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NOTICE

First sale deed dated 04-11-1997 executed by Jagannath Shastri Telanag S/o Late Luxman Shastri Telanag and Subramanyam Jagannath Telanag & Narsing Jagannath Telanag and Luxman Jagannath Telanag Ss/o Sri Jagannath Shastri Telanag all R/o H.No. K. 30/40, Ghasi Tola, Varanasi Through their Power of Attorney holder Ramchandra Jaiswal S/o Late Sitaram R/o Cholapur, Varanasi infavour of Smt. Sarswati Devi W/o Chhannu Prasad Yadav R/o Kandwa, Dehat Amanat, Varanasi regarding the sale of S.M. Plot No. 191/2 having an area 2040 sqft. Mauza-Paharia, Pargana-Shivpur, Ward-Sarnath, Tehsil & Distt.-Varanasi duly registered with Sub Registrar Office Varanasi in B.No. 1, Vol. No. 235, Pages 203/232 as D.No. 3923 dated 04-11-1997. Second Sale deed dated 09-12-2005 executed by Smt. Sarswati Devi W/o Chhannu Prasad Yadav infavour of Smt. Isaraji Devi W/o Ram Dular Yadav regarding the sale H.No. Sa. 17/1-R-1, GA, Constructed over S.M. Plot No. 191/2 having an area 2040 sqft., Mauza-Paharia, Pargana-Shivpur, Ward-Sarnath, Tehsil & Distt.-Varanasi duly Registered with Sub Registrar Office Varanasi in B.No. 1, Vol. No. 874, Pages 255/292 as D.No. 2951 has been lost away. This property is going to be mortgage with Axis Bank Ltd., Varanasi if any person / Institution have any objection or information regarding these Sale Deed. Please Inform within 10 days on 9451525826, Harishchandra Rai, Advocate, Chamber No. 110, Banaras Bar Building, IInd Floor, Civil Court, Varanasi (U.P.).

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Ravinder Pal Singh Virdi to Ravinder Singh. Ravinder Singh S/o Bhupinder Singh Virdi R/o 120/434 Lajpat Nagar, Kanpur

NOTICE

I Rohan Ahuja S/o Sanjay Kumar Ahuja R/o C-804 Dilbagh Rose Garden 122/238 Fazalganj Kanpur-208012 have changed my name Aviral Ahuja for all future purposes.

AUCTION NOTICE

दिनांक 23.10.2021, मध्यान्ह 12:00 बजे कार्यालय प्रधान मुख्य आयकर आयुक्त, उ0प्र0 (पूर्वी), 5–अशोक मार्ग, लखनऊ निष्प्रयोज्य फर्नीचर, कम्प्यूटर/सहवर्ती उपकरण, जनरेटर, एअरकंडीशनर आदि की नीलामी, सिक्योरिटी रू0 10,000/– बैंकड्राफ्ट "आयकर विभाग, लखनऊ" पेबुलएट एस0बी0आई0, गर्वमेन्ट बिजनेस ब्रान्च, लखनऊ नामित, जमा प्रातः 10 बजे–12 बजे तक/आई.पी. सिंह एण्ड सन्स

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NOTICE

In school records my son's name written as Daksh Pratap Singh, now I changed the name of son from Daksh Pratap Singh to Raghav Pratap Singh for all purposes. Please change accordingly.Karn Pratap Singh A3/3 Mazar Lane, Reserve Police Line, Mahanagar, Lucknow.

NOTICE

It is informed to all people that I have purchased the building number EWS 98 acreage 40 square meter Swaraj Nagar from Shamim Ahmed son of late Mohammad Iftikhar.This property by Shamim Ahmed through RDA on 20/02/2007. 9/03/2007 Book No. 1 Volume No. 3811 Page 385 to 406 Serial No. 1065 which is registered with Sub-Registrar Sadar Rae Bareli, was purchased. This bainama has been lost somewhere during photocopy. this bainama is not mortgaged to any bank or financial institution. Najibun Nisha wife Late Mohammad Wasim resident of Swaraj Nagar Rae Bareli.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Poonam Singhal to Poonam Agarwal W/o Anuj Singhal. In future purpose me known as Poonam Agarwal W/o Anuj Singhal.1/27 Ghandhi Nagar Jhinjhak Kanpur Dehat

NOTICE

I Ankur Jauhari S/o late Gajendra Kumar Johri (Dr. G.K. Johri) R/o Gumti No. 5, Darshanpurwa, P.S. Fazalganj, P.O. R.K. Nagar, Kanpur - 208012 have chnaged my name to ANKUR JAUHARI for all future purposes.

सूचना

सूचित करते हैं कि हमारा मकान जिसका Allotment No. ALT-19634 वास्तव में खो गया है जिसका प्रयोग अवैध होगा–सुषमा मल्होत्रा W/o अनिल कुमार मल्होत्रा निवासी मकान नं0 109/66 माडल हाऊस (नियर केशव भवन)

# Digitisation in rural areas brings down land related disputes

**The state government started the online Varasat Campaign to free villagers from unnecessary land disputes and so far, more than 13.52 lakh cases pertaining to land disputes have been settled through this drive**

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh has witnessed a sharp decline in disputes related to agricultural and non-agricultural land largely due to the expediting of the digitisation process in rural areas and simplification of revenue collection procedures in the last four-and-a-half years of the Yogi Adityanath government in the state. The state government started the online Varasat Campaign to free villagers from unnecessary land disputes and so far, more than 13.52 lakh cases pertaining to land disputes have been settled through this drive.

The Yogi government also started Swamitva Yojana (Gharauni) to get villagers their land ownership rights and empower them. Gharauni is done in the name of a female member of the family in order to protect rural women. The government has distributed rural residential records (Gharauni) to 2.74 lakh land owners in 2,006 villages of the state. In order to empower landless farmers in rural areas, the state government has also distributed 6,371.883 hectares of agricultural land belonging to village societies to 26,149 landless people. Furthermore, 577 hectares of land has been given to 72,264 families while ponds spread over an area of 24071.685 hectares have been allotted to fishermen. Besides, 9,106 hectares of land has been allotted to 7,438 pottery artists.

"Soon after coming to office, the Yogi government simplified the rules to declare agricultural land as non-agricultural land to speed up the industrialisation process. The provision of declaring an agricultural land as non-agricultural land was implemented in view of the potential use of land for five years. The step has benefited farmers a lot," a government spokesman said in Lucknow on Saturday. The official added that the rules and regulations for leasing out private land in the state were also simplified. "Now, account holders can lease out their land for 15 years for agricultural work and 30 years for setting up solar energy plants. The Yogi government has taken several steps in the last four-and-a-half years to make life in villages easy through better infrastructure and improve the quality of life of the rural folk in Uttar Pradesh," he said.

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NOTICE

I here by Sanjay Ahuja as Sanjay Kumar Ahuja S/o Sri Brahma Nand Ahuja R/o C-804 Dilbagh Rose Garden 122/238 Fazalganj Kanpur-208012. It is Ture that both name is mine.

# CM to attend BJP's Backward Classes convention today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will attend a Backward Classes convention being organised by the Bharatiya Janata Party on Sunday. All prominent party leaders of Backward Classes will also participate in the conference.

In view of the upcoming Uttar Pradesh assembly elections in 2022, the BJP has planned to hold Backward Classes conventions across the state and the first of these conventions will be held in Lucknow on Sunday.

The chief minister is expected to list the achievements of the state and Central governments towards Backward Classes welfare and the positions they have been given in the organisation and the government.

# SP to field NS Verma for Dy Speaker post

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The opposition Samajwadi Party has announced to field Narendra Singh Verma as its candidate for the election to the post of deputy speaker of UP assembly. Verma is the six-term MLA from Sitapur district.

The tenure of the current 17th UP Vidhan Sabha ends on March 14, 2022 and there is hardly three months' time for the assembly polls.

A UP assembly special session has been convened for election of the deputy speaker on October 18. The nomination for the deputy speaker post will be accepted by the returning officer on October 17 between 11 am 1 am, UP assembly officials said here on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav has directed all the party MLAs to be present at the state party office at 2 pm on Sunday.

Verma, a six-time MLA from Mahmoodabad assembly constituency in Sitapur district, is presently deputy leader of the party in the House. Though SP has just 49 members in the assembly, highest among the opposition, but it would get support of the rebel BSP members. However, the SP contesting the election will be only for the sake of contesting the elections as the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party has an overwhelming majority in the House with over 310 MLAs.

The Samajwadi Party mocked the BJP-led government for holding the election for deputy speaker after four-and-a-half years of its rule. This will be the first such election in 14 years. BJP's alliance partner Apna Dal has pitched in for an OBC or Dalit face for the deputy speaker's post. The BJP is likely to field Nitin Agarwal, a defector from the Samajwadi Party. The petition for his disqualification from the membership of the House was recently rejected by UP Assembly Speaker Hriday Narayan Dikshit.

"What is the urgency? If it was felt that a deputy speaker was required for a better functioning of the House then why was it not done earlier. What is the need now after four-and-a-half years as there would be just about two months left," asked leader of opposition Ram Govind Chaudhary, adding that if the ruling party was recommending some name, opposition leaders had not been consulted so far.

Ram Govind Chaudhary said that the one-day assembly session on October 18 was a "BJP tactic" to divert people's attention from the "real issues".

Bahujan Samaj Party Legislature Party leader Shah Alam alias Guddu Jamali said the party was yet to decide its response. "But even then, we find it difficult to understand the meaning of such an election so close to the assembly polls… As far as we know, as per the tradition of the House, the deputy speaker is elected from opposition and with their consent. No one has contacted us so far," Chaudhary said.

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# I'm full-time, hands-on Cong prez, avers Sonia

## Rahul hints at taking party helm; Cong prez election in Aug-Sept 2022

**PNS** ■ NEW DELHI

The crucial meeting of the Congress Working Committee on Saturday saw Sonia Gandhi asserting herself as a "full-time and hands-on Congress president" and Rahul Gandhi hinting at his return at the helm of the party. The CWC decided to hold the election of Congress president between August 21 and September 20, 2022.

Sonia hit back at critics within the party — the G-23 — who have been pushing for over a year now for an organisational overhaul and a more "visible leadership".

The G-23 is a group of 23 senior leaders, including Ghulam Nabi Azad, Kapil Sibal, Shashi Tharoor, P Chidambaram among others. Since last August, members of the G-23 have been vocal on several party issues, including that of leadership crisis.

"I have always appreciated frankness" and "there is no need to speak to me through the media," Sonia said at the first offline CWC meeting post-Covid pandemic.

Sources said the organisational elections were discussed amid indications that Rahul could return as the party chief same time around next year. "I am, if you will allow me to say so, a full-time and hands-on Congress president," Sonia observed.

In the past two years, a large number of young colleagues have taken leadership roles in taking party policies and programmes to the people, she asserted.

Addressing the meeting of the party's highest decision-making body, Sonia also underscored that the entire organisation wants a revival of the party, but this requires unity and keeping the party's interests paramount.

Turn on Page 9

Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi with party leader Rahul Gandhi and others during the Congress Working Committee meeting to discuss the current political situation, upcoming Assembly polls, and organisational elections, at AICC headquarters in New Delhi on Saturday PTI

# 2 more martyred; LeT top ultra killed in J&K

## Total 9 Army jawans dead in op to flush out terrorists

**MOHIT KANDHARI** ■ JAMMU

With the recovery of two more bodies from the encounter site in the Nar Khas forest area of Mendhar tehsil in Poonch late on Saturday evening, the death toll of the Indian Army has mounted to nine, including two JCOs and seven other ranks. So far this is the highest toll in any recent counter terrorist operation in Jammu & Kashmir in recent years.

Meanwhile, in a joint operation with the Central forces, the Jammu & Kashmir Police on Saturday avenged the killing of their two colleagues by successfully eliminating one of the top Lashkar-e-Tayyeba commanders, along with his associate, in the Pampore area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district. The LeT commander, identified as Umar Mushtaq Khandey, had figured in the most wanted list of 10 terrorists prepared by the J&K Police.

In the first incident involving the Army, during the search operations and a brief firefight with the terrorists, the Army jawans had received critical injuries late on Thursday evening.

Two dead bodies were recovered on Friday, while searches continued as one JCO and another jawan was found missing since October 14.

On October 11, five soldiers, including a Junior Commissioner Officer (JCO), were killed in action during a encounter with the terrorists in a thickly forested area of Dera Ki Gali in Surankote tehsil of frontier Poonch district. Among the martyred soldiers three hailed from Punjab and one each from Uttar Pradesh and Kerala.

Defence PRO Lt-Col Devender Anand in a statement said, "Subedar Ajay Singh and Naik Harendra Singh of Indian Army were killed in action during search operations being conducted by the Indian Army along with the Jammu & Kashmir Police in densely forested area of Nar Khas forest in Mendhar, Poonch."

Lt-Col Anand said, "Subedar Ajay Singh and Naik Harendra Singh were part of search operations launched by the security forces to flush out terrorists hiding in the forested area."

Turn on Page 9

Security personnel stand guard near the site of an encounter with terrorists at the Nar Khas forest area in Poonch on Saturday PTI

## CAPSULE

**DU COLLEGES RELEASE THIRD CUT-OFF LIST**

**New Delhi:** Some Delhi University colleges released their third cut-off list on Saturday with the required marks to get admissions in undergraduate courses seeing a decline in the range of 0.25 per cent to 1.5 per cent. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College released its third cut-off list with the marks required for B.Sc (Honours) Computer Science going down by 1.5 per cent.

**DRAVID ALL SET TO TAKE OVER AS INDIA COACH**

**New Delhi:** India's batting stalwart and former captain Rahul Dravid is all set to take over as the national cricket team's head coach following the T20 World Cup in the UAE, having agreed to the BCCI's offer after initial reluctance.

**JAISHANKAR ON ISRAEL VISIT FROM OCT 17-21**

**New Delhi:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will pay an official visit to Israel beginning on Sunday during which he will hold talks with his Israeli counterpart Yair Lapid to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries. This will be Jaishankar's first visit to the country as External Affairs Minister.

**GEELANI'S GRANDSON SACKED FROM GOVT JOB**

**Srinagar:** The grandson of pro-Pakistan separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani was terminated from Government service on Saturday for allegedly aiding terrorist activities in Jammu & Kashmir, officials said.

# Nihang Sikh surrenders for lynching at Singhu border

**PNS** ■ CHANDIGARH

A Nihang Sikh, Parminder Singh, on Saturday surrendered at a gurdwara before police in Amarkot village in Jandiala Guru area of Amritsar in connection with the Singhu border lynching incident.

A police team had gone to arrest him. He had announced to surrender after paying obeisance at Akal Takht. Parminder Singh allegedly murdered Lakhbir Singh, a drug addict, who it is alleged had committed sacrilege.

Meanwhile, a court in Sonepat on Saturday remanded Sarabjit Singh, arrested in connection with the lynching of Lakhbir Singh at the farmers' protest site at Singhu border, in police custody for seven days, with the accused pointing to the involvement of a few more people in the gruesome killing.

The body of Lakhbir Singh, a labourer from Punjab's Tarn Taran district, was found on Friday tied to a barricade at the Delhi-Haryana border where the anti-farm law protesters have been camping.

Turn on Page 9

# Hindu's body found; B'desh Durga Puja attacks toll rises to 5

**PTI** ■ DHAKA

The Durga Puja celebrations have concluded in Bangladesh even as another Hindu devotee was found dead on Saturday amid days of communal unrest and violence unleashed by unidentified Muslim bigots who vandalised temples over alleged blasphemy, leading to the deployment of paramilitary forces in more than half of administrative districts. With the latest killing, the death toll during the Durga Puja celebrations across the country has reached five.

Authorities overnight imposed a nationwide security vigil while officials said that initial investigations have thrown up crucial evidence against the perpetrators of violence against the minority Hindu community's Durga Puja. The paramilitary Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has expanded the vigil from 22 to 34 out of 64 administrative districts.

The elite anti-crime Rapid Action Battalion said it expects to arrest some of the key perpetrators of the sporadic violence which took place in the past three days. Voicing optimism over the investigation, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal told reporters that "We expect developments of the investigations in the next one or two days".

The police, meanwhile, said that they have recovered the body of a Hindu devotee from a pond near a temple in southeastern Begumganj sub-district of Noakhali.

Turn on Page 9

Muslims participate in a protest over an alleged insult to Islam, outside the country's main Baitul Mukarram Mosque in Dhaka on Saturday AP

# Six people dead, dozen reported missing as rain lashes Kerala

**PTI** ■ KOTTAYAM/IDUKKI

At least six people died and a dozen others were missing on Saturday as heavy rain pounded south and central Kerala causing flash floods and landslides in many parts, prompting the State Government to seek the assistance of the defence forces for rescue operations.

Several people have been injured and displaced in rain-related incidents in Kerala where dams in many districts are nearing its full capacity and small towns and villages in the hilly areas are totally cut off from the outside world.

Many hilly areas of Kottayam, Idukki and Pathanamthitta are experiencing situation almost similar to that during the time of devastating floods of 2018 and 2019 but authorities said everything was under control and there was no need for any panic. However, the rescue teams of the State police and fire force could not reach the affected areas due to floods and adverse weather conditions prevailing there.

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# 30% deprived of water, soap at home!

## 2.3 bn vulnerable to Covid across world: UNICEF

**ARCHANA JYOTI** ■ NEW DELHI

Amid Covid-19 pandemic, hand washing has become a new norm to keep the deadly virus at bay, but ironically globally three in 10 people, or 2.3 billion, do not have basic facilities like water and soap available at home, the UNICEF has said, suggesting that the have-nots remain at the risk of getting infected with coronavirus. The situation is worse in the least developed countries, with over six in 10 people without access to basic hand hygiene, the UN agency said in a fact sheet on Global Hand washing Day observed on October 15. The cost to provide hand hygiene in all homes in 46 of the world's least developed countries by 2030 is an estimated at $11 billion.

Nonetheless, what has come as a relief is that some progress has been made since 2015: The global population with access to basic hand hygiene at home has increased from 5 billion to 5.5 billion, or from 67 per cent to 71 per cent.

However, if current trends persist, 1.9 billion people will still not have access to basic hand hygiene by the end of the decade. According to the latest estimates, two in five schools worldwide do not have basic hygiene services with water and soap, affecting 818 million students, of which 462 million attend schools with no facility at all. In the least developed countries, seven out of 10 schools have no place for children to wash their hands.

One-third of health care facilities worldwide do not have hand hygiene facilities at points of care where the patient, health care worker, and treatment involve contact with the patient.

Turn on Page 6

# PM to inaugurate 7 med colleges of UP on Oct 25

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A new chapter is expected to be added to the history of health facilities and medical education in Uttar Pradesh when Prime Minister Narendra Modi will simultaneously inaugurate seven new state autonomous medical colleges from Siddharthnagar, the land of Lord Buddha, on October 25. The medical colleges that will be inaugurated are at Siddharthnagar, Deoria, Etah, Hardoi, Ghazipur, Mirzapur and Pratapgarh

On Saturday, speaking to media persons after inspecting the venue and meeting with the officials regarding the inauguration ceremony of the newly created Madhav Prasad Tripathi State Autonomous Medical College in Siddharthnagar, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the state government was committed to providing the best health facilities to the residents and was therefore setting up a chain of medical colleges across the state.

"Through Siddharthnagar medical college, not only will the local people benefit but patients from adjoining Balrampur, Maharajganj and friendly nation Nepal would be able to get the best of medical facilities," he said.

"The medical college of Siddharthnagar has been constructed under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana and several other medical colleges will come up in the state in near future. Basti medical college was started last year while Bahraich medical college was started two years ago. Similarly, a medical college in Ayodhya will become operational soon. Two years ago, I had announced plans to set up a medical college in Siddharthnagar and now it is ready. Besides, seven medical colleges of the state have got recognition from the National Medical Council," Yogi said.

The chief minister further said that in the Gorakhpur-Basti division, BRD Medical College at Gorakhpur was the only medical college but today AIIMS in Gorakhpur was also ready and would be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the next 45 days.

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**

**E-Tendering Tender Notice No. 50 /2021**

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) N.E. Railways Izatnagar For and behalf of president of India invites "OPEN" e-tender through on Line (E-tendering) for the following work. **S.No. (1),** Description of works : Provision of rail barrier fencing to prevent road vehicle/animal to come near track in the jurisdiction of ADEN/MRT. Approx. Value (Rs.) : Rs.1,01,74,802.58, E.M.D. Money (Rs.) : Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms Rs. 0.00 Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter 12 Months, **S.No. (2),** Description of works : Provision of rail barrier fencing to prevent road vehicle/animal to come near track in the jurisdiction of ADEN/FGR. Approx. Value (Rs.) : Rs.1,06,83,542.66, E.M.D. Money (Rs.) : Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms Rs. 0.00 Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter 12 Months, **S.No. (3),** Description of works : Miscellaneous works in connection with EnHM at FBD Goods shed (1) Water Sprinkling System with overhead PVC tank of 10000 lit capacity. (ii) Construction of CC/RCC Drain (iii) Dust screen wall & (iv) Sinking of Tube well for Development of Green Belt. Approx. Value (Rs.) : Rs.72,25,581.76, E.M.D. Money (Rs.) : Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms Rs. 0.00 Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter 06 Months, **S.No. (4),** Description of works : Miscellaneous works in connection with EnHM at KSJ Goods shed. (i) Water Sprinkling System with overhead PVC tank of 10000 lit capacity. (ii) Construction of CC/RCC Drain (iii) Rain Water harvesting (iv) Dust screen wall & (v) Sinking of Tube well for Development of Green Belt. Approx. Value (Rs.) : Rs. 76,63,525.07, E.M.D. Money (Rs.) : Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms Rs. 0.00 Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter 06 Months, **S.No. (5),** Description of works : Ramganga - Kasganj : Through GRSP Renewal - 99 Km & Through GFN Liner Renewal - 19.3 Km. Approx. Value (Rs.) : Rs. 1,14,47,285.01, E.M.D. Money (Rs.) : Rs.0.00, Cost of Tender Forms Rs. 0.00 Completion time /period from the date of issue of acceptance letter 04 Months. **1.** On line e-tender can be submitted up to **15.00 his of dated 09.11.2021 2.** For Full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways IREPS website **www.ireps.gov.in**

**Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.)**
**CPRO/W - 213 N.E. Railway, Izatnagar**

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**"Never travel on roof and foot boards"**

# JEE (Advanced) achievers over the moon

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Aspiring engineers from Lucknow who cracked JEE (Advanced) were jubilant soon after the results were declared on Friday. Teerath Aggarwal, who secured all-India rank (AIR) 482, is the son of a general merchant. He said his father was the happiest man.

Teerath said he was happy with the result and with this rank, he could pursue mechanical engineering in any IIT, computer science in IIT-Kharagpur and electrical in all IITs except for IIT-Bombay.

"I may take up computer science, but I am still confused and undecided," he said. About his success mantra, he said consistency is the key for most of the aspirants. "There is a point when students are exhausted. The concepts should be clear when you appear for the exams," he added.

About entrepreneurship, he said he would like to have a start-up of his own. "Maybe, I will go for a job for a year or two and get some experience before I have my own start-up. I got this idea as my teachers said that IITians are not meant to be employed by others but hire them," he said. It was his first attempt at the examinations.

Atharva Gupta, who secured AIR 737, said he was happy with the result as it was his first attempt. "I am undecided about the institute where I want to go," he said.

Atharva said he had no success mantra in particular. Talking about his future plans, he said he had robotics on his mind after which he would have a start-up.

Ravija Chandel, who secured AIR 743, said she was planning to get admission to IIT-Delhi and pursue computer science and engineering. She said her success mantra was being regular with studies and preparation.

"I analysed the papers thoroughly as regards how much weightage should given to which topics, and prepared them accordingly. I studied eight hours a day," she said.

She added that she wanted to pursue masters in computer science from Harward University and then take up research.

As many as 48 students of CMS cracked the JEE (Advanced). They included Ravija Chandel (AIR 743), Aryan Maurya (AIR 870), Harsh Joshi, Aryan Sinha, Aryan Srivastava, Atul Pandey, Shailesh Agarwal, Mohd Saad Akbar, Yash Pratap Singh, Arindam Mishra, Shashwat Verma, Prakhar Maurya, Siddharth Dixit, Ayush Srivastava, Juhi Bajpai, Arshjeet Singh, Apul Ranjan, Ojas Srivastava, Sandeep Chilwal, Paarth Dwivedi, Amit Sharma, Nikhil Chandra Yadav, Devansh Verma, Adnan Abbas Rizvi, Sarthak Mathur, Prasoon Patel, Vedant Pandey, Divyansh Verma, Amay Singh, Vineet Agarwal, Shreyansh Kr Agarwal, Samaksh Ahuja, Ashutosh Yadav, Abhigyan Sharma, Ali Kausar Kamran, Abhyudaya Singh, Unnati, Anvesh Singh, Dev Yadav, Aniket Singh, Aman Verma, Anshu Mali Suri, Aryan Singh, Prakhar Srivastava, Vishal Singh, Rohan Raj, Rishi Rao and Sanskriti Ranjan.

# Man cuts neighbour's ear during brawl

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A man chopped off an ear of his neighbour during a brawl and also injured latter's sister in Ashiyana on Thursday night. He threatened with dire consequences if they informed police. However, a case was registered against the accused, identified as Ram Kumar Gautam of Qila Mohammedi.

The victim, identified as Dinesh Srivastava, was going to call a doctor to visit his home when Ram Kumar confronted him. As the brawl escalated, Ram Kumar picked a brick and attacked Dinesh. He later caught hold of Dinesh and chopped off his ear. As Dinesh's sister rushed to his rescue, she was also attacked by Ram Kumar, who bit her hand and also thrashed her. Victim's family informed police. Dinesh was rushed to a hospital where his wounds were stitched.

Meanwhile, reckless driving claimed the life of a cyclist in Indiranagar. The victim was identified as Jagbaran of Gudamba police station area. Reports said Jagbaran was returning home when his bicycle was hit by a speeding car near Naushad Sangeet Kendra on Picnic Spot road in Indiranagar police station area on October 11. He was admitted to KGMU Trauma Centre where he succumbed on October 13. His son Manoj Kumar said he visited the police station on several occasions and the case was registered on October 15.

In another incident, an unidentified youth was killed in a road mishap in Chinhat on Friday night. Reports said police were informed about the recovery of a body on the highway under Kasba police outpost area. The deceased had 'Vijay' written on his right hand.

**The victim, identified as Dinesh Srivastava, was going to call a doctor to visit his home when Ram Kumar confronted him. As the brawl escalated, Ram Kumar picked a brick and attacked Dinesh**

Meanwhile, a 50-year-old man was fatally mowed down by a train in Jankipuram on Saturday morning. He was identified as Rajaram of a slum area in the locality. Police said Rajaram met the mishap when he was crossing the railway track at Bhitauli crossing.

# Two youths killed in road mishap

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two youths were killed in a road mishap in Atrauli bypass road in Mohanlalganj on Saturday. The victims were identified as Anand Kumar of Bindauwa village and his friend Manish. As per reports, their motorcycle got stuck in a lorry which hit them from the opposite direction. They were going towards Atrauli bypass road when their bike was hit by the lorry. Commuters and locals flocked to the scene and caught hold of the errant driver. They also thrashed him.

Meanwhile, two journalists of a news channel were thrashed for showing the absence of employees at Nagar Nigam Aliganj (Zone 3) on Saturday.

As per reports, Rahul Verma and Anil Kumar went to the Nagar Nigam office on October 9 for a story on the working of the employees. As they found most of the employees absent, their news channel ran a story compiled by them.

On Saturday, the scribes went to the Nagar Nigam office to see the effect of the story . "The employees identified us and attacked us. They snatched our mobile phones. Tax officer JP Yadav intervened and prevented the employees from attacking us further," they stated in their complaint.

## HOSPITAL STAFF ACCUSED OF EMBEZZLEMENT

Director of Shekhar Hospital Dr Richa Mishra lodged a case of fraud against a staff member. In her complaint, she alleged that Pushpendra Kumar Tiwari of Reewa in Madhya Pradesh committed a fraud of over Rs 9.51.

Pushpendra joined in 2015 and quit in June earlier this year. It was alleged that Pushpendra was tasked with making bills and depositing the money taken from patients to the accounts section. Pushpendra allegedly embezzled the money and did not make entries in the software. He fiddled with the data entry and uploaded details of the bills which he had not deposited.

In another case, Geeta Dixit of Amity Greens in Gomtinagar accused a woman, Rekha Singh, her husband Ramendra Singh and their aides Arvind & Rajkeshwar Tiwari of criminal breach of trust and forgery in a land deal. She lodged a case with the Vibhuti Khand police.

