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LUCKNOW, THURSDAY OCTOBER 14, 2021; PAGES 14 ₹3



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## India headed for jab milestone

73% population given at least 1 dose, 30% both; 100 cr Covid jab record likely soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is likely to achieve the ambitious target of administering 100 crore doses of the Covid-19 vaccine within the next few days even as it has allowed export of stocks to other countries, sources in the Union Health Ministry said.

"As on date, 73 per cent of the total population have been given at least a single dose of the vaccine, close to 30 per cent have received both doses, and we are following up with States to increase the vaccine administration. There are 8 crore doses kept ready for use by the States," said the Ministry sources.

On Tuesday, the emergency use of Bharat Biotech's Covid-19 vaccine for the 2 to 18 age-group was also approved.

As per the Union Government data, India has administered over 95.89 crore doses of the Covid-19 vaccine.

"There is no shortage of vaccines, it has, however, been noticed worldwide that there tends to be a saturation once 70 per cent of the population are covered. So, efforts are on to cover the remaining population and counter any vaccine hesi-

tancy. As for the availability of vaccines, the production for October alone is about 28 crore doses. Of these 22 crore doses are of Covishield, 6 crore of Covaxin and 60 lakh of the DNA vaccine," the sources said. In the meantime, India reported 15,823 new Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, 10.5 per cent higher than Tuesday when the country saw the lowest daily rise in Covid cases since early March with 14,313 infections. India also reported 226 deaths due to coronavirus.

India's total Covid infection tally has reached 3,40,01,743 while the death count has increased to 4,51,189. A total of 13,25,399 tests were conducted, taking the number of cumulative tests conducted so far to 58,63,63,442.

Meanwhile, news agency

IANS quoted eminent scientist and biochemist Prof G Padmanaban as saying that India may require the third dose of Covid vaccine by the middle of next year as breakthrough cases even after full vaccination have been prevalent, even though mostly mild.

Prof Padmanaban, who is chancellor of Central University of Tamil Nadu and a Padma Bhushan recipient, said that his opinion of a third dose is based on "scientific understanding".

"In an infection by the Delta variant, which is widespread, there is a six-eight fold drop in the potential of antisera from vaccines to neutralise the variant compared to the wild type (used for vaccination-spike or whole virus).

"Nobody still has a clear



answer to how long the protective antibodies will last, it has been variably estimated to be between six months and one

year. If the virus has not weakened by itself, by that time, there is the possibility for a re-infection," he said.

## Doctors fear Covid surge in Bengal over protocol violation

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Kolkata seems to be failing where Mumbai succeeded in the rigorous implementation of the corona protocol during Ganesh festival. With lakhs of frenzied pandal hoppers hitting the Kolkata streets amid pandemic times, the doctors of the eastern metro fear a revival of the disease in Bengal soon after the Durga Puja.

The administration's lenient execution of the corona protocol framed by the Calcutta High Court tends to push up the fear. Dr RK Patra,



a senior physician, warned, "If the positivity percentage goes beyond 5 per cent, then the administration will certainly

have to think about re-imposing lockdown in some way or the other".

This even as a senior doc-

tor of the Calcutta Medical College, the oldest such hospital in Asia, said how before Maha Panchami day the infectivity rate in Bengal was in the vicinity of 1.75 per cent which had crossed 2.53 by the end of Maha Saptami day.

While the infectibility rate remain more or less static, it is showing upward swing in Kolkata and adjacent North 24 Parganas which forms the part of greater Kolkata, thanks to the increasing crowd of pandal hoppers who have been cramming the sidewalks.

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## India slams China protest of V-P visit to Arunachal

**AP inalienable part of India, says New Delhi**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Wednesday slammed China for its objection to a recent visit to Arunachal Pradesh by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, asserting that the State is an "integral and inalienable" part of India.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said Chinese objections to the visit of Indian leaders to a State of India "does not stand to reason and understanding" of Indian people.

"We have noted the comments made today by the Chinese official spokesperson. We reject such comments. Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India," the MEA Spokesperson said.

Bagchi was responding to a question on comments in Beijing by a spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry objecting to Naidu's visit to Arunachal Pradesh over the weekend.

"Indian leaders routinely travel to the State of Arunachal Pradesh as they do to any other State of India. Objecting to the visit of Indian leaders to a State of India does not stand to reason and understanding of



Indian people," he said.

China has been objecting to visits of Indian leaders to Arunachal Pradesh in its bid to use the issue as a bargaining leverage with New Delhi for boundary negotiations. Beijing claims Arunachal Pradesh as a part of South Tibet which is contrary to the ground position.

The fresh war of words between the two sides came three days after the 13th round

of military talks on the 17-month eastern Ladakh stand-off ended in a stalemate.

The 13th round military talks were held amid pinpricks in Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh as also propaganda warfare online by People's Liberation Army (PLA) to demoralise the Indian delegations for the confabulations on Sunday.

"Further, as we have mentioned earlier, the current situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Western Sector of the India-China border areas has been caused by unilateral attempts of the Chinese side to alter the status quo in violation of the bilateral agreements," Bagchi said.

"Therefore, we expect the Chinese side to work towards early resolution of the remaining issues along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh while fully abiding by bilateral agreements and protocols rather than trying to link unrelated issues," Bagchi said.

On Monday, a day after the 13th round of military talks, Indian Army said the "constructive suggestions" made by it were neither agreeable to the Chinese side nor it could provide any "forward-looking" proposals.

The Chinese PLA's Western Theatre Command, however, said India insisted on "unreasonable and unrealistic demands, adding difficulties to the negotiations."

## Lakhimpur Kheri violence 'condemnable' but lopsided attention dangerous: FM

PTI ■ BOSTON

The Lakhimpur Kheri violence, in which four farmers were killed, is "absolutely condemnable," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said, emphasising that there are issues of such nature happening in other parts of India equally which should be raised "when they happen and not when it suits others" because there is a BJP Government in Uttar Pradesh.

Sitharaman, who is on an official visit to the US, was responding to a question during a conversation at Harvard Kennedy School on Tuesday about the killing of four farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri and the arrest of Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra.

She was asked why there is no word on this from the Prime Minister, senior Ministers and why there is a "defensive reaction" when somebody asks questions about such things.

"No, absolutely not... It's nice of you to have picked up



that one incident which is absolutely condemnable, every one of us say that. Equally there are instances happening elsewhere, is my concern.

"India has issues of such nature happening in very many different parts of the country equally. I would like you, and many others, including Dr Amartya Sen, who all know India, to raise it at every time when it happens, not just raise it when it suits us because it's a State where BJP is in power, one of my cabinet colleague's son is in probably trouble, and also assume that it's actually them who did it and not anybody else.

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## Ashish Mishra denied bail, 2 more arrested

PTI ■ LAKHIMPUR KHERI

Two more persons were on Wednesday arrested in connection with the Lakhimpur violence, while a court here denied bail to Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister Ajay Mishra.

Ankit Das and Latif, alias Kale, who appeared before the Special Investigation Team (SIT), were taken in custody after questioning and produced in court which sent them in judicial remand for 14 days, official sources said.

With this, the total number of people arrested in connection with the mowing down of four farmers here on October 3 has gone to six.

While the police sought their custody for interrogation, their lawyer opposed it saying no recovery is to be done from them. The court reserved its order on the application for police remand of the two, they said.

Senior prosecution officer SP Yadav told PTI that Ashish Mishra and his alleged accomplice Ashish Pandey moved bail applications on Wednesday but they were rejected by Chief Judicial



Magistrate Chinta Ram.

Ashish Mishra, who was arrested on October 9 by the special investigation team after 12 hours of questioning, had been sent to three days in police custody from Tuesday.

The court also remanded Shekhar Bharti, arrested on Tuesday, in police custody for three days.

Police have now arrested six people — Ashish Mishra, Luvkush, Ashish Pandey, Bharti, Ankit and Kale — in connection with the case.

The investigators had summoned Das and Kale for questioning in connection with the October 3 violence that had left eight people, including four lynched by the protesting farmers.

## NIA arrests 9 in J&K for terror conspiracy

**Of those, 5 held during searches in Srinagar**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday said it has arrested nine persons, including five during the searches conducted in Srinagar, in the Jammu & Kashmir terrorism conspiracy case.

The five arrested accused persons are Md Haneef Chiralu (Srinagar) Hafeez (Budgam), Owais Dar (Pulwama), Mateen Bhat (Shopian), and Arif Farooq Bhat (Srinagar).

The arrests came close on the heels of searches at 16 locations in Kashmir on Tuesday. The NIA had registered the case on Sunday. During the searches, the agency seized several electronic devices, incriminating jihadi documents, and records of suspicious financial transactions.

The case relates to the conspiracy for conducting violent



terrorist acts in Jammu & Kashmir and other major cities by the cadre of proscribed terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), and their affiliates Al Badr, The Resistance Front (TRF), People Arunachal Pradesh (PAFF) and Mujahideen Ghazwat-ul-Hind (MGH) among others.

The agency had on Tuesday conducted searches at 16 locations in Srinagar, Pulwama, and Shopian districts and arrested four accused persons. The arrested accused are Waseem Ahmed Sofi of Chattabal, Srinagar, Tariq Ahmed Dar of Shergarhi,

Srinagar, Bilal Ahmed Mir alias Bilal Fufu of Parimpura, Srinagar, and Tariq Ahmed Bafanda of Rajauri Kadal in Srinagar.

The agency was pursuing a case on the intelligence input regarding hatching of conspiracy both physically and in cyberspace for undertaking violent terrorist acts in Jammu & Kashmir and other major cities of India, including New Delhi, by the cadres of proscribed terrorist organisations LeT, JeM, HM, Al Badr and similar other outfits and their affiliates such as the TRF and PAFF among others, the NIA said in a statement.

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## JeM commander gunned down in encounter with forces in Pulwama

PNS ■ JAMMU

One of the top commanders of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorist outfit was eliminated by the joint team of the security forces in Tilwani Mohalla Waggad area of Tral in South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Wednesday.

The slain terrorist has been identified as Shamus-ud-Din Sofi, alias ShamSofi. According to police records he was first arrested in 2004 and detained under PSA. He rejoined the ranks of JeM in 2019 and since then was active in the area.

He provided shelter and logistics support to the foreign terrorists of JeM in the area.

According to a police spokesman, "The joint operation was launched in the area after confirming his whereabouts by the Awantipora police".

During the search operation, the terrorist was given repeated opportunities to surrender. Instead of responding, he opened indiscriminate fire on the security forces. In the ensuing encounter he was neutralised by the security forces.

## CAPSULE

### MANMOHAN SINGH ADMITTED TO AIIMS

**New Delhi:** Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was admitted to the AIIMS here Wednesday evening after he complained of weakness following a fever, sources said.

### INFLATION RISES 5.4% FROM YEAR AGO

**Washington:** Consumer prices rose 0.4 per cent last month, slightly higher than August's gain and pushing annual inflation back to the highest increase in 13 years.

### 'NO TEMPORARY LICENCE FOR FIRECRACKERS'

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Police on Wednesday said it will not issue any temporary licence for the storage and sale of firecrackers this festival season.

## PM unveils ₹100L cr master plan to give Gati to economy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday launched a ₹100 lakh crore national master plan — PM Gati Shakti — for multi-modal connectivity that aims to develop infrastructure to reduce logistic costs and boost the economy.

The plan targets to cut logistic costs, increase cargo handling capacity and reduce the turnaround time, Modi said, adding it would lend more power and speed to projects by connecting all concerned departments on one platform. The infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and States will be designed and executed with a common vision.

Modi said taxpayers' money in the past was "insulted" through a lethargic approach to development work, with departments working in silos and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches PM Gati Shakti, at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on Wednesday

there was no coordination on projects.

Development, he said, is not possible without quality infrastructure and the Government has now resolved to develop it in a holistic manner. Gati

Shakti joins different departments for the coordinated development of projects from road to railways, aviation to agriculture, the PM said.

Continued on Page 12

## Humanitarian aid doesn't mean Taliban Govt's recognition: G20

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Members of the G-20 meeting in a virtual summit pledged to provide aid to the people of Afghanistan in a bid to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe in the war-torn country, *Tolo News* reported. The summit was hosted by Italy on Tuesday. Some members of the summit cited that provision of aids didn't indicate recognition of the "Taliban" Government.

Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of Germany, said that her country is not ready to recognise the "Taliban". According to her, the Taliban have not met the international measures and expectations of the world, the report said.

The US said it would provide donation through aid organisations to the people of Afghanistan. Addressing the summit, US



President Joe Biden also expressed concerns over the presence of armed groups such as ISIS-K or so-called Daesh group in Afghanistan.

The European Union pledged to provide one million Euro in support of humanitarian donation to the country.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that the international

community emphasised on preservation of the human rights, particularly the rights of girls and women.

The summit was not attended by the Presidents of China and Russia. This comes as earlier, the UN and humanitarian organisations had warned of triggering a severe humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.



# CM: UP has emerged as fastest growing economy in the country

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Claiming that Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the fastest growing economy of the country, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday said “when the thinking is honest, then works are strong and are visible”.

“This state, which was once far behind in all welfare schemes, is today number one in implementing 44 schemes of the country. It has one of the best investment and security environments in the world. This is the new and emerging Uttar Pradesh and it is now moving towards becoming the leading economy of India,” asserted Yogi Adityanath while addressing a public meeting after inaugurating Mahant Avaidyanath Government College at Rasulpur Chakia and unveiling a life-size bronze statue of Brahmalin Gorakshapeethadhishwar Mahant Avaidyanath installed on the college campus in Gorakhpur on Wednesday.

He further said that after formation of the Bharatiya Janata Party government at the Centre in 2014 and in Uttar Pradesh in 2017, everyone had been getting benefits of the schemes without any discrimination.

“Today every village has good roads and electricity. Earlier, farmers did not buy paddy and there was a compulsion to sell it at throwaway prices. But, today many government procurement centres have been set up and are oper-



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath unveils a bronze statue of Brahmalin Gorakshapeethadhishwar Mahant Avaidyanath in Gorakhpur on Wednesday

ational. The state government purchases are made at the minimum support price and the money is directly transferred to the farmer's accounts,” Yogi Adityanath said.

The chief minister said that the government had been able to ensure an environment of security. “Earlier there used to be curfew on festivals, but today curfew has become a thing of the past. Coronavirus has also disappeared. Good

work done with good intentions yields good results. God also supports this. The path of development of the state was closed in the previous governments but it was opened by the BJP government in 2017. Roads, electricity, security, education, health, everything was in bad shape during the tenure of the previous governments. The poor did not even get ration. Now a network of wide roads has been laid, everyone

has been guaranteed safety, the education and health sectors have been strengthened, everyone is getting enough electricity and the poor are getting free ration,” the chief minister said.

Congratulating the people of the Gorakhpur region for the new government college, the chief minister also mentioned the development works done in the last four-and-a-half years in Gorakhpur and stressed that

Gorakhpur had become a hub of health and education.

“In 2016, the foundation of AIIMS was laid for providing world class health facilities and it will be inaugurated next month. The compost factory, which was closed in 1990, will be ready in the next month. Farmers will get fertiliser on time and youth will get jobs. It will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Gorakhpur has also got the gift

of Ayush University, Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath University, Sainik School, ITI in Campierganj, two inter colleges, polytechnic at Sahjanwa etc. Also, the sugar mill at Pipraich is producing sulphur-less sugar,” he said.

Drawing attention to the country's success in the Tokyo Olympics, Yogi said that the government had made a provision of Rs 6 crore to Olympic gold medalists, Rs 4 crore to silver medalists and Rs 2 crore to bronze medalists.

Deputy Chief Minister Dr Dinesh Sharma, who was present at the function, said that massive development work had been done in Uttar Pradesh under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

“As soon as he became the chief minister, he first announced the establishment of this college for higher education. Now this Jungle Kauriya is becoming Mangal Kauriya. Earlier, education in the state was identified with the copying industry, but under the leadership of the chief minister, it is now the biggest state for copy-less examinations. Not only this, the chief minister has also directed to set up a placement cell in every college so that the youth do not face any problem in employment. On the instructions of the chief minister, a proposal is also being made to designate assistant professor as associate professor,” he said.

Presenting a memorandum of gratitude at the func-

tion, Minister of State for Higher Education, Neelima Katiyar said that in 2017, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had pledged to change the system and his resolution was being fulfilled rapidly.

Gorakhpur MP Ravi Kishan Shukla and Campierganj MLA Fateh Bahadur Singh also addressed the function.

In the welcome address, Principal Secretary (Higher

Education) Subhash Chandra Sharma said that 77 new government colleges were being established during the present regime.

“In the state, 51 lakh students are studying in the institutions of the Higher Education department. For higher education of the students, today another milestone has been added in the form of Mahant Avaidyanath Government College,” he said.

 NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ


**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The work of LHS/RUB at LC No. 38 road connected to Kukura Village, (between Khaga - Satnaraini Stations in District of Fatehpur) has been planned from **18 Oct\* 2021** and completed by **31 Jan\*2022** along with approach work.

During construction of LHS/RUB work traffic will be diverted from the adjacent R.O.B.-37. After completion of work road traffic will be regularized through newly constructed LHS/RUB.

1089/21 (AN)

 North central railways | [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in)  @CPRONCR

 NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E-Tender No. PUCNB-PRYJ-FTP-SD-T-56 Dated:11.10.2021

**TENDER NOTICE (Two Packet)**



Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Project, North Central Railway Project Unit, Kanpur for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-Tender from reputed contractors/JV firms with adequate experience and financial capability, for the following work on Two Packet System up to 15:00 hrs. on the opening date of E-tender mentioned therein. If date of opening is declared a holiday or offer could not be opened due to Technical issue, the offers shall be opened on the next working day.


The details of the Tender are as under:

Name of work	*"Miscellaneous works in connection with provision of diversity in system design for track sections in PRYJ-FTP section of Prayagraj division of North Central Railway."
Estimated cost of work	Approx. Cost ₹165111555.97 only (Rs. Sixteen Crore Fifty One Lakhs Eleven Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Five and Ninety Seven paise only).
Earnest Money	NIL (Bid Security Declaration to be submitted)
Tender form cost	NIL
Completion Period	24 Months
Availability of tender form	Tender forms shall be available on website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> , 21 days prior to date of opening of the tender.
Closing Date/Time of Tender	02.11.2021 before 15:00 Hrs
Tender Opening Date/Time	02.11.2021 at 15:00 Hrs
Place of Opening	Through Online E-Portal <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> in the office of CSTE/P-II/INCRPU, HQ Office, Subedarganj, Prayagraj (UP)
Validity of Offer	60 days from date of opening
Right of Railway to deal with tender	Railway administration reserves the rights to postpone /modify or to cancel the tender without assigning any reasons.

Venders who wish to participate in tenders invited on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) have to register on the website mandatorily. Please refer to website for more details. Tenderers can submit EMD only through online mode. Online payment of earnest money can be made through net banking, debit/credit card etc. Further particulars can be obtained from Indian Railways website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

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 North Central Railways [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in)  @CPRONCR

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**अल्पकालिक निविदा सूचना**

राजकीय मुद्रणालय एवं व्यापार कर विभाग से पंजीकृत आफसेट मुद्रकों से अकादमी की पुस्तकों तथा पत्रिका खबरनामा एवं त्रैमासिक अकादमी के मुद्रण हेतु मुहर बन्द निविदायें दिनांक **25.10.2021 अपराह्न 02:00 बजे** तक आमंत्रित है। निधारित तिथि एवं समय के अन्दर प्राप्त निविदायें उसी दिन **शाम 04:00 बजे** अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा खोली जायेगी। इस अवसर पर निविदा देने वाली फार्मों के प्रतिनिधि यदि चाहें तो उपस्थित रह सकते हैं।

**अनिवार्य शर्तें :-**

- निविदायें मोहरबन्द लिफाफे में सचिव, उ0ग0 उर्दू अकादमी, विभूति खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ को सम्बोधित होंगी।
- निविदादाता फर्म को उपरोक्त कार्य का कम से कम पाँच वर्षों का अनुभव अनिवार्य है।
- निविदादाता द्वारा आयकर अदेयता प्रमाण-पत्र प्रस्तुत करना होगा।
- (a) राजकीय मुद्रणालय एवं व्यापार द्वारा जारी पंजीकरण प्रमाण पत्र की छायाप्रति संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है।  
(b) प्रेस का जी.एस.टी. नम्बर एवं पैन कार्ड संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है।
- पुस्तकों एवं पत्रिकाओं का साइज 23x36/16 एवं 20x30/8 का होगा।
- समस्त पुस्तकों एवं पत्रिकाओं के टेक्स्ट (काले रंग में) सीटीपी प्लेट द्वारा तथा उनके कवर (बार रंगों में) आफसेट द्वारा मुद्रित होंगे।
- टेक्स्ट हेतु 70 जी.एस.एम. जे.के. मैपलिथो कागज तथा कवर हेतु 300 जी.एस.एम. आर्ट पेपर का स्वयं फर्म द्वारा प्रयोग किया जायेगा।
- पुस्तकों एवं पत्रिकाओं की जुजबन्दी (सिलाई) के बाद पेपर बैक बाइन्डिंग परफेक्ट पद्धति द्वारा की जायेगी।
- टेण्डर के साथ उपरोक्तानुसार प्रयोग होने वाले कागज एवं आर्ट कार्ड के नमूने तथा उ0ग0 उर्दू अकादमी के नाम रु0 20,000/- (बीस हजार रुपये) का बैंक ड्राफ्ट/बैंकर्स चेक जमानत के रूप में संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है।
- पुस्तकों एवं पत्रिकाओं के मल्ट (मैटर) की कम्पोजिंग एवं कवर डिजाइन अकादमी उपलब्ध करायेंगी।
- कवर पर लेमिनेशन एवं क्रीजिंग करना आवश्यक होगा।
- पुस्तकों एवं पत्रिकाओं के मुद्रण के रेट 1000 एवं 500 प्रतिशत हेतु पृथक-पृथक करत करे होंगे।
- फर्म को अकादमी द्वारा प्रेषित मुद्रण आदेश की तिथि से एक माह के अन्दर पुस्तकों एवं एक सप्ताह के अन्दर पत्रिकायें अकादमी कार्यालय पहुंचाना होगी जिसके लिये किसी प्रकार का भाड़ा नहीं दिया जायेगा।
- निविदा स्वीकार किये जाने के उपरान्त निविदाकर्ता को स्वीकृत तिथि से तीन दिन के अन्दर रु0 100/- के स्टाम्प पेपर पर सचिव, उ0ग0 उर्दू अकादमी के साथ एक अनुबन्ध करना होगा।
- टेण्डर द्वारा स्वीकृत दरें अनुबन्ध की तिथि से एक वर्ष तक प्रभावी रहेंगी। इस अवधि में फर्म को स्वीकृत दरों के अनुसार कार्य करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- अपूर्ण टेण्डर पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। टेण्डर के लिफाफे पर पुस्तकों एवं पत्रिकाओं के मुद्रण एवं सलाई हेतु टेण्डर अवश्य लिखा जाये।
- उपरोक्त शर्तों का फर्म द्वारा यथावत् अनुपालन न करने पर मुग्तान किया जाना सम्भव नहीं होगा।
- अधोहस्ताक्षरी को बिना कारण बतायें कोई एक या सभी टेण्डरों को निरस्त करने का पूर्ण अधिकार होगा।
- अधिक जानकारी के लिए किसी भी कार्य दिवस में **11:00 बजे से 04:00 बजे** तक कार्यालय से सम्पर्क स्थापित किया जा सकता है।

 CLASSIFIEDS

**NOTICE**

I have changed my name from Anil Khanchandani to Anil Kumar Khanchandani S/o Dulichand R/o 113/124 Swaroop Nagar Kanpur

**NOTICE**

I have changed my name from Ritu Bhasin Alias Rajneet to Ritu Bhasin Ritu Bhasin W/o Kunwarjit Singh Bhasin R/o Banglow No. 107, Harding Road, Meerpur Cantt, Kanpur.

**NOTICE**

I Reetika Singh D/o Bhupendra Pratap Singh, R/o Village & Post Bhawani Nagar Tehsil-Tiloi Distt- Amethi UP hereby inform that I have change the name of Reetika Singh to Ritika Singh vide affidavit Dt. 29.7.21 for all future purposes.

**NOTICE**

I declare that my name is Anant Krishna s/o Bechoo Yadav address Nizamuddinpara House No. 474 C. Tehsil Sadar District - Mau My name is Anant Krishna Yadav which is wrong while the correct name is Pan Card, Aadhar Card, Caste Certificate Anant Krishna by the same name. be known and recognized

**सूचना**

मेरे आर्मी रिकार्ड में त्रुटिवश मेरी पत्नी का नाम गीता देवी जन्मतिथि 26.5.1963 अंकित है जबकि पत्नी का सही नाम गीता तिवारी व जन्मतिथि 01.01.1964 है। यही नाम व जन्मतिथि पत्नी के आधारकार्ड में अंकित है जो कि सही है पूर्व हकलदार सर्विस नम्बर 14357792 वार्ड, सुरेश चंद्र तिवारी निवासी 34-न्यू विमान नगर पोस्ट हरजेंदर नगर कानपुर नगर

**NOTICE**

I, Shri Kaushalendra Singh Sengar father of No-160174959 Rank EX-LNK Raghvendra Singh Sengar resident of Sheikhpur Buzurg, Jalaun, U.P. have changed name from Kaushalendra Singh Sengar and DOB 01/07/1961 (existing name of father and DOB as recording in service document of Veteran), to Kaushlendra Singh and DOB 01/01/1968 (proposed new name and DOB) vide affidavit dated 13.10.2021 before Jalaun Court.

## ‘Gati Shakti’ to take India towards a new era: CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Exuding confidence in the National Infrastructure Master Plan of Mission 'Gati Shakti', Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that it was going to encourage all and take the country towards a new era.

