abid, who reached the 1,000-run mark in his 15th test, closed in on his fourth century, remaining unbeaten on 93 at stumps, owing to bad light. Shafique overcame a nervy start to finish the day on 52 not out.

“We are in good position now and will try to take it session by session,” Ali said.

“Our first target is to go past Bangladesh’s 330 and then we will try to take a big lead to give our bowlers an advantage.”

Abid struck the first three boundaries when Shafique struggled to get off the mark. Shafique flicked through midwicket for



four off pacer Abu Jayed and grew with confidence.

Abid was fluent in his approach and glanced offspinner Mehidy Hasan for a couple to reach his third half-century off 84 balls.

Shafique brought up his half-century in style, clubbing occasional bowler Mominul Haque for the maximum.

Bangladesh’s hope of racking up a substantial total was dashed by fast bowler Hasan Ali earlier.

Ali broke Bangladesh’s resistance in the first session as the home side resumed on 253-4.

He alone took four wickets on day two with Bangladesh adding just 77 runs for the rest of the six wickets.

Ali’s sixth five-for was well-complemented by his new ball partner Shaheen Shah Afridi who returned figures of 2-70 and medium pacer Faheem Ashraf, 2-54.

For Bangladesh, Liton Das top-scored with 114 after hitting his maiden century and Mushfiqur Rahim added 91. Mehidy Hasan was not out on 38.

Liton, starting the day with 113, added just one run before Ali had him leg-before, which the umpire disagreed, only for the decision be overturned on review.

“At this moment, Pakistan is dominating the game but we still have the chance to hit back,” Liton said. “We need to take some wickets quickly tomorrow and only then we can keep pressure on them.”

Debutant Yasir Ali spent some nervy

moments in the crease and survived a leg-before review by Pakistan.

However, he got off the mark in international cricket with a cover-drive four off Afridi on the 14th ball he faced.

But Ali tested him with short balls and finally rattled him stump with a delivery that jagged in sharply.

Bangladesh relied on overnight unbeaten Mushfiqur to take the side to safety and he grew with confidence, hitting Afridi for a boundary through backward point.

Medium pacer Ashraf moved the ball nicely to coax an edge from him as Mushfiqur, who reviewed the decision in vain, fell nine runs short of his eighth century.

After losing three wickets for just 23 runs, the much-needed resistance came from Mehidy Hasan who guided lower order amid the well directed short ball barrage of Afridi and Ali.

Hasan Ali cleaned up the tail to bring an end to the innings.

India in quarters of women’s doubles, mixed doubles at World Championships



PTI ■ HOUSTON

Manika Batra has reached the quarterfinals in the mixed and women’s doubles events at the World Table Tennis Championships, putting India just one win away from a historic medal.

Manika and Archana Kamath defeated Hungary’s Dora Madarasz

and Georgina Pota 11-4 11-9 6-11 11-7 in the women’s doubles round of 16 here on Friday.

They face Luxembourg’s Sarah de Nutte and Xia Lian Ni for a place in the semifinals. Bronze medals will be awarded to all the losing semifinalists in the competition.

In the mixed doubles, Manika and G Sathiyan scripted a valiant comeback against USA-China combine of Kanak Jha and Wang Manyu after losing the first two games to reach the quarterfinals.

The Indian pair won 15-17 10-12 12-10 11-6 11-7. They will meet Japan’s Harimoto Tomokazu and Hayata Hina in the quarterfinals.

However, the mixed doubles pairing of Sharath Kamal and Archana lost their round of 16 match to France’s Jia Nan Yuan and Emmanuel Lebossen.

Sindhu, Satwik-Chirag lose in semifinals of Indonesia Open

PTI ■ BALI

Ace Indian shuttler P Sindhu’s impressive campaign at the Indonesia Open came to an end after she lost her hard-fought semifinal to former world champion Ratchanok Intanon, here on Saturday.

Third seed Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, lost 21-15 9-21 14-21 to world number eight and second seeded Ratchanok in 54 minutes for her third semifinal finish on the trot. The 26-year-old Sindhu had made it to the last four in Indonesia

Masters last week and also at the French Open in October.

World number 11 men’s doubles



Sindhu, ranked seven in the world, came into the match with a 4-6 head-to-head count, having lost to the Thai player in the last two meetings.

The Indian made a good start, slowly moving to a 8-3 lead early on. Ratchanok narrowed it down to 9-10 before Sindhu entered the break with a slender one-point advantage.

Sindhu grabbed three straight points to march ahead and didn’t look back as she pocketed the opening game.

Ratchanok got her bearings back and came back roaring into the match as she built up a lead of 11-7 at the interval in the second game.

The Thai shuttler grabbed nine of the next 10 points from 12-8 to leave Sindhu gasping.

It was Sindhu who handed 11 game points to

Ratchanok after going to the net and the Thai shuttler sealed it with a smash on her opponent’s forehand.

The thai player continued her impressive run in the decider as she ran to a healthy 11-6 lead with Sindhu committing too many errors.

Sindhu resumed with a cross court drop but a misjudgement at the backline and then an error at the net meant Ratchanok continued to move ahead.

The Indian had a good run of four points as she reached 13-16 but Ratchanok once again snapped the run of points and moved to seven match points.

A net error delayed the inevitable as Ratchanok sealed the contest with a precise return at the forecourt. Sindhu, the reigning world champion, last reached the finals at the Swiss Open.

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

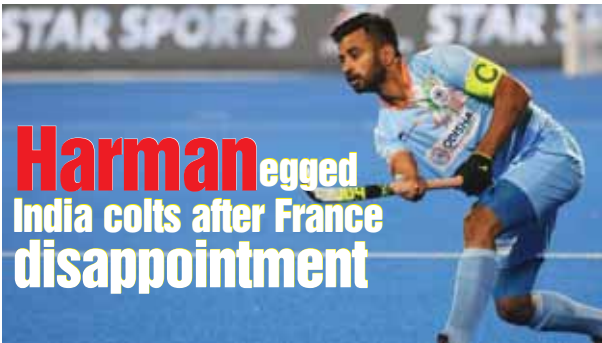
A pep talk from Olympic bronze medal-winning captain Manpreet Singh and star dragflicker Harmanpreet Singh helped defending champions India to turn the tables after a disappointing outing against France in their opening match of the FIH Men’s Junior Hockey World Cup here.

Tournament favourites India were stunned by underdogs France 4-5 in their opening match of the premier junior tournament before the title holders bounced back in style to thrash Canada 13-1.

India will play Poland in their must-win last Pool B match here on Saturday to qualify for the quarterfinals.

“I just told them to believe in themselves and play as a team.

They have a lot of fighting spirit. I just said to focus on their own game. We have been speaking continuously with them,” Manpreet said during a virtual media interaction on



Saturday.

“I spoke to (skipper) Vivek (Sagar Prasad) after the first match and told him to lead from the front in the ground. I advised him to improve communication between the players which was lacking against France. Important is to enjoy win or loss as a team.”

Manpreet’s deputy Harmanpreet also passed on his experience to the dragflickers and India’s backline after the France match.

“I have been talking to them about positioning and

basics. The positioning of free-man is very important and I discussed that with the junior players in detail,” he said. Harmanpreet said he also had elaborate discussion with vice-captain of the junior team and dragflicker Sanjay Kumar, who scored two consecutive hat-tricks in the tournament so far.

