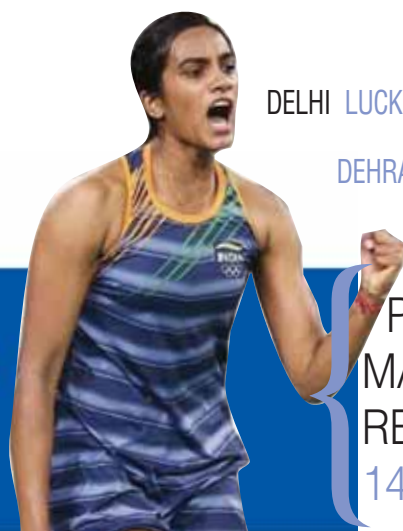




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## China renews focus along Arunachal amid stand-off

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/RUPA (ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

Amid continued tension at the border in Ladakh in the west, China has stepped up its military presence in the east, including Arunachal Pradesh. It has also built infrastructure close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) besides enhancing the intensity of its military drills.

Not willing to take any chances, India has taken adequate measures and correspondingly firmed up contingency plans to deal with any threat in that sector, Eastern Command chief Lt General Manoj Pande said on Tuesday.

Giving a sense of the situation in the sensitive eastern sector, Pande said the Chinese army has stepped its annual training exercises in their depth areas. Moreover, additional troops deployed by China in the east after the Ladakh stand-off last year remain there, he said.

The Eastern Command chief also noted China is setting up dwelling units or hamlets close to the hamlet and said the "dual-use" of these villages was a matter of concern.

The Asapila sector in Arunachal Pradesh was among the areas where the Indian



Eastern Army Commander Lt Gen Manoj Pande

Army observed infrastructure development by PLA close to LAC, and it had led to a corresponding increase in troop deployment there, he said.

The main objective of the Chinese drills was to launch integrated operations and India has taken adequate counter-measures, including a sufficient number of troops in all the sectors in the east, Pande said. The LAC in the east, including Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, is nearly 1,400 km.

On face-off between troops of India and China at Naku La

in north Sikkim, he said patrols came face-to-face in the area because of different perception of the LAC, and protocols were in place to resolve the situation even though sometimes confrontations lasted longer.

Scores of Indian and Chinese soldiers were involved in a face-off in Naku La in May 2020, with rival troops suffering injuries in the incident following an exchange of blows. Another face-off took place in Naku La between the two sides earlier this year.

Given the increased

Chinese activities on its side of the LAC, the Indian Army has increased surveillance along the border using satellites, long-range unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and other hi-tech intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) systems, Pande said.

The Eastern Command chief also said the focus is on honing the surveillance capabilities using niche technologies, including modern aerial platforms, a superior network of radars, hi-tech night vision systems, and modern communication equipment.

He said the Army's new mountain strike corps, raised to counter the Chinese threat in the east, was fully operational now.

He said new equipment deployed in the Ladakh sector is being simultaneously inducted in the east, with the focus being on enhancing mobility, drone and counter-drone systems, precision-guided ammunition and surveillance systems.

Giving an account of India's overall military modernisation, Pande also said in-principle approval was given to new combat formations called the Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs) which can mobilise fast with a more effective approach.

*Continued on Page 11*

## Rain wreaks havoc in U'khand, 23 lives lost

### 4 killed in UP, Kerala flood situation grim

PNS ■ DEHRADUN/NEW DELHI

Heavy rain wreaked havoc in many parts of Uttarakhand for the second consecutive day on Tuesday, while Uttar Pradesh witnessed four fatalities, even as heavy downpour in Kerala filled several dams to the brim and multiple districts were on alert.

Landslides, house collapse and deluge claimed 23 lives in Uttarakhand. As per the information given by the State emergency control room, eight people are reported missing while many have suffered injuries.

The Kumaon division of the State bore the brunt of heavy rain as all deaths were reported from the districts of Nainital, Almora, Champwat and Udham Singh Nagar on the day.

The rainfall in many places of Kumaon broke all previous records. Scores of roads in different parts of the State are blocked due to landslides and some of the important bridges have suffered damage. The rail connection between Lalkuan and Kathgodam has been sev-



Submerged cars are seen at a flooded hotel resort as extreme rainfall caused the Kosi River to overflow at the Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand on Tuesday

AP

ered due to a breach of bridge on Gaula River in Haldwani.

All the major rivers of the State are flowing above the danger mark and low-lying areas in different parts of the State have been inundated with water.

Concerned over the fury of nature, Prime Minister

Narendra Modi called Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami over phone and assured every possible help to the State.

Dhami visited the disaster-affected areas of the State and also conducted an aerial inspection of many areas. He was accompanied by the

Disaster Management Minister Dhan Singh Rawat and other senior officers. Nainital district was the worst-affected in the State as 18 people were reported dead in different incidents. In this district, five people are reported missing.

*Continued on Page 11*

## Few takers for 2nd shot as India nears 100-cr mark, Govt worried

### Experts attribute it to growing complacency as cases decrease

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as the Government hopes to breach the ambitious 100-crore Covid doses mark on October 21, poor response to the second dose of Covid-19 among people is leaving it jittery.

Health experts have attributed it to growing complacency among beneficiaries in view of reports of nationwide low infection. The Union Health Ministry on Tuesday in a review meeting asked the States and Union Territories to re-plan their strategy and rope in ASHA workers and focus on convincing people about the importance of full vaccination.

India has so far vaccinated



more than 70 per cent of the adult population with the first dose, whereas around 30 per cent of the target population has been vaccinated with the second dose or is fully vaccinated.

According to reports, while the States have been maintaining a comfortable balance of vaccine stock in hand, the number of doses administered is relatively low. For instance, on Saturday last week, the stock available with states stood

at 11.12 crore vaccines, whereas they administered a total of around 38 lakh doses. Similarly, on Wednesday, a balance of around 8.50 crore was available with states whereas the doses administered stood at 50 lakh. On Thursday, 27 lakh doses were administered, whereas 8.89 crore doses were available.

The Ministry noted that a sizeable number of eligible beneficiaries had not received their second vaccine dose.

*Continued on Page 11*

## Priyanka announces 40% quota to women in UP polls

PREETAM SRIVASTAVA ■ LUCKNOW

Amidst move by political parties to tap the votes of Brahmin, Backward, Dalit and other caste and communities for the coming Assembly elections, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday tried to attract half of the population by announcing 40 per cent reservations in the party tickets to women contestants in Uttar Pradesh.

Priyanka said her party's decision is based on realism and idealism. She said all women who want to bring about a change in the system, are welcome to come forward and contest elections.

"Any woman who wants to contest can give an application till October 15," she said.

She did not rule out contesting the Assembly polls in the State to lead from the front. "That is not the issue of contesting the polls and I had yet to take a call on it. Let's see how things progress on and it



Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra being welcomed by the party workers at the party office in Lucknow on Tuesday

PTI

will be decided in time to come," she said.

Priyanka was addressing a Press conference here on Tuesday where she announced

40 per cent of seats reserved by the party in UP polls to be given on merit. Slamming Yogi Adityanath's Government on the issue of crime against

women, the Congress leader said UP CM has a "patriarchal mindset" and wants to keep women under supervision.

"What does UP CM say? He says women should live under parental guidance. When this is the thought process, I wonder in what generation of mindset they live. In

every speech you say matao aur behno. Yes, we are mothers and sisters but we also have an identity as a woman. What's the point when you can't recognise us as women," she asked.

"As I had said earlier, over the past 2 years wherever I went in Uttar Pradesh, I had seen women struggling, fighting for their rights. Every walk of women has been fighting for her rights. Violence against women has increased from Unnao to Hathras and to Lakhimpur, women have been victim of patriarchy, caste domination and exploration. I feel larger participation in politics is the key to fighting out against oppression," she said.

Priyanka said idealism and realism both should be in politics. "Both need to co exist. I truly believe it is both idealistic as well as realistic. 50 per cent of our society is women so what stops them from coming together. Effort is now being made to build this unity," she added.

*Continued on Page 11*

## Multi-agency probe into Pandora starts

MAG to seek info from countries concerning Indian entities named through AEOI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Multi-Agency Group (MAG) started its preliminary investigation in the Pandora Papers case on Tuesday. The group is headed by the chairman of the Central Board of Direct

Taxes (CBDT) JB Mohapatra. The CBDT chairman held a meeting with officials of Enforcement Director (ED), Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) to go into the charges of secret offshore accounts held by entities and persons named in the Pandora Papers.

An International Consortium of Journalists' report exposed the offshore accounts held by hundreds of people from more than 200 countries and territories. "Only a few of the 380 Indian names and entities have appeared in the media so far. MAG will fast track its investigation once the rest of the names of Indian entities are released by ICIJ," ANI quotes sources as saying.

The agency decided to seek information from countries concerned on Indian entities through the Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI). "Through AEOI tax authorities match the incomes earned or account held abroad, with that declared in their tax returns so as to detect instances, if any, of tax evasion," ANI quoted sources.

*Continued on Page 11*

## B'desh PM asks Ministers to take action after attacks on Hindus

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday instructed her home minister to initiate immediate action against those who incited violence using religion as she asked the people not to trust anything on social media without fact-checking.

The foreign ministry said in a statement that domestic elements that opposed Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan 50 year ago were still propagating their "toxic narratives to instigate violence, hatred and bigotry".

Attacks on Hindu temples have intensified in Bangladesh since last Wednesday after an alleged blasphemous post surfaced on social media during the Durga Puja celebrations. On late Sunday night, a mob damaged 66 houses and set on fire at least 20 homes of Hindus



in Bangladesh.

During the weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Prime Minister Hasina instructed Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan to initiate immediate action against those who incited violence using religion, Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam was quoted as saying by the Dhaka Tribune newspaper.

*Continued on Page 11*

## Growing anti-Hindu mindset in Bangladesh alarming: Taslima

New Delhi: Anguished over the anti-Hindu violence in Bangladesh, renowned writer Taslima Nasreen has said the country has now become "Jehadistan" where madrasas are a breeding ground for fundamentalism and accused the

Sheikh Hasina government of using religion for political gains.

Hindus and Buddhists in Bangladesh have become "third class citizens" and the growing anti-Hindu mindset is alarming, the writer said.

## Capt to launch party, to tie up with BJP if farm issue resolved

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader and former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Tuesday said he would soon announce his own political party and is hopeful of a seat arrangement with the BJP if the farmers' issue is resolved in their interest.

Singh resigned as the Chief Minister of Punjab last month after a bitter feud with Navjot Singh Sidhu and infighting in the State Congress. The party high command replaced him with dalit Congress leader Charanjit Singh Channi.

"The battle for Punjab's future is on. Will soon announce the launch of my own political party to serve the interests of Punjab & its people, including our farmers who've

been fighting for their survival for over a year," Singh said Tuesday.

The former Punjab CM also said he will not rest until he secures the future of "my people and my State". "Punjab needs political stability and protection from internal and external threats. I promise my people I will do what it takes to ensure its peace and security, which is today at stake," he was quoted as saying by his media adviser.

"Hopeful of a seat arrangement with BJP in 2022 Punjab Assembly polls if Farmers Protest is resolved in farmers' interest. Also looking at alliance with like-minded parties such as breakaway Akali groups, particularly Dhindsa & Brahmputra factions," Singh said.

## 3 bank employees among 12 held for siphoning off money from NRI account

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police have busted a gang, including HDFC Bank employees, for withdrawing money from accounts of a Non-resident Indian (NRI).

Around 12 people, including three HDFC Bank employees, have been arrested for this, officials said on Tuesday.

The bank had filed a complaint after noticing several unauthorised attempts to access a Non-Resident Indian (NRI) account using internet banking services and to withdraw cash it using a fraudulently obtained cheque book, the police said.

The miscreants also tried to replace a US-based mobile phone number associated with the bank account with an identical Indian number, they said.

HDFC Bank alleged 66 attempts were made to access the internet banking of the account. The miscreants had come to know somehow that the account was dormant and had huge funds, and they began gathering information about it, the police said.

*Continued on Page 11*



# Khadi has become a brand of self-reliant India: CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Inaugurating the Khadi Mahotsav and Silk Expo in Lucknow on Tuesday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that Khadi was known as a brand of India's independence but now it had become a new brand of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Urging people to promote indigenous goods, Yogi said, "When the entire world was gripped with COVID-19 pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave us the mantra of Atmanirbhar Bharat. To achieve the goal of self-reliance, we should follow the mantra of 'vocal for local' and make it our strength. Many schemes and programmes including, One District One Product, Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana, Mati Kala Board, have been launched by the government to connect these products with technology."

Stating that Khadi has become a brand of a self-reliant India, the chief minister said, "India has entered in its 75th year of Independence, and people's inclination towards Khadi has increased. I can assure you that the future is of Khadi. Rural women are key agents for development. They play a catalytic role towards the achievement of transformational economic and social changes required for the development of the rural economy."

Talking on the impact of technology in easing people's lives, Yogi said, "Earlier people used to work with manual charkhas but now solar



CM Yogi Adityanath trying his hands on a spinning wheel at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow on Tuesday

Pioneer

charkhas are being used, through which an individual could earn from Rs 700 to Rs 1,000 in a day. If we connect our lives with technology, it not only eases our lifestyle but also helps people to earn more. In the last four-and-a-half years of BJP rule in UP the government in the state has put all possible efforts to fulfill the rising demand of Khadi. Many schemes have been launched to connect it with technology and provide toolkits and training programmes to small entrepreneurs."

The chief minister also congratulated and conveyed his best wishes to the beneficiaries who received the state level and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Sericulture awards

and cheques and credits of Pt Deendayal Upadhyay Khadi Marketing Development Assistance Scheme.

A sum of Rs 33.37 crore has been paid so far to 307 Khadi institutions under Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Khadi Marketing Development Assistance. In this, an incentive bonus of Rs 9.52 crore has been paid to about 1,61,345 workers of Khadi institutions. In 2021-22, Rs 4.87 crore has been paid to 136 Khadi institutions.

In the last three years, as many as 3,803 beneficiaries were distributed free toolkits like solar charkhas, electric wheels, dona-pattal making machines, and modern furnaces. The state government has targeted to distribute 2,500

## Yogi for promoting silk production

**Lucknow (PNS):** Underlining the need to promote and encourage silk production in the state, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that Uttar Pradesh held immense potential for silk production. As of now, against an annual consumption of 3000 metric tons of silk, the production across the state stands at only 300 MT. After inaugurating Khadi Mahotsav in Lucknow on Tuesday, Yogi said, "Three types of silk are produced in 57 districts of UP. In such a situation, there is a need to encourage the production of silk and the state government is working expeditiously towards this. Earlier, the people engaged in silk production had to go to other states for training but training facilities were started in the state itself following completion of the construction of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Government Training Institute in Mirzapur in 2018."

The chief minister said that in 2019, along with the installation of one reeling machine each in Pilibhit and Bahraich districts, 13 more reeling machines had been approved. "Five acres of land has been provided for the establishment of Regional Silk Research Centre in Lucknow which will generate employment on a large scale and will help in increasing farmers' income," he said.

# CM Yogi inspects sites of PM's programmes in Kushinagar



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kushinagar, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath made a site inspection of all the three programmes which would be attended by a high-level delegation of Sri Lanka, Japan and other South-East Asian countries. The chief minister said that the Kushinagar International Airport would be inaugurated by the prime minister on Wednesday.

"This international airport will have a major contribution in the development of eastern Uttar Pradesh as well as north-western Bihar as it

will provide an opportunity to connect international air service to Sri Lanka, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Laos, and all countries of South East Asia as well as Nepal," Yogi told reporters.

The chief minister said that he was grateful that in the prime minister had taken an initiative to promote the Buddhist circuit as a tourism hub. He said this initiative had connected all such countries with Kushinagar who follow Buddhism.

The chief minister said that the delegation from Sri Lanka would come to the district with the relics of Lord Buddha and the Uttar Pradesh government and the

residents of Kushinagar were getting the opportunity to welcome them. "Uttar Pradesh has the largest number of airports in the country. After the inauguration of the Kushinagar airport, UP will have nine functional airports," Yogi said and added that in the last four-and-a-half years, development had taken place in Uttar Pradesh at a very rapid pace. The chief minister also visited the statue of Lord Buddha on this occasion. UP's Civil Aviation Minister Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi', Labour Minister Swami Prasad Maurya and senior officials of the administration were present during the visit.

# Govt terminates services of DySP held for culpable homicide of rape victim

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Acting tough on callous approach of a deputy superintendent of police rank officer, Amresh Singh Baghel, probing the rape case against Bahujan Samaj Party MP Atul Rai, the state government on Tuesday terminated his services.

DGP Mukul Goyal confirmed the dismissal of Amresh Baghel. The victim in the rape case and her friend, a witness in the case, had immolated themselves in front of Supreme Court accusing the police of making biased probe after which Baghel was arrested and is now lodged in jail in Varanasi.

Another IPS officer, Amitabh Thakur, who was earlier given forced retirement by the Yogi Adityanath government, was also arrested, allegedly for trying to influence the probe in favour of the BSP MP.

The action of Yogi Adityanath government also invited the ire of the officers of Provincial Police Services (PPS) and lower cadre. Though they

were not ready to come on record but said that the government was too biased as the then senior superintendent of police of Varanasi, who was also the supervisory officer in the said investigation, was not even suspended as he belonged to elite IPS cadre and all the senior officers were protecting him. Deputy Superintendent of Police Amresh Singh Baghel, who prepared a report in favour of BSP MP Atul Rai, accused of rape, has been found guilty in the report of the Special Investigation Team after the victim committed self-immolation in the same case.

Baghel was suspended on December 30 last year. A departmental enquiry was also ordered against him and he was charge-sheeted by the ADG (Prayagraj Zone). He was found guilty of unnecessarily commenting against the rape victim that she lodged a fabricated case when a charge-sheet was already filed in the court in the said matter. Recently, he was arrested by

Varanasi police from Barabanki toll plaza. It may be mentioned here that the then Circle Officer of Bhelupur in Varanasi, Amresh Singh Baghel, allegedly came under the influence of BSP MP Atul Rai and filed a wrong report against the rape victim even when the matter was already in the court. Along with this, he had also testified against the rape victim in favour of Atul Rai in the MP-MLA court of Prayagraj.