Addressing a virtual meeting organised by the Centre to launch the National Infrastructure Master Plan, the chief minister, on Wednesday, said, “UP has achieved a big goal in Ease of Doing Business in the past four-and-a-half years. Gati Shakti is a practical form of the ritual of worshipping 'Maa Shakti' in Shardiya Navratri, and it is also a practical form of worshipping the nation.”

“To make this mission a success, I call upon my entire team from Uttar Pradesh to get associated with this plan and give their 100 per cent,” the chief minister said and added,, “We are getting an opportunity to introspect from the point of view of what will be the role of Uttar Pradesh, which has the

largest population in the country. It is our good fortune that Uttar Pradesh has already started its action plan for infrastructure development under the guidance of PM Modi.”

“Already with the cooperation of the Government of India, there are many such projects, which are very important for our infrastructure development,” he added.

The chief minister said that Gati Shakti was being recognised as the ideal initiative of good governance to build a strong India. He said it was also going to be a powerful means of providing a single-window platform for planning, quick approval and decision making of any project.

Through Gati Shakti National Master Plan, India aims to develop holistic infrastructure for manufacturing, multi-modal connectivity, utilisation of resources, timely creation of innovative capabilities and speedy resolution of bottlenecks. Under this Rs 100-lakh crore national master plan, there will be a better opportunity to provide ample

employment to the youth and also to improve their standard of living.

Stating that Uttar Pradesh would play an important role in fulfilling the prime minister's goal of making India a 5-trillion-dollar economy, Yogi said Uttar Pradesh, with the largest population, would play an important role in this. “This can be made possible only when the state's economy becomes a one-trillion-dollar economy,” he added. There are many projects including Prayagraj-Varanasi-Haldia National Inland Waterway, Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors, Multi-Model Logistics and Transport Terminal, Regional Rapid Rail (RRTS), Delhi-Jewar-Varanasi High-Speed Rail Link, which are very important for UP.

Yogi said that if the state and the Central government worked in coordination, then not only the economy of the country would grow but it would take Uttar Pradesh forward on the path of development.

## Vidhan Sabha to elect Deputy Speaker on October 18

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a sudden move, Uttar Pradesh Assembly Speaker Hriday Narayan Dikshit announced the programme for the election of deputy speaker of the Assembly the process of which will begin on October 17.

Nomination papers for contesting the internal poll will be filed between 11 am to 1 PM on October 17 and a day-long special session of the assembly will be held on October 18.

“Speaker of the UP Assembly has fixed the date of October 18 for the election of deputy speaker of the 17th Vidhan Sabha of Uttar Pradesh. Accordingly, this election will be held at Vidhan Sabha Hall, Lucknow on October 18. Any member of the House may nominate another member for this election by submitting the prescribed nomination paper duly filled in to Principal Secretary, Vidhan Sabha from 11 am to 1 pm on October 17,” said Principal Secretary, UP Assembly, Pradeep Kumar Dube in Lucknow on Wednesday.

Rajesh Agarwal of the Bharatiya Janata Party was the last deputy speaker of the UP assembly from July, 2004 to May 13, 2007 during the Samajwadi Party government headed by Mulayam Singh Yadav.

As per established democratic convention, a member from the opposition party is elected to the post of Deputy Speaker. This post remained vacant during the Bahujan Samaj Party regime headed by Mayawati from May, 2007 to March 2012. Samajwadi Party was the main opposition party and the BSP was not

interested in obliging the opposition party with the post of deputy speaker.

Similarly, the next Samajwadi Party government led by Akhilesh Yadav from March, 2012 to March, 2017 opted for the same process as the Bahujan Samaj Party was the main opposition party.

The BJP government headed by Yogi Adityanath took office in March 2017 and for the next four-and-a-half years the election of deputy speaker was never on the agenda of the BJP. The BJP has, however, decided to hold the election at the fag end of the 17th UP Vidhan Sabha as less than six months is left in the tenure of the present assembly.

Well-placed sources confirmed that the BJP was likely to back Nitin Agarwal for the post of deputy speaker.

Agarwal is a turncoat and was elected as a Samajwadi Party candidate from Hardoi assembly constituency in 2017. The SP had filed a petition seeking his disqualification from the membership of UP assembly in November 2019, but it was rejected by the speaker earlier this month.

Samajwadi Party sources said the party would oppose the candidature of Nitin Agarwal and a final call would be taken on the issue by party chief Akhilesh Yadav.

The BJP is, however, confident that it will easily get the candidate of its choice elected due to its overwhelming majority in the House where it has 320 MLAs out of the total seats of 403.

Meanwhile, the BJP has directed all its MLAs to be present in Lucknow on October 18.

## UP law minister meets kin of BJP worker, driver killed in Lakhimpur

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Law minister Brijesh Pathak on Wednesday met the families of a BJP worker and the driver of Union minister Ajay Mishra who were among those killed during Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

The minister arrived in the district without any official protocol and visited the family of BJP worker Shubham Mishra in Shivpuri locality of Lakhimpur city and driver Hariom Mishra in Parsehra Khurd village under Phardhan (Kheri) police limits, party sources said.

Eight people, including four farmers and a journalist, were killed in the violence that had erupted on Tikonina-Banbirpur road here on October 3.

The farmers were allegedly knocked down by a car carrying BJP workers travelling to welcome Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya to an event in the area.

Shubham Mishra, another BJP worker Shyam Sundar, and Hariom Mishra were allegedly lynched by the farmers.

Pathak's visit coincides with a delegation of Congress leaders, including former AICC president Rahul Gandhi, meeting President Ram Nath Kovind in the national capital and demanding immediate dismissal of Ajay Mishra over the Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

Accompanied by district BJP chief Sunil Singh, district vice presidents Vijay Shukla Rinku and Anurag Mishra, and Awadh region head Kamlesh Mishra, Pathak participated in the rituals being performed at Shubham Mishra's house.

District vice president Vijay Mishra and Anurag Mishra told PTI that the law minister extended deep condolences and assured both the families of all assistance.

The minister avoided interaction with media persons during his visit here. But when contacted later, he told PTI over phone that he had gone to extend condolences and pay his tributes.

“We are with the families of all the deceased. It is a very unfortunate incident and the guilty will be punished after an impartial inquiry,” he said.

He said that he met the families of the two deceased and assured medical help and treatment to the parents of one of them who are not well.

## Pathak's visit coincides with a delegation of Congress leaders, including former AICC president Rahul Gandhi, meeting President Ram Nath Kovind in the national capital and demanding immediate dismissal of Ajay Mishra over the Lakhimpur Kheri violence

“The families have not made any demand but we are with the families of all the victims. We also assured them of impartial action in the matter,” he said, adding that he will visit the third victim soon.

“I will meet the families of all the victims,” he said.

While Rahul Gandhi, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, BSP general secretary S C Mishra, AAP MP Sanjay Singh and Delhi MLA Raghav Chadha have visited the homes of the four farmers and journalist Raman Kashyap, they are yet to meet the families of the other three deceased.

While some district-level BJP leaders did visit the homes of the two party workers and driver, Pathak is the first notable personality to do so.

A sum of Rs 45 lakh each was also given to the families of the two BJP workers and the minister's driver as compensation, an amount equal to that provided to the kin of the four farmers and the journalist. The compensation cheque to the families Shubham Mishra and Hariom Mishra was given by BJP's Lakhimpur (Sadar) MLA Yogesh Verma, away from the media glare on Thursday.

A government official has said that the ex-gratia money has been given to families of all eight people by the government.

The visit of Pathak, who is a Brahmin, also appears to have a political overtone as the three belonged to the same caste as the minister. It is also being seen as a message to BJP workers that they are cared for by the party.



## DM stresses on focused sampling in rural areas during festival

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash gave directions for Covid management in view of the festive season which has kicked off.

The DM held a meeting with the district task force regarding Covid vaccination and the Dastak campaign which will start in the district from October 18. He said that since it was the season of festivals it was the time to be especially careful.

He directed the officials to carry out focused sampling in the rural areas. He said that people from other states would be returning to their home state at the time of the festivals hence focused sampling should be carried out on these people.

He told the officials to activate the nigrani samitis so that they gave information immediately of people returning from Covid-hit states such as Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh so that they could be tested for coronavirus infection.

The DM also gave directions to the officials to coordinate with the traders and open vaccination centres at all shopping malls from 1 pm to 9 pm. He said that vaccination centres should be opened in all the temples, including the Chandrika Devi temple, and daily 4,000-5,000 people from the rural areas should be vaccinated.

The DM said that mobile vans should be run in two shifts from 7 am to 12 noon in the first shift and from 2 pm to 8 pm in the second shift for carrying out more vaccinations.

He said that during the Dastak programme when teams moved from house to house they should establish coordination with the public representatives such as corporators, pradhans to set up camps so that people could be vaccinated.

He said that this formed a phase of the prevention of communicable disease programme in which the frontline workers would move from house to house and spread awareness of the various diseases and their prevention.

He said that as per the micro plan, other departments would also be involved along with the Health department in carrying out various activities in their areas to make the campaign hundred per cent successful.

Chief Medical Officer Manoj Aggarwal said that the Health department was the nodal department for the campaign and other departments included the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Gram Vikas and Panchayati Raj, Nagar Nigam, Education Department, Urban Development, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Differently-abled department, Swachh Bharat Mission, Information, Culture and Medical Education departments which would be the supporting department for this campaign.

Meanwhile, the district magistrate suspended the superintendent of Aishbagh community health centre (CHC) for lesser targets achieved in Covid vaccinations. The DM also issued show-cause notices to CHC Mall, CHC Malihabad and CHC Kakori for giving lesser results as compared to the target.

## Footfalls increase at puja pandals

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Footfalls increased at the Durga puja pandals from Durga Ashtami which was celebrated across the city on Wednesday.

People gathered in large numbers to partake in bhog at the pandals where it was offered. Durga Puja organisers said that Navami would witness further increase in the number of people visiting the pandals.

At the Ramakrishna Math, the spokesperson said that Ashtami marked the ceremony of kanya puja in the morning and the sandhi puja in the evening which brought in a large number of devotees. "The kanya puja is important at our pandal because we conduct the puja with a young girl who is chosen from amongst the devotees," he said.

He said that the crowd at the pandal was more on Ashtami than on Saptami but they all were following the Covid protocols.

"We are also serving bhog and we have made arrangements of serving the bhog at the huge ground we have at our premises where the prasad is distributed in a queue. The bhog consists of the traditional khichdi, mixed vegetables and other items," he said.



He admitted that the bhog was a key point of attraction because devotees came for darshan and then prasad. "We are serving bhog to more than 500 people in a day," he said.

Meanwhile, at the Durga Puja pandal on Cantonment Road, the spokesperson of the puja committee, Nihar De, said that the crowds remained brisk on Ashtami. He said that bhog was distributed to over 1,000 people when in non-COVID-19 times, bhog was served to almost 3,000 people on ashtami.

"The crowds are more on Ashtami but they will increase in Navami because the people conclude their fast and visit the Durga Puja pandals to partake in the bhog," he added.

He said that they had also received directions from some government programmes which were

being presented in the evening at their pandal. "We have kept a separate entry and exit point at the pandal so that the people worship and then exit. We have kept tables for the people who are partaking in the bhog. There are proper arrangements for sanitisation and entry is not given to anyone not wearing a mask. All the Covid guidelines are being followed," he said.

De said that they would be celebrating kanya puja on Navami. "On Navami, we are expecting at least 6,000 devotees at the pandals in the entire day," he added.

Talking about his pandal which is themed on the defeat of coronavirus by Goddess Durga, he said that the inner part of the pandal showed a sky embossed with coronavirus and the Goddess bringing it to an end.

## Playing Ravana not an easy task in Ramleela: Pandey

**Lucknow (PNS):** Playing Ravana is not an easy task, says Devendra Pandey who has been enacting this role in Ramleela at the Chinhat area for the last decade.

Pandey said that it was a difficult role because one had to adapt and attune to the character's behaviour and thought process and this could not be in any way called easy since it involved demonic features. "If we do not attune to Ravana's nature we cannot enact the role and to perform this character and we incidentally offer our prayers to Lord Ram before we make the plunge. We ask for forgiveness from Lord Ram for any mistake that we make in our portrayal," he said.

He said that during the time he played the character of Ravana, the only feeling he had was that he was actually the king of Lanka and once the role was over he was back to being a Ram devotee.

Pandey said that though everyone was aware of the fact that Ravana was a 'trikaldarshi' and a knowledgeable man, people were not aware that Ravana had abducted Sita because it was his route to attaining salvation. "There was no one else who could help him attain salvation except for him being killed by Lord Ram. He did not touch Sita when he abduct-

ed her but carried her away through his magical powers. There are several instances in the Ramayana where even Lord Ram acknowledged his far-reaching wisdom and there are several mythological stories which are a pointer to how Ravana came into being that reflect his real prowess," he said.

When asked why he chose to play the role of Ravana, Pandey said that his main aim was that people should see the goodness in Ravana too. "I also give a message at the Ramleela on this because I always try to project what is correct and the public is unaware of the many stories which define Ravana as they are not popular," he said.

Pandey did not agree to the idea that Ravana got the maximum applause from the audience.

"It all depends on the kind of dialogues which are delivered and there are several such dialogues," he said. When asked why most of the time Ravana was played as a loud character who laughs in a strange manner and speaks with force, Pandey said that there was no other way of depicting Ravana. "He is known for the Shiv tandav stotram he sang when he lifted the Kailash mountain complete with Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati as a devotee of Lord Shiva."

## Missing boy from city working as bonded labourer rescued from Amritsar

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

It is a story straight out of a crime serial with the only difference being that it is 'real' and not 'reel' stuff. Satyendra Yadav, a 15-year-old boy who had been abducted by some truck drivers three years back, returned safely to his home in village Mohana in Itaunja town of Lucknow on Wednesday after escaping from the clutches of his captors in Katraikala at Amritsar in Punjab.

Satyendra's father, who runs a grocery shop, and his cousin had brought him back to Lucknow after the Railway Childline at Amritsar contacted the Lucknow Childline. No sooner that the boy arrived at his village, the entire area erupted into celebrations with dhols being played and sweets being distributed to one and all on his return.

Looking dusky after working for hours in the open fields, Satyendra looked like a young Sikh boy and was elated even though he had undergone such a traumatic ordeal. "I was beaten with a cane often and made to look after the buffaloes. I was also chained in the night so that I could not run away," he said while speaking about his trials.

Satyendra admitted that he had made friends with the other children who also had been held captive and was looking for an opportunity to escape. "The opportunity came when the captors took me and another boy to a closeby gurudwara where a kabaddi competition was being held. The moment I saw that my captors had got engrossed in the game, I fled and reached the Amritsar railway station where I narrated my story to a safai karmi who handed me over to Railway Childline," he said.

He said that he could not make any contact with his parents through the mobile phone because he had no contact numbers of his family.

Satyendra's cousin, Sumit



Yadav, who accompanied the boy's father to bring him back to the village, gave details of the abduction and said that three years back Satyendra, who was then 12-year-old, and his friends had gone to a nearby pond at their village to have a bath. "There was a dhaba close-by and all the boys contributed money to eat there. They were given some money by the Sikh truck drivers who were present there. We suspect that they mixed something in the vegetable curry which he had for lunch and so while other boys returned, he found the curry spicy and went towards the pond. The truck drivers picked him up from there and took him to Amritsar where two men came and took him away after making payments to the truck drivers," he said.

Sumit said that they kept Satyendra at the house of the buyer's aunt and would make him look after the buffaloes and wash clothes and would hit him if he refused to work. "Then he was shifted to another house where a chain was tied to his feet so that he could not run away. They would make him talk to some people who faked as his parents and he was under the illusion that he was talking to his parents," he said.

When asked whether they would lodge an FIR against the perpetrators, Sumit said that they had found the boy which was itself a great miracle and they were very satisfied. "We have heard that members from the Childline team visited the house of his captors and are taking some legal action," he

said. When asked if there was a possibility that the boy may have run away on his own, the cousin said that it was not so and had he run away on his own, he would not have remained away from his family for three long years.

Sangeeta Sharma from Childline, who visited Mohana to meet the child, while commenting on how children were able to handle such traumatic situations with ease, said that the children were at the end of the day simply children.

"Children are happy-go-lucky which helps them to handle such a situation and the boy had also made friends with the other children who were kept captive there. But all said and done, one cannot take away from the fact that he is a very brave boy and cashed in on the opportunity he was looking for to run away," she added.

When asked as to whether they perceived any threat to their life as the boy's captors may try to harm him so that they were not exposed, she said that he was safe in Lucknow because the entire village had not only gathered on his return but was also standing by him.

Director, Childline, Anshumali Sharma, said that what was interesting to note was that the boy had completely taken the appearance of a Sikh boy and was speaking Punjabi fluently. "This shows how a boy who had been abducted from Lucknow got absorbed in the environment and adapted a culture which was not his own," he said.



# धान खरीद

वर्ष 2021-22

प्रदेश में मूल्य समर्थन योजना के अन्तर्गत

## सरकारी धान की खरीद 1 अक्टूबर, 2021 से प्रारम्भ

**धान का समर्थन मूल्य**

**धान कॉमन**

**रु. 1940/- प्रति कुन्तल**

**एवं ग्रेड 'ए'**

**रु. 1960/- प्रति कुन्तल**

**छोटे किसानों की उपज को सही समय पर न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य का लाभ प्राप्त हो, यह सुनिश्चित कराना राज्य सरकार का उद्देश्य है।**

अतः ऐसे लघु एवं सीमान्त किसान, जिनकी कुल उपज 50-60 कुन्तल है, उनको प्राथमिकता के आधार पर अधिकाधिक संख्या में संतृप्त करने के उद्देश्य से सोमवार से बृहस्पतिवार तक के दिन 50-60 कुन्तल की सीमा तक धान क्रय किये जाने हेतु नियत किये गये हैं, ताकि छोटे किसान मजबूरी विक्रय (Distress Sale) के शिकार न हों। सप्ताह के शेष दिनों में 50 कुन्तल की क्रय सीमा लागू नहीं होगी।

किसान बन्धु इच्छित क्रय केन्द्र पर धान की विक्री करने हेतु स्वयं ऑनलाइन टोकन प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

**धान क्रय की अवधि**

**पश्चिमी उ.प्र. में**

दिनांक 01.10.2021 से 31.01.2022 तक

बरेली, मुरादाबाद, मेरठ, सहारनपुर, आगरा, अलीगढ़ एवं झाँसी एवं लखनऊ सम्भाग (जनपद हरदोई, लखीमपुर)

**पूर्वी उ.प्र. में**

दिनांक 01.11.2021 से 28.02.2022 तक

प्रयागराज, मिर्जापुर, चित्रकूट, कानपुर, अयोध्या, देवीपाटन, बस्ती, गोरखपुर, आजमगढ़, वाराणसी एवं लखनऊ सम्भाग (जनपद लखनऊ, सीतापुर, रायबरेली, उन्नाव)

- धान खरीद के लिए कृषक बन्धु खाद्य विभाग के पोर्टल [www.fcs.up.gov.in](http://www.fcs.up.gov.in) पर ऑनलाइन पंजीयन करायें, पंजीयन प्रारंभ है।
- ऑनलाइन पंजीयन हेतु कृषक बन्धु अपने बैंक खाते तथा प्रयोग किये जा रहे मोबाइल नम्बर को आधार से लिंक करा लें, क्योंकि पंजीकरण पूर्ण करने हेतु आधार से लिंक मोबाइल नम्बर पर ही ओ०टी०पी० प्रेषित किया जायेगा।
- कम्प्यूटरीकृत प्रणाली के तहत सीधे कृषक बन्धुओं से पाददर्शी धान खरीद की व्यवस्था।
- धान के मूल्य का भुगतान किसानों के बैंक खाते में यथासम्भव 72 घंटे के अंदर किया जायेगा।
- राजकीय केन्द्रों पर 17% या उससे कम नमी का धान क्रय किया जाता है। अतः किसान भाईयों से अपील है कि अपना धान अच्छी तरह सुखाकर, साफ करके खरीद केन्द्र पर लायें।
- धान खरीद केन्द्र प्रतिदिन प्रातः 9:00 से सायं 5:00 बजे तक खुले रहेंगे (रविवार तथा राजपत्रित अवकाश छोड़कर)।

कृषक किसी भी सहायता के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर 1800-1800-150 या सम्बन्धित जनपद के जिला खाद्य विपणन अधिकारी, तहसील के क्षेत्रीय विपणन अधिकारी या ब्लॉक के विपणन निरीक्षक से सम्पर्क कर सकते हैं।

खाद्य एवं रसद विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश




75 आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव

# विश्व दृष्टि दिवस

14 अक्टूबर, 2021

**विश्व दृष्टि दिवस पर अपने नेत्रों का परीक्षण कराने की प्रतिज्ञा लें**

**प्रदेश में राष्ट्रीय दृष्टिविहीनता एवं दृष्टिदोष नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत नेत्र की बीमारियों के लिए सभी राजकीय चिकित्सालयों में**

**निःशुल्क**

नेत्र चिकित्सकीय सुविधाएं प्रदान की जाती हैं।



**बेहतर दृष्टि की ओर अग्रसर**



**हरी सब्जियों एवं फलों का सेवन करें**



**कम्प्यूटर स्क्रीन पर लगातार काम न करें**



**आँखों की सफाई का विशेष ध्यान रखें**



**आँखों की नियमित जाँच कराएं**

**दृष्टि सुरक्षा एवं क्षमता संवर्द्धन के क्रम में प्रदेश के सभी जनपदों में प्रदान की जा रही निःशुल्क सेवाएं**

नेत्र परीक्षण

मोतियाबिंद ऑपरेशन

बच्चों एवं बुजुर्गों को चश्मा

ग्लूकोमा एवं कॉर्निया प्रत्यारोपण

**टीका असरदार, लगावाए समझदार**

18 वर्ष से ऊपर के सभी व्यक्ति कोविड-19 टीका अवश्य लगवाएं

कोविन पोर्टल के माध्यम से बुकिंग हेतु क्लिक करें <http://selfregistration.cowin.gov.in>



**WE-WIN**







# Traditional gaiety marks Durga Puja on Ashtami

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Rush of the people thronged Durga Puja pandals in different parts of the city, glittered with attractive lighting arrangements, on the auspicious occasion of Ashtami here on Wednesday. Traditional gaiety and religious fervour prevailed as a good number of people thronged different areas of the city to see the idols of Goddess Durga despite all COVID-19 restrictions. Rarely any impact of coronavirus was seen as a huge number of people visited the pandals. Elaborate security and other arrangements have been made on the occasion as 250-odd pandals have been installed only in the city areas. The pandals were also installed in various rural markets in the district.

The rush was mainly seen in Lahurabir, Siga, Luxa, Godowlia, Sonarpura-Bhelupur, Maidagin, and many areas in trans-Varuna area including Shivpur, Pandeypur, Orderly Bazar, Pahadihya and some others. In many pandals, though all the traditional rituals were performed by the puja samiti members, the visitors were only asked to offer prayers outside from restricted puja areas. The Bangiya Samaj, which generally gives its major focus on its idols, performed all their rituals with traditional gaiety. At many pandals, on the



Rush of people being seen at Sanatan Dharm pandal at Nai Sarak in Varanasi on Wednesday.

Pioneer

beat of nagaras, the people were seen dancing to please the Goddess of Shakti (strength). At several places, Kanya Puja programmes were also organised. At Ramakrishna Mission, a girl decorated as Goddess was offered prayers as per the tradition and then the people sought her blessings. At several places, bhajans and other programmes were presented apart from offering 'prasad' to the people.

On the occasion, the activists of Namami Gange appealed to the people not to use single-used plastic again. After worshipping Mahagauri, they organised Kanya Puja to offer prayers to nine girls as goddesses. They also prayed to the Batuks (Sanskrit students) as symbols of Bhairav. Bhog prasad was offered to them after the worship. Convenor Rajesh Shukla said that during Navratri, Goddess Durga also

gives the message of cleanliness. 'No worship is accepted without cleanliness. Cleanliness is religion so cleanliness is paramount in every worship system,' he said, appealing to the people to avoid using polythene and plastic which is not only polluting the atmosphere but also making the city dirty. Poonam Shukla, Lavika Kapooria, Manisha, Kusum Shukla, Suryanshu, Kajal and others were also present.

# Devotees throng Annapurna temple

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Amidst tight security arrangements, thousands of devotees thronged Mahagauri (Annapurna Mandir) near Kashi Vishwanath temple on the auspicious occasion of Ashtami during the ongoing Shardiya Navratra here on Wednesday. As the temple is located in super-sensitive Gyanvapi premises, every devotee entered the temple after proper checking. It was the second continuous day when the temple of one of the incarnations of Goddess Durga is located in this sensitive red zone area.

Besides, heavy rush was also seen throughout the day at Durga Mandir and all other temples of goddesses. Several people also preferred to go to the old Durga Mandir in trans-Ganga Ramnagar and Maa Sheetla Mata Mandir at Adalpura near Varanasi-Mirzapur borders. Not only this, hundreds of people also went to Vindhyachal in



Devotees offering prayers To Mahagauri at Annapurna Mandir in Varanasi on Wednesday.

Pioneer

Mirzapur district, about 65 kms from here, to offer prayers at Maa Vindhyavasini Devi. This holy city has nine temples each of all the Devis and Gauris where the devotees offer prayers on different days during Shardiya and Vasantik Navratri respectively.

Earlier, on the sixth day of

ongoing Navratri Mahotsav, Bhojpuri film star-turned-politician and BJP MP Manoj Tiwari 'Mridul' enthralled the audience with his folk songs devoted to Maa Durga at Dr Rajendra Prasad Ghat. Like the previous days, on the occasion also some prominent dignitaries were

felicitated. The day's cultural programme began with the presentation of young artist Atul Shankar (flute) who was supported by Pt Lalit Kumar on tabla. It was followed by a programme of vocalist Dr Vijay Kapoor who was accompanied by Pt Balram Mishra (tabla), Dharendra Kumar (side rhythm) and Sudhir Kumar (flute).