“He (Sanjay) is doing very well. I just told him to stay focussed on the chances he gets. He plays as a freeman so I advised him about his positioning,” he said.

Sarabjot wins 10m air pistol gold



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Haryana’s Sarabjot Singh won the National Champion for the first time in his short career after winning the men’s 10m air pistol event while young sensation Saurabh Chaudhary finished fourth, here on Saturday.

Going into the final two aims of the 24-shot final, Sarabjot trailed his state-mate Shiva Narwal by 0.5 points.

The youngster then hit 10 and 10.5 to Shiva’s 10.1 and 9.3 to emerge victorious with 242.3 points at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range.

Shiva settled for silver with 241.7, 0.6 points behind Sarabjot. Delhi’s Harsh Gupta was third with 221.2, while top-ranked Indian and Asian Games champion Saurabh Chaudhary ended fourth with 200.9.

Shiva, however, picked up the junior men’s title piping Saurabh Chaudhary by a wafer thin margin of 0.2 points in the final.

His score of 246.7 was also a national finals record, ironically previously held by Uttar Pradesh’s Saurabh at 245.30. Saurabh too went past his record, winning silver with 246.5. Sarabjot settled for bronze in this one with 225.4.

Shiva then also went on to win the Youth Men’s title in the discipline, prevailing over Haryana’s Sagar Bhargava 243.1 to 239.4. Arif Malik of U.P won bronze with 216.2.

Over 4500 athletes are participating in the 64th National Shooting Championship in Pistol events scheduled to run till December 6.

Djokovic helps Serbia past Austria at Davis Cup Finals

AP ■ INNSBRUCK (AUSTRIA)

Top-ranked Novak Djokovic secured a victory for Serbia, 40-year-old Feliciano Lopez got defending champion Spain off to a solid start, and a young Italian team rolled past the 32-time champion United States in the Davis Cup Finals here.

Djokovic beat Dennis Novak 6-3 6-2 to give Serbia a 2-0 lead over host Austria after Dusan Lajovic had defeated Gerald Melzer in three sets to open the best-of-three series in Group F on Friday.

The victory extended Djokovic’s winning streak in Davis Cup singles matches to 15.

“It feels great to play for Serbia again,” said Djokovic, who helped his country win the Davis Cup in 2010 but more recently failed to win a medal in either singles or mixed doubles at the Tokyo Olympics.

“It’s been a long year but you always find motivation playing for your country.”

Djokovic won seven consecutive games from 3-3 in the first set to take control.

“I’m really pleased with the way I ended the match today,” he said.

Djokovic had also been scheduled to play in a potentially decisive doubles match



but then was replaced by Nikola Cacic after winning his singles match.

Lopez gave Spain an early lead over Ecuador in Group A with a 6-3 6-3 win over Roberto Quiroz at home in Madrid. Then

Pablo Carreno Busta edged Emilio Gomez 5-7 6-3 7-6 (5).

Lopez was thrust into singles action when Carlos Alcaraz had to be dropped from the team after testing positive for the coro-

navirus on Thursday, as Spain was already without injured Rafael Nadal and Roberto Bautista Agut.

The United States, meanwhile, got off to a rough start against host Italy in Turin. Lorenzo Sonego beat Reilly Opelka 6-3 7-6 (4) in his home city in Group E and then Jannik Sinner dominated against John Isner 6-2, 6-0.

Rajeev Ram and Jack Sock beat Fabio Fognini and Lorenzo Musetti in doubles 7-6 (5) 6-2 to make the final score 2-1.

Still, for an Italian team missing its top player, Matteo Berrettini — who is injured — it was quite a start.

“There were a lot of firsts today: Sonego and Sinner made their Davis Cup debuts, I made my debut as captain, Musetti also made his debut and played with Fognini for the first time,” said Italy captain Filippo Volandri. “But this is only the first step.”

Each matchup on indoor hard courts is a best-of-three series featuring two singles and one doubles match. The six group winners plus the two second-place teams with the best records based on sets and games will advance to the quarterfinals.

The semifinals and final will be played in Madrid.

Lopez, who was once ranked as high as No. 12, has fallen outside the top 100 in both singles and doubles. His career has gone on for so long that he has already started his post-playing career, having been named the Madrid Open tournament director.

“I still have the passion for the game. This is obvious,” Lopez said.

“I’ve been waiting for an opportunity like this. I didn’t expect to be playing but many things happened this week. ... I ended up playing a great match.”

The big-serving Opelka double-faulted to hand Sonego the only break of their match and then made a few more errors in the tiebreaker as the Italian closed it out with a volley winner on his first match point.

Isner, who is also one of the biggest servers on tour, held serve only twice against the 20-year-old Sinner, a new top-10 entrant. “I can’t remember a match that I lost that easily,” Isner said.

“Maybe this is the first time. ... I wasn’t getting any free points.

It made it very tough for me. He was locked in. He’s hitting the ball extremely well and has a lot of confidence. ... Even if I played at my absolute best, I don’t know if I could have beaten him today.”

L

talktime

YAMI GAUTAM

The actor, who made her debut in Vicky Donor, speaks with Shalini Sakkena about her what the latest film Bhoot Police is about, the challenges that came with it and that she loves to be part of inspiring stories

‘I WANT TO BE PART OF CINEMA & NOT JUST PROJECT MAKING



■ Your performance in Bhoot Police earned massive acclaim. How challenging was it to do a horror-comedy?

My character had to do more with horror than comedy. Due to COVID-19, we couldn't do any of the formal physical training. We did the best we could on the set itself in terms of the physical transformation, getting the look right, and getting what the director's wants. With horror-comedy, you can go overboard. But the idea was to stay on the other side of the line. It was challenging because we had to shoot in the cold with heavy make-up. I remember shooting in a storm and rain with bare feet. When we watch a film, we don't see the struggle behind the camera. I am glad that people saw the honest attempt in my performance and the project.

■ You have back-to-back hits — Uri, Bala and now Bhoot Police. What's the secret?

There is no secret. There are actors who have been doing this far too long now. Your sensibilities as an actor grow with time. They get better as you gain more experience. Your understanding of cinema and perspective widens, and that really matters. I like to lean on my instincts. Of course, some projects don't resonate with the audience but that's okay. My attempt will always be to look for that substance in a film. I want to choose a script where there is an honest attempt and some purity in it. I don't want to be a part of a project making. I want to be a part of the cinema.

■ You have a string of releases in the pipeline in different genres. How difficult or easy was it to switch from one character to another?

It is not easy, and it takes a little time. Unfortunately, the way the pandemic hit us, it did change the narrative of work style. Because we had to be cautious, we

I WOULD LOVE TO DO A COSTUME DRAMA, PLAY A WARRIOR PRINCESS OR ESSAY A STRONG POLITICAL FIGURE. I DON'T KNOW IF IT IS EVEN POSSIBLE, BUT I WOULD LOVE TO ESSAY MADHUBALA ON SCREEN. THERE ARE SO MANY INSPIRING STORIES EXPERIENCES. I WOULD LOVE TO DO COMEDY AGAIN



had put health first. So, it required more work. For instance, when I was shooting for Dasvi and A Thursday, I was working back-to-back. The day I landed from Agra, I went to the sets of A Thursday to get the feel of it. I am extremely thorough with my scripts and homework. I wish I had gotten more time to prep.

■ You have explored various genres. What kind of roles interest you?