On the other hand, the victim kept accusing the Varanasi police as well as Amresh Singh Baghel till her last breath. Disturbed by the attitude of the police, the rape victim and her accomplice immolated themselves outside the Supreme Court on August 16. On this basis the SIT investigated and a case was registered against Amresh Singh Baghel in Lanka police station for abetment to suicide, tarnishing the dignity of public servant and other charges. Baghel was promoted from sub-inspector to inspector and then to DySP.

## Cong quota for women a poll gimmick: Maya

**Lucknow (PNS):** Terming the Congress top gun Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's announcement of 40 per cent reservation for women candidates in the next UP assembly polls as a poll gimmick, BSP chief Mayawati slammed the grand old party, saying that it was trying to woo Dalits in Punjab and were now cajoling women in UP.

In a series of tweets on Tuesday, Mayawati posted, "When Congress was in power and had good days, they did not remember Dalits, Backwards and women. But now as their poor run is not ending, they have remembered women in UP like Dalits in Punjab. The announcement of providing 40 per cent tickets to the women is a pure election drama." The BSP supreme further tweeted, "If the concern of the Congress towards women is so just and sincere, then why did their government at the Centre not enact a law to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in Parliament and legislative assemblies? The nature of Congress is to say something and do something else and it raises a question mark on their intention and policy."

# Cong concern for farmers seasonal, says Sidharth

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Taking a strong exception to Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's remark on the government for not procuring paddy on minimum support price, UP government spokesperson and minister Sidharth Nath Singh said that where was this "care" and "concern" when Congress was in power.

"If only Congress would have cared so much for the farmers when in power, their condition would have been different. They did not even respect the former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri's 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan' slogan. Now, this unwarranted rhetoric has no meaning. People have understood that the party's care for farmers is seasonal," Sidharth Nath Singh said.

Taking a swipe at the Congress leadership, he said that the party had turned blind eye to farmers in its own states and now it was shedding crocodile tears in their interest.

"Vadra should have read the records of paddy harvested during the season so far this year, the procurement of paddy under the Bharatiya Janata party rule, and the payment within the stipulated time. Although she may not remember the figures, the

public remembers," he added.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday accused the government of not procuring paddy on MSP, saying this was compelling the farmers to sell their produce below market price in the open market.

Taking to Twitter, she said: "In UPs many districts the farmers are compelled to sell their produce at below MSP in less than Rs 900 to Rs 1,000 per quintal. MSP is the right of farmers and Congress will fight for it."

The procurement of paddy has progressed well in Uttar Pradesh in the ongoing 2021-22 Kharif marketing season. So far, around 4357.14 metric ton of paddy has been procured at MSP from over 919 farmers at 2,860 centres in the state.

Secretary Sorabh Babu said that paddy procurement was going on smoothly in the state.

"The agencies have so far procured 4357.14 MT of paddy worth Rs 846.14 lakh from farmers," he said, adding that elaborate arrangements had been made to protect the crop from rain in all mandis of the district and on the lines of wheat purchase, paddy procurement was being done through the PFMS portal.

# SUV driver attempts to run over woman doctor

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A woman doctor's was hit by an SUV, drive of which attempted to run her over when she tried to stop him, in Gontinagar on Monday night. As per reports, Dr Ranjana Bala of Kalptaru Apartment in Gontinagar is an eye surgeon at the TB Hospital in Thakurganj. She said her car was parked on the roadside at Gwari crossing when she was returning after emergency duty around 8 pm.

"The SUV hit my car from behind. When I objected, the SUV driver started shouting at me and attempted to crush me under the vehicle. I was saved by God's grace," she said. She added that she dialled

the police control room but the SUV driver sped off the scene.

Meanwhile, a retired employee of the Social Welfare department ended his life at his house in Indiranagar under Ghazipur police station area on Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Bachhiram Sharma of Indiranagar (Sector 17). Sharma served as head clerk in the department and retired in 2017. He had been sick for a long time and was under mental duress due to his illness. His neighbour Keshav Awasthi said Sharma was found hanging from the ceiling with a rope tied around his neck. "He was home alone after his wife left for some work, and he took the extreme step," he said.

## Naresh Uttam to continue as SP state president

**Lucknow (PNS):** Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, on Tuesday, approved his party's 72-member state executive and announced that Naresh Uttam Patel would continue as the party's state chief.

The SP state executive committee comprises 24 secretaries and 40 executive members representing all sections of society.

While Fida Hussain Ansari, Jaishankar Pandey and Jagpal Das Gurjar were named as vice-presidents, Rajkumar Mishra was appointed treasurer, Raj Narayan Bind principal general secretary and Shyamal Pal and former minister Tilak Chandra Ahirwar were appointed as secretary general.

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Date & Time of Auction: 24.11.2021 , 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM		Status of Possession- Constructive	
Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers/ Guarantors & Date of Demand & Possession Notice/Amount of Debt	Description of Immovable Property	Reserve Price (RP)/ Earnest Money (EM)(Rs.) Bid Increase Amount
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# Over 12 cr Covid vax jabs given in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh crossed yet another milestone in Covid vaccination on Monday by taking the tally of jabs administered so far to above 12 crore doses and in the process became the first Indian state to achieve this feat.

On Tuesday, Additional Chief Secretary (Information) Navneet Sehgal told newsmen in Lucknow, "The state has so far provided vaccines in excess of 12.01 crore by Monday. Of these, over 9.32 crore people have received the first dose whereas over 2.69 crore people have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The state's success in controlling the pandemic can be gauged from the fact that no new infection was reported from as many as 71 districts of Uttar Pradesh."

Signaling control over the deadly coronavirus, out of over 1.27 lakh samples tested only 12 positive cases were confirmed in four districts in the last 24 hours. The daily cases have declined by over 99 per cent from the peak capped at 38,055 on April 24. Consequently, the state, pushing the Covid graph southwards, has maintained the daily Covid test positivity rate (TPR) — the number of positive cases against the total tests done — at 0.01 per cent, the lowest in the country.

"Despite aggressive tracing and testing, Uttar Pradesh's positivity rate that indicates the level of infections among people has been registering a steady decline for several days implying that the dangerous Covid wave is receding from the state," Sehgal said.

The active caseload in the most populous state now stands at 118. It has been brought down by over a remarkable 99 per cent from its peak capped at 3.10 lakh cases on April 30. With the recovery of as many as 16.87 lakh people from the novel coronavirus infection, the state's recovery rate has jumped to 98.9 per cent. Uttar Pradesh is rapidly

## State moving towards endemicity: Dr Dhiman

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

Looking into the current Lscenario, there seems to be no possibility of a third wave until a new variant of coronavirus emerges, Director of Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences Dr RK Dhiman said. He also said that Uttar Pradesh is moving towards endemicity.

However, he categorically pointed out that if a new variant emerges, it would be replication competent, which means that it could increase its own population and then there would be a possibility of the third wave. Dr Dhiman said it is important to keep a watch on the spread of infection.

"The virus can only spread if there is no immunity in the population. At the moment, there is sufficient immunity in people, which is called herd immunity, and whatever the existing variants of the virus are prevalent, they are covered under this immunity. Until and unless we have a new variant which has the capacity of the immune escape, the chances of the third wave are bleak. The antibodies present in the body neutralise the virus and if you have a virus which is absolutely new and escaping the existing immunity, only then the new infection can occur and propagate

itself," he explained.

Dr Dhiman said UP is fast moving from epidemic to endemicity. Elaborating on this, he said: "When the virus comes in contact with the body, the immunity neutralises the virus. Studies have shown that there is 80 percent herd immunity present at the moment among people and hence these people will stop the virus from spreading. If anyone has an infection, it will die out then and there and not spread. This is called endemic infection because when a person passes the infection to three more, it dies out as they are immune and in case of an epidemic when one person passes to three, they take it to 9 or 12 more people and then they spread to 36 and so on."

He further said that in festival times, people would assemble in crowded places. "The number of unimmunised people will increase at that point and the chances of the spread of the infection increases whenever there is a rush or crowd because of the presence of these unimmunised people," he said.

"There should be no crowds and masking up is equally essential," he asserted. He said that no one could predict and say for sure even in the next one or two months that there would be no third wave, and hence it was important to keep a watch.

moving towards being coronavirus-free as the active and fresh cases in as many as 42 districts have declined to zero.

Districts like Amroha, Auraiya, Budaan, Bagpat, Ballia, Barabanki, Basti, Bahraich, Bijnor, Chandauli, Chitrakoot, Deoria, Etah, Etawah, Farrukhabad, Fatehpur, Gonda, Hamirpur,

Hapur, Hardoi, Hathras, Jhansi, Kanpur Dehat, Kanpur Nagar, Kasganj, Kaushambi, Kushinagar, Lakhimpur-Kheri, Lalitpur, Mahoba, Mirzapur, Mainpuri, Mau, Moradabad, Pratapgarh, Rampur, Sant Kabir Nagar, Shamli, Shravasti, Sitapur, Unnao and Sonbhadra have become free of coronavirus infection.

## Filmmaker duped of over ₹2 crore by director

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The director of feature film 'Lucknow Junction' was accused of defrauding a Lucknow-based filmmaker of over Rs 2 crore by not mentioning the name of producer.

Rajjan Singh Yadav of Telibagh lodged a case with the PGI police in this connection. Yadav owns Agam Films Production House.

Yadav signed a deal with 'Lucknow Junction' director Vijal Pal of Goregaon (West Mumbai), who is also the director of Aradhya Arts in Mumbai. Yadav and Pal signed a deal to produce the film under Aradhya Arts. Yadav was appointed as filmmaker/producer while Pal the director. It was an agreement between them that Yadav would finance the film and he made a payment of Rs 40 lakh to Pal during a function in Krishna Lodge in PGI and Rs 15 lakh during the shoot at Deen Dayal Park. As per the contract, Yadav was to get 55 percent of the profit against the investment while Pal was to get 45 percent. Both the parties also agreed that Yadav's name would be shown as filmmaker/producer and that his name would be mentioned in the film release and casting. In due course of time, Yadav paid Rs 1.95 crore to Pal for works related to the production. Yadav alleged that Pal got a certificate issued in the name of Aradhya Arts by Central Film Certification Board and the film was slated for all-India release. "However, my name was mentioned neither in the certificate nor in other documents and casting," he alleged. Yadav said Pal took absolute rights of the film in which he invested over Rs 2.2 crore. "He did not want to share the profit. When I contacted him, he threatened to get me killed," he said.

Meanwhile, three accused made crude bombs explode at Munshi Pulia crossing on Monday night to create panic among the residents and show their supremacy. However, due to a timely tip-off, one of them was nabbed by a police team led by sub-inspector Arvind Tiwari, who later lodged a case against the trio and challaned them under Section 3/5 of Explosives Act.

As per reports, the police were tipped off that three youths were making crude bombs explode near Munshi Pulia crossing in the area.

A police team spotted three youths carrying bags and were asked to stop. As they started fleeing the scene, the police nabbed one of them near a sweet shop. He was identified as Atul Singh of Mandi Parishad locality in Gomtinagar. The police team recovered two crude bombs. The team diffused the bombs by immersing them into a bucket filled with water. Atul disclosed the names of his aides as Mohammed Salman and Sultan, both of Shakti Nagar area in Ghazipur police station area.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paying last respects to former UP Assembly Speaker Sukhdev Rajbhar in Lucknow on Tuesday

**बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा**  
**Bank of Baroda**

**AUCTION NOTICE**  
**(FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)**

**RO Stressed Assets Recovery Branch**  
 Saketpuri Awasiya Vojna, Deokali Bypass Regional Office, 2nd Floor, Distt. Ayodhya-224123  
 Mob.: 9517599985  
 Email.: sarfa@bankofbaroda.com

**Sale Notice For Immovable Properties "APPENDIX-IV-A [see Proviso Rule 6(2) & 8(6)]**

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules, 2002.** Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Mortgagor (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s)/Mortgagor (s)/ Guarantor (s)/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below-

Date & Time of Auction: 11.11.2021, 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM		Status of Possession- Constructive		
Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers/ Guarantors & Date of Demand & Possession Notice/Amount of Debt	Description of Immovable Property	Reserve Price (RP)/ Earnest Money (EM)(Rs.) Bid Increase Amount	Date & Time of Property Inspection & Deposit of EMD
<b>BRANCH: ROSARB, AYODHYA</b>				
1.	<b>Borrowers:</b> (1) Ram Kumari W/o Babban Yadav (2) Babban Yadav S/o Ram Lal Yadav <b>Address of 1 and 2 Borrowers:</b> Vill Ganeshpur Besaura, PO Ankaripur, Tahsil Sadar, Distt Ayodhya-224141. <b>Guarantor:</b> Sunil Kumar S/o Kashi Nareish <b>Address:</b> Vill Gaddopur, Hardaasapur, PO Gosaiganj, Tahsil Sadar, Distt Ayodhya-224141. <b>Date of Demand Notice:</b> -08.11.2017 <b>Date of Possession Notice:</b> 07.02.2018 <b>Outstanding Amount:</b> Rs.1,68,133.56 + Interest thereon & other charges w.e.f. 31.07.2021	Equitable mortgage of Residential Property consisting of plot no. 480 situated at Vill Dandupur, Pergana & Tahsil Akbarpur Distt Ambedkar Nagar in the name of Ram Kumari W/o Babban Yadav Total Area 500 sq. feet <b>Bounded as under :</b> East: Rest Land of Vendor, West: Akbarpur to Maharua Bazar Pakki Road, North: Land of Shamsuddin, South: Khali Bhumi Phoolkali at Present Mohd. Rafiq.	<b>Reserve Price Rs. 6,04,297/- EMD Rs. 60,430/- Bid Increase Amount Rs.10,000/-</b>	20.10.2021 to 10.11.2021 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM to 10.11.2021 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Bank of Baroda secured website i.e. [www.bankofbaroda.in/auction.htm](http://www.bankofbaroda.in/auction.htm) & <https://ibapi.in>. Also prospective bidders may contact the authorised officer on Mobile No. 9517599985

<b>Date: 20.10.2021</b>	<b>Place: Ayodhya</b>	<b>Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda</b>
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## UPSIDA bid to connect with entrepreneurs, industrialists

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

UPSIDA is organising Entrepreneurship Development and Promotion Week' from October 18 to 25 in various industrial areas across the state. UPSIDA CEO Mayur Maheshwari said the initiative is aimed at connecting with entrepreneurs and industrialists across the industrial areas in the state to get their suggestions and feedback on new initiatives and policy reforms and to promote awareness about various benefits of investing in the industrial areas of UPSIDA.

Officials said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the state has witnessed balanced industrial development and amiable industrial ecosystem conducive for entrepreneurs and industrialists.

As a result, in the last four-and-a-half years, UPSIDA has allotted more than 1,100 acres of land to about 1,200 units in the state and more than Rs 8,500 crore have been invested in these units, creating more than 80,000 employment opportunities. From Saharanpur in the west to Deoria in the east and from Pilibhit in the north to Chitrakoot in the south, many

reputed entrepreneurs have established or are undertaking their major projects with investments. In the recent times, FDI projects worth more than Rs 2,300 crore have been successfully grounded and land allotted to renowned conglomerates like AB Mauri, PepsiCo, Inox, and MAPEI.

"Investor-friendly initiatives and reforms implemented by the authority have resulted in more than 94% user satisfaction in the current year as recorded in Nivesh Mitra, the single-window platform of the state," the officials said.

During this week, UPSIDA is organising meetings with entrepreneurs and allottees of its various industrial areas to spread awareness about digital reforms, service delivery processes simplifications and investor-friendly policy initiatives undertaken by it.

These interactive meetings are also aimed to obtain suggestions from various entrepreneurs and industrial associations to successfully culminate ideas into action to promote ease of doing business in the state.

As part of this initiative, interactive sessions were held in various industrial areas across districts such as Lucknow,

Kanpur Nagar, Gorakhpur, Hamirpur, Jaunpur, Saharanpur, Agra, Moradabad, and Ghaziabad. UPSIDA plans to hold such interactive sessions in other industrial areas throughout the week to disseminate information about its investor-friendly interventions. In addition to the executives from industry associations, entrepreneurs and industrialists actively participated in these sessions and shared their experiences and feedback.

The UPSIDA officers informed the participants about the digital reforms such as applying through Nivesh Mitra and the transparent e-auction process for the allotment of plots in IAs with more than 75% allotment, simplification of processes and reforms like reduction in interest rates, and maintenance costs, increase in purchasable FAR etc.

The UPSIDA officers also assured the participants of faster redressal of grievances at the cutting-edge level. The participants also aired their doubts and suggestions to carve out a mutually beneficial way forward to place UP as a pioneer in organised industrial development.

## Prices of veggies skyrocket

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

If the pleasant weather and rains are creating that urge to have hot and spicy *pakor*as along with the tangy tomato-coriander chutney, one visit to the nearest vegetable market may well make you change your plans. No sooner than the rains occur, the prices of the vegetables skyrocket.

Onion cost Rs 50-60 per kg while the tomatoes are priced at Rs 80-90 and are inching towards Rs 100-mark. Potato remains humble at Rs 25 per kg, but the new variety costs Rs 60 per kg.

Cauliflower, which has just made its entry to the market, is priced at Rs 40-60 per piece. Amongst the green veggies, pointed gourd, French beans and capsicum are all priced at Rs 100 per kg while bitter gourd and bottle gourd at Rs 40 per kg.

Sponge gourd costs Rs 30-50 depending upon which ridged variety you are opting for, while the lowly brinjal is also priced at Rs 60 per kg. Fresh green peas cost Rs 160 per kg.

Meanwhile, meat lovers said it was better to go for egg curry with egg prices having come down to Rs 150 a crate, or opting for chicken at Rs 200 per kg.

According to mandi secretary Sanjay Singh, traders in the wholesale markets pointed out that the delay in the arrival of vehicles led to the increase in the prices of onion and tomatoes. "Tomatoes come from Bengaluru while onion from Nasik. Because of the rains, the vehicles are not reaching in time which is the cause of the increase in prices. Also, the tomatoes and onion are being sold at high prices at the points from where they are delivered, which is also the cause of the increase in the prices of these vegetables. The wholesale prices of onion and tomatoes are Rs 35-Rs 40 for every quintal purchase and the prices are higher in the retail market," he said.