Geeta alleged that she had signed a contract to purchase a land in Vinamra Khand for Rs 52 lakh and gave Rs 7 lakh as advance sum. Geeta alleged that Rekha and others had told her that the land was free-hold. "I later came to know that the land was mortgaged against a loan. I contacted Rekha but she did not answer the calls. Later, they threatened me with dire consequences," she alleged.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION-2, PWD RAEBARELI**

**E- Tender Notice (Ist Call)**
**(Short Term Notice)**

**No. 1499 / 2Lekha/2021** **Dated : 11-10 -2021**

The **E.E., C.D.-2, U.P.P.W.D., Raebareli** on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD, class 'A, B, C, D' **The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.**

| SL. No. | DIST-RICT | Name of Work | Estimated cost (Rs. In Lakhs) | Bid Security (Rs. In Lakhs) | Tender Cost | Address of Executive Engineer of the Executing the work | Time of Comple-tion | Address of Superin-tending Engineer | Address of Chief Engineer |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Financial Year 2021-22 in Special Repair. | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Raebareli | SR of Barauva Tikara Sadwa Road (ODR) | 4.90 | 0.00 | 860.00 | CD-2, PWD RaeBareli | 03 Month | Lucknow Circle P.W.D. Lucknow | Chief Engineer Central Zone P.W.D. Lucknow |
| 2 | Raebareli | SR of Matiha Machhechhar Link Road (VR) | 10.60 | 0.00 | 860.00 | CD-2, PWD RaeBareli | 03 Month | Lucknow Circle P.W.D. Lucknow | Chief Engineer Central Zone P.W.D. Lucknow |

➢ **The Rate adopted in the BOQ are Excluding GST Taxes.**

Bids can be downloaded online from date **21.10.2021** at **9:00 AM to 28.10.2021 at 12:00 Noon** and bid can be submitted online on or before 28.10.2021 at 12:00 Noon. The technical bids will be opened online on date **29.10.2021 at 12:30 PM.** According to the provisions of Government Order no. **1/2018/3070/78-2-2018/42 IT/2017 (22) Date 03-01-2018** after opening of the technical and financial bids, the bidder has to submit original documents personally in department/ office. In the event of non submission of original documents by the bidder, the appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the provisions of G.O.

Technical evaluation of bids will be done through Prahari Software as per detailed information attached in NIT.

All terms & conditions can be seen on website **http:/etender.up.nic.co.in**

UP 168679 Date 16.10.2021
विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

**(Subhash Chandra)**
**Executive Engineer**
**Construction Division-2, PWD,Raebareli**

# Farrukh Jaffar — an artiste par excellence

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

Her zest for life was contagious and when she spoke, her eyes above her wrinkled cheeks twinkled. But it was her voice and Urdu-Awadhi dialect which made her look charming in the true sense of the word.

An artiste par excellence, a fighter, a treasure trove of tales who dabbled in all mediums; be it radio, theatre or films; Farrukh Jaffar passed away on Friday evening, leaving a void in the world of theatre and films that would be difficult to fill. What was the most remarkable part of her journey was that she defied all the common perceptions which people have about careers, as she got her piece of fame in her twilight years and the roles just got bigger and better till it was the final cherry on the cake in Amitabh Bachchan-starrer 'Gulabo Sitabo'.

Director Shoojit Sircar not only came down to meet her, he also told her that he would only cast her for the role and no one else, even though she had fractured her hip. Her last rites were performed at the Karbala Aishbagh cemetery on Saturday afternoon. She is survived by two daughters — Shaheen Ahmad, who is a school principal; and Mehru Jaffar, the first female journalist of the city.

**SHE WAS BORN IN THE YEAR 1932 AT CHAKESAR VILLAGE IN JAUNPUR DISTRICT. FOR ALL HER ACTING PROWESS, FAME INTERESTINGLY CAME TO HER IN THE AUTUMN OF HER LIFE WHEN MOST OF THE ACTORS REST ON THEIR LAURELS**

Younger daughter Shaheen Ahmad said her mother was critically ill and hospitalised for the last 12 days. She died of old age-related complications.

Wife of well-known freedom fighter and journalist SM Jaffar, Farrukh was quite a rebel since her early days and pedaled her way to Lucknow University during her student days. In her umpteen interviews with this reporter, she often talked about her journey and erupted into laughter while narrating the anecdotes.

She was born in the year 1932 at Chakesar village in Jaunpur district. For all her acting prowess, fame interestingly came to her in the autumn of her life when most of the actors rest on their laurels.

Jaffar's talent was highlighted in a major way by filmmaker Muzaffar Ali in his iconic film 'Umrao Jaan', in which she played Rekha's mother. She brought out the angst of a mother, who is forbidden by her son to meet her daughter. Her portrayal of helplessness as she paced behind the bamboo curtain looking at her daughter perform '*Yeh kya jagah hai doston*...' will remain etched in the minds of the audience for a long time.

When 'Swades' director Ashutosh Gowarikar contacted her for playing the role of a sarpanch in 'Pardes', she was thrilled to be a part of the team.

Jaffar made a mark with the role of a cribbing mother that fetched her the colloquial yet popular name of 'Amma' in Aamir Khan's 'Peepli Live', and what followed was a slew of awards and recognition.

Shaheen said that her mother had this incredible energy about her and her last film was 'Mehrunisa'. "There is one more unnamed film in which she had acted but which it has not been released," she pointed out.

"She lived a life motivating and inspiring many, especially the elderly. She got a standing ovation at the Goa Film Festival where 'Mehrunisa' was screened. The audience asked for another screening of the film. The film talks about how an actress in the old age is reconnecting with her daughters and granddaughters. The film was directed by an Austrian director," Shaheen said. She added that to live her dreams, her mother, after graduating from Lucknow University, joined All India Radio in Lucknow as an announcer in 1963.

"She got that job by chance as she had accompanied one of her friends for the auditions but got enamoured by the recording room, mic and studio. She met producer GM Shaw, who was also her family friend and asked him if she could also audition. She was selected instantly along with Parveen Talha and Mr Sinha," Shaheen said.

Muzaffar Ali said that she had a raw yet cultivated energy which she could give to any role. "She could bring out several hidden dimensions which might not be perceived within the prescribed lines. I don't think there was a better actor than her in Lucknow. In 'Umrao Jaan', she remained like a general advisor searching for good locations and enthusiastic about the film. She was a part of many of my documentaries and work that I did on poets. She understood the Awadhi culture well and spoke Urdu extremely well," Ali said.

**लखनऊ नगर निगम जलकल विभाग, जोन–1**

**लालबाग, लखनऊ**
**अल्पकालिक निविदा सूचना**

पत्र सं0 1023/EE-1/नि0 दिनांक : 16.10.2021

निम्नलिखित आपूर्ति/कार्य हेतु अनुभवी ठेकेदारों से नीचे दिये गये विवरण के अनुरूप कार्य को कराये जाने हेतु मोहरबन्द निविदायें दिनांक 25.10.2021 के सायंकाल 4.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। निविदा प्रपत्र किसी भी कार्य दिवस में दिनांक 25.10.2021 को 1.00 बजे तक निविदा मूल्य का नगद भुगतान कैश काउन्टर पर करके प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। भरी हुई सील्ड निविदायें उसी दिन अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में 4.00 बजे तक निविदा बाक्स में प्राप्त की जायेगी। निविदा बॉक्स से प्राप्त सभी निविदायें उपस्थित निविदादाताओं के समक्ष 4.30 बजे सायंकाल खोली जायेंगी।

| क्र0सं0 | कार्य/आपूर्ति का विवरण | निविदा का मूल्य | धरोहर धनराशि |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | जोन–1 अन्तर्गत राणा प्रताप मार्ग पर गुलजार नगर कालोनी में म0नं0–1/1 से 1/10 एवं 1/39 तक लगभग 150 मीटर 110 एम0एम0 ब्यास की पी0वी0सी0 पाइन लाइन डालने का कार्य। | 150.00 | 3000.00 |

नियम एवं शर्तें निविदा प्रपत्र में दी गई हैं, जिन्हें देखा जा सकता है। विस्तृत जानकारी अधिशासी अभियन्ता जोन–1 के कार्यालय में सम्पर्क कर किसी भी कार्य दिवस में प्राप्त की जा सकती हैं।

**अधिशासी अभियन्ता जोन–1**
**जलकल विभाग**

# 30 idols picked up for immersion by crane

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Out of over 150 Goddess Durga idols which were immersed at the six ghats at Jhulelal Park, Laxman Mela ground and Kudia Ghat, 30 were picked up with the help of a c rane.

Rupesh Mondal from Durga Puja Visarjan Samiti said that immersion through cranes was an art and he had learnt the nuances in Kolkata.

He said two idols were very big, including the one from Jankipuram committee. It was 14.5 feet tall. The MOdel House idol was around 11 feet tall.

"We started the *visarjan* through cranes in 2019 but maximum idols were immersed with the help of cranes in 2020, because people were not allowed near the ghats," he said. Mondal said they were careful when it came to handling the idols.

"I had learnt the nuances of immersion in Kolkata and the trick of saving the idol from breaking was taking out the belt tied to it from the left side and providing support from the base. There is a different technique required for tying different idols, depending on where the weight of the statue falls," he said.

He added that 20-25 minutes per idol were spent.

"We do not pick up the Durga Puja idols on our own but on the request of the organisers. If the organisers say they want to carry out the immersion on their own, they are allowed to do so. We use cranes when people request us to carry out immersion," he said.

He added that they did not allow children near the ponds.

# Mayawati condemns killing of dalit youth at Singhu border

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Calling the killing of a man near the Singhu border where farmers are protesting against three farm laws since November last year, as sad and shameful, Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Saturday asked the "Dalit" Chief Minister of Punjab Charanjit Singh Channi to provide financial aid of Rs 50 lakh to kin of the deceased.

Taking to Twitter, the BSP chief also said strict action should be taken against the culprits as done in the "Lakhimpur Kheri violence".

"The brutal murder of a Dalit youth of Punjab on the Delhi-Singhu border is very sad and shameful. The Haryana government should take the incident seriously and the state police should take strict action against the culprits as the police did in Lakhimpur Kheri. The Dalit CM of Punjab should give Rs 50 lakh and a government job to the victim's family, this is the demand of BSP," tweeted Mayawati.

The body of a Dalit farm labourer from Punjab, Lakhbir Singh, 35, was on Friday found tied to an overturned police barricade at the Singhu border where farmers are protesting against the Centre's agri laws. His left hand was chopped off and his body had over 10 wounds caused by sharp-edged weapons. Hours after the macabre crime, a man wearing the blue robe of Sikhs' Nihang order appeared before the media, claiming that he had "punished" the victim for "desecrating" a Sikh holy book.

Mayawati further compared the road mishap in Chhattisgarh's Jashpur district, where a car ran over a group of people walking to immerse an idol of Goddess Durga, with the Lakhimpur Kheri incident and asked Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to take strict action against the accused.

"The incident of death of one person and injuries to many people in Chhattisgarh during Durga Visarjan is very sad, which is reminiscent of the Lakhimpur Kheri incident. The Congress government should give financial help and jobs to the families of the victims and take strict action against the culprits," Mayawati tweeted.

A speeding car on Friday evening allegedly mowed down one person and left 16 others injured in a procession that was heading for Durga idol immersion in Pathalgaon block of Jashpur district.

# Durga Puja, Dussehra celebrated peacefully

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Durga Puja and Dussehra were celebrated peacefully in Uttar Pradesh. Police claimed that no incident of violence was reported from anywhere across the state.

Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar attributed the success to the coordinated efforts of the police, administration, and the citizens of the state.

Kumar said that drones were used to monitor sensitive areas where incidents were reported in the past. He also said that from 38 incidents of violence being reported in 2016, not a single incident was reported in 2021.

Specific guidelines and directions were issued to Balrampur district which had reported five incidents of violence in 2016, but for the last two years not a single incident was reported from there, the ADG added.

**For the drill for peaceful celebration of festivals, as many as 183 companies of Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) and five companies of Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) were also deployed in different parts of the state to avert and control any law and order issue**

For the drill for peaceful celebration of festivals, as many as 183 companies of Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) and five companies of Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) were also deployed in different parts of the state to avert and control any law and order issue.

One month back, a review was done about the incidents which took place in 2018 and 2019 in UP during the immersion of Durga idols and Dussehra and a plan was chalked out to keep the grey areas properly patrolled and watched for.

The districts where the incident was reported in these two years (2018-19) included Baharaich, Kaushambi, Gonda, Pratapgarh, Agra, Faizabad, Amethi, Azamgarh, Basti.

"Officials in all these districts were instructed to remain alert and also resolve all the issues and senior officers were asked to visit the spots where the incidents took place and meet the local leaders and strike a chord with locals," the ADG said.

# Ashirwad Path sabhas getting immense public support: RLD

PRABHA SHANKER ■ LUCKNOW

The Rashtriya Lok Dal maintained that its 'Ashirwad Path' programmes being carried out since October 7 under the leadership of RLD president Chaudhary Jayant Singh were getting immense public support in every district of the state. Party's national secretary Anil Dubey, Team RLD national convener Anupam Mishra, RLD state spokesperson SN Trivedi and Aeshwarya Raj Singh told newsmen in Lucknow on Saturday that the stupendous success of Ashirwad Path sabhas was a clear indication that the people in Uttar Pradesh had made up their mind to vote out the incumbent 'anti-people' Bharatiya Janata Party government.

"Today people are fed up with inflation, unemployment, corruption, deteriorating law and order, oppression of farmers etc. All limits of oppression, unemployment, inflation and corruption vis-à-vis farmers have been crossed," they alleged.

Speaking about the Ashirwad Path programme, the RLD leaders said that party supremo Jayant Chaudhary was going among the people and learning and understanding their minds and taking blessings from them.

"It is a barometer of the public mood in view of the UP assembly elections. In Ashirwad Path programme, Chaudhary Jayant Singh was honoured by the people from all sections of the society, who offered him a turban and that signified that Jayant had the blessings of all. In these meetings, suggestions are being sought directly from the general public and on their basis, the RLD president has promised to make farmers, poor, women, students, youths, labourers and underprivileged sections socially and financially strong, if RLD forms or is instrumental in forming the next government in Uttar Pradesh. With the encouraging public connect, a Lok Sankalp Patra is also being prepared for the upcoming assembly elections," the leaders said.

RLD national secretary Anil Dubey said that Chaudhary Jayant Singh toured Madhaiya in Noorpur (Hapur), the birthplace of Chaudhary Charan Singh on October 7.

"Jayant Chaudhary announced to give Rs 12,000 to the farmers of the state to improve their financial condition and Rs 15,000 to marginal farmers under Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme," he said.

Anupam Mishra said that the party chief announced 'Manyavara Kanshi Ram Shehri Shramik Samman Yojana' for the uplift of labourers working in the unorganised sectors and in cities on October 9. "On the lines of MNREGA, the income of labourers living in urban areas will be ensured and the workers of the city will get assured employment," Mishra said.

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Lok Nayak Jaiprakash Narayan, in the RLD Lok Sankalp Patra, Jayant Chaudhary made important announcements under 'Sarvodaya Yojana'. These are scholarship scheme for OBC, SC/ST students for getting admission in reputed universities of the world, financial powers to Panchayati Raj institutions, strengthening of Panchayati Raj system under the 73rd amendment to the Constitution, Rs 1 lakh as incentive to those have inter-caste marriage, entrepreneur fund of Rs 2,500 crore for SC / ST and Divyang to reduce economic inequality and build the path of economic progress of all sections and a special fund of Rs 2,500 crores for agriculture startups.

Besides, a guaranteed security scheme for all sections of society, including minorities, will also be started if the RLD was voted to power.

Jayant has also promised the establishment of Allahabad High Court benches in Western Uttar Pradesh, Bundelkhand and Purvanchal so that the general public can get accessible justice.

RLD state spokesperson SN Trivedi said that Jayant Chaudhary also promised to solve the problems of potato farmers across the state and at a Ashirwad Path sabha in Sadabad (Hathras), the RLD chief promised a minimum support price (MSP) 150 per cent of expenditure incurred on potato production if the party came to power so that farmers could get remunerative price of the produce.

"In Agota, Bulandshahr, Jayant Chaudhary advocated police reforms and stressed that the duty hours of policemen would be fixed at eight hours daily and overtime would also be given. By removing the border scheme, policemen would be deployed in districts around their native places," RLD state spokesman Aeshwarya Raj Singh said.


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

पत्रांक : 488 / EE–8 / 2021–22 दिनांक : 16.10.2021

**अल्प कालीन निविदा–सूचना**

निम्नलिखित कार्य / आपूर्ति हेतु अनुभवी ठेकेदारों से मोहरबन्द निविदा दिनाँक 25 / 10 / 2021 को अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा आमंत्रित की जाती है, जो उसी दिन सायंकाल 4.00 बजे उपस्थित निविदादाताओं के समक्ष खोली जायेगी। सन्दर्भित कार्य हेतु निविदा किसी भी कार्य दिवस में दिनाँक 25 / 10 / 2021 को समय 02.00 बजे तक कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। अर्नेस्टमनी एफ.डी.आर. / सी.डी.आर. / एन.एस.सी. के रूप में **अधिशाषी अभियन्ता, जोन–8** के पद नाम से बन्धक होना अनिवार्य है। बिना अर्नेस्टमनी के प्राप्त निविदाओं पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। एक या समस्त निविदाओं को निरस्त करने का अधिकार बिना कारण बताये महाप्रबन्धक, जलकल विभाग में निहित होगा। पूर्ण विवरण कार्यालय से किसी भी कार्य दिवस में देखा जा सकता है। कार्यालय में अवकाश होने की दशा में निविदायें उसी क्रम में समयानुसार अगले कार्य दिवस में खोली जायेंगी।

| क्र0 सं0 | कार्य का नाम | धरोहर राशि | निविदा मूल्य | कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि | टिप्पणी |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Reparing of 27 Nos. damaged sewer manhole & fixing of frame at different places of , Sharda Nagar & South City. | 4400.00 | Rs.200 | 07 दिवस | |

**निविदा प्राप्त करने की शर्त :–** 1. निविदादाता का सेल्स टैक्स एवं आयकर तथा जी.एस.टी. में रजिस्ट्रेशन होना चाहिए।

अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जोन–8,
जलकल विभाग, लखनऊ


# Missing teenager killed by kin for money

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 17-year-old boy, who went missing near his house in Fatehabad area of Barabanki on October 14 afternoon, was abducted for ransom and later killed by one of his kin and an aide and his body was found dumped in a drain in his native place on Saturday morning.

The police which had been probing the incident through electronic surveillance later arrested the victim's kin, Satyendra Kumar of Ballia, and his cohort Nagendra of Bahraich district. The police also recovered the deceased's mobile phone, an iron pan used to kill the victim, a motorcycle and a pair of slippers belonging to the deceased.

As per reports, lawyer Boondi Lal Gautam and his wife who is a government school teacher reside in the Fatehabad area of Barabanki. Their 17-year-old son was pursuing his studies from Lucknow and had enrolled at a coaching institute to prepare for competitive examinations. Due to the short distance between the state capital and Fatehabad, the youth used to frequent his home on a motorcycle.

Meanwhile, his kin Satyendra worked as a mason and started staying in a rented accommodation in the Lakhperabagh area closeby. Right from his stay in Barabanki, Satyendra eyed the victim's properties and financial status and hit upon the idea of kidnapping the teenager to extort a ransom from the family. To actualise his nefarious plan, Satyendra befriended Nagendra who used to stay at nearby Safdarganj area. As he frequented the victim's house, Satyendra knew about the teenager's travel itinerary.

Around 2 pm on October 14, as the teenager left his home on a bike, Satyendra intercepted him some distance away and coaxed him to have a couple of beers and took him to his rented house in Lakhperabagh where Nagendra was present.

After getting drunk to the gills, Satyendra asked the victim to call his family and ask for a huge sum as ransom, faking that he had been kidnapped. When the victim refused, a verbal spat took place. Watching his plan go astray, Satyendra hit the victim on his head with an iron pan causing a deep gash that profusely bled. His aide Nagnedra then strangled the victim to death.

The assailants then put the victim's cell phone on flight mode, took his body in a sack and dumped it in a drain.

Upon their return to the rented house, they switched on the victim's phone when his brother Anurag called. Nagendra took the call posing as kidnapper 'Rafiq', demanded Rs 60 lakh as ransom for the victim's release and immediately switched off the phone.

But since the incident had earlier been informed to the police, a surveillance unit managed to get their possible location and dropped the net on the assailants. Based on confessions made by the miscreants, the police recovered the victim's body from a nearby drain.


**shubham**

## SHUBHAM HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CO. LTD.

Corporate Office : 425, Udyog Vihar Phase IV, Gurgaon-122015 (Haryana)
Ph. : 0124-4212530/31/32, E-Mail: customercare@shubham.co website : www.shubham.co

### POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES)

**Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of the Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited (hereinafter called Shubham) 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 notice calling upon borrowers to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.**

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described hereinbelow in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the SecurityInterest Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

The borrowers 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 Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited for an amount detailed below and interest thereon.

**The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. Details are as below:**

| S. No. | Loan No/Borrower(s), Co-Borrower | Demand Notice Amount | Date of Demand Notice | Secured Asset | Date of Affixation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | LKW_1602_051443, Nagma Hashmi, Sikandar Haroon | Rs. 17,30,101/- | 22-07-2021 | Flat No- 101, At First Floor Irshad Apartment Picnic Spot Road Khurram Nagar, **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh - 226016** | 12/10/2021 |
| 2. | LKW_1603_054113, Rizwanul Hoda, Noorul Hoda | Rs. 8,46,976/- | 22-07-2021 | Plot No- 40, At Kh No- 571, Takrohi Ward- Shaheed Bhagat Singh **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh - 226016** | 12/10/2021 |
| 3. | 0LKW1702000005004214, Sudhir Sharma, Shalini Sharma | Rs. 7,49,991/- | 22-07-2021 | House On Plot No-15 Va 16 Ka Bhag Kh.No- 554,555, Ka Minj. Ward-Kanhiya Madhopur Balaganj, **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, 226003** | 12/10/2021 |
| 4. | 0LKW1801000005010217, Santosh Kumar Gupta, Gudiya | Rs. 21,65,593/- | 22-07-2021 | House No- A-9, Part/Minjumla of Khasra/Gata No.19, Area 750 Sq.Ft. Village Baghamau **Tehsil and Distt Moradabad, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, 226001** | 12/10/2021 |
| 5. | 0VRN1802000005011406, Abrar Ahamad, Madina Begam | Rs. 11,32,545/- | 22-07-2021 | Arazi No.- 480, Mauza- Chandasi, Pargana Ralhupur **Tehsil, Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh, 232105** | 12/10/2021 |
| 6. | 0ALB1805000005012597, Deepu Nishad, Sibu Nishad | Rs. 5,50,785/- | 22-07-2021 | House No. 151A/38/208H, Sadiyapur, Part portion of Arazi No. 334, **Pargana Tehsil- Sadar, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, 211003** | 12/10/2021 |
| 7. | 0LKW1812000005016510, Pramod Kumar, Kiran Devi | Rs. 3,45,885/- | 22-07-2021 | Khasra No.1786 Situated at Gram/Moh-Para, Ward-Alamnagar **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh- 226001** | 12/10/2021 |

**Place:- Gurgaon,**
**Date:- 16-10-2021**

**Authorized Officer,**
**Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Ltd.**


# Only five new ve+ cases but don't let guard down: ACS

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Only five new cases of coronavirus infection were detected during the testing of 1.23 lakh samples across Uttar Pradesh in the last 24 hours. During this period, eight people recovered from COVID-19 infection and at present the state has 129 active cases

Till date, the state has tested more than 8.12 crore samples for the deadly disease.

Additional Chief Secretary (Medical and Health) Amit Mohan Prasad told newsmen in Lucknow that Covid vaccination was being carried out across the state continuously and on Friday, a total of 77,196 doses of the vaccine were administered.

"Till Friday, the first dose of the vaccine had been administered to more than 9.22 crore people while 2.55 crore residents of the state have been totally vaccinated after being given both doses. Coronavirus infection is under control in the state but the pandemic is not over yet. Therefore, people should follow Covid norms and in case of any problem, contact Covid Helpline 18001805145," the senior official said.

## Health dept to speed up vaccination drive

**Lucknow (PNS):** With the Covid vaccination figures ranging between 14,000-19,000 per day over the last few days, the Health department is set to give an impetus to the drive. CMO Dr Manoj Agarwal said they would be administering vaccine jabs in malls for urban population while mobile vans would be pressed into service in rural areas. The CMO also held a meeting with the members of Akhil Bharatiya Vyapar Udyog Mandal in which he said that 77 percent of the eligible population has taken the first dose in Lucknow. He also urged the traders to identify spaces in the malls and shopping areas where vaccinations could be carried out on a daily basis. The CMO said that on the spots identified by the traders, vaccinations will be carried out from 12 noon to 8 pm daily till Diwali. The CMO also urged the traders to cooperate in curbing the use of tobacco and tobacco products in public areas.

# Woman harassed by husband, in-laws for dowry

**Lucknow (PNS):** A woman accused her husband and in-laws belonging to Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, of harassing her for dowry. The case was registered at Vibhuti Khand police station. The complainant, Ayushi, alleged that her father gave Rs 8 lakh to her husband Madhusoodan, who works with a private company, at the time of marriage in 2019.

She alleged that Madhusoodan and her in-laws were pressuring her to bring Rs 10 lakh more as he wanted to start his own business.

"Madhusoodan and his parents would thrash me over petty issues after my father said he was unable to give more dowry. I conceived in due course of time and was sent to Lucknow for delivery. I stayed with my parents for six months and neither Madhusoodan nor his parents tried to contact me. My father sent me to Andhra Pradesh on my request. Madhusoodan's behaviour did not change and he and his parents again pressured me to bring Rs 10 lakh," she stated in the complaint. She alleged that Madhusoodan and his parents insulted her father who reached Andhra to broker peace, and she was turned out of the house.

### RAPE

A man was accused of raping a minor girl when she was returning home in Mohanlalganj police station area. Her family alleged that the accused, Vinod Yadav, caught hold of the girl and warned her against speaking up.

# LU to honour ex-students

**Lucknow (PNS):** To honour and mark 100 years of excellence, Lucknow University has decided to felicitate former students selected for jobs during the last six years (2015-2021). "For a century, this exalted seat of learning has served the nation and its people with students in each and every walk of life. Former students may apply online through Google Form on or before October 20. The facilitation was planned last year but postponed due to the pandemic," DSW Prof Poonam Tandon said.


यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India
आन्ध्रा Andhra | कार्पोरेशन Corporation

शाखा कार्यालय : जे-19, 19ए, बर्रा विश्व बैंक, कर्हरी रोड, कानपुर
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय : 117/H-1/240, पाण्डुनगर, कानपुर
प्रधान कार्यालय : 239, विधान भवन मार्ग, नारीमन प्वाइंट, मुंबई

**कब्जा सूचना (अचल सम्पत्तियों हेतु)**
[Rule-8(1)]

जैसा कि अधोहस्ताक्षरी वित्तीय आस्तियों का प्रतिभूतिकरण एवं पुनर्गठन और प्रतिभूति हित प्रवर्तन अधिनियम 2002 के तहत यूनियन बैंक आफ इंडिया का प्राधिकृत अधिकारी होते हुये और उक्त अधिनियम की धारा–13 (12) सपठित प्रतिभूति हित (प्रवर्तन) नियम 2002 का नियम–3 में प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए मांग सूचना अन्तर्गत धारा 13 (2) निम्न खाता धारकों आदि को जारी किया गया था, जिसमें नोटिस प्राप्ति के 60 दिवस के भीतर देय राशि के अदायगी की अपेक्षा की गयी थी।
ऋणी उपरोक्तानुसार अदायगी में विफल रहे हैं फलस्वरूप ऋणी एवं सर्वसाधारण को एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि अधोहस्ताक्षरी ने उक्त अधिनियम की उपधारा (4) धारा 13 सपठित नियम –8 के तहत प्रतिभूति हित (प्रवर्तन) अधिनियम 2002, में प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए निम्नलिखित बंधक संपत्ति / सम्पत्तियों पर निम्नलिखित दिनांक को कब्जा ले लिया गया है। ऋणी एवं सर्वसाधारण को एतद्द्वारा सावधान किया जाता है कि, बंधक संपत्ति / सम्पत्तियों से किसी प्रकार का समव्यवहार न करें। कोई भी समव्यवहार यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया, के ऋण रुपये एवं उस पर अनुबंधित दर पर लागू ब्याज आदि के भार के अधीन होगा।
ऋणी का ध्यान बंधक संपत्ति / सम्पत्तियों को मुक्त कराने हेतु उपलब्ध मियाद के संदर्भ में अधिनियम की उपधारा (8) धारा–13 की ओर भी आकर्षित किया जाता है।

शाखा : बर्रा विश्व बैंक, कानपुर

| क्र. सं. | बकायेदार / जमानतदार का नाम / पता व बंधक सम्पत्ति / सम्पत्ति मालिक एवं मांग सूचना तिथि / प्रलक्षित कब्जा तिथि / बकाया धनराशि |
|---|---|
| 1. | **बकायेदार : मेसर्स शू कार्ण, प्रोपराइटर :** श्री अतुल शर्मा पुत्र श्री भगवन्त शर्मा, निवासी : 113, विमानपुरी, सनिगवाँ रोड, कानपुर नगर। **जमानतदार :** श्री भगवन्त शर्मा पुत्र श्री परम हंस शर्मा, निवासीः 112, विमानपुरी, इन्द्र धनुष एकेडमी, सनिगवाँ रोड, कानपुर नगर। **मांग सूचना तिथिः 04.06.2021, प्रलक्षित कब्जा लेने की तिथिः 12.10.2021** **बंधक सम्पत्ति का विवरण :** औद्योगिक भूमि व भवन, भूखण्ड सं. एम–4 एवं एम–5 पर स्थित, यू.पी.एस.आई.डी.सी. इण्डस्ट्रियल एरिया, जैनपुर, कानपुर देहात। **सम्पत्ति मालिक :** श्री भगवन्त शर्मा पुत्र श्री परम हंस शर्मा। **क्षेत्रफल :** भूखण्ड सं. एम–4 : 450 वर्गमीटर एवं भूखण्ड सं. एम–5 : 450 वर्गमीटर (कुल क्षेत्रफल : 900 वर्गमीटर), **चौहद्दी : भूखण्ड सं. एम–4 :** उत्तर : भूखण्ड सं. एम–03, दक्षिण : भूखण्ड सं. एम–05, पूरब : भूखण्ड सं. एम–17, पश्चिम : 18 मीटर चौड़ी रोड सं. 10, **चौहद्दी : भूखण्ड सं. एम–5 :** उत्तर : भूखण्ड सं. एम–04, दक्षिण : भूखण्ड सं. एम–06, पूरब : भूखण्ड सं. एम–16, पश्चिम : 18 मीटर चौड़ी रोड सं. 10 **मांग सूचना में बकाया धनराशि : रू. 41,44,356.20 + ब्याज + अन्य खर्चे।** |
| 2. | **बकायेदार : मेसर्स रिषित इण्टरप्राइजेज, प्रोपराइटर :** श्रीमती पूनम मौर्या पत्नी श्री प्रांजल कुमार मौर्या, निवासी : एम.आई.जी.–111, बर्रा–3, कानपुर नगर। **जमानतदार :** श्रीमती फूला देवी मौर्या पत्नी श्री तिलक धारी मौर्या, निवासी : बी4–38, विश्व बैंक कालोनी, बर्रा, कानपुर नगर। **मांग सूचना तिथि : 04.06.2021, प्रलक्षित कब्जा लेने की तिथि : 12.10.2021** **बंधक सम्पत्ति का विवरण :** आवासीय मकान सं. 38बी, एम.आई.जी., विश्व बैंक कालोनी, बर्रा, तहसील व जिला–कानपुर नगर। **सम्पत्ति मालिक :** श्रीमती फूला देवी मौर्या पत्नी श्री तिलक धारी मौर्या। **क्षेत्रफल :** 210 वर्गमीटर, **चौहद्दी :** उत्तर : भूखण्ड सं. 37, दक्षिण : 7.50 मीटर रोड, पूरब : 24 मीटर रोड, पश्चिम : 4.50 मीटर रोड। **मांग सूचना में बकाया धनराशि : रू. 31,46,748.64 + ब्याज + अन्य खर्चे।** |

प्राधिकृत अधिकारी, यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया

# Thousands of people watch Bharat Milap

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Thousands of people watching Bharat Milap at Nati Imli in Varanasi on Saturday. (Photo: Pramod Gupta)

Contrary to last year, once again, thousands of people thronged Nati Imli and adjoining areas to watch the internationally famous Bharat Milap event there on Saturday. Right from afternoon hours, the people started gathering there to have a glimpse of the reunion of Lord Rama with his brother Bharat. It is a famous event which even attracted Bollywood to make a movie as it attracted thousands of devotees. No impacts of COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions were seen there like last year.

Former Kashi Naresh Kumwar Anant Narayan Singh reached the venue as per tradition but by car instead of boarding a decorated elephant. The event was also watched by many dignitaries. After the reunion of Lord Rama with his brothers, Kunwar gifted coins to members of the committee as per tradition. As per tradition, children playing the roles of divine characters are brought to the ground of Nati Imli for public viewing of their reunion. Then the devotees paid their respect by putting a tilak on their forehead and garlanding Lord Rama, Bharat, Lakshman and Shatrughan.

Later, Kunwar returned to Bada Ganesh with the same route through which he had reached and in a similar procession. Earlier, to attend the event Kunwar left his Ramnagar Fort along with his sons along with traditional fort security personnel. The event was presented by the Ramayani Dal of Shri Chitrakoot Ramleela Samiti. The tight security arrangements were made at the venue of Bharat Milap to avoid any untoward incident. To avoid the rush, the areas were barricaded.

# Maurya lays foundation stone of overhead bridge, flyover

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya laid the foundation stone of the four-lane overhead bridge and flyover to be constructed at a cost of Rs 28421.46 lakh followed by bhoomi pujan in the Kalindipuram of Prayagraj. He said that today the stream of development is flowing not only in Prayagraj but in entire Uttar Pradesh.

The Deputy CM said that today Prayagraj and Kaushambi are developing from the point of view of tourism, which will boost employment in the coming times, self-employment will be available, the people of Prayagraj and Kaushambi will develop further. He further said that the Modi government today closed the shops of touts and corrupt because now the money of all the schemes is directly reaching the beneficiary's account and further said that our slogan is Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas, but the slogan of Congress is the development of Kuch Ka Saath Kuch Ka Vikas, SP's slogan is Kuch Ka Saath Goondo Ka Vikas and BSP's slogan is Kuch Ka Saath Dalalo aur Bhrastachariyo Ka Vikas.

The Deputy CM said that once the city was ruled by goons in the western assembly area, today all the goons are in jail under the BJP government and the stream of development is flowing in the city western. In view of the upcoming elections, all SP, BSP and Congress people are fighting against Modi and Modi and Yogi government are fighting for the public and for the interests of the people. In the upcoming assembly elections, 60 out of 100 are ours, the rest is partition and ours is also in the partition, because Modi is in the heart of the people and in the heart of Modi the Janta Janardan reside, he added.

BJP media in-charge Rajesh Kesarwani said that on this occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya gave information about the ongoing development works in Prayagraj to the people present so far. On this occasion, BJP city unit president Ganesh Kesarwani welcomed all the people who had come.

On this occasion MP Kesari Devi Patel, Cabinet Minister Siddharth Nath Singh, MLA Harshvardhan Bajpai, Sanjay Gupta, Lal Bahadur, Vikramajit Maurya, Ajay Kumar Bharti, MLC Surendra Chaudhary, District Panchayat President Dr VK Singh, Mayor Abhilasha Gupta, Awadhesh Chandra Gupta, Kamlesh Gautam, Varun Kesarwani, Rajesh Kesarwani and all the BJP office-bearers of the area were present.

It may be pointed out here that Rs 284.21 crore has been approved for this flyover and ROB. The construction of this ROB will not only facilitate the way from GT Road to the airport, but will also facilitate the way to the Buddhist pilgrimage centre of Kaushambi.

A programme was organised by the Setu Corporation to lay the foundation stone of about 1500 metres long Subedarganj ROB. Starting near Mahila village on GT Road, this ROB will go till Kalindipuram. This will be the longest overbridge of Prayagraj division. Starting from Army land on the side of GT Road, this ROB will be found in Kalindipuram Road, passing over the railway training centre near Subedarganj station and the procession house adjoining it.

A 700 metre double lane flyover is also proposed on GT Road before Subedarganj ROB. This flyover will be linked with Subedarganj Bridge. With this flyover, people will now be able to go towards the airport or Kalindipuram via ROB without stopping anywhere. The foundation stone of this ROB was laid at Jadugar Market in Kalindipuram.

# Effigies of Ravana burnt at many places

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Effigy of Ravana being burnt at Mahavir Mandir crossing in Varanasi on Friday evening. Pioneer

To mark the triumph of good over evil forces, the effigies of 'Demon King' Ravana were burnt at many places to celebrate the festival of Dussehra (Vijayadashmi) here on Friday evening but the festival lacked its grandeur as it was generally seen on this auspicious occasion during the pre-coronavirus pandemic period in the recent past. It was the second time when in the name of festival just formalities were done to maintain the tradition as the famous festival of Vijayadashami at some places including in Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) which attracted huge crowds, remained cancelled. On the occasion, elaborate security and other arrangements were made to avoid any untoward incident.

However, at some places including at Mahavir Mandir crossing (Orderly Bazar), the people burnt the effigy of Ravana. Though Ravana Dahan programmes were organised on small level, Mahavir Mandir crossing attracted the gathering of hundreds of people.

Besides, on the occasion of Vijayadashami, Shastra Puja programmes were also organised at some places. The local jewellers performed the traditional puja at Swarnkar Karmshala at Daranagar under the auspices of Swarnkar Kshtriya Samaj which is organising the programme since 1954.

# Durga idols immersed in pond

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Bengali women applying vermilion on each other forehead before immersion of Durga Idols.

The idols of Maa Durga were immersed on the day of Vijayadashami with the tearful eyes. The devotees worshipped Maa Durga, established in the Puja pandals in the morning before immersion. After this devotees took out the immersion procession with tearful eyes. The statues from the city to the countryside were immersed at the designated places through various routes.

After the passing of Shardiya Navratri, a symbol of sacrifice, dedication and sadhna, on the tenth day, devotees were engaged in wooing Maa Durga. People who praised goddess Durga for nine days duly observed the fast by apologising for the mistake. The items offered in the worship were immersed in the holy water of Ganga and Yamuna. After that, they came home and took food. At the same time, in Durga Puja pandals, the goddess Durga was duly worshiped amidst chants. Worship was done by offering flowers to the goddess. Prasad of Chivda, curd and sugar was offered to her.

Before immersion in Durga Puja pandals, women performed the ritual of sindoor. Bengalis and other women who organised pujas offered vermilion to Maa Durga and wished her to protect their 'suhaag'. It is believed that women who offer vermilion make the goddess Dugra happy. By this they are blessed with unbroken good fortune. This is the reason why women offer vermilion to the idol before immersion of the Durga idols. On this occasion, women applied vermilion to each other and danced in the midst of Dhaki playing. After this the immersion journey started. The idols were immersed in Andawa pond.

Immersion of the idols of Goddess sitting at thrown in Phaphamau was done with reverence and enthusiasm from Friday morning. Devotees gathered in the immersion procession. Devotees bid farewell to Maa Durga with tearful eyes. The process of idol immersion started from morning and continued uninterruptedly.

In Phaphamau as well as in the rural areas, the idols of the devotee Maa Ambe following the singing and dancing to the tune of band bajans, were taken for immersion.

Devotees were reaching the pond built in Bela Cachar of Phaphamau, carrying the idols of the mother Durga by placing them in trucks, tractor trolleys. Abir Gulal was flown along with cheers in the procession of Mother Goddess. Men, women and children danced to the tune of drums and bands.

The administration has made arrangements in Andawa for idol immersion. DM Sanjay Kumar Khatri and SSP Sarvsrhesth Tripathi inspected the pond on Thursday. Cleaning had been done around the pond.

There was also a provision of lighting. Police force was also deployed there so that no untoward happens during immersion. Along with this, a team of Water Police under the leadership of Water Police in-charge Kade Din Yadav was also present there. Teams of Health department, Electricity department and Fire Brigade were present.

# Idols of Goddess Durga immersed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

An idol of Goddess Durga being immersed in a pond in Varanasi on Friday evening. Pioneer

With the immersion of scores of idols of Goddess Durga at different ponds here on Friday, the Durga Puja came to an end and at all the puja pandals of Bangiya Samaj, the women of Bengali families did the traditional rituals of Sindur Khela and then gave an emotional Vidai (farewell) to Maa Durga. During the immersion procession, the committees avoided inviting crowds in view to maintain COVID-19 guidelines.

Before giving farewell to the idols of Goddess Durga, the Bengali women played Sindur Khela at various pandals of Bhelupura, Shivala, Sonarpura, Godowlia, Ramkrishna Mission, Bharat Seva Sangh on the occasion of Vijayadashami. This is an old tradition among the Bengalis to seek the blessings of Goddess Durga for the long life of their husbands. During the immersion, elaborate security arrangements were made at different ponds.

# Malini Awasthi enthralls audience

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Padmashree Malini Awasthi presenting a programme at Navratri Mahotsav in Varanasi on Friday evening. Pioneer

Eminent folk singer Padmashree Malini Awasthi enthralled the audience on the last day of nine-day Navratri Mahotsav held at Rajendra Prasad ghat under the joint auspices of Tourism department, Aashrey Sewa Sanstha and Subeh-e-Banaras here on Friday evening. In her presentation, Malini presented songs devoted to Goddess Shakti (Durga). She started her singing with 'Anadi Devi Ambike…' and then presented 'Nimiya Ke Daar Maiya Jhuleli Jhulanava…'

The cultural programme began with Shubham Tripathi presenting songs, followed by tabla presentation by Pritam Singh and singing of Kishore Singh. Then Pandit Puran Maharaj, son of tabla maestro late Pt Kishan Maharaj, mesmerised the audience by presenting tabla. Continuing the programme, the duet of Dr Shivani Acharya and Neelam Singh presented songs and they were accompanied by Ankit Kumar Singh (tabla), Dr Pankaj Sharma (harmonium) and Sonu Yaduvanshi (flute). Prior to Malini Awasthi, young Kathak artist Vishal Krishna also made his presence felt in the closing ceremony.

In the beginning, the closing ceremony was inaugurated by the UP Minister of State Neelkanth Tiwari who lit the lamp along with Dr Virendra Pratap Singh, Pramod Kumar Mishra, Dr Ratnesh Verma, Deepak Mishra, Sadhana Vedanti, Pandit Hariram Dwivedi, Vedic scholar Pandit Dhundiraj Pandey and Kamalakant Upadhyay. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said 'Kashi is a festival in itself as this is a festive-dominated city with Ganga Jamuni tehzeeb. Foreigners also assimilate the culture here. Therefore, we should continue to propagate our tradition and culture. The worship of Shakti also holds a special place in Kashi, the city of Shiva. Navratri Mahotsav is an attempt to connect this concept with the devotion of the common people through cultural media.'

He further said that with the inspiration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, various events are being organised today to promote local culture not only in Kashi but also in all the religious and cultural places of the entire UP. 'Efforts have also been made to promote young budding artists through the festival,' he said. The Minister also honoured many on this occasion.

The closing ceremony was conducted by Dr Preetesh Acharya, while the vote of thanks was proposed by Tourism Officer Kirtiman Srivastava.

# VHP to prepare 10,000 idols of Ganesha, Lakshmi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

In a first, volunteers of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) have set a target of preparing 10,000 idols of God Ganesha and Goddess Lakshmi as well as 25,000 diyas of cow dung at a gaushala (cow shelter) in Baharia block in trans-Ganga pocket of Prayagraj district.

VHP regional secretary (Gaurakaha) Lal Mani Tiwari told the newspersons this is the first time that VHP's gaushala will prepare around 25,000 diyas and 10,000 idols of god and goddess at Shri Prem Gaushala Anusandhan Trust in village Nari, under the Baharia block. We have engaged three SHGs, around 33 women workers, for making diyas and idols and production has already started.

Tiwari said, 'If the trial is successful, we will take up production of diays and idols at other gaushalas from next year.'

'Eco-friendly cow dung diyas and idols have been trending since last year and many people have taken to them as a green way of celebrating the festival of lights and sound. Now, the denizens are ditching clay diyas and instead rooting for those made of cow dung as they see it as a way of empowering gaushalas and local communities,' he added.

Tiwari opined that 'if the sale of diyas and idols goes better, it will help gaushala authorities in better upkeep of cows. These diyas will be manually made by women SHGs and gaushala owner'.

Normally, many people in rural areas buy cow dung for cleaning the house before Diwali, but this time adequate diyas and idols will be available at prominent city markets.

The diyas and idols will be made under the supervision of Dinesh Mishra.

Local VHP leaders, meanwhile, claimed they are preparing cow dung diyas for the first time. 'We are making two kinds of cow dung diyas: one is made of wet dung and the other of dung powder'.

'The wet dung diyas take an uneven shape and many customers might not be happy using them, while those made of cow dung powder are perfect,' said a woman volunteer. 'The dung powder is mixed with rice powder, vegetable gum and water. Once the diyas dry up, a cotton wick dipped in ghee and glued to a small metal plate is placed inside them,' she said.

These diyas will be available at cheaper rates. Interestingly, these diyas easily burn for over half-an-hour if used with desi ghee.

Many VHP leaders said 'people will prefer to buy diyas and idols made of cow dung as cow is connected to our roots'.

**14 NEW DENGUE CASES REPORTED**: The city reported 14 new dengue cases on Saturday, taking the tally to 431. New cases were detected in Shankargarh (2), Mauaima (1), Manda (1), Saidabad (1), Bai Ka Bagh (1), Karanpur (1), Chota Baghara (1), Attarsuiya (1), Beli Colony (2), Lala Ki Saray (1), Newada (1) and Stanley road (1). Out of the 14 cases detected, nine were from city areas, while rest four were from rural areas.

Moreover, out of total 431 dengue cases in the district so far, 312 were in urban pockets, while the rest 119 were in rural areas. After witnessing a significant spike in dengue cases in urban areas, officials of the Health department on Friday intensified the anti-larvae spraying drive in Chota Baghara, Beli Colony, Newada, Stanley road and Bai Ka Bagh areas.

# Gliders India Limited dedicated to nation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chairman and Managing Director, Gliders India Limited, VK Tiwari,participating in the dedication ceremony of the new seven new defence companies at Ordnance Parachute Factory. Pioneer

Chairman and Managing Director of Gliders India Limited (GIL), VK Tiwari, while addressing the dedication ceremony of the seven new defence companies to the nation at Ordnance Parachute Factory, said that it was important to adopt an advanced production system in the changing environment.

He said there was an imperative need for an effective action plan and its smooth implementation as well.

He said that manufacturing of quality products in OPF was highly commendable especially the adoption of new technologies in manufacturing of various types of parachutes and production of specialised products like floats etc. was highly praiseworthy.

He said the OPF's advanced production systems and effective work culture were well suited to the changing global environment.

He further said that under the visionary and effective policies of the Government of India to make the nation strong and self-reliant, Gliders India Limited was being dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. He said this was picking up the gauntlet by the OPF which, in fact, could be achieved with full dedication and strong emotion.

Highlighting the achievements of Gliders India Limited on this day, he said that it had developed pilot parachute for Su-30 aircraft and brake parachute for Hawk (AJT) under Research and Development (R&D) project and successful trials had already been conducted in January 2021 and as a result the OPF had obtained indent for the bulk production.

Gliders India Limited (GIL) is in fact a new defence company formed under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat policy of the Government of India.

Dignitaries from allied establishments and officials witnessed this event through video conferencing. The official website of GIL was also launched at the function.

Welcoming the chief guest, OPF General Manager Apurba Majumdar said GIL would touch new heights in the defence sector and the OPF was making concerted and dedication efforts in this direction.

Additional General Manager Sushil Sinha expressed gratitude to all the participants present in the function. The better half of the chief guest, Nidhi Tiwari, along with GIL Director (HR & Operations)/ Sunil Date, GIL Director (Finance) Surendra Dhapodkar, Regional Director/RDAQA, NA Meshram, QAO/SQAE(GS) Group Captain Vivek Dubey, Scientist (E/RCMA) Alok Kumar, OPF Additional General Manager Ashish Kumar were also present on the occasion.

# KDA to provide top amenities in its housing projects

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) is all set to provide all amenities in its housing projects that are available in townships developed by the private builders.

It has decided to develop the pilot projects on the pattern of 'corporate culture' with the help of police and the municipal corporation for ensuring security to residents and providing civic amenities, including construction of surrounding roads.

Subject to availability of proper space in its projects, separate police outposts will also be set up there. The sewerage and potable water problems of residents will also be resolved by the KDA on priority.

It may be recalled that in a bid to tighten the noose around land mafia and people involved in developing townships illegally, The KDA is already organising special camps for quick approval of building layouts and attending to matters relating to mutation and registry of properties. This will save them from running after the KDA officers for getting their work done.

With the allotment of ID to each KFA allottee, the details of installments deposited by him/her will be available on the computer to facilitate easy verification by the KDA staff. The entire system is being spearheaded by KDA Vice Chairman Arvind Singh himself, and this has checked the syndicate involved in unnecessary harassment of innocent allottees.

In the special camps organised to approve building plans two times in the past, around 175 layouts were approved within a few hours. Similarly, the KDA organised camps twice for executing registry (agreement to lease) to allottees of PM Awas Yojana flats.

Singh has directed the officials to ensure disposal of matters relating to layout approval, mutation and registry on priority. He has warned that any laxity on this account will attract stern disciplinary action against the guilty officials.

It may be recalled that in the matters of land acquisition in New Kanpur City and fake registries, penal action had been initiated against 13 officers/employees while two officers were shifted from their assignments for laxity in initiating action against illegal/unauthorised constructions.

# 100 mini trucks despatched to B'desh

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Under the leadership of General Manager (GM) Vinay Kumar Tripathi, North Eastern Railway (NER) is on the path of progress. On GM's instructions at the headquarters and at NER's Izzatnagar, Lucknow and Varanasi divisions under the supervision of the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Business Development Unit has been constituted which is constantly striving to increase the freight, loading and income of the Railways. The Izzatnagar division in the financial year 2021-22 has succeeded in obtaining the first international loading. Under it from Haldi Road station of Izzatnagar division for Bangladesh's Benapole station loading of 100 Tata Ace mini trucks has been received. In the NMG wagons made for auto loading the loading of 100 Tata Aces has been completed on October 13 and 14. From this loading, the Railway received a total of ₹16,59,486. Besides, on January 26 this year from Haldi Road to Benapole station in Bangladesh the loading of a Tata Ace was done. Due to the efforts of BDU in addition to continuous loading of automobiles in NER the freight of food items and FMCG products are being continuously loaded. Freight is also being received for its products, due to which the income of North Eastern Railway is increasing continuously, Senior Public Relations Officer (SPRO) CP Chauhan said.

# Chhapra-Delhi weekly from Oct 26

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration will for the convenience of passengers run the 05315/05316 Chhapra-Delhi-Chhapra (CPR) weekly puja special train and 05195/05196 Gorakhpur-Delhi- Gorakhpur weekly puja special train as follows. All the coaches in them will be of reserved class and passengers traveling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention guidelines, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said.

**CPR-DELHI WEEKLY:** The 05315 Chhapra – Delhi weekly puja special train will from October 26 to November 30 on every Tuesday depart from Chhapra at 11.15 hrs, from Ballia at 12.28 hrs, from Yusufpur at 13.15 hrs, from Ghazipur City at 13.41 hrs, from Aunrihar Jn at 14.40 hrs, from Dobhi at 15.15 hrs, from Kerakat at 15.25 hrs, from Jaunpur at 16.40 hrs, from Shahganj at 17.15 hrs, from Akbarpur at 17.56 hrs, from Faizabad at 19.10 hrs, from Lucknow (Northern Railway) at 22.40 hrs, from Hardoi on second day at 01.00 hrs, from Shahjahanpur at 02.55 hrs, from Aonla at 05.07 hrs, from Chandausi at 06.10 hrs, from Moradabad at 08.03 hrs, from Amroha at 08.37 hrs, from Hapur at 09.38 hrs, from Ghaziabad at 10.29 hrs, from Delhi Shahadra at 10.53 hrs and reach Delhi at 11.20 hrs. In return journey 05316 Delhi – Chhapra weekly puja special train will from October 27 to December 1 on every Wednesday depart from Delhi at 14.00 hrs, from Delhi Shahdara at 14.16 hrs, from Ghaziabad at 14.54 hrs, from Hapur at 15.32 hrs, from Amroha at 16.32 hrs, from Moradabad 17.30 hrs, from Chandausi at 19.00 hrs, from Sitapur at 08.30 hrs, from Aonla at 19.57 hrs, from Shahjahanpur at 22.42 hrs, from Hardoi at 23.34 hrs, seconnd day from Lucknow (NR) at 01.20 hrs, from Faizabad at 04.40 hrs, from Akbarpur at 06.15 hrs, Shahganj at 07.10 hrs, from Jaunpur at 08.30 hrs, from Kerakat at 08.59 hrs, from Dobhi at 09.08 hrs, from Aunrihar at 09.37 hrs, from Ghazipur City at 10.33 hrs, from Yusufpur at 10.50 hrs, from Ballia at 11.58 hrs and reach Chhapra at 13.20 hrs. A total of 23 coaches will be attached in this train, including two of SLRD, two of general second class, nine of sleeper class, two of air-conditioned (AC) third class and one coach of AC second class.

**GKP-DELHI WEEKLY:** The 05195 Gorakhpur–Delhi weekly puja special train will from October 31 to December 5 on every Sunday leave Gorakhpur at 21.35 hrs, from Basti at 22.38 hrs, from Gonda at 23.53 hrs, from Sitapur at 04.10 hrs, from Bareilly at 07.12 hrs, from Moradabad at 09.10 hrs, from Ghaziabad at 11.42 hrs and reach Delhi at 12.30 hrs. In the return journey 05196 Delhi-Gorakhpur weekly puja special will from November 1 to December 6 on every Monday leave Delhi at 15.05 hrs, from Ghaziabad at 15.55 hrs, from Moradabad at 18.33 hrs, from Bareilly at 19.59 hrs, from Sitapur at 22.55 hrs, second day from Gonda at 01.45 hrs, from Basti at 02.59 hrs and reach Gorakhpur at 04.45 hrs. A total of 21 coaches, including one of generator-cum-luggage van, one of SLRD, seven of sleeper class, four of general second class, six of AC third class and two of AC second class.

# Introduce entrepreneurship development, vocational studies: Guv to CSJMU

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Governor and Chancellor of Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur, Anandiben Patel, while chairing a self-evaluation meeting for National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) standards at Raj Bhawan, advised the university to compile the achievements for staking claims for the NACH grading.

She directed the university to come up to the desired standards. She pointed towards some finer flaws and advised the university officials to focus on those points to reach the desired NACH standards. She also advised them to introduce entrepreneurship development and vocational studies.

The university has presented itself for A++ category from the existing B category.

She said the university should on top priority introduce entrepreneurship development and vocational studies for its students. She said the current age was that of unprecedented global and technological transformation and over 50 per cent of the activities would be automated, generating completely new roles, responsibilities and challenges for the future workforce and thus the onus rested on the universities to understand the future needs of the students. She said entrepreneurship education encouraged creativity, innovation, and collaboration among the students.

Patel said today's students needed to learn how to identify problems before they learnt how to solve them. She said a problem could be solved only if it was identified and described as well. She said the entrepreneurship journey required passion and sustained persistence than most other activities. She said the university students need to be seasoned to seek and solve problems. She said apart from this focus had to be laid on vocational studies which made the students identify the difference between theoretical knowledge and practical skills. She said in the absence of theoretical knowledge one did not have the work experience that helped them transition from a classroom study topic into their actual profession.

Patel advised that the university should also focus on the needs of the adopted villages and issues like schools, hospital, tree plantation, pregnancy, nutrition, clean potable water malnutrition and awareness among the villagers. She said the university should focus on rooting out the social evils.

CSJMU Vice Chancellor Prof Vinay Pathak said the university had prepared a portal and thus the faculty would upload their related data which would help in NACH evaluation Prominent among those present in the meeting were Additional Chief Secretary to Governor, MK Gupta, Dr Pankaj Johnny, Director of University Institute of Health Sciences, Dr Pravin Katiyar and several others.

# Block: Trains to be short terminated

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration is taking a block of six hours for erecting girder for the construction of limited height subway (LHS) at Gate No-243/C between Izzatnagar-Bareilly City. As a result, the short termination/short origination and re-scheduling of the following trains will be done, Senior PRO CP Chauhan said.

**PILIBHIT-BC SPL:** The 05386 Pilibhit – Bareilly City (BC) special train will on October 17 in place of Bareilly City short terminate at Izzatnagar. The 05330 Pilibhit – Bareilly City special train will on October 17 instead of Bareilly City will short terminate at Izzatnagar.