I would play a real-life character and be a part of an inspiring story. I would love to do a costume drama, play a warrior princess, or essay a strong political figure. I don't know if it is even possible, but I would love to essay Madhubala on screen. There are so many inspiring stories and stories that you would love to experience. I would love to do comedy again.

■ From where do you get the inspiration of essaying such varied roles?

The motivation comes from within. It lies in your instincts and what you gravitate towards. I feel you never know what you can do until you try. Hence, I have given these films as examples. You got to be free and uninhibited to let yourself explore. I look up to some actors who are brilliant in whatever they do and are so diverse. I feel inspired when I watch a good film or performance. I start imagining myself in that idea.

■ People call you the girl with a Midas touch. How does it feel?

That's really sweet if someone thinks that. I want to keep working in the right direction and hopefully get more interesting projects. That's the only reason why anyone would like to know about me or write about me. This relationship is based on the good work that I do. And that's only possible when I do a project that I like rather than something that is working.

CookSmart



People who cook are always looking for tips and tricks in cooking that will make their task easy. They always don't want to waste the veggies that they have bought. A simple trick to ensure that the cauliflower is free of any worms and dirt take water add a little salt. Cut florets, check for any insects/worms. Remove them and give the pieces a boil. All the dirt will come off and you will be left with clean cauliflower florets.

A lot of people don't eat mushrooms because they find it tedious to clean. Take a rough cloth and the mushrooms clean with the cloth. An alternative is to take some wheat flour and clean mushrooms with it. Gently rub the mushrooms with the flour. Lo and behold you will have clean mushrooms within a couple of minutes. Try and avoid washing them since they absorb water and you will be left with lots of water when you cook them.

HomeSweetHome

Do you want your bed to look like it was something that you saw in an interior designer's magazine? Fret not. The key to making it feel luxurious and hotel-like is simple. Use crisp white linens and plump bedding and pillows. Fresh white bedding is easy to find at most major home goods stores. Then simply layer in two or three of the same accent pillows in front, which is easy to change seasonally.



Use a comforter or duvet in a solid colour or subtle pattern; put coordinated pillow shams on the bed pillows and add another decorative pillow or two for an updated look that will make you feel like you just stepped into a bedroom that is worth finding its way into a creative magazine. It will also help you earn brownie points with your spouse. Entering a beautiful bedroom after a long and tiring day can be relaxing.

MasterStroke



Fashion jewellery is ladies most important companion to complete any look. When it comes to travel, jewellery is an essential accessory. Klissaa Accessories has launched its collection of Travel Accessories to add that golden touch to your look. Layering necklaces are always a trend setter like Fifi Gold Plated layered necklace set which is a fashion staple and ideal for all travel looks. Austrian Crystal Studded Hoop Earrings can be teamed up with maxi dresses to add an element of style

along with Anabelle Multi Charms Necklace. Klissaa's Accessories are an absolute must have in your wardrobe as they are classy minimal accessories which can be adorned from dawn to dusk. The 18k gold plated Trinity bracelets and charm bracelets are perfect for luncheons. Complete your AM to PM look with elegant Zenith Multi Charm Gold Cuff Bangle along with flattering Gold Evil Eye Coin Necklace. Less is more with Klissaa's minimal travel accessories for stunning holiday looks.

NatureTalk

Plants make a home inviting and lifts spirits. Usually any kind of green plant will do wonders indoors but then it requires a lot of care. A plant that is easy to maintain is Cycas Plant — Sago Palm.

It is a popular houseplant known for its feathery foliage and ease of care. In fact, this is a great plant for beginners and makes an interesting addition to nearly any room. It can even be grown outdoors.

It needs moderate light ad not dark spots. Water once a week in summer and once every two or three weeks in winter. As for fertilizing, do it once or twice a year.



Peacemaker with a pacemaker

She is a beauty activist and a strong advocator of mental health. SUPRIYA RAMESH speaks with SHREE SAINI, who is a resilient fighter with indomitable spirit

A strong beauty activist and mental health advocate, Shree Saini is a resilient fighter with indomitable spirit, she battled all unforeseen circumstances in her life, and in a short span of time she won millions of hearts and became America's sweetheart. Born in Punjab and raised in Washington, Saini was crowned Miss World America 2021 at the Miss World America headquarters in Los Angeles to represent the country at the prestigious global platform.

She is the winner of three significant awards at the beauty pageant —Miss Hope Heart Washington, Miss India USA and Miss India Worldwide.

As the current Miss World America, she is preparing for Miss World preliminaries and contributing her time for social work with organisations such as CRY, UNICEF and her own Shree Saini Foundation, a non-profit.

“Being bedridden after my heart surgery and accident caused a lot of emotional trauma. I understood that emotional well-being is even more important than physical health. I read books and my parents encouraged me to share my life story to inspire others,” says Saini.

It is true that it is you who makes the decision of living a happy life or a sad one and people around you just make it better or worse. Saini says that though she grew up in a small town, people with her were very encouraging and loving.

People in small towns do have big dreams but it doesn't come easy for them, adversities take over. It is important that you reach out and

seek help, seek mentors and counselling. “I spent suffering in my own home and mind, reach out and seek help, seek mentors, seek help from counselors, we have a lot of resources, speak to your pastor, apply for extra curricular activities, find motivational videos and listen to audio books, challenge yourself to face fears and grow while facing fears, when you do the things that you fear the most, fear has no power on you, you have conquered fear,” says Saini.

Saini's adversities helped her to have a bigger perspective. “I do not get consumed by my challenges now, I find solutions. I ask myself, what are the top five solutions to this problem, will I have the courage to apply them or stay stuck in indecision? I challenge myself to be decisive and rise up from a set back quickly,” says Saini.

Growing up, Saini's favourite thing to pass time was by going to the library with her mom and brother. She also grabbed the Most Books Read Award and silverwood tickets. “I had a lot of treat cards or free shirts because I read a lot of books. My mom would take me and my brother to the library almost every day and pay us some allowance to read books and discuss with her. Our home library now has over 1000 books,” she says.

Miss World is the biggest and the oldest beauty pageant in the world, completing its 70th year in December, 2021.

It is a charity-based pageant where more than 125 countries compete. “I was fascinated by the work done by contestants all over the world. I wanted to be a part of Miss World since I was six, I have



my photo from age six dressed as Miss World,” Saini tells us. Being crowned as Miss World America didn't stop Saini from lending a helping hand to the society. Her favourite part about it is that it helps her with meeting non-profit heads and working with them, serving them and talking about their projects on social media. “Each non-profit has a noble goal, all work is important. I especially feel grateful to the American Heart Association (AHA), I am alive because of the inventions done by the medical professionals. I love serving AHA, my pacemaker is a very recent invention, I am fortunate to serve AHA,” says Saini.

For Saini, success is being at peace with yourself and others. “In life we will face many kinds of challenges, our emotional management, our wise responses, our emotional well-being, our behaviour choices and our ability to choose calm over chaos is success,” she shares.

“We can't keep creating stress in response to any stressful situation, we need to stay grounded and ask ourselves if this is worth my peace of mind. I am a peacemaker with a pacemaker,” Saini adds.

An important lesson that Saini learned in the pandemic is that human beings do well when together, people mistake social distancing as social isolation. “We were told to stay distant but we were not told to stay away, while maintaining health guidelines, we can still meet outside in parks and bring joy and support to each other,” Saini tells us.