## Formed PSPL on MSY advice: Shivpal

**Lucknow (PNS):** Amidst frenzied speculations over a patch up between Shivpal Singh Yadav and his nephew and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, the former stressed that he had formed a separate outfit, the Pragatisheel Samaj Party (Lohia), on the advice of Netaji (Mulayam Singh Yadav) in 2017.

"I had formed the PSPL on Netaji's advice. He called up Akhilesh to sit with me to resolve the differences and when he (Akhilesh) didn't turn up and refused to answer his phone call, Netaji asked me to form a new party. I had met Netaji a week back in Delhi. He expressed his wish that we reunite and fight the election

together. I asked him to call Akhilesh and make him understand. Netaji said that if he takes my advice then it's good otherwise I will campaign for you," Shivpal said on Tuesday.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Shivpal Yadav had contested from Firozabad constituency and polled around 91,000 votes. Though Shivpal came third, he was able to split enough votes from Samajwadi Party so that the party's incumbent Member of Parliament Akshay Yadav lost the election by a margin of 28,000 votes.

In September, gangster-turned-politico Mukhtar Ansari's elder brother Sibakatullah Ansari joined the

Samajwadi Party. Interestingly, one of the reasons why Akhilesh Yadav and Shivpal Yadav clashed in 2016 was that the latter was trying to induct Sibakatullah into the party while the former opposed the move. "I was against the induction of Mukhtar Ansari because he had a criminal record. But his two brothers didn't have such a past. I was only trying to get them into the party," Shivpal clarified.

The PSPL chief further said that his primary goal was to fight the upcoming assembly elections in alliance with the SP but Akhilesh Yadav needed to speak to him to thrash out some nitty-gritty.

प्रभु श्री राम के आदर्श चरित्र को लिपिबद्ध कर सम्पूर्ण सृष्टि को कालजयी रचना 'रामायण' का अनुपम उपहार देने वाले

आदिकवि महर्षि वाल्मीकि जी की जयंती पर (20 अक्टूबर, 2021)

कोटिशः नमन

- योगी आदित्यनाथ मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

सम्पूर्ण प्रदेश के श्री राम मन्दिरों, श्री हनुमान मन्दिरों व रामायण से जुड़े मन्दिरों में अनवरत वाल्मीकि रामायण पाठ और भजन का आयोजन

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश



## Skeletons of youth, girl found in fields; honour killing suspected

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In what appears to be the killing of a teenage lover ostensibly to save family honour, skeletons of a 22-year-old youth and his 16-year-old lover, reported missing since October 12, were found in fields in Bangarmau area of Unnao district on Tuesday.

Interestingly, the kin of the deceased had earlier lodged reports about their disappearance with the local police but levelled allegations against the other family, apprehending threat to respective kin.

The police have now sent the skeletons for autopsy and forensic examination to confirm the cause of their deaths as their bodies were burnt with acid. As per reports, Balkishan and his 16-year-old girlfriend, both from Bhikharipur village of Bangarmau Kotwali area, were in love and wanted to marry but their families were against their affair. The couple went missing on October 12. On the next morning, Balkishan's father, Chetram, lodged a report with the local police, expressing apprehension of his son being kidnapped and murdered by the girl's family. At the same time, the girl's father gave a similar complaint

against Balkishan, accusing him of kidnapping the girl while she was standing outside the house.

The police registered a case but hoping that the duo might have eloped they did not make any serious attempt to trace them. The police inaction irked the villagers who subsequently staged a demonstration after which the cops tried to locate the duo by scanning call detail records of mobiles of the two. However the police effort hit a roadblock as their last locations were traced just outside the village. On Tuesday, some locals stumbled upon two skeletons lying in a paddy field on the fringes of the village and informed the police who rushed to the spot. The cops claimed that circumstantial evidence suggested that after the murder, both the victims were burnt by pouring acid.

The kin of the missing boy and girl were called and they later identified them through their mobile phones, slippers and clothes near the skeletal remains. The police are now trying to collect concrete evidence to confirm who was actually responsible for the killings and later burnt the bodies to conceal the crime.

## ‘Kids must go for physical activities for bone health’

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Children should participate in physical activities at least five times a week. It is important to encourage children to participate in age-appropriate, fun, and diverse activities, Prof Ajai Singh from KGMU said. Team Paediatric Orthopaedics, KGMU, (Dr Suresh and Dr Faisal) explained the measures to keep healthy bones in children. It was an interactive session resolving the myths by Team Paediatric Ortho (KGMU) and Prof Ashish Kumar, president elect of UPOA, on the World Paediatric Bone and Joint Day on Tuesday.

The department of Paediatric Orthopaedics, KGMU, Uttar Pradesh Orthopaedic Association (UPOA) celebrated the day by organising an awareness programme on 'Healthy bones of childhood leads to healthy adulthood bones'.

Dr Singh said that according to the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, more than 126 million Americans are impacted by musculoskeletal conditions.

“Many cases are brought on by obesity developed during childhood. World Paediatric Bone and Joint Day highlights obesity, screening and prevention. The day also looks at symptoms, treatment, and economic impact. Some of the key points parents should keep in mind are encouraging their children to be active for 60 minutes or more. For teenagers, include muscle-strengthening exercises such as climbing or push-ups for 60 minutes or more at least twice a week,” he said. He added that in terms of nutrition, the children should be provided a calcium-rich diet.

“Calcium is found in moderate amounts in dairy products. Ragi is a fantastic source of calcium for individuals living in the south. Ragi contains 350-375 mg of calcium per 100 grams. It is critical to incorporate ragi into one's diet. If ragi is unavailable, people from north India can go for rajma or sesame,” he said.

He said colas, soda, and aerated drinks should be avoided in a child's diet.

“There is adequate data to suggest that excessive soda and carbonated beverage

consumption is linked to reduced bone mass in youngsters. Although the actual cause of the problem is unknown, researchers believe that consuming soda, particularly colas, has several adverse effects on bone density. One reason could be that people who drink colas are less likely to acquire adequate calcium and Vitamin D in their diet since they are replacing more nutritious beverages like milk or calcium-fortified juice with soda,” he pointed out.

Dr Ajay Singh said it is important to keep an eye on children's posture while they are having online classes or watching television.

“The ‘90-90-90’ guideline should be followed when sitting for children. Your child's elbows, hips, and knees should all be at a 90-degree angle when they sit. It means that your child's workstation should be at the same height as their elbow. To obtain the proper seated position for young children, the chair may need to be raised in size. If your child's feet are dangling in mid-air rather than resting firmly on the floor, foot support or stool should be provided,” he added.

### CITYBRIEFS

#### FELICITATED

Chief Executive Officer of Punjab National Bank CHSS Mallikarjuna Rao felicitated Shivakshi Dixit (right), who has brought laurels to Lucknow by securing AIR 64 in the civil services examination conducted by Union Public Service Commission in the year 2020. Rao did the honours in the auditorium of the local Staff Training College of PNB. Shivakshi said she would work towards making women partners in the progress of the country and making them self-reliant. General Manager, Lucknow Zone of the bank, Sanjay Gupta extended his best wishes to Shivakshi Dixit for a bright future.

#### MAYOR ANUSUIYA RASOI

On the occasion of her birthday on Tuesday, Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia started the ‘Mayor Anusuiya Rasoi’ at KGMU Trauma Centre under the aegis of Nagar Nigam. Proper meals will be available there for attendants and patients at Rs 10. The mayor said it was inspired by the ideas of CM Yogi Adityanath that no one should go hungry in the city. She said people could avail of one quality meal which would be prepared with the help of ‘Akshay Patra’. She said they are starting off from outside medical colleges to begin with because people come in emergencies. Bhatia said that the food would be provided at



many points in the city and for the first month of the scheme, the food would be provided free of cost.

#### CMS ALUMNUS ADDRESSES UN SECURITY COUNCIL

Former student of City Montessori School and Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Prakash Gupta recently made a powerful and thought-provoking address at the UN Security Council and impressed the world leaders with his globally inclusive ideology. His address was well-received by the world community who acknowledged his thoughts and effective speech. Gupta did his entire schooling

up to class 12 from CMS Station Road Campus and was later selected in the Indian Foreign Services (IFS).

#### THEFT

Thieves struck at a house in Gontinagar Extension and made off with cash and ornaments. House-owner Awdhesh Kumar Sonkar, who deals in supply/sale of building material, lodged a case in this connection. He said he, along with his family, had gone to Fatehpur for some work on October 14 and returned on October 17 night. “I found my house burgled. The thieves had decamped with all the cash and valuables,” he said.

## Covid toll crosses 27K in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

With the Kerala Minister for Health Veena George announcing on Tuesday that 77 persons succumbed to Covid-19 during the last 24 hours, the total fatalities recorded till date in the State crossed the 27,000 mark. On Tuesday, 7,643 new patients were diagnosed with Covid-19 out of the 82,408 samples tested during the last 24 hours.

Test Positivity Rate came down to 9.27 per cent in the State much to the relief of the medical fraternity and the State administration. Thrissur is the only district that logged more than 1000 new Covid-19 cases on Tuesday (1017). As on Tuesday, the death toll stood at 27,002 while the total number of Covid-19 cases across the State showed 80,262.

## Army chief visits forward areas along LoC

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane on Tuesday took a first hand assessment of the ongoing counter terrorist operations going on in the Nar Khas forest area of Mendhar tehsil in Poonch. Senior army officers of the Nagrota based 16 corps headquarters briefed him about the present situation and ongoing counter infiltration operations in the region. Elite para commandos of the Indian army are also preparing for the offensive to flush out the terrorists holding on in the thickly forested area for the last nine days.

Meanwhile, local villagers in the nearby forward villages were strictly directed to remain indoors on Tuesday. These announcements were made via loudspeakers fitted atop mosques in the area to prevent movement of civilians in the forested area where operations are currently going on to flush out the heavily armed terrorists.



Army chief General MM Naravane taking stock of the situation along the LoC in Poonch on Tuesday

The ongoing operation is turning out to be one of the longest counter terrorist operations in recent history.

In January 2009, the Indian Army had called off a similar operation on the ninth day in Bhati Dhar area of Poonch. Three Indian soldiers were killed in action while four terrorists were reportedly neutralised during the operations. The army, however, could not retrieve the dead bodies of the terrorists.

“General MM Naravane COAS (Chief of Army Staff) visited forward areas of

WhiteKnight Corps & undertook a first-hand assessment of the situation along the Line of Control. COAS was briefed by commanders on the ground about the present situation & ongoing counter-infiltration operations,” the Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) of the Indian Army tweeted.

So far, eight people, including a mother-son duo, have been detained for questioning in connection with providing logistic support to the terrorists. Security experts

believed the group of terrorists holding on in the area are well equipped and better trained than regular infiltrators.

Sharing his observations with regard to the ongoing operations in Poonch, Retired Brigadier Anil Gupta told The Pioneer, the terrorists hiding in the area are well versed with the topography and have been present in the area for a long time. Brigadier Gupta also claimed the role of the Pakistan army regulars in this operation cannot be ruled out.

He said due to active involvement in the Eastern sector the counter infiltration grid in the region was possibly compromised which led to the infiltration of a large group of infiltrators. He, however, maintained it is not appropriate to speculate on the actual numbers of the terrorists holding on in the thickly forested area of Poonch.

So far nine Indian soldiers have sacrificed their lives in the ongoing operations since October 11, 2021.

## PM afraid of speaking on China, says Owaisi

### Our soldiers have died. Will you play T20?, Owaisi asks Modi

**Hyderabad:** Hitting out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for keeping “quiet” on the rising fuel prices and Chinese “intrusion” in Indian territory, AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi here alleged that Modi is afraid of talking about China.

The Hyderabad MP also said targeted civilian killings was going on in Kashmir due to failure of the BJP-led Central Government.

“The Prime Minister never speaks on two things--rise in petrol and diesel prices and on China which has entered our country and is sitting

inside. The prices have skyrocketed but the Prime Minister does not speak anything,” the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief said while addressing a public meeting here on Monday night.

“And now China has entered and sitting inside our country. When Pakistan did Pulwama (attack) then Modi had said ‘ghar mein ghus ke marengi’ (will hit them inside their home) but now China has entered and sitting in India but he is not doing anything. India's Prime Minister is afraid of talking about China,” Owaisi alleged.

He further said “Nine of our soldiers were killed (in Jammu and Kashmir recently) and on October 24 there is a T20 match between India and

Pakistan (India's upcoming T20 World Cup game against Pakistan)”.

“Modi ji...Nine of our soliders were killed and will you play T20? Pakistan is playing T20 in Kashmir with lives of Indians. Poor workers from Bihar are getting killed and targeted killing is happening. What is the IB (Intelligence Bureau) and Amit Shah (Union Home Minister) doing. What is the Intelligence doing in Kashmir,” Owaisi asked. “Weapons are coming and terrorists are coming from Pakistan and will you play match,” he said, adding what is happening in Kashmir is the failure of the BJP-led central Government, which, he claimed, does not have a policy to deal with terrorism. **PTI**

### अल्पकालीन निविदा

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि भारत सरकार वस्त्र मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली के तत्वावधान में गोरखपुर परिक्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत वित्तीय वर्ष 2021-22 में आयोजित स्पेशल हैण्डलूम एक्सपो गोरखपुर दिनांक 02.03.2022 से 15.03.2022 तक (तिथि परिवर्तित की जा सकती है) में अस्थायी अवस्थापना एवं प्रचार-प्रसार सम्बन्धित कार्यों हेतु फर्मा से अलग-अलग निविदायें आमन्त्रित की जाती है। स्पेशल हैण्डलूम एक्सपो निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य ₹ 1500.00-18% जी0एस0टी0 ₹ 270.00 कुल धनराशि ₹ 1,770.00 (एक हजार सात सौ सत्तर रुपये) मात्र प्रकाशन की तिथि से किसी भी कार्य दिवस में कार्यालय सहायक आयुक्त हथकरघा एवं वस्त्रोद्योग, गोरखपुर से दिनांक 26.10.2021 समय 02:00 बजे तक प्राप्त की जा सकती है एवं डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। डाउनलोड किये गये निविदा के साथ निविदा क्रय करने की धनराशि का बैंकड्राफ्ट अलग से संलग्न करना होगा, डाउनलोड किये गये निविदा की सूचना/रजिस्ट्रेशन निविदा क्रय करने की अन्तिम तिथि तक कार्यालय से करना अनिवार्य होगा, निविदा दिनांक 28.10.2021 को समय 02:00 बजे अपराह्न तक निविदा बाक्स में डाली जायेगी तथा निविदा दिनांक 29.10.2021 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे निविदा कमेटी के सम्म निविदाताओं की उपस्थिति में खोली जायेगी। स्पेशल हैण्डलूम एक्सपो निविदा प्रपत्र के साथ ₹ 9,500.00 (नौ हजार पाँच सौ रुपये) मात्र धरोहर धनराशि किसी राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक द्वारा ड्राफ्ट/बैंकर्स चेक जमानत धनराशि ₹ 44,000.00 (₹ 44 हजार मात्र) सहायक आयुक्त हथकरघा एवं वस्त्रोद्योग, गोरखपुर के पक्ष में देय संलग्न करना होगा। अन्य जानकारी कार्यालय से निविदा प्रकाशन के तिथि से किसी भी कार्य दिवस में प्राप्त की जा सकती है, निविदा खोलने एवं अन्तिम निर्णय लेने का अधिकार गठित निविदा कमेटी का होगा। उक्त से सम्बन्धित समस्त बाढ़ों का निपटारा स्थानीय न्यायालय गोरखपुर अन्तर्गत मान्य होगा, निविदा स्वीकार या निरस्त करने का अधिकार गठित निविदा कमेटी में निहित होगा। भारत सरकार वस्त्र मंत्रालय से स्पेशल हैण्डलूम एक्सपो की स्वीकृति न प्राप्त होने पर, धनराशि न मिलने अथवा विलम्ब से मिलने की दशा में उक्त कार्य हेतु आमन्त्रित निविदा स्वतः निरस्त मानी जायेगी किसी प्रकार की क्षतिपूर्ति अथवा ब्याज देय नहीं होगा अन्य शर्त एवं नियम निविदा प्रपत्र पर उल्लिखित हैं, एक्सपो के आयोजन की वित्तीय स्वीकृति प्राप्त न होने की स्थिति में आमंत्रित समस्त निविदायें स्वतः निरस्त मानी जायेगी जिस पर कोई दावेदारी मान्य नहीं होगी। प्रत्येक निविदा के लिए तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय निविदा अलग-अलग डालने होंगे।

उपरो 168761 दिनांक 18.10.2021 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

#### प्र० सहायक आयुक्त उद्योग

हथकरघा एवं वस्त्रोद्योग परिक्षेत्र, गोरखपुर।

## Mizoram poll watchdog files complaint with DEO over violation of model code of conduct

PTI ■ AIZAWL

An election watchdog in Mizoram has lodged a complaint with the Kolasib District Election Officer (DEO) alleging violation of the model code of conduct (MCC) by political parties during the election campaign in connection with the bypoll to Tuairial assembly seat slated for October 30. Mizoram People's Forum (MPF), an independent body, filed the complaint with Kolasib District Election Officer and Deputy Commissioner on Monday seeking the intervention of the Election department to look into the alleged violation of the MCC by political parties and take necessary action against those involved.

The forum alleged that there were numerous violations of the MCC for the upcoming bypoll to Tuairial assembly constituency. "I have enclosed herewith some video clips and documents showing the corrupt practices of some political parties to prove the violation of... Model Code of Conduct," the petition signed by the forum general secretary Rev R. Lalnuntluanga said.

"I, therefore, request your kind office to take necessary action against those political parties involved for the violation of Model Code of Conduct," the petition added.

Meanwhile, a leader of the forum told reporters that there were numerous violations of the model code of conduct by political parties.

He alleged that some political parties were distributing money and rations to canvass voters, and also bribed voters by helping them through social services.

He further alleged that some parties also organised community feasts.

The MPF was formed in 2006 by various major churches, including Mizoram Presbyterian Church, the largest denomination in the hilly state, to monitor free and fair elections.

The forum also works with major civil society organisations like Young Mizo Association (YMA), Mizo Hmeichhe Insuihkhawm Pawl (MHIP) or Mizo Women's federation and Mizoram Upa Pawl (MUP) or Mizoram Elders' Association.