Then Kathak dance was presented by Dr Vidhi Nagar. The programme was inaugurated by UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Neelkanth Tiwari who lit the lamp along with Pt Subramaniam Mani, Nirmala Pandey, Sadhna Vedanti, Dr Virendra Pratap Singh, Dr Ratnesh Verma, Pt Deepak Mishra, Pt Pramod. Mishra and Pt Shyam Gangadhar Bapat. It was conducted by Dr Preetesh Acharya, while coordination by Pawan Shukla. Pawan Shukla welcomed the guests, while the vote of thanks was proposed by Regional Tourism Officer Kirtiman Srivastava.

# BLW gives toolkits to 54 trainees

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As many as 54 trainees, after their successful completion of 100-hour training under Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana (RKVY), have received self-employment x and certificates at a function organised at Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) on Wednesday. These trainees of the first batch got training in different technical trades viz electrician, fitter, machinist, and welder. The RKVY was launched on September 17 last on the occasion of Vishwakarma Puja by Railways Minister Ashawni Vaishnav to take forward the vision of the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi as a part of 75 years of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The RKVY is being launched under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), a scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), to achieve the vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat. A total 50,000 youths will be trained over a period of three years in 75 Railway Training Institutes, spread all across India.



GM Anjali Goyal distributing a toolkit to a trainee at BLW in Varanasi on Wednesday.

Pioneer

BLW, a nodal agency for implementation of RKVY programmes, has developed its course content and assessment procedure for training. The trainees were selected through open advertisement and transparent short-listing mechanism. Trainees have undergone 100 hours of practical and theoretical training. Subsequent to training, all trainees have undergone a standardised assessment and successful trainees were awarded certificates. The BLW has taken a unique initiative to provide toolkits relevant to trades to all

successful trainees under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agrawal and District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma graced the occasion to distribute the toolkits. In the beginning, Chief Electrical Engineer (Inspection) PP Raju welcomed guests and briefed about the RKVY training programme. Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that in today's world, the biggest challenge among youth is job. 'With will power, hard work and right skills the

sky's the limit for all trainees present at the function. There is a shift from theoretical to practical skills and important part is BLW has 70 per cent practical training in its RKVY training module,' he said, expressing hope that the training should be flexible to meet the demands of the industry and there can be convergence of ITI and Polytechnic colleges with practical learning at BLW. The DM said, 'It is a very proud moment that BLW is promoting the PM's vision of skill India. The technical field training given by BLW has been quite successful and created enthusiasm among youth in and around Varanasi district.'

General Manager (GM) of BLW Anjali Goyal assured both the DC and DM that the programme curriculum would be designed to include schemes of entrepreneurship, loans and incubation centres for trainees. She added that the RKVY programme would boost confidence in trainees to get better job opportunities. The vote of thanks was proposed by Principal of Technical Training Centre (TTC), BLW, Ramjanm Chaubey.

# Giri's death: CBI for polygraph test of 3 accused

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) moved an application before the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM), Prayagraj seeking polygraph test of Anand Giri, Adya Tiwari and his son Sandeep Tiwari, the three accused of Mahant Narendra Giri mysterious death case. The application will be taken up by the CJM court on October 18. The accused will be connected through video conferencing to put their version before the

court.

In its application, the CBI has sought permission for a polygraph test of the accused to know the truth with regard to interrogations going on in connection with the said case. On the other hand, the counsel for the accused too moved an application opposing the polygraph test.

Anand Giri, Adya Tiwari and Sandeep Tiwari are accused of abetting the suicide of Narendra Giri, then president of Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad (ABAP), whose body

was found hanging from the ceiling of a room in Shri Math Baghambari Gaddi under the limits of Georatown police station in Prayagraj on September 20, 2021.

In his suicide note, the Mahant had charged the trio of mental harassment.

An FIR was lodged against the three accused under section 306 (abetment of suicide) of Indian Penal Code (IPC) at police station Georatown in Prayagraj.

Subsequently, Anand Giri, Adya Tiwari and Sandeep

Tiwari were arrested. They were produced before the CJM court on September 22 and remanded to judicial custody for 14 days and sent to jail.

Later, on the recommendation of the state government, the investigation of the case was transferred from UP police to the CBI. At another stage, while acting on the application of the CBI, the CJM on October 5 extended the judicial remand of the three accused for a further period of 14 days. At present, they all are lodged in the Naini central jail here.

# Dacoits kill two women, decamp with valuables

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Dacoits killed two women and seriously injured an old man in Chekpure Khurd village, under the Industrial Area police station in the trans-Yamuna segment of Naini on Tuesday night, and decamped with valuables.

The police reached the spot with sniffer dogs and finger print experts in the morning, but nothing worth mentioning could be gathered by them.

A girl child who was also sleeping there, was not touched by the dacoits. Injured old man is undergoing treatment at SRN Hospital where his condition is still critical.

The criminals broke open the door of the house of Bajrang Bahadur alias Nankau in Chekpure Khurd village

with an intention to collect valuables and run away. Owing to unusual sounds in the house, Nankau, 60, woke up and reached the spot from where the sound was generated. The miscreants jumped at him and attacked him with sharp edged weapons. When the old man cried for help, his wife Prempati Devi and daughter Tanu reached there to protect him from the clutches of the dacoits and offered some resistance.

The dacoits then turned towards the women and have them a bitter thrash with sharp edged weapons. Both the women died on the spot while the old man Nankau fell unconscious.

The dacoits then collected valuables, including cash and ornaments, and made a successful escape.

The little grand daughter of Nankau was unaware of the

incident. She woke up when all was over and kept on crying. The police are still clueless.

**S-I TEACHES CHILDREN** : In a novel gesture, a sub-inspector (S-I) posted at Bara police station in trans-Yamuna area, Shailendra Yadav, took classes of around 50 children studying at a primary school in Panditpura village and taught them Hindi lessons and poems. S-I Yadav not only taught Hindi lessons and poems to children at the primary school, but also interacted with students to increase their interest in studies. The initiative was taken under the initiative programme 'Pahal'.

Not only Yadav, but cops posted at the office of Inspector General of Police (Prayagraj range) also took part in the noble initiative and spared time to teach underprivileged children at parks and slums.

Interestingly, IG KP Singh had himself donned the hat of a teacher last month for the underprivileged children and taught geography and political science to the students of classes 7 and 8. More than 50 children had attended the class for around an hour.

The IG said that cops ranking from constables to senior police officials are sparing time to teach various subjects to the poor children on different days.

He added that the first initiative was taken by a cop named Ashish Mishra, who is a constable with the Prayagraj range office, and had started teaching the children a few weeks back.

Gradually, other policemen of different posts and ranks too joined him and decided to teach the children various subjects.

# Maa Mahagauri worshipped at temples, houses

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

On the eighth day of nine day long Shardiya Navratra, Maa Mahagauri, the eighth manifestation of Goddess Durga was worshipped at different temples and houses here on Wednesday. After the reverence of all nine forms of Ma Durga, the tenth day will witness grand celebrations of Vijayadashami and Dussehra festival on October 15.

Mahagauri Puja on Ashtami tithi was considered one of the most auspicious dates during Navratri. On the

same day, Durga Ashtami also known as Maha Ashtami was celebrated. Amid tight security throughout the day, a large number of devotees witnessed queuing up the prominent city temples to offer prayer to goddess Maha Gauri. A sea of people turned up for darshan of the goddess at most prominent temples like Sidhapeeth Kalayani, Sidhapeeth Lalita Devi, Sidhapeeth Alop Santri.

Famous temples of the city including Kalyani Devi, Aloi Temple, Kamakhya Devi Temple and others also witnessed a huge crowd. Siddha Devi will be worshipped on the

ninth day of Navratri which will mark the end of observing fast. Devotees will perform the 'Paran' of their ninth day long fast. Besides, those observing fast on the ninth day would do the same on the next day. The city remained abuzz with various activities in temples like bhajan nights, dramas and other cultural events that drew huge crowds.

In addition, cultural programmes and 'devi jagran' were organised at many temples. Devotees offered coconuts, flowers and chunaris to the deity and offered prayers. Special prayers, bhajans,

shringars and ratri jagran were also held at the temples. The temple authorities have made wide preparation required to meet heavy rush of devotees that came to these temples for all the nine days.

The temple authorities have also decorated the idols with colourful streamers and marigold flowers in different pandals of the city where a large numbers of devotees kept pouring in all the night to have darshan of Goddess Durga. The pandal's authorities have installed different type of idols of Goddess Durga at their barwaris.

# Complete double dose vaccination of employees on priority: DM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The government is aware of the COVID-19 vaccination. A campaign was also launched to create awareness among people for anti-coronavirus vaccination. Now the government has also tightened the officers and employees working in all government departments.

A list of officers and employees has been sought, who have not administered the second dose of the anti-coronavirus vaccine. The District Magistrate has asked to

give a list of the names of such people by October 16.

The District Magistrate of Prayagraj has asked all the heads of departments to identify such employees in their department and provide their list to the Chief Medical Officer.

He said that if the double dose vaccination of any officer and employee is not found complete at the time of election, then it will be the responsibility of the concerned officer and employee and the head of the office.

District Magistrate Sanjay

Kumar Khatri said that double dose vaccination of officers and employees is to be completed on priority basis. The list of the names of those who have not done double dose so far should be made available. After this, the Chief Medical Officer will prepare the microplan and complete the vaccination process by allotting it to the department-wise vaccination centre. The enthusiasm of the people of Prayagraj in getting anti-coronavirus vaccines has started leaving behind other districts of the state.

There was no mega cam-

paign on Wednesday, yet 27,172 people got the vaccines done in the centres. This number was highest as compared to other districts of the state.. District Immunisation Officer Dr. Tirathlal informed that so far 31,26,167 people have got vaccinated in the district. On Wednesday also, there was a crowd of beneficiaries in the centres.

Vaccination took place as usual everywhere. He told the newspersons that 17731 people got vaccinated in Kanpur Nagar, 15519 in Bareilly and 15244 in Jaunpur.

## Religious devotion for Ramleela brought Mishra to stage

**ALLAHABAD (PNS):** In this day and age, even as people are hard-pressed to find time to fulfil various commitments, for Dr Satish Mishra, an assistant professor at a post-graduate college in Sasaram, Bihar, negotiating the world of academics and stage has been an indispensable part of his life.

He plays the role of demon king Ravan, and such is his love for Ramleela that he plans for it well in advance. He attends the rehearsal schedule of the Ramleela while he is on leave and devotes at least five to six hours daily to do justice to his role in the Patharchatti Ramleela, Prayagraj. 'I have been playing Ravan at Patharchatti Ramleela since

2015 and find myself very comfortable enacting the character,' said Mishra. 'I had also done other roles, like when I played Hanuman and King Dashrath before 2015,' he added. He further says, "Teaching is my profession and performing in the Ramleela is my passion and I truly feel I do justice to both my profession (teaching) and passion (on stage)." However, besides passion, it is the common feeling of devotion and wonderment shared by so many for Ramleela that is at the core of his motive. 'Religious devotion for the Ramleela brought me to the stage and I participated in various Ramleela presentations since 2006 in Prayagraj.' Hailing

from the old city area, he completed his school and college education here in the city itself. Mishra moved to Sararam in Bihar about two years back but doesn't forget to participate in the city in Ramleela and makes sure he is back in the city in time to be a part of the rehearsals and the staging of the Ramleela.' However, Mishra is putting in the extra efforts and hours this time as the Ramleela was not organised last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation. 'When I learnt that the rehearsal session for the Ramleela was going to start, I immediately chalked out my plan and applied for sufficient leaves from college so that I could do justice to my role,'

recalled Mishra adding that his family members have always been supportive of his passion for the Ramleela,' he added. 'As my family is settled in Sangam city and we have witnessed the glamour and charm of the Ramleela over the years, I was passionate to do different roles since childhood and performed my first stage show in the year 2006,' said Mishra adding that apart from pursuing his studies, he never missed a chance to perform in the Ramleela shows.' Mishra, apart from rehearsing for the Ramleela, is also taking online classes of his students so that he does not have too much to cover and make up for once he is back in the classroom.

# Jagdeep Madhok bags silver medal

**VARANASI (PNS):** By showing excellent performance, the veteran shooter Jagdeep Madhok bagged the silver medal in the veteran category of double trap in the 44th Shotgun UP State Shooting Championship conducted recently in Gonda. Madhok,



who is the Secretary of Sunbeam Academy, was the

only player who represented the city in the championship. Jagdeep Madhok is also the vice president of UP State Rifle Association, informed the member of Athlete Committee, UP State Rifle Association Pankaj Srivastava in a press release.



# CSJMU launches e-content portal Gyan Sanchay

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj University, Kanpur, on Wednesday, launched an e-content portal ‘Gyan Sanchay’ as per the student-centric approach of the New Education Policy-2020. It will enable students to access curated online content on various topics. This portal will also allow students to upload their insightful content on various topics.

At the launch of this portal, CSJMU Vice Chancellor Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak said that there was a need for convergence of knowledge, which this platform would provide.

He also emphasised the responsibility of every teacher to provide the best quality resources to each student and said ‘Gyan Sanchay’ had the potential to do that.

He also assured financial aid to colleges for setting up digital infrastructure and operational studios to create content for this portal along with the commemoration of faculties who provide the best content for this portal.

He also praised the efforts of Dr Vishal Saxena and design head Amrit Viswakarma in developing this portal and requested the support and participation of each faculty in making Gyan Sanchay e-content portal a success.

‘Our vision while developing this portal was to create a platform that will allow the student or anyone in pursuit of knowledge to access relevant information in a hassle-free manner. Besides this, the pan-



Vice Chancellor, CSJMU, Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak launching the ‘Gyan Sanchay’ portal.

Pioneer.

dem ic has also exposed the limitation of orthodox education systems across the globe and this portal is a step forward in creating a robust and technologically advanced educational system that will not let the influx of knowledge and learning be hindered in perilous times as we all have witnessed in the previous years,” he said.

“Furthermore, our e-content development cell has tried to develop a student-centric user interface for this e-content portal. The objective of this portal is also to provide every student with an opportunity to equally participate in the process of learning. This e-content portal will allow the students to submit their works on various topics, which will then

be scrutinised by a panel of learned professors of that corresponding subjects. The portal will also have a section for self-assessment students through MCQs. Additionally, this portal also aims to create a technologically compatible generation of teachers and students as per the policies of NEP-2020,” Prof Pathak said.

Dr Vishal Saxena, coordinator of e-content and development cell, thanked and praised the vision of Prof Pathak, under whose personal guidance ‘Gyan Sanchay’ e-content portal has come alive.

He explained to the teacher the four quadrants of the NEP’s SWAYAM MOOCs platform - video lecture, specially prepared reading material, self-assessment tests and an online

discussion forum. He also explained how to navigate the portal conveniently for uploading the created contents. He advised teachers to attempt creating content that was more engaging and other SEO techniques.

The launch event was attended by CSJMU Registrar Dr Anil Yadav, Dean, Administration, Prof Shudhanshu Pandiya, CDC Dr Rajesh Kumar Dwivedi, Dean Academics Prof Anshu Yadav and Chief Proctor Prof Sanjay Swarnkar along with academic heads of various colleges affiliated to the CSJM University.

The convener of this event was Prof Anshu Yadav and Registrar Dr Anil Yadav proposed the you of thanks.

Blue light emitted from smartphones, laptops accelerate blindness

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Director of MP International School, Dr Surabhi Bhadauria while addressing a workshop on Wednesday said blue light emitted from smartphones and laptops accelerated blindness by making a molecule in the eyes toxic, according to a new study. She said it had been medically proved that blue light can cause macular degeneration, one of the leading causes of blindness and glaucoma. She said blue light harmed vision by damaging the eye’s retina and thus a check on excess of mobile and laptop viewing had to be curbed. She said to escape the eye damage they students need to observe small gaps in between the constant viewing of the screen.

Addressing the technical session noted eye surgeon, Dr Manish Mahendra said because short-wavelength, high energy blue light scattered more easily than other visible light, it was not as easily focused. He said when one were looking at computer screens and other digital devices that emit significant amounts of blue light, this unfocused visual ‘noise’ reduced contrast and can contribute to digital eye strain. He advised students to ensure that they used computer glasses with yellow-tinted lenses which can increase eye comfort when one were viewing digital devices for extended periods of time.

He said online education in the current scenario was the only means to deliver quality education to students as it helped in meeting the unique learning needs with varied styles and family backgrounds. He said digital schooling made school education easier and happier for them and the world over was going digital thus India too had to keep pace with the current trend. He said however it engendered the need for parents to ensure that their children did not face macular degeneration which was a major cause of concern.

Dr Mahendra said there was an increased prevalence of Digital Eye Strain (DES) among children in the COVID era. He said parents should be considerate about duration, type and distance of digital device use to avoid DES symptoms in children. He said since there was no immediate solution to stop the spread of the Covid pandemic, the closure of schools may continue, which will be having a large effect on the learning of the children. He said this outbreak had changed the traditional teaching method of using black boards to digital device.

He said thus it meant that an extra time of sitting in front of a digital device will be required for this new e-learning system.

He said spending long hours in front of these devices can lead to many ocular problems in children apart from this other problems like dry eyes, itching, foreign body sensation, watering, blurring of vision, and headaches were some other common complaints.

He said the recent study carried out in India showed that digital eye strain was estimated to range from 25 per cent to 93 per cent as reported in various studies.

He said higher prevalence rates of DES were observed in adolescents using smartphones or in those who were regularly and excessively using digital devices.

## NCL ensuring sufficient coal supply

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) is ensuring sufficient coal supply to meet the growing energy need of the country. Despite adverse conditions of Covid-19 and heavy monsoon NCL in the current financial year so far with an increase of 15 per cent (pc)

despatched 61.51 million tonnes (MT) of coal to the consumers as compared same period last year’s despatch (53.44 million tonnes). In the first half of FY 2021-22, NCL has to pit head power plants supplied 113 pc of the contracted quantity of coal. At the same time, during the same period to power plants located in different states of the country 102 pc of the contracted quantity of coal has been supplied. Bringing in momentum in coal despatch, NCL set new records in despatch in the months of August and September and set the record of ‘Highest coal despatch in a day’ twice. NCL made these records by despatching 3.87 lakh tonnes of coal on August 27 and then by despatching 4.00 lakh tonnes of coal on September 6 this year. So far in the current month, NCL has sent about 3.6 lakh tonnes of coal per day to its consumers. CMD PK Sinha has once



again reiterated commitment for uninterrupted coal supply to all its coal consumers, including thermal power plants (TPPs). NCL in the current financial year has been assigned a target of 126.5 MT of coal despatch which is about 15 pc higher than the actual despatch of 108.66 MT for the financial year 2020-21. In addition to meeting the requirement of thermal power plants, NCL is also contributing in making the nation self-reliant in the coal sector and as an import substitution, NCL has supplied 1.06 MT of coal till the second quarter of this year. It is noteworthy that since 2015-16 NCL for the last six years has been continuously achieving its annual coal production target and is

meeting the coal requirement of the country. In FY 2021-22 NCL chasing a target of 119 MT has done production of 57.21 MT so far. In the financial year 2020-21, NCL had produced 115.04 MT of coal. NCL is a Miniratna company of the Government of India based in Singrauli, which achieves its production target from 10 mechanised opencast mines and more than 1,200 heavy machines. NCL with approximately ₹3,000 crore under its ambitious First Mile Connectivity (FMC) plan is developing environment-friendly infrastructure for coal despatch.

## GM honours railway personnel

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

On the instructions of General Manager, North Eastern Railway (NER), Vinay Kumar Tripathi, for the past several months in NER every month the morale of railway personnel doing excellent work in the field of safety is boosted by honouring them with the ‘Man of the Month’ award at the GM level. In this sequence, in August this year five railway personnel of NER were selected for awarding them for their excellent work in the field of safety.

In which four railway personnel present were honoured by the GM on Tuesday at the GM’s meeting room here by being presented cash award and commendation letter. Ram Charit, station master working at Utripura station of Izzatnagar division during work on August 7 this year by giving instant information about the spark in two wagons of BCN goods train, showing awareness contributed in saving a possible



accident. Kuber Singh Yadav, a loco pilot working in Kashipur of Izzatnagar division, during work on July 21 on seeing a tree fallen on the track by stopping the Bareilly DEMU train 20 metres in advance averted a possible accident. Likewise, Sunil Kumar, track maintainer, Hathras City of Izzanagar Division, during work by

informing about rail fracture timely and by installing a joggle plate protected the rail operation. Varanasi division’s loco pilot Durga Prasad Sharma and assistant loco pilot Sonu Kumar Verma on

August 20 by immediately giving information about fallen tree on Reoti station’s line No 1 and 2 alerted the oncoming Rajdhani Express through which an untoward incident could be avoided. Apart from Sunil Kumar track maintainer, Hathras City, who was absent due to unavoidable reasons, all other railway personnel received cash award and commendation letter under Safety Award from GM on Tuesday.

## Kasganj-Bharatpur spl from Oct 18

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration for the convenience of the passengers will run the 05423/05424 Kasganj-Bharatpur-Kasganj and 05409/05410 Kashipur-Ramnagar-Kashipur unreserved special trains till further advice as follows. In view of coronavirus these special trains will be run as express (unreserved) special ones so that there is no extra rush in them and for ensuring the compliance of Covid-19 prevention guidelines, CPRO PK Singh said.

**KSJ-BHARATPUR SPL:** The 05423 Kasganj-Bharatpur unreserved special train will from October 18 depart from Kasganj at 17.35 hrs, from Marhara at 17.47 hrs, from Asgauli at 17.57 hrs, from Sikandra Rao at 18.08 hrs, from Bastoi Halt at 18.18 hrs, from Rati Ka Nagla at 18.25 hrs, from Hathras Road at 18.38 hrs, from Mendu at 18.44 hrs, from Hathras City at 19.05 hrs, from Mursan at 19.25 hrs, from Sonai at 19.38 hrs, from Raya at 19.55 hrs, from Mathura Cantonment at 20.15 hrs, from Mathura Jn at 20.45 hrs, from Bhainsa at 20.58 hrs, from Parkham at 21.11 hrs, from Kheda Sandhan at 21.21 hrs, from Achhnera at 21.55 hrs, from Chiksana at 22.07 hrs, from Ikaran at 22.55 hrs, Noh Bachhamdi at 23.02 hrs and reach Bharatpur at 23.30 hrs.

**BHARATPUR-KSJ SPL:** In the return journey the 05424 Bharatpur-Kasganj unreserved special train will from October 19 depart from Bharatpur at 05.55 hrs, from Noh Bachhamdi at 06.04 hrs, from Ikaran at 06.11 hrs, from Chiksana at 06.18 hrs, from Achhnera at 06.45 hrs, from Kheda Sandhan at 06.50 hrs, from Parkham at 07.01 hrs, from Bhainsa at 07.15 hrs, from Mathura Jn at 08.05 hrs, from Mathura Cantt at 08.24 hrs, from Raya at 08.40 hrs, from Sonai at 08.53 hrs, from Mursan at 09.02 hrs,

from Hathras City at 09.16 hrs, from Mendu at 09.32 hrs, from Hathras Road at 09.37 hrs, from Rati Ka Nagla at 09.49 hrs, from Bastoi Halt at 09.56 hrs, from Sikandra Rao at 10.08 hrs, from Agsauli at 10.19 hrs, from Marhara at 10.33 hrs and reach Kasganj at 10.55 hrs. A total of 10 coaches, eight of general second class and two of SLR/D will be attached in it.

**KASHIPUR-RMR SPL:** The 05409 Kashipur-Ramnagar (RMR) unreserved special train will from October 18 depart from Kashipur at 15.35 hrs, from Gausala at 15.46 hrs, from Pirumdera at 15.54 hrs and reach Ramnagar at 16.10 hrs. In the return journey, The 05410 Ramnagar-Kashipur unreserved special train will from October 18 depart from Ramnagar at 17.05 hrs, from Pirumdera at 17.15 hrs, from Gausala at 17.23 hrs and reach Kashipur at 17.40 hrs. A total of 10 coaches including eight of ordinary second class and two of SLR/D coaches will be attached in the train.

**DURG-CPR TIMINGS:** The 05160 Durg-Chhapra (CPR) special train departing from Durg from October 13 as per the changed timing will arrive at Manikpur station at 09.35 hrs and depart at 09.40 hrs, arrive at Dabhaura station at 10.00 hrs and depart at 10.01 hrs, reach Sankarghar station at 10.29 hrs and depart at 10.30 hrs, reach Naini at 11.32 hrs and depart at 11.33 hrs and reach Prayagraj station at 12.10 hrs and depart at 12.35 hrs. Besides, the 05159 Chhapra-Durg special train to depart from Chhapra as per the changed timings from October 13 will reach Prayagraj station at 15.15 hrs and leave at 15.35 hrs, reach Naini at 15.55 hrs and depart at 15.56 hrs, reach Sankarghar station at 15.29 hrs and depart at 15.30 hrs, reach Dabhaura station at 16.59 hrs and depart at 17.00 hrs and will reach Manikpur station at 17.35 hrs and depart at 17.40 hrs, CPRO PK Singh said.

## Route march taken out

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

In view of the festive season a route march of police was taken out on Tuesday under the leadership of SP Ajay Kumar Singh. During it the police force kept checking vehicles as well as suspects. The SP interacted with shopkeepers as well as common people and appealed to them to celebrate the festival in a cordial atmosphere. He said that the march was one of the ways to collect ground level feedback and take action accordingly. He directed the police personnel to do regular foot patrolling and be aware with the activities in their respective areas. The march which started from Sankatmochan temple passed through the main markets from Vasliganj to Imamabada. CO (City) Prabhat Rai, SHO (City Kotwali) Arun Kumar Dubey, and others took part in it.