‘I like to focus on positive side of life’

◆ How did you end up being a producer?

Being software engineer I always wanted to be an entrepreneur. I never thought that I would work for someone. I wanted to be my own master. This is when I decided to start a company. Under this we were producing TVC, digital commercials films and brand promotions. I gaines a lot of experience and was confident to take on bigger challenges. This is when I decided that I took one step ahead produced a feature film.

◆ Was a career in the entertainment industry always for you?

Yes, in some ways it always on the cards. Once I completed my programme in engineering, I was looking for avenues where I could unleash my creative side. The entertainment industry is full of creativity. The industry gives you the outlet to express yourself. It is a place where you can follow your passion.

◆ What are the challenges you

face as a woman producer?

We all know that the entertainment industry is male dominated. As a woman in the industry, yes, it comes with its set of challenges. There are few struggles here and there. I always look at the bright side thatlife has to offer. Therefore, I always like to focus on positive side of life.

◆ How you end up doing Marathi films?

The concept thrilled me. It was the first that a Marathi film

Marathi film One Way Ticket producer KOMAL UNAWNAY speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about making her acting debut with a song among other things



me. I was surprised and quite hesitate initially. But both gave me confidence that I can act. So here I am.

◆ Why choose a song to make a debut?

Again there was no plan; it just happened organically. Mohit Chauhan's name is more than sufficient for me.

◆ What changes have taken place in Marathi industry?

People will say I am biased. But the industry is making some very brilliant and really beautiful films. The industry has made giant leaps and bounds and stands tall today.

◆ Is it different from Bollywood?

As I have got more experience in producing TVC and advertising digital films, I find that every industry is same. All you want to do is deliver a good product where audience will appreciate the hard work that you have put in. As long as the viewers are happy with the kind of work you do, you are good to go.

Sound of music



Music is the best medicine. Here are the top 10 songs of the week that will lift up your weekend mood

Bollywood vibes

Fillhaal 2 (BPrak, Jaani)

Galat (Asees Kaur)

Jaane De (Atif Aslam)

Aaj Bhi (Vishal Mishra)

Kaise Hua (Vishal Mishra)

English Vinglish

Goosebumps (HVME)

Blinding Lights (The Weeknd)

Dynamite (BTS)

SugarCrash! (Elyotto)

Hold On (Justin Bieber)



the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE

Exquisite prose poetry

Anita Nahal probes with the tenacity of a philosopher, existential questions of being & nothingness & of identity & subjectivity

2



4

Choice sets premise of destiny

Once choice option is there, the probability of its use and misuse becomes equal. One has to will upon to make a particular choice



Learning is the most important thing, no matter how you do it, or where you do it, or who you do it with
— Saoirse Ronan

The starting point of being an impact champion who sets the organisation on a socially oriented path is your own social consciousness and willingness to drive transformative innovations’ write
PRIYA NAIR RAJEEV & SIMY JOY

TIME TO AWAKEN CORPORATE SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS?



The 2019 Global Wealth Databook from Credit Suisse reports that 73 percent of Indians have a net worth of less than \$10,000 (compared to just 19 percent in China), while 2.3 percent have a net worth of over \$1 million. India ranks fourth in the world in ultra-high-net-worth individuals (4,593), making us one of the fastest-growing yet unequal nations.

Private sector corporates often do not see addressing developmental inequities as their problem. Access to food, water, healthcare, and education is commonly understood as ‘poor people’s problems that the government and social sector organisations must solve. No doubt that the poor are the first to be hit, that too very hard, as we saw in a mass exodus of the migrant workers during the first wave of the pandemic. The middle class and above believe that they can access basic necessities by private means and from the private sector. The second wave of the pandemic showed us how false that sense of security is! With the relatively well-off scrambling for medical care, medicines, oxygen, and ventilators, it was apparent that none of us would be spared from the ill effects of our developmental shortcomings.

IMPACT CHAMPIONS: THE FLAGBEARERS OF CHANGE

If we were to survive together, the corporate sector organisations must enact social consciousness. This mindset understands and accepts the interconnectedness of the economic, social, and natural worlds. Socially conscious organisations do not come into existence without socially-conscious managers. We see such managers as ‘Impact Champions’ having the intent and capabilities to help their organisations positively impact the economy and society, and the environment.

Enamored by the glitz of the corporate careers in the liberalized Indian economy, MBA aspirants in the 1990s readily bought into the mantra of ‘profit maximisation. But many Gen Z and Millennial MBA aspirants are a little more skeptical about whether that is the best way forward, as it has become apparent that their generation would bear the consequences of the social and environmental damage left by the unbridled pursuit of profits. Many of them harbor pro-social inclinations during their student days; however, they are unsure how to take it forward once they start a corporate career. In the ‘big, bad world of corporates’, beating competition and exceeding performance expectations are the basis for career advancement. Hence, they feel that there is little room for social ideals.

Time has never been more right for aspiring Impact Champions in the corporate sector to get into action. The UN has been driving Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDGs) to tackle the development challenges and climate change. SDGs urge the private sector to collaborate with the civic society and governments, to which influential corporates world over have

responded positively. In the global business circles, ‘Triple Bottom Line’, with its focus on 3Ps — People, Planet and Profit, is widely discussed as a replacement for the traditional ‘bottomline,’ focusing singularly on ‘profits.’ With avid support from the likes of Klaus Schwab (Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum) and Jack Welch (ex-CEO, GE), ‘shareholder capitalism’ has begun to make way for ‘stakeholder capitalism,’ which gives equal priority to the employees, customers, suppliers, and the community.

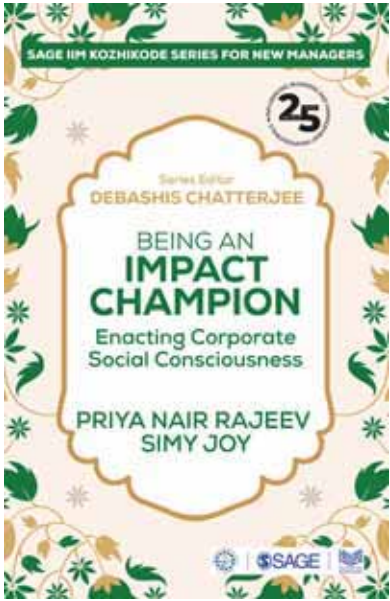
Indian corporates are slowly beginning to catch up with this global trend. However, they are in dire need of managers who can champion this transition.

HOW TO BE AN IMPACT CHAMPION?

● **Self-appoint yourself as an ‘Impact Champion’:** Most corporate jobs would demand you to mind only the impact on profit, not people or the planet. To be an impact champion, you have to self-appoint yourself as one and be sure that you do not leave your social consciousness at home while coming to work. When you operate with a ‘corporate mindset’ in a regular day’s work, you would accept and get on with decisions that look perfectly sensible and acceptable from the corporate and legal standpoints. It takes social consciousness to recognize when stakeholders or environmental interests are being compromised among what looks like business as usual. An impact champion not only recognises issues but also takes personal responsibility for action. New managers aspiring to impact champions may be unsure how to navigate organisational processes and culture in enacting social consciousness. They can find support in like-minded managers and mentors at the Impact Champions Forum, a seedbed for individuals who intend to transform organisations into socially conscious ones at CESI, Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode.