It organises 'common platform', a public meeting for contesting candidates, where they deliver lectures and take queries from the audience. At least four candidates from the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF), Zoram People's Movement (ZPM), Congress and BJP are in the fray for the bypoll to Tuairial seat, necessitated by the demise of its incumbent legislator Andrew H. Thangliana of ZPM. Counting of votes will be held on November 2.

**Chennai:** Holding that a four year-old child can not be expected to give cogent evidence with regard to the sexual assault on her, the Madras High Court has set aside a trial court order acquitting a school teacher in Puducherry charged with the crime on the minor and awarded him 10 years' Rigorous Imprisonment and also imposed a fine of ₹10,000.

Justice P. Velmurugan passed the conviction order recently after setting aside an order of the lower court, which had acquitted Earlam Periera.

Earlier, Puducherry Public Prosecutor D Bharatha Chakravarthy (since elevated to the post of High Court judge and expected to assume office on October 20) submitted that the victim being a child, who was only aged about four years at the time of occurrence of the incident in March 2018, cannot speak about the occurrence in all the stages by parrot version and it could not be expected from her that she should remember all the incidents and the acts of the accused.

She may forget something and the mother, to whom the victim stated about the sexual assault committed by the accused, may remember those acts.

"Therefore, for the said rea-

son we cannot throw away the evidence of the victim child, who in fact was subjected to sexual assault by the accused," he contended.

By his order dated October 6, 2020, the trial court judge acquitted the accused, who was booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, on the main ground that the evidence of the parents of the victim child were not consistent, cogent and trustworthy and medical evidence also did not support the case of the prosecution. The trial court judge had come to the conclusion that based on their evidence, conviction cannot be recorded against the accused and the prosecution had failed to prove its case beyond all reasonable doubts.

Reversing the trial judge order, Justice Velmurugan held that the finding of the trial court was completely erroneous. In cases of aggravated sexual assault on a child, who was only studying UKG at the time, the support of medical evidence was not always a necessity and the evidence of the sole victim would suffice to record conviction. Rejecting the contention that the mother had falsely implicated the accused in the case due to previous enmity, the judge said that without any

strong reason, no mother would go to the extent of making allegations of this nature by using her own child.

Turning down another contention that there was enormous delay in lodging the complaint, the judge said that no mother would rush to the police station immediately after the occurrence. Naturally, the mother would think about the future of the child and the reputation of the family. In cases like this, the delay was not fatal to the case of the prosecution. As stated earlier, since the victim child was only four years old, one cannot expect her to speak everything, even if she did not understand what was happening to her.

When she felt pain in her private parts, she complained the same to her mother and the mother explained the same to the police.

In this case, there was no eye-witness. She also stated that the accused used to keep her on his lap and insert his fingers into her private parts. In cases like this, mere delay in filing the FIR was not fatal to the case of the prosecution and also the reason for the delay, though specifically not given, one cannot expect the family members of the victim child would rush to the police immediately soon after the occurrence. **PTI**



# ADG inspects PM’s proposed public meeting site at Mehandiganj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Additional Director General (Varanasi Zone) Brij Bhushan, along with Inspector General (Range) SK Bhagat and Superintendent of Police (Rural Areas) Amit Verma visited Mehandiganj and inspected the security arrangements there in connection with the proposed visit of the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on October 25. The PM is likely to inaugurate as many as 31 completed projects worth ₹5236.37 crore during the visit to his parliamentary constituency.

Through the inauguration, Modi would also make an attempt to give a clear message to the people in this region on the eve of forthcoming assembly elections that the focus of his government was always on development. Besides, it is also expected that the PM would also launch an ambitious ₹ 64,108 crore Atma Nibhar Swasthya Bharat Yojna for the entire nation.

An important project which is expected to be inaugurated includes the 16.98 kilometres long Ring Road Phase-2 worth ₹ 1011.29 crore from Rakhona (Rajatalab) to Wazidpur (Harahua). This project would be in focus as though a helipad is being constructed near the public meeting site at Mehandiganj, it may be possible that Modi’s motorcade would pass through this



ADG (Zone) Brij BHushan inspecting PM's meeting site in Varanasi on Tuesday.

Pioneer

Ring Road Phase-2 via Harahua to Wajidpur after landing at Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Babatpur.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers are making preparations for giving a warm welcome to the PM on this long route and it is expected that welcome gates would be installed at 50 places where the people would welcome Modi. In view of proposed visit, the district administration has also intensified its activities to ensure completion of all these projects including 72.15 kms long route between Varanasi to

Virno (Ghazipur) on Varanasi-Gorakhpur National Highway-29 worth ₹ 3509.14 crore apart from several bridges and others.

As it is also expected that the meeting will also be attended by the Union Minister Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey, the PM would also inaugurate several important projects of his adjoining parliamentary constituency Chandauli. These projects include ₹ 10.66 crore Ganga-Gomiti Sangam Ghat at Kaithi and road development work worth ₹ 5.14 crore from ghat to Markandey Dham. In the presence of Chief Minister

Yogi Adityanath, it is also expected that some projects of most of the assembly seats of the district would also be inaugurated. Meanwhile, preparations at 40 bigha land at the public meeting site are going in full swing with the construction of a pandal with a size of 850 x 550 feet. In view of the proposed programme, while PAC personnel have already been deployed at the venue, the security arrangements in all nearby villages including Mehandiganj, Nagepur, Harpur, Rakhauna and others under Mirza Murad police station have also been tightened.

# Two CNG stations to come up in city

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

To ensure an eco-friendly environment, two CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) stations will be made – one in the city and another in the trans-Varuna area. A stadium for the indoor-game will be developed at JP Mehta Inter College. The Varanasi Municipal Corporation (VMC) will end its agreement of the maintenance of street lights made with the EECL and itself look after the same.

In a meeting, the executive council of the VMC which was convened with the Mayor in chair on Monday and lasted till late afternoon, five resolutions were passed. As per resolution, the VMC will develop two CNG stations-one in Bhelupur and other in trans-Varuna area. There is also a proposal to open the CNG station on the land of corporation at Varanasi Cantt Railway station but the meeting decided to put the propos-



Mayor Mridula Jaiswal holding a meeting of VMC executive committee in Varanasi on Monday.

Pioneer

al on the backburner because of a dispute on the land.

The meeting also passed resolutions to construct a bio-gas plant in Shahjahanpur and an indoor-game stadium in JP Mehta Inter College for the schoolchildren. The school-children will use the stadium till 2 pm and thereafter, the outsiders, corporators and officers will play in the stadium by paying normal charge. The bio-gas plant will be developed on the land on the lease of 15 years

from the Animal Husbandry department and two officers of the Corporation will be appointed there.

In another resolution passed in the meeting, the members expressed annoyance over the working style of the EECL with which an agreement of the maintenance of the street lights was made by the corporation. The members alleged that the implementing agency failed in maintaining the street lights properly and its

officers did not pay attention to their complaints. The meeting decided to end the agreement and take over the responsibility of maintenance of street lights itself.

The EC also decided to construct a building for the meeting of Mini House, guest house and shops of milk-products near the parks of corporation.

These shops will be given on an agreement of five years, the meeting decided. The shops will also be constructed on the land of the corporation on both sides of JP Mehta Inter College.

On the resolutions regarding the development of bio-gas plant and allotment of shops to companies the members of the Samajwadi Party (SP) raised their objection but passed unanimously after discussion. The officers of the VMC put the resolutions under section 91 (1) of Municipal Corporation Act.

# Assurances given to entrepreneurs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Regional Manager of the Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation (UPSIDC) Ashish Nath assured the entrepreneurs that their problems would be resolved soon and the facilities including proper lighting arrangements in the industrial areas would be taken care of. He was speaking as the chief guest at a meeting held at Omkar Bhawan (Sunderpur) under the joint aegis of Ramnagar Industrial Association (RIA) and UP State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) here on Tuesday.

He also informed that the annual maintenance contract of the high mast in Ramnagar Industrial Estate has already been given and all the lights will be fixed within 15 days. Highlighting new policies, he

said that after allotment, there is a provision to provide services to the allottees completely online, giving details of 24 services being provided through Nivesh Mitra and four through the portal of UPSIDA in which the issues of the entrepreneurs can be ensured in a time bound manner.

According to him, during COVID-19, extension of time of six months was provided free of cost to allottees and on the demand of RIA, the government has reduced the maintenance charge.

Besides, on new allotment of plots, the interest rate on late deposit of maintenance fees has been reduced to 8.5 per cent, which was 14 per cent earlier and entrepreneurs will now be able to take extension of time for one month or its multiple, he added.

Speaking as special guest, Deputy Commissioner

(Industries) Gaurav Mishra said that he would talk to the District Magistrate (DM) regarding removal of the vehicles parked by the police and RTO in both the industrial areas. He also highlighted the beneficial schemes being given by the government to the entrepreneurs in exports.

Presiding over the meeting, RIA president Dev Bhattacharya said that the basic objective of RIA is to protect the interests of the entrepreneurs and to cooperate with them in running the industry smoothly apart from apprising them of various industrial and other policies through such meetings.

Earlier, entrepreneurs Anoop Sahu and Mahaveer Singh raised the issue of amalgamation (adjustment) of their plots which is pending for the last one year. Arvind Singh demanded construction of new

drains as all the old one of Phase-1 have been choked. Satish Gupta, Prakash Pandey and Amit Gupta expressed concern over prevailing darkness in both the industrial areas resulting in a rise in theft incidents.

Sachin Maurya said that due to the construction of CC roads, the height of electric poles has become very low, posing threats to life.

The meeting was conducted by RIA secretary Chandreshwar Jaiswal and it was also attended by Rohit Jain, Jai Prakash Pandey, RS Vishwakarma, Ajay Rai, Surendra Rai, Paresh Singh, Pawan Jaiswal, Ram Singh, Tribhuvan Singh, Kaustubh Rungta, Rajesh Jaiswal, Rahul Sharma, Anoop Singh, Rajkumar Khanchandani, Mahavir Singh, Siddharth Bajla, Aanchal Maurya and Ishu Kesari.

# Prayagraj leads in mega vaccination drive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

With the district health authorities administering Covid-19 vaccine doses to 63,851 recipients of all age groups by Tuesday, Prayagraj was the first in the state to administer the maximum doses.

Figures revealed that a total of 63,851 jabs were given to recipients of all age group by 5 pm and Sangam city was followed by Lucknow (59,269), Sitapur (54,829), Gorakhpur (51,383) and Kanpur Nagar (46,259).

ACMO Dr Teerath Lal told newsmen that the number of jabs given to all eligible peo-



ple during the mega vaccination campaign till 5 pm as per the Health department’s portal

was 63,851 in Prayagraj district.

He added that the total count would be known in late

night hours. The Prayagraj district health authorities had set a target of 1.62 lakh jabs during the mega vaccination campaign on Monday.

Dr Lal said that the department is all set to touch yet another milestone in inoculating residents against Covid-19 as they have already given at least one dose to 55 percent eligible recipients till Tuesday evening. Jabs were administered to beneficiaries at over 400 sites on Monday, he added.

Over 350 health teams were engaged to accomplish the target. Notably, Prayagraj has given over 32, 28,470 jabs to people till Tuesday evening.

# Covid vaccination: Women outnumber men in 2 months

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Sangam city witnessed active participation of women in the Covid-19 vaccination drive in the past two months as they outnumbered their male counterparts. In the month of September, out of 9,39,300 doses given, women received 4,78,740 jabs while men took 4,60,502 jabs. Similarly, out of 4,36,248 doses given between October 1 and 17, women took 2,28,276 jabs while men took 2,07,248 jabs.

Till Monday evening, over 14.57 lakh women had taken jabs in Prayagraj while the number of male recipients who

received the vaccine jabs was 17.77 lakh.

Officials of the Health department said that a series of awareness and interaction campaigns in rural areas helped them increase the participation of women in the vaccination.

District Immunisation Officer and ACMO Dr Teerath Lal told newsmen that in the past nine months since the vaccination drive was launched, January and September witnessed the highest turnout of women of all age groups at the vaccination centres. However, in the rest of the months, the number of male recipients was more than that of females.

Statistics of the Health department revealed that in January, jabs were given to 3,287 men and 7,767 women. In February, vaccine doses were given to 33,969 men, 17,604 women and two trans-genders.

In March, vaccine doses were given to 73,807 men, 43,801 women and 17 trans-genders. Besides, jabs were given in April to 1,08,768 men, 78,055 women and 30 trans-genders.

In May, vaccine doses were administered to 1,34,801 men, 86,910 women and 97 trans-genders. As many as 2,74,860 jabs were given to 1,67,198

men, 1,07,561 women and 101 transgenders in June.

In July, 3,52,925 jabs were given to 2,14,550 men, 1,38,248 women and 248 transgenders. In August, a total of 5,84,496 doses were administered to 3,13,523 men, 2,70,657 women and 316 transgenders.

Senior Medical Officer Dr Anupam Dwivedi said, “Myths regarding vaccination have been busted and women, particularly rural women, are reaching the vaccination sites. Increased awareness has helped the department achieve its target and more women beneficiaries are now getting vaccinated.”

# Court rejects CBI plea for polygraph test of accused in Giri’s death

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The CJM court of Prayagraj rejected the CBI plea to make Anand Giri and two others undergo polygraph test in connection with the mysterious death of Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad chief Mahant Narendra last month.

An alleged suicide note was found in the room, indicating that Anand Giri, who was at Haridwar at that time, Aadhy Prasad Tiwari, Pujari of Bade Hanuman temple of the Sangam, and his son Sandeep, who runs a laddoo shop there, were responsible for the death of the Mahant.

The CBI arrested the trio

on the basis of the alleged suicide note and took them on remand to interrogate them thoroughly, but nothing meaningful could be extracted from them by the investigating agency.

The CBI had moved the CJM court to seek permission for the lie detector test of the trio but the court rejected the plea. The accused were also present in the court online and they objected to the polygraph test. The lawyers quoted a Supreme Court verdict that no one could be compelled for a polygraph test.

NSS UNIT OF SHUATS WELCOMES CYCLE TOUR: The National Service Scheme

(NSS) Unit of Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS) welcomed the cycle tour organised by NSS volunteers of BHU, Varanasi, under the leadership of Dr Bala Lakhinder to make youth/students aware about immortal sacrifices of freedom fighters. NSS Coordinator Dr Rohit Lal welcomed the cyclists to SHUATS campus and said that under the leadership of SHUATS VC Prof Rajendra B Lal and with the guidance from Pro VC (Admin) Prof SB Lal, Pro VC (Academics), Prof AKA Lawrence and Registrar Prof Robin L Prasad, the NSS Unit

of SHUATS is relentlessly contributing in different activities inside as well as outside of the campus for the personal development of the students.

Dr Rohit Lal shared that the cyclists reached SHUATS on Monday evening and reached Ahat Ghat, Naini of Sangam, early Tuesday morning, accompanied by NSS programme officers Dr Dipak Bose and Mr Satyam Keshari. They gathered 62 kg plastic and other garbage. Dr Lal said that the cyclists would reach New Delhi on October 31 and pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Raj Ghat on the occasion of National Unity Day.

# Half-a-dozen get ill after eating prasad

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

About one-and-a-half dozen people became ill reportedly after eating prasad at Loharan Ka Purwa Kajipur Kusemar village of Kunda Kotwali in Pratapgarh. People got sick after eating the prasad on the second day. Most of them are children. They were rushed to the Kunda Community Health Centre.

Bade Lal Saroj, a resident of Kajipur Kusemar, Loharan of Purva in Babaganj development block, had to go to Haudeshwar Nath Dham to offer a ‘nishan’ for a ‘manauti’ of his son Sunil Saroj on Monday. All its preparations had been completed. Prasad was also made at home to offer to Haudeshwar Nath.



Children being treated at a CHC after being ill due to food poisoning.

Meanwhile, Sunil Saroj’s health got sick, so the relatives postponed the programme of offering the ‘nishan’.

The prasad made in house was distributed in the village on Tuesday morning. Villagers including Ayush (7), Anju Pal (17), Ruby Saroj (13), Sanju (10), Anup Pal (12), Piyush Pal (10), Shalu Saroj (16), Ayush Pal (12), Shubham Saroj (12), Krishna (4), Shani (6), Ankush (5), Sunita (40) complained of food poisoning after having the prasad.

On being informed, village head representative Satyendra Singh, with the help of the villagers, rushed all to the CHC.

CHC incharge Dr Rajiv Tripathi said a team has also been sent to the village.

## AC 3-tier economy coaches added to Prayagraj-Udhampur special train

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

In the high-tech era, Indian Railways is also increasing the facilities for passengers. In this sequence, AC 3-tier economy coaches with modern facilities have been augmented in the Prayagraj-Udhampur special train. With this coach, the train (04141) left for Udhampur on the first day. At present, two economy coaches have been added to it. Earlier, an economy coach was added to the Prayagraj-Jaipur Superfast special train.

The coaches augmented

in Prayagraj-Udhampur Special are M1 and M2. On the first day itself, 166 seats of the two coaches were filled. This train left Prayagraj Junction at 3:50 pm.

The train reached Udhampur station at 12:45 on the second day via Fatehpur, Kanpur, Tundla, Khurja, Bulandshahr, Meerut City and Ambala Cantt.

CPRO Shivam Sharma said that there are 83 seats in the economy coach instead of 72. It has been specially designed keeping in view the convenience of the handicapped.

Modern arrangements for fire safety have also been made in these coaches along with facilities like mobile phones and magazine holders. There are special features like personalized reading light, AC vents, USB pointer point, mobile charging point, better ladder to climb to the upper berth and snack table. Economy coaches are capable of running at a maximum speed of 160 kmph.

Meanwhile, the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) completed the 80 meter long bridge in Chunar in three hours. With the construction of this rail

overbridge, Chunar-Chopan will be able to operate seamlessly. Omprakash, Chief General Manager, DFC informed that this bridge is 80 meters long of 520 tonnes. It was prepared in three hours. With the construction of this bridge, goods trains going to Jharkhand via Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Junction, Chohan will get speed. During this, GMR CEO Sanjeev Kumar, Project Director Raj Singh Tak, Project Manager Devendra Kumar Sharma, Chief Project Manager Pooranand Jha, AIML CEO Daljit Singh were present.