**KASHIPUR-KASGANJ SPL:** The 05335 Kashipur-Kasganj special train will on October 17 instead of Kasganj short terminate at Izzatnagar. The 05369 Kasganj-Lal Kuan (LKU) special will on October 17 short terminate at Bareilly in place of Lal Kuan.

**BC-TANAKPUR SPL:** The 05321 Bareilly City-Tanakpur DEMU special will on October 17 be run from Izzatnagar in place of Bareilly City.

**BC-PILIBHIT SPL:** The 05329 Bareilly City-Pilibhit special in place of Bareilly City will be run from Izzatnagar on October 17 with rake of train No 05386

**BC-LKU SPL:** The 05327 Bareilly City-Lal Kuan special train on October 17 in place of Bareilly City will be run from Izzatnagar with rake of train No 05330. Besides, 05335 Kashipur-Kasganj special on October 17 will be run from Bareilly in place of Kashipur with rake of train No 05369.

**KASGANJ-LKU SPL:** The 05369 Kasganj-Lalkua special train will on October 17 be run from Izzatnagar in place of Kasganj with rake of train No 05335.

**TPU-SKTN SPL:** The 05076 Tanakpur (TPU)-Shaktinagar (SKTN) special train from Tanakpur will be run by being rescheduled by 80 minutes.

# Tension in village as two youths attempt to molest two girls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Tension prevailed in Ishwariganj village under Sachendi police station when two local goons attempted to molest two girls returning home from Dussehra Mela late Friday night.

When the family members of the victim girls protested, they were brutally beaten up by the goons, who also pelted stones at the house of the victim girls.

During the scuffle and stone-pelting, several members of the girls' family were injured.

Police sent the injured to hospital and launched raids to nab the assailants.

According to reports, three girls of a family along with two neighbouring women had gone to see Dussehra Mela on Friday evening. After participating in the Mela celebrations, when they were returning home, Ribbu Singh and Raja Singh of the village started teasing two of the girls near Binnaur crossing. Both the youths also attempted to drag these girls with them. When the women accompanying the girls protested, both the youths escaped from there.

On reaching the house, both the girls informed the other family members of the incident. Immediately, the irate family members rushed to the house of both the youths and registered a protest against their move. During the heated arguments that followed, the two youths and their family members indulged in scuffle with the victims' kin. They also stoned at the house of the victim girls.

In the incident, several members of the victimsâ€™ family were injured and they filed a complaint with the police. All the injured were sent to the community health centre (CHC) in Barasirohi for treatment.

Station House Officer of Sachendi, Satish Rathaur, said after registering the FIR, he had deputed two teams to nab the accused youths for initiating stern penal action against them.

**YOUTH KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENT:** A motorcyclist was killed while his friend was seriously injured when a truck knocked down their motorcycle and dragged it up to half-a-kilometer near Haraha village under Bidhnu police station late Friday night.

The condition of the injured youth was stated to be critical. Police have impounded the truck and started an investigation.

According to reports, Pradeep Shukla (37) of Shahjahanpur, Gajner (Kanpur Dehat) along with his friend Santosh Singh had gone to his relative's house in Naubasta, Kanpur, on Friday. Both were returning home late in the night. Near Haraha village, a truck knocked the motorcycle down from behind. As the motorcycle fell, it along with the youths got entangled with the truck and they were dragged a long distance. The truck driver applied brakes only after other vehicle drivers overtook him and raised an alarm.

On coming across the incident, the truck driver immediately escaped leaving his vehicle on the spot.

The passersby informed the police and shifted the injured to a nearby community health centre.

Police identified the injured and informed their kin. At the CHC, Pradeep was pronounced dead by the doctors while Santosh was referred to LLR Hospital in Kanpur after the first aid.

Station House Officer Atul Kumar Singh said the truck had been impounded and action would be taken against the guilty on the basis of the complaint lodged by the kin of the deceased.

**SIGNAL TESTING GOING ON AT KANPUR METRO**: Signal installation on the priority section of the Kanpur Metro has been completed and signal testing is being carried out on top priority.

In view of the proposed trial run on the 9 km long priority corridor (IIT-Motijheel) in November 2021, Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited (UPMRC) commenced the testing of the signaling system in the Metro Depot, located near Gurudev Chauraha.

The first train set is being prepared for trial on the test track in the Depot and before that signals are being charged and tested.

The process known as 'Signaling Power on Test' was carried out and out of a total of 29 signals to be installed in the depot, 27 have already been installed. The mainline is to be equipped with 43 signals, out of which, 35 signals have been placed. Currently, signal installation work is pending at the Motijheel Metro station only and that too will be complete soon.

Metro train's movement will be controlled with three coloured signals viz. Red, Violet and Green. While red is to stop, violet signal allows for conditional proceed (movement with a prescribed low-speed limit). This signal is shown when another train is in the vicinity. Green refers to the clear route and the driver can proceed freely with the allowed speed limit.

Another kind of signal is for movement inside the depot and this signal has three white lights. When two lights glow horizontally, the driver is instructed to stop and when two lights glow at a 45 degree angle, the train is allowed to proceed. This signal was called 'Shunt Signal'.

# Youth battered to death in Panki

**KANPUR (PNS):** A youth was battered to death by some local goons near Ratanpur police outpost when he was returning home from Dussehra Mela in Panki police station area late Friday night.

The police have registered an FIR against three named and four unidentified persons and started investigation.

The preliminary investigation revealed that the youth was killed following a dispute between him and the assailants when he was returning from Dussehra Mela. On the basis of CCTV footage, the police are trying to identify the assailants and ascertain the cause of the incident.

According to Shiv Nand Tewari of Ratanpur Colony, his younger son Ajay Tewari alias Dipu (25) had an enmity with a local youth, Dharmendra Singh, over some issue since last year. He alleged that late Friday night, when Ajay was returning home from Dussehra Mela, Dharmendra Singh along with accomplices Sunil Chaturvedi, Dipu Bhadauria and four others cornered him near KESCo Crossing and had a heated argument with him and started beating him up. When Sunil Kumar of the victim's locality came to the rescue of Ajay, the assailants also beat him up. Sunil somehow escaped from there and informed Ajay's kin about the incident.

On reaching there, the kin found Ajay lying in a pool of blood. They immediately took him to LLR Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

# Two women meet tragic end

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Two women died when a vehicle them hit them in an area under Padari police station on Saturday. A group of women were going on a morning walk on Mirzapur-Varanasi highway were hit by an unknown vehicle near Gurkhuli village. Three victims were sent to trauma centre in Varanasi in a serious condition where Rinki (42) and Sandhya (50) died during treatment while Gireesh (55) is fighting for her life while Nema(60) and Sudharma are out of danger. Padari SHO MK Pandey said the vehicle could not be identified.

**FUNCTION:** Divisional organising secretary (vibhag pracharak) of RSS Santosh while speaking at a function on Vijayadashami on Friday said it gives the message of victory of good over evil. He described Navaratri as the festival to accumulate strength to defeat evil. The programme was chaired by Tiladhari in which PC Sarraf, SC Upadhyay, Prabhu Barnwal, Dharmraj Singh, Milan and NPP chairman Manoj Jaiswal participated.

**EVENT:** Former district governor of Rotary Club KK Srivastava who was the guest of honour during dandia dance programme organised under the aegis of Rotary Club Mirzapur Gaurav patted the back of president Deepak Kushwaha and his team for the successful event in which family members of rotarians also participated. He praised the year long activities of the chapter. Shivam Agrawal, Amit Singh, RB Singh, Sukumar Bagachi, Sachin Katare and Ravi Katare.

# NCL CMD, others join puja celebrations

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

In Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL)'s all coalfields, projects and units on the occasion of Durga Puja and Navratri, puja pandals were decorated in which its family members and people from the vicinity worshipped Ma Durga and sought her blessings. Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) Prabhat Kumar Sinha, directors recently participated in the Durga Puja celebrations organised in pandals set up in various projects and wished for NCL family's happiness and prosperity and company's continuous progress. On the occasion NCL CMD Sinha extended best wishes to all personnel and their families on Durga Puja, Navratri, and Vijayadashami and expressed confidence that NCL will continue to ensure uninterrupted coal supply to power plants of the country.

# Devotional songs presented

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

At Rihand station of NTPC in the puja pandal located next to Shiva temple in the arrangement on the third day on Ashtami night a 'devi jagran' was organised under the aegis of Employees' Welfare Association. Artistes from Agrasen Maa Jagran Bhakti Mandal, Obra, enthralled the audience with their devotional songs at night. In the beginning of the programme, singer Bhanu Pratap, who had come from Ma Vindhyachaldham of Mirzapur district, offered 'Ganesh vandana' '*Mere Laadle Ganesh Pyare Pyaare, Bhole Babaji's ke aankhon ke taare.*" In the sequel,the songs related to the tableaux of Lord Hanuman, Lord Shankar, Radha-Krishna, Ram-Sita and Ma Durga by the artistes of Mirzapur, Varanasi and Sonbhadra compelled the audience to swing and applause. The entire puja pandal was filled with devotional songs sung one after the other by the artistes. GMs, AGMs, other officers and members, as well as representatives of various unions, other officers of the station, employees and spectators were present during the programme.

# Navy to review its readiness on Mon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Navy top echelon will next week review the readiness of its fleet in the backdrop of China flexing its maritime muscle in the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific. The five-day Commanders' conference will commence here from Monday.

Giving details here on Saturday, Navy officials said the conference, held twice a year, serves as a platform for Naval Commanders to discuss important maritime matters at the military-strategic level as well as interact with senior Government officials through an institutionalised forum.

Due to the rapidly changing geostrategic situation of the region, the significance and importance of the Conference is manifold. It is an institutionalised platform to deliberate, direct, devise and decide issues of utmost importance, which will shape future course of the Indian Navy.

During the Conference, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will address and interact with the Naval Commanders on matters pertaining to national security.

Among many issues being discussed, the Chief of the Naval Staff, along with other Naval Commanders, will review major operational, materiel, logistics, human resource development, training and administrative activities undertaken by the Indian Navy in the last few months and deliberate upon future plans for important activities and initiatives.

The Navy has focused on being Combat Ready, Credible and Cohesive force and despite the Covid-19 pandemic, continues to assiduously execute its mandate. The Indian Navy has witnessed a significant growth in its operational tasking over the years in consonance with India's rising maritime interests.

Indian Naval ships on Mission Based Deployments across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) have remained poised for quick response to any developing situation. Indian warships deployed in the Gulf of Aden and the Persian Gulf continue to provide security for trade flowing through these areas.

In 2020-21, warships have undertaken multiple Covid related outreach missions to provide food and medical aid to IOR littoral nations and beyond as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).

The Chief of Defence Staff, and the Chiefs of Indian Army and Indian Air Force will also interact with the Naval Commanders to address convergence of the three Services vis-à-vis the operational environment, and on avenues for augmenting Tri-Service synergy.

# Air chief to visit forward areas along LoC to assess operational preparedness

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Air Force (IAF) chief VR Chaudhari is visiting forward areas along the Line of Actual Control (LC) in Ladakh to review operational readiness of the armed forces. This is his first visit after assuming the top job earlier this month.

The visit comes at a time when India and China are in a stand-off situation at some locations in Eastern Ladakh since May last year.

The two Corps Commanders have held 13 rounds of talks to ease tension at the LAC and find ways for early disengagement from the flash points.

Chaudhari arrived in Leh on Saturday and will visit forward areas.

He will also hold talks with the operational commanders of the IAF and the Army to take a sense of the situation there.

Even though Chaudhari took over as the IAF chief recently, he was handling the LAC flare up and resultant build up to protect the LAC as the Western Air Command chief and then as the Vice-Chief.

During the ongoing visit, Chaudhari will visit the forward air bases in the Ladakh region besides some positions where the troops are deployed to thwart any transgressions by the Chinese troops, sources said here on Saturday.

The IAF has also upgraded its facilities in the northern sector where troops have been stationed with the surface-to-air missiles to counter even slow moving helicopters.

The Air Force has also deployed the Rafale fighter aircraft along with the MiG-29 fighters to guard the LAC. In fact, the IAF has deployed all its front line fighter jets including the SU-30s and Jaguars at the airbases near the 4,000 KM LAC stretching from Ladakh in the north to Arunachal Pradesh in the east since June last year.

At present, more than 50,000 troops each from India and China are deployed along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh since May last year.

The two sides did not retreat in the winter months and are likely to stay put at all the flash points during the coming winter months.

Army Chief General M M Naravane had visited the LAC for two days on October one to take stock of the operational preparedness of his troops.

He reportedly also reviewed the preparations for deploying troops in the winter months.

# Jaishankar to visit Israel to strengthen bilateral ties

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to further strengthen ties between the two countries, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will visit Israel and hold talks with his counterpart there on the entire gamut of relationship. The three-day visit begins on October 19.

The two countries have robust strategic and defence ties and Jaishankar and his Israeli counterpart Yair Lapid will focus to strengthen the strategic partnership. This will be Jaishankar's first visit to the country as External Affairs Minister.

The Ministry of External Affairs said here in a statement on Saturday Jaishankar will pay an official visit to Israel at the invitation of Alternate Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Lapid.

He will hold a bilateral meeting with Lapid and will also call on President Isaac Herzog, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, and Knesset Speaker Mickey Levy during his visit.

India and Israel elevated bilateral relations to a strategic partnership during the historic visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Israel in July 2017.

Since then, the relationship between the two countries has focused on expanding knowledge-based partnership, which includes collaboration in innovation and research, including boosting the 'Make in India' initiative, the ministry said.

> Israel has emerged as a major defence partner of India since diplomatic ties were established in the early 1990s

During his visit, Jaishankar will interact with the Indian-origin Jewish community in Israel, Indologists, Indian students who are currently pursuing their education in Israeli universities, and business people, including from the hi-tech industries, the statement said.

The visit will also be an occasion to pay tribute to the valiant Indian soldiers who laid their lives in the region, especially during the First World War, it said. The visit is seen towards cementing diplomatic and political ties between the two countries in the post-Benjamin Netanyahu era.

Israel has emerged as a major defence partner of India since diplomatic ties were established in the early 1990s. Over the years, Israel has supplied technology for the Indian missile programme, sophisticated rifles, Phalcon airborne early warning radar system(AWACS), drones, sensors and other related equipment. The two countries also share close relationship in fighting terrorism through intelligence sharing and counter-terrorism operations. Jaishankar will first visit Dubai on Sunday and will then leave for Israel.

In the United Arab Emirates(UAE), the external affairs minister is likely to hold talks with the leadership there on issues like the situation in Afghanistan. Incidentally, the UAE established diplomatic relations with Israel under the Abraham Accord signed on August 13, 2020.

# NSG commandos deployed at Srinagar, Jammu airbases for anti-drone cover

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Units of the National Security Guard (NSG) have been deployed at the Srinagar and Jammu airbases to provide anti-drone cover, paramilitary chief MA Ganapathy said on Saturday.

The move comes after Jammu air station was hit by drone attacks earlier this year. The NSG on Saturday celebrated its 37th raising at its campus in Manesar.

Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) conspired to execute the first-ever drone attack on June 27 at the Indian Air Force (IAF) station in Jammu where two unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), which came from across the border, dropped bombs, injuring two airmen and damaging a portion of a building.

The two IAF facilities in the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir are located close to the Pakistan border/Line of Control (LoC) respectively and are categorised as 'sensitive' locations.

On the NSG Raising Day on Saturday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah greeted the elite counter-terrorism force, terming it is a "world-class trained force to tackle all facets of terrorism" and the country is proud of its troops.

The elite striking force, the NSG was established in 1984 after the Union Cabinet decided to create a 'Federal Contingency Force' that was 'well trained to tackle various manifestations of terrorism.

Every year, the Raising Day of the NSG is celebrated on October 16. This year marks the 37th anniversary of the establishment of the NSG, popularly known as Black Cats.

"Greetings to our brave NSG personnel on their 37th Raising Day. NSG is a world-class trained force to tackle all facets of terrorism. This formidable force has left no stone unturned to live up to its motto 'Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha'. India is proud of NSG black cats," the Home Minister tweeted.

> On the NSG Raising Day on Saturday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah greeted the elite counter-terrorism force

NSG is mandated to be deployed in exceptional circumstances only. The task-oriented force comprises two complementary elements in the form of the Special Action Group (SAG).

The 37th Raising Day was addressed by junior Home Minister Nityanand Rai who presented medals to the NSG personnel who were awarded the President's Medal for Meritorious Service.

NSG DG Ganapthy also addressed the event and dwelt on the evolution of the force and continuous modernisation of the force to deal with the dynamic nature of threats.

# Four CRPF jawans injured in accidental fuse box explosion

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Four CRPF jawans were injured when an ammunition fuse box exploded when it was being loaded on a train at the Raipur station on Saturday.

The 211 Company of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was in the train when ammunition was being loaded on Saturday morning, the paramilitary said in a statement.

"Boxes of arms and ammunition were being loaded on the train by Head Constable Vikas Lakshman and other jawans. The ammunition fuse box exploded in Lakshman's hand near the toilet of the train's compartment," it said.

Due to the fuse box explosion, Lakshman got injured and he was immediately admitted to the Sreenarayana hospital in Raipur. Three other jawans also suffered some injuries and they were given first aid treatment at the station, the statement said.

The CRPF said that "a case has been filed with the GRP railway station and it has directed to investigate the matter".

The special train was scheduled to carry the CRPF personnel to Jammu from Raipur, Raipur police said in Chattisgarh capital.

"A minor explosion was recorded in a special train of the CRPF at the Raipur railway station around 6.30 am today. The train was heading to Jammu from Jharsuguda (Odisha)," Raipur Superintendent of Police (SP) Prashant Agrawal said.

> The spl train was scheduled to carry the CRPF personnel to Jammu from Raipur, Raipur police said in Chattisgarh capital

"The explosion occurred during the shifting of a container carrying detonators and HD cartridges. While shifting the container in train, it accidentally slipped in coach number-9, which led to the blast," the SP added.

# Left parties urge Centre to withdraw extended jurisdiction of BSF

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Left parties CPI(M) and CPI on Saturday urged the Central Government to withdraw the extended jurisdiction to Border Security Force (BSF) in States having international borders of Punjab, West Bengal and Assam.

CPI general Secretary D Raja said the Central Government must reconsider this decision and it is an encroachment on State's powers on policing.

"The decision of the Central government to extend the jurisdiction of the Border Security force (BSF) upto 50 kilometers inside the international borders in Punjab, West Bengal and Assam from the earlier 15 kilometers jurisdiction is an encroachment on the rights of the states and the federal principle. The Central government has taken this decision to extend the jurisdiction of the Central police force without consulting the states. Policing and law and order is a state subject and this decision violates federalism, a basic feature of our Constitution," said CPI(M) polit bureau in a statement.

"The National Secretariat of the Communist Party of India condemns the decision of the central government to extend the jurisdiction of the Border Security Force (BSF) up to 50 kilometres from the international borders in Punjab, West Bengal and Assam from the existing 15 kilometres. The unilateral decision of the central government is a blatant violation of the federal principle of governance. The Party wants the government to reconsider the decision and consult the concerned state governments before taking such a decision," said CPI in a statement.

# BJP slams Congress for 'not offering any comment' on Singhu border killing of dalit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lashing out at the Congress for "not offering any comment" on the ghastly killing of a dalit at the Singhu-border, the BJP on Saturday asked the opposition whether it was supporting the 'Talibani thinking" and the anti-social elements which are "misusing" farmers protests to further their own vested interests.

Addressing a press conference here, BJP's National Spokesman Gaurav Bhatia also took to task Bhartiya Kisan Union president Rakesh Tikait who is leading the farm stir, for saying that "organisers have no accountability towards the incident".

"Have professional protestors no responsibility towards their own citizens ?", he asked.

Bhatia accused the opposition, particularly the Congress, of keeping a silence for their " petty and cheap vote-bank politics".

"For petty and cheap vote-bank politics, the opposition, particularly the Congress, is maintaining a deafening silence..no courage to call a spade a spade as it does not suit their policies of convenience", he said.

On the killing of a dalit on the Singhu-border, Bhatia wondered whether the Congress is subscribing to the Talibani traditions.

BJP leader said the anti-social elements have joined the protest and are firing guns from the shoulders of the agitating farmers.

The BJP spokesperson referred to the statement from the Congress Working Committee and said Congress President' Sonia's "silence is dangerous" as the opposition party, he said is otherwise very quick and regular on raising convenient issues on the farmers.

BJP said that "anarchists behind these protests need to be exposed as they are doing a great disservice to the nation".

"The professional protesters who are masking themselves as farmers are doing great disservice to the nation. Those who take the life of an innocent man, rape women and insult the tricolour and justify the killings of citizens as reaction to the action cannot be termed as farmers, " Bhatia said.

The BJP leader also took pot-shots at Sonia's announcement that she is a full-time and hands-on President, saying the Congress has once again moved on with its " all lies and create confusion politics" by brushing aside party's long internal strife andthe subsequent issues raised by G-23 group within it.

"It is not CWC but PBWC-'Parivar Bachao working committee", he quipped

BJP's IT Cell in-charge Amit Malviya also blamed Tikait for the Singhu-border incident. He took to Twitter to say that the gory murder would not have occurred if Rakesh Tikait had "not justified the mob lynching in Lakhimpur".

# Covid anthem released to mark 100-cr vax doses milestone

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday released a Covid anthem, penned by singer Kailash Kher, in the run up to India crossing the landmark of 100-crore Covid-19 vaccine doses next week. While the anthem is aimed at dispelling the myths and shedding vaccine hesitancy, the Centre cautioned that it was too early to declare victory over the virus that has swept the world as well as India.

Till Saturday evening, as many as "97.23 crore have been administered the first dose of Covid vaccine in the country", said Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya at an event here held to release the anthem.

So far, more than 101 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses have been provided to states and union territories so far while over 11.12 crore balance and unutilised vaccine doses are still available with the states and UTs.

The vaccines administered suggest about 70 per cent of the population getting at least one dose and about 30 per cent of the population has got two doses, said the Minister.

"We administered 2.5 crore doses one single day on September 17 and next week we will reach the 100 crore mark," he said. "This has happened because of the effort put in by all."

The minister said while it takes 5-10 years to test and develop vaccines, India has researched and developed an in-house vaccine, and to add to the complex manufacturing, the humongous logistics involving setting up cold chains, airport transfers, delivery to states, local storage and last-mile connectivity were set up in no time.

Kher, who has composed and sung the anthem, said it is essential to dispel myths and rumours surrounding vaccines and promote its usage so as to ensure all get the vaccine.

"We will be better equipped to deal with (a new challenge) both in terms of infrastructure and medical science" but "we should not declare victory yet," Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said adding that vaccination has now become a people's movement despite the negative narrative and falsehood spread by some in the country.

India has recorded 15,981 Covid-19 cases in a day, taking the infection tally to 3,40,53,573 while 166 more fatalities pushed the death toll to 4,51,980, according to the Union Health Ministry's data on Saturday.

The number of active Covid cases has declined to 2,01,632, the lowest in 218 days. The national recovery rate was at 98.07 per cent, the data updated at 8 am showed.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23.

# ISIS claims Shia mosque bombing in Afghanistan

AP ■ KABUL

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for a deadly suicide bombing on a Shia mosque in southern Afghanistan that killed 47 people and wounded scores more. Relatives laid the bodies of the victims to rest on Saturday and called on the Taliban to protect them.

ISIS said in a statement posted late on Friday on social media that two of the group's members shot and killed security guards manning the entrance of the Fatimiya mosque in Kandahar province.

One detonated his explosives at the entrance of the mosque and the other inside.

ISIS's news agency *Amaq* in a statement gave the names of the attackers as Anas al-Khurasani and Abu Ali al-Baluchi, both Afghan nationals.

The families of the victims Saturday dug their graves and carried the bodies to their final resting place. In total, 63 graves were dug, but the Taliban's chief for the provincial department of culture and information maintained the official death toll was 47.

"There are so many who have lost body parts, and among those in hospital in serious condition, I don't know how many more numbers will be added to the death toll," said community elder Hajji Farhad.

Relatives carry the body of a victim of Friday's suicide attack during a mass funeral in Kandahar on Saturday AP

Shiite leader Sayed Mohammed Agha called on the Taliban Government to take serious measures to protect the Shia minority, "because our enemies will harm our society by any means they can."

The attack came a week after a bombing claimed by the local Islamic State affiliate killed 46 people at a Shia mosque in northern Afghanistan, raising fears that ISIS — an enemy of both the Taliban and the West — is expanding its foothold in Afghanistan.

Friday's attack was the deadliest to strike Afghanistan since the dramatic US exit from the country, which allowed the Taliban to seize control of the Afghan capital. It was also the first major attack by the group in the country's south.

ISIS carries out frequent attacks in its eastern stronghold, but recently has shown signs of expansion, with attacks in the north and Kabul.

The attacks have brought into question the Taliban's ability to counter the growing ISIS threat. The Taliban have pledged to restore peace and security after decades of war and have also given the US assurances that they will not allow the country to be used as a base for launching extremist attacks on other countries.

# America vows to pay relatives of Afghans killed in drone strike

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US Defense Department said on Friday that it is committed to offering condolence payments to relatives of the 10 people who were killed in an errant US drone strike in Kabul, Afghanistan, in August.

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said in a statement that the Defense Department was also working with the State Department to help surviving family members relocate to the United States.

Kirby said the matter arose in a meeting Thursday between Dr. Colin Kahl, under secretary of defense for policy, and Dr. Steven Kwon, founder and president of the nonprofit group Nutrition & Education International.

"Dr. Kahl reiterated Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin's commitment to the families, including offering ex gratia condolence payments," Kirby said. He did not say how much money would be offered.

On August 29, a US Hellfire missile struck a car driven by Zemerai Ahmadi, who had just pulled into the driveway of the Ahmadi family compound. In all, 10 members of the family, including seven children, were killed in the strike.

Weeks later, Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, head of U.S. Central Command, called the strike a "tragic mistake" and said innocent civilians were indeed killed in the attack.

During the meeting Thursday, Kwon told Kahl that Ahmadi had work with NEI for many years, "providing care and lifesaving assistance for people facing high mortality rates in Afghanistan," according to Kirby.

The U.S. military initially defended the strike, saying it had targeted an Islamic State group's "facilitator" and disrupted the militants' ability to carry out attacks during the chaotic final stage of the withdrawal of US and NATO troops from Afghanistan.

Discrepancies between the military's portrayal of the strike and findings on the ground quickly emerged. *The Associated Press* and other news organizations reported that the driver of the targeted vehicle was a longtime employee at a US humanitarian organisation. There were no signs of a large secondary blast, despite the Pentagon's assertion that the vehicle contained explosives.

The drone strike followed a devastating suicide bombing by an Islamic State offshoot that killed 169 Afghans and 13 US military personnel at one of the gates to the Kabul airport in late August.

# UN official: Taliban to announce secondary school for girls

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

A senior UN official said on Friday the Taliban told him they will announce "very soon" that all Afghan girls will be allowed to attend secondary schools.

UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Omar Abdi, who visited Kabul last week, told reporters at UN headquarters that five of Afghanistan's 34 provinces — Balkh, Jawzjan and Samangan in the northwest, Kunduz in the northeast and Urozgan in the southwest — are already allowing girls to attend secondary school.

He said the Taliban's education minister told him they are working on "a framework" to allow all girls to continue their schooling beyond the sixth grade, which should be published "between a month and two."

"As I speak to you today, millions of girls of secondary school age are missing out on education for the 27th consecutive day," Abdi said. "We are urging them not to wait. Any day that we wait — it's a day lost for those girls that are out of school."

During the Taliban's previous rule of Afghanistan from 1996-2001, they denied girls and women the right to education and barred them from working and public life. Since their August 15 takeover of Afghanistan as US and NATO forces were in the final stages of their chaotic withdrawal from the country after 20 years, the Taliban have come under increasing international pressure to ensure women's rights to education and work.

Abdi said that in every meeting he pressed the Taliban "to let girls resume their learning," calling it "critical for the girls themselves and for the country as a whole."

When the Taliban were ousted from power in 2001 by a US-led coalition for harboring Osama bin Laden who masterminded the 9/11 attacks on the United States, only one million Afghan children were in school at all levels, he said.

Over the past 20 years, that figure rose to almost 10 million children at all levels, including 4 million girls, Abdi said, and in the last decade the number of schools tripled from 6,000 to 18,000.

"Education gains of the past two decades must be strengthened and not rolled back," he said.

## GLOBE TROTTING

### NEPAL RECORDS MASSIVE DIP IN NEW COVID CASES

**Kathmandu:** Nepal reported 136 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, a record low in comparison to the last few months, taking the national tally to 804,652 cases, the health ministry said on Wednesday. There are 12,598 active Covid cases across the country. During the last 24 hours, 845 people recovered from the disease.