**DIRECTIVE:** DM Praveen Kumar Laxkar has directed the officials concerned to expedite



the registration process of workers of unorganised sector on priority. Such a direction was issued by him while presiding over the meeting of district level monitoring committee to review the registration process. Taking the

ter of absence of 19 officers seriously, the DM directed to issue show cause notices to them to reply within three days. He said absence of those officers who were on Mela duty during the meeting period was to be ignored. Assistant Labour Commissioner Govind Yadav said under the provision of UP Unorganised Workers’ Social Security Rules, 2016, all officers had been made registration officer so it could be done not only by the Labour department but through them directly. He said that at every Jan Seva Kendra the online registration facility was available free of charge. The meeting was attended by DPRO Arvind Kumar, PO DUDA Pratibha Srivastava, ACMO and others.

## DM, SP inspect pond for idol immersion

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAUIN

DM Priyanka Niranjani and SP Ravi Kumar inspected the Chilli pond in Chilli village under Dakor block the site for idol immersion. In view of immersion of Durga Puja idols she instructed that adequate arrangements should be made like sprinkling of lime at all immersion sites besides bar-



ricading. She directed the officials to ensure that people followed social distancing guidelines and wore masks during idol immersion. DM and SP appealed to people to celebrate the festivals of Durga Navmi, Dusshera and Barawafat in a peaceful manner and maintain communal harmony. SP instructed police officials to keep a close watch on suspects.

# Concern over slow pace of work on new terminal building of airport

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The BJP Members of Parliament, Satya Dev Pachauri and Devendra Singh Bhole while chairing the advisory committee meeting for new terminal building of the airport expressed concern over the inordinate delay and the slow pace of work. The Chairman, Bhole warned the officials that this project was the dream project of the Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath and thus it had to be completed on time and with no compromise

on quality. He said the next meeting will be held after a fortnight and thus proposal on the new terminal building will also be discussed.

Bhole sought an explanation from the UP Rajkiya Nirman Nigam which was unable to put up the required details and was informed that for the past four months the work could not be carried out and thus it was difficult to ensure the completion of the project on time. Bhole warned the authorities against laxity and said what was more shock-

ing that the current work done was hardly 43 per cent and thus added that at the current pace the project can never be completed.

He expressed concern over the failure to link the terminal building with the highway and failure to seek permission for ILS and the failure to complete the steel framework of the terminal building. He warned the officials concerned for strict action and added that the deadline for the project to be completed was December 31, 2021 and with the current state

of affairs it appeared it was impossible to complete the project on time.

He directed the Project Manager, P Anurag that further momentum should be given to the project so that it was completed on time. He said all the projects in the pipeline in Uttar Pradesh especially in Kanpur had to be completed on time and without any compromise on its quality. Others present on the occasion were M Shivraju, RK Lohia, Dr Sudhindra Jain, Vineet Gupta and several others.

## KDA VC holds meeting with HC lawyers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

In a bid to tighten noose on land sharks and mafias involved in securing unauthorised possession on the property of innocent people by hook or crook, the Vice Chairman of Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) Arvind Singh held an in-depth discussions with the senior lawyers of Allahabad High Court on Tuesday. This marathon meeting lasted for around five hours from 4 to 9 pm. It aimed at finalising a strategy as to how various long-drawn legal cases/writs pending in the High Court and Supreme Court filed by the land mafias in a bid to claim their unauthorised possession on the property of innocent people could be resolved in the



KDA Vice Chairman Arvind Singh holding meeting with senior lawyers of Allahabad High Court at his office.

Pioneer.

interest of state administration, development authority and general masses.

During the meeting, the Vice Chairman Arvind Singh also directed to organise a workshop in KDA auditorium next week wherein experts of revenue matters would

exchange their views. He also reviewed the functioning of the important Legal Department as, according to him, it can play a pivotal role in driving the KDA to attain glorious heights on the basis of its better performance. He appealed the legal fraternity present in the

meeting to work on a ‘professional partnership model’ with KDA by their effective ‘pairvi’ (follow-up) for the long-drawn cases/writs pending in the High Court/ Supreme Court to topple the nefarious mission of land sharks/ mafias.

He also directed the officials concerned to organise such ‘chintan’ meetings in future also to finalise proactive, professional and effective strategies. After the meeting, he directed the KDA Secretary to collect the attested copies of all the documents (full records) of the original ‘khataunis’ relating to years 1348, 1356 and 1359 from the district administration and, after scanning them, keep in safe custody in KDA to facilitate the settlement of different types of land disputes in future.

## Experts discuss role of R&I in EU-India strategic partnership

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A webinar on the ‘Role of Research & Innovation in the EU-India Strategic Partnership with a Focus on Renewable Energy and Cyber Security’ was hosted by the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, as part of an ‘EU Day’ The discussions highlighted that the R&I was high on both the EU and India’s agenda, with both sides sharing similar values and priority areas. Addressed by European experts and Indian academicians, the event brought together various stakeholders, including students, to deliberate on the EU-India Strategic Partnership and the cooperation opportunities under the new R&I framework programme ‘Horizon Europe’

including on mobility of researchers under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and the possibility of Erasmus Mundus scholarships under the Erasmus+ programme.

The session was opened by IIT Kanpur Director Prof Abhay Karandikar and Seppo Nurmi, deputy head of the delegation of the European Union to India. Former Secretary to the Department of Science and Technology (DST) Prof A Sharma, who resumed his position at IIT-Kanpur, joined in welcoming the EU-India cooperation on research and innovation. Prof Karandikar emphasised on the role of research and innovation between India and Europe. He said, “India is home to valuable human resources and at the

same time it possesses a high quality of research capacity. Leveraging the technical growth and capability of the country, innovation in energy, machine learning, artificial intelligence, cyber security, can immensely contribute to developing India’s technical landscape and foster economic development.” Highlighting the importance of research and innovation in the EU-India Strategic Partnership, Seppo Nurmi hoped that the event would lead to further collaborations including with IIT-Kanpur. “Both the EU and India have ambitious goals when it comes to renewable energy and digital transformation, which requires increased efforts on research and innovation to develop new products

and technologies. We see a lot of room for cooperation between the EU and India in these areas,” he said. Nurmi also underlined the two-way mobility of researchers and students, as a way to strengthen the connectivity between both regions. Encouraging IIT-Kanpur to seek collaborations with European counterparts, Tania Friederichs, Minister Counsellor and Head of R&I Section at the EU Delegation to India, presented the new EU Research and Innovation programme ‘Horizon Europe’ covering topics from health, social sciences and humanities to actions to green the economy and support the digital transformation. Delving deeper into the theme of the EU Day, EU experts and IIT-Kanpur pro-

fessors discussed the role of research and innovation on cyber security and renewable energy. The IIT-Kanpur faculty who participated in the programme included Prof Sandeep Shukla, Prof Urbi Chatterjee, Prof Jayant Singh, Prof Sameer Khandekar and Prof Yogesh Joshi. From the EU side, Dr Wide Hogenhout, Dr Jeroen Schuppers, Dr Samrat S Kumar, Dr Vivek Dham and Kinchit Bihani participated in the discussions. The audience comprised students, academics and researchers, who were made aware of the EU’s structure, policies affecting global challenges, EU-India’s strategic partnership, their policy dialogues, sectoral cooperation and EU’s higher education initiatives.



MID-SEA DRUG BUST CASE

Aryan played role in procurement: NCB

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Wednesday alleged that Aryan Khan, the accused in the mid-sea drug bust case, had a role to play in the illicit procurement and distribution of drugs and that he was in touch with some persons linked to an international drug network, even as a Special Court adjourned the hearing on bail pleas of Aryan and others for Thursday after partly hearing the arguments.

On a day when the arguments on the bail pleas of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's eldest son Aryan and other accused in the case remained inconclusive, the NCB upped the ante by making a sensational allegation: "There is material on record to show that Khan was in touch with some persons abroad who appear to be a part of an international drug network for illicit procurement of drugs. The investigation is still in progress".

During the inclusive arguments, Aryan's senior lawyer

Amit Desai, Advocate Taraq Sayed, who appeared for Arbaaz Merchant, lawyer Ali Kashif Khan Deshmukh, who represented Munmun Dhamecha and Advocate Raman, who appeared for Mohak Jaswal put up their side of arguments, pressing for bail for their clients. Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Anil Singh, appearing for NCB, opposed the bail pleas.

The Special court is hearing the bail pleas of Aryan and four others ---Arbaaz Merchant, Mohak Jaswal, Nupur Satija, and Munmun Dhamecha. Special judge under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act) VV Patil adjourned the hearing on the bail applications for 11 am on Thursday.

Twenty-three-year-old Aryan and four others ---Arbaaz, Mohak, Nupur and Dhamecha -- were among the eight persons arrested by the NCB on October 3, a night after the NCB officials busted a rave party and seized 13 grams of cocaine, 5 grams of MD (Mephedrone), 21 grams of

Charas, 22 pills of M D M A (Ecstasy) and Rs 1.33 lakh in cash from Goa-bound cruise ship off the Mumbai coast here.

The total number of arrests in the sensational drug bust case has gone up to 20, with the arrest of a foreign national Okara Quazma and a local person Shivraj Harihan.

Earlier, in its affidavit filed before the court, the bail applications made before Special Judge, the NCB stated: that the material collected during investigation had primarily revealed that "Khan has played a role in so far as illicit procurement and distribution of contraband is concerned".

Rebutting the contention of Aryan's lawyers that since the offences arraigned against Khan are Sections 8(c), 20(b), 27, 28, 29, 35 of the NDPS Act and that since no Narcotic drugs or psychotropic substance has been recovered from him, the bar

against grant of bail under Section 37 of the NDPS Act would not apply, the NCB told the court: "The role of one of the accused cannot be dissected from another. Even if there is no recovery of small substances, the accused are involved in conspiracy".

The NCB also told the court : "Aryan (Khan) and Arbaaz (Merchant) have been associated in close collaboration with each other which is sufficient to attract offences under Section 29 NDPS act. It is so far apparent that Aachit and Harijan (two other arrested accused) supplied charas to Khan and Merchant".

"All ingredients of crime that are preparation, intention, attempt and commission are present for this applicant. The allegation of false implication is untrue and misleading as there is sufficient material in the form of WhatsApp chats, pictures, etc," the NCB affidavit

stated.

"A bare perusal of the panchnama clearly reveals that Khan and Merchant were apprehended at the international cruise green gate Mumbai. So the investigation becomes imperative as to how the accused were to enter the cruise without a Classic MV Empress card," the NCB told the court.

Making a strong case for his client, Aryan's lawyer Amit Desai read out from the panchnama and said: (Arbaaz) Merchant admitted that he is consuming charas with (Aryan) Khan. On asking (Aryan) Khan, he also said he consumes charas. The substance was sealed. Then, a combined search was carried out. They found 6 gms of charas from Merchant. The first fact which is relevant is on their own panchnama, there is no recovery of possession. There is no debate on this, it is admitted and undisputed".

Desai went onto tell the court that the NCB had seized a small quantity from Merchant. "The starting point of informa-

Karunakaran's daughter Padmaja alleges betrayal by Cong leader

KOCH: Padmaja Venugopal, daughter of former Chief Minister late K Karunakaran has lambasted T N Prathapan MP for 'backstabbing' her during the 2021 Assembly election from Thrissur.

In a complaint to the Congress High Command, Padmaja, who lost narrowly to P Balachandran of the CPI by a thin margin of 946 votes, has alleged that a group led by Prathapan worked to ensure her defeat in the election as part

of rampant groupism in the party.

"Though I had lost the 2016 Assembly election from Thrissur, I stayed put in the constituency and worked for the Congress. It was because of the track record the party decided to field me from Thrissur. Many Left supporters had voted for me despite the efforts by a group led by Prathapan who represents Thrissur in the Lok Sabha," Padmaja had said in the complaint.

Interestingly, the Congress, which has strong presence in Thrissur district lost in 12 out of the 13 Assembly constituencies in the district. Padmaja has named six persons, all local leaders, who plotted against her. "I was denied permission to board the vehicle in which Priyanka Gandhi was holding a road show in my constituency," said Padmaja. All those named by her in the complaint were one-time acolytes of her late father Karunakaran. *PNS*

Maha Cabinet supports reservation in promotions in Govt jobs

Mumbai: The Maharashtra Cabinet on Wednesday decided to support reservation in promotions in government jobs after taking into account a report that has established under representation of SCs, STs and other reserved categories in higher posts.

An official statement said the cabinet, at its meeting here, decided to support the policy of reservation in promotions for state employees from reserved categories and will put forth the government's stand accordingly before the Supreme Court, where the matter is pending. An additional affidavit will be submitted by the state government in the Supreme Court which will underscore the state's stand on the reservation in promotions issue, said an official.

The Cabinet discussed a report prepared by chief secretary Sitaram Kunte on the current representation of SCs, STs and backward communities in higher posts in public jobs.

The report has stated that there is not enough representation of these communities in senior positions in the State cadre and thus the Maharashtra government has decided to support the demand of reservation in promotions, the official said.

The report and its findings will be mentioned in the affidavit that is proposed to be submitted in the apex court, he said. In early May, the General Administration Department issued an interim order removing reservation in promotions for public servants belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Vimukta Jati and Nomadic Tribes and Special Backward Classes categories.

However, following strong protests, the state government later issued a circular staying

the interim order.

The matter is now pending in the Supreme Court. Meanwhile, the cabinet cleared a proposal to implement the Union government-funded national action plan for drug demand reduction NAPDDR).

The Centre will provide Rs 13.70 crore for the scheme which has to be implemented till 2023. The action plan aims at reduction of adverse consequences of drug abuse through a multi-pronged strategy.

The activities under the plan include awareness generation in schools/colleges/universities, workshops with parents, community-based peerled interactions intervention programmes for vulnerable adolescent and youth, provisioning of treatment facilities and capacity building of service providers. The state social justice department will implement the action plan with focus on bringing down stress, addiction and maintaining balanced diet people among others. In another decision, the cabinet decided to disburse Rs 5,000 to every eligible folk artist in the state under a welfare scheme aimed at reducing the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and resultant lockdowns. As many as 56,000 artists will be covered under the scheme, for which the state government has already sanctioned Rs 28 crore, another official said. In August, the government had announced a relief package for folk music artists, producers of folk art, touring talkies and organisations associated with them to help them overcome the impact of the pandemic and lockdowns. Organisations active in the area of art and culture will get an assistance of Rs 6 crore from the state government. As many as 847 organisations will benefit from it, he said. *PTI*

Double life term for Sooraj in Uthara case

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Sooraj, who got his wife Uthara killed by inducing a homicidal snakebite was sentenced by a Kollam Court to double imprisonment and fine of ₹five lakh . He was also slapped with two more imprisonment terms, 10 years and seven years respectively in two other cases of causing hurt by means of poison and destroying evidence. The sentences will run consecutively which means that Sooraj would have to remain in prison for the rest of his life.

Additional Sessions Court Judge M Manoj pronounced on Wednesday that he agreed with the contention of the prosecution that it was a rarest of the rare case and the maximum punishment is being awarded to the accused. Public prosecutor G Mohanraj told the media after the sentencing that it was Sooraj's age that saved the accused from the gallows.

The judge concurred with the prosecution's argument that it was the first time in the State wherein a living animal was used to murder a person.

Sooraj had married Uthara, a physically challenged girl after taking hefty dowry and decid-

ed to bump her off so that he could walk away with the properties worth crores, gold and brand new car.

The Court had on Monday found the accused guilty of offences under Section 302, 307,328 and 201 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). This is the very first case in the entire country where a man has been found guilty of murder using a snake.

Although two similar cases have been reported in the past, both the cases resulted in the acquittal of the accused as their guilt could not be established. However, in the instant case, the Police had successfully cracked the case using a dummy reptile and recreating the entire crime scene.

Manimeghala, mother of Uthara, told reporters that she was unhappy with the verdict as the accused deserved nothing less than capital punishment. "Let us wait for the full copy of the verdict. We will definitely press for death penalty because we have to make the lives of our daughters safe and secured," she said.

Kerala has been witnessing an unprecedented increase in the number of dowry related deaths over the last few years.

Kerala: Covid cases keep on increasing

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala Government's claims that the Covid-19 cases in Kerala are coming down suffered a setback on Wednesday as 11, 079 new cases were diagnosed out of 89,995 samples tested during the last 24 hours.

The day also saw 123 patients succumbing to the pandemic which took the death toll to 26, 571 till date.

Government doctors in Ernakulam said the hike in the number of patients is a matter of concern as the State is in a celebration mood with Navrathri and Vijaya Dashami festivities adding to the fervour. Temples are reporting reasonably good crowds and this has upset the rhythm of peoples movement.

Traffic snarls have returned to all thoroughfares across the State as shopping has picked up everywhere.

Test Positivity Rate also shot up to 12.31 per cent. Needless to say, parents and teachers are worried about the increase in the number of persons tested positive with Covid-19.

DMK MP held in connection with unnatural death of employee

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu despite scoring an impressive win in the local body election held last week is facing an embarrassing situation because of police cases against two Lok Sabha members of the party.

TRVS Ramesh, representing Cuddalore constituency in the Lok Sabha who is also a leading industrialist, surrendered before the Judicial Magistrate Court in Panruti on Monday in connection with a suspected murder case. Ramesh was on the run from the Police but surrendered as per the dictate of the DMK supremo, Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin, the chief minister.

The MP was sent to judicial custody for two days and he is likely to be questioned by the CB-CID of Tamil Nadu Police.



Aswathaman calls on Govindarasu's family

Ramesh has been listed as the prime accused in the unnatural death of K Govindarasu (60), a supervisor working in the cashew nut factory owned by the former.

The Police have already arrested five persons in connection with the case. Ramesh alleged that certain political parties were indulging in politics of vendetta and that was why he decided to give in to the Court. "As a sincere functionary

of the DMK and having great regard for my leader, I am surrendering before the court. I will legally prove with evidence that the complaint against me is baseless," Ramesh said in the statement.

But A Ashwathaman, a Chennai based lawyer, who is one of the spokespersons of the BJP, who has been pursuing the case told *The Pioneer* that the death of Govindarasu was a clear case of murder.

11 more die of Covid in WB

Kolkata: The Covid-19 toll on Wednesday rose to 18,935 after 11 more people succumbed to the disease, while 771 fresh cases pushed the tally to 15,78,482, a bulletin released by the state health department said. North 24 Parganas accounted for four deaths, followed by three in Kolkata. Of the 771 new cases, 203 were recorded in Kolkata and 128 in North 24 Parganas.

At least 775 more patients recuperated from the infection, thus taking the total number of people who have recovered from the disease to 15,51,890.

West Bengal currently has 7,657 active cases. The positivity rate stands at 2.74 per cent. As many as 1,85,91,682 samples have been tested for COVID-19 so far, including 28,187 since Tuesday, the bulletin said.

President Kovind to celebrate Dussehra with jawans in Drass

New Delhi: Breaking away from the tradition, President Ram Nath Kovind will celebrate Dussehra this year with jawans in Ladakh's Drass area. Traditionally, the president has been participating in Dussehra celebrations in the national capital.

According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan communiqué issued on Wednesday, the president will visit Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir on October 14 and 15. On Thursday, the president will perform Sindhu Darshan puja at Sindhu Ghat, Leh.

इंडियन बैंकIndian Bank

ALLAHABAD

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

(Under Rule -8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules - 2002)

Whereas the undersigned, being the authorized officer of the Indian Bank/ Allahabad under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section13(2) read with the rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 issued & demand notice under section 13(2) calling upon borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice plus further interest as applicable from time to time rests within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers/ Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/ Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under the section 13(4) of the said Act, 2002 read with rule 8 of the said rules on this 8th October of 2021. The borrower/guarantor in particular guarantor in this borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank (E-Allahabad Bank), for the aforesaid notice amount plus interest thereon and other costs etc.

No.	Name & Addresses of the Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s)	Description of the charged mortgaged property (all the part & parcel of the property consisting of)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice	Amount Outstanding Date
1.	M/s Khatu Shyamji Pulses Pvt. Ltd. through directors : (1) Mr. Nagesh Kumar Agrawal (2) Mrs. Shilpi Agrawal (3) Mrs. Banarsi Devi Agrawal	1. All that part and parcel of the land and building consisting of Plot No. 92 & 93 situated at Industrial area Richhai Distt. Jabalpur (MP) admeasuring 42775 sq.ft. along with its future construction, standing in the name of M/s Khatu Shyamji Pulses Pvt. Ltd. <b>Boundaries :</b> North - Nala South - Plot No. 94 East - Main Road West - Plot No. 102 & 103 2. All that part and parcel of the land consisting of Arazi No. 1038 (Part) situated at Mauza Chandari Pargana Distt Kanpur (UP) admeasuring 820 sq.ft. Yards along-with all its building and structure thereon, standing in the joint name of Smt. Banarsi Devi Agrawal and Shri Nagesh Kumar Agrawal. <b>Boundaries :</b> North - Arazi of Badri Prasad and Chandrika Prasad South - Arazi No. 1038 East - Araji of Jagdish Ram West - 10 feet road 3. All the plant and machinery asset created out of bank finance situated at Plot No. 92 & 93 Industrial area Richhai Distt Jabalpur M.P.	02.06.2021	08.10.2021	Rs. 1,49,57,372.00/- + Interest thereon and other charges

Date : 09.10.2021 Place : Jabalpur

Sd/- Authorised Officer Indian Bank E-Allahabad

Bank of India

POSSESSION NOTICE See Rule 8 (1)

Relationship Beyond Banking

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices to below mentioned Borrower/Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest at other charges with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the below mentioned properties in exercise of power conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The borrower/ guarantor in particular and public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Bank of India. The borrowers/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.