P P Sukumaran (ex-HR Head, Murugappa group) had to retrench 200 plant workers post-TQM implementation. A perfectly legal decision, arrived at in consultation with the Union, still left him worried about the ‘social debris’ that this decision would leave — what were the chances that 200 middle-workers in a northern Kerala village find alternate jobs; even with the severance money will their families have financial security in a social setting where alcoholism was rampant. P P Sukumaran was determined to do something about it. However, he was not required either by law or by his organisational mandate to address this.

● **Get partners:** You have to do it yourself, but you cannot do it alone. Irrespective of where you are in the organisational hierarchy, you would need partners. Partners are people inside (sometimes even outside) of the organisation committed to addressing societal or environmental problems that you seek to solve through organisational means. In addition to moral and emotional support (which you will need aplen-



ALTHOUGH THE AMOUNT OF MONEY AND ENERGY INVESTED IN CSR AND CORPORATE SOCIAL INNOVATION IS GOING UP EACH YEAR, ENSURING THAT THEY DELIVER ACTUAL SOCIAL IMPACT SOMEHOW HAS TAKEN A BACKSEAT



ty), partners bring in legitimacy to the cause (especially if they are higher in the hierarchy or hold formal or informal positions of influence), knowledge and skills resources to develop a deeper understanding of the issue from multiple perspectives as well as potential solutions, access to networks and organisational resources, and political backing to elicit favorable decisions.

In the example, P P Sukumaran engaged in active discussions with his contacts within and outside his organisation. One of them directed him to Dr.Nalini Gangadharan, Livelihood Advancement Business School (LABS) of Dr. Reddy’s Foundation. LABS had a skilling model that Sukumaran found appropriate for retraining their redundant workers to suitably place them in alternate jobs or start their ventures. The model was later replicated in Chennai in partnership with other corporates for skilling at-risk urban youth, creating a corporate consortium model for financing such initiatives.

● **Explore Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):** Most corporates support CSR activities which are perhaps the easiest way to initiate action. If your company already has CSR departments and programs, you can get involved in that. If current CSR activities do not address pressing social issues close to your heart, you can always pioneer new activities. Given that CSR has been mandated by law since 2013 and many companies are struggling to identify worthwhile projects, you may not find it too hard to get buy-in for your ideas.

You can implement them through any of these four different formats:(a) as a foundation, otherwise known as a Section 8 company(e.g., Infosys Foundation); (b) in partnership with NGOs, trusts, or registered societies with a proven track record (e.g., ITC and Pratham working together in the Reach India Plus initiative; (c) in partnership with other companies (e.g., Mphasis and Uber launched Uber Assist and Uber Access that retro-fitted vehicles to help Persons with Disabilities as their joint CSR initiative); and (d) following an employee volunteer model (e.g., Calpine Technologies runs Engage — their CSR program that builds leadership skills in school children through football with the help of employee volunteers).

● **Pursue Corporate Social Innovation (CSI):** Business models can generate societal benefits by changing their perspective (e.g., including marginalized groups in the supply chain, new products for the old and disabled). As an impact champion, you can tweak the current models in innovative ways that generate social and/or environmental impact while serving corporate interests.

For example, ITC launched ‘e-Choupal,’ one of the most extensive Internet-based interventions in rural India, enhancing earnings and transforming the livelihoods of over 4 million farmers in over 35000 villages through 6100 kiosks across ten states. e-Choupal deploys information technology to virtually cluster all the value chain participants and vertically integrate various actors in the agriculture supply

chain. Village internet kiosks set up to access information are managed by farmers, who get information on the weather, market prices, scientific farm practices, and risk management in their mother tongue. They can use the kiosks to purchase farm inputs and get them at their doorstep. Real-time information has made it possible for farmers to make better decisions aligned with market demand, significantly reducing transaction costs.

● **Track ‘Impact’:** Although the amount of money and energy invested in CSR and Corporate Social Innovation is going up each year, ensuring that they deliver actual social impact somehow has taken a backseat. Even after introducing mandatory reporting of impact, most companies focus on the inputs (e.g., amounts spent) or outputs (e.g., the number of rooms built in a rural hospital, pieces of equipment they bought). Some try to pass on the number of beneficiaries that they have been able to reach as impact. But this is not the same as tracking if and how the initiatives have created tangible differences in the lives of the beneficiaries. Without a robust impact tracking mechanism, attempts to make an impact may not be as effective as you would have imagined.

We conducted an impact assessment for the Vidhyadhan Scholarship program, run by the Sarojini Damodaran Foundation (SDF). Since 1995, SDF Foundation has provided scholarships to academically bright children, primarily from Below Poverty Line (BPL) families who completed high school (class 10 in India) to pursue higher education. Thus far, the program has provided 13,500 scholarships, with over 10,000 beneficiaries currently pursuing their higher studies across ten states. The basic premise of any scholarship program is that the monetary support would enable them to build human capital in academic qualifications, which will help them find employment and thus lift them out of poverty. We found that this undeniably was the case for those who were able to find jobs. However, we also found that finding a job and future career progression depended on social capital in terms of networks. It was hard for those who were low on social capital to get jobs. This led to the realisation that in addition to monetary support, the students from disadvantaged backgrounds also would need support to build their social capital through mentoring and networking.

The starting point of being an impact champion who sets the organisation on a socially oriented path is your own social consciousness and willingness to drive transformative innovations. If you ever feel shaken by the scale of what you have to achieve, take a cue from a climber scaling a peak: You need to focus on where to place your next step. Then, step by step, you would reach there.

The writers have recently published Being an Impact Champion: Enacting Corporate Social Consciousness, with SAGE Publications India, under the SAGE IIM-Kozhikode Series for New Managers



EXQUISITE PROSE POETRY

In her prose poems, *What's wrong with us Kali women?* Anita Nahal probes with the tenacity of a philosopher, existential questions of being and nothingness and of identity and subjectivity, writes SWATI PAL

You open the book to the title piece and you are hooked. In the first short passage, Anita Nahal puts together the oppositions that we live with, that we have internalised, that we resist, that we surrender to, that we challenge and in our hearts, rebel against. Be it the colour of the dark skin that is abhorred though ironically people try to tan theirs, the rapaciousness of men from which there is no reprieve, the double speak of worshipping women as goddesses and then tearing them down, all this and much more does Anita forcefully, poignantly and poetically put to the reader. And the haunting line that she repeats, 'Don't think she's not watching', stays with you as you turn the page.

And when you turn the page, she paints in words the picture of who really a goddess is. Fiercely alone whether among strangers or with those she knows, fending for her children herself, taking on a world that would judge a divorcee, that is the human and Hindu goddess that Anita would want us to see. And to be.

The next piece on 'How easy it is for a Black life to be taken' is a slice of real life. Real, living beings, non whites whose life was extinguished. Just like that. Snuffed out. As a reader your hair will stand on end and your eyes will prick with unshed tears even as your heart will smoulder with rage. Anita makes you think of the dead. And with them. In this piece of writing as well as the next when she wonders what happens to the clothes of those who died. Especially now, of Covid. How quickly they are bundled away while their clothes hang in the cupboards, mute testimony to the existence of their wearers.

Watching, seeing, observing, gazing — the whole idea of looking, of voyeurism, takes on a new meaning as Anita focuses on the jungle in Smooth operators and questions, who is looking at whom? As a reader, I have often wondered too. We create wild life sanctuaries and zoological parks, what do animals, caged or free, think of us humans. Do they see us as caged or free? Do they know we are humans or do they see us, in our herds, as two legged animals? Anita prompts you to think along these lines. Her writing about the animals makes them so much more human than us humans. The beautiful story about consideration rather than sex, which the male sloth understands is touching indeed.