### MoU WITH BHUTAN TO SPEED UP TALKS: CHINA

**Beijing:** China has said that its MoU with Bhutan firming up a three-step roadmap for expediting the boundary negotiations will make a "meaningful contribution" to speed up the border talks and establishment of diplomatic ties with Thimphu. The two countries on October 14 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Expediting the China-Bhutan Boundary Negotiation in Beijing and Thimphu via video link.

### ERDOGAN BIDS FAREWELL TO MERKEL AFTER 16 YRS

**Istanbul:** Angela Merkel's final visit to Turkey as German chancellor on Saturday saw two of Europe's longest serving leaders pay tribute to one another as Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan hosted her for farewell talks overlooking the Bosporus. Erdogan had been in office for more than two years when Merkel came to power in 2005. Since then, they have built a relationship based on pragmatism that has weathered several crises.

### OVER 90 SNAKES FOUND UNDER CALIFORNIA HOME

**San Francisco (US):** Al Wolf is used to clearing one or two snakes from under houses but recently was called by a woman who said she had seen rattlesnakes scurry under her Northern California house and was surprised to find more than 90 rattlesnakes getting ready to hibernate.

### 4 TOURISTS FOUND DEAD AT ALBANIA BEACH RESORT

**Tirana (Albania):** Police say four Russian tourists were found dead at a beach resort in western Albania.Albanian police issued a statement Saturday saying the four were found asphyxiated in a hotel sauna in the village of Qerret.

### 11 KIDS DROWNED IN INDONESIAN RIVER

**Jakarta:** Eleven students drowned and 10 others were rescued during a school outing for a river cleanup in Indonesia's West Java Province.

# Scotland Yard probes Islamist terror link to British MP's fatal stabbing

PTI ■ LONDON

Scotland Yard on Saturday said the killing of Conservative MP David Amess is being treated as a terrorist attack and it was probing a potential Islamist terrorism link to the fatal stabbing, an incident that has shocked the country and prompted calls for a review of security measures for lawmakers engaged in constituency work.

Amess, 69 and a member of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's ruling Conservative Party, died after being stabbed several times on Friday as he was meeting his constituents in at Belfairs Methodist Church in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

A 25-year-old British man, believed to be of Somali heritage, was arrested at the scene on suspicion of murder and remains in custody at a police station in Essex, south-east England. Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Opposition Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer laid flowers at the scene of the stabbing, together on Saturday morning.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Leader of the Labour Party Keir Starmer, second from left, carry flowers as they arrive at the scene where a member of Parliament was stabbed Friday, in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, England on Saturday AP

"Senior National Coordinator for Counter Terrorism Policing, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Dean Haydon formally declared the incident as terrorism. The early investigation has revealed a potential motivation linked to Islamist extremism," the Metropolitan Police said in a statement.

"A 25-year-old British man was arrested at the scene on suspicion of murder. He is currently in custody at a police station in Essex. As part of the investigation, officers are currently carrying out searches at two addresses in the London area and these are ongoing," it said.

"It is believed that he acted alone, and we are not seeking anyone else in connection with the incident at this time. However, enquiries into the circumstances continue," it added.

# ASEAN downgrades Myanmar presence at summit

## Myanmar junta chief excluded

AP ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Southeast Asian Foreign Ministers have agreed to downgrade Myanmar's participation in an upcoming summit in their sharpest rebuke yet of its leaders following a February 1 military takeover.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations will invite a non-political representative instead of Myanmar's military leader, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, the grouping's chair Brunei said on Saturday.

The decision was made at an emergency meeting late Friday after Myanmar refused to cooperate with the bloc's crisis envoy, Erywan Yusof, who is Brunei's Second Foreign Minister.

In a swift response, Myanmar's foreign ministry said it was "extremely disappointed and strongly objected" to the group's decision, which was made without a consensus.

"Linking the matter of Myanmar's representation at the ASEAN summit with the visit of the special envoy would be counterproductive as it is merely putting pressure on Myanmar," the statement said.

**MAJOR REBUKE**

It also claimed that the military junta's current government was in line with Myanmar's constitution.

The 10-member bloc has been under intense international pressure to do more to force member state Myanmar to free scores of political figures, including ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, as well as halt the violence that has left more than 1,100 civilians dead. ASEAN's envoy abruptly canceled a trip to Myanmar this week after he was told he would not be able to meet with Suu Kyi, and others as he wanted. Myanmar contended Erywan could not meet with people facing legal proceedings such as Suu Kyi and deposed President Win Myint, Brunei said in a statement.

Suu Kyi and other top civilian leaders were detained in the army takeover. She faces various charges that her supporters and independent analysts say are an attempt to legitimize the military action.

The statement from Brunei said the ASEAN ministers were concerned about the impact of the Myanmar crisis on regional security and about the "unity, credibility and centrality of ASEAN as a rules-based organization." The bloc's envoy must have access to all concerned parties, it said.

Members of the political opposition's National Unity Government, which views itself as a shadow government, have asked to attend the October 26-28 summit, it said.

## FROM PAGE 1

### HINDU'S BODY FOUND; B'DESH DURGA PUJA ...

According to a Hindu community leader, the deceased was a victim of bigot attacks on devotees on Friday.

Four people were killed and scores of others injured during clashes between Muslim bigots and the police at Hajiganj sub-district in central Chandpur on Wednesday and Thursday, prompting the government to call out paramilitary forces to maintain law and order across the country. On Thursday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina promised to bring to justice the culprits behind the violence, saying anyone involved in the attacks on Hindu temples and Durga Puja venues in Comilla will not be spared. "The incidents in Comilla are being thoroughly investigated. Nobody will be spared. It doesn't matter which religion they belong to. They will be hunted down and punished," she said while exchanging greetings with the Hindu community members during an event at Dhakeshwari National Temple in Dhaka on the occasion of Durga Puja.

The violence had erupted after an alleged blasphemy incident at a Durga Puja pavilion in Cumilla, bordering Chandpur and about 100 kms from Dhaka, after which a probe was launched.

### 30% DEPRIVED OF WATER, SOAP AT HOME!

"Global response efforts to the pandemic have created an unprecedented time for hand hygiene. Yet progress remains far too slow for the most vulnerable, underserved communities," Unicef WASH Director Kelly Ann Naylor was quoted as saying in a statement. "Hand hygiene cannot be viewed as a temporary provision to manage Covid-19. Further long-term investment in water, sanitation and hygiene can help prevent the next health crisis from coming. It also means fewer people falling ill with respiratory infections, fewer children dying from diarrhoea diseases, and more pregnant mothers and newborns protected from preventable conditions like sepsis."

### SIX PEOPLE DEAD...

"The situation is serious", Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said. He, however, said the latest weather forecast indicates that the situation is not going to get worse. Officials said personnel of the Army, Airforce and the Navy were on the way to Koottickal and Peruvanthanam--the two hilly villages falling under Kottayam and Idukki districts respectively--where an overflowing river swept through houses, displacing and isolating many. State Cooperation Minister VN Vasavan, who reached the neighbourhood of these landslide-hit villages, said bodies of two women and a child who died, were recovered while search was on to recover the body of a man who also lost his life in the incident. He said at least 12 people are missing from these villages.

In a separate rain related incident, a man and a woman--both 30-years-old--died as their car was swept away in the flood waters in Kanjar in Idukki district, police said. Their bodies have been recovered, they said.

According to a defence spokesperson, Mi-17 and Sarang Helicopters are already in standby mode to meet the requirements but they could not start operations as the weather at Kottayam is still bad. Air Force assets are still at Sulur in a standby mode, she said.

### NIHANG SIKH SURRENDERS FOR...

A senior police official of Sonepat police said while seeking Sarabjit's custody, police submitted before the court that they have to make certain recoveries from the accused arrested in the case. The official said Sarabjit has named four more people during interrogations while pointing to their involvement in the incident.

"We produced Sarabjit before the court. The accused has been remanded in seven days' police custody by the court," Sonepat's Deputy Superintendent of Police, Virender Singh said. "The accused has pointed to the involvement of four more people in the case and taken their names...we are conducting further investigations in this regard. We have to make some recoveries from the arrested accused, including the weapon used in the crime and the clothes he was wearing," he said. The total number of accused in the crime could be more than five, the DSP said, adding further investigations were on.

Hours after the macabre crime on Friday, a man wearing the blue robes of the Sikhs' Nihang order appeared before the media, claiming that he had "punished" the victim for "desecrating" a Sikh holy book. Other Nihangs had claimed he had "surrendered" to police, while police had later said Sarabjit Singh, who hails from Gurdaspur district, has been arrested in the case. Earlier on Friday, in a video clip that surfaced on social media, some Nihangs were seen standing around the injured man with his severed left hand close to his head. The group was heard accusing him of desecrating a Sikh holy book.

The video showed the Nihang group asking the badly injured man, who is pleading with them in Punjabi, where he had come from and who sent him.

### I'M FULL-TIME, HANDS-ON...

"Above all, it requires self-control and discipline," she said amidst the demand from senior leaders like AK Antony as well as Chief Ministers of Punjab, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh to bring back Rahul as the chief of the grand old party.

News agency *ANI*, quoting sources said that on the insistence of senior leaders at the CWC meeting, Rahul said that he "will consider" becoming the party president again.

The CWC decided that elections for the top post will be held between August 21 and September 20 next year and the next chief could take the baton by October 2022. It emerged during the course of the discussion that there should not be any immediate changes in top leadership due to the impending crucial Assembly elections, including that of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab next year. After a nearly five-hour-long meeting of the CWC, AICC general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal announced the election schedule, which includes a massive membership drive for the polls starting from November 1, 2021, and will go on till March 31, 2022.

At a Press conference, Venugopal also stated that the election of PCC presidents, vice presidents, treasurers, PCC executives, and AICC members by the PCC general body will be held between July 21 and August 20, 2022. The election of the Congress president will be held between August 21 and September 20, 2022, he said.

Speaking at the press conference Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said all members of the CWC have reassured their full faith in Sonia and her leadership. On being asked whether Rahul can become the party's president before the organisational elections, Surjewala said, "The dates have been already announced, any changes that take place will happen accordingly."

"There is no need to speak to me through the media. So let us all have a free and honest discussion. But what should get communicated outside the four walls of this room is the collective decision of the CWC," Sonia noted in her opening remarks.

Talking about the party's revival, a key theme raised by the G-23, she said, "The entire organisation wants a revival of the Congress. But this requires unity and keeping the party's interests paramount. Above all, it requires self-control and discipline. "Never have we let issues of public importance and concern go unaddressed. You are aware that I have been taking them up with the Prime Minister as have Dr Manmohan Singh and Rahul ji. I have been interacting with like-minded political parties regularly. We have issued joint statements on national issues and coordinated our strategy in Parliament as well."

The CWC also passed three resolutions, including a political calling upon all democratic parties and forces to join hands to resolutely oppose the Modi Government in order to protect the values on which our country was founded and to advance the causes of the people.

Sonia also spoke about the Lakhimpur Kheri incident, the farmers' agitation, inflation, foreign policy and the continuing border stand-off with China, targeted killing in Jammu and Kashmir and the disinvestment process. One of the resolutionss was on agrarian distress and the CWC mentioned, "We reiterate our continued resolve to fight the battle alongside the farmers and farm labourers to defeat the Modi Government's deliberate attack on India's Anndatas." The CWC also urged the Centre to 'take immediate steps to reduce prices' as part of a resolution on inflation during the meeting. Regarding the same, the Opposition party also announced to undertake mass agitation on price rise between Nov 14 and 29.

"All supporters and leaders will take up padyatras to polling booths. This will be followed by small meetings," said Venugopal.

### 2 MORE MARTYRED...

"On October 14, 2021 after a fierce firefight with terrorists, the communication with Subedar Ajay Singh and Naik Harendra Singh was disrupted. Relentless operations continued to neutralise the terrorists and to re-establish communication with the soldiers. Subedar Ajay Singh and Naik Harendra Singh were killed in action in the fierce fight and their bodies have been recovered in the evening of 16 Oct 21," he added.

Subedar Ajay Singh is a resident of village - Rampur, Post- Jajal, Tehsil- Narendra Nagar, District - Tehri, Uttrakhand.

Naik Harendra Singh is a native of village - Pipalsari, Post- Rikhnikhal, Tehsil- Lansdowne, District - Pauri, Uttrakhand. To prevent further loss of lives of the Indian Army jawans, the elite para commandos have directed to neutralise the group of terrorists hiding in the thickly forested area. The elite commandos were earlier inducted into the operations keeping in mind the difficult terrain and thick foliage.

After a brief lull since last evening, fresh contact was established with the terrorists on Saturday. The exchange of fire also took place for some time, but the terrorists continued to remain at large even on the sixth day of the operations.

Deputy Inspector General (Rajouri Poonch range)Vivek Gupta told reporters in Poonch that the counter terrorist operation is going on in the thickly forested area of Mendhar tehsil in Poonch. He said the joint grid of the security forces was tracking the terrorists in the area for over two months now. "So far the security forces have established contact with the terrorists on three occasions," said Vivek Gupta, adding, "We have managed to hold these terrorists in a particular area and following all the SoP's in order to neutralise these terrorists as soon as possible." He said the traffic in the area has been diverted to ensure safety of the commuters.

Meanwhile, after the targeted killings of civilians in different parts of Kashmir valley the security forces have adopted an aggressive posturing. Since October 8, 13 terrorists have been neutralised in nine encounters.

Hitting back, terrorists shot dead two non-locals labourers, hailing from Hindi heartland states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh were shot dead in Srinagar and Pulwama districts late Saturday evening .

HOME THEATRE

# Heart in right place

**RASHMI ROCKET**
**ZEE5**
***ing: Supriya Pathak, Manoj Joshi, Taapsee Pannu, Priyanshu Painyuli, Abhishek Banerjee, Varun Badola**
**Rated: 5.5/10**

There are some films which have a great storyline and the makers choose a fantastic subject. The star cast is strong as well, yet there is something missing that refuse to resonate and make it a movie that is par excellence. Rashmi fits this category.

Directed by Akarsh Khurana and produced by Ronnie Screwvala, Neha Anand and Pranjal Khandhdiya, the film has heart in the right place. However, what is missing is the soul that puts life into a subject that is sensitive and talks about gender testing for women athletes globally – a subject that has been in debate for years.

Taapsee Pannu, who has done movies like Pink, Badla and Thappad, despite remaining the driving force behind Rashmi Rocket looks totally helpless in the second half of the movie. This is a bit strange since she has shown to be a woman who is strong minded and definitely not someone who will bow down to anybody let alone a bunch of women athletes out to get her. Of course, there is a scene where she hits out but that does nothing to give the impression that she is in any ways the girl that she was at the start of the movie.

And this is where Rashmi Rocket falters. It is strange to see such a U-turn in a character – from a woman who dominates to a woman who is helpless – doesn't fit with her persona and how she was brought up. Then there are other things that don't fit. Take the Bhuj earthquake that finds its way in the film. The 2001 earthquake on January 26 killed more than 20,000 people and injured over 1,5 lakh people is shown in a blasé manner. While it has no bearing on the film or the subject, a two second shot of cracked earth takes away the devastation it left.

But not all is lost. There are some parts of the movie that are truly inspiring – Taapsee Pannu's need to fight against the injustice meted out to her. The strong family backing that she has – from her mother played by Supriya Pathak and husband played by Priyanshu Painyuli. Both have done a great job here. Mohan Joshi does his bit too even if his screen presence is for 10 minutes.

It is Abhishek Banerjee who needs a special mention here. He plays a funny part serious lawyer with great aplomb. His blundering, at the start, are endearing like where he addresses the judge as ma'am instead of Your Honor. If you are a Taapsee Pannu fan, you will like this.

— Shalini Saksena

# About family ties

**THE REUNION**
**Zoom Studio**
***ing: Lillete Dubey, KK Raina, Veer Rajwant Singh, Kashmira Irani, Prabal Panjabi, Devika Vatsa**
**Rated: 4/10**

The Reunion is about a family that has not met for years but come together at the death of a family member and to carry out her last wishes. The subject and the underlying message that family comes first is great. It is rare to watch a film or a web series on such a subject these days. Definitely a welcome change.

Another plus of this web series is that none of the nine episodes are more than 24 minutes. This makes it easy to watch them at one go. Also, the locale chosen is very nice. Again, a rarity to see so much greenery and pristine beaches. The acting by the star cast is in the right place. Also, the story ends after nine episodes. So, if the makers want to extend this, it has to be a completely different track but may be with the same cast.

The father-sons relationship has been shown realistically. It is something that one sees often; usually fathers and sons don't share a very good relationship and this has been brought out naturally. Given that people are looking for realistic cinema, this is right up their alley.

However, there are a few no-nos too. The acting by all is stilted; they appear to be just going with the motion of acting rather put in an effort. There is no chemistry between Veer Rajwant Singh and Kashmira Irani who play husband and wife here.

Those who are looking for realism, will like this one.

— Shalini Saksena

## Plan Your Sunday

### VIVID SHUFFLE SEASON 5 - LEAGUE QUALIFIERS

BREEZER Vivid Shuffle - India's Biggest Hip-Hop League - is back for its 5th year to find the best breakers, poppers, rappers, graffiti artists and showcase crews from across the country and bring home the Voice of the Streets! Shortlisted artists will advance to the 2-day League Qualifiers - 23 and 30 October 2021 - where YOU get to watch them battle and perform LIVE to earn their spots in the Finale.

The event may have interactive elements and will involve participation from the audience. You may not be able to join the live experience if you are late.

**What:** Theatre and Arts
**Where:** Online
**When:** October 23 and 30, 2021
**Time:** 6 pm

### NATYA SOCIAL - MANWA LAAGE

Natya Social is a dance institute based in Mumbai. Our lead choreographers Vinayak Ghoshal and Asifali Bagwan have been conducting workshops in Mumbai and other cities since 2018. You may not be able to attend the live session if you are late.

You may face interruptions during the course of the live stream due to internet connectivity issues. Show details and the artist lineup are subject to change as per the artist's discretion.

No refunds on purchased tickets are possible, even in case of any rescheduling.

**What:** Workshop
**Where:** Online
**When:** October 23, 2021
**Time:** 5 pm to 6 pm

## TELLYTALE

### 'SHABANA IS OUR FIRST TOGETHER'

The first teaser poster for Indian television's popular couple, Prince Narula and Yuvika Chaudhary starrer *Shabana* is here! Ullu Originals has managed a casting coup by getting this much-admired couple together on screen for the first time in their upcoming web-series, titled *Shabana*.

Along with veteran actor Anil George and the dashing Rahul Dev, the cast have prepped themselves to get into the skin of the character. Ullu has unveiled a fascinating teaser poster for the drama. The teaser poster showcases a stark contrast to what audiences have

seen the star couple as. It reveals Prince and Yuvika as two simple, homely, completely deglamourized and yet look like two young people who are happy just sitting beside each other. The smile on their faces is captivating as also the characters writ large over their faces that relate to the common man. Several shades darker, Prince has a rustic ruggedness on his face and Yuvika complements him beautifully with her innocence and charm.

Ullu Digital Pvt Ltd, CEO, Vibhu Agrawal, says, "This series titled *Shabana* is one that our team at Ullu has been painstakingly developing for awhile and we are delighted to share its first look. Right from its story to its casting to its first teaser poster, it's going to create curiosity and make the industry and audiences alike take notice.

### RESCUED OR NOT

Rakshanda Khan says "I am very kicked about Tere Bina Jiya Jaye Na as it is starkly different from any show that I've been a part of till date. In fact, we've seen shows having a fairy tale ending, but our show starts with a fairy tale love story and what follows afterwards makes up the rest of the narrative. It has interesting twists and turns, and I am actually excited about playing such a royal character for the very first time."

She adds, "I hope everyone will enjoy seeing me in this imperial avatar. My character of Jaya Maa is very polished with a royal demeanor and someone who upholds the traditions of the royal family while having a business-oriented mind. She has a lot of layers to her too, so it will be challenging yet fun, and I hope everyone keeps showering their love."

Jaya Laxmi or Jaya Maa, as she is fondly called, is the caretaker of the Royal Family of Ambikapur.

### RAKSHANDA KHAN IN ROYAL AVATAR

Rakshanda Khan says "I am very kicked about Tere Bina Jiya Jaye Na as it is starkly different from any show that I've been a part of till date. In fact, we've seen shows having a fairy tale ending, but our show starts with a fairy tale love story and what follows afterwards makes up the rest of the narrative. It has interesting twists and turns, and I am actually excited about playing such a royal character for the very first time."

She adds, "I hope everyone will enjoy seeing me in this imperial avatar. My character of Jaya Maa is very polished with a royal demeanor and someone who upholds the traditions."

### RANVEER GIFTS RUNNING SHOES

Bollywood star Ranveer Singh has won hearts with his acting performances, dedication and prodigious fashion style. But on COLORS' *The Big Picture*, he will win everyone's heart with his generosity in the first episode. Here the viewers will see the first contestant Karishma Toor, a police constable from Haryana, talking about her family and wishing to give them a better life. Midway in the conversation, she will reveal to the actor how she loves running.

Ranveer Singh takes note and, immediately after the quiz, presents her with a pair of running shoes. He even helps her put on the shoes by going down on his knee.

COLORS' *The Big Picture* is India's first visual-based quiz show that brings wholesome entertainment to your television's premieres on October 16, every weekend at 8pm. With plenty of fun and excitement, the show promises both contestants and viewers to win big, every week and weekend too!

### FIRST-EVER PSYCHOLOGICAL ROMANCE

Vikram Chatterjee and Smriti Kalra from the Bengali entertainment industry join critically acclaimed actor Vinay Pathak for their upcoming psychological romance. Memory X is a feature that explores the theory of time and mindspace. This exciting plot is crafted by writer director Tathagata Mukherjee, produced by Avinaba Ghosh, and co-produced by Tania Mukherjee, Tathagata Mukherjee, and Debleena Production Creations. This fascinating story is shot mostly in Sikkim. Vikram and Smriti will be seen essaying Avinash and Shruti respectively.

### &TV ACTORS ON MENTAL HEALTH

Paying attention to mental health is just as important as your physical health. Mental health must be prioritised and therefore it is important to spread awareness about mental illness and eradicate the stigma attached with it.

On this World Mental Health Day, &TV actors Farhana Fatema (Shanti Mishra) of Aur Bhai Kya Chal Raha Hai?, Sonali Nikam (Keerti Kaul) of Mauka-E-Vardaat – Operation Vijay, Kenisha Bhardwaj (Nisha Agarwal) of Ghar Ek Mandir-Kripa Agrasen Maharaj Ki, Himani Shivpuri (Katori Amma) of Happu Ki Ultan Paltan, and Shubhangi Atre (Angoori Bhabi) of Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai raise awareness about mental health issues and share healthy lifestyle tips.

Fatema seen as Shanti Mishrasays, "In our fast-paced lives, we often forget that it is imperative to maintain mental wellbeing along with staying fit. By dancing I relieve myself of stress and also stay happy and energised."

# 'Daily soaps are all about how you live on a day-to-day basis'

NARENDRA GUPTA who plays Newton Chattopadhyay in &TV's Mauka-E-Vardaat – Operation Vijay talks to SUPRIYA RAMESH about his character, why he agreed to the role and how much work goes into playing a crime genre

**What is Mauka-E-Vardaat – Operation Vijay about?**

It is self defining. A band of Indian officers detect a crime and try to nab culprits and they do it successfully. I play the role of a scientist, who is the brains and helps the Indian officers. He draws conclusions from the past and present to guide and help the officers.

**Tell us about your role?**

Its a very different role. I play a scientist who lives away from reach. Nobody knows my whereabouts and contact information. But the main character Newton Chattopadhyay knows everything and keeps track of everything. While doing so if something goes south, he appears suddenly and guides people. He is an expert who doesn't get himself involved but is always on standby. He is like a father figure, professor, friend, scientist. He is the amalgamation of everything, every emotion.

**What made you say yes to this role?**

I agreed to this role because this character is with them and still not with them. When I'm shooting, I'm at my den and from there itself I'm explaining things to other characters and that too without seeing them. It's a different type of challenge. Most times in acting, there is another artist with whom you give and take dialogues. I react to these dialogues on the fly and it is pretty challenging. There are certain instances where I suddenly appear somewhere and then disappear from there after finishing my dialogue. Very knowledgeable, it is a character that I havent portrayed so I have accepted it and I'm enjoying while finding it interesting. I'm sure.

**What does 'Aalokik Shaktiyan' mean here?**

Aalokik shaktiya refers to the powers that are beyond our regular scientific reach and understand. "Lok" means people and "lokik" means where people are from. "Aalokik" means something that isn't from where people live. For example, superhuman capabilities. The spiritual powered that aren't discovered yet but loosely based on scientific terms. The main agonist and antagonist keep finding new powers like these. To produce these thoughts realistically, is very challenging because it's beyond our imagination.

The antagonist has these "aalokik shaktiya" but the protagonists use their cunning and the current superior technology to equalize the situation. They don't have the luxury of exemplary powers but they have their courage, Braun and attitude to change the tides.

**You have mostly been a part of the crime genre be it series or a movie. What are the challenges?**

Daily soaps are all about how you live on a day to day basis and react accordingly. Whereas in crime shows, you have to take care of a specific story, crime and genre. You have to showcase your emotions differently and have a realistic approach about the detection of the crime. It's different because of the increase in intuitiveness and overall information.

**We understand that you have also worked in Bollywoood movies. How is the work environment different?**

For an actor, working in films or working in television or any media is the same. But there are certain limitations and aspects with acting in every media. If you talk about acting in films, there is no limitation in the sense of time constraint. The same can't be said about acting in television because every episode has one. You have to edit it and telecast it in planned schedules. It's a good challenge as there is less time for relaxation. You're are always shooting on time and procrastinating has no place here no matter what. The channel cannot go blank on that day.

**How was shooting in a pandemic different?**

In the pandemic, there are not many people on set that used to be. There are many protocols in place that prohibit the interaction of multiple people together. The workload has increased but as many actors take initiative and do some things themselves. We have to help each other and share responsibilities. There is no crowding and audiences because of these important restrictions. We all are very happy that we are able to work while keeping each other safe by following these rules.

# THE DEATH STING

At present, Delhi is witnessing a rise in Dengue patients, reporting the maximum number of cases since 2018 due to prolonged monsoon. SUPRIYA RAMESH talks to experts to know more

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Dengue cases have grown dramatically around the world in recent decades. A vast majority of cases are asymptomatic or mild and self-managed, and hence the actual numbers of Dengue cases are under-reported. Many cases are also misdiagnosed as other febrile illnesses.

With the advent of the rainy season, we surely get some respite from the scorching summer heat but many water-borne diseases tag along. And one of the most common diseases is Dengue, a mosquito-borne viral infection that is common in warm, tropical climates. It is caused by any one of four closely related antigenically distinct groups called serotypes that are DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3 and DENV-4, which means that it is possible to be infected four times in a lifetime. A particular serotype can be predominant at different times in a geographical area. It gives space to a wide number of symptoms that can be extremely mild (unnoticeable) to extremely severe. In severe cases, it can also be fatal.

Currently, Delhi is witnessing a surge in cases, reporting the maximum number of cases since 2018 for the same period due to prolonged monsoon. Whereas Punjab which observed 8,400 cases last year has reported only 5,889 cases this year, Hoshiarpur topping the list with 933 cases.

While many Dengue infections cause only mild illness, there have been cases where it has also caused an acute flu-like illness. Over time, this forms into a potentially lethal complication, called severe Dengue. WHO states that severe Dengue is a leading cause of serious illness and death in some Asian and Latin American countries and requires management by medical professionals.

As per a comparative study published in Clinical Infectious Diseases, the incidence of Dengue has grown dramatically around the world in recent decades. A vast majority of cases are asymptomatic or mild and self-managed, and hence the actual numbers of Dengue cases are under-reported. Many cases are also misdiagnosed as other febrile illnesses.

The number of Dengue cases reported to WHO increased eight times over the last two decades, from 505,430 cases in 2000 to over 2.4 million in 2010, and 5.2 million in 2019. Reported deaths between the years 2000 and 2015 increased from 960 to 4032.

But why are we talking about DENV-2 at the moment? Is it more severe than all other serotypes? How worried should we be? These are the questions our mind is flooded with and it is high time we all should understand the seriousness of the disease and keep an ear to the ground.

The DENV-2 or D2 variant of Dengue was struck many cases of fever and deaths in western UP districts of Firozabad, Agra, Mathura and Aligarh. The term severe Dengue is in circulation now. It was earlier known as Dengue haemorrhagic fever and Dengue shock syndrome.

The new variant has been observed in 11 states and has become a topic of discussion amongst medical experts and organisations. "With DENV-2 type there seems to be a higher incidence of Dengue hemorrhagic fever where there is a capillary leak and bleed with low platelets and it may eventually progress to Dengue shock syndrome where blood pressure drops," Dr Dilip Gude, Sr Consultant Physician, Yashoda Hospitals Hyderabad tells you.