Name of the Borrower/ Guarantor	Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand Notice Date/ Possession Notice Date	Description of Properties Mortgaged/Owner of the Properties
Branch: Harsh Nagar, Satyadeep, Benajhabar Road, Kanpur, Ph: 0512-2541759		
<b>Borrower:</b> Maharana Pratap Education Centre through Chairman Mr. Ram Singh Bhadauria S/o Pratap Singh Bhadauria and Secretary Mr. Shailendra Singh Bhadauria S/o Ram Singh Bhadauria	<b>Rs. 10,69,31,909.36 + Intt. W.E.F. 22.11.2019 + Other Charges</b> 13.07.2021 08.10.2021	<b>Property No. 1-</b> All Land & Building situated at Arazi No. 721, Village Baghdaudi, Kachhar, Pargani Kachhar Distt, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, <b>Name of Mortgagor:</b> Maharana Pratap Education Centre through Secretary Mr. Shailendra Singh Bhadauria, <b>Area:</b> 0.890 Hectare, <b>Boundaries:</b> East: Chak road & Arazi NO. 695 & 696, <b>West:</b> Arazi No. 720 & 723, <b>North:</b> Arazi No. 717, <b>South:</b> Arazi No. 723 <b>Property No. 2-</b> All Land & Building situated at Arazi No. 670, Village Baghdaudi, Kachhar, Pargani Kachhar Distt, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, <b>Name of Mortgagor:</b> Maharana Pratap Education Centre through Chairman Mr. Ram Singh Bhadauria, <b>Area:</b> 0.452 Hectare, <b>Boundaries:</b> East: Arazi Lalau, <b>West:</b> Agriculture Land of Gyan Singh, <b>North:</b> Arazi Gyan Singh, <b>South:</b> Chak Marg and land of Bhairav Prasad <b>Property No. 3-</b> All Land & Building situated at Premises No. H-S-1, (Higher Secondary School) H Block Keshavpuram Yojna, Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, <b>Name of Mortgagor:</b> Maharana Pratap Education Centre through Secretary Mr. Shailendra Singh Bhadauria, <b>Area:</b> 10204.29 Sq. Mtr., <b>Boundaries:</b> East: 9.0 Meter Wide Road, <b>West:</b> 30.0 Meter Wide Road, <b>North:</b> 9.0 Meter Wide Road, <b>South:</b> 12.0 Meter Wide Road <b>Property No. 4-</b> All Land & School Building situated at Premises No. 117/Q/511 at Plot No. 66, Block Q, Scheme 1, Kakadeo, Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, <b>Name of Mortgagor:</b> Mr. Ram Singh Bhadauria, Smt. Beena Singh Bhadauria, Late Shanker Singh Bhadauria, Smt. Mamta Singh Bhadauria, Smt. Shiv Kumari, Smt. Sakshi Tiwari, <b>Area:</b> 1200.00 Sq. Yards, <b>Boundaries:</b> East: 1200.00 Sq. Yards, <b>West:</b> Plot No. 50, <b>North:</b> 60 ft. Road, <b>South:</b> Plot No. 757 & 758 <b>Property No. 5 (a)-</b> All Land & Building situated at Arazi No. 430 (Part I), Mauja Vinayakpur, Pargana & Distt. Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, <b>Name of Mortgagor:</b> Maharana Pratap Education Centre through Manager Mr. Ram Singh Bhadauria, <b>Area:</b> 691.50 Sq. Mtr., <b>Boundaries:</b> East: Plot of Others, <b>West:</b> 20 ft. wide Road, <b>North:</b> Arazi Land of Ram Singh Bhadauria, <b>South:</b> Plot of Dwivedi Ji & Others <b>Property No. 5 (b)-</b> All Land & Building situated at Arazi No. 430 (Part II), Mauja Vinayakpur, Pargana & Distt. Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, <b>Name of Mortgagor:</b> Maharana Pratap Education Centre through Manager Mr. Ram Singh Bhadauria, <b>Area:</b> 691.50 Sq. Mtr., <b>Boundaries:</b> East: Plot of Others, <b>West:</b> 20 ft. wide Road, <b>North:</b> Arazi Land of Ram Singh Bhadauria, <b>South:</b> Plot of Dwivedi Ji & Others
Branch: Chaudagra, Bindki Road, Chaudagra District Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh - 212665, Ph: 05181-251010		
<b>Borrower:</b> M/s Hind Mini Flour Mill <b>Prop.:</b> Mr. Vipin Kumar Yadav	<b>Rs. 12,44,436.70 + Intt. 11.20% W.E.F. 31.03.2017 + Other Charges</b> 01.08.2021 13.10.2021	Property situated at Kharsa No. 444 & 442, Village Sheetalpur, Majra - Okhra, Tehsil- Bindki, Dist: Fatehpur, <b>Name of Mortgagor:</b> Mr. Vipin Yadav, <b>Area:</b> 500.00 Sq. Mtr., <b>Boundaries:</b> East: BBL Factory, <b>West:</b> Kharanja (Rasta), <b>North:</b> Abadi, <b>South:</b> Land of Vipin thereafter road
Branch: Main Branch Kanpur, LIC Building 16/97, Mail Road, Kanpur, Ph: 0512-2333777, 2391952		
<b>Borrower:</b> M/s Poonam Textile Prop.: Mrs. Poonam Kukreja	<b>Rs. 28,46,018.82 + Intt. 10.15% W.E.F. 01.04.2021+ Other Charges</b> 09.04.2021 12.10.2021	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land and Building at House No. part of Arazi No. 41 Private Plot No.- 41/4 vill Sherpur Taraunda, Tehsil - Akbarpur within the registration Sub-district Kanpur Dehat and District - Kanpur Dehat, <b>Name of Mortgagor:</b> Mrs. Poonam Kukreja W/o Nikhil Kukreja, <b>Area:</b> 252.00 Sq. Mtr., <b>Boundaries:</b> East: Arazi No. 44, <b>West:</b> 16 Ft. common Road, <b>North:</b> Plot No. 41/5, <b>South:</b> Plot NO. 41/3
<b>Borrower:</b> Mr. Pankaj Goswami <b>Co-Borrower:</b> 1- Mr. Brijesh Goswami, 2- Manoj Goswami 3- Rajesh Kuamr Goswami (Co-Borrower in LAP & Guarantor in Housing Loan	<b>Rs. 65,46,870.11 + Intt. W.E.F. 10.11.2020 + Other Charges</b> 23.06.2021 12.10.2021	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot No. 3/8 Block-F Scheme No. 40, Panki, District Kanpur. <b>Name of Mortgagor:</b> Mr. Pankaj Goswami, Mr. Brijesh Goswami, Mr. Manoj Goswami, Mr. Rajesh Kumar Goswami all S/o Late Ram Swarop Goswami, <b>Area:</b> 321.90 Sq. Mtr., <b>Boundaries:</b> East: 60 ft wide Road, <b>West:</b> Plot No. 3/39, <b>North:</b> Plot No. 3/5 & 3/7, <b>South:</b> Plot No. 3/9
<b>Borrower:</b> Mr. Dev Narayan Mishra <b>Co-Borrower:</b> Mrs. Anju Devi	<b>Rs. 34,29,947.15 + Intt. 10.35% W.E.F. 31.03.2021 + Other Charges</b> 05.04.2021 12.10.2021	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of H. No. 20 Block-F Scheme No.40 Panki Kanpur, <b>Name of Mortgagor:</b> Mr. Dev Narayan S/o Late Ram Narayan, <b>Area:</b> 207.35 Sq. Mtr., <b>Boundaries:</b> East: 120 ft wide road, <b>West:</b> Plot No. 17, <b>North:</b> Part of Plot No. 20, <b>South:</b> Plot No. 21 & 22
<b>Borrower:</b> M/s Vijay Hotel Prop.: Mr. Tushar Chauhan	<b>Rs. 24,44,092.81 + Intt. 10.40% W.E.F. 31.03.2021 + Other Charges</b> 17.05.2021 13.10.2021	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land and Building at House No. 226 Arazi No. 4929 Ka, Unnao Nagar Palika, Moi Nagar, Tehsil and District Unnao, <b>Name of Mortgagor:</b> Tushar Chauhan, <b>Area:</b> 82.22 Sq. Mtr., <b>Boundaries:</b> East: Part of Arazi No. 4929KA, <b>West:</b> Station Road, <b>North:</b> Part of Arazi NO. 4929KA, <b>South:</b> Part of Arazi No. 4929KA
<b>Borrower:</b> Mr. Rajendra Singh <b>Co-Borrower:</b> 1- Mrs. Deepika Singh 2- Mrs. Sarika Singh 3- Mr. Shailendra Singh <b>Guarantor:</b> Mr. Ved Singh	<b>Rs. 34,42,624.45 + Intt. 10.65% W.E.F. 01.01.2020 + Other Charges</b> 10.06.2021 13.10.2021	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land and Building at House No. 43/107, Nariyal Bazar, Dhobi Mohal within the registration Sub-district Kanpur and District-Kanpur, <b>Name of Owner/Mortgagor:</b> Mr. Rajendra Singh, Mr. Shailendra Singh, Mr. Ved Singh all S/o Mr. Raj Bahadur Singh, <b>Area:</b> 70.81 Sq. Mtr., <b>Boundaries:</b> East: House No. 43/108, <b>West:</b> 4 ft wide lane, <b>North:</b> 5 ft wide lane, <b>South:</b> House No. 43/106
Date: 13.10.2021		Place: Kanpur
		Authorised Officer: Bank of India





## Bailed out

After its decision to ban Chhath puja, the Delhi Govt writes to the Centre seeking guidelines

Politics, as expected, mars the festival season, more so in Delhi. The ruling Aam Aadmi Party and the Bharatiya Janata Party are locked in a fistfight over people's participation in the Chhath Puja, scheduled for November 10. Both have deliberately dragged the "uttaranchalis" -- people of Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh -- into the imbroglia. In 2020, when the country was under the deathly spell of the COVID-19 pandemic, politics took a back seat as the Union and State Governments banned the public celebration of all festivals. Neither the AAP nor the BJP or any of the fringe religious outfits thought of politicising the festivals. This time around, the pandemic situation has improved, and politics has reared its head once again. It began with the Delhi Pollution Control Committee on September 29 ordering a complete ban on the sale and bursting of firecrackers till January 1, 2022.



Rajasthan and Haryana followed suit though Uttar Pradesh is still silent on the issue this year. As the fireworks issue is directly linked to pollution, parties saw little scope for deriving political mileage. The Supreme Court, too, said it could not endanger people's right to life by allowing the use of crackers containing chemicals.

The Delhi Government followed up the cracker ban with an order that the Chhath Puja will not be allowed in public places, public grounds, riverbanks, and temples. The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) cited the pandemic and advised

the people to celebrate it at home. Delhi's Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal chaired the DDMA meeting in which, apart from Delhi ministers, AIIMS Delhi, senior officers of NITI Aayog, ICMR, and the NDMA were present. Strangely, the same DDMA lifted restrictions on large gatherings for Ramleela and Durga Puja, though with safety protocols in place. Crowds were allowed at these events if they adhered to social distancing and other COVID appropriate norms. The BJP, which was agreeable to the Delhi Government permitting crowds at Ramleela; however, protested the ban on Chhath Puja. It raised the bogey of "uttaranchali" people of Delhi and lodged several protests. As politics heated up in the national Capital, Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, wrote to the Centre asking it to issue Chhath guidelines. Perhaps aware of the political implications of angering the sizeable population of "uttaranchalis" in Delhi, Sisodia recalled that Chhath is a historic festival and sought Central guidelines in order to facilitate these people to celebrate it. Did he forget, conveniently, that his Government had banned the celebrations and that the meeting was attended by the Lt Governor and Central COVID task force members? Or was he obliquely shifting the responsibility to the Centre? In any case, the safety guidelines during festivals have long proved ineffective because they are illogical. There is no way of a crowd maintaining social distancing, for instance.

### PICTALK



Devotees at the Sri Govindaraja Swamy temple, in Tirupati

# Lakhimpur Kheri— Was it avoidable?



VIVEK GUMASTE

A protest must have a specific purpose and an endpoint resolution of conflict. It cannot be an open-ended exercise free of any stipulations

The Lakhimpur Kheri incident in which 8 people lost their lives during the farmer's protest was a colossal tragedy that was avoidable. Paradoxically, it was also a calamity waiting to happen. A political cauldron of noxious ingredients had been brewing for some time. Dogged stubbornness and thoughtless provocative utterances had heightened the tension; the bottled-up frustration of a jaded and over-stretched protest was waiting to explode. A frontal collision was inevitable.

The spark came on October 3 when a cavalcade of Union Home Minister of State Ajay Mishra allegedly ploughed through a group of protesting farmers killing four of them. Angered by the killing it is alleged that the protestors went on a rampage, dragged the BJP members out of cars and mercilessly beat 4 of them to death.

Details of this gruesome incident are murky. As per an FIR lodged by Jagjit Singh, a farm protestor, "We were holding a peaceful protest at Maharaja Agrasen Inter College ground...when the Union MoS for Home Ajay Mishra's son Ashish came in an SUV along with two other four-wheel vehicles, with arms and weapons, at a high speed. Ashish Mishra, while sitting on the left side of the Mahindra Thar car, fired shots and crushed people while moving forward."

This version is contested by Ajay Mishra who claims, "Stones came flying at the vehicle when it was on the way to receive the chief guest, the driver lost balance...and some could have died in that accident. My driver and three BJP workers who were in the vehicle were chased and attacked with rocks, sticks and swords...they were lynched."

He had earlier denied that his son was at the scene of the incident. Which of these two conflicting versions is true is difficult to ascertain at this stage. However, a series of sequential videos that surfaced online suggest that pelting of stones was the initial trigger for this mayhem.

Nevertheless, a proper enquiry is warranted so that the guilty may be tried and punished



as per the law. Accordingly, CM Yogi Adityanath has announced a judicial inquiry headed by a retired judge to look into the incident.

In parallel with a call for an enquiry, however, a dangerous and mischievous narrative is being played out in certain sections of the media that is disturbing and concerning; a partisan description that tends to favor one side over the other and places a premium on one set of lives in comparison to the other - all with an intent to put the Government in the dock for an offence, the culpability of which is yet to be determined.

A well known newspaper avers: The BJP Government has a playbook...vis a vis popular protest...Let the issue fester, and try to tire out the protesters, while actively seeking to delegitimise them, by labelling them "anti-national" and calling them other names. Then, if matters escalate, bring out the barricades and the force. Treat it like a law-and-order issue in a police state, and don't let leaders of the Opposition come to the site of the protest or the violence, to do what is surely their job as politicians and people's representatives.

First to invoke presumptuous theories to pre-deter-



THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT BE FAULTED FOR KEEPING THE OPPOSITION AWAY. THE INTENT WAS TO CALM THE SITUATION AND MAINTAIN PEACE

mine guilt in a sensitive case like this devious. Second, by using the phrase, 'bring out the barricades and the force' to describe the BJP's modus operandi, the editorial has sealed the BJP's guilt without a trial. Such statements uttered without evidence are reckless and misleading.

Additionally, the Government cannot be faulted for keeping opposition leaders away. The intent was to calm the situation and maintain peace. In fact, it was done at the behest of farm leader Rakesh Tikait who feared that the politicians were there to exploit the situation as indicated by some news reports.

Coming to the million-dollar question: Was this incident avoidable? Dissent and protest are an integral part of democracy. However, one must also realise that protest is only a means to an end and not an end in itself. A protest to be valid must have a specific purpose and an endpoint resolution of conflict. It cannot be an open-ended exercise free of any stipulations. A prolonged directionless protest becomes a fertile ground for frustration, violence and even killings as illustrated by this incident; anti-social elements are also

likely to take advantage of the situation.

Justice Khanwilkar of the Supreme Court on October 1, when responding to a farmer's outfit seeking permission to hold a protest in Jantar Mantar rightly posed this question to the farmers "You are saying you want to protest, protest what? The Act has been stayed by the Court. The Centre has said it will not be implemented." Referring to the deaths in Lakhimpur, the honorable judge had also stressed the lack of accountability: "When such events happen, no one takes responsibility!"

And this is not the first time that violence has overtaken the farmer's protest - January 26 is still fresh in our minds. The farmers' protest has outlived its utility. Prolongation inadvertently provided a fertile milieu for this ugly altercation. With a little good sense, it could have been avoided. It is time to call off the protest to prevent more Lakhimpurs. Concomitantly, all those guilty for each of the 8 deaths, whoever they may be, must be arrested and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

(The writer is an academic and political commentator. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### IT'S ALL FAIR IN POLITICS

Sir — The old adage 'all is fair in love and war' perhaps should go now with an addition — 'all is fair in love, war and politics' — given that politics after the independence has undergone a sea-change vis-a-vis its broad objective of leading the country in the right direction, safeguarding its boundaries and serving all its people and their political leanings. Ironically, this comprehensive goal has narrowed down to a mere *raison d'être* of attainment of power — be it either by hook or crook — harboured by the political parties who shrink from doing what is right for various political reasons.

With the Assembly polls in six States drawing closer, the tempers are higher and the political activities getting more hectic in the most politically significant Uttar Pradesh, in particular, where the ruling regime is busy with the damage limitation exercise following the recent Lakhimpur Kheri violence. The incident could not have come for all the Opposition parties at a more opportune time as they have found a common plea to castigate in unison the Government in a bid to brighten their respective electoral prospects in the upcoming elections. In politics, with scenes changing kaleidoscopically has become a new norm and any prediction may fall on stony ground.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

### SOFT DRINKS ARE HARD ON HEALTH

Sir — Amitabh Bachchan once disclosed at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmadabad about him not advertising for cola drinks after a student drew his attention towards the harmful ingredients in such drinks. Even the cola companies voluntarily stopped selling colas in schools worldwide in view of increasing obesity in school-going children. The Indian Government should not only ban advertisements but also ban the sale of colas. Earlier, too, soft-drink manufacturers were asked to remove an oil from their products which was found to be harmful for health. It is noteworthy that such drinks are prohibited in Parliament canteens.

## Vaccine on the way



If the Drugs Controller General of India accepts the recommendation of the Subject Experts Committee (SEC) of the Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) to grant the emergency use authorisation for Covaxin among children in the 2-18 age group, it will mark a new phase in the process of vaccinating the population against COVID-19. Vaccinating the paediatric population will take the ongoing nationwide immunisation drive one stage further. The green signal which the Drug Controller is currently considering, if (and when) given, will

make Covaxin the first COVID-19 vaccine anywhere in the world for administering to children as young as 2 years. Scientific rigour should determine if India's first indigenous Covid-19 vaccine proves to be safe and effective in children as in adults. The clinical trials data must be placed in public domain so as to instil confidence in the general public, especially parents, that children can be inoculated with Covaxin against COVID-19. It is understood that Covaxin now recommended for children and adolescents is the same as the one currently being used among adults. It must be confirmed that Covaxin is equally good for children despite their distinctness in terms of anatomy and physiology by virtue of them being children. Clinical trials data that the vaccine has produced similar results in children and teenagers in the process of growing up and grown-ups must be sound enough to ensure that no risk is taken.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

### RESPECT IS GREATER THAN WORSHIP

Sir — A murderer takes a life, but a rapist destroys a life. "Sexual intercourse done by a man with a woman without her valid consent is rape" as defined under the Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code. Sexual assault is the most heinous crime against women. The aftermath of rape

draws a woman towards a life of fear, depression, suicidal complex and social stigma. Rapes have increased manifold as per the statistics given by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). According to it, one rape is reported every 15 minutes. Even children are not spared which is such a shame on humanity.

There are various reasons behind the increase in such cases. Women are not safe outside and not even inside their own home. The sluggish judiciary is an important reason where many victims and survivors must wait for years for a glimpse of justice. Through education, gender sensitisation and legal awareness is possible, which are indispensable to control crime against women. In a country where we worship goddesses in different avatars, women, too, should be loved, cared, respected and protected.

Swagatika Sahoo | Raghunathpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

Nevertheless, I congratulate Fadnavis. Because of him I remembered that I was the CM for four times.



NCP president —Sharad Pawar

VT-4 Tank is another symbol of Pakistan-China strategic cooperation and defence collaboration. Its introduction will boost our capabilities.

Pakistan Chief of Army Staff —Qamar Javed Bajwa

I did a lot of research at my level for *Rashmi Rocket*, apart from what was going on at the scripting level.



Actor —Taapsee Pannu

My advice to Rishabh Pant is to play with freedom and have that air of arrogance and confidence.

Former Australia cricketer —Shane Watson

Only two or three per cent of farmers in Punjab are part of the agitation. Most people in Punjab are peace loving.



BJP national general secretary —Dushyant Gautam

## Blood and gore

Kashmiris wake up to ferocity again after two years of silence in the Kashmir Valley

Autumn, the golden season of Kashmir that paints the Valley in the shades of chinar's fallen leaves, is turning 'red' this season. The rustling of fallen chinar leaves has been overshadowed by the 'bloodletting' in different parts of Srinagar. Palpable tension is in the air. The targeted killings of members belonging to minority communities a few days ago, has once again triggered a fresh wave of insecurity among the larger population of Kashmiri migrants and non-locals staying in different parts of the Valley to earn their livelihood. A large number of them have immediately shifted their families to safer locations in Jammu and are waiting for the situation to return to normalcy before rejoining their duties. After the abrogation of Article 370, the overall security scenario in Kashmir Valley seemed to be improving. The Union Territory administration was focusing on hard selling 'Kashmir' as the favorite tourist destination. However, the recent targeted killings in the Valley have raised questions over the safety and security of locals as well as tourists.



It has also triggered outrage from the Opposition leaders who blamed the Centre administration for not being able to curb such attacks.

The year started with the killing of a famous Punjabi jeweller in the heart of Srinagar. It was followed up with the killing of the son of a Dhaba owner in a high security zone. The trend continued and in response, top commanders of different terrorist outfits were neutralised. Adopting a shift in their strategy, the Pakistan-based terrorist groups are employing 'hybrid terrorists' to disrupt the stability and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of the forthcoming Assembly polls. Majority of these hybrid terrorists are not on the radar of the security forces, making their job more difficult to track down their footprints. With the recent killings of Makhan Lal Bindroo, a street vendor from Bihar's Bhagalpur, school teacher Deepak Chand and principal Supinder Kaur in the Valley, the terrorist handlers have attempted to create a communal divide aimed at triggering a fresh round of exodus. We have to fight these beasts. Whether this violence is a statement by the much dreaded Taliban remains to be seen. Meanwhile, the National Investigation Agency has detained over 500 people after civilian deaths in the area. The culprits will eventually be held; however, in the meantime, the Kashmiriyat must speak up for the victims.



FIRST COLUMN

CHANGING INNOVATION LANDSCAPE IN INDIA

India needs a futuristic approach to trigger innovation at the base of the pyramid



MOHIT GAMBHIR

Innovation in India has always been human centric. We innovate to resolve the problems of mankind, and to create a better life for the common people. Today, the scope of innovation and entrepreneurship spreads across all facets of life. Students, researchers and intellectuals are actively pursuing innovation and entrepreneurship as career options. India should move from coveted innovation to the open innovation model. Open Innovation model is a futuristic approach to instigate the innovation and entrepreneurship at the base of pyramid — at the level of society and educational institutions. The growth of new India can only be achieved by making open innovation pervasive and fuelled by the right kind of training, skill upgradation, reskilling, and apt infrastructural support at school and institutional level. As an interventional initiative, Ministry of Education has established an innovationcell at the All-India Council for Technical Education in 2018. Since then, the Ministry



of Education's Innovation Cell (MIC) has taken multiple policy and program initiative to establish the world's biggest open innovation model at global stage. The Cell works on four pillars of excellence: Policy intervention; handholding of HEIs and schools, faculty and students; impact assessment and facilitating national and international platforms for Indian and global students. Initiatives like the Innovation Council in higher educational institutes has been purposed to streamline the ground level ecosystem and handholding of ideas from students.

The beginning of Smart India Hackathon, Toyathon, Singapore-India Hackathon, ASEAN India Hackathon between 11 countries, SAMADHAN Challenge, Ideathon for pandemic, Drug Discovery Hackathon, and Innovation Contest has set the foundation for world's biggest open innovation model and it is scaling at a rate where India could assimilate its new age innovative and aspirational human resource. As India is working relentlessly towards a \$5 trillion economy by 2025, it must look for alternative career opportunities in term of innovation and entrepreneurship. Inculcating the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship in our youth is a challenging job and it cannot be simply achieved by flooding the market with investment opportunities, subsidies and grants. It requires a keenly calibrated system of innovation management, especially championing open innovation management at school and higher education level. For impact assessment, MIC has started Atal Ranking for Institution's on Innovation Achievements to measure the major indicators at the higher educational institute level. At industry and ecosystem level, NITI Aayog has started India Innovation Index on the line of Global Innovation Index by adapting non-traditional approaches for measuring innovation such as patents per million of population, publication in scientific journals, percentage of GDP spending on research. Empirical evidence suggests that innovation enables social welfare. Health innovations like penicillin use, transplants, and artificial limbs have saved and improved the quality of life of millions. Satellites, television and radio technologies are being used for the welfare of farmers and in disaster management. Modern farming equipment, fertilizers, Grameen Bank, microfinance and crop insurance schemes have raised agricultural productivity, improving food security and freeing up labour which can participate in other industries.

Nothing can progress without innovation and everything of today exists because of yesterday's innovation and invention. We need to innovate to accommodate evolving situations and needs and prepare a wonderful place to live in, not only for us but for our future generations as well.

(The writer is Director in the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education. The views expressed are personal.)

# Extending sympathies to the new laureate

Abdulrazak Gurnah has been grappling with his African identity and how it relates to the history of migrations and colonialism in East Africa



BALAKRISHNAN SATYAM

The French poet, Rene Proudhomme, who was the first Nobel Literature laureate in 1901, wrote in his famous 'The Broken Vase': Thus often does the hand we love, barely touching the heart, wound it. Then the heart cracks by itself and the flower of its love dies.

He's speaking of a delicate and vulnerable aspect of us, and how easily it can dry up. Literature has always been about sensitivity and sensitization. It nourishes and rekindles the soul to fellow feeling. In the hurly-burly of our daily lives, and competitiveness and ambition, and the pursuit of profit, we are indifferent to the outcome for others, to their sentiments, or even their deprivation. There is an inherent conflict among us as we focus on our goals, and marginalise others whose interests don't hold concern for us.

But there are witnesses compiling every injustice, recording every protest, and kindling people's memories about glory and decline. A few of these observers serve not only to voice the experience of the victims, but give us insights on how humanity at large can live more sensitively. Their words stir us, find their way inside to lash at our conscience, and refocus our thinking on what it is to be essentially human.

Another Frenchman, especially famous for declining the Nobel prize for Literature, Jean Paul Sartre, declared: 'Hell is other people'. There is a constant challenge to try to understand and empathise with others, further aggravated by differences in language, custom, and traditional beliefs. It is here that writers often build bridges by establishing commonalities and explaining away differences.

As the celebrated 1950 Literature laureate, Bertrand Russell, said at the Stockholm Concert Hall, "...sympathy is a genuine motive, some people at some times are made somewhat uncomfortable by the sufferings of some other people. It is sympathy that has produced the many humanitarian advances of the last hundred years."

There are many literary prizes, so how is the Nobel Prize for Literature different, apart from perhaps, having the largest bounty? Because it is given out at the same time as awards in sciences — it accords the same prestige and acclaim to novelists, poets, and futurists as is enjoyed by biochemists, astrophysicists and developmental economists.

It also reflects the Nobel Foundation's outlook of recognizing a broader contribution to modern human heritage. Rudyard Kipling was the youngest to win it at 42, but generally the prize recognises much older writers with eight or more books behind them. In terms of sheer number of copies sold, and cultural impact, Harper Lee could have been considered for her 'To Kill A Mockingbird', but that's not how this prize is awarded — for one, that was her only novel, till she



THERE ARE MANY LITERARY PRIZES, SO HOW IS THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE DIFFERENT APART FROM, PERHAPS, HAVING THE LARGEST BOUNTY? BECAUSE IT IS GIVEN OUT AT THE SAME TIME AS AWARDS IN SCIENCES — IT ACCORDS THE SAME PRESTIGE AND ACCLAIM AS IS ENJOYED BY BIOCHEMISTS, ASTROPHYSICISTS AND DEVELOPMENTAL ECONOMISTS

(The writer is a Creative Director, advertising faculty, and an amateur epistemologist. The views expressed are personal.)



published a sequel several decades later with nothing in between.

The committee has also not looked towards any trailblazing authors in the sci-fi category despite it being the fastest evolving genre as technology itself has been racing at the speed of Moore's Law. What the jury does seem to endeavour to do is to cast its net far and wide to ensure authors from many corners of the world are considered.

Possibly the most interesting reference to Zanzibar in the world of literature was in 1968, when Brunner wrote an imaginative sci-fi novel titled, "Stand on Zanzibar". The book's title refers to how large an island could hold the planet's population if everyone had to get just enough standing space. Brunner's speculation was that the Isle of Man (about 600 sq. km) wouldn't suffice in the future and that by 2010, it would take a Zanzibar (about 1600 sq.km) to hold everyone. The theme of his Hugo award-winning novel was overcrowding, which is a common urban fear when there is an influx from faraway lands.

Which brings us to this year's Literature laureate, Abdulrazzak Gurnah, born in Zanzibar in 1948. Being on an important trade shipping route in the Indian Ocean, besides Bantus, there are people of Omani, Yemini, southern Iranian, and even Indian descent. At the same time, it has been known as a hub of the slave trade where Arabs sold natives from Malawi and Mozambique to visiting ships.

When the Zanzibar Revolution of 1964 overthrew the traditional oppressors, Gurnah fled as a teenager and started his life anew in the British Isles. So, he has experienced how complex and burdensome our identities can be.