Anita probes with the tenacity of a philosopher, existential questions of being and nothingness and of identity and sub-



jectivity. Her words reveal a quest to really go into the heart of our 'self', almost particle by particle as we see in 'Hard: Us, animals and the aliens' or in 'Greatest warrior is metamorphic Mother Earth'. She has a knack of self analysis so keenly felt in some of the poems such as 'A sip of wine'. There is also a sense of being pummeled by the world, of being trapped in a space that is claustrophobic which one comes across in many images including the one just mentioned and the next entitled 'Chase away demons left behind'. A characteristic poetic device that she uses so effectively is personification as we see in the way she personifies the concept of patriarchy.

While most of the prose poems are dark and somber, there is a playful yet serious look at the way women deal with ageing in

the frothy piece 'A woman's age is kicking and alive'.

Another poem that looks at the body, at age, in a brief recall is 'Mom's shoulders'. Anita can see the flip side of things and so her look at the Corona struck situation where nature blooms even as some foolish people continue to be callous about safety measures, is an honest review of a contemporary issue. While her engagement with the pandemic can be seen in several of her pieces, she is also clear that the concern for this abnormal time can make one lose sight of the eternal wheel of time with its larger questions as we see in 'Know your wheel, Homosapiens' or in a different sense, in 'Breathe' or 'Covid 19's inverted triangle' or 'Reclaim your space'.

Anita's selfhood is clearly shaped by her

location as an Indian Immigrant and she acknowledges that in many of her pieces such as 'Spilt milk in native and foreign lands' and 'Fallacy of a single, immigrant mom'. While she is alive, as immigrants are, to the traumas of being one, and to repeat, we see that so starkly in 'How easy it is for a Black life to be taken', one does not get any nuance of self pity or even of being forlorn. In fact, one of her prose poems is 'Pity, go take a hike' — she shuns pity entirely.

Anita is alive to the choices she has made and in her writing we see a kind of acculturation; she is aware of the multicultural, pluralistic world she inhabits and is absolutely unapologetic about any aspect that shapes her multidimensional self.

In fact she points out quite assertively that we are all in a sense immigrants in her

piece, 'You are an immigrant too'. There is a sense of a kind of acceptance of cultures and thus her calm assertion that her son would cremate her in America and scatter a few ashes in the Ganges, as her repayment of debt to the two lands, America and India that she has been a part of. This we see in 'Paying my debt to two lands'. She is critical of both, especially of the way women are treated in both countries, either seen as easily available if found in miniskirts and dancing or outraging society for doing so which we see in 'Babylon, my sinful dance music'.

Nothing escapes Anita's eagle eye and pen including the discomfort faced by women during their menstrual cramps as we see in 'Feeling down, being down'. The woman reader will find every word resonat-



ing. Betrayal looms in a lot of her writing, the betrayal of democracy, the betrayal by blood relations, and the betrayal in relationships. While it is the underlying motif in many of the poems, 'Family Blood', 'Democracy in decline' and 'Koala and judases' echo the theme more sharply. It is interesting to point out as with 'Koala and judases' that some of Anita's writing is inspired from Australian art and culture. Undoubtedly then, her writing is bound to strike a chord in the hearts of people across the world.

The *Kalis*, the *Durgas*, the *Sitas*, indeed all the Hindu Goddesses whom Anita invokes in her writing are none other than Anita, you and me — the modern Indian woman, an immigrant or a persona in a multicultural world. She questions, she mocks, she laughs at, she rages, she refuses to 'fit the bill', she speaks out and will not be silenced or choked, she breathes, dances, sings, makes love, drinks and even while falling into depths of despair, never gives up on hope. And as we read Anita, we agree. There's nothing wrong with us Kali women.

The book is here to stay. You will find it unputdownable. It is powerful, poignant and of course, exquisite prose poetry.

The reviewer, Professor and Principal, Janki Devi Memorial College (DU), has been an educator since the last twenty seven years

NEW ARRIVALS

THE GREATEST TAMIL STORIES EVER TOLD

selected and edited by Sujatha Vijayaraghavan and Mini Krishnan

Aleph, ₹699

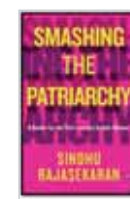
The Greatest Tamil Stories Ever Told showcases some of the best short fiction to emerge out of Tamil Nadu, dating from the last century to the present day. Two of the earliest stories included here are Subramania Bharati's 'The Story of a Crow Learning Prosody', a satirical tale about the exaltation of language, and 'Kalki' Krishnamurthy's 'The Governor's Visit', about how bigwigs in little places pandered to the British rulers during the time of the Raj. While some stories in this volume wrestle with the idea of public justice, as in Father Mark Stephen's 'Penance', others, such as Ambai's 'Journey 4', hide secrets that could destroy lives and relationships if they are ever revealed. Featuring memorable works by, among others, Bama, Perumal Murugan, and Poomani, the 30 stories in this collection come together to paint a striking picture of the Tamil people.

SMASHING THE PATRIARCHY: A GUIDE FOR THE 21ST-CENTURY INDIAN WOMAN

Sindhu Rajasekaran

Aleph, ₹699

From beauty, body politics, and sexuality, to caste, power, and the paradox of choice, the book explores a wide range of women's issues and draws important connections between these. Taking its inspiration from multi-disciplinary theories, grounded and deepened by interviews with a variety of experts and numerous women, *Smashing the Patriarchy* is an astonishingly insightful exploration of the collective psyche of modern Indian women.



From uncertainty to probabilities

God or No God: Awareness Enriches Life is a ratified statement claimed by many but understood by very few & Bharat Bhushan Padmadeo is among a few who dares to demystify the basic system of enquiry, writes PRADEEP

Someone asked Swami Vivekanand: "Can we become Godlike?" "First become a man," he answered. It literally implies that if full human potential (mind-power) is unfolded, one would know no limits. And it is very much achievable through conscious efforts, as did Ancient India's learned masters, to have captured subtle realities of life operative at even intangible level. So, raising human capital is more important than exploring and seeking God. That remains the real human calling, is how the book concludes, which makes the book an interesting read.

God or No God: Awareness Enriches Life is a ratified statement claimed by many but understood by very few. Bharat Bhushan Padmadeo is amongst those few who dared to accept the challenge and demystify the basic system of enquiry.

In modern times or precisely in this industrial age, every idea or belief demands an objective explanation. In this new framework of understanding, the concept of GOD is a most vulnerable idea. Leaning to some particular idea or school to rationalise existence is a matter of abandoned schools. Science sets up new logic and premises of rationals to support or reject conceptual realities. Whole discussion of existence is evolving around uncertainty, probability and unpredictable circumstances and tools to gauge them perfectly.

This book is remarkable because it changes the very basis of argument about existence from uncertainty to probabilities. It states that the process of understanding is far more important than the modes of happening or object itself. Writer argues that perception itself lies within the realm of being and awareness about it.

Significant character of twentieth century philosophy was departure from any faith unexplained or underexplained. It was rated as blind faith or fundamentalism to a large extent. Renowned philosopher J Krishnamurti argues, if you are free from sorrow and hate you don't require God. Whereas Gandhi's whole philosophy of non-violence is centered



around God. So the space of argument is divided between the two premises: "God or No God". Many more fell in line either rejecting or accepting the existence of a super controller as GOD.