"A person previously infected with Dengue when gets infected with a different serotype has a higher chance of developing hemorrhagic fever or shock syndrome," tells Dr Anurag Aggarwal, Consultant Internal Medicine, QRG Super Speciality Hospital.

With all the talk about mosquitoes increasing during the rainy season, it is equally important to know that mosquitoes are also mainly attracted to carbon dioxide and heat, which indicates that they are equally active during summer. Moreover, DENV has the potential to infect people all year round and with this, the risk and fear remain throughout. Dr Anurag tells you more about the factors responsible for mosquito-spread. "Lack of adequate drainage, open drains and open areas of water stagnation are factors responsible for rapid spread. Increased movement of people without the adequate coverage of the body with exposed arms and legs increases their risk of getting bitten by an infected mosquito, wherein one in four people infected with Dengue virus will develop the disease."

Talking about the symptoms, they can develop four to 10 days after the mosquito bites and last anywhere from two to seven days. We might be aware of only the common, usually talked about symptoms like high fever, severe body pain and internal bleeding with falling platelets but Dr Aggarwal gives a detailed note on the same. "High-grade fever with chills, backache, abdominal pain, rash, vomiting, joint pains, muscle aches, generalised weakness and fatigue and in severe cases shock, hemorrhagic manifestation like vomiting out blood, bleeding from anus, nose, gums and blood in the urine."

He further adds that when a patient is having severe abdominal pain, recurrent vomiting and increased irritability, it may indicate the patient is developing severe Dengue. The intensity of fever has no correlation with the severity of illness a patient develops in the following days of illness.

In case one is facing possible symptoms and is sceptical about the testing, all you need to know is that there are two ways to get yourself tested, a card test and ELISA. Dr Aggarwal elaborates, "Testing is done by blood. One is through the card test which is not as sensitive as another test called ELISA. Two types of antigens are of significance, NS1 which is usually detectable within 24 hrs of symptom onset and may remain positive until nine days and other is IgM which is usually detectable four to five days after symptom onset and remains positive up to 12 weeks after catching an infection or maybe even longer."

**A person previously infected with dengue when gets infected with a different serotype has a higher chance of developing hemorrhagic fever or shock syndrome**

**— DR ANURAG AGGARWAL**
**Consultant Internal Medicine, QRG Super Speciality Hospital**

THE MANAGEMENT INCLUDES INTRAVENOUS FLUID THERAPY, MONITORING OF THE CLINICAL CONDITION, AND INTENSIVE CARE. THIS HELPS REDUCE THE MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY IN DENGUE FEVER COMPLICATIONS. MILD AND UNCOMPLICATED CASES CAN BE MANAGED AT HOME UNDER SUPERVISION OF THE DOCTOR

— DR ANJALI SAXENA

More than 20,000 confirmed Dengue cases across the country have been reported with more than 220 deaths occurring only in Uttar Pradesh. Cases have been reported from Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, MP, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana.

There are no vaccines and currently, the treatment of Dengue is through supportive care and no specific medication is available. "The management includes intravenous fluid therapy, monitoring of the clinical condition, and intensive care. This helps reduce the morbidity and mortality in Dengue fever complications. Mild and uncomplicated cases can be managed at home under the supervision of the doctor," Dr Anjali Saxena, Senior Consultant, General Pediatrics tells you.

Moreover, WHO has advised that patients should seek medical advice, rest and drink plenty of fluids. Paracetamol can be taken to bring down fever and reduce joint pains. However, aspirin or ibuprofen should not be taken since they can increase the risk of bleeding.

We can say that the Dengue outbreak is still under control but it has led to a surge in cases of high fever countrywide. As it is known to cause more morbidity than other variants, patients are having high-grade fever. Dr Gude tells you that there is an epidemiological hypothesis that there is a four-year cyclical spurt for Dengue outbursts and DENV-2 serotype now is known to cause a much-complicated disease.

- Diseases that are spread to people by mosquitoes include Zika virus, West Nile virus, Chikungunya virus, yellow fever and malaria.
- Zika fever, also known as Zika virus disease or simply Zika, is a mosquito-borne disease caused by the Zika virus. In many cases, there are no symptoms, but it can present in a similar way to dengue fever.
- Yellow fever is a viral disease of typically short duration. However, approximately 30,000 people around the world die from yellow fever every year.
- Chikungunya is a viral disease transmitted to humans via infected mosquitoes. Symptoms typically include fever, joint pain, headache, muscle pain, joint swelling and rash.

With this, he advises that early diagnosis, aggressive hydration, and admitting high-risk groups such as the elderly and children and immunosuppressed patients may be important.

Considering the pandemic, how worried should we be about the Dengue virus? Are there chances that it could worsen amidst the pandemic? These are again a few questions that might cross our minds. Early symptoms of both COVID and Dengue can be the same and it would be nearly impossible for a common man to self detect if he/she has been infected by corona or Dengue. And coinfections are common and if someone gets COVID and Dengue then the outcome is going to be deadly.

"In this pandemic background, one needs to be extra careful and take all necessary precautions to prevent mosquito-borne diseases," Dr Gude tells you.

Dr Saxena tells you that during these times healthcare resources can get overwhelmed and this can be detrimental to providing medical care to the needy.

Your safety is in your hands and making sure that you are not giving a breeding ground to mosquitoes is your responsibility. Keep the surroundings of your house as dry as possible with no scope for stagnant water, cover your body with full sleeves clothes, put on mosquito repellent creams, coils, nets. Dr Gude suggests that having a high index of suspicion and taking a clinician's help as early as possible is important.

"Do not allow water to stagnate, cover drains or sprinkle oil over stagnated water, empty pots/tyres of water in your house, wear full sleeves clothes when stepping outside the house," Dr Aggarwal tells you.

He further adds that in case of fever, visit your nearest physician as soon as possible. Watch for symptoms like intense abdominal pain, bleeding from any site, restlessness and breathlessness when you need to be concerned.

"The proximity of mosquito vector breeding sites to human habitation is a significant risk factor for Dengue as well as for other diseases that Aedes mosquito transmit. At present, the main method to control or prevent the transmission of Dengue virus is to combat the mosquito vectors," WHO advises and suggest ways through which it can be achieved.

**◆Prevention of mosquito breeding**

Preventing mosquitoes from accessing egg-laying habitats by environmental management and modification

Applying appropriate insecticides to water storage outdoor containers

**◆Personal protection from mosquito bites**

Using of personal household protection measures, such as window screens, repellents, insecticide-treated materials, coils and vaporizer and wearing clothing that minimises skin exposure

**◆Community engagement**

Educating the community on the risks of mosquito-borne diseases

**◆Reactive vector control**

Emergency vector control measures such as applying insecticides as space spraying during outbreaks may be used by health authorities

In addition, there is ongoing research amongst many groups of international collaborators in search of novel tools and innovative strategies that will contribute to global efforts to interrupt the transmission of Dengue, as well as other mosquito-borne diseases.

## MYTHBUSTER

**You cannot get dengue fever twice**

The dengue virus (DENV) known to cause dengue fever has four different but related serotypes, DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3 AND DENV4. When a person recovers from their first infection, they gain lifetime immunity from this single serotype only. Contracting the disease from the other three dengue types is still possible, with each subsequent infection potentially more severe than its predecessor.

**Dengue is contagious**

Dengue is transmitted to humans when an infected female mosquito bites, mainly the Aedes aegypti mosquito. A person cannot contract the virus through an infected person if he or she sneezes or coughs. Moreover, cases of DENV transmission through blood transfusion or organ transplantation are also rare.

**An infected mosquito breeds only in dirty stagnant water**

An Aedes aegypti mosquito may not necessarily lay eggs only in dirty water, it can do it in clean stagnant water too. It is important to drain or to keep the containers and surfaces around the house like basins, pots, jars and rain gutters firmly closed with a lid at all times.

**Dengue fever is only prevalent during the rainy season**

The sole reason why people believe this myth that dengue fever is more during the rainy season is because the Aedes aegypti lay eggs in water so it is natural to relate to it. Mosquitoes are also attracted to carbon dioxide and heat, which suggests that they are just as active during summer.

**Your body may heal itself naturally from dengue fever**

A person might suffer from dengue fever for a week with severe headaches, vomiting, and bone and muscle pain. People might have the ability to recover without getting hospitalised but they cannot recover without proper rest, hydration and painkillers. The disease might evolve into severe dengue if self-managed.

# DRAVID ALL SET TO TAKE OVER AS INDIA COACH

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's batting stalwart and former captain Rahul Dravid is all set to take over as the national cricket team's head coach following the T20 World Cup in the UAE, having agreed to the BCCI's offer after initial reluctance.

The 48-year-old Dravid, one of the greatest ever to have played for India, has been in charge of the national 'A' and U-19 set-up for the past six years and a lot of players such as Rishabh Pant,

Avesh Khan, Prithvi Shaw, Hanuma Vihari, and Shubman Gill have come through the system prepared by him.

He currently heads the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru and was in Dubai during the just-concluded IPL to meet his former teammate and BCCI President Sourav Ganguly and Board secretary Jay Shah for an elaborate discussion.

"Yes, Rahul has agreed to coach the Indian team till 2023 World Cup. Initially, he was reluctant but it is understood that president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah had a meeting with Rahul on the sidelines of the IPL final where they were able to convince him," a BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"It won't be an interim role," he added.

In Dubai when he was asked about the development ahead of the T20 World Cup, India captain Virat Kohli said he has "no idea exactly what's happening".

"No idea exactly what's happening on that front. No detailed discussion with anyone yet," Kohli said on Saturday when asked about Dravid's appointment.

Dravid's trusted lieutenant Paras Mhambrey is expected to be the bowling coach while Vikram Rathour is likely to continue as batting coach.

However, it is understood that the BCCI will nonetheless give an advertisement for the position to ensure that due process is followed.

The Board has to form a Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), which would be mandated to complete the process as prescribed by the Lodha reforms.

The Board mandarins are mulling on how to make the best use of Dravid's vast knowledge of talent resource in Indian cricket and his role may be a more holistic one rather than just being confined to the chief coach of the national team.

While India A or U-19 teams would have their respective coaches, the BCCI could well make Dravid, the head of all coaches, to whom all the cricketing departments, along with the NCA staff, report.

When Ganguly took charge of BCCI, he had spoken to the media about the synergy he wanted between the national team, age-group team as well as NCA which is the centre of excellence.

Having seen incumbent Ravi Shastri achieve a lot of success, the BCCI was always keen on appointing an Indian coach but there were only a few of stature. Shastri's tenure ends with the T20 World Cup.

One former Indian captain and stalwart had refused to become the coach in the current team set-up as Virat Kohli still remains the Test and ODI captain.

It is learnt that bigger names were wary of coaching a team where Kohli had mostly called the shots till the Australia tour earlier this year.

The dynamics have changed ever since as the team out-maneuvered a stronger Australia in the absence of Kohli, who was on paternity leave at that time.

Shastri was in charge of the side at a fee of Rs 8.5 crore and it is understood that the BCCI is offering Dravid a significant hike, which will be more than his NCA remuneration as well as Shastri's current pay cheque.

Also Dravid, who had in earlier years said no because of his young family, is expected to contribute in a broader manner.

Dravid's elder son Samit has made a name for himself as a batter in the Karnataka's age-group circle.

The basic idea behind having the Dravid-Mhambrey combination in the Indian team set-up is to ensure that in another two years, when the transition in the current team happens, the changing of nucleus is smooth.

"Rohit will be 35 next year, Virat is days away from his 33rd birthday. Apart from them Mohammed Shami, Ishant Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, and Ajinkya Rahane are all fantastic players but at some point during next two years, they will be phased out.

"The players who are set to come in are mostly from the U-19 set-up.

So it's imperative that Dravid is appointed," the source said. Also the fact that BCCI always wanted someone of real stature.

There culd have been none better than India's second highest run-getter in Test cricket (13,288 runs), who also has nearly 11,000 (10,889) runs in ODI cricket.It is expected that BCCI will complete the formalities of his appointment before the start of the New Zealand series in India from November 17.

## CAPTAIN SPEAK

### No idea: Kohli on Dravid's appointment as head coach

PTI ■ DUBAI

Indian captain Virat Kohli on Saturday said he has "no idea exactly what's happening" when asked about the legendary Rahul Dravid being in line to be the team's head coach after the T20 World Cup. Batting great and former captain Dravid is all set to take over as the national cricket team's head coach following the T20 World Cup, having agreed to the BCCI's offer after initial reluctance to succeed incumbent Ravi Shastri.

"No idea exactly what's happening on that front. No detailed discussion with anyone yet," Kohli said when asked about Dravid's appointment. The India skipper was speaking during a captains' media session ahead of the T20 World Cup that begins in the UAE and Oman with the first round matches on Sunday.

The 48-year-old Dravid, one of the greatest ever to have played for India, has been in charge of the national 'A' and U-19 set-up for the past six years and a lot of players such as Rishabh Pant,

Avesh Khan, Prithvi Shaw, Hanuma Vihari, and Shubman Gill have come through the system prepared by him.

### His presence will increase our confidence: Kohli on team mentor Dhoni

**Dubai:** His mere presence aside, Indian team mentor Mahendra Singh Dhoni's "eye for intricate details" and "practical advice" will help in enhancing the confidence of the squad in the T20 World Cup here, captain Virat Kohli said on Saturday.

Iconic former captain Dhoni was last month brought in as mentor of India's 15-member T20 World Cup squad by the BCCI, a move that took everyone by surprise.

During a pre-tournament media interaction organised by the ICC, Kohli, who is still chasing a world title as skipper of the Indian team, expressed his delight at Dhoni's appointment. "He has got massive experience. He is quite excited himself to be back in that environment. He has always been a mentor for all of us when we were starting our careers through till the time he was with the team," Kohli said during the media session.

PTI

### Barring hype over ticket sales, India vs Pak is just another game for us: Kohli

PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Virat Kohli on Saturday played down the "hype" surrounding the high-profile upcoming T20 World Cup game against Pakistan, saying it's "just another match for us" despite the ridiculously high demand for tickets.

India have never lost to their arch-rivals in either ODI or T20 World Cup games and Pakistan skipper Babar Azam has said that they are confident of beating their neighbours on October 24. Kohli however, when asked about the match, didn't take the bait to make tall claims. "I honestly never felt so," Kohli said when asked if it feels different whenever India meets its neighbouring country.

"I have just approached this game as another game of cricket and I know there is a lot of hype around this game, more so with ticket sales and demands of tickets," the Indian captain, who has had some great performances against Pakistan added.

On a lighter note, Kohli said that he has refused a lot of friends who have asked for tickets.

## Indian team needs to show maturity to win T20 WC: Ganguly

PTI ■ DUBAI

BCCI President and former captain Sourav Ganguly on Saturday said the Indian cricket team under Virat Kohli has all the talent to be considered a legitimate contender for the T20 World Cup and it only needs to show a bit of maturity to claim the trophy.

India will open their T20 World Cup campaign against arch-rivals Pakistan on October 24.

"So, you don't become champions easily and you just don't become champions just by stepping into a tournament, so they have to get through the process, they have to show maturity," Ganguly said when asked what India needs to do to win the title.

"...They all have the talent, they all have the skill to score runs and take wickets at this level. They just have to be mentally in good space to win the World Cup," the flamboyant former left-handed batter quipped.

Ganguly said the side should focus on winning every game instead of targetting the title straight up.

"...(the) title is only won when the finals are finished. So, you have a lot of cricket to be played before that and I think India should focus (on) every game, India should focus on winning every game and just

taking it from there and not think about the title at the start," he said.

"They (India) will always be contenders in whatever competition they play in and the challenge for them is to be at peace with themselves, focus on the process rather than the results because the most toughest thing and the most wrong thing to do is when you take guard and you think I am here to win the World Cup.

"...What is important is to play the next ball which is coming out of the hand and keep doing that till you get to the finals," he added.

The former skipper was speaking after Games24x7, a multi-game platform launched a new campaign -- titled 'Game Ke Deewane' -- for the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup, on its fantasy sports platform, 'My11Circle'.

## ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021

**Round 1**

Group A ■ Sri Lanka ■ Ireland ■ Netherlands ■ Namibia

Group B ■ Bangladesh ■ Scotland ■ Papua New Guinea (PNG) ■ Oman

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Oct 17 | Oman vs PNG | Bangladesh vs Scotland |
| Oct 18 | Ireland vs Netherlands | Sri Lanka vs Namibia |
| Oct 19 | Scotland vs PNG | Oman vs Bangladesh |
| Oct 20 | Namibia vs Netherlands | Sri Lanka vs Ireland |
| Oct 21 | Bangladesh vs PNG | Oman vs Scotland |
| Oct 22 | Namibia vs Ireland | Sri Lanka vs Netherlands |

**Super 12**

Group 1 ■ England ■ Australia ■ South Africa ■ West Indies ■ Winner of Group A *(A1)* ■ Runner-up of Group B *(B2)*

Group 2 ■ **India** ■ Pakistan ■ New Zealand ■ Afghanistan ■ Runner-up of Group A *(A2)* ■ Winner of Group B *(B1)*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Oct 23 | Australia vs South Africa | England vs West Indies |
| Oct 24 | A1 vs B2 | **India** vs Pakistan |
| Oct 25 | Afghanistan vs B1 | |
| Oct 26 | South Africa vs West Indies | Pakistan vs New Zealand |
| Oct 27 | England vs B2 | B1 vs A2 |
| Oct 28 | Australia vs A1 | |
| Oct 29 | West Indies vs B2 | Afghanistan vs Pakistan |
| Oct 30 | South Africa vs A1 | England vs Australia |
| Oct 31 | Afghanistan vs A2 | **India** vs New Zealand |
| Nov 1 | England vs A1 | |
| Nov 2 | South Africa vs B2 | Pakistan vs A2 |
| Nov 3 | New Zealand vs B1 | **India** vs Afghanistan |
| Nov 4 | Australia vs B2 | West Indies vs A1 |
| Nov 5 | New Zealand vs A2 | **India** vs B1 |
| Nov 6 | Australia vs West Indies | England vs South Africa |
| Nov 7 | New Zealand vs Afghanistan | Pakistan vs B1 |
| Nov 8 | **India** vs A2 | |

**T20 RANKING**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | England |
| 2 | India |
| 3 | New Zealand |
| 4 | Pakistan |
| 5 | South Africa |
| 6 | Australia |
| 7 | Afghanistan |
| 8 | Sri Lanka |
| 9 | West Indies |
| 10 | Bangladesh |
| 13 | Ireland |
| 14 | Scotland |
| 16 | PNG |
| 17 | Netherlands |
| 18 | Oman |
| 19 | Namibia |

*As on Aug 17, 2021*

**First Semifinal** Nov 10 — Winner of Group 1 *vs* Runner-up of Group 2

**Second Semifinal** Nov 11 — Winner of Group 2 *vs* Runner-up of Group 1

**Nov 14 Final**

**Venues**

■ Dubai International Stadium, **Dubai** ■ Sharjah Stadium, **Sharjah**
■ Al Amerat Cricket Stadium, **Muscat** ■ Sheikh Zayed Stadium, **Abu Dhabi**

*Timings (IST): 7:30 pm on single match day; 3:30 pm and 7:30 pm on days having two matches*

KBK SportsGraphics

## LESS SIXES AND LESS FOURS IN 14TH EDITION OF IPL:

❒The 14th edition of Indian Premier League started slowly in terms of run-scoring, but by the end it picked up sufficiently so that the overall numbers are pretty similar to what was achieved in the last year.

❒The six count went down from 734 to 687 — a decrease of 47 while there were 34 less fours this time. As many as 1548 fours were hit in 14th edition while 1582 were smashed last year.

❒The 872 sixes by 93 batsmen in 120 innings of 60 matches in 2018 was the most sixes in a single edition of IPL. A total number of 78 batsmen hit 734 sixes in last edition.

❒As many as 97 batsmen hit 687 sixes in this edition with Punjab Kings' Lokesh Rahul topped the list with 30 sixes in 13 innings. Royal Challengers Bangalore's Glenn Maxwell is on second spot with 21 sixes in 12 innings. Chennai Super Kings' Faf du Plessis and Ruturaj Gaikwad shared the second spot with 23 sixes each.

❒Chennai Super Kings batsmen hit the highest number of sixes in this IPL. Their 10 batsmen hit 115 sixes in 16 innings of as many matches.

❒In this edition, 111 batsman hit 1648 fours in 120 innings of 60 matches. 99 batsmen hit 1582 fours in 120 innings of 60 matches last year. The record of most fours in a single edition was set in 2013 when 125 batsmen hit 2051 fours in 76 matches.

❒Chennai Super Kings' Ruturaj Gaikwad topped the lost with 64 fours in 16 innings of as many matches, Delhi Capitals' Shikhar Dhawan is second with 63 fours in 16 innings of as many matches.

### SIXES BY EACH TEAM IN INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE-14:

| Team | M | Sixes | Players | Most Sixes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chennai Super Kings | 16 | 115 | 10 | Faf du Plessis/Ruturaj Gaikwad (23 sixes each) |
| Kolkata Knight Riders | 17 | 98 | 12 | Nitish Rana (17 sixes) |
| Punjab Kings | 14 | 93 | 13 | Lokesh Rahul (30 sixes) |
| Rajasthan Royals | 14 | 90 | 16 | Sanju Samson (17 sixes) |
| Royal Challengers | 15 | 79 | 10 | Glenn Maxwell (21 sixes) |
| Mumbai Indians | 14 | 76 | 12 | Kieron Pollard (16 sixes ) |
| Sunrisers Hyderabad | 14 | 70 | 15 | Jonny Bairstow (15 sixes) |
| Delhi Capitals | 16 | 66 | 9 | Prithvi Shaw (18 sixes) |
| Total | 60 | 687 | | Lokesh Rahul (30 sixes) |

### FOURS BY EACH TEAM IN INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE-14:

| Team | M | Fours Players | Most Fours | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Delhi Capitals | 16 | 233 | 16 | Shikhar Dhawan (63 fours) |
| Chennai Super Kings | 16 | 231 | 10 | Ruturaj Gaikwad (64 fours) |
| Kolkata Knight Riders | 17 | 220 | 12 | Shubman Gill(50 fours) |
| Royal Challengers | 15 | 190 | 12 | Glenn Maxwell (48 fours) |
| Rajasthan Royals | 14 | 187 | 15 | Sanju Samson (45 fours) |
| Mumbai Indians | 14 | 181 | 13 | Suriykumar Yadav (40 fours) |
| Punjab Kings | 14 | 155 | 14 | Lokesh Rahul (48 fours) |
| Sunrisers Hyderabad | 14 | 151 | 19 | Kane Williamson (29 fours) |
| Total | 60 | 1548 | 111 | Ruturaj Gaikwad (64 fours) |

FAISEL FEATURES

## Stakes always high when India, Pak play together: Agarkar

IANS ■ MUMBAI

Former India all-rounder Ajit Agarkar believes that stakes are always high when India and Pakistan play together in a World Cup. He also said that Pakistan may not pose much of a challenge, taking into consideration the form of the Indian team and statistics.

"The stakes are always high when India and Pakistan play together but going by Team India's current form and taking the stats into consideration, I don't think Pakistan will pose that much of a challenge. Having said that, I don't think we should take our neighbours lightly because cricket is a funny game, and things can change at any moment, especially in the T20 format," Agarkar told on 'Class of 2007' show on Star Sports.

Talking about the 2007 World Cup, which India won after defeating Pakistan by five runs in the final, Agarkar said, "The entire tournament (2007 T20 World Cup) was a dream tour for us. We never thought a bunch of youngsters could achieve such a feat, that too against Pakistan. I think the India-Pakistan rivalry always brings a tidal wave of emotions and is one the most anticipated clashes in the World Cup."

Meanwhile, former pacer Irfan Pathan recalled why the bowl-out match, which India won in the group stage against Pakistan in Durban, is his most memorable match from the tournament.

## IPL Winners

| Year | Winner | Runner-up |
|---|---|---|
| 2021 | Chennai Super Kings | Kolkata Knight Riders |
| 2020 | Mumbai Indians | Delhi Capitals |
| 2019 | Mumbai Indians | Chennai Super Kings |
| 2018 | Chennai Super Kings | Sunrisers Hyderabad |
| 2017 | Mumbai Indians | Rising Pune Supergiants |
| 2016 | Sunrisers Hyderabad | Royal Challengers Bangalore |
| 2015 | Mumbai Indians | Chennai Super Kings |
| 2014 | Kolkata Knight Riders | Kings XI Punjab |
| 2013 | Mumbai Indians | Chennai Super Kings |
| 2012 | Kolkata Knight Riders | Chennai Super Kings |
| 2011 | Chennai Super Kings | Royal Challengers Bangalore |
| 2010 | Chennai Super Kings | Mumbai Indians |
| 2009 | Deccan Chargers | Royal Challengers Bangalore |
| 2008 | Rajasthan Royals | Chennai Super Kings |

Source: IPLT20.com

KBK SportsGraphics

## Proud to leave legacy behind? Still, I haven't left behind, says Dhoni

PTI ■ DUBAI

Mahendra Singh Dhoni in his inimitable style kept questions on his IPL retirement open-ended but did admit that a lot of things will depend on the kind of retention policy that BCCI puts in place for the big auction next year.

Dhoni, who is set to join the Indian team as 'Mentor' for the T20 World Cup, spoke about how he would like to create a roadmap for the next 10 years of IPL that Chennai Super Kings will be playing.

When asked if he was proud to have left a legacy behind in the 12 seasons for CSK, Dhoni assured his million fans with a wide grin, "Still I haven't left behind...."

But he said that he hasn't decided how he would fit into the retention scheme of things.

"Again I've said it before, it depends on BCCI. With two new teams coming in.....We have to decide what is good for CSK," the skipper said after his team won the fourth IPL title by beating Kolkata Knight Riders in the final.

"It's not about me being there in top-three or four. It's about making a strong core to ensure the franchise doesn't suffer. The core group, we have to have a hard look to see who can contribute for the next 10 years," he added.

Dhoni was happy that a lot

of individual match-winners have got CSK to their fourth trophy.

"We had match winners coming game after game and doing really well. Every final is special, if you look at stats, we may say we're the most consistent team to lose the final too. I feel it's important to come back strong, especially in the knockouts," he said.

Dhoni also made it clear that he is not very much into team meetings as the average attention span during these meetings are 20 minutes.

"Frankly no chats, we don't talk a lot (meetings). It's more one-on-one, our practice sessions are meeting sessions. The moment you get into a team room, it brings about different pressure. Our practice sessions have been good."

The 'Thala' had a message for the CSK fans.

"I would love to thank the fans, wherever we've played, even when we were in South Africa, we've always had a good number of CSK fans. That is what you crave for. Thanks to all of them, it feels like we're playing in Chennai. Hopefully we'll be back in Chennai for the fans."

He also at the start praised KKR for a fine show as they came back from two points in seven games to reach the final which is an achievement in itself.

"Before I start talking about CSK, need to talk about KKR. Difficult to come back and do what they have, if any team deserved to win the IPL, it's KKR. Huge credit to the coaches, team and support staff. The break really helped them."

# Cars with lower running costs likely to gain higher traction among buyers: Report

**New Delhi:** With fuel prices going up by 35 per cent over the past 15 months thereby impacting overall vehicle running costs, cars that have higher fuel efficiency and lower maintenance costs are expected to gain higher traction among buyers in India, specially in the sub-Rs 10 lakh category, according to a report.

Considering the fact that 70 per cent of the passenger vehicles market in India is still accounted for by vehicles costing less than Rs 10 lakh, the development augurs well for market leader Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL), said the report by HSBC Global Research.

"Over the past 15 months, fuel prices have gone up 35 per cent, impacting overall vehicle running costs...Our channel interactions suggest that customers are increasingly becoming considerate of the recent rise in fuel prices," it said.

Citing the example of Maruti Suzuki's Swift petrol, the report said for a compact passenger vehicle fuel now accounts for around 40 per cent of the vehicle's life-time cost compared with 30 per cent in mid-2020.

"In the current environment, we believe cars that have higher fuel efficiency and lower maintenance costs should gain relatively higher traction among buyers, especially in the less than Rs 10 lakh category, which is still 70 per cent of the market in India," it said.

Stating that MSIL continues to score well in that regard, HSBC Global Research said, "In our analysis, both in absolute terms and relative to competition, MSIL remains the market leader in fuel efficiency and total cost of ownership (COO)."

MSIL's competitive positioning should remain compelling given the fact that it has around 65 per cent market share in the less-than-Rs 10 lakh price category, it added.