In the early pages of his novel 'Desertion', he says about a character, Hassanali: "He could not disguise his anxiety and people who had known him all his life knew this about him, and made a joke out of it. They said it was something to do with his jinsi, his ancestry. Indian people are cowardly, they said, hopping about like nervous butterflies. His father was not timid. He had been a hothead in his youth, who sang and danced and raced the streets with anyone, and he was the Indian in his jinsi. It was God who made him like this, nothing to do with jinsi, and who was he to argue."

Gurnah has been grappling with his African identity — as a Tanzanian (Zanzibar opted to merge with Tanzania after the Revolution) — and how it relates to the history of migrations and colonialism in East Africa. He has taught in Nigeria, which also has ethnic as well as acute communal strife. And he's known since his mid-teens what it is to adapt to life in a European culture.

As the last few years have caused waves of migrants out of West Asia and North Africa, and very recently, Afghanistan — the travails of the uprooted and the kinds of baggage they bring into their new places of residence will

be in the spotlight.

Exiles who had to flee from their native lands are already distrustful of fate, and suffer to some extent from PTSD. Their attention is split between what's still going on in the places they have departed from, and the challenges in their new environment. They haven't the preparation that a graduate student has had before he or she lands up overseas on a good campus. Such exiles find themselves usually in less friendly locations than a university. Gurnah has been lucky in that regard.

The expatriate experience is very different depending on one's age at arrival, line of work — whether a specialist in demand or unskilled, level of affluence, and aptitude for networking. Openness towards the way of life in the adopted country does help in integrating better, and gaining acceptance. An exile could have a sense of betrayal of their native culture when they move closer to a sense of belonging in their land of arrival.

In the future, we might think differently about the elements of identity, given the limitations that our instinctive ones about language, ethnicity, creed, and district have. We'll then identify Literature laureates less by language of writing or nationality and instead emphasise their literary genre and individuality more. We'd then also be narrowing the 'gulf between cultures and continents' that the Nobel citation refers to in 2021.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

LIES WERE SPREAD ABOUT SAVARKAR. IT WAS MAHATMA GANDHI WHO ASKED HIM TO FILE MERCY PETITIONS. —UNION DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH



THE BJP IS PRESENTING DISTORTED HISTORY. IF THIS CONTINUES, THEY WILL MAKE SAVARKAR THE FATHER OF THE NATION. —AIMIM CHIEF ASADUDDIN OWAISSI

# Healthcare infrastructure needs a check-up

Data passing through the hospital systems and databases must be digitised and harmonised to truly transform the healthcare infrastructure

Reports of shortages of hospital beds, ventilators, medical equipment and doctors and nurses to cope with growing cases of COVID-19 infections have thrown into sharp focus the need to accelerate digital transformation of healthcare infrastructure worldwide.

Modern medicine has been enriched by genomics, telemedicine, virtual reality for surgery and many biopharmaceutical advances. But behind the many medical advancements, true digital transformation of health infrastructure — hospitals, blood and vaccine banks, centres for dialysis, ambulatory surgery, imaging and radiology — is slow.

Unlike for other sectors, digital transformation to



HARSH VARDHAN

(The writer is President and Head of ERP Solutions, Ramco Systems. The views expressed are personal.)

enable Internet of Things (IoT), 5G connectivity, and artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) is much more complex for healthcare.

Healthcare infrastructure innovation has been and remains curtailed by three main issues: firstly, compliance with regulatory standards at national and international levels; secondly, multiple forms of medical data, from patient records to X-rays, CT scans and other analogue or digital data; and thirdly, reluctance to change which prevents a clear digital dashboard to allow administrators to respond, plan and predict in real time.

Many hospitals with sophisticated equipment have yet to fully capture and update medical records to enable clinical



decision support and real-time hospital workflow, let alone combine them seamlessly with long-term care and disease management.

How can planners and administrators improve information technology (IT) infrastructure to prepare for a true digital transformation for the healthcare sector? Several key steps can kick-start or accelerate the process. The first is to build or enable real-time data

capture at every touchpoint of healthcare hardware. This means installing sensors, and embedding IoT and high-speed communication throughout each facility down to the last piece of equipment.

The second is to break down information silos once and for all. Data passing through the hospital systems and databases must be digitised, harmonised and shared, from patient records, X-rays and CT scans to data on the functioning of each piece of equipment and machinery within the infrastructure.

This roadblock has eluded decades of effort by IT consultants and systems integrators. A protocol of "golden data" in a common format will enable visibility of the entire healthcare enterprise.

Third, the same visibility can facilitate interoperability of different healthcare systems — electronic patient health records can be analysed alongside COVID-19 infection trends and the demand for vaccines and the cold-chain infrastructure needed to store or deliver them.

Fourth, healthcare assets, be it CT scanners, operating rooms or ventilators, have to be tracked on usage and location levels. This can help predict breakdowns, plan for maintenance and help the next shift of medical staff to locate them.

Fifth, such tracking will support more vital C-suite decisions such as scenario planning which can calibrate potential equipment shortage, availability of spares, and service-level agreements with

suppliers with hospital manpower planning. By standardising protocols for maintenance — helped by cloud-enabled real-time data — productivity will improve.

Sixth, there are lessons to be drawn from a concept known as inventory technical management practised by MRO service providers. Those who are more digitally enabled have upscaled to the next level — flexible pooling of inventory to prevent duplication and to share hardware more intelligently.

Finally, the guardians of healthcare hardware can take tentative steps in AI/ML without sacrificing medical outcomes. These include sensors that can monitor health data of each patient more frequently than checks by nurses, and the

use of chatbots to allow nurses or junior doctors to ask questions when certain patient symptoms occur or to check when a piece of equipment needs to be sent for servicing.

Through AI/ML, healthcare hardware can be "trained" to self-correct. It can learn prescriptive maintenance through protocols that can predict failures and recommend actions to take. Over time, each major piece of equipment can instruct itself on when to prepare for maintenance, the possible risks, and the pre-emptive measures it should take.

Covid-19 has triggered a once-in-decades shift in the thinking behind healthcare administration. It is time for the hospital to get out of the sick bed and embrace digital transformation.



# Centre to roll out world's first DNA Covid vax soon



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as Bharat Biotech's Covaxin for 2-18-year-old children awaits DCGI nod, the Centre is all set to roll out the world's first DNA vaccine ZyCoV-D against Covid this month. The Government aims to procure a total of 60 lakh vaccines in October for this.

They said that the Government will procure over 28 crore vaccines in October. It includes 22 crore Covishield vaccine shots, six crore Covaxin and 60 lakh DNA vaccines. The Government is still negotiating the prices of Zyqus Cadila vaccine that is being planned to be inducted in the vaccination programme.

The ZyCoV-D vaccine was approved by India's regulatory authority in August 2020. The three-dose DNA built vaccine has 66.6 per cent efficacy against Covid. Instead of a needle, it uses an applicator to inject the skin with lab-produced DNA.

The Zyqus Cadila vaccine

was scheduled to be rolled out in the first week of October. On being asked about the delay in the vaccine roll out, NITI Ayog Member (Health) Dr V.K. Paul said last week that Zyqus Cadila vaccine was not administered using conventional syringes or needles, but through an applicator, which will be used for the first time in the country.

Paul said, "We are working on the trainers. The training programmes are being conducted on the use of applicators. We are also sorting out the logistics issues of the vaccine and soon it will be a part of Covid-19 vaccination drive."

On Tuesday, the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) on Covid-19 had granted emergency use approval to Bharat Biotech's Covaxin for children in the 2-18 years age group.

Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech had completed Phase-2 and Phase-3 trials of Covaxin on children below 18 years of age in September and submitted the trial data to the Drugs

**Experts say that Covid-19 vaccination for children is more necessary than ever as schools have reopened in many states. There has also been a gradual rise in paediatric cases across the country, they said**

and Comptroller General of India (DCGI) at the start of this month. The company is now waiting for a final go ahead from the DCGI.

Experts say that Covid-19 vaccination for children is more necessary than ever as schools have reopened in many states. There has also been a gradual rise in paediatric cases across the country, they said,

# Govt cuts custom duty on edible oils to check prices during fests

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to control soaring prices of edible oils and increase availability during the festive season, the Government on Wednesday scrapped basic customs duty and slashed agri cess on crude varieties of palm, soyabean and sunflower oil till March 2022. The high prices of edible oil in the international market have a substantial impact on the domestic edible oil prices. The Government has already imposed stock limits on edible oils and oilseeds for a period upto 31st March, 2022.

According to a notification, the duty cuts will be effective from October 14 and will remain in force till March 31, 2022. The notification was issued by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). The base import tax on crude palm oil has been slashed to 2.5% from 10%, while the tax on crude soyoil and crude sunflower oil has been reduced to 2.5% from 7.5%. The base import tax on refined grades of palm oil, soyoil and sunflower oil cut to 32.5% from 37.5%.

After the cuts, crude palm oil, soyoil and sunflower oil imports will be subject to a 24.75% tax in total, including a 2.5% base import duty and other taxes, while refined grades of palm oil, soyoil and sunflower oil would carry a 35.75% tax in total.

The move comes at a time when edible oil prices are hovering at record levels. According to the latest data available with the ministry,



the all-India daily average retail price of mustard oil reached ₹184.15 per kg, with at least 22 centres, including Mumbai and Lucknow, reporting ₹200 and above. Mustard oil is the costliest of the six edible oils for which the ministry monitors retail and wholesale price data. Retail prices of the other edible oils are ₹182.61 per kg for groundnut oil, ₹136.59/kg (vanaspati), ₹155/kg (soya), ₹169.53/kg (sunflower) and ₹132.91/kg (palm).

The country imports palm oil mainly from top producers Indonesia and Malaysia, while other oils, such as soy and sunflower, come from Argentina, Brazil, Ukraine and Russia.

"The Government has slashed import duties on edible oils because of high retail prices in the domestic market and the festive season," Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) Executive Director B V Mehta said.

As per the SEA, India's imports of edible oils rose 63 per cent to 16.98 lakh tonnes during September, a monthly record, due to all-time high shipments of palm oil. The

total import of vegetable oils, comprising both edible and non-edible oils, increased 66 per cent during September to 17,62,338 tonnes compared to 10,61,944 tonnes in September 2020. "Import of edible oils during September 2021 has set a new record shipment of 16.98 lakh tonnes in a single month. Earlier in October 2015, India had imported 16.51 lakh tonnes.

"Palm oil import in September 2021 at 12.62 lakh tonnes is the highest in any single month since India started importing palm oil in 1996," it said. Non-edible oils imports went up to 63,608 tonnes in September from 17,702 tonnes in the same month last year.

During November 2020 to September 2021 (11 months), the imports of vegetable oils increased two per cent to 1,24,70,784 tonnes compared to 1,22,57,837 tonnes in the corresponding period of the previous year. Out of the total vegetable oil imports, edible oil imports rose to 1,20,85,247 tonnes from 1,19,50,501 tonnes. Non-edible oils rose to 3,85,537 tonnes from 3,07,333 tonnes.

# Tomato prices soar to ₹72/kg in metros due to unseasonal rain

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tomato prices in retail markets of metro cities have shot up to ₹72 per kilogram on tight supply due to unseasonal rains in key producing states like Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Among the metros, the maximum increase in the retail price of tomato was seen in Kolkata where the key kitchen vegetable was ruling as high as ₹72 per kg on October 12 when compared to ₹38 per kg during the month-ago period. Interestingly, India, the world's second largest tomato producer after China, produces around 19.75 million tonnes from an area of 7.89 lakh hectares with an average yield of 25.05 tonnes per hectare. Similarly, onion prices have also been hiked and now, it is around ₹50 per kg which used to be sold earlier at around ₹35-40 per kg.

In Delhi and Chennai, retail prices of tomato increased to ₹57 per kg from ₹30 per kg and ₹20 per kg, respectively, compared to the month-ago period, according to data compiled by the Consumer Affairs Ministry.

In Mumbai, tomato prices in retail markets rose to ₹53 per kg from ₹15 per kg in the said period, the data showed. The retail prices of tomato vary depending on quality and locality where the commodity was sold.

"Unseasonal rains in producing states like Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have damaged the crop due to which the supply to consuming markets like Delhi has



**Tomato crop will be ready for harvest in around 2-3 months after planting and harvesting is done as per the requirement of the market**

been affected. This has led to a rise in prices, both in wholesale and retail markets," Azadpur Tomato Association President Ashok Kaushik said on Wednesday. Azadpur Mandi in the national capital is the Asia's largest wholesale market for fruits and vegetables.

Even the crop in hilly regions like Shimla has been affected due to the unseasonal rains, he said, adding that 60 per cent of the tomato crop has been damaged in producing states that received the unseasonal rains.

As a result, tomato prices in a month have almost doubled to ₹40-60 per kg at Azadpur Mandi as daily arrival of the commodity has halved to 250-300 tonne.

At present, harvesting is underway in key growing states of Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Tomato crop will be ready for harvest in around 2-3 months after planting and harvesting is done as per the requirement of the market.

# Cong leaders meet Prez, seek Min sacking over Lakhimpur violence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A delegation of Congress leaders, including former party president Rahul Gandhi and general secretary Priyanka Gandhi, on Wednesday met President Ram Nath Kovind demanding the immediate dismissal of Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra over the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, and an impartial judicial probe by two sitting judges of the Supreme Court. The delegation of senior Congress leaders also presented a memorandum of facts about the Lakhimpur Kheri incident to the President. The party is all set to discuss the crisis and several other issues concerning the nation at its apex decision making body Congress Working Committee on Saturday.

Later talking to the media, Rahul said that he conveyed to the President that the MoS Home should resign to ensure an impartial probe in the Lakhimpur violence as his son Ashish is an accused in the matter. Ashish Mishra, who has been named in the FIR and is accused of mowing down farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri, was arrested on Saturday by the Uttar Pradesh Police. Four farmers were among eight people killed in the violence in Lakhimpur Kheri on October 3.

Rahul demanded that to ensure justice, two sitting Supreme Court judges should probe the incident and those who have committed the murders should be punished. "There cannot be an impartial inquiry and justice cannot be given till the time the MoS

Home is sacked. This is the voice of not just the families of those killed but of all the farmers and this voice is being suppressed," he said.

The Congress delegation also included A K Antony, Ghulam Nabi Azad and Mallikarjun Kharge.

Asked whether they have received any assurances from the president, Priyanka Gandhi claimed, "he (President) has assured us that he will talk to the government in this regard today itself".

The Congress memorandum said the situation is unlikely to change without any intervention given that BJP leaders, including UP CM Yogi Adityanath, continue to make conciliatory statements towards Ajay Mishra.

"Ajay Mishra's role is also yet to be investigated and the same



is unlikely while he continues in office. Furthermore, which police official would dare to fairly investigate the son of Union MoS Home Affairs with the father occupying a position of such high influence and who enjoys continued endorsements from both the Central and the State governments. In these difficult circumstances, we call upon you as the custodian of our Constitution and the moral compass to this Government to immediately dismiss Union MoS Home Affairs and to direct an independent judicial investigation by a Commission com-

prising of two sitting judges of the Supreme Court of India or the high court," the Congress memorandum said.

The party hoped that the President will treat this matter with the urgency it deserves and take appropriate action. "The incident has scarred the soul of India. This deliberate act of murder, in broad daylight followed by the audacious reactions of the State and Central governments, has completely eroded the people's faith in those tasked with bringing these perpetrators to justice," the party said.

# 90K staffers of ex-Ghani Govt starving in Af

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Over 90,000 employees of the erstwhile Abdul Ghani Government in Afghanistan are starving as they have not been paid their salaries for the last three months post-Taliban takeover of Kabul in August.

Even the assistance received by Taliban from foreign donors is being unfairly distributed to the outfit's cadres and the Government employees are left with no resource to survive, sources on the ground said.

The public distribution system under the control of Taliban has undertaken rationing amid shortage of essentials like food but the same is being unevenly and arbitrarily distributed the group's cadres in a discriminatory manner, they said.

Besides the food crisis, that country is also starving at water shortage amid a sharp depreciation in value of currency leading to a spiral in food prices which is further leading to the woes of the public there.

While the situation is at the brink of collapse, the terror groups like the Al Qaeda and ISIS are eyeing at milking the donations from foreign donors through shell Non-Governmental Organisations.



Al Qaeda and ISIS have in the past registered shell NGOs and recruited their cadres to man these social welfare organisations and deputed them to other countries. The terror cadres spotted and recruited people in other countries in lieu of humanitarian relief.

Founder President of Afghanistan Republican Salvation Front (ARSF) and counter-terrorism analyst of Afghan origin Dr Ajmal Sohail said, "There is a need to do due diligence while apportioning relief materials to the NGOs and assistance should only be given to relief organisations only after background checks."

In the face of the food crisis in Afghanistan, relief materials distribution is expected to attract large footfalls at the offices of the NGOs, a situation which could be exploited by the wrangling terror groups to execute blasts. Such places also need to be monitored, Dr Sohail further said.

India-based counter-terrorism expert Dr Rituraj Mate said, "To add to the woes of the Afghan population staring at

**Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and its terror cohorts like the Haqqani Network, Lashkar-e-Tayabba and Jaish-e-Mohammad could exploit the crisis situation to further expand the terror base**

food crisis, the Taliban's inability to control the ground level cadres is leading to the elimination of doctors and engineers who considered moderate as per the Sharia laws in vogue there. The killing of the doctors, medical engineers and technicians could lead to a healthcare crisis as well for a starving population susceptible to diseases."

Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and its terror cohorts like the Haqqani Network, Lashkar-e-Tayabba and Jaish-e-Mohammad could exploit the crisis situation to further expand the terror base with recruitment of the starving population, including the erstwhile government employees, Dr Mate added.

# Pawar takes a dig at Fadnavis over his 'I still feel like CM' remark

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

Nearly two years after he received severe flak for his "oft-repeated" "Me Punha Yain, Me Punha Yain..." comment, senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis has become a butt of jokes in the State political circles once again for his "I still feel I am the Chief Minister of Maharashtra" comment. After several political leaders took a swipe at him, it was NCP chief Sharad Pawar's turn to poke fun at Fadnavis on Wednesday.

A day after Fadnavis went to town saying: "I still feel that I am Chief Minister as the love and affection of people for me has not receded", Pawar took a dig at the BJP leader and said: "It's good that the BJP leader

(Devendra Fadnavis) still considers himself as the chief minister. I congratulate him".

Talking to media persons here, Pawar said: "After being the chief minister for five years, Fadnavis still feels he is holding the post. I lacked this ability. I have served as Chief Minister of Maharashtra four times. But I didn't even remember. Because of Fadnavis, I now remember that".

Fadnavis had created a sensation in the state political circles on Tuesday through his somewhat self-congratulatory remark at a public meeting at Navi Mumbai on Tuesday.

"The people of the State have never made me feel that I am not the CM... I have not been sitting at home... I

have been working very hard and touring all over the State for the past two years... But the people's love and respect has not waned... I still feel that I am the CM," Fadnavis had said.

NCP's National Spokesperson and Minister Nawab Malik had ridiculed Fadnavis by saying: "It appears he (Fadnavis) is still to come to terms with the reality that the MVA Government is at the helm of affairs in the state for the past two years.

"He must realise that even the post of Leader of Opposition that he is holding is as important as that of the CM. He should sincerely work hard to live up to it," Malik advised. Congress' state Spokesperson Sachin Sawant said that Fadnavis not prepared

for the "unimaginable jolt" he received when the MVA government assumed office two years ago. "I look at this as a reaction coming out of hallucination...If a person starts hallucinating, he must be given medical attention on priority".

Fadnavis, who was exuding confidence of returning to power in the state, is still remembered for Me Punha Yain, Me Punha Yain" made repeatedly at public rallies in the run-up to the 2019 State Assembly. It is another matter that after the October 2019 polls, the Shiv Sena severed its ties with the BJP and joined hands with the NCP and Congress to form the MVA government in November 2019, thus reducing Fadnavis' stint as the chief minister dur-

ing his second term to mere 80 hours.

So much so that the ruling MVA leaders took potshots at Fadnavis when he was elected as the leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly on December 1, 2019.

Senior NCP leader Jayant Patil had a dig at him in the lower House, by saying: "Fadnavis is an ideal person to become the LoP. He has a knowledgeable person. He performed well as the chief minister. He comprehended issues well and solved them. To just exhibit his confidence, he said "Me Punha Yain, Me Punha Yain" in election rally after election rally. But, he did not say where he would sit - in the treasury benches or in the Opposition".

# Govt notifies new rules for allowing abortion till 24 weeks of pregnancy for certain categories of women

**New Delhi:** The Government has notified new rules under which the gestational limit for termination of a pregnancy has been increased from 20 to 24 weeks for certain categories of women.

According to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Rules, 2021, these categories include survivors of sexual assault or rape or incest, minors, women whose marital status changes

during an ongoing pregnancy (widowhood and divorce) and those with physical disabilities.

The new rules also cover mentally ill women, cases of foetal malformation that has a substantial risk of being incompatible with life or if the child is born it may suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities to be seriously handicapped and women with pregnancy in humanitarian settings or disaster or emergency

situations as may be declared by the government. The new rules come under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021 passed by Parliament in March.

Earlier, abortion required the opinion of one doctor if it is done within 12 weeks of conception and two doctors if it is done between 12 and 20 weeks.

According to the new rules, a state-level medical board will be set up to decide

if a pregnancy may be terminated after 24 weeks in cases of foetal malformation and if the foetal malformation has a substantial risk of it being incompatible with life or if the child is born it may suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities to be seriously handicapped. The function of the Medical Board shall be to examine the woman and her reports if she approaches for medical termination of preg-

nancy and provide the opinion with regard to the termination of pregnancy or rejection of a request for termination within three days of receiving the request. The Board has also been tasked to ensure that the termination procedure, when advised by it, is carried out with all safety precautions along with appropriate counselling within five days of the receipt of the request for medical termination of pregnancy. **PTI**

# ₹3.25 cr khadi products sold on Gandhi Jayanti in Gujarat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

This Gandhi Jayanti saw a massive sale of Khadi products in Gujarat, the land of the Mahatma. On 2nd October this year, the overall sale of Khadi products stood at ₹3,25,5000 (₹ 3.25 crore) across all 311 Khadi India outlets in Gujarat.

The sale of Khadi in Gujarat this year has increased by ₹33.12 lakh (11.32%) as compared to the year 2020, when the gross sale of Khadi in the state on 2nd October stood at Rs 2,92,38,000 (₹2.92 crore).

In order to give a special boost to Khadi sales, KVIC set up exhibition-cum-sales outlets at Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat and Rajkot railway stations as part of the "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" in which Khadi's sale worth ₹ 5.14 lakh was recorded.



Chief Minister of Gujarat Bhupendra Patel and several other ministers also visited Khadi India outlets to purchase Khadi products.

KVIC Chairman VK Saxena attributed the massive Khadi sales to the frequent appeals of the Prime Minister to buy and promote Khadi and also the acceptance of Khadi among the masses in Gujarat. "Gujarat is the land where Babu first spun Khadi.

Therefore, Khadi has always found great support from the people of Gujarat.

The eco-friendly and natural benefits of Khadi have made it the most acceptable brand in not only Gujarat but also the other parts of India. KVIC is constantly adding new products to cater to the larger consumer base while maintaining the highest quality standards despite challenges," Saxena said.



# Inflation rises 5.4% from year ago

## MATCHING 13-YEAR HIGH

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Consumer prices rose 0.4 per cent last month, slightly higher than August's gain and pushing annual inflation back to the highest increase in 13 years.

The consumer price index rose 5.4per cent in September from a year ago, the Labor Department said Wednesday, up slightly from August's gain of 5.3per cent and matching the increases in June and July, which were the highest since 2008.

Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, core inflation rose 0.2per cent in September and 4per cent compared with a year ago. Core prices hit a three-decade high

of 4.5per cent in June.

The unexpected burst of inflation this year reflects sharply higher prices for food and energy, but also new and used cars, hotel rooms, clothing, and furniture, among other goods and services.

Covid-19 has shut down factories in Asia and slowed U.S. Port operations, leaving container ships anchored at sea and consumers and businesses paying more for goods that don't arrive for months.

Higher prices are also outstripping the pay gains many workers are able to obtain from businesses, who are having to pay more to attract employees. Average hourly wages rose 4.6per cent in September from a year earlier, a healthy increase, but not enough to keep up with inflation.

Gas prices jumped 1.2per cent last month and have

soared more than 42per cent compared with a year ago. Electricity prices rose 0.8per cent in September from August.

Supply chain disruptions continue to drive new car prices higher, which rose 1.3per cent last month and are up 8.7per cent from a year ago, the largest 12-month increase since 1980. A shortage of semiconductors has restrained vehicle production and left fewer cars on dealer lots.

The rapid price increases have raised pressure on the Federal Reserve, which has pegged its benchmark interest rate at nearly zero to spur more borrowing and spending. Yet inflation is far above its target of 2 per cent. Chair Jerome Powell has repeatedly said that the price gains should "abate" next year, bringing inflation closer to the target.

# Market on a roll: Indices capture new peaks; log 5th straight gains

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity gauges Sensex and Nifty on Wednesday climbed to new record highs, stretching their winning run to the fifth consecutive session, as investors continued to lap up auto, power and infra shares.

After scaling a lifetime intraday high of 60,836.63 during the session, the 30-share Sensex settled 452.74 points or 0.75 per cent higher at 60,737.05 - its all-time closing high.

Similarly, the Nifty rallied 169.80 points or 0.94 per cent to a new closing peak of 18,161.75. It also touched an intra-day record of 18,197.80.

M&M was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, zooming over 5 per cent, followed by PowerGrid, ITC, L&T, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel and Titan.

On the other hand, Maruti Suzuki, HUL, Nestle India, Axis Bankand SBI were among

the laggards.

Sectorally, BSE auto, utilities, momentum, industrials and power indices rallied up to 3.46 per cent, while reality index ended in the red.

Broader midcap and smallcap indices surged up to 1.56 per cent.

Auto stocks led by Tata Motors propelled the Nifty to new highs of 18200 with good support from infra and metal stocks on the launch of the Master Plan for Infrastructure Development and Multi-Modal Connectivity," S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP securities, said.