# FDP on quality assurance begins

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Six-day long Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on ‘Quality Assurance in Higher Education Institutions: A Glance of Revised NAAC Framework’ started on Monday which is being organised by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Mahila Mahavidyalaya (MMV) in Banaras Hindu University (BHU). The chief patron of this online FDP is Vice Chancellor (Officiating) Prof VK Shukla. He graced the programme with his motivational words.

He talked about the

revised NAAC framework for assessment and accreditation which is based on the core values and criteria for assessment and key indicators. Principal of MMV Prof Inu Mehta is the patron of this programme. She welcomed all the participants and briefly discussed the session and speakers of FDP. She introduced the chief speaker of the session.

Prof A Vaishampayan is the Vice Chairman (IQAC) and Professor Emeritus at Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, BHU. After the formal introductory session, Prof Vaishampayan dis-

cussed criteria and curriculum aspects. He intensively discussed the curriculum planning and implementations, academic flexibility, curriculum enrichment and importance of feedback system for enhancement of the curriculum. He also elaborated how a planned and documented process is necessary for the institution curriculum delivery.

He emphasised on the role of stakeholders in developing and revising the curriculum. The session concluded of the first day’s programme was Prof Rita Singh,

Sociology section and student advisor MMV, BHU. She briefly discussed the curriculum aspects and dynamics of the Indian knowledge system and concluded the session by emphasising on the development of an integrative form of knowledge system.

She also congratulated the convenor Prof Neelam Srivastava and duo-convenor Dr Sabina Bano and Dr Apala Saha and organising secretaries Dr Ganesh Kumar Maurya and Dr Rakesh Pandey, along with other team members of IQAC for their timely efforts.



# Medical college hospital to have multi-level parking, OPD counters

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Dr Raj Shekhar, on Tuesday, said that the administration had decided to take up the request of the GSVM Medical College to help it set up new vehicle parking areas, additional registration counters and sitting areas for the people from Smart City funds.

He pointed out that the medical college and its associated hospitals were catering to the needs of the people of Kanpur and surrounding areas and over 5,000 people visited its OPDs daily. He said the proposal had been accepted and two major issues, the proposed site and feasibility, were being taken up on priority.

GSVM Medical College Principal Prof Sanjay Kala said that there was an imperative need for a multi-level parking for four- and two-wheelers, and to ensure quick registration, additional counters were required at the OPDs.

He said on an average around 600 four-wheelers and 2,000 two-wheelers came to the campus every day and in the absence of any proper parking facility they were creating a major traffic and pollution problem in the surrounding area. He said the new parking would also provide the Kanpur Metro station at the GSVMMC a parking facility for people coming to catch metro trains. He said it had been decided in principle to set up a new parking area, 12 registration counters and sitting areas for around 1,000 people.

Dr Shekhar asked Prof Kala and Kanpur municipal commissioner along with the nodal officer of Smart City to prepare a site plan and estimate



Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Dr Raj Shekhar inspecting the LLR Hospital premises on Tuesday.

Pioneer

in the next 15 days and submit it to the chairman for further necessary action.

He said in addition there shall be CCTVs, public address system, toilets, drinking water facilities, LED information display panels etc. He said the entire expenditure would be borne by Kanpur Smart City Limited (KSCL).

Meanwhile, inspecting the area based development mainly to take a firsthand account of the status of the roads on Tuesday, the divisional commissioner said as Kanpur was a Metro city and among the most populated industrial cities, several projects and development schemes of Kanpur Smart City were adding value to this city and making public life convenient and comfortable.

He said smart road works

under the Smart City project had proved beneficial in smooth traffic movement, pedestrian walking paths, signages, sitting areas, information boards, ducting of various utilities like electricity, water and telephone.

He said the first phase of the smart road of the Kanpur Smart City Limited was complete and looking into its outcomes, the KSCL was now planning to take up one or two more roads in the second phase so that additional facilities could be extended to people in the form of smart roads. He said the roads identified were Chunniganj crossing to Company Bagh crossing via McRoberts Hospital. He said the other roads were Parade Chauraha-MG College- Green Park Stadium crossing till Naveen Market back entrance

side (Hotel Landmark) and Merchants' Chamber tricrossing to Lal Imli via Hahnemann (Sylverton ) tricrossing.

He said the proposal would be ratified on October 30 after the final suitability and pre-feasibility report which would be carried out in the next one week. He said it would also include the Metro, BSNL, other private telecom service providers, CUGL Gas Limited. He said it would also study and plan for low cost, high strength footpath tiles and fencing materials so more areas could be improved economically.

Kanpur municipal commissioner, KESCo SE, PWD EE, Jal Sansthan GM, Jal Nigam EE and other officials accompanied the divisional commissioner.

## KDA VC orders adverse entries against engineers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Development Authority Vice Chairman Arvind Singh, on Monday, made surprise inspections of the Chakeri Industrial Area in Zone 1, Highway City and Alaknanda Housing Schemes in Zone 4.

Although he had informed the KDA engineering department two hours before proceeding for inspection, many engineers were found absent from the spot. For their irresponsible attitude, the KDA vice chairman ordered adverse entries in their service book and service break.

He first carried out the inspection of the IT Park near Chakeri airport and expressed his displeasure over its poor sanitation and maintenance. He directed officials to immediately launch a sanitation drive there.

On the construction works noticed by him on the site, he directed the enforcement incharge to examine the issue and initiate action against the guilty. He also directed the officials to apprise him of the sold and remaining areas of the total land available in the Chakeri schemes.

For the alleged disputed land, he directed the tehsildar (Land Bank) and executive engineer to soon settle the issue after talks with the farmers on the spot.

He also directed officials to construct entry gates for both the schemes and install signage of the KDA on the overhead tanks there. He also asked the tehsildar and executive engineer to jointly carry out spot inspection and verification of the records relating to the land left on the other side of the Highway City Scheme for future use.

The KDA vice chairman issued instructions that all the respective officers-in-charge of the enforcement and engineering departments would ensure their presence on the spot during inspection in future.

Singh will make an inspection again within the next 15 days to see implementation of his directives issued on Monday.

Meanwhile, on the orders of the KDA vice chairman that no officer would go on leave and leave the station without his prior permission, panic prevailed among the engineers making daily up and down journeys between Lucknow and Kanpur.

## Labourer electrocuted to death

KANPUR (PNS): A labourer was electrocuted to death while cutting the iron bars in an under-construction apartment in Indira Nagar under Kalyanpur police station on Tuesday morning. By the time he was taken to a nearby hospital by his colleagues, the labourer succumbed to his injury. The contractor informed the police after two hours of the incident and the cops reached the spot and after informing the kin of the deceased about the death sent the body for autopsy. A native of Govindapur in Bahraich district, Phool Chand (50) was working as a labourer in an under-construction apartment in Indira Nagar. He lived in the same locality on rent with wife Rukmani and five children. On Tuesday morning, when he was cutting the iron bars, the machine suddenly went off. When Phool Chand was connecting the machine's wire with the supply board, he came in contact with live wire and sustained serious burns. On being taken to a private hospital, the doctor pronounced him dead. Another labourer Jagdish alleged that the contractor informed the police two hours after the incident. Kalyanpur Inspector Veer Singh said on receipt of complaint, FIR would be registered and action would be taken against the guilty.

**INJURED:** Five members of a family, including a child, were injured when the wall of their hut in Sharda Nagar suddenly collapsed on them on Tuesday morning due to incessant rains which started from Monday evening.

## Ensure increase in revenue: NER GM

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Under the presidentship of General Manager, North Eastern Railway (NER), Vinay Kumar Tripathi, the meeting of the Participation of Railway Employees in Management (PREM) Group was organised at the zonal level in GM's conference hall here on Monday. In it a detailed discussion was held mainly on the control of expenditure in NER and the increase in the income of the Railways from other sources. In his presidential address, Tripathi said that for financial self-reliance it is absolutely necessary to strengthen the financial condition of NER. In this context, control of expenditure and increase in the income of railways from various sources has an important role. He said that wherever possible the expenditure should be reduced.

Along with this, the increase in railway revenue should be ensured by identifying the potential areas of increase in the income of the railway. Tripathi said that collective effort is necessary to achieve this goal and all railway personnel will have to make conscious efforts for it. It is only by strengthening its economic position that NER will be successful in expanding passenger facilities and strengthening the basic infrastructure. He said that it would be possible to achieve this ideal situation with the collective efforts of all and dedication towards the goal. During the meeting, office-bearers of various unions and associations gave many suggestions for reduction in railway expenditure and increase in income from various sources which were discussed in detail. Discussions

were held on many aspects related to the topics like reduction in electricity cost, commercial use of vacant railway lands, supply of material as per demand, quick disposal of scrap, priority to safety, quality and economy at the time of purchase of material, increase in number of air-conditioned third class coaches in trains, by doing more and more online work control of expenditure on paper and printing etc. Deputy General Manager (General) KC Singh conducted the meeting and proposed the vote of thanks. In this meeting the principal heads of departments, NE Railway Mazdoor Union, All India SC and ST Railway Employees' Association, NER OBC Railway Employees' Association, NER Class-I Officers' Association and NER Promotee Officers' Association's office-bearers were present.

## Traffic restored on Bhatni-Gkp rail section

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Due to heavy rain and storm a tree fell on the track between Kusmhi and Gorakhpur Cantt stations located on Bhatni-Gorakhpur rail section of Varanasi division of North Eastern Railway (NER) at 23.30 hrs on Monday as a result of which the movement of trains was blocked for some time. Consequently, eight special express trains were run on a diverted route while three passenger trains were short terminated/short originated.

Besides, some trains were run by being controlled on the route. The traffic was restored on Up line at 07.15 hrs and on the Down line at 10.18 hrs, Senior Public Relations Officer (SPRO) CP Chauhan said.

**SHORT TERMINATION/SHORT ORIGINATION**  
**GKP-KANPUR ANWARGANJ SPL:** The 05004 Gorakhpur-Kanpur Anwarganj special train departing from

Gorakhpur on October 18 was short terminated at Banaras. Likewise the 05003 Kanpur Anwarganj-Gorakhpur special train to depart from Kanpur Anwarganj on October 19 will be run from Banaras.

**SIWAN-GORAKHPUR SPECIAL:** The 05141 Siwan-Gorakhpur special train departing from Siwan on October 19 was short terminated at Chauri Chaura.

### DIVERSION

**ANVT-SAHARSA SPL:** The 01662 Anand Vihar Terminus (ANVT)-Saharsa special train was run via the diverted route i.e. Gorakhpur-Kaptanganj-Thawe-Siwan.

**LGH-DIBRUGARH SPECIAL:** The 05910 Lalgah (LGH)-Dibrugarh special train was run via the diverted route i.e. Gorakhpur-Kaptanganj-Thawe-Siwan.

**GWALIOR-BARAUNI SPECIAL:** The 04185 Gwalior-Barauni special train was run via diverted route i.e.

Gorakhpur-Kaptanganj-Thawe-Siwan.

**NDLS-DARBHANGA SPEL:** The 02566 New Delhi-Darbhanga special train was run via diverted route i.e. Gorakhpur-Kaptanganj-Thawe-Siwan. Besides the 02570 New Delhi-Darbhanga special train was run via the diverted route i.e. Gorakhpur-Kaptanganj-Thawe-Siwan.

**BARAUNI-ERNAKULAM SPL:** The 02521 Barauni-Ernakulam special train was run via the diverted route i.e. Siwan-Thawe-Kaptanganj-Gorakhpur.

**KOLKATA-GKP SPECIAL:** The 05047 Kolkata-Gorakhpur special train was run via the diverted route i.e. Siwan-Thawe-Kaptanganj-Gorakhpur.

**NDLS-SAHARASA SPL:** The 02564 New Delhi-Saharsa special train was run via the diverted route i.e. Gorakhpur-Kaptanganj-Thawe-Siwan. In addition, some trains were run by controlling them at the stations on the route.

# Flag march conducted

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

In view of festivals the flag march of police led by SP Ajay Kumar Singh was conducted in the city on Monday. During it the SP interacted with people. He appealed to shopkeepers to cooperate with the police in controlling the crime



by reporting the illegal activities if they came to notice. He told the cops to continue regular patrolling in their respective areas and behave like a friend to the common people and deal with the criminals with an iron hand. He said that foot patrolling was a better way to get a feedback and gather ground level information. He told the people that all emergency numbers related to police were displayed at all the important places and the service of police was available at any time. During the march the police continued checking of vehicles along with suspects. He made it clear that march

was taken out to earn the trust of common people and create the fear in the criminals. The march started from Katra Kotwali and passed through the localities like Laldiggi, Imamabada, Narghat, Trimohani, Ghantaghar, Vasliganj and culminated at Sankatmochan. In the march

door to door to the Schedule Caste people, make aware them about welfare schemes and ensure that it reaches them easily. He said that it is the need of the hour that we work in the direction of bringing back the BJP government back to power in the larger interest of deprived class as well as the state. Giving tips to workers to win the election he directed them to go to the field and publicise the achievements of Modi as well as Yogi governments. The welcome speech was given by regional vice-president Ram Asrey Saroj. The programme was conducted by Sanjay Singh and presided over by district president Rajesh Kumar. Regional president Ajeet Rawat also addressed the sammelan. Proposing vote of thanks Rajesh Kumar praised the workers, Kamlesh Verma, Mahanarain Bharti, Prakash Narain Ratna and others for their hard labour for making the sammelan successful.

**FIVE ARRESTED:** Katra Kotwali police arrested five gamblers and recovered ₹25,000 from the spot recently. Station House Officer (SHO) Katra Kotwali Swaminath during routine patrolling along with his team was tipped off by an informer about some suspicious activities following which a raid was conducted and some persons were found involved in gambling. After completing the necessary legal formalities the police sent the accused to jail.

## Kavi sammelan organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the guidance of the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Ramashray Pandey in Varanasi division under the ongoing Amrit Mahotsav on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of independence a kavi sammelan of railway employees was organised by the Rajbhasha department on Monday at the Bhartendu auditorium in DRM's office. In the 'kavi sammelan' organised under the presidentship of Divisional Personnel Officer (DPO) Vivek Mishra, the employees working in various departments of Varanasi division participated and while appreciating the importance of freedom and the sacrifice of freedom fighters strengthened the spirit of patriotism. The employees who participated in it were Shivani



Singh (Personnel department), Nidhi Srivastava and Tripti Srivastava (Commercial Department) Dinesh Kumar Sharma (Railway Protection Force), Pradeep Agarwal (Accounts department), Rameshwar Vishwakarma (Electrical department), Paritosh Kumar and Upendra Yadav (Carriage and Wagon) Sanjay Kumar Gupta from Control etc. participated. The kavi sammelan organised under Amrit Mahotsav was

conducted by Senior Welfare Officer Rahul Bhatt while Rajbhasha Adhikari and Assistant Personnel Officer Ramesh Upadhyay welcomed everyone and proposed the vote of thanks. On the occasion besides the DPO, Assistant Personnel Officer (APO) Ramesh Upadhyay, Assistant Commercial Manager (ACM) Jang Bahadur Ram besides senior supervisors of Personnel and Rajbhasha departments were present.

# Minister asks NSI to conduct short-duration training programmes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Rural Development, Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti, while reviewing the working of National Sugar Institute, Kanpur on Tuesday said that the institute should give a wider publicity of its courses in rural areas and should conduct short-duration training programmes so that the technologies developed by it could be taken by entrepreneurs from lab to commercial scale.

She said setting up of small industries in rural areas would bring prosperity and job opportunities in rural areas. She said side by side, the sugarcane farmers would be motivated to



Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti, Minister of State, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Rural Development, reviewing the working at National Sugar Institute on Tuesday.

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adopt newer varieties and go in for farming in a scientific manner.

She also expressed her concern over many faculty positions lying vacant at the NSI and assured urgent action from the end of the ministry.

NSI-Kanpur Director Prof Narendra Mohan apprised the minister of the current teaching, research and consultancy activities of the institute. He said the institute had made its presence in various sugar producing countries and had received proposals from Cameroon and Indonesia for conducting training programmes for the technical staff working in the sugar factories. He said in addition to it, a request had been received from Nigeria to evaluate the present status of their master plan in respect of the sugar industry.

## Brig Kapoor flags off NCC river expedition

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Brigadier Ravi Kapoor, NCC Group Commander, NCC Group HQ, Lucknow, while flagging off the expedition from Dhori Ghat, Kanpur on Tuesday, said in the past years, such river expeditions were undertaken from Prayagraj to Varanasi.

He said this year it was the first time ever that the expedition was being organised from Kanpur to Prayagraj as a special event to encourage cadets of Lucknow NCC. He appreciated the efforts of the expedition team for their dedicated preparations and wished the cadets good luck for a safe and successful expedition.

Brig Kapoor has always been in the forefront to encourage such adventure activities amongst the NCC cadets, and has provided all the necessary support for this unique and challenging expedition. This expedition is being undertaken under 3 (UP) Naval Unit, NCC Group Headquarters Lucknow, under the aegis of NCC Directorate (UP), and this sailing-cum-boat pulling expedition on river Ganga is being carried out from Kanpur (Dhori Ghat) to Prayagraj (Saraswati Ghat).

The expedition is routing through six districts -- Kanpur, Unnao, Fatehpur, Rae Bareilly, Pratappgarh and Prayagraj, covering an approximate distance of 270 kilometres and a total of 60 NCC cadets, 35 boys and 25



Brig Ravi Kapoor, Group Commander, NCC Group HQ, flagging off the expedition from Dhori Ghat, Kanpur.

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girls are participating in this highly challenging expedition amidst the vagaries of river flow, weather and strong winds. Two DK Whalers (used by the Indian Navy), one assault boat and two rescue boats are part of the expedition.

Brig Kapoor said sailing and boat pulling required special seamanship and navigation skills along with tremendous strength, stamina and commitment. He said as part of the preparation, the cadets had practiced in the river Gomti for the last two months and also took part in an exclusive camp in September 2021.

He said the expedition was being led by Commanding Officer, Captain (IN) Navendu

Saxena, along with Executive Officer Lt Commander Ashwani K Singh, one associate NCC officer, 10 combatant naval sailors and trained civilian officials from 3 (UP) Naval Unit NCC located in Lucknow.

Capt Saxena said the expedition aimed at building strong character, unity and discipline among NCC cadets so that they grew up as responsible citizens who could contribute towards nation-building.