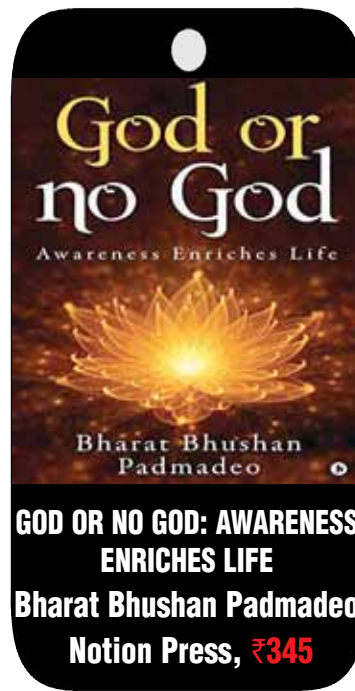
Padmadeo in this book argues that precursor to both is the same. The bearer of belief is consciousness, and understanding its existence is awareness. So, it is not important whether you believe or not, important is that you are aware or not. He wrote: "Consciousness, in fact, rightly deserves to be marked as fourth

dimension, vital to creation. It should not be seen as being in conflict with the perception of modern science, which assigns the fourth dimension to space and time. This particular fundamental element has been named as consciousness because it grants us with the power of knowing, besides granting necessary intelligence to other functional aspects of our individual and collective organism."

While frequently quoting scientists like Max Plank and excerpts from Kashmiri Shaivism, he kept on building

necessary bridges between science and theology. In other words, instead of dividing the argument into science or believing, he is indicating the science of awakening.

Explaining uncertainty and unpredictability, the book postulates that mind which itself is an area of study by itself creates most paradoxical results. It explains explicitly that consciousness is the prime mover. While exploring the construct of mind and body-mind connect, writer explains its extra cerebral



existence as an interactive phenomenon which comprehends undiscovered psycho-landscapes. Dr. Karan Singh writes precisely in the foreword of the book that writer has reinterpreted our ancient spiritual verities in the light of contemporary intellectual scene, paying attention to the infinite potentialities of human mind, which if unfolded in full would know no limits The basic take home message of the book may be comprised as raising level of consciousness leads to the fact that "Existence is God". This process may be called as enriched awareness.

As conclusive remark this extremely engaging book demands an independent and fearless conviction to internalize the source and negating the fundamentalism of believes and faiths. It sets a new mode of enquiry within. This book is an invitation to quite undulating and challenging experience like awakening itself might be.

Mongolia: Hard choice between China and Russia

Mongolia is all set to build its nuclear energy. With the ascendance of the Mongolian People's Party (MPP) and the rise of Ukhnaaгийн Khurelsukh as the leader of this hermit nation, the nuclear future of Ulaanbaatar has become more pronounced. Khurelsukh, a former Prime Minister, is currently the sixth democratically elected President of this East Asian nation. His longstanding interest in generating nuclear power, backed by the country's abundant uranium deposits, is gaining more political and economic currency in recent times.

Barely a month of his victory in July 2021, Khurelsukh had an agreement with Chinese President Xi Jinping to continue the already existing strategic relations between the two nations, especially in critical sectors like the mining.

Known as the "Land of the Horse and the Land of the Eternal Blue Sky", this East Asian nation has a rich reserve of uranium. The country is large and sparsely populated. It is the world's second largest land-locked country just behind the Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan. Mongolia has proven uranium reserves of about 80,000 tons which ranks the country among top ten in the world. This is also making the nation one of the top mining giants in the world, and it has been attracted by others for having world-class deposits like the huge Oyu Tolgoi copper gold project. In fact, way back in 2011, Mongolia was planning to have its first nuclear power plant by 2020. The State-owned MonAtom LLC had the aim to build nuclear fuel production capacity by tapping the country's own uranium deposits. However, it could not materialise. Even the Mongolian Government had the plan to supply nuclear power plants across the countries of Northeast Asia with nuclear fuel. Ulaanbaator was expecting huge investments from top global giants such as the US, Russia, France and China.

As per the Vision 2050 of Mongolia, the country is committed to shift to cleaner technologies. But leveraging its uranium reserves to produce nuclear energy and lessening

the continued reliance on traditional sources of energy to cut back emission levels, Ulaanbaatar has arrived at a catch-22 situation. That is to choose between Moscow and Beijing.

The chilling new nuclear arms race has already begun in Asia. China is quietly building nearly 250 nuclear silos along the border of Mongolia mostly in Xinjiang, Gansu and Inner Mongolia Province. Independent analysts reveal that these silos are in close proximity to some of the richest uranium deposits on the other side of the Mongolian border. This seems to be one of the biggest nuclear expansions of Beijing in recent years under Xi Jinping, the man who is known for his gargantuan agenda. This nuclear build up revives the rivalry between Soviet Russia and the People's Republic of China under Mao Zedong when the latter deployed about 60,000 to 70,000 troops near the border of Mongolia. Then China on one hand was apprehensive about Soviet social imperialism and on the other, from the brutal Japanese militarism.

However, today China is different from Cold War days. Primarily China's economic might accompanied by continued decline of the Western powers, particularly the might and engagement of the US, has largely emboldened the country to surge ahead.

Way back in September 1992, Mongolia unilaterally declared herself as a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (NWFZ). Then Mongolia's decision was hailed both by the nuclear weapon and non-nuclear weapon states alike. Subsequently, in 1993 and 1994, the five nuclear weapon states made unilateral statements in support of this announcement by Ulaanbaatar. Ironically, this support was not a clear recognition of its single-state nuclear weapon free status, nor did it provide the legally binding security assurances that are normally provided to traditional nuclear-free zones. This has forced Mongolia to consistently pursue its goal to institutionalise itself as a single state nuclear weapons free zone since then. Again, non-nuclear weapon



states at the UN expressed full support not only for Mongolia's policy in general but also for its efforts to institutionalise that status. It was believed that unless the five nuclear weapon states accepted the concept of a single state nuclear weapon free zone, Mongolia could well be considered as a state with a unique nuclear weapon free status. Thus, it was agreed to use the word "status" instead of zone. And the content of the status could be defined by the states concerned.

Now what role China can play in Mongolia going nuclear power? Being its closest neighbour, China is in full force to influence Mongolia to grab the opportunity to develop its nuclear industry. With Xi, China is fast building its capabilities as an economic and military juggernaut. Hence, Ulaanbaatar would certainly fall into the clutch of Xi and his Communist cronies in no time.

China has been consistently increasing its nuclear capabilities. This entire nuclear build-up must be estimated in

the context of the Chinese Communist Party's ambition to have, in Xi's own words, "a world class military". And Beijing is harbouring a wild dream of achieving global domination, especially to torpedo US leadership from the global governance system. Further, several recent reports indicate that China is constructing 120 missile silos for Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) near Yumen in Gansu, up to 110 silos near Hami in the eastern part of the restive and Uighur-Muslim dominated Xinjiang province, and up to 40 silos in Ordos in Inner Mongolia. This rightly shows that China is pushing its nuclear agenda right up to the border of its quiet neighbour Mongolia.