As the street awaits earnings today from big IT names, Tata Group stocks hogged the limelight despite profit-taking in late afternoon trade, he added.

Sustained rebound in financials and Reliance Industries supported broader indices.

# Rupee recovers 15 paise to 75.37 on weak dollar, lower crude prices

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee on Wednesday rebounded by 15 paise to close at 75.37 against the US dollar following a rally in domestic equities and weak American currency in the overseas markets.

In addition, lower crude prices and a benign retail inflation in September also supported the rupee sentiment, forex dealers said.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened strong at 75.29 against the greenback.

During the session, the domestic unit swung between 75.19 and 75.51.

On Tuesday, the rupee had closed at 75.52 against the dollar.

Retail inflation fell to a five-month low of 4.35 per cent in September from 7.27 per cent in the year-ago period as prices of vegetables and other items declined.

## BRIEFS

**PETROL, DIESEL PRICES RISE ON HOLD**

**New Delhi:** Petrol and diesel price rise remained paused again on Wednesday much to the relief of consumers faced with an unprecedented increase in auto fuel prices for the past one month that has taken retail rates to record high levels across the country. Accordingly, in the national capital, petrol continues to be sold at ₹104.44 per litre and diesel at ₹93.17 per litre, the same levels as Tuesday.

**RELIANCE BOOSTS GREEN ENERGY PUSH**

**New Delhi:** Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries will buy a German maker of photovoltaic solar wafers and signed a deal with a Danish firm to manufacture hydrogen electrolyser as the oil-to-retail conglomerate acquired end-to-end technology for its multi-billion-dollar clean energy portfolio.

Reliance New Energy Solar Ltd (RNESL), a unit of the nation's most valuable company, will acquire NexWafe GmbH for 25 millioneuros (Rs 218 crore), Reliance said in a late stock exchange filing on Tuesday. It will also license Stiesdal A/S's technology for the hydrolysers, it said in a separate statement.

**TAKE FUEL WIN CAR CAMPAIGN**

**New Delhi:** Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd has launched "HPCL Aao Car Le Jao" Campaign for customers to have the opportunity to win car, bikes, laptops, LED TVs, smart phones, fuel vouchers on fueling from over 30 petrol pumps of HPCL in East Delhi, South Delhi and New Delhi. The campaign started on Wednesday will continue till until first week of January 2022.

**TIE-UP TO FACILITATE LARGER REACH FOR HOMEBUYERS**

**New Delhi:** Online real estate company Housing.com has announced a tie-up with the country's largest community management app MyGate to enable users of MyGate Homes to simultaneously list their properties on Housing.com and at the same time, it would help Housing.com to expand its customer base.

# Govt scraps basic customs duty on crude palm, soya, sunflower oil to cool down cooking oil prices

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Wednesday scrapped basic customs duty on crude varieties of palm, sunflower and soy-

abean oils as well as cut duties on refined edible oils to ease retail prices of cooking oils and provide relief to consumers during the festive season.

Edible oil industry body

SEA said the retail prices of cooking oils, which are ruling at a very high level, could now come down by up to Rs 15 per litre. The cut in import duty and cess, effective from

October 14, will remain in force till March 31, 2022, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said in two separate notifications.

Agri infrastructure devel-

opment cess (AIDC) has also been reduced on crude palm oil, crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower oil. Crude palm oil will now attract AIDC of 7.5 per cent, while the cess

will be 5 per cent each for crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower oil. Earlier, the cess was 20 per cent, while basic customs duty was 2.5 per cent.Post reduction, the effective customs

duty on crude palm oil will be 8.25 per cent. The effective duty on crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower oil will be 5.5 per cent. Earlier, the effective duty on these three crude items

was 24.75 per cent each.

The basic customs duty on refined varieties of sunflower, soyabean, palmolein and palm oil too has been slashed to 17.5 per cent each from 32.5 per cent.

NIFTY 50							BSE 500																											
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE		Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	DEEPAKNI	2869.95	2910.4	2839.75	2875	UBIL	1727	1735	1709.4	1723.15	UIJIVANSFB	23.6	23.6	22.75	22.8	BAYERCROP	5295	5295	5187	5195.05			
NIFTY 50	18097.85	18197.80	18050.75	18161.75	169.8		TATAPOWER	201.9	232.4	200	224.15	LTI	5833.05	5990	5828.45	5949.65	HSCL	50.25	51.7	50.25	50.95	BEMIL	1570.5	1570.5	1518	1523.25	PGHL	5796	5796	5585	5597.95			
TATAMOTORS	4629	523.85	4629	5097	88.85		TATAMOTORS	462.85	519.95	462.85	506.75	AXISBANK	797	804.3	793	794.2	HAL	1398.35	1428	1387.05	1394.65	CHALET	2470.9	250.2	241.75	242.85	KEI	990	990	950.3	954.2			
M&M	893	971.15	893	936.2	46.1		BHEL	72.4	78.65	71.5	76.4	MUTHOOTFIN	1544	1577	1542.15	1566.9	VIPIND	571	592.45	566.8	583.45	BRIGADE	462	477.9	454.7	461.4	ATUL	10731.65	10851.9	10649	10726.65			
TATACONSUM	820	854	818.05	851.75	35.6		SAIL	116.25	123.4	116.05	121.75	SCI	141.4	143	137	141.25	DALBHARAT	2072.1	2095	2057.9	2071.15	SPARC	295.3	302	293.25	294.65	3MINDIA	25940.75	26384	25658.1	26211.55			
ITC	242.55	250.9	240.15	250.9	9.6		TATACHEM	980	1144.5	980	1107.8	TRENT	1130	1208.3	1124.85	1174.5	GODREJSCOT	1029.15	1064.95	1021.2	1058.05	AVAS	2848	2899.65	2820.05	2854.5	STARCREDIT	107	107	104.85	105.55			
POWERGRID	195.1	204.5	194.15	200.65	6.7		TATASTEEL	1331	1376.15	1318.55	1354.2	TECHM	1388.1	1410.05	1378	1403.15	GADREVEP	130.15	144.75	130.15	144.75	WHIRLPOOL	2496	2529.45	2453.1	2519.2	STUDENTSCHEM	677	683.05	665	666.6			
ADANIPTS	740.6	764.6	739.1	762.15	25.25		DMART	4755	5599.3	4755	5122.55	DBL	695.05	749.3	695.05	728.2	ENDURANCE	1797	1886.1	1763.6	1865.45	MAZDOCK	271	276.75	267.3	270.85	BLISSGVS	113.1	113.35	111.9	112.65			
GRASIM	1637.65	1713.25	1622.80	1683.60	45.95		IDBI	58.8	62.85	55.25	59.2	INDUSINDBK	1188.5	1192	1185.5	1183.8	GRSE	228.5	239.65	228.5	239.65	BAJACON	2460	260.6	257.25	259	SWANENERGY	130.9	136.85	130.9	133.95			
LT	1727.00	1763.90	1724.05	1755.65	37.45		TCS	366.11	367.5	364.05	365.05	IBREALEST	153.4	157	149.35	151.05	METNAOLIS	2800	2800	2695	2710.45	RAMCOCEM	989.8	995	981.2	983.65	SIVN	28.15	28.5	28.15	28.2			
TECHM	1386.90	1410.00	1377.00	1403.00	28.55		ASHOKLEY	140.65	149.75	140.65	146.45	NAUKRI	6698	6840	6665.45	6815.35	JAINPAPER	96.4	100.7	96.5	97.05	CUB	171.8	172	166.6	168.95	GSPL	320	322.15	317.2	318.9			
TATASTEEL	1325.50	1376.55	1318.05	1356.30	27.4		RELIANCE	2683	2719.5	2669	2695.9	HEROMOTOCO	2930	2945	2909	2925.9	SUMICHEM	426.75	427.5	420	421	PAGEIND	37998.3	38316.25	37407.6	37501.1	DISHTV	20.15	20.15	19.3	19.4			
WIPRO	665	674.7	656	672.35	13.25		IDEA	10.78	10.97	10.63	10.7	AMARAJARAT	77.45	77.45	763	765.5	SHILPAMED	624.9	649.85	624.9	646.9	GRANULES	3291.1	3345	327	330.8	TORNTHARM	3114	3159.25	3100.85	3128.65			
TITAN	2539.90	2608.95	2490.00	2540.00	47.4		IRCTC	4860	4960	4831.2	4928.4	DELTACORP	286.95	290	278.05	283.3	CHAMBLFERT	389	397.3	381.15	384.2	SYNGENE	618.05	622.3	613	616.55	AIANG	1865.4	1875.25	1839.95	1851.1			
HINDALCO	499.95	512	495	507.4	8.75		ZEEL	303.9	321.6	298.8	317.25	WMT	2783	2783	2748.1	2764.65	HDFC	3920	4292.75	3920	4292.75	MFSL	995	1006.2	992	995.3								
ULTRACEMCO	7263.00	7389.90	7260.00	7351.00	100.85		M&M	888	970.95	888	935.55	BANKINDIA	59	60.4	58.95	59.25	MPHASIS	3129.9	3144.65	3087	3130.05	ENGINEERSIN	79.3	79.6	77.55	77.8								
SUNPHARMA	827.95	846.8	827.25	840.6	10.9		JINDALSTEL	416.1	442.55	412.1	432.3	TATACEMCO	7300	7386.05	7257.5	7349	IFCI	14.85	14.88	13.91	14.07	ITOI	120.85	127	120.85	124.5								
NTPC	145.5	147.25	144.7	146.4	1.85		IEX	790.1	819	783.65	793.65	BHARATFORG	790	813.45	789.95	804.25	PNCINFRA	363.9	395.55	363.9	391	OIL	235.45	235.55	229.1	229.85								
INFY	1695.95	1713.65	1680.05	1705.90	19.85		SBN	486.9	486.9	478	481.6	GRASIM	1644.5	1712.65	1623.7	1676.45	PRESTIGE	472.35	475.9	453.45	458.7	LTTS	4666.45	4700	4619.6	4691.05								
HCLTECH	1263.00	1270.80	1243.45	1265.00	14.65		ADANIANT	1570	1608.1	1551.1	1568.55	WSOLAR	474.75	474.75	454.15	460.55	ASTRAL	2276.2	2340	2264.8	2317.35	ADANTRANS	1686.85	1720	1664.5	1683.35								
RELIANCE	2670.00	2719.50	2669.30	2698.00	30.2		TITAN	2536	2609.9	2489.85	2537.1	PFC	143.65	145.6	142.25	142.7	NAVINFLOOR	3946.45	4030.35	3902.25	3948.95	GMM	4709.65	4775	4645.8	4693.85								
JSWSTEEL	673.8	692	671	681	7.25		ITC	242.55	251	240.5	249.35	EICHERMOT	2908.5	2958	2865	2904.8	KLIENT	3782.65	3809.4	3734.5	3777.15	LUXIND	3686.4	3748.85	3685.2	3707.05								
BAJFINANCE	7907.90	8010.00	7861.30	7935.00	79.25		INDHOTEL	216	235.25	214.6	231.3	HAPSTMNDS	1388.3	1398	1375	1378.5	GPITTECH	341.65	347.5	337.4	341.25	LALPATHLAB	3699	3781.9	3699	3772.25								
BPCL	457	460.4	453.3	459.4	41.5		BAJFINANCE	7899	8005	7864.3	7927.7	HINDUNILVR	2680	2692.75	2642.65	2646.85	RBLBANK	192.8	196.8	192.5	193.35	CEATLTD	1389.25	1404.95	1360	1362.5								
SHRECEM	27880.50	28240.00	27694.40	27900.50	194.7		NATIONALUM	105	106.65	103.3	105.2	MRF	85850	86770	85403.95	86120.85	NETWORK18	73.8	74	68.5	69	CARBORUNIV	892	914.95	891	901.3								
KOTAKBANK	3004.00	3022.00	2994.55	3008.00	12.9		TATACONSUM	819	853.8	819	848.4	BERGEPAINT	820.95	833.5	820.95	828.08	LEMONTREE	55.8	56.05	54.25	54.65	ADVENZYMES	405	407.9	391	393.6								
BRITANNIA	3871.40	3894.10	3854.50	3890.00	22.05		INDIAMART	8790	9550	8743.85	9483.3	JAIICORP	139	144	138.5	140.6	CAMS	3123	3133.95	3072.85	3082.65	GHCL	468	472	451.3	458.6								
BHARTIARTL	689	696.8	683.1	689.9	3.55		BAJAJINSV	18369	18571.1	18145	18186.45	TATACOMM	1399.95	1499	1398.45	1456.7	RAJESHPHARM	606	647.9	606	641.65	BALKRISIND	2610.9	2638.05	2585.2	2592.25								
HDFCBANK	1637.00	1648.00	1630.00	1637.00	7.4		TATACOFFEE	229.25	242.4	229.25	233.9	M&MFIN	186.65	191.2	185.75	186.1	WOCKPHARMA	494.8	494.8	480.05	481.85	BA5F	3410	3472	3400.1	3418.1								
DIVISLAB	2775.00	2775.00	2748.20	2764.80	8.9		TRIDENT	39.3	39.3	37.6	39.3	SUNPHARMA	830	846.8	828.45	842.5	APOLLOTYRE	240	244.4	238.3	238.95	FCNSUMER	7.8	8	7.65	7.71								
DREDDY	4909.00	4946.00	4890.10	4924.75	14.45		ADANIPOWER	102	106.75	101.8	106.75	SPICEJET	78.7	79.5	77.15	77.7	AUROPHARMA	739.95	739.95	728.5	728.65	SIEMENS	2275	2276.65	2226.35	2249.55								
UPL	744.3	754.25	741.65	746	1.7		ADANIPTS	743.9	764.5	739.1	759.2	AARTIND	1105	1123.5	1099.15	1108	IOB	23.25	23.55	22.55	22.7	NAM-INDIA	450	453.05	440.3	441.6								
TCS	3650.00	3675.45	3645.00	3658.05	5.2		WIPRO	665	674.7	656	672.55	COROMANDEL	856	882	856	869.25	IRB	212.4	213.1	207.6	211.3	AIANTPHARM	2276.45	2294.1	2250	2258.4								
HEROMOTOCO	2926.00	2946.85	2907.05	2920.10	3.45		UNIONBANK	39.95	45	39.95	44.35	KNRCON	301	313.75	296.25	312.35	AFFILE	1209	1209	1165.5	1178	KEC	458.05	471	458.05	464.9								
ICICIBANK	713.85	715.9	707.95	708.9	0.3		BPCL	455.7	460.2	453.35	458.75	FSL	206.15	214	206.15	207.65	ICICIPRULI	667	668.4	655.6	657.15	GRINDWELL	1509.95	1524.55	1464.9	1478.15								
IOC	131.95	132.35	130.3	131.25	0		EDFCEIRSTB	49.5	49.7	48.7	48.85	MINDAIND	783.9	830.3	769.8	822.6	SOBHA	869	869	825.5	828.35	THYROCARE	1116	1189.05	1116	1169.1								
INDUSINDBK	1188.10	1191.95	1175.25	1181.00	-0.9		SRF	2544	2544	2400	2406	ABFRL	27.41	27.5	26.35	27.01	PIIND	3327.7	3348.8	3289.35	3336.05	BALMLAWRIE	130.1	133.5	129.85	131.55								
ASIANPAINT	3343.00	3358.90	3291.40	3319.00	-4.25		MINDTREE	4300	4381.5	4276.2	4363.25	MAHSEAMLES	451	475	443.5	444.5	IMFANFINCL	93.3	96.9	93	93.9	ACC	2521	2269.15	2249.6	2259.7								
BAJAJINSV	18355.00	18574.90	18166.00	18176.05	-46.6		JUBLFOOD	4293	4577.45	4267.55	4526.6	GSFC	135.9	143.55	133.85	139.6	CANFINHOM	703	707.9	687.55	690.15	ABB	1818	1875.95	1801	1809.35								
BAJAJ-AUTO	3994.95	4050.00	3956.60	3966.70	-12.05		FEDERALBNK	89.4	94	88.65	93.55	GLNMARK	526.65	534.7	525.65	529.75	HINDPETRO	330.8	330.8	323.5	325.65	FORCEMOT	1547	1594.25	1521.4	1530								
CIPLA	921.65	924.45	912.05	913.15	-2.8		TATAINVEST	1492	1719.85	1484.05	1667.4	KRBL	314.4	331.5	308.5	324.4	CUMMINSIND	913	913	896	897.95	GODFREYPHLP	1289.95	1350	1252	1333.65		</						



# Jaishankar proposes Chabahar Port be included in North-South Transport Corridor

**Yerevan (Armenia):** Stressing on the need for enhanced connectivity, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday proposed that the strategic Chabahar Port in Iran be included in the North-South Transport Corridor that has the potential to bridge connectivity barriers, as he agreed on a roadmap for future course of cooperation and exchanges during his meetings with Armenia's top leadership.

Jaishankar, who arrived here on Tuesday on the last leg of his three-nation tour to Central Asia with an aim to further expand bilateral ties and discuss key regional issues including the developments in Afghanistan, is the first-ever External Affairs Minister to visit Armenia.

The minister called on Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and conveyed greetings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to him.

"Thank PM @NikolPashinyan of Armenia for receiving me today. Conveyed greetings of PM @narendramodi. Meeting brought out the many convergences and shared outlook of our two countries. We agreed to develop a broad agenda of practical cooperation that is to our mutual benefit," he tweeted.

Earlier, Jaishankar held bilateral talks with his Armenian counterpart Ararat Mirzoyan and addressed a joint press meet with him.

"Both India and Armenia are members of the

International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), which has the potential to bridge the connectivity barrier. So Minister Mirzoyan and I discussed the interest which Armenia has shown in utilisation of the Chabahar Port in Iran and being developed by India," Jaishankar said in his remarks.

"We also proposed the Chabahar Port be included in the International North-South Transport Corridor; we welcome the use of the Chabahar Port and any other initiative that will encourage regional connectivity," he said.

The Chabahar port in the Sistan-Balochistan province in the energy-rich nation's southern coast is easily accessible from India's western coast and

is increasingly seen as a counter to Pakistan's Gwadar Port located at a distance of around 80-km from Chabahar.

The first phase of the Chabahar port was inaugurated in December 2017 by then Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, opening a new strategic route connecting Iran, India and Afghanistan bypassing Pakistan.

The Chabahar port is being considered as a gateway to golden opportunities for trade by India, Iran and Afghanistan with Central Asian countries, besides ramping up trade among the three countries in the wake of Pakistan denying transit access to New Delhi.

On asked about India's interest in developing the Chabahar Port, Jaishankar said,

"we are interested because if we develop more ports in Iran and then connectivity from those ports to northwards of Iran, it opens up more trade routes which are land-based, which are more efficient than these sea-based routes.

"So the key today to economic progress is to be more competitive in terms of movement of goods and that is why this is important and, at least, I mentioned Chabahar to the minister because it is a port in Iran which India is developing and for us it opens up a pathway at least one side to the Caucasus (intersection of Europe and Asia), opens up a different pathway to Central Asia and it is an initiative that we are working with the Russians very closely." **PTI**

# New chapter opened in Af, world relations: Taliban FM

IANAS ■ DOHA/KABUL

The Taliban-led Government in Afghanistan has "opened a new chapter" in relations with the international community by sending a message of good ties to the world, said Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi.

He made the remarks while addressing an event on Monday organised by the Centre for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, TOLO News reported.

"Afghanistan has sent the message of positive relationship with the whole world. We do not want to interfere in any country's internal affairs, and we expect the same from other countries to not interfere in our internal affairs," he said.

The Acting Foreign Minister is part of an Afghan Taliban delegation which carried out a two-day meeting with US officials over the weekend in the Qatari capital. In his address, Muttaqi further said that the full implementation of the US-Taliban 2020 Doha agreement can address any problem between the two countries, adding that the Taliban wants a political system in Afghanistan that can respond to domestic needs.

"What we want in Afghanistan is a political structure as such that responds to our country's needs and at the same time is able to fulfil its responsibility at the international level," TOLO News quoted the Minister as saying.

When asked about reforms, women's education

and their right to work, Muttaqi said the world should not put pressure the Taliban and instead, it should cooperate in bringing reforms.

"You should not seek your demands through putting pressure... The previous government had international support. Now you are asking for all the reforms in two months.

"Schools for boys and girls were closed before us because of Covid. When Kabul fell to our hands, all schools were closed already. Schools in provinces were closed already. We have started reopening the schools," Muttaqi said.

The Minister claimed that under the Taliban Government, the Covid situation in the country has been controlled "very well", surprising doctors, TOLO News reported.

# 3 killed in shooting at postal facility in Memphis

AP ■ MEMPHIS

Two US Postal Service workers were fatally shot on Tuesday at a postal facility in Memphis and a third employee identified as the shooter died from a self-inflicted gunshot, authorities said. It was the third high-profile shooting in or near that west Tennessee city in weeks.

US Postal Inspector Susan Link said that three postal workers were found dead after the shooting at the East Lamar Carrier Annex in a neighbourhood southeast of downtown Memphis.

FBI spokeswoman Lisa-Anne Culp said at a news briefing with Link and others that the shooting was carried out by a third postal service worker. But no identities or possible motive were immediately released.

# Harvard moves Chinese language programme from Beijing to Taipei

**Beijing:** In a snub to China, Harvard University is moving its Chinese language programme from Beijing to Taipei, the capital of Taiwan, from next year after complaining of an "unwelcoming environment" from the host institution here.

"The programme decided to move to Taipei due to a perceived lack of friendliness from the host institution, Beijing Language and Culture University" (BLCU), Jennifer Liu, director of the Harvard Beijing Academy summer study abroad programme, told student newspaper The Harvard Crimson.

The shifting of the programme by the Ivy League American University to Taiwan is regarded as a snub to China which considers the estranged island as part of the mainland.

Liu said in recent years, the Harvard programme began to have difficulties accessing the needed classrooms and dorms.

For instance, the BLCU did not provide a single dorm for all the students, instead requiring the programme to split the students into two different dorms of different quality, or to find a hotel that could keep their students together, The Harvard Crimson report said.

"Given the condition they provided, we really couldn't run the programme with the quality that we are hoping to deliver to our students," Liu said.

"Liu suspects that the unwelcoming environment may be a product of a subtle shift in the Chinese government's attitudes towards US institutions, one precipitated by (President) Xi Jinping's rise to

power", Harvard Crimson report said.

In past years, the programme would typically host a small party to celebrate the Independence Day of the United States on the Fourth of July, during which students and faculty would eat pizza and sing the national anthem.

However, in 2019, BLCU notified the programme that it could no longer hold this holiday party. "We were told that our students we're not allowed to sing, to celebrate," Liu said.

However, William Kirby, a professor of China Studies and chairman of the Harvard Centre Shanghai, said the switch was made for purely logistical reasons, and collaborations between the Ivy League university and Chinese academics were continuing. **PTI**

# Imran Khan wants ISI chief Faiz Hameed to continue amid differences with Pak Army

**New Delhi:** Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan informed the federal cabinet that he had told Pakistan Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa that he wanted Lt. Gen. Faiz Hameed to continue as Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) director general for some time due to the critical situation in neighbouring Afghanistan, Dawn reported.

Reports about lack of consensus between the civil and military leadership over the matter had been making rounds on social media for the last few days, but after it appeared on regular media on Tuesday, Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry was compelled to clarify the government's point of view.

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf

(PTI) chief whip in the National Assembly Amir Dogar said Prime Minister Khan and Gen Bajwa held a detailed meeting late Monday night on the matter.

The meeting was also confirmed by Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry during his presser after the cabinet meeting, stating that the issue of appointment of new ISI DG Lt. Gen. Nadeem Ahmed Anjum had been resolved and that the PM enjoyed the authority to appoint the chief of the country's premier spy agency in accordance with law and Constitution.

Also sharing details of the meeting, Pak PM's aide on political affairs Amir Dogar said the premier wanted Lt. Gen. Hameed to stay as DG ISI in view of the situation in

Afghanistan, adding that Prime Minister Khan and Gen. Bajwa enjoyed relation of respect and dignity, the report said.

Khan was of the opinion that the government wanted to take all institutions on board, Dogar said. "The body language of the prime minister was quite positive and he seemed confident," he added.

The PTI's chief whip said the prime minister had told the cabinet that he was an elected prime minister and chief executive of the country.

"The prime minister has the authority to appoint the DG ISI and he held a detailed meeting with Chief of the Army Staff Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa in this regard," Chaudhry told the press conference. **IANAS**

# Process to appoint new ISI chief underway: Pak Min

**Islamabad:** The Pakistan government on Wednesday said the process to appoint the new chief of spy agency ISI was underway, amid widespread speculation that Prime Minister Imran Khan and the powerful Army Chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa were not on the same page over the key posting.

Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry, in a tweet, announced that the consultation between the Civilian and Military leadership over the appointment of Director General of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has been completed. **PTI**

## FROM PAGE 1

# DOCTORS FEAR COVID SURGE IN BENGAL OVER PROTOCOL VIOLATION

Though in the districts Puja starts on Maha Sashthi day in Kolkata --- thanks to the early inauguration spree of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee --- the festivities start from Tritiya or even earlier.

With this year being no exception, the revellers have been thronging the pandals in thousands 24x7. "Like every year this year too we are seeing the teeming people walking miles down the streets throughout the night and day ... which is not a good news for the minders of pandemic ... why don't the people understand the fallout ... why do they want to invite another wave ... As doctors we are issuing a strong warning ... the people must exercise utmost caution or else they would be in trouble ..." said Dr Abhijeet Chowdhury one of the nodal officers of the State Government.

The Calcutta High Court had in 2020 banned Puja hopping in a roundabout manner not only limiting entry but also directing the police to keep people 30-metre away from the pandals.

Though the High Court has retained the same order unlike last year, the police have not been asked to report compliance leading to laxity, lawyers said.