Besides, he added, it was to train young cadets in boat handling, sailing and boat pulling and accustom them with the naval way of life. He said the expedition would also help inculcate esprit de corps, camaraderie and leadership

amongst cadets under difficult conditions of river voyage and promote the spirit of adventure and enterprise amongst them.

Lt Ashwani said the expedition also aimed to spread the nationally-relevant social messages of 'Covid Vaccination', and 'Clean Ganga Mission' amongst the local populace and the rural community. He said unique awareness campaigns were being undertaken by NCC cadets to help them connect with the citizens and spread the social messages to the last mile.

The flagging-in ceremony, upon culmination of the expedition, is expected on October 27, 2021 at Prayagraj.



# Shah briefs Modi on J&K situation



PIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and informed him about the steps taken by the Jammu and Kashmir administration and the Union Home Ministry to improve the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Shah reached PM Modi's official residence 7, Lok Kalyan Marg in the morning to brief him about the situation in Kashmir.

The two leaders discussed the atmosphere of fear created due to target killings by ter-

rorists in Kashmir. The Home Minister also informed the Prime Minister about the exodus of fear driven migrants from the Valley.

During the meeting with the PM, the Home Minister also briefed him about other important issues related to internal security.

In the last 16 days, terrorists have killed 11 non-local individuals in the Valley. Due to this an atmosphere of fear has been created there leading to the exodus of migrants.

Amit Shah will visit Jammu and Kashmir on October 23-25 and will hold important high-level meet-

ings with regard to the security situation in Kashmir. This is the first visit of the Union Home Minister to the union territory after the abrogation of Article 370.

During this visit, the Home Minister will not only give tips to improve security situation but will also make various announcements related to the developmental projects.

Earlier on Monday, Amit Shah held a marathon meeting with senior officials including DGPs, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, IB Chief and discussed the situation of internal security in detail.

## NIA likely to take over Kashmir Hindu migrant labourers' killings probe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is likely to take over probes into the recent killings of Hindu migrant labourers and minority school teachers as also a local non-Muslim businessman in Kashmir Valley to unravel the possible larger conspiracy by Pakistan-sponsored Islamist terror groups.

Discussions are underway in the Union Home Ministry to entrust the four cases of recent civilian killings in Srinagar including the broad daylight murder of Kashmiri Pandit and pharma dealer ML Bindroo, street vendor Virendra Paswan of Bihar, and school teachers Supinder Kaur and Deepak Chand besides two more migrant labourers killed in Kulgam.

The NIA is mandated to probe terror crimes of inter-State or international ramifications and the recent of killings in the Valley are being assessed by the Intelligence community as a reoriented



terror tactic of the masterminds in Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and its terror cohorts like the Lashkar-e-Tayabba and Jaish-e-Mohammad among others.

The NIA is already investigating a number of terror-related cases in the Valley as also the drone attack at the Jammu airbase. The frequency and the pattern of the terror hits on minorities and migrant labourers is part of a modulated shift in the ever-evolving terror tactics by Pakistan and the NIA probe would help unravel the grand conspiracy behind such targeted killings, sources here said.

The recent surge in the targeted killings in the Valley was thoroughly discussed in the National Security Strategy Conference held here on Monday.

The Conference chaired by Union Home Minister Amit

Shah discussed the trend with the stakeholders in the security agencies.

The civilian killings in the Valley have triggered an exodus of migrant labourers and non-Kashmiris which have been designed to project the administration as failing, an official said.

The terror attacks have also led to a fear psychosis among the Kashmiri Pandits who had braved the violence in the nineties to stay back in the Valley.

Following these attacks, the NIA had been informally providing assistance to the Jammu and Kashmir police that has been probing these cases.

Experts said the stone pelters who were released earlier as part of the peace overtures could be behind the recent killings.

In-charge Director General of NIA, Kuldeep Singh who visited Srinagar on Monday discussed these terror cases with Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police, Dilbag Singh, sources said.

## Govt to develop Northeast as bio-economic hub

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Nestled in Eastern Himalayan Region—home to mega-biodiversity rich zones and among the 34 biodiversity hotspots of the world—Northeast has drawn the attention of the Government which has decided to develop the region as India's bio-economic hub. The aim is to help it achieve its target of making India a Global Bio-manufacturing Hub by 2025 and ensure its position among the top 5 nations of the world, said Union Minister of State for Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh on Tuesday.

He said, there is a need to put these invaluable genetic resources to use for the economic growth of the region in particular and to the nation in general, through biotechnological interventions. He was speaking after his visit to the Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Imphal.

In fact, the Government has already started taking initiative in this direction by supporting various projects on a pilot basis. Recently, strawberry cultivation with sustainable agro-technological interventions using high-quality planting material in farmers' fields in Meghalaya was demonstrated jointly at Bio-Resources Development Centre, Shillong and Institute of Horticulture Technology, Mandira, Assam. Similarly, about 50 tissue-culture raised plantlets of elite varieties of strawberry are proposed to be distributed to the farmers in Manipur.

The DBT has also designed a programme to improve the production and productivity in Khasi Mandarin, an important fruit crop by producing quality planting material through shoot-tip grafting technology. The programme has a target of producing four lakhs certified disease-free quality plants



of Khasi Mandarin and Sweet Orange during the three years duration of the project and build capacity of at least 1,000 farmers in the region.

Fifty plants of grafted Khasi Mandarin have been generated at AAU-Citrus Research Station, Tinsukia, Assam and will be handed over to the farmers in Manipur state, the Minister added.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed that DBT-funded Phyto-pharmaceutical Lab Facility at IBSD is promoting the Phyto-pharmaceutical Mission of North Eastern Region. "This Mission that aims to promote the documentation, scientific validation and evaluation of traditional healthcare practices is an important step and assumes special significance in the context of the vast plant resources and diverse traditional healthcare practices of the Northeast.

Dr Singh said, due to consistent and renewed focus of the Modi Government, India will be recognized as a Global Bio-manufacturing Hub by 2025 and will figure among the top 5 countries of the world.

"India's Bio-Economy is on its way to achieve a 150-billion-dollar target from the current 70 billion-dollar by 2025 and will contribute effectively to the Prime Minister's vision of a 5 trillion-dollar economy by 2024-25," he said.

Dr Singh said that IBSD should not only become a center of excellence in the region with state-of-the-art facilities but also generate technology packages toward employment generation for the welfare of the people.

## VHP condemns attacks on temples, Hindus in Bangladesh



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Tuesday condemned the incidents of attacks on temples and Hindus in Bangladesh and demanded the Indian Government to step in and save the community from the atrocities.

"The Hindu society won't tolerate inhuman atrocities being committed on Hindus. A demonstration will be held on October 20 in front of Bangladesh High Commission in Delhi. Demonstrations will also be held at dist. headquarters across the country, Dr Surendra Jain, joint general secretary, VHP, said.

The VHP also slammed the Sheikh Hasina government, alleging that the dispensation is not just a "mute spectator", but is "also hand-in-glove with the extremists".

"Ethnic cleansing of Hindus is happening in Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan, while the UN is sitting like a mute spectator...This is a failure of the UN, which should send peace-keeping forces to these countries," Jain said.

At least six people have died in the attacks against Hindus in Bangladesh so far. The violence began last week when a Facebook live allegedly showed a blasphemous inci-

**Jain said PM Hasina isn't interested in saving Hindus, and is instead motivating extremist elements in the country**

dent at a Durga Puja pandal in Comilla city, sparking protests. Several Hindu religious sites have been vandalised, and homes attacked.

Jain said PM Hasina isn't interested in saving Hindus, and is instead motivating extremist elements in the country. "Minorities in all Muslim countries have to face the same issue and ethnic cleansing of minorities happen. In 1992, there were 22% Hindus (in Bangladesh) and now only 7% are left. The rest were killed or were thrown out of the country," he charged.

"More than 150 Durga idols have been disintegrated and over 300 pandals destroyed in Bangladesh, 12 Hindus have been killed, women have been gangraped and three ISKCON temples have been broken besides two priests killed," Jain claimed.

## Data: Crop fires take India's global contribution to GHG emissions to 12.2%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Latest data analysis has shown that compared to the previous three years, there has been an increase in emissions due to crop fires in 2019-2020 by 12.8 per cent, taking India's global contribution to 12.2 per cent.

The new insights into recent trends in biomass fires, including emissions from forest and crop residue fires in India, showed a downward trend in crop fires being observed between 2016-19 citing a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions due to cropland fires by 11.39 per cent during the three years.

However, the data and analysis for GHG emissions available online, show that even when India tops the chart when it comes to crop fires, this particular emission quantum comes at 47th position when total emission categories from agriculture sector are considered. That inventory is dominated by enteric fermentation, managed soil, and rice cultivation.

## Modi to interact with CEOs of oil firms over rising fuel prices

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of a steep hike in the domestic oil and diesel prices, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with CEOs and experts of the global oil and gas sector on Wednesday via video conferencing.

Fuel prices were hiked again on Sunday for the fourth consecutive day, mainly due to surging global crude oil prices. In the national Capital, petrol prices were hiked by 35 paise from ₹105.49 per litre to ₹105.84 per litre, while diesel rates were also hiked by 35 paise from ₹94.22 to ₹94.57, according to Indian Oil Corporation.

Interestingly, petrol now costs 33 per cent more than the price at which aviation turbine fuel (ATF) is sold to airlines. ATF in Delhi costs ₹79,020.16 per kilo litre or ₹79 per litre.

Prime Minister's interaction, the sixth such annual interaction which began in 2016, marks the participation of global leaders in the oil and gas sector, who deliberate upon



key issues of the sector and explore potential areas of collaboration and investment with India, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement.

Prime Minister Modi will interact with CEOs and experts of the global oil and gas sector on October 20 at 6 PM via video conferencing, it said.

The broad theme of the upcoming interaction is promotion of clean growth and sustainability.

The interaction will focus on areas like encouraging exploration and production in hydrocarbon sector in India,

## Former BJP, now TMC leader Supriyo resigns as Lok Sabha MP



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former BJP Member of Parliament Babul Supriyo seems to be quite undecided whether the BJP "trusts" him or distrusts him or vice versa.

After attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "not trusting Bengalis enough", former BJP leader Babul Supriyo on Tuesday turned melodramatic following his resignation as an MP saying his "heart is heavy" and thanked the PM and the Home Minister Amit Shah for "showing confidence" in him.

Soon after quitting the BJP and joining the Trinamool Congress, Supriyo had accused Modi of either not trusting Bengalis enough or

failing to establish harmony with them. Supriyo who held ministerial positions in the Modi-Government at the Centre was dropped on July 8 reshuffle in the Union Council of Ministers along with few other senior BJP leaders.

Immediately after leaving the BJP, about two-months following his exit as a Union Minister, the singer-turned-politician had changed his tune and accused Modi of not only trusting enough Bengalis but also others like BJP MP from Bengal SS Ahluwalia.

"During my stint of seven-eight years in Delhi, I have come to know that the Prime Minister either does not have faith in Bengalis or is not able to establish harmony somewhere," Supriyo had said.

"Why only me? There are even senior people than me. Ahluwaliaji came from the Congress he is a senior leader or, those people who are winning from Bengal and going there are not being trusted there is a lack of harmony somewhere," thus spoke the former BJP MP then.

## IMD predicts clear sky in Delhi

PIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast 'mainly clear sky' in the national capital on Tuesday, with the maximum temperature likely to hover around 29 degrees Celsius and the minimum at 19.9 degrees Celsius.

As per the morning update, a temperature of 22.4 degrees Celsius was recorded at 8.30 a.m. with a relative humidity of 91 per cent. The wind was blowing in the southwest direction at a speed of 12.9 km per hour.

The city observed sunrise at 6.25 a.m. and the sun is likely to set at 5.48 p.m.

In the past 24 hours, the maximum temperature was

recorded at 23.9 degrees Celsius, nine notches departure from normal, and the minimum was at 19.9 degrees Celsius. The city witnessed heavy rainfall on Monday that plummeted the temperature.

According to the IMD, the national capital has received 94.6 mm of rain in October so far the highest in 65 years, when 236.2 mm of rain was received in the whole month in 1956. The 24-hour accumulated rainfall is also the highest since then.

System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR) said Delhi-NCR's Air Quality Index (AQI) improved to "good" towards Monday evening with PM 2.5 pollutant recorded at 43 and



PM 10 at 25.

Usually, the air quality is categorised as "good" when AQI is between 0 to 50, "satisfactory" between 51-100, "moderate" between 101-200, "poor" between 201-300, "very poor" between 301-400, "severe" between 401-500, or "hazardous" at 500+.

Delhi, generally, has good to satisfactory air quality. However, the pollution levels during October to February

building a Tamil version of its mobile app and that it had already localised its marketing communication in the local language in the state. It also pointed to roping in well-known Tamil musician Anirudh Ravichander as its local brand ambassador.

However, company founder Deepinder Goyal later announced reinstating the sacked agent, saying it was "an ignorant mistake" on the part of the employee. In a series of tweets, he said "an ignorant mistake by someone in a support centre of a food delivery company became a national issue. The level of tolerance and chill in our country needs to be way higher than it is nowadays.

Who's to be blamed here?" We should all tolerate each other's imperfections and appreciate each other's language and regional sentiments, he said

Fabindia's new collection that launched before Diwali, christening 'Jashn-e-Riwaaz' also ran into a boycott trend with several users urging consumers to boycott the brand. Users called this "de-Hinduising Deepawali". Following this, the company had to take down some tweets promoting the collection. Learning platform Unacademy, beauty platform Nykaa, edtech platform Byju's have been subjected to Twitter trials very recently.

## Zomato faces netizens' flak after its staff asks TN customer to learn Hindi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Fabindia, food delivery giant Zomato has found itself under the netizen scanner and drawn massive criticism on social media platform Twitter after a customer service executive asked a customer from Tamil Nadu to learn the "national language" Hindi to be able to converse. The issue erupted when a screenshots of the conversation were shared on Twitter by a user named @Vikash67456607, who alleged the executive called him a liar and said everyone should know Hindi. This has triggered a major Twitter backlash with the hashtag #Reject\_Zomato trending on top at the social media

site.

After trending on Twitter, Zomato apologised to Vikash and also issued a statement both in Tamil and English, stressing that the company stood for diversity.

Vikash, who was facing trouble with his order, reached out to Zomato's customer care service after an item from his order, placed via the delivery app, was left out. The executive told Vikash that they were unable to get clarity from the restaurant due to a "language barrier". Vikash then demanded a refund and said, "If Zomato is available in Tamil Nadu, they should have hired people who understand the language."

To this, the customer care executive replied, "For your kind information, Hindi is our national language. So, it is very common that everybody should know Hindi little bit." Again Vikash posted the screenshots on his Twitter handle and wrote, "Customer care says the amount can't be refunded as I didn't know Hindi. Also takes lessons that being an Indian I should know Hindi. Tagged me a liar as he didn't know Tamil. @zomato not the way you talk to a customer."

Soon, Twitter was flooded with posts denouncing Zomato and #RejectZomato trended on the micro-blogging site. A user wrote: "You don't have



customer support in Tamil language then how can you sending notification in Tamil. Another Twitter wrote, "Hindi is not the national language, It

is just one of the official languages of India."

After trending on social media, Zomato apologised to Vikash and also issued a state-

ment both in Tamil and English which started off with the traditional Tamil salutation "Vanakkam" Tamil Nadu, it said the company was "sorry" for the behaviour of its former employee. "We have terminated the agent for their negligence towards our diverse culture. The termination is in line with our protocols and (the) agent's behaviour was clearly against the principles of sensitivity that we train our agents for on a regular basis," the statement uploaded on Zomato's Twitter handle said. It said the sacked employee's statements do not "represent our company's stance towards language and diversity."

Zomato further said it was





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Sigh of relief

A majority of unvaccinated children developing COVID-19 antibodies comes as hope

The results of the third serosurvey conducted in Haryana are comforting. Antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 were found among 76.3 per cent of the State's population. This is a steep rise from a mere 14.8 per cent in October 2020 and eight per cent last August. A sero-positivity of 81.6 per cent was found in vaccinated people and 75.5 per cent in non-vaccinated. In urban Haryana, antibodies were found in 78.1 per cent of the people; in the rural areas the percentage is 75.1. The best news, however, relates to children. The survey found a sero-positivity rate of 69.8 per cent in children aged 6-9 years and 73.2 per cent in adolescents aged 10-17 years. This is the first time when children were included in the survey. It is also established for the first time that over 70 per cent of non-vaccinated children have COVID-19 antibodies. The news comes as a relief when children remain the only segment of the population who have not been vaccinated even though the country is close to giving nearly 100 crore jabs. The vaccines for children are still undergoing human trials. The decision to re-open schools after a gap of a year hinges on this very issue and some States have reluctantly agreed to re-open schools in stages. There still is a hesitancy among parents to send their wards to school. A few other States are planning to begin classes in November. School managements are ensuring that the teaching and non-teaching staff are fully vaccinated and



safety protocols are in place to minimise the risk of infection.

Recent surveys from abroad have justified the fears of infection among children. A study by teams from hospitals in MIT and Harvard has conclusively proved that infants, children and adolescents are equally capable of replicating the COVID-19 virus. Examining COVID-19 positive children, they found that the levels of infection are highest early in the illness in both symptomatic and asymptomatic patients. Overall, the viral load did not correlate with the severity of the disease in the kids even though they could infect other people. However, several studies have stated that very few children have symptoms and they are at low risk of contracting the illness. In this context, the Haryana serosurvey on children is a reassuring one. Based on the Haryana survey results, it can safely be assumed that one can go slow with the vaccination of healthy children and instead focus on fully covering the vulnerable population — the elderly, and adults and children with co-morbidities. Even though a couple of vaccines have received the emergency use authorisation (EUA), it is unclear when the vaccines for children below 18 will be available in the country. The chief of the national COVID-19 task force, VK Paul, has said that a final decision will depend on the scientific rationale for vaccinating kids and the availability of sufficient doses for them.