The report also pointed out that MSIL's fuel efficiency has improved by 15-30 per cent in the past 10 years, citing the examples of fuel efficiency of Swift/Swift Dzire, which was 18 km per litre (kmpl) nearly 10 years back to 23.3 kmpl. ***PTI***

# IMF hails India's 'swift and substantial' response to Covid crisis

**Washington:** Describing the Indian government's response to the Covid-19 situation as "swift and substantial", the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said the country continued with labour reforms and privatisation despite the pandemic.

The IMF in its report based on "consultations" among members, however, sounded a note of caution saying that the economic outlook remains "clouded" due to pandemic-related uncertainties, contributing to both downside and upside risks.

In its "Article IV" consultations report, it further said that a persistent negative impact of COVID-19 on investment and other growth drivers could prolong the economic recovery.

On the Indian government's handling of the pandemic, the multilateral agency said it was "swift and substantial...Has included fiscal support, including scaled-up support to vulnerable groups, monetary policy easing, liquidity provision, and accommodative financial sector and regulatory policies".

"Despite the pandemic, the authorities have continued to introduce structural reforms, including labour reforms and a privatisation plan," the report said. The IMF has projected India's economic growth at 9.5 per cent in FY2021-22 and 8.5 per cent in 2022-23. Headline inflation is projected at 5.6 per cent in 2021-22, amid elevated price pressures.

"The economic outlook remains clouded due to pandemic-related uncertainties contributing to both downside and upside risks. A persistent negative impact of COVID-19 on investment, human capital, and other growth drivers could prolong the recovery and impact medium-term growth," the IMF said. It further said that while India benefits from favourable demographics, disruption to access to education and training due to the pandemic could weigh on improvements in human capital. At the same time, the recovery could also be faster than expected, it said adding that faster vaccination and better therapeutics could help contain the spread and limit the impact of the pandemic. ***PTI***

# HDFC Bank's Q2 FY22 YoY net profit up 17.6%

**Mumbai:** Lender HDFC Bank on Saturday reported a year-on-year rise of 17.6 per cent in its net profit for Q2FY22. The bank's net profit increased to Rs 8,834.3 crore during the period under review over the quarter ended September 30, 2020.

Besides, the bank's net interest income (income earned less interest expended) rose 12.1 per cent from Rs 15,776.4 crore to Rs 17,684.4 crore for the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal.

The lender's net revenues (net interest income plus other income) increased by 14.7 per cent, from Rs 21,868.8 crore to Rs 25,085.2 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2020.

"Advances grew at 15.5 per cent reaching new heights driven through relationship management, digital offering and breadth of products. Core net interest margin was at 4.1 per cent. New liability relationships added during the quarter were at an all time high," HDFC Bank said in a statement.

***IANS***

# Tatas plan to pilot synergy between airlines, post SPA

**New Delhi:** Conglomerate Tata Group plans to pilot synergy between all its airlines to compete in various market segments.

Post the SPA transaction, Tatas will have two full-service carriers — Vistara and Air India — along with two low-cost airlines — Air India Express and AirAsia India -- and a ground and cargo handling company, AISATS.

Accordingly, plans are afoot to run all these brands as independent entities under one vertical for sometime after the SPA. Nonetheless, the group intends to drive-in major synergies between the airlines in terms of fleet management, route deployment, flight timings and airport slot planning.

In terms of USPs, Vistara is expected to retain the premium services tag, while Air India will predominantly focus on key international and metro routes. The domestic feeder traffic is expected to be driven by AirAsia India which may get few aircraft from Air India's fleet. Furthermore, mergers will depend on profitability, performance and market situation apart from each airline's unique culture and suitability of brand. ***IANS***

# SCO meet: India calls for special working group on start-ups

**New Delhi:** India has proposed creation of a new Special Working Group on Start-ups and Innovation at the SCO. The proposal was made by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel, in her intervention, at the 20th meeting of the SCO Ministers.

Stressing on the need for effective cooperation between the member states for a balanced and equitable growth in trade and commerce, Patel proposed the creation of a new Special Working Group on Start-ups and Innovation and for setting up a new Expert Working Group on Cooperation in Traditional Medicine.

"She also stated that cooperation in the field of start-ups and innovation can be a focal point in reviving our economies from the consequences of the pandemic," the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said in a statement. **IANS**

# India's forex reserves rise by over $2 bn

**Mumbai:** India's foreign exchange reserves rose by $2.039 billion during the week ended October 8.

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) forex reserves rose to $639.516 billion from $637.477 billion reported for the week ended October 1.

India's forex reserves comprise foreign currency assets (FCAs), gold reserves, SDRs, and the country's reserve position with the IMF. On a weekly basis, FCAs, the largest component of the forex reserves, edged higher by $1.550 billion to $577.001 billion. Similarly, the value of the country's gold reserves rose by $464 million to $38.022 billion. However, SDR value fell by $28 million to $19.268 billion. The country's reserve position with the IMF also fell by $3 million to $5.225 billion. ***IANS***

# Court order to affect working capital of companies filing GST appeals

**New Delhi:** In what may affect the working capital of taxpayers looking at filing appeals against GST claims, it had now been held that anyone seeking remedy against indirect tax decision would have to make pre-deposit amount in cash and not by debiting electronic credit ledger.

Recently, the Division Bench of the Orissa High Court held that pre-deposit at the time of filing an appeal under section 107(6) of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (CGST Act) cannot be made by debiting the Electronic Credit Ledger (ECRL). The payment of pre-deposit should be made by debiting the Electronic Cash Ledger (ECL) in accordance with section 49(3) of the CGST Act read with Rule 85(4) of the Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017 (CGST Rules). What this order in effect does is that it puts the burden on taxpayers to pay the pre-deposit (ie 10 per cent of disputed tax) amount in cash by transferring money from electronic cash ledger (ECL) for any tax dispute raised by them. This would mean more cash outflows leaving little for working capital needs. In case that went to the Orissa High Court, the revenue raised demands of GST along with interest on the petitioners, who were engaged in execution of works contract. The petitioner filed an appeal and made payment towards pre-deposit (i.e. 10 per cent of disputed tax) for filing an appeal, by utilising the balance in the ECRL. The revenue dismissed the appeal and considered it to be defective, emphasising that the liability of pre-deposit can be discharged only by debiting ECL.

The petitioner's contention was that any payment towards output tax can be made through ECRL. Since pre-deposit can be construed as a percentage of output tax, it can be paid by debiting ECRL. ***IANS***

talktime

SHANKAR MAHADEVAN

*The singer who is back to judging and mentoring the Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Season 30 speaks with* Shalini Saksena *about how the calibre of the contestants has changed, challenges that come while judging and a song that is very close to his heart*

# 'I GET EXCITED BY HEARING VOICES THAT ARE NOT GENERIC'

**What will we see in this season of Sa Re Ga Ma Pa?**

The show has always stood for being an outstanding platform — for youngsters, musicians of the future and supremely talented singers from various genres, various voice textures and various backgrounds. It is going to be a very interesting show.

**You have judged the show earlier as well. How has the calibre of candidates changed and evolved?**

I am coming back to this show after almost nine years. You can make out that the youth of today realise the magnitude of the show. Probably nine years back, the level, where the show can reach and what can become of you was well understood and they work even harder now. They are well-prepared. They know that they have to make an impression the first time. So, they put in their heart and soul into music. The perfection, the talent and the way they present it is amazing. We have just finished the auditions and looks like a grand gala already.

**What is the biggest challenge when it comes to judging?**

The way we judge, what we look for is individuality. There are times when some voices try to impersonate another even when that original singer is there. I don't think this excites us as much as a voice that is a new species of flower — a voice that is unique. There is a contestant, whose voice has a texture that takes you back to the black and white era. She is a tiny little girl and she sounds like a Begum Akhtar or a Noor Jahan and that totally shocks you. I get excited by hearing voices that are not generic.

**You also mentor. What do you tell them?**

Lot of things actually. It is difficult to talk about technicalities in print. There are certain things that they miss out on like breathing technique and pitching a note. There are ways to approach a single note — you can take the help of another note or pitch this note directly. This is difficult to explain in words. This is what we have to guide me in.

> A SONG CLOSE TO MY HEART IS BREATHLESS. IT HAS MADE ME WHAT I AM TODAY. WHEN I LOOK BACK AT MY JOURNEY OF 30 YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL MILESTONES. I HAVE SEEN A GAMUT OF EMOTIONS IN MUSIC. I HAVE DONE DIFFERENT MUSIC AND ENJOYED EACH ONE

**How has the music industry changed since you came?**

Music industry is like the fashion industry. It is like food choice; how life is. The only constant in life is change. Things and tastes keep changing. Love for a particular genre comes up, some die down some stay longer. All this has got a soul — which is the melody, the arrangement, lyrics and the way you deliver the song. If these elements are strong, it is here to stay for a long time. Some of the artists are doing great job today and people are loving it.

**You have done so many films, a project/ song close to your heart?**

It has to be *Breathless*. This is because it has given me the face and made me what I am today. When I look back at my journey of 30 years, there have been several milestones like *Mission Kashmir, Dil Chahata Hai* and *Bunty Aur Bubli*. There isn't a singer or composer who has not had some misses. Some songs survive even when the film tanked. I have seen a gamut of emotions in music. I have done different music over the years and enjoyed each one.

**What next can we expect from you — this year?**

There is lots of stuff happening. We just released *Toofan*. Then there is *Bunty Aur Bubli 2*, there is *Prithviraj*; these are two huge Yash Raj projects. There is *Yudhra* directed by Ravi Udyawar that we are working on. Then we are working on Meghna Gulzar's biopic on Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw. We are working on Zoya's project. There are a lot of non-filmi collaborations as well. My academy is teaching classical music to people in 80 countries.

## Bolly World

### Highway Nights wins at BISFF

National Award-winning filmmaker and actor Prakash Jha's short film *Highway Nights* won the grand jury prize at Best of India Short Film Festival 2021. The film will qualify for the 2023 Oscars.

The film will have a theatrical release in Hollywood, Los Angeles, USA.

Talking on the occasion, Prakash said, "I am elated to hear the news and I congratulate the whole team. It's a film with an important message and I hope the film reaches a wider audience with the theatrical, digital and television broadcast all over the world."

*Highway Nights* is a heartwarming story that talks about women's abuse. The film is about an aging, overworked lorry driver who gives a lift to a young, chatty sex worker one night and how they develop a bond over a small journey of few hours.

*IANS*

### Urvashi on Dil Hai Gray

Actress Urvashi Rautela has recently announced the name of her next film which is titled *Dil Hai Gray*. It's a Hindi remake of Tamil film *Thiruttu Payale 2*.

Urvashi Rautela will be seen alongside Vineet Kumar Singh and Akshay Oberoi.

Urvashi shares: "I am excited to announce the title of my next film 'Dil Hai Gray' on the auspicious day of Vijaya Dashami. The film is very close to my heart and it was lovely working with director Susi Ganeshan sir, producer M Ramesh Reddy sir, and my co-stars Vineet Kumar Singh and Akshay Oberoi."

"The film has created a massive response in the south industry and I am very positive about the story that it will be also be loved by the audience here. I hope my fans would bless us with their love and support. Super excited to watch my film on the big screen after a long time," she concludes.

*IANS*

## Masterstroke

Got a festive get-together to attend, want to go all out? Don't worry – Maybelline New York has got you covered with this Bold & Gold glamour look. For this look, prep your face with the FitMe primer to help hold the makeup for a longer time. Set your base well & go for the Fit Me Matte+Poreless Foundation for a mask-proof base. For the eyes, go for a striking graphic eyeliner look - use the Dramatic Gel Liner for a dramatic design like seen here on Maybelline girl Sara Ali Khan. This look will really make sure your eyes stand out. Line your waterline with a hint of Colossal kajal & a sweep of Colossal Mascara just on the upper lashes. Use the MasterChrome Highlighter in Molten Gold and apply it on the highs of your cheekbones, browbone & a little on the collarbones for an illuminated effect. Complete this look with the Superstay Matte Ink Lipstick in the shade Ruler! Festive evenings are all about glitter & this look is sure to complement your dazzled outfitit!

— Maybelline New York Makeup Expert Team

## NatureTalk

The French marigold (red) is very pretty looking. The red flowers when they bloom bright up any space where you put them. While marigold can grow in full sun light to partial-shade, the plant prefers sunny areas. They grow best in moist, well-drained and fertile soil.

In order to ensure that new flowers keep coming up, remove the wilted flowers regularly. Water the marigold only when there is too much heat regularly. Otherwise only when the soil is dry.

On the whole, the French marigolds require very little care, especially when they are well-planted.

# Virtual turns real

## When the present pandemic hit last year, everything went online including concerts that brought millions of music lovers together in spirit on one HCL's platform in times of social distancing, says SHALINI SAKSENA

The COVID-19 has changed the way we live and go about doing our daily chores. This also includes how we look for ways to entertain ourselves. The digital world has exploded and this means how we listen to music as well. From listening to artistes perform live to watching them online, today the world is a different place.

Rohit Kaul, head, HCL Digital Concerts tells you that when they had started with Baithak, Baithak US and Soundscapes the journey has been an interesting one since they started holding digital concerts in March last year.

"When we started last year, we never thought we would end up holding so many concerts online. The 100 milestone is truly amazing. We never anticipated that more than 80 million would watch these shows. It has been enriching and gratifying as well. We have not only been able to showcase legends of the industry in our concerts but also many upcoming artistes," Kaul says.

He tells you that what they had not planned for was to get a certain number of viewership or how many concerts to hold or if there is an end date to it.

"However, with each of these platforms, be it Baithak or Soundscapes, the attempt has been to target a certain type of fans or present to them a certain type of artist. The idea is to also constantly want new platforms and look at new ways on how we can take different type of artistes to our audiences," Kaul tells you.

Interestingly, holding virtually concerts was not something new to Kaul and his team. They had been organising live streaming of their concerts even during pre-COVID-19 times.

"We had been streaming our live concerts digitally as well. This helped us when we had to quickly go digital. We had requested from the artist community wanting to know what could be done since physical concerts had come to a standstill. Our response was quick due to the learning we had. Along the way, they were several leaning. The positive was that we understood the power of digital space. We also, understood that there was need for physical concerts too. We learnt small technical details as well. We learnt what the audiences like and give feedback to the artists," Kaul recounts.

He tells you that now that things are easing up and COVID-19 numbers are coming down, they will hold their concerts in a combination — online and offline. "Of course, we still have to and should follow COVID-19 protocols.We will wait a bit longer before we go offline. Our digital model will continue though," Kaul says.

Sitar maestro Purbayan Chatterjee, who was accompanied by Satyajit Talwalkar on the *tabla* and Farooque Latif Khan on the *sarangi*, and performed at the 100 th HCL concert has an interesting viewpoint. He tells you that virtual is becoming more and more real.

"In the interest of moving ahead instead of living in denial, we must embrace things. It is better to go with the times. Things are easing up and now we can go to a studio to hold a virtual concert. So many things have become virtual. We are ordering food on app. It is not that we are losing human touch. The human element — the person who created that app — is still there. When we chat over a video call, there are people at each end. That is not going to go away," Chatterjee explains.

His choice of piece for the 100 th milestone was an interesting one well. He chose a piece that had an upbeat feel to it. "Since it was a celebration, I decided to go with *raag* Maru Bihag; it is very melodious and this was a happy occasion. I introduced *sarangi* which first is very auspicious and the instrument is quintessentially very Indian instruments. I wanted to promote this instrument. Also, HCL stands for going back to our roots hence I chose something that would have that happy tone to it," Chatterjee says. However, he is not new to performing virtually. In the past too, he had done virtual shows including live performance.

"Even when there was no COIVD-19 we had a virtual show for World Music Day. We did a *jugal bandhi* with Kaushiki Chakraborty which was shot in Delhi for a virtual audinece. What I had not thought of was that I would be only doing virtual shows. But things are slowly coming back on track — with live perfomance and audiences," Chatterjee tells you.

Even last year, when things had eased, things were looking up. There was a full house for a festival I did in Odisha, I did a couple of shows in Mumbai and there was good attendance. I recently did a show in Chennai and people had turned up in good numbers. I have a show in Mumbai next month. Let's see how that turns out to be. With vaccination drive doing well, fear among people is slowly easing," Chatterjee says.

sunday magazine
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the pioneer
agenda

You are only as great as the opportunities that are given to you
— Charlize Theron

FROM THE INSIDE

**Get closer to God**
To relive the glory of *bhanja* Ram, Chhattisgarh launches a new religious circuit covering the spots touched by Lord Ram during the exile 2

4 **Worship in celebratory mode**
The purpose of the festivities is to be geared up from within to encash the opportunities arising in emerging productive cycle

# EATING OUT RIGHT

Weight loss is a journey that must be traversed with patience, over time. This festive season, when you are most likely to eat out, keeping a few things in mind while selecting the dishes should do the trick, writes author **KAVITA DEVGAN** in her new book *The Don't-Diet Plan*, An edited excerpt:

Eating out is a part of life, be it for leisure or due to travel. However, the more frequently you eat out, the more calories you ingest, getting heavier in the bargain. You don't need me to tell you that, you know it already.

Besides, every time you eat out, you ruin your happiness guessing, wishing you knew everything you were wolfing down-fat, calories, sodium, etc. and wondering if you had made a wrong choice and sabotaged your heart's health yet again.

Faced with an extensive tempting menu, it's easy to get carried away and forget all about healthy eating, but making healthier choices need not be a nightmare. Let me show you how.

## GET CUISINE WISE

Here is a brief 'eating out manual' to help you navigate these four very popular cuisines when you go out to enjoy them the next time.

### Italian

Here the basics are trim and healthy but the offenders to look out for are surplus oil, cream and butter (which are poured freely into most dishes).

Are you wondering what to pick then? Learn to differentiate between Northern and Southern Italian cuisines. Southern Italy traditionally follows a Mediterranean diet, which is rich in grains, fruits and vegetables, contains very little meat and uses olive oil in place of butter. Northern Italian cuisine, on the other hand, is heavy on the beef, butter and cream. Start with plain Italian bread rather than buttered garlic bread. Be careful of fresh Italian bread soaked with deliciously flavoured olive oil too. Salads can be a good starter and filler but make sure that you ask for the dressing and vinegar on the side. An all-vegetable antipasto, insalata-green salad, Panzanella, a tomato and mozzarella salad and fish in cartoccio are some good options. Do you want to eat pasta? Then skip cheese-filled ones in favour of those with red clam sauce or meat sauce. Classic pasta with marinara sauce is a lean choice. And if you want to have a heavier entrée like lasagne, then have only half of it. At the end of the meal, skip the dessert, resist the cannoli or cream-filled pastry and have a decaf cappuccino, made with low fat milk or have fresh fruit.

### Mexican

In Mexican cuisine, the common offenders to look out for are enchiladas (tortillas fried in oil) and tacos (deep-fried tortillas), chimichangas, chilli rellenos, tostadas and flautas-all of them are deep fried. Cheese and sour cream toppings add extra fat and calories, so do the side-dishes like chips and nachos.

Are you wondering what to pick then? Take your cue from the names of the menu items. Foods that are prepared 'asada' are grilled, which is a non-fat cooking process. 'Fajitas' are made up of grilled meat or chicken. Use salsa on your main course instead of sour cream and cheese, as 'salsa' made with tomato, onion, chillies and herbs is virtually fat-free and bursting with vitamins A and C. Be extremely careful of the portion size. Choose the dessert carefully-a fruit plate of mangoes, guavas and papaya tastes as good and is far less calorie-dense than sopapillas (deep-fried sweet pastries) or fried ice cream.

### Greek

Greek food is super healthy and comprises of grains, fruits and vegetables, olive oil and very little meat. Sauces are based on wine, stocks, tomato and yoghurt, rather than milk or cream. Lentils, beans and vegetables are commonly used in soups, appetizers and main courses. So far so good, but still, you can't be careful enough.

Are you wondering what to pick? The signature of a Greek salad, the 'Greek' olives and feta cheese, are very high in sodium, so go easy. You can even ask to have the feta rinsed before it is served to limit your sodium intake. Be wary of taramasalata, a delicious, though calorie-rich, cream-based dip. Instead, have pita bread spread with a yoghurt-based dip like tzatziki, made with yoghurt, garlic and cucumber. Breadsticks dipped in hummus (sesame paste and chickpeas) or baba ghanoush (eggplant and olive oil) are other good options. For soup, skip the better-known avgolemono soup, which has a lemon and egg base and go for torato, chilled eggplant, peppers and yoghurt soup as this has more fibre and less cholesterol. If you're watching your fat and cholesterol numbers, then pass up moussaka and pastitsio casseroles made from eggs and cheese, and opt for grilled or broiled meat, poultry or seafood.

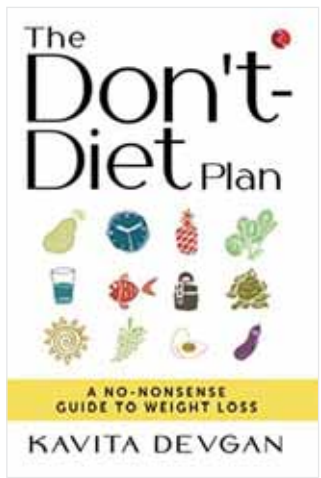
Some more good options are fish in 'plaki' sauce (broiled with tomato sauce and garlic), souvlaki (lamb marinated in lemon juice, olive oil and herbs, and then skewered and grilled) and dolmas (grape leaves stuffed with ground meat, rice and pine nuts). These are all steamed or baked dishes. And if you will simply perish without baklava for dessert, remember that the usual single portion size can serve two or three people more than adequately. Therefore, order accordingly.

### Chinese

Chinese food has its share of offenders-hefty sodium content, high fat and big portion sizes, usually due to the Indianization of the Chinese recipes-the so-called 'Indian Chinese food' (because traditional Chinese cooking is rather light and healthy).

Are you wondering what to pick? Oyster, black bean and soy sauces are full of sodium and monosodium glutamate (MSG). Look out for these words on the menu card and don't hesitate to ask the chef about the ingredients before ordering anything. Deep fat frying is very common, especially in the appetizers, so go easy on fried wontons and egg or spring rolls. Instead, try steamed egg or spring rolls. Order steamed white rice or plain noodles instead of the fried versions (steamed Chinese brown rice is tasty and filling). Be wary of the word 'crispy' as this indicates that the dish is usually deep-fried, as is most of the meat in any dish labelled 'sweet and sour'. Instead, choose a roasted or grilled meat with the sweet and sour sauce on the side (always order sauce on the side and just drizzle some on top).

Eat the way the Chinese really do to stay healthy for the long haul-eat a lot of vegetables. Besides, nowhere else do vegetables taste as delicious as they do in Chinese dishes. Always start with a soup, especially a vegetable base one and round off with a cup of Chinese tea to help wash all the food down.




> FACED WITH AN EXTENSIVE TEMPTING MENU, IT'S EASY TO GET CARRIED AWAY AND FORGET ALL ABOUT HEALTHY EATING, BUT MAKING HEALTHIER CHOICES NEED NOT BE A NIGHTMARE

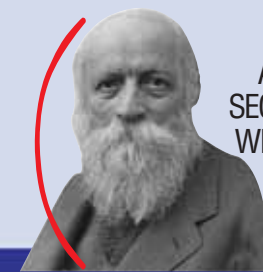
**Are you diabetic?**
Look for high fibre, low-fat dishes. A few great choices are beans, peas and lentils, and dark green vegetables like broccoli, cabbage, spinach and kale. Choose whole grain foods like brown rice, whole wheat bread and pasta and opt for fruits. Everyone, including people with diabetes, should eat three servings of fruit a day.

**Are you watching your heart?**
Skip foods high in saturated fat-foods that are fried or have a crispy coating, cream-based soups and salad dressings, and creamy cheese sauces and gravies. Don't add extra salt anything.

**Are you watching your waist?**
All the above rules apply. Also watch your portions, skip the desserts and go slow on carbs (breads). Load up on fibre (salad and grains) and protein (lean cuts).

**Do you have a long day ahead?**
Add nuts to your salad and an olive oil-based dressing; have a decent-sized helping of whole wheat bread or brown rice and substantial amounts of grilled chicken or fish.

*Excerpted with permission from* The Don't - Diet Plan: A no-nonsense guide to weight loss *by Kavita Devgan, Rupa, Rs 295*



ALL JOURNEYS HAVE SECRET DESTINATIONS OF WHICH THE TRAVELER IS UNAWARE
— MARTIN BUBER

# IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF RAM

To relive the glory of *bhanja* Ram, Chhattisgarh Tourism launches a new religious tourism circuit, titled Ram Van Gaman Paripath, covering the spots touched by Lord Ram, Mata Sita and brother Lakshman during their exile in the state. **NAVNEET MENDIRATTA** shares the story of the grand launch of the trail

There is a quaint little village near Raipur in Chhattisgarh that is said to be the parental home of Mata Kaushalya, Raja Dashrath's wife and mother of Lord Ram. In the village is the only temple in the world that is dedicated to her. The region was said to be a part of Dakshin Kaushal or Kaushal *raaj*, where Mata Kaushalya came from.

Taking pride in being his maternal home, people of the state see Ram as the nephew of the land (*bhanja* in Hindi). It is said that Ram spent 10 out of 14 years of his exile in the forests of Dakshin Kaushal.

The people of the region, in fact, have unique tradition binds the *mama* and *bhanja* together in a deeper and reverent way. In honour of Lord Ram, even today, the people put the nephew on a pedestal and, irrespective of the age, the uncle (*mama*) pays obeisance to the nephew (*bhanja*) instead of the other way around.

And now for the very first time, the Chhattisgarh government has taken it upon itself to mark the trail and promote it as a tourism circuit. Called Ram Van Gaman Paripath (RGVP), this circuit will cover nine spots along the forested route taken by Lord Ram, before he entered Maharashtra.

Covering a length of 3,000 kms, the Chhattisgarh section of the path starts from Koria district in the north to Sukma in the southern-most part of the state. The nine sites that make a part of the first phase include: Sitamarhi-Harchowka, Ramgarh, Shivrinarayan, Turturiya, Chandkhuri, Rajim, Sihawa, Jagdalpur and Ramaram.

It is believed Lord Ram entered Chhattisgarh from Sitamarhi-Harchauka area in Koriya district. Located on the banks of Mawai River, the Seetamadhi-Harchauka's cave houses 17 chambers in it. A structure marked *Sita ki rasoi* is indicative of their stay here, believe the locals. People also believe that Ram worshipped the Shivling during his stay in the cave.

Moving onward with his journey, Ram left Ghaghra and arrived at Kotadol, crossing the Ramgarh hills in Sarguja district. Ramgarh is known for Sita Bengra and Jogimara caves. The locals believe Lord Ram spent a few days of his exile along with Mata Sita and brother Lakshman in these caves. The caves also find a mention in Kalidasa's famous piece of literary art *Meghdootam*. Ramgarh is also renowned for one of the oldest '*natyashala*' (amphitheatre) where *Meghdootam* was composed.

The next location is where Lord Ram is said to have accepted the berries offered by Shabari. It is said that Sharbari (a tribal woman) had tasted the berries one by one to ensure that she fed only the sweetest ones to Ram. Called Shivrinarayan, the location is a now small town located at the Triveni Sangam (the intersection of 3 rivers) — Shivnath, Jonk and Mahanadi in the Janjgir Champa district.

CHHATTISGARH TOURISM BOARD HELD A GRAND LAUNCH OF A NEW CIRCUIT, TITLED THE RAM VAN GAMAN PARIPATH, ON THE FIRST DAY OF NAVRATRAS. A 51-FEET HIGH STATUE OF RAM SET AGAINST THE ANCIENT MATA KAUSHALYA TEMPLE WAS ALSO UNVEILED

The village of Turturiya is where Rishi Valmiki had his *ashram*. The ashram is said to be where Sita gave birth to the twins, Luv and Kush. This place is of great religious and cultural significance as it here where Maharishi Valmiki is said to written his epic work, *Ramayana*, that brought the legend of Ram to the world.

Chandkhuri sits in the middle of the trail. As you move south, you come to Rajim, where Lord Ram is said to have spent some time of his exile in the ashram of Rishi Lomash. Rajim is located at the confluence of the Mahanadi, Sondhur and Pairi rivers and is also known as the *Prayag* of Chhattisgarh. The Shivling, believed to have been established by Mata Sita, is now housed inside the famous Kuleshwar Mahadev temple. It is said that even today during the floods, the Shivling does not get submerged.

Sihawa, the revered place of *Sapt rishis* (seven sages) is the place of origin of the divine Mahanadi River. According to a folklore, Lord Ram spent a significant amount of his time at this place meeting and consulting the seven great sages — namely Shringi Rishi, Muchkund Rishi, Agastya Rishi, Angira Rishi, Kankar Rishi, Sharabhang Rishi and Gautama Rishi.