# LAKHIMPUR VIOLENCE 'CONDEMNABLE' BUT LOPSIDED ATTENTION DANGEROUS: FM

Due course of justice will also have a complete inquiry process to establish it," she said.

"And it's not being defensive about my party or my Prime Minister. It's being defensive about India. I will talk for India, I will talk for justice for the poor. I will not be mocked at. And if it is mocking, I will be defensive to stand up and say 'Sorry, let's talk on facts'. That's my answer for you," she said.

Ashish Mishra was named in an FIR following allegations that he was in one of the vehicles that mowed down four farmers protesting over UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit on October 3.

To a question on the farmers' protests, Sitharaman said that the three acts which the Government brought in were discussed by the various parliamentary committees over a decade.

She said all the three acts have been discussed variously by the State Governments, by the Center after the BJP came into power in 2014.

"This has been in the making for a decade now. Every stakeholder has been consulted," she said.

"When the farm laws were brought in the Lok Sabha, there was an elaborate discussion and the agriculture minister gave his reply as well. It was only when it came to the Rajya Sabha, there was a lot of noise and disturbance," she said.

Thousands of farmers from Punjab, Haryana and several other states have been

protesting on various borders of Delhi since November 26 last year, seeking repeal of three farm laws enacted in September. Dubbing these laws as "anti-farmer", these farmers claim that the newly enacted legislations would pave the way for the dismantling of the minimum support price system, leaving them at the "mercy" of big corporations.

Sitharaman said the protesters belong to one state and some parts of other States - "Punjab, Haryana and some parts of western Uttar Pradesh."

She said the Government has been saying that it is willing to talk with the protesters and has been engaging with them.

The Government has asked pointedly what is that one aspect in any one of the three laws which have been passed to which the protesters object, she said. "We are willing to talk about it, tell us that one particular aspect in any one of the three laws. Till date, we have not had even one particular aspect which is being questioned. And therefore, the protesters are not sure on what score they are protesting, what is it that they are objecting.

"Then there's this issue about the minimum support price to be given to farmers," she said, adding that the MSP are announced well in time and the farmers can decide whether they want to grow a crop or not and they can otherwise choose to grow something else.

She said once the farmers choose to grow any of these, for which a minimum support price is announced and procurements are done, through direct benefit transfer using technology, money is deposited as a lump sum into their accounts.

"The highest amount of procurement, the largest ever payment per farmer under the minimum support price which is declared has happened in the last seven years after Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi has come. Highest ever.

"The number of farmers, the total quantum of money, total quantum of grain procured in each one of them - the highest has happened season after season in the last seven years," she said.

Highlighting that there are recorded conversations "which you can see of farmers even from Punjab, even from Haryana", she said farmers have got the entire amount into their account.

"This is verifiable, not a claim which I'm making. You can go and check it out. Highest amount and the entire amount is given into the account directly the day after procurement is done. No staggering, no delaying," she said.

"So we have not been told what it is that they're protesting against as yet and the minister is willing to talk even today."

# PM UNVEILS ₹100L CR MASTER PLAN TO GIVE GATI TO ECONOMY

Stating that high logistics cost in India at 13 per cent of GDP was impacting competitiveness in exports, he said, adding that PM Gati Shakti is aimed at reducing logistic cost and turnaround time. This, he said, will give a boost to India as an investment destination. The PM said the speed and scale that India is witness-

ing under his government was never seen in the previous 70 years of Independence.

Giving examples, he said the first inter-State natural gas pipeline was commissioned in 1987. From then to 2014, 15,000-km of the natural gas pipeline was built. Currently, more than 16,000-km of the new gas pipeline is being constructed. "What was done in 27 years, we are doing in it in less than half that time," he said.

In five years prior to the BJP Government coming to power in 2014, 1,900-km of the rail line was doubled, while in the last 7 years 9,000-km of rail line doubling has happened. Similarly, against 3,000 km of railway line electrification in five years prior to 2014, 24,000 km rail line doubling has happened in the last 7 years, Modi said.

From 250-km of metro in 2015, the metro rail network has expanded to 700-km and work is on another 1,000-km, he said, adding 1.5 lakh village panchayats have been connected with optic fibre network in last 7 years as compared to only 60 village panchayats in five years prior to 2014. Vessel turnaround time at ports has been reduced from 41 to 27 hours and attempts are being made to reduce it further, he said, adding 4.25 lakh circuit km of power transmission line have been laid against 3 lakh circuit km in five years prior to 2014. Renewable energy has expanded the times, he said.

PM Gati Shakti plan involves the creation of a common umbrella platform through which infrastructure projects can be planned and implemented in an efficacious manner by way of coordination between various ministries/departments on a real-time basis.

Modi said over the years, the signage "work in progress" became the symbol of lack of trust. Progress requires speed, eagerness and collective efforts and today's 21st century India is leaving behind old systems and practices, he said.

"We have not only developed a work culture of completing the projects within the stipulated time frame but efforts are now being made to complete the projects ahead of time," he added.

# NIA ARRESTS 9 IN J&K

"The terror associates/OGWs (over-ground workers) of these organisations are conspiring with their handlers and commanders based in a neighbouring country and also indulging in radicalization of local youth for the purpose of recruiting and training them in the handling of arms, ammunition and explosives," it said.

These terrorists and cadres have conducted several terrorist acts, including killings of numerous innocent civilians and security personnel, unleashing a reign of terror in the valley of Kashmir, thereby challenging the writ of the State, it said.

"Preliminary investigation has revealed that arrested accused persons are terror associates/OGWs of various proscribed terrorist organisations and have been providing logistical and material support to terrorists and facilitating them in their nefarious designs and carrying out terror activities," it added.

# SC raps UP Bar Council for no action against lawyers submitting fake insurance claims

**New Delhi (PTI):** The Supreme Court has rapped the Bar Council of India for not taking action against advocates who allegedly submitted fake claims under Motor Accident Claims Tribunal and Workmen Compensation Act causing loss in crores of rupees to the insurance companies.

It is very unfortunate that in such a serious matter, where the allegations are of filing of fake claim petitions involving advocates, the Bar Council of UP is not giving instructions to them for making submissions, the apex court said.

A bench of Justices MR Shah and AS Bopanna said it shows the callousness and insensitiveness on the part of the UP Bar Council and asked Chairman of Bar Council and senior advocate Manan Kumar Mishra to look into the same.

"As such it is the duty of the Bar Council of the State to take action against the advocates who are found to have been indulged in such unethical manner by filing the fake claims under the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal and Workmen Compensation Act.

"As observed herein above, it appears that Bar Council of

State is not interested in taking action and, therefore, now the Bar Council of India has to step in and take appropriate action against the erring advocates, who are found to have indulged into filing of such fake claims," the bench said.

The top court also directed a Special Investigation Team (SIT), constituted in compliance of the order dated October 7, 2015 passed by the Allahabad High Court, to submit report with regard to the probe in a sealed cover before it on or before November 15.

The apex court took note of a supplementary affidavit filed on behalf of UP government stating that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted in compliance of the order dated October 7, 2015 passed by the Allahabad High Court.

The bench noted that the ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited forwarded cases of suspicious claims related to various insurance companies forwarded by the District Judge Rae Bareilly, cases referred to the SIT by various courts and the High Court, cases of suspicious claims of Motor Accident Claims

Tribunal and Workmen Compensation Act referred to by various Insurance Companies.

"The SIT has received total 1,376 complaints/cases of suspicious claims. It is stated that out of total 1,376 cases of suspicious claims received by SIT, enquiry of 246 cases of suspicious claims has been completed till date and after having found prima facie offence of cognizable offence in nature against total 166 accused persons which includes petitioners/applicants, advocates, police personnel, doctors, insurance employees, vehicle owners, drivers etc. and total 83 criminal complaints have been registered in various districts," the bench noted. The affidavit further stated that the enquiry of remaining cases of suspicious claims is underway.

The apex court, in its October 5 order, also took note of the submission that out of total criminal complaints registered so far, investigation of 33 criminal cases has been completed and legal process of submitting charge sheet against the accused persons is underway.

The top court said that SIT

was constituted pursuant to the order passed by the Allahabad HC for conducting enquiry and investigation of the cases related to causing loss in crores of rupees to the insurance companies as back from 2015 and despite the same, the investigation/enquiry has not been completed till date.

The bench said that it is very unfortunate that even the SIT has not taken the prompt action and has not completed investigation/enquiry.

"The manner and the speed in which the enquiry is going on and is underway is deprecated. The State of UP/ SIT is hereby directed to file a better affidavit in a sealed cover with respect to complaints filed/enquiry completed, the names of the accused, where the criminal complaints are filed and in which criminal cases the charge sheets have been filed.

"On a separate sheet, the names of the advocates against whom the prima facie cases of cognizable offences have been found to be disclosed in a sealed cover so that the list can be sent to the Bar Council of India for further action," the bench said.



Buddhist monks from Thailand offer prayers on the memorial day of Thailand's late king Bhumibol Adulyadej at Mahabodhi temple, in Bodhi Gaya on Wednesday **PTI**





# EXPLORING HERITAGE AND FOLK MUSIC

SPIC MACAY has been giving a glimpse into the rich cultural legacy and art forms over the years. TANMAYA DAS finds out the true essence of Indian culture by exploring what has changed in the post-pandemic world

Having your day started with mesmerising folk music and traditions may help you to appreciate the charm of Indian history and culture. To gain some insights on Indian values, I attended an online series of programs, organised by SPIC MACAY, ANUBHAV-3, where more than 14,000 students have participated in several workshops globally. The seven-day online sessions and workshops are helping people to understand the core values of rich classical music and Indian heritage. The event will continue till October 15.

## ◆First day

The first day of the event started with the line-up of yoga and meditation sessions on *nada* yoga or meditation on sound. After *shramdaan* (donation of labour) as a part of selfless service to society, the screening of Oscar-winning film *Gandhi* by Richard Attenborough was shown, followed by a discussion on the movie with Professor Gita Dharampal of Heidelberg University. In the afternoon, a holistic lunch was organised where participants were advised to eat sattvic food. Then, an orientation programme was held, in order to brief the students on the cultural extravaganza. In the evening, the early holistic dinner was prepared to help the students to wake up early the next day. The first day concluded with the two classical music concerts by Indian vocalists Sheik Mahboob Subhani, Kaleeshabi Mahaboob (*nadaswaram*) and Begum Parveen Sultana.

## ◆Second day

The second day marked the beginning of five-day classical dance, music and craft workshops by eminent Gurus, for selected students.

The day started at 4 am or brahma *muhurta* with yoga and meditation sessions on *naad* yoga by Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar, who descends from a 20 generation-long line of *dhrupad* musicians from the Dagar *gharana*. In tranquil succession, the session of hatha yoga began under the guidance of Amit Shamnani, which began with the visualisation of the ultimate source of energy to boost the concentration power, which was followed by the Surya namaskar session.

After the yoga sessions, participants were asked to perform *shramdaan*. The students were urged to do household chores and cleaning before having a holistic and sattvic breakfast from 7 to 8:45 am. After the holistic breakfast, the first intensive was to give an unparalleled platform to the participants to deeply inquire into art-forms of their interest, vis-a-vis with maestros and legends of their respective fields. The yoga series was followed by 150 workshops conducted simultaneously by eminent artists, spanning art-forms of classical music, dance, painting, and crafts where more than 15,000 students across the globe attended 150 workshops. More than 750 schools and colleges from India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Japan, S Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, UAE, are participating. Students will attend Carnatic and Hindustani classical music, all eight classical dances, folk music and dance, traditional paintings, theatre led by established artists. Next followed the *nidra* session, where the students were instructed to stay in the yogic posture of rest and calm down their senses and minds, listening to the soothing voices and instructions. For 15 minutes, the participants were guided into a relaxed state of mind, post which they were



rejuvenated, full of energy and mindfulness. The afternoon session saw a wonderful performance by acclaimed folk singer Shri Prahlad Singh Tipaniya, a performer of Kabir bhajans in *malavi* folk tradition (Madhya Pradesh). Along with his entourage of proficiently adroit instrumentalists.

Next in schedule was the thought-provoking theatre performances that proffered a vivid reflection of society, which was brilliantly exemplified by Padma Shri awardee, Dr Neelam Mansingh. Commemorating the interim of events in the evening, participants were dismissed to consume their holistic dinner of sattvic food in preparation for the closing events of the evening.

Later, the Indian instrumentalist Bhajan Sopori ran his dexterous fingers all across the century of delicately suspended strings of santoor. The euphonious reverberations of *ragas marwa* and *puriya kalyan* pierced into the hearts of every listener, evoking an array of emotions by the sleight of each *swar's* rhapsodic hand.

The second day was concluded with a sattriya dance performance of Ganakanta Bora, who gracefully took centre stage, as he mesmerised



the audience with his inescapably masterful expressional emittances, conveying a plethora of abstract emotions without a word escaping his jowl.

## ◆Third day

The third day started with a blissful nada yoga session by Padma Shri awardee, Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar (*dhrupad* vocalist), who taught the students to master *mandra*, *saptak*, and *kharaj* through raag bhairav. This was followed by the traditional *hatha* yoga sessions by Amit Shamnani from Bihar School of Yoga, to instill vitality. It started with mantra *ucharan* and ended with pranayama, *nadi shodhan* and *pranathan*.

At 6 am, a meditation session started to calm down the restless senses. Later, the audience was blessed with *Gurbani* Live from Sri

Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple). The next session was *Shramdaan* and after breakfast, the students joined more than 150 intensive/workshops by various master craftspersons, masters, Gurus of classical music, dance and other forms of art from all over India.

Post lunch, a *yog nidra* session was conducted by the founder of SPIC MACAY, Dr Kiran Seth, who guided the students to lay in the yogic posture of rest (*savaasana*), to relax and meditate on their senses and calm down their minds, listening to his soothing voice and instructions.

The afternoon session opened up with legendary puppeteer, Dadi Pudumjee. He is the founder of Ishara Puppet Theatre Trust and president of UNIMA. The theme revolved around introducing and educating the students about the nuances of puppetry. An interesting part of the discussion was about how puppets are known in the world around us.

The afternoon session concluded on a calm and serene note with an enlightening talk by Sister Shivani of the Brahma Kumaris movement. Her pearl knit words revolved around the need to kill the Ravana within us, reflecting on the habits and thoughts of humans.

The evening session commenced with a Bharatanatyam recital by the most graceful Padmashri Malavika Sarukkai. The wisdom in her words about her ideology and passion for her art captured the audience. Later on, the beauty of auspicious veena played by Suma Sudindras, who is the recipient of Karnataka's highest civilian award, Rajyotsava Award, along with Charulatha Ramanujan on violin, Anoor Ananthkrishna on Mridangam and SN Narayanamurthy on Ghatam, set a mystical aura for the last concert of the day.

## ◆Fourth day

The fourth day again began with a meditation session at Brahma *muhurta* followed by *shramdaan*, holistic breakfast, workshops, lunch and yoga *nidra*. The afternoon was followed by several lectures around whirling dervishes (Turkey), gregorian chants (France) and Gurbani.

The evening sessions featured live concerts by Umayalpuram K Sivaraman (Mridangam) and Abhishek Raghuram (Carnatic Vocal), along with the symphonies of Abhishek Raghuram with K Sivaraman, the awardee of Madras Music Academy's Sangeetha Kalanidhi on Mridangam. The audience was enthralled by the enriching aalaaps paired with the soulful violin by HN Bhaskar and Kanjira by Sundar Kumar. It was followed by a live concert by the Dhrupad and torchbearer tradition of Rudra Veena instrument, Ustad Bahauddin Dagar, who is the recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi award.

## ◆Fifth day

After Brahma *muhurta* followed by meditation and yoga, the participants had candid discussions with gurus, and together they delved deep into the aspects of life and learning the art-forms.

In the afternoon, the music brought peace in the environment with whirling dervishes, which is a part of sema ceremony and the participants are properly known as semazens. The physiological goal of the whirling is for the dervish to 'empty' himself of all distractions. The

session was insightful with the talks of Mr Fahri Özçakıl, the dervishes' spiritual leader, who spoke about its significance. The Indian Ambassador to Turkey Mr Sanjay Panda also spoke on the occasion about similarities in Sufi traditions in India and Turkey.

Next on the list was the Gregorian chant, which is the central tradition monophonic, an unaccompanied sacred song in Latin of the Roman Catholic Church. Professor Ilegor Reznikoff, a well-known specialist in ancient music/early Christian chant, shared some insights. Finally, a Gurbani session by Bhai Gurdev Singh, a hazaaragi ragis from Harminder Sahab (Golden Temple), enthralled the afternoon.

The evening sessions were graced with live concerts by Padmabhushan Dr L Subramaniam, followed by a Koodiyattam presentation, a traditional performing art-form in Kerala, by the very learned Kapila Venu.

## ◆Sixth day

After the regular yoga, *gurbani*, *shramdan*, workshop sessions, the evening will be followed by mesmerising presentations of Hindustani and classical music. Musicians, such as Ashwini Bhide Deshpande (Hindustani vocal), T V Sankaranarayanan (Carnatic vocal), Sudha Ragnathan (Carnatic Vocal), Prabhakar Karekar (Hindustani vocal) and Ritwik Sanyal (*dhrupad*).

## ◆Seventh day

On the last day, after breakfast, interactions with sculptors about the art installation, and lunch, there will be a virtual heritage tour of the Taj Mahal by the historian Ram Narayanan. The next on the list will be a holistic dinner followed by some western classical music.

During the sessions, the students have been kept away from the usual distractions of the world that is bombarded with too much knowledge and information. Participants are advised to go on a social media and 'TV fast' and slow down to savour, understand, and introspect, to derive their outlook of Indian heritage and its ethics.

In today's fast-moving world, stress and anxiety due to work have become quite a normal phenomenon for employees. Whether it's WFH — the new normal — as they say, or being physically present in the office. The unlimited virtual meets, back-to-back coordination with colleagues over calls, long office hours together have contributed to the ever-so-increasing pressure and stress in employees, thus, affecting their mental health and overall well-being. According to the latest data from Optum, a provider of employee assistance programmes to corporates states that 46 per cent of the work-force in Indian organisations suffers from different types of stressors. The pandemic and its toll have added to it. But it is important to keep in mind that overcoming drawbacks is a pre-requisite to building resilience. Instead of letting these emotions take over your self-confidence, you should go all out and face it with a smile and change these stressors into accomplishments.

Below mentioned are ways you can turn your work-related stress and anxiety into accomplishments:

## \*Build positivity

When we're feeling anxious, it becomes difficult to communicate and share our feelings with our colleagues. But it is better to have someone with whom you can speak your heart out and rely on, rather than suffer in silence. Hence, it is advised to start building positive relations with your co-workers and keep it transparent.

## \*Be realistic

Always being available for a new task with a positive outlook is a good gesture, but most of the time this tendency can add to one's stress and work pressure. Battling this is relatively easy when one knows and keeps a check on their to-do and

## Adjusting with the new normal

KANCHAN RAI suggests ways to turn your work-related stress and anxiety into accomplishments



accommodates their additional task efficiently. Employees should keep in mind that saying a no is not the problem, but over-committing and not being able to deliver might create a bad image and affect their overall performance.

## \*Talk it out

Venting out what you feel is important. There would be times when you feel a certain way, and letting it out will only help you get clarity. It eases you out and helps eliminate the feeling of isolation.

Socialising also helps reduce physical and mental exhaustion. As it is rightly said, "A problem shared is a problem half-solved."

## \*Let's bond

To know more about whom you work with and spend almost nine hours of your day with them, it is important to initiate a conversation with your colleagues during lunch or tea-breaks. The topic of conversation need not be related to work, but just a casual talk to break the ice can do the charm. This forms a

sense of comfort and ease amongst the co-workers and also helps to create a friendly working environment.

## \*Create a to-do list

Simple hacks like making to-do lists will help you understand the amount of work you have and need to accomplish. The list should be in the order of priority, so all the tasks can be completed on time with utmost efficiency. This can help to be more organised and enjoy the work instead of stressing over the deadlines.

## \*Take appropriate breaks

One should take enough breaks during their work hours. A break as simple as a brisk walk can do wonders as it releases natural mood-boosting painkillers called endorphins. It keeps the mind fresh and helps to be more focussed during work. Breaks not only assist in de-stressing and relaxing your mind but also monitors stress-levels. It increases productivity and re-charges you for the rest of the work-day.

All these mental health ailments have a deeply-rooted seating in your mind. Though these simple practices might not completely eradicate them, they can surely make you feel comfortable and improve your mood. By imbining these effective measures, one can convert their stressors into accomplishments successfully.

(The author is the founder of Let Us Talk and a mental and emotional well-being coach.)

## THE BIG PICTURE

Actor RANVEER SINGH is excited about following the route of many actors he idolises as he makes his TV debut

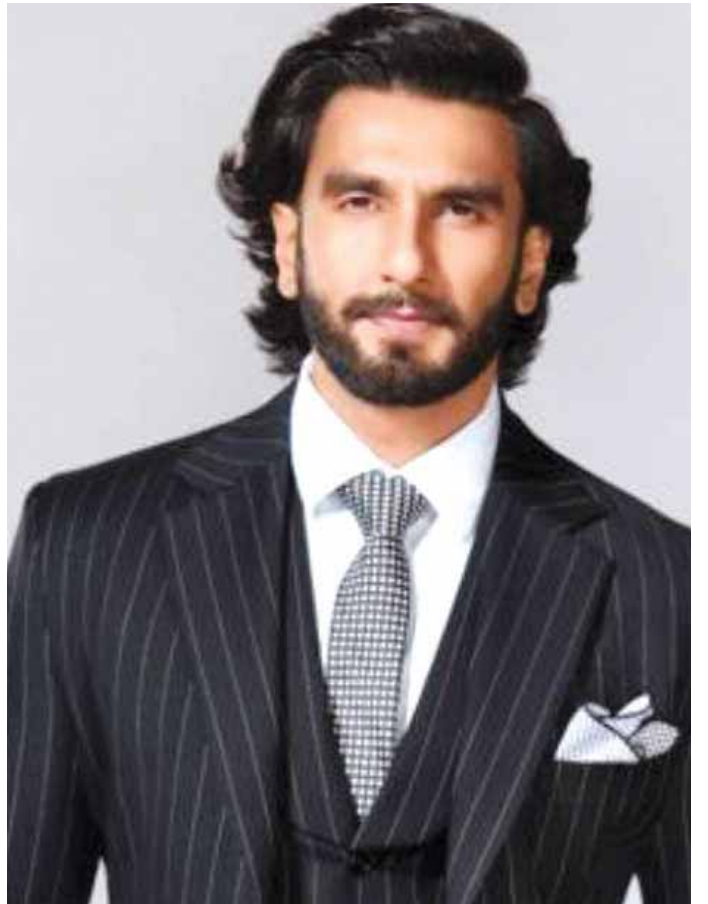
Bollywood actor, Ranveer Singh, who is all set for his big television debut as the host of a unique visual quiz show, *The Big Picture*, talks about taking inspiration from Bollywood legends before his TV debut.

Ranveer expressed, "I've idolised Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan and Akshay Kumar since childhood!" The quiz show will release soon on October 16 on Colours TV.

The versatile actor reveals that while growing up, he was mesmerised by on-screen titans, who have all successfully hosted big TV shows and entertained India. He said that he was humbled and glad by the opportunity.

"I'm thrilled to be hosting my first television show, *The Big Picture*! I'm enthused about entertaining the nation with a uniquely fresh format introduced by the ace squad at Colours TV. Iconic mainstream Hindi film heroes have all connected with and captivated the nation through their television shows. I've been inspired by them since childhood and closely followed their journey," said Ranveer.

Notably, all the popular non-fiction game shows on TV have been a bastion of superstars down the generations given their pan India mass appeal and incredible fan-following. Being a bonafide superstar of today's time, he feels his debut on television will help him connect with a larger audience. As an entertainer and a showman, he is looking forward to this opportunity.



"I always recognise the fact that they garnered an immense amount of love from people for their charismatic turns on the television screen. I have a great opportunity here with *The Big Picture* to connect with the youth of India, as well

as the entire Indian family audience. I hope I can continue the grand legacy of the mainstream men of Hindi cinema on national television! I can't wait for people to watch *The Big Picture*!" the actor added.

## TRENDBLAZER



## 'WOMEN SHOULD BE INDEPENDENT'

Actress **MALAIIKA ARORA** is going to be in the judge-panel along with Terence Lewis and Geeta Kapur in the upcoming dance reality show, *India's Best Dancer*.

The fitness enthusiast expressed, "I believe independence is the core of my being. I am very happy and fortunate to meet people who give me the right backing and the right push to do something."

"I am very headstrong like that. And, I think all women should be emotionally and financially independent," she added.

## fairtalk

BANI J



'The way I'm living my life right now is my happily ever after. I have people that I care about and who reciprocate. We can express love and appreciation for each other. I train whenever I want. I travel, spend time with people I love, create projects that I care about and be a part of those that fulfill me creatively, which I think is the best thing in the world.'

## dailytalk

DHEERAJ DHOOPAR



'TV shows cater to a different segment of audience. It eventually makes you a household name, whereas OTT projects have a good scope in experimenting with great content and storylines. In OTT, as an artist, one has freedom when it comes to acting, story or direction. TV is the toughest sector. A lot of hard work is involved to be a success.'

## EX-SUPERMAN IS NOT IMPRESSED

Actor **DEAN CAIN**, who played Superman in *Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman*, from 1993 to 1997, is impressed by the news that the superhero Clark Kent's son, Jon Kent, will be bisexual.

He shared, "They say it's a new direction, I say they're bandwagoning. Robin came out as bi. The new Captain America is gay. My daughter in *Supergirl* was gay."

"If they had done this 20 years ago, perhaps, that would be bold or brave. Brave would be having Superman fighting for the rights of gay people in Iran where they'll throw you off a building for the offense of being gay," the ex-Superman added.