### PICTALK



Snow-covered mountains after fresh snowfall, in Shimla

PTI

## Blood sport?

The International Olympic Committee does not heed protests against the Beijing Olympics

The flame of the 2022 Winter Olympics reaches Beijing in a day or two but China has more cause for concern than celebration. A swarm of protests follows the flame, lit at the birthplace of the ancient Olympics in southern Greece on Monday, calling for a global boycott of the Games on account of alleged human rights violations by the Chinese Government. The ceremony of lighting the torch in Greece was



marred by protests, as three activists managed to sneak into the venue holding a Tibetan flag and a banner reading 'No genocide games'. The protests were growing in tenor all through the year. Human rights watch groups in the US and Europe launched a campaign to boycott the games because China allegedly continues to harass Tibetans, strip Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang of their religious and cultural identities, punish pro-democracy agitators in Hong Kong, and intimidate Taiwan. The possibility of the US boycotting the games is remote but efforts are on to at least have a diplomatic boycott by that country.

This is not the first time that China is facing flak in the run-up to an international sporting event. It lost the bid for the 2000 Olympic games in 1993 because of the bloody crackdown on student agitators in Tiananmen Square in 1989. China had hoped to resurrect its international image by hosting the games but that was not to be. It never faced a worse insult globally. It subsequently bid for the 2008 games. To show a democratic face to the world, China came up with several concessions to impress the Olympic committee. They included extending press freedom for foreign journalists in China, allowing them to travel across the country without having to apply for permission. However, the protests continued as China refused to acknowledge any wrong-doing. The Communist Party of China, which routinely ignores all human rights charges, would do well to realise turning a deaf ear would not make the problem go away. Evidence of Chinese high-handedness in Tibet and Xinjiang keeps leaking out of the two regions despite State censorship. Those who manage to escape from the mainland bring sordid tales with them. It comes as a small relief for China that the International Olympic Committee is not interested in taking up the boycott call only because it feels the games are neutral and should not be politicised.

# More in our history than the 1971 war



ASHOK K MEHTA

The Indian military's habit of not fully recording war diaries has provided opportunity to individuals to fiddle with and fabricate events

Fifty years of the 1971 India-Pakistan war is being commemorated with great verve and gusto by recalling the geostrategy, tactics and heroics of the great Indian victory — one in 1000 years where the gains on the battlefield were frittered away across the negotiating table. The war corrected the geographical incongruity of Pakistan split into two entities separated by 1000 miles. The late politician and writer, Jaswant Singh, called the victory geography's revenge over history — when use of force resulted in the birth of a new country Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan. It was the 20th century's last decisive war though it could not settle the root cause of India-Pakistan enmity — not J&K but inimical behaviour of the Pakistan Army.

In the previous century, except for the World Wars, there is no clear example of a decisive interstate war. But intra-state conflicts produced outcomes. The stamping out of Khalistan movement was a rare success for India. So was the Taliban's first take-over of Afghanistan. Peaceful separation of Czechoslovakia into Czech Republic and Slovakia was a unique event. In the 21st century also, a number of internal conflicts were resolved by use of force — defeat of LTTE in Sri Lanka and the recent re-conquest of Afghanistan by the Taliban. Another genre of military success without the use of military force was 'fait accompli operations' like the Russian occupation of Crimea, Chinese seizure of islands in the South China Sea and the Chinese intrusions into East Ladakh. In the space between war and no-peace is grey-zone operations, (HERE IS THE CHANGE) which is the defender's dilemma. And now, with the advent of cyber war and artificial intelligence, thinkers and practitioners of war and conflict have much to mull over. While the nature and character of war have changed, the principles of war are more or less the same, technology being the consistent key driver of shaping their outcomes.

Past wars and internal conflicts are not replicable. Take the war for Bangladesh. The ten months available for preparation,



obtaining air superiority and assistance of Mukti Bahini are some conditions that cannot be recreated. Neither can the political cover provided by USSR through its use of veto which brought India time to ensure the war did not end in cessation of hostilities as Pakistan wished but ended on Indian terms of a full and complete surrender. The talking point of the war was whether Dacca was nominated as the final objective of the war. It is clear from study of various historical accounts that Dacca was initially not the ultimate objective but a less ambitious mission was assigned to the Eastern Army. Improvisation and innovation by both sides played a big part in the war. Maj Gen Nazir Husain Shah, GOC 16 Pakistan Infantry Division and an alumni of Fort Leavenworth USA, used to split a single battalion into two even as portraying a broad front was also practised by Indian forces.

I would like to see during commemoration events greater emphasis on recalling Infantry-led epic battles of Pirgunj, Hilli, Sylhet and Akhaura to name a few. The roadblock at Pirgunj by 2/5 Gorkha Rifles (FF), for example, turned the flank of Pakistan 16 Infantry Division fighting fortress defence at Hilli by crossing the



INDIA MUST CHERISH THE 1971 VICTORY AGAINST PAKISTAN BUT FOCUS ON SMALL-UNIT ACTIONS THAT WILL BE RELEVANT TO FUTURE EXTERNAL WARS

Karatoya river. It was the first turning movement south towards Bogra and Dacca and divided Pakistan's 16 Infantry Division. Similarly, 4/5 Gorkha Rifles (FF) conducted India's first helicopter operations and while reduced to half a battalion in combat, took the surrender of two Pakistani Brigades on 15 December, one clear day in advance of the Dacca surrender. They had earlier carried out the first silent 'khukuri' attack at Atgram though the British Gurkhas claimed the honour earlier in Indonesia. These short and sharp battles hastened the termination of war confirming Infantry as the queen of battle. It would be more useful to invite officers who took part in these actions rather than have the post-1971 war generation of officers to pontificate on lessons and dialectics of deterrence.

India must cherish the 1971 victory against Pakistan but focus on small-unit actions that will be relevant to future external wars. The limited war in Kargil was another classic demonstration of Infantry-led small unit battles that evicted intruding Pakistani forces across the LoC. It is a pity that war histories on 1962 and IPKF Sri Lanka, though chronicled, have not been released for

political reasons. The Indian military's bad habit of not fully and faithfully recording war diaries has provided opportunity to individual participants in wars to fiddle with and fabricate events to enhance their personal heroics. The media in general and social media in particular, without verifying facts, have contributed to this.

Biographies and autobiographies are especially culpable as they embellish the record of units and individuals beyond what is recorded in regimental history. And where there is no official regimental history, some writers have gone to town enhancing their stature. All write-ups about past wars must be vetted by MoD historical section and a certification obtained from the authors that they have not used material which is not in official records. The Government has fudged events in East Ladakh, pretending the PLA intrusions have not altered the LAC. Even so, the 1971 success on the battlefield is India's big redeemer and greatest victory.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### THE MONSOON'S MOOD SWINGS

Sir — The Indian monsoon is nature's gift to us. It is what gives us sustenance; it is inseparable from Indian civilisation. Still over the last few years, it has become erratic to the extent of venting nature's fury and causing widespread devastation. Its onset, occurrence and withdrawal have come to acquire a frightening dimension. Visuals have shown how this year's southwest monsoon has taken the shape of a 'natural' disaster. The stunning collapse of a house in one unbroken piece into flood water has become the defining image of the destruction caused by the deluge in Kerala and other parts of the country.

The floods recurring year after year add a new urgency to the restoration of the monsoon to what it was before it assumed the proportions of a 'natural' disaster. The protection of mountains that serve as natural life givers in its wider sense will more than halve the problem. Deforestation, mining, construction and cultivation of cash crops that are ecologically unsustainable and explain much of the change in the monsoons must end; political parties and governments must free themselves from the hold of lobbies of various kinds towards this end. The governments should discontinue the practice of relaxing rules pertaining to environmental clearance in the name of ease of doing business. It is a basic fact that economic growth at the cost of ecology spells disaster.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

### FINDING FENI IN GOA'S MUSEUM

Sir — India's first museum dedicated to alcohol has opened its doors to spirit enthusiasts in Goa. The museum, *All About Alcohol* is a place to rejoice in North Goa's Candolim village. The museum houses hundreds of artefacts linked to Feni — Goa's very own and a popular alcoholic drink — including large, traditional glass vats in which the local cashew-based alcohol used to be stored centuries ago. The idea behind the museum was to make the world aware of Goa's rich heritage, especially the story of Feni. The answer to whether there is another alcohol museum in the world is absolutely no.

## Can Sasikala fill the gaps?



Once a 'girl Friday' of the former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, VK Sasikala Natrajan is back on the political scene after having spent four years behind bars following a disproportionate assets case against her in 2017. Implicit in her recent overtures is her cherished will of becoming an 'all in all' of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), she even unveiled a stone plaque naming her as the general secretary of the party at the memorial of MG Ramachandran, the founder of the AIADMK. But to the cha-

grin of Edappadi K Palaniswami and Utakarra Thevar Panneerselvam, whose eyebrows were raised while asserting that no one would be elevated to the numero uno post of general secretary once held by 'Amma', who still happens to be the incumbent despite being no more.

Moreover, it is the people of Tamil Nadu who are at the receiving end of the confusion obfuscating the answer as to who among the OPS-EPS-Sasikala trilogy, is the right choice. Simultaneously, the TN Chief Minister MK Stalin cannot afford to look forward to a new challenger more, with the grand old party keeping a low profile and the BJP thinking of siding with the ruling DMK in the State. At the end of the day, with the OPS-EPS together eyeing a much more significant aspect of the circumstances, whether or not VK Sasikala will succeed in putting herself in Jayalalitha's shoes remains a burning question.

Azhar A Khan | Rampu

If you go to Scotland, they are very happy about their water, about their drinks, etc. Similarly, in Russia, people feel happy to show the drinks they have. When we come to India, we project alcohol differently. For Goans, consumption of alcohol is a symbol of hospitality. It is a part and parcel of the system in Goa. The amount of information preserved here is amazing. Feni lovers are awestruck with the place. The amount of information they have kept here for visitors to see is super amazing. Sip on a glass of Feni as Goa displays the right trademark for its traditional drink. An indigenous alcoholic drink synonymous with Goa, Feni will now be on display in the museum.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

### 100 CRORE JABS, FINALLY

Sir — India has finally achieved the milestone of 100 crore vaccinations. Festive season will see yet another celebration soon with tricolour hoisted at Red Fort, flag raised at North and South Block in Delhi with announcements at railway stations,

airplanes, ships at the moment India breach the 100 crores mark in administering cumulative number of COVID-19 doses. Additionally, the efforts of frontline and healthcare workers in remote areas, have been chronicled in the newly-launched book 'Sentinels of the Soil', that encapsulates stories of hardship faced by healthcare workers from various states who travelled to help propel India's vaccination drive.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the Government, doctors, scientists and to all the people of the country who got vaccinated and helped the Government achieve this mark. There are plans of 80,000 vaccination centres to be activated to further speed up the vaccination drive and be prepared for any uncertainties. Congratulations to every single person who has contributed his effort in this achievement.

Somya Agrawal | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## SOUND BITE

Tejashwi Yadav violated the coalition pact. He denied our demand of one seat of our stronghold Kusheshwar Asthan.

Congress Bihar in-charge — Bhakta Charan Das

The US values Georgia as a strategic partner and our support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity is unwavering.

US Defence Secretary — Lloyd Austin

I believe *Dhaakad* is Bollywood's first woman-centred spy thriller. I am really happy about this.

Actor — Kangana Ranaut

Ravindra Jadeja's batting has come out in leaps and bounds. So you can treat him as one of the top-order batsmen.

Former India bowler — Ajit Agarkar

The friendship between India and Bangladesh is very old. Fundamentalist or any other forces should not be allowed to destroy these relations.

Tripura Chief Minister — Biplab Kumar Deb



FIRST COLUMN

THE NEXT BIG THING IN JOURNALISM

Journalism has seen a sea change because of technological adoptions over time



ANAND J KULKARNI SANTOSH K BISWAL

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the field of journalism, often dubbed as a race with the machine, is getting eventually apparent. Recently, certain international news media organizations have tapped the power of AI to cover and report on the recent blast at a mosque in Kandahar city of Afghanistan that killed 37 people. AI tools are used to measure and report that the nation is grappling with insecurity and unrest. These news media organizations have been actively engaged in automating tasks essential for journalistic production. AI has come in handy to detect, extract and verify data essential for news stories and graphics. Such tools are being used for sorting, selecting and prioritizing the filters in the journalistic process of news stories. The use of AI is comparatively new. Its efficacy in reporting and disseminating conflicting news stories is established. It has the ability to build and update data visualizations in real time. The tools can be beneficial for the reporters in conflict zones in which the machine makes easy to source through footage from war zones. Human rights activists have started resorting to source the footage required for documenting human rights violations. Hence, AI tools are intensifying the level of activism in real time. During the time of the pandemic, AI tools provided potential aids for journalists in disseminating useful information to the citizens. When thousands of jour-



nalists were infected with the virus, the importance of AI tools in gathering, sorting, verifying and disseminating information went up substantially. AI tools are systematically programmed to identify fake news, helping journalists file correct and unbiased news stories. It can also debunk fake news flooded in social media platforms. AI thus protects the spirit of news values and ethical responsibility of journalists. The field of journalism has witnessed sea changes because of technological adoptions from time to time. All these raise the pros and cons of using AI tools in journalism. Augmenting reporting has become a major area of journalism. AI in journalism has brought numerous benefits. These tools have comparatively made easy for investigative journalists to save time and money. This has further strengthened the process and format of storytelling. Automation has facilitated reporting from local to international stories. Data journalism is transforming to the next level. AI robots are turning into news reporters. All these are becoming viable because of algorithms, databases and machine learning. There are fair chances for errors and biases to creep into the newsrooms. A small or a hyper-local media organization which might not be equipped with minimum resources to adopt AI tools may see newsmen falling prey to the machines. Journalists need to be trained and transformed for the best utilization of technologies. The fear of machine replacing the human is still there. However, any technology including AI is not going to replace journalists; however, this new technology can be a friendly assistant or a buddy. With the advent of new technological tools, all from reporters to editors will be re-oriented to deliver more credible and value-added contents to their target audience. Moreover, the issue of digital divide in newsrooms is there across the globe. Newsrooms in western countries are better positioned than the rest of the world in exploiting the AI tools in storytelling. The emergence of innovation and adoption of newer technologies in any profession has become obligatory. The profession of journalism is no exception to it. The production, distribution and consumption of news will be considerably driven by AI tools in the days to come. Digital literacy is the need of the hour on the part of the journalists across the competitive globe.

(Kulkarni is an Associate Director of the Institute of Artificial Intelligence, MIT World Peace University, Pune. Biswal teaches at Symbiosis Institute of Media and Communication, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune. The views expressed are personal.)

# Setting up ‘bad banks’ for the good

In India, Government-sponsored bad bank has never been tried, though there are several asset reconstruction companies functioning sub-optimally



GOVIND BHATTACHARJEE

India's first-ever government-sponsored "Bad Bank" is now closer to reality. Following the Finance Minister's announcement in the Union Budget earlier this year, a National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) has been set up to acquire fully provisioned stressed assets worth about ₹2 lakh crore from various commercial banks in different phases, about a quarter of the total.

Another entity called India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL) will then sell these stressed assets in the market to pay back to the banks. Public Sector Banks (PSBs) will have almost half the total shares of both (51 and 49 percent respectively), in which the private sector will also be stakeholders. The initial investment would be around ₹6,000 crore.

NARCL will buy the distressed assets at a discount from the banks by paying 15 percent cash; for the balance 85 percent, they will issue security receipts like debentures, bonds, etc., to the banks. Last month the government had cleared the proposal to provide ₹30,600 crore to the NARCL as a guarantee for the security receipts to be invoked in case the sale results in a loss to cover the same, but the guarantee will not be valid beyond five years to build in some incentive to accelerate the process of resolution; the guarantee fee to be paid by NARCL will also increase gradually. Since guarantees constitute contingent liability for the government, there would be no immediate fiscal impact or cash outflow for the Centre.

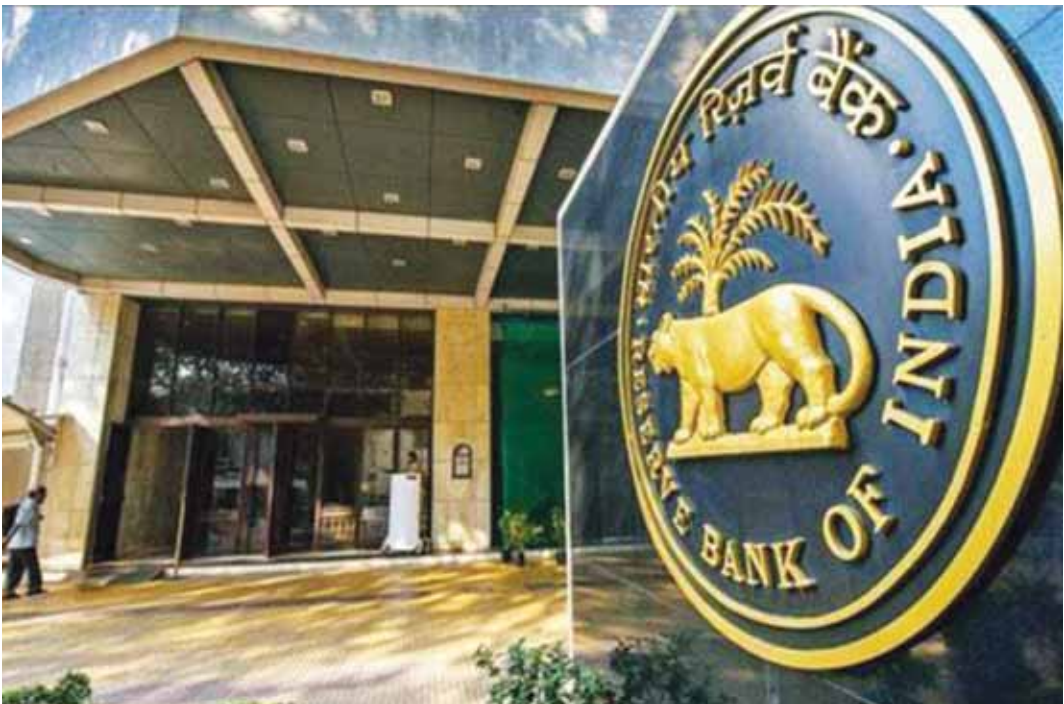
Inherited as a legacy from the past, partly as a fallout of the economic meltdown of 2008 and partly because of crony capitalism which forced many PSBs to give loans without proper assessment of profitability of the relevant project proposals due to which many of these projects either could not materialise or were unable to generate enough income to pay back the loans, the NPAs started mounting. Since 2016, when the RBI tightened the controls on banks and forced them to clean their balance sheets, the NPAs had to be written off or recognised in their balance sheets. This eroded their capital base making them unable to lend afresh, and their profitability was seriously affected.