In Jagdalpur are situated the historic Kutumsar Caves, where Lord Ram is said to have spent considerable time. Located in the famous Bastar district, Jagdalpur was the capital of the erstwhile princely state of Bastar. Even today, a 500-year-old festival, 'Bastar Dussehra', is held that runs for 75 days a year.

The ninth destination in the trail is Ramaram in the Sukma district. This is where Lord Ram is said to have worshipped Bhoomi Devi, a Hindu deity representing the earth. It is believed that you can see the footprints of Lord Ram even today.

The entire trail can be covered over a period of 10 days, shared Anbalagan P, Secretary Tourism, Chhattisgarh. According to him, these are only nine of the 75 locations on the trail that the state plans to develop over time.

The state is also looking at hosting several festivals to push tourism in the state over the next few years, shared the State Chief Minis, Bhupesh Baghel. "We want the tourists to experience the state hospitality and view it as a religious, cultural and ethnic tourist destination," he said.

It was with this objective that the Chhattisgarh Tourism Board held a grand launch of the trail on the first day of Navratras. A 51-feet high statue of Ram set against the ancient Mata Kaushalya temple was unveiled. The temple complex wears a grand look following the beautification drive undertaken by the government.

The grand event, curated by Yasmin Kidwai of Springbox Films laong with Brandwidth Events, saw a musical opening dedicated to Lord Ram. Local as well as famous national artistes, such as Shankar Mahadevan, Indian Ocean, Kabir Café, Sukriti Sen and V.Unbeatable, participated in the event that was heavily attended by the locals. Noted actor Ashish Vidyarthi played the emcee of the evening. A 3-D film showcasing Ram's story and connect with Chhattisgarh was also showcased. The tourism board also released a special song written by *Indian Ocean*'s Himanshu Joshi that evokes the glory of Lord Ram and speaks of his relevance through the ages.

This, in fact, is the first of the many tourism campaigns that the state is planning to launch. Chhattisgarh is looking at hosting traditional as well contemporary festivals and events to create an inclusive tourism strategy. For a state that has been able to settle internal unrest, there is a lot to showcase to the world. The state is also working on creating a Buddhist circuit and connecting it the existing one. There is a lot that the travellers can expect from Chhattisgarh.

# HOW FORMIDABLE IS ISIS FOR TALIBAN

With the Taliban in power in Afghanistan, there's a new enemy ascending. The Islamic State (ISIS) group threatens to usher in another violent phase. Except this time the former insurgents, the Taliban, play the role of the state, now that the US troops and their allied Afghan Government are gone.

The Taliban promised the United States to keep the extremist group in check during successive rounds of peace talks. Under the 2020 US-Taliban accord, the Taliban guaranteed that Afghanistan would not become a haven for terrorist groups threatening the US or its allies. But it is unclear if they can keep their pledge, with a sudden uptick in ISIS attacks since the Taliban takeover on August 15.

The ISIS has claimed the responsibility for a deadly suicide bombing on a Shia mosque in southern Afghanistan that killed 47 people and wounded scores more on October 15.

"Historically, the majority of IS attacks have targeted the state... Now that the US and the international presence is mostly gone, they need to go after the state — and the state is the Taliban," said Andrew Mines, research fellow at Program on Extremism at George Washington University.

**LONG RIVALRY**

Both the Taliban and the ISIS advocate rule by their radical interpretations of Islamic law. But there are key ideological differences that fuel their hatred of each other. The Taliban say they are creating an Islamic state in Afghanistan, within the borders of that country. The ISIS says it is the Islamic State, a global caliphate that it insists all Muslims must support. It is contemptuous of the Taliban's nationalist goals and doesn't recognise them as a pure Islamic movement. For similar reasons, the ISIS has long been a staunch enemy of al-Qaida.

Both the Taliban and the ISIS advocate particularly harsh versions of Islamic Shariah law and have used tactics like suicide bombers. But when it ruled territory in Syria and Iraq, the ISIS was even more brutal and carried out more horrific punishments than the Taliban did.

The ISIS emerged in Afghanistan in 2015 with the name Islamic State in Khorasan Province, at a time when the group was at its peak, controlling much of Iraq and Syria. It drew members from Afghan and Pakistani militants, including a wave of Taliban defectors. The group initially found support among Afghanistan's small Salafist movement in eastern Kunar and Nangarhar provinces. The Salafis had largely been marginalised by the Taliban, and by connecting with the rising ISIS, the Salafist movement found a means to establish military strength.

However, ISIS' brutal ways have since led some Salafi clerics to voice opposition. In the years after its emergence, the ISIS was badly hurt by military setbacks at the hands of the Taliban and by US airstrikes, before surging again the past year. The Taliban downplay ISIS' capabilities and dismiss them as a fringe group with no mainstream appeal.

Relatives carry the body of victims of October 15 suicide attack during a mass funeral in Kandahar, Afghanistan, on Saturday. The ISIS claimed responsibility for a deadly suicide bombing on a Shia mosque that killed at least 47 people and wounded scores more AP

"They have no roots here," influential Taliban figure Sheikh Abdul-Hameed Hamasi told *The Associated Press.*

**END GAME**

Still, the potency of the ISIS threat is undeniable. Two deadly bombings have hit Kabul, including one outside the airport at the height of evacuations before the US exit that killed 169 Afghans and 13 US service members. Smaller scale attacks are also on the rise. "The intensity and breadth of attacks… show the capacity and level of national reach which has caught the Taliban by surprise," said Ibraheem Bahiss, a consultant with the International Crisis Group. The ISIS "is no short-term threat."

It could be a while until the ISIS has the capability to hold territory again. Its immediate aim is to destabilise the Taliban and shatter the group's image as a guardian of security. For now, its strategy is slow and methodical. It is reaching out to tribes and other groups to recruit from their ranks while stamping out dissent among moderate Salafis and carrying out jailbreaks, assassinations, and attacks on Taliban personnel. "Package all of that together, that is an entire method of insurgency the Taliban is not equipped to handle," said Mines.

Bill Roggio of the Long War Journal, produced by the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies think tank, offered a different view, saying he believes the Taliban can uproot the ISIS on their own, even without the backup of US airstrikes that nearly eliminated the ISIS. Roggio said the Taliban have shown themselves capable of rooting out some ISIS cells, using their vast local intelligence-gathering networks. He noted that the ISIS — unlike the Taliban during their insurgency — don't have access to safe havens in Pakistan and Iran.

The Taliban have rejected cooperating with the US against the ISIS, ahead of the two sides' direct talks last weekend. The ISIS' future trajectory in Afghanistan will depend largely on its ability to recruit more members and win over large segments of the population.

Since their inception, they have been poaching Taliban members. In 2015, former Taliban commander Abdul Rauf Khadim was appointed deputy of the ISIS in Afghanistan and reportedly offered financial incentives to other fighters to join the group.

In 2020, when the ISIS re-emerged in Afghanistan, it was under a new leader drawn from the Haqqani Network, currently a faction of the Taliban. Hard-line members of the Taliban could join the ISIS as the Taliban leadership, now in power, has to make compromises whether at home or abroad. The Taliban have promised a more inclusive government, though the temporary administration they set up is entirely made up of Taliban members.

The more the Taliban cooperate with international states, the more they run against the image of the mujahedeen resistance fighter. "That is a key identity the Taliban will lose," Mines said.

**TREATMENT OF MINORITIES**

As the Taliban shift from insurgency to governance, one key test will be whether they act to protect minority groups that their fighters once tyrannised, such as the Shia Hazaras. The Hazaras have endured multiple campaigns of persecution and displacement throughout Afghanistan's history. When the Taliban were first in power in the 1990s, they carried out massacres against the community, in some cases in retaliation for massacres of ethnic Pashtuns. ***AP***

**Both the Taliban and the ISIS advocate rule by their radical interpretations of Islamic law. But there are key ideological differences that fuel their hatred of each other. The Taliban say they are creating an Islamic state in Afghanistan, within the borders of that country. The ISIS says it is the Islamic State, a global caliphate that it insists all Muslims must support. It is contemptuous of the Taliban's nationalist goals and doesn't recognise them as a pure Islamic movement**

## OUTLOOK

# Safe passages for animals

As India keeps on developing new expressways, demand for the green passages is also growing. Environmentalists claim that the speedy vehicles are killing a number of wild animals everyday, as there are a few or no provisions for their safe passage across the roads. This is clearly a denial of basic right to wildlife.

On any fine morning, a travel on NH9 from Delhi towards Moradabad may turn unpleasant as you will find at least a squirrel, jackal or a fox killed on the highway by the speeding vehicles. The NH9 passing through Hastinapur Wildlife sanctuary is spread over 2,073 square kilometre area and intersects Garhmukteshwar (Hapur) and Gajraula (Amroha). Also, a rail track passes through this sanctuary as well as State highway 51 and some local roads. The speedy traffic on these roads has posed a regular threat to the wildlife and the conservators.

Speeding vehicles aren't killing the wildlife only on this stretch. The Delhi-based Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI) claims that the road and train accidents have killed at least 83 leopards around the country last year, the highest (22) in Maharashtra. Also, thousands of mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles are losing their lives in similar conditions.

Though, the Government has different claims. Union Minister of Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari in July 2021 informed the Lok Sabha that no incident of animal death in road accident happened during the last three years. Environmentalists may have the different opinion, but one thing is clear, we don't have safe passages for our animals, even in reserved areas.

However, NH-44 is an exception where after the intervention by the Bombay High Court, the National Highways Authority of India constructed nine underpasses. These underpasses or the wildlife crossings were constructed between Kanha & Pench tiger reserves. On rail track there are several corridors identified across India for passage of elephants and efforts are on to construct safe crossings.

**What are wildlife crossings?**

Wildlife crossings or the safe passages aren't a new concept. Around the globe roads are often designed to provide cave-like, concrete underpasses, overpasses, ducts, amphibian tunnels, culverts and the green roofs. These options are provided after taking into consideration the type of animals, birds, or the flies inhabiting the region. Often the underpasses are fitted with CCTV cameras, so that the movement of animals can be monitored. Wildlife crossings were first envisioned in European countries and in the 1950s the first animal bridge was built in France. It is considered a first infrastructure solution to ensure safe passage to wild animals. Nowadays such crossings are hugely popular in countries like Germany, Netherlands Canada, and the USA.

In our neighbourhood, Nepal has started building such corridors for the road safety and conservation of its wildlife.

**Why do we need safe passages?**

The idea of wildlife crossings is not only to avoid the human-animal conflict, but also to conserve wildlife. Their demand is on the rise as the human-made barriers like canals, electric power lines, roads and railroads continue to penetrate and divide wildlife habitats. With human population growing, pressure is increasing on jungles and the wildlife. Though, there is no exact data regarding the animals killed in road accidents in India, the figures mentioned in various reports are alarming. Data from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, suggest, that 186 elephants were killed on rail tracks across India during the last ten years.

Similarly, WPSI says leopard deaths in train and road accidents have increased over the past 10 years. There has been around 278 per cent rise in such accidents from 2010 to 2019. News reports suggest that during 2021, at least 3 tigers were killed in road accidents. We can only say the developmental activities on either side of roads/rail tracks have increased the problem for bio-conservators.

**The technical issue**

India has the second largest road network in the world and it is growing at a fast pace. Our roads are being upgraded and we are adding more and more lanes. Sometimes, there are eight to ten lanes which makes impossible for the animals to cross the roads without a collision with vehicles. It is sad that we are not only depriving our wild with safe passages, but also building railings and dividers on our highways/expressways to make their movement difficult. These railings and dividers result in a trap, creating the chances of more accidents. This is not only dangerous for the wild animals but also for the commuters. Along with the wild, menace of stray animals left by their owners is a big threat for road safety.

**Viability of wildlife corridors in India**

Studies suggest the wildlife crossings not only save wild animals but also make the roads safer for human beings, though, they make the roads little costlier. Sometimes, dried up brooks, drains and rivers provide respite but they aren't available everywhere. In the recent times when all the roads are turned into a paid facility through tolls, this investment should be worthwhile. In recent days, there have been a lot of talks regarding the wildlife corridors on Indian roads. Though the demands, claims and the announcements have not brought a big change in the situation as we may have so many excuses for not bringing forth change, in reality, these passages are eventually need of the hour not only for our wildlife but also for the safety of commuters. We should learn to live with our wild and should also learn to honour their rights.

*(The writer is a journalist and teaches as a guest faculty at Delhi School of Journalism, University of Delhi)*

**Wildlife crossings were first envisioned in European countries and in the 1950s the first animal bridge was built in France. It is considered a first infrastructure solution to ensure safe passage to wild animals. Nowadays such crossings are hugely popular in countries like Germany, Netherlands, Canada, and the USA. In our neighbourhood, Nepal has started building such corridors for the road safety and conservation of its wildlife**

SAIYED ZEGHAM MURTAZA

## PERSPECTIVE

# POSHAN MAAH FOR TB-MUKT BHARAT

When vision and political will come together, the people stand to gain. Under the present dispensation, certain flagship programmes certainly display vision as well as political will. For instance, the Government initiatives such as Poshan Maah or National Nutrition Month, observed in September — an important tradition put in place since 2018 to further conversations on health and nutrition services in the country — can be considered a timely reaffirmation of the country's priorities as citizens, especially the most vulnerable, navigate the stark impact of the pandemic on their lives and livelihoods. With our extensive work in the domain of nutrition and tuberculosis, we can really appreciate the centrality of such initiatives when it comes to creating positive disruption.

Thus, it has been highly encouraging to see health-nutrition being foregrounded by the Government within the national development narrative. This is also an occasion to understand why such focus must be sustained on a war-footing for some areas which are strongly linked with and fall under the ambit of undernutrition and infectious diseases. Tuberculosis or TB is an apt case study against this backdrop. Because the issue lies at the intersection of something both of us have strived hard to address over decades, we feel personally and professionally invested in any mitigation mechanism that can alleviate the people's suffering.

According to India TB Report 2021, over 23 lakh new TB cases were reported in India and approximately 89,000 people succumbed to it in 2019. Now, let's consider how malnutrition and TB essentially have a bidirectional relationship, which becomes more pronounced in the Indian context. In fact, undernutrition at the population level, according to the Health Ministry's 2017 guidance document on nutrition, contributed to an estimated 55 per cent of annual TB incidence in India.

From our experiences, we have seen how undernutrition also compromises the body's immunity and can lead to the progression of latent infection to active TB; this worsens undernutrition, which again, in turn, increases the severity of the disease creating a vicious cycle. The Government has been proactive in recognising this problem and initiating schemes such as the NPY which provides ₹500 a month to TB patients as nutritional support. It is important to build on this success to drive a holistic discussion on nutrition and its integral role within the TB treatment narrative. What can be the contours of such a discussion and what are the critical points to consider?

Any strategy for nutrition and TB must factor in the importance of recording an individual's BMI, which informs the trajectory of the treatment regimen. Data show how undernourishment doubles fatalities linked with TB. The undernourished elderly with a low BMI of less than 18.5 are also overwhelmingly affected by severe forms of TB. Patients with low BMI are ill-equipped to handle the stress of TB infection and anti-TB drugs. Therefore, it's essential to work towards a model of consistent nutritional assessments and counselling that can be integrated within the TB treatment cycle; clearer understanding of nutritional details is crucial to the success of the rigorous drug regimen for the disease.

We must also understand how, in India, TB affects the poor disproportionately; the 2017 Health Ministry's guidance document also notes a 4-fold higher prevalence in those with a low standard of living index compared to those with a higher standard of living. In this light, it may be useful to have local nutrition counsellors readily accessible to patients who can clarify for them beyond dietary supervision what holistic nutrition entails as part of TB treatment. The emphasis must be on ensuring nutritional evaluation before, during and even after the treatment regimen is complete. We must remember that below the desired BMI levels, efficacy of certain drugs may not be optimal, if not at all. To start with, we can try to incorporate initial BMI screening especially for more at-risk categories such as children and elderly at the point when patients are being screened for suspected TB.

There do exist modalities in some States to provide enhanced ration to patients through PDS linkages, and even supplementary nutrition through food baskets. A 2018 report by the Health Ministry on Patient Support Systems for TB Elimination has several recommendations in this regard that could be revisited and explored by the States for further implementation. Within the larger architecture of such recommendations, States can design targeted food baskets considering local preferences as well as infrastructure available for supply chain management. It will also be useful to have a prioritised beneficiary list comprising the most vulnerable sections of society so the nutritional resources can be allocated to those who need it the most.

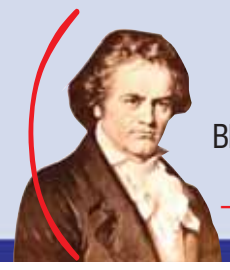
Finally, the research community, which we are also a part of, does play a critical role in keeping the conversation on TB services alive. However, efforts to mitigate TB can only be amplified by increased intersectoral collaboration, considering the magnitude of the crisis. Multiple determinants of TB like poverty, malnutrition, urbanisation, indoor air pollution, sanitation, migration, etc, remain outside the purview of the health department. They may fall under different departments, but they share the commonality of being important factors in the TB narrative. For this reason, the TB programme's initiative to create an inter-Ministerial committee is welcome. It is crucial to foster convergence between different departments to ensure TB-Mukt Bharat. Such unity of purpose can only help the Jan Andolan against TB and ensure the disease is eliminated by 2025.

*(Dr C Padmapriyadarsini is Director, ICMR-National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis; Dr R Hemalatha is Director, ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition)*

**It has been highly encouraging to see health-nutrition being foregrounded by the Government within the national development narrative. This is also an occasion to understand why such focus must be sustained on a war-footing for some areas which are strongly linked with and fall under the ambit of undernutrition and infectious diseases such as tuberculosis. It is crucial to foster convergence to start a Jan Andolan against TB and ensure the disease is eliminated by 2025**

C PADMAPRIYADARSINI

R HEMALATHA



MUSIC IS THE MEDIATOR BETWEEN THE SPIRITUAL AND THE SENSUAL LIFE
— LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN



# YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA

## ARIES March 21-April 19

Your efforts for being in good health will pay you well this week. You feel energetic, creative, and versatile. There is a sense of purpose in life. You may consider activities like yoga, *pranayama* and meditation to keep yourself fit and rejuvenated. Spirituality will help you restore your confidence and add meaning to life. On the career front, you may find things going much better, almost out of the blue. A powerful person is likely to support you. This is a good time to ask for a raise or to seek employment that pays more if you are so inclined. Overall, your career front is looking up. In the context of love, it's important to remember that no relationship can stand up to constant analysis. Try to give your beloved some space.

**Lucky number** 10
**Lucky colour** Off-White
**Lucky day** Monday

## TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you will feel a surge of energy. You will be filled with confidence and be in the best of your health. Your health efforts will bear fruit. Do consider alternative ways to deal with health challenges. Professionally, the way your career graph is going, you need a break and professional counselling. Seek advice from a senior. To maintain control over your domain, guidelines from an expert will help you get that boost in your career. Join a virtual professional course/seminar or workshop to increase your skills. On the love front, there will be tension. You may face rejection or break-up. The singletons will remain single. This is the time to make thoughtful bonding whether in love or marriage.

**Lucky number** 1
**Lucky colour** Indigo
**Lucky day** Friday

## GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week you need to let go of the past to move forward. You must look within yourself to analyse the areas of fear, trying to hold onto things. Non-attachment with anyone or anything will give you the independence to decide things. Learn about the energy centres in the body and meditate on how you are functioning. Be open to changes as it is the only constant in life. This week professionally, the need of the hour is to give your time and attention to your work. You need to be sure that your work balance is where it needs to be. Do justice to your work. Avoid confrontations and conflicts with the people in the work area as that will only tarnish your image. You find success in love and rejoice this week.

**Lucky number** 12
**Lucky colour** Yellow
**Lucky day** Wednesday

## CANCER June 21-July 22

This is a great week for creativity and optimism, and you believe that everything will turn out in your favour. You are generous and willing to share. You have learnt to accept your flaws and to accommodate others. It gives you the strength to be what you want to be. Health will be fine, and you enjoy it. On the work front, the feel-good factor will bring a smile to your face. This week you find the support of colleagues and seniors, and there is a chance that your name may be recommended for promotion. Make the best use of this time. On the love front, you may have your eye on someone who you feel is not treating you the way they should. It may be that you need to stop dreaming about this person completely.

**Lucky number** 17
**Lucky colour** Silver
**Lucky day** Saturday

## LEO July 23-Aug 22

The week starts with never-ending activities like meeting, attending to guests etc. This will give you no time for yourself. You are working hard. There are chances may hurt yourself. Stay focused while you drive and use all safety measures to avoid any unpleasant situation. On the work front, you feel at ease as things are going in your favour. Great things come in a small package, and this is what will happen to you. There will be new opportunities in a job, and those who are unemployed will get that job in their desired field. On the personal front, your partner may put things in some challenging situations and give you excuses for not accepting your relationships.

**Lucky number** 16
**Lucky colour** White
**Lucky day** Sunday

## VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Avert anger and aggression. Listen to your body and treat it well. Seek the advice of an elderly in the family, maybe your mother or aunt. Her homemade remedies will bring you relief from your current health problems. Workwise, you are filled with the guts and try your level best to achieve what you want in life. Those who are waiting for the final verdict in court in legal hassle will be pleased to get the case in their favour. Those in media, opposition, and justice etc fields will do well this week. On the personal front, love is not happening, neither you have time to think about matters of the heart. The existing relationships too may suffer due to the lack of understanding and busy schedule.

**Lucky number** 20
**Lucky colour** Golden
**Lucky day** Sunday

## LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Health looks promising this week. Some of you may gradually regain your health and feel a new spark of creativity. This is a great time to try a new health care approach, especially preventative care. Exercise, eating well, and making sure that you get enough sleep are all common approaches that you can consider. On the work front, there is a change of place — relocation, posting or transfer, is indicated. You are filled with new hopes and aspirations as it is your desired post, one for which you have been aspiring for a long time. The new avenues of progress will be opened, and you get a chance to prove your worth & potentials. On the personal front, you are demanding and very strict in your relationships, and this attitude will not go in married couples' favour.

**Lucky number** 11
**Lucky colour** Pastel Blue
**Lucky day** Thursday

## SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week some challenges are foreseen on the health front. Different problems may come up together and make you restless. Gastric issues, BP and depression might affect you. Your emotions and sensitivity is affected. You should spend more time relaxing. On the career front, your work graph will take a new turn this week, as your potentials will be duly recognised. The finance part will also improve. You will feel the positive vibrations at the workplace. This is a week of attainment, accumulation and finding inner satisfaction. On the personal front, be cautious in your relationships. You may be marked as arrogant or incompatible. Married couples may not be in harmony and want their own space to escape any conflict and tension.

**Lucky number** 13
**Lucky colour** Rose Gold
**Lucky day** Tuesday

## SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Despite the challenges you are facing, you will feel on top of the world. Appreciation for a job well done on the domestic front will be encouraging. You have the blessings of elders, and it radiates in your personality. You have inner satisfaction, with positive energy after easing a difficult situation. On the career front, a good message is on the cards. Some of you will be promoted and assigned an important task that will give a boost to your career. You might attend a virtual seminar or training session to enhance your skills. The stars are with you, and you enjoy the results of your hard work. In love, you may not be lucky this week. If you like someone goes ahead and express yourself. Avoid the loose talk as it may affect your relationship.

**Lucky number** 9
**Lucky colour** Red
**Lucky day** Tuesday

## CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week positive energy flows in your veins. You must use this energy in some creative pursuits. This can be a very creative time for you, and a good time for you to dream, play and be inventive as a child. On the professional front, things are likely to go your way. This seems to be an excellent time career-wise. A raise or promotion is certain for those who work in the private sector. Stay focused and the approach of a senior official will help make your work easy. On the relationship front, you need to talk to your partner one on one to sort out the confusion which has been created intentionally or unintentionally between you two. Take out some time and plan a romantic endeavour to boost up your love life.

**Lucky number** 8
**Lucky colour** Camel Brown
**Lucky day** Friday

## AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you are confused and pondering a change in your life's direction. Health is fluctuating and affecting the quality of life. You need guidelines, a session of counselling to gain the results of your past behaviour. It is never too late to improve. Sow the seeds today for a better tomorrow. On the work front, there will be challenges. With your determination and willpower, you are likely to take hold of the situations and emerge out as a winner. Some technical aspects may create problems and take most of your time. On the personal front, this week is likely to bring love to the centre stage of your life. This is either a new relationship or a powerful re-bonding of an old one. You share your joy with those around you who need it.

**Lucky number** 7
**Lucky colour** Brown
**Lucky day** Thursday

## PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week you will be balancing five elements in life for harmony between body, mind, and soul. Those with ongoing health issue may benefit from undertaking alternative therapy like nutritional counselling, massage, dietary restriction etc. Professionally, you need career counselling at this stage to sharpen your skills. Attending short courses, workshops, or lectures etc will help you in your goals. Work should be going very well if you can be organised and work as per the rules. Relationship wise you are lucky as the people around you hear you with respect and value your ideas. Professional and personal both the fronts you live life king size. In love, you make impression on your partner with your positive and honest approach.

**Lucky number** 3
**Lucky colour** Peach
**Lucky day** Saturday

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**ASTROTURF**
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

# Worship in celebratory mode

India has a tradition of worshipping in celebratory mode. When you offer prayers in a festive mode, you enjoy doing it spiritedly. You then involve your body and mind as a whole into prayers. Evidently then, you can expect desired result. The purpose of most of the festivities is not just pursuance of some age old arbitrary beliefs. The intent is to be geared up from within to encash the opportunities arising in emerging productive cycle. Also, combat and overcome all challenges coming in the way in all strength and with ease and comfort.

Even the timing is important. The festive season begins with the onset of Durga Puja on the first lunar day of waxing phase of *Ashvin* month. It is marked with a particular phase of nature during its annular course, when its energy orchestra is about to strike its lowest. For, the Sun, nature's prime energy provider operating from the front, begins to move towards to the farthest end, from the part of the globe we are situated.

During its southerly course, the Sun would be closing up with the western horizon, where as we are situated towards the eastern horizon in the northern hemisphere. The weather cycle also remains in a state of flux at this point of time — from Autumn to Winters — which is often disease prone. Accordingly, we need to be invoke our *shakti* from within to bear with the callings of changing weather.

During *Navaratra*, which has just concluded, we begin with offering prayers to Durga. Nothing moves in this dynamic world without *shakti*. Physical efforts apart, even mind process is a play of *shakti*. The irony, however, is that *shakti* is a double edged weapon. It can be used productively, and if misused knowingly or unmindfully, could prove self-defeating, as *shakti* doesn't have a drive of its own. The way you apply is how it will act.

Focus on the imagery of the Goddess Durga, shows us the way to direct our *shakti* rightfully towards productive application. That is why all forms of *shakti* — physical, aspirational or intelligence — are epitomised in motherly forms. For, mother pulls in all resources in hand, to bear with and then selflessly nurse the child. Durga is mounted on a lion. When it goes for a kill, moves carefully and intelligently without wasting its energy, till the prey would be within reach. It then evokes all its energies and promptly strike. It, however, won't go for its next kill, till it becomes hungry once again. So, even the killing is need based, not greed based. Armouries in her 10 hands are there to combat challenges coming from all directions, from within or beyond.

The particular focus is on the inconsistencies of our 10 sensory organs, which, with its monkey like flirtatious tendencies, could prove more devilish than external forces. Lotus flower associated with mother symbolises being devoid of any sense of ego, and unattached lends support in equal proportion to all. Though lotus grows out of mud in a pond, its leaves and petals won't hold even a trace of muck or water droplets.

During its nine day sojourn, the first three days are exclusively dedicated to Durga, the epitome of physical power. During the following three days, Goddess Laxmi identified with our creative urges and aspirations is also worshipped. Last three days of worship, involves Saraswati identified with wisdom and intelligence. The purpose is to use the three modes of *shakti* in a coordinated way, so as to derive maximum benefit out of our initiatives. *Shakti* is to be directed towards fulfilment of our creative urges and aspirations. Intelligence, in the first place, helps weigh all options in hand, overcome our greed, and prioritise need based application. Second, it helps articulate our actions and responses in a measured way. Third, it helps combat emerging challenges with prudence and patience.

Durga Puja is followed by Diwali, when we encounter the darkest night, as both the luminaries, the Sun and Moon are bang on the western horizon. On this day, Goddess Laxmi is worshipped once again, and in Bengal, Goddess Kali. The purpose obviously is to be geared up afresh to negotiate the callings of emerging productive cycle. The festive season concludes with *Chattha*, celebrated in Bihar and eastern part of UP, which of late with migration, has been spreading to the other parts of the nation. On this occasion, as the Sun begins gaining ground, we offer our prayers to thee to further gain strength.

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