How reliable Russia would be in developing Mongolia's nuclear future? Putin while whipping up nationalist frenzy within Russia and its neighbours is simply undermining the power of the declining global liberal order. He absolutely misjudged the West's

resolve in imposing effective financial sanctions on the Russian corporate sector and NATO's strategic plans in Europe. Hence, moving closer to Putin and allowing the state owned Russian Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom to develop Mongolia's nuclear apparatus would be a dangerous game for the latter.

Who would be more reliable — Xi or Putin? It seems, both Putin and Xi are equally risky. Both are equally greedy, and they are just waiting for a power grab in Mongolian nuclear development industry. Lurching between opportunity and crisis, Mongolia is forced to anchor a clear policy about the engagement of its only two power-hungry neighbours — Russia and China — in the development of its nuclear power capability.

Chinese offensive is looming large. Its outreach in the form of subtle economic diplomacy supported by adventurous military is on the top agenda of the Communist Party of China under Xi. His

approach is to reach out to the critical geopolitical points within a very short span of time. His intention is ever clear: simply fend off the US primacy in global corridors of power. Therefore, it is quite clear why Beijing wants to grab the opportunity of developing nuclear projects in its neighbourhood.

Further, Xi is also wary of Russia's traditional influence over Ulaanbaatar for long. Moscow's old linkages with Ulaanbaatar are on the wane. But the Communists in China do no way want to take any chance. With China's massive nuclear build-up supported by wolf warrior diplomacy, one can easily make out that this is nothing but the display of dysfunction, naivete and dogmatism of Xi who is already thinking about the great decline of the global firepower of the US.

Consequently, Mongolia is walking a tightrope. Khurelsukh's nuclear ambitions may push this East Asian nation into the arms of age-old

rivalry of big and competing powers. Already, Khurelsukh has been accused of turning the nation into heavy militarisation fully funded by the Communists in Beijing. Considering the recent pledges made at COP-26 at Glasgow in the UK, the global trend is to stay away from using more fossil fuels so as to reduce carbon emissions. So, the road ahead for Khurelsukh is to go nuclear to reduce the choking environment in its Capital city Ulaanbaatar. But then, Mongolia will have a hard choice between two anti-West big powers — aggressive China and a resurgent Russia.

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

Mongolia is walking a tightrope. President Khurelsukh's nuclear ambitions may push this East Asian nation into the arms of age-old rivalry of big and competing powers. Already, Khurelsukh has been accused of turning the nation into heavy militarisation fully funded by the Communists in Beijing. Considering the recent pledges made at COP-26 at Glasgow in the UK, the global trend is to stay away from using more fossil fuels so as to reduce carbon emissions. So, the road ahead for Khurelsukh is to go nuclear to reduce the choking environment in its Capital city Ulaanbaatar. But then, Mongolia will have a hard choice between two anti-West big powers — aggressive China and a resurgent Russia



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

AI powered drone new tool of warfare

Command, control, communications and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C4ISR) are becoming a most essential element in modern military operations. Countries with artificial intelligence powered drone have baffled their enemies in the war zone. AI powered drone swarms are the new tool of warfare and as of now are unregulated by weapons control regulations.

Though Israel and Turkey have successfully used them, India too is not far behind. On November 17, 2021, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) demonstrated offensive capabilities of its drone swarms at a three-day "RashtraRakshaSamarpanParv" in Jhansi. It was impressive.

The country that makes advances quickly joins an elite club that might evade future restrictions. "The DRDO demonstrated fully operational decentralised UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) swarm comprising 25 drones flying coherently with minimal human intervention, during Rashtriya Raksha Samarpan Parv during Jhansi Jalsa," reported PTI.

In mid-May 2021, the latest developments on these weapons systems occurred when the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), during the recent clashes in Gaza, used a swarm of AI drones for the first time to geolocate, target, and strike Hamas members.

Israel is making major advances in AI-driven technology.

The IDF did debut "drone swarms to seek and attack hidden targets" in the May war in Gaza. The

Ghost Unit, which is part of the Paratroopers Brigade, has been using "packs of drones". The IDF used a swarm of AI-guided drones and supercomputing to comb through data and identify new targets within the Gaza Strip. It is thought this is the first time a swarm of AI drones has been used in combat."

The drones used so far are navigated in two ways — either remotely piloted or autonomously piloted with GPS and inertial navigation systems.

Autonomous drones have terrain matching capability. They use information from the cameras along with AI for navigation without being dependent on GPS, which is vulnerable to cyber-attacks.

A drone swarm can be modelled as a flying wireless grid, where each drone is capable of using and sending information to the others in the swarm. Converting data into actionable real-time information is done using AI. The reaction time in a battlefield must be less than the reaction time of the enemy elements. Therefore, swarm drones assess the threat to the swarm and at the same time identify the target to manoeuvre to achieve the desired strike, adjusting according to any losses they suffer.

There can be some sort of task sharing, where some of the drones would undertake target detection, others to counter the enemy air defence, some more counter the interference of enemy radars and electronic signals, and others will carry out the attack by bombing. In



a dynamic environment, this autonomous coordination is done with the help of AI technologies.

Some inferences:

1. Drone warfare is asymmetric and is almost mainstream. A bit like guerrilla warfare as it is low cost. Drones are dispensable, off the shelf commercial technology can be used.
2. Autonomous drone systems separate the big boys from the rest. A study in the USAF found that remote drone piloting for long hours induces fatigue. Fatigue leads to suboptimal performance. Fire and forget autonomous drone systems are therefore huge force multipliers.
3. Real-time systems using AI for navigation and guidance, coordina-

tion, self-healing, target identification and acquisition & munition delivery systems are therefore a strategic asset.

Jyoti Sinha, CTO at Omnipresent Robot Technologies Pvt. Ltd, explains how DRDO's demonstration is significant. Omnipresent leverages and augments its experience of working on DARPA LAndroid programme to develop palm size ground swarm robots while working in the US.

"I congratulate DRDO for developing the first fully functional swarm drone network for tactical and real time support to our armed forces. We would be happy to collaborate with DRDO and leverage our experience of swarm robotics where we have

extensively tried to provide solutions to the swarm formation, ad hoc network and drone autonomy piece."

She adds, "In tactical warfare, AI powered swarm drones can carry out simultaneous destruction and dismantling of multiple targets using precise swarm configurations and hover localisation even when less sophistication is available with guided defence equipment. In other situations, it can even be an 'omni-directional attack' where the swarm drones can target one attack from numerous angles. While targeting enemy frontlines, even if some of the drones are attacked, the cognitive AI algorithms kick in and reconfigure the drone network positioning to

maintain situational awareness and aid in completion of mission. Using AI, any individual drones in a swarm network can be trained to operate in offensive or defensive mode by switching roles such as decoy, sensor, attacker or just communicator depending upon its positioning and remaining resources."

(Bhargav is an ex-IAF officer from the Aeronautical Engineering (Electronics) branch, and is now an M&A adviser for tech companies. Aavek Sen is an independent journalist working on cyber security and the geopolitics of India's neighbourhood, focussing on Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Bangladesh.

Real-time systems using AI for navigation and guidance, coordination, self-healing, target identification and acquisition & munition delivery systems are a strategic asset. Drone warfare is asymmetric and is almost mainstream. A bit like guerrilla warfare as it is low cost. Drones are dispensable; off the shelf commercial technology can be used, say

BHARGAV AND AVEEK SEN



Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Friday

Lucky number 4
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Saturday

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Monday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331

Choice sets premise of destiny

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at
Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272
Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com