To keep such banks — mostly PSBs — in business, the government had to recapitalise them from time to time with public funds. Things took a turn for the worse when since 2017 when the economy had started slowing, and the pandemic then delivered the death blow. As per S&P Global Ratings estimate, stressed assets of Indian banks including restructured loans will reach 11-12 percent in 2021-22, up from 8.7 percent at the end of the last fiscal, one of the highest in the world, comparable to Russia or Greece. By taking over the stressed assets and paying the banks which will provide them fresh capital, the bad bank will help the



IN 2018, JUST TWO OUT OF 21 PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS WERE PROFITABLE. BUT IN 2021, ONLY TWO BANKS (PUNJAB & SIND BANK AND CENTRAL BANK) REPORTED LOSSES. AS PART OF THE REFORMS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS MERGED MANY SMALLER PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS WITH LARGER ONES AND NOW THEIR TOTAL NUMBER STANDS AT 12

(The author is former Director General, Comptroller & Auditor General of India and currently a professor at Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management. The views expressed are personal.)



commercial banks to recover a part of their bad loans.

This is a most welcome and a long overdue proposal to resolve the stressed asset problem of banks, private as well as public. The existing acts, viz., the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) 2016 and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Securitisation and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act 2002, have proved inadequate for insolvency resolution and to address the problem of NPAs of banks. The SARFAESI Act which enables registration and regulation of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) by the RBI allows the banks to auction the residential and commercial properties of borrowers to recover outstanding dues. It applies where the borrowing entity is left with neither any revenue source nor an opportunity to resurrect the business, and where no substantial assets are also lying with the guarantors, while a resolution plan under the IBC is intended to put the debtor back on its feet, not simply for recovering the dues of its creditors. As the Supreme Court had said in a case, "the primary focus of the legislation (IBC) is to ensure revival and continuance of the corporate debtor by protecting the corporate debtor from its own management and from a corporate death by liquidation."

About 4,541 corporates have so far been admitted into the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP), only 1,745 CIRPs

have completed the process, either yielding resolution plans or ending up with liquidation. IBC, now five years old and which was suspended during the Covid crisis, is due for an overhaul, including pre-pack for the MSMEs which could later be extended to other companies, allowing a debt resolution mechanism outside the IBC. The existing processes need additional support from other mechanisms, and this is where the bad bank fits in.

Bad bank is not a new idea — they have been in existence since the 1980s, but the East Asian currency crisis and the 2008 subprime crisis made many countries to set up bad banks, including the US, Sweden, Finland, Belgium, Malaysia, South Korea, China or Indonesia, but in India the idea of government sponsored bad bank has never been tried earlier, though there are several private Asset Reconstruction Companies which are functioning sub-optimally.

This is another major institutional reform and the Government must be given the credit for it. Whether it will work or not, only time can tell. While it has met with success in many countries, in China they have been struggling, and the collapse of Evergrande is likely to worsen the situation further. In any case, ARCs cannot be a permanent mechanism, indeed it has a sunset clause allowing it to be wound up within five to eight years.

Banking reform has been one major focus area of the govern-

ment which came up with a 4-R strategy - recognition, resolution, recapitalisation and reforms. After recognition, quantification of NPAs started in a planned manner and banks slowly started recovering their dues. In 2018, just two out of 21 public sector banks were profitable. But in 2021, only two banks (Punjab & Sind Bank and Central Bank) reported losses. As part of the reforms, the government has merged many smaller PSBs with larger ones, and now their total number is stands at 12.

There are several problems, apart from finding potential buyers from the stressed assets of banks. Valuation of the assets is one, which will determine the loss. In fact, there has been some criticism that the government is actually guaranteeing the losses of private enterprises and that the PSBs, being shareholders of both NARCL and IDRCL, will in effect be buying their own stressed assets. So far, the Indian experience has preferred resolution via IBC over the private ARCs, which have a low capital requirement of only ₹100 crore.

The regulatory environment for the ARCs which has remained practically static ever since they had emerged in the 2000s also needs an overhaul. Stressed assets will not disappear anytime soon, and we need to enable such institutions to help absorb the stressed assets. Economy cannot grow without an adequate supply of credit and creating a level playing field for all.

## POINTCOUNTERPOINT

BY MAKING THE GIRLS WEAR TURBANS RESEMBLING COLOURS OF THE BJP SYMBOL, THE CM HAS POLITICISED KANYA PUJAN.  
—CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON NARENDRA SALUJA



CONGRESS LEADERS ARE OPPOSING KANYA PUJAN DONE BY ME. THEN WHAT SHALL I DO, PERFORM CONGRESS PUJAN?  
—MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

# Party stuck with Gandhis; Gandhis with the party

As expected, not even a whimper was heard from the G23 that made much noise in media for months on the need for full-time leadership

The Gandhi family has established its claim over the Congress party this week as seen by Sonia Gandhi's assertive speech at Saturday's Working Committee meeting. Her message to the Party in simple words is that "we are the Gandhis, and we rule as long as we want; challenge us now." As expected, not even a whimper was heard from the Group of 23 rebels that made much noise in the media for months on the need for full-time leadership and organisational elections. As expected, the CWC unanimously expressed confidence in the Gandhi family. The CWC meeting went off as per Gandhi's script.

Indeed, she shut them by giving a road map for elections, but it will take place only



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

next after the crucial elections to some States taken place.

The loyalists who numbered many also raised a chorus for Rahul Gandhi to take over the party. He has condescended to consider the issue keeping his options open. Meanwhile, he will continue to make decisions with his sister Priyanka Gandhi and impose their favorites on the Party in powerful positions as they have done with Punjab leader Navjot Sidhu and elsewhere. They will also have a free hand in distributing tickets in the upcoming elections.

Sonia has announced that she is a 'full-time and hands-on' president, but this will be tougher than it was for her in 1998 or 2004. Then, she was much younger and had reasonably good political



advisers. There was a mystique around her. Those leaders, like Arjun Singh, ML Fotedar, Ahmed Patel, and AK Antony, were experienced and shrewd politicians. Today, she has to run the Party through her children while taking flak for their immature decisions.

Sonia Gandhi fights well when there are challenges, as she has had shown since 1998. She took over the reins of the Party when it was sinking

under Sitaram Kesri's leadership and a surging BJP. No one expected the UPA to win in 2004. The real coup was when she chose to do back-seat driving rather than become the Prime Minister and she 'appointed' Dr Manmohan Singh to the post. She ran the Party and the Government for the next ten years from remote. A Gandhi family member at the helm is certainly a comforting feeling for Congress persons, not with standing the opinion of voters.

When Rahul resigned owning moral responsibility for the Party's poor show in 2019, the Party could not look beyond the Gandhis. Rahul got what he wanted — an unassailable decision-making power without responsibility. By now, his sister Priyanka

Gandhi has joined her brother in taking decisions from afar.

Sonia's first challenge now is to check the continuous erosion in the Party. Leaders like Jyotiraditya Scindia, Jitin Prasad, now Amarendra Singh and former Goa Chief Minister Luizinho Faleiro have quit the Party for greener pastures. More are likely to follow.

The second challenge is to win some States in the upcoming Assembly polls. Uttar Pradesh is crucial though the Party has not tasted power there since 1989. It was in a position to win Punjab, but the Gandhi siblings spoil it by choosing an undeserving Sidhu as PCC chief.

The third is reviving the organisation's machinery. The

general secretaries in charge of poll-bound States should spend more time on the ground. The selection of candidates is vital. Sonia needs to enthuse the organisation. She should set up booth committees that play a crucial role at the time of elections.

The fourth is to choose vital issues for exposing the Modi Government. There are many such issues like petrol price hike, inflation, farmer's agitation, COVID handling and many more. Sonia needs foot soldiers to do the propaganda.

The fifth is uniting the Opposition. Many of them like Mamata Banerjee and Sharad Pawar are making efforts to join the resistance. Otherwise, Modi has the advantage even in 2024. Fortunately, Sonia has

got adequate respect and command from the opposition leaders.

But before everything, she must address the grievances of the Group of 23 rebels and bring them back to her side. They cannot be suppressed as leaders like Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma, Shashi Tharoor, Kapil Sibal, and Manish Tiwari are articulate. As Sonia herself said in the meeting, unity and discipline in the Party are very important.

Saturday's CWC proved that the Party is stuck with the Gandhis and the Gandhis are stuck with the Party. Both have to change their attitudes and walk in step with the voters; the electorate has changed and has become more aspirational and impatient.



## COAL CRISIS

# Power projects with less than 4-day stock now 58

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The coal stock situation at thermal power projects has improved further as the number of non-pit head projects having less than four days of coal (supercritical stock) reduced to 58 on Monday from 69 a week ago, Government data showed.

According to latest coal stock data of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the number of non-pit head projects having less than four days of coal was 58 on October 18 and 69 on October 11.

The data showed that the number of plants with super-critical stock was 61 this Sunday (October 17). Thus, the coal stock situation is inching towards normalcy.

The improvement in the coal stock situation assumes significance in view of the ongoing shortage of the dry fuel at thermal power plants in the country.

The Central Electricity Authority monitors coal stock situation of 135 thermal power plants with cumulative generation capacity of over 165 GW.

The data also showed that the number of power plants

with zero days of coal has come down to 13 as of Monday with cumulative installed generation capacity of 11,710 MW, compared to 15 with 15,290 MW capacity a week back.

The number of the plants with one day of coal stock has increased to 28 with 34,795 MW capacity as on October 18, compared to 27 with 35,360 MW capacity on October 11.

The number of plants with two days of coal decreased to 18 (with 27,490 MW capacity) from 20 (22,755 MW) a week ago. The number of plants with three days of coal also came down to 12 (with 16,874 MW capacity) from 21 (27,014 MW) a week ago. The number of plants with four days of coal has decreased to 18 with 20,725 MW capacity as of Monday, from 20 with 25,840 MW capacity a week ago, showing improvement in dry fuel stock.

The number of plants with five days of coal has increased to 12 (12,840 MW capacity) from five (4,105 MW) a week ago. The power ministry data also showed improvement in the power shortage situation as it came down to 2,060 MW on October 18 from 6,857 MW a week back.

## Coal supply prioritised temporarily to power sector to replenish dwindling stock: CIL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned CIL on Tuesday said the supply of coal was prioritised temporarily to power producers to replenish their dwindling stock of the dry fuel.

The statement assumes significance in the wake of the country's power plants grappling with fuel shortages.

"In view of the low stock position at the power house end due to a spurt in economic activities during post-second wave of COVID-19, the supply of coal was prioritised temporarily to the power sector to replenish their dwindling coal stock," Coal India Ltd (CIL) said in a statement.

To achieve the same in the quickest possible time, coal companies were advised only to go slow temporarily on conducting further e-auction of coal, barring the special forward e-auction for power.

# Moody's upgrades banking system outlook to 'stable'

## ECO RECOVERY TO DRIVE CREDIT GROWTH

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service on Tuesday raised the outlook for the Indian banking system to 'stable' from 'negative' citing moderate deterioration of asset quality since the onset of the pandemic and likely pick-up in credit growth with economic recovery.

Moody's expects India's economy to continue to recover in the next 12-18 months, with GDP growing 9.3 per cent in the fiscal year ending March 2022 and 7.9 per cent in the following year.

"The pick-up in economic activity will drive credit growth, which we expect to be 10-13 per cent annually. Weak corporate financials and funding constraints at finance companies have been key negative factors for banks but these risks have receded," Moody's said in its 'Banking system outlook - India' report.

The quality of corporate loans has improved, indicating that banks have recognized and provisioned for all legacy problem loans in this segment. quality of retail loans has deteriorated, but to a limited degree



because large-scale job losses have not occurred.

"We have revised the outlook for the Indian banking system to stable from negative. The deterioration of asset quality since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic has been moderate, and an improving operating environment will support asset quality. Declining credit costs as a result of improving asset quality will lead to improvements in profitability," Moody's said.

The rating agency assumes that the government will provide a very high level of support for rated public sector banks, given their strong links to the government.

Earlier this month, Moody's had raised India's sovereign rating outlook to 'stable' from 'negative'. It also affirmed sovereign rating at 'Baa3'.

## Govt to roll out 5-year strategic perspective plan to make India big tech player: Chandrasekhar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is looking at rolling out a five-year strategic perspective plan to make India a significant tech player, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on Tuesday.

The Minister added that the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) will partner with the private sector in areas not just limited to soliciting business for them but for future technology developments like quantum computing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and semiconductors, according to an official statement released by the ministry.

"Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) has set some serious ambitions and wants India to be a significant player in the tech space.

"Soon, we are going to roll out a five-year strategic perspective plan, detailing the competency and capabilities that need to be developed for realising these ambitions," Chandrasekhar said at a technology conference organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

He added that there have been tremendous strides in digitising the country's economy and public services in the



past six years, which has helped India remain resilient during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We have created Unicorns at the rate of two a month, attracting USD 65 billion investment in the tech space," Chandrasekhar said.

The minister said the post-COVID-19 era offers a new set of opportunities and there has never been a more exciting time for those in technology than today.

"At MeitY, we have clear objectives, we expect to be partners with the private sector in areas not just limited to soliciting business for you...But even in areas of future technology development whether it is quantum computing or strategic areas, where we want India to create competencies like artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and semiconductors, etc," he said.

## Bank gross NPAs to rise to 8-9% : Report

## STRESSED ASSETS TO TOUCH 10-11%

**Mumbai:**Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of banks will rise to 8-9 per cent this fiscal, well below the peak of 11.2 per cent seen at the end of fiscal, ratings agency Crisil said in a report.

The Covid-19 relief measures such as the restructuring dispensation, and the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) will help limit the rise, the report added. With 2 per cent of bank credit expected under restructuring by the end of this fiscal, stressed assets-comprising gross NPAs and loan book under restructuring-should touch 10-11 per cent. Krishnan Sitaraman, Senior Director and Deputy Chief Ratings Officer, CRISIL Ratings, said: "The retail and MSME segments, which together form 40 per cent of bank credit, are expected to see higher accretion of NPAs and stressed assets this time around. Stressed assets in these segments are seen rising to 4-5 per cent and 17-18 per cent, respectively, by this fiscal end. The numbers would have trended even higher but for write-offs, primarily in the unsecured segment." **IANS**

NIFTY 50						BSE 500																									
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	ESCORTS	1562.80	1562.80	1468.80	1500.50	STAR	583.00	583.90	548.25	560.30	VINATIORGA	2082.50	2082.50	1996.25	2002.90	BLUEDART	6508.00	6533.00	6450.00	6469.00	
NIFTY 50	18602.35	18604.45	18377.70	18418.75	-58.30	IRCTC	6212.00	6393.00	4995.75	5363.00	CESC	99.10	102.45	93.90	96.30	ADANIGREEN	1210.00	1212.00	1170.00	1180.15	AUBANK	1215.00	1233.80	1175.80	1183.00	KALPATPOWER	441.00	441.75	423.00	423.30	
TECHM	1498.00	1569.80	1477.05	1542.70	63.05	TATAPOWER	269.70	269.70	218.75	230.55	TATACOMM	1484.00	1539.95	1464.75	1498.15	ALLCARGO	281.05	281.05	263.00	267.60	INOXLEISUR	414.00	421.60	407.75	410.00	ENDURANCE	1820.70	1820.70	1730.10	1754.80	
INFY	1814.00	1885.00	1802.05	1848.00	59.55	ADANIPOWER	133.50	135.55	115.15	124.80	IOC	136.50	137.20	133.35	133.80	UFLEX	632.10	637.00	607.85	613.60	RAJESHEXP	636.30	642.75	620.05	638.45	PGHH	14222.00	14222.00	13650.00	14023.65	
KOTAKBANK	2011.90	2045.50	1992.10	2040.00	32.40	LTI	6460.00	7010.00	6381.00	6847.80	L&TfH	93.50	95.20	91.10	92.85	HCL	79.95	79.95	75.05	75.45	ASTERMDO	204.50	205.65	196.05	196.80	THYROCARE	1170.75	1179.00	1150.00	1152.00	
BAJAJFINSV	1900.00	19325.00	1860.50	18935.80	257.85	TATAMOTORS	514.50	517.40	476.05	482.10	BANDHANBNK	337.80	337.80	315.00	316.10	BAJAJELEC	1303.00	1309.80	1259.90	1272.70	EQUITAS	133.10	134.35	119.50	123.60	TORNTTPHARM	3119.70	3142.05	3064.55	3095.00	
HDFCBANK	1675.45	1692.45	1671.00	1687.60	17.30	TRIDENT	42.40	42.60	40.30	41.95	MGL	1079.50	1087.50	1058.05	1063.05	BOSCHLTD	17659.25	17840.70	17199.35	17215.00	IOB	23.10	20.51	21.60	21.85	PGHL	5575.00	5600.95	5528.45	5538.95	
HCTECH	1230.00	1253.00	1225.00	1232.00	10.60	ALIAENG	1923.95	1927.90	1897.05	1910.65	BSOFT	432.40	442.75	430.40	432.85	GUJALKALI	821.80	837.00	781.05	793.65	NCC	82.70	82.95	78.35	79.00	ERIS	837.00	863.15	814.25	823.15	
RELIANCE	2723.80	2751.35	2700.00	2730.00	23.20	TATASTEEL	1421.00	1426.20	1357.10	1367.35	ABFRL	268.40	272.25	250.55	255.00	GUJMARK	519.00	526.70	512.35	513.00	RELAXO	1398.95	1398.95	1350.00	1353.90	JMFINANCIL	96.00	96.00	91.00	91.85	
M&M	911.00	927.60	901.20	917.10	6.15	TCS	3670.00	3690.30	3625.00	3634.60	HAL	1500.00	1523.00	1404.25	1435.90	EXIDEIND	186.00	188.00	182.20	183.30	INTELTEC	719.90	719.90	682.60	687.80	STARCEMENT	103.65	104.50	102.90	103.15	
WIPRO	717.10	729.95	708.00	714.00	4.25	VEDL	378.70	385.75	361.95	370.85	NAM-INDIA	454.00	476.50	442.55	457.65	TORNTPOWER	526.90	528.40	506.20	512.00	APLTD	810.00	819.80	790.50	793.75	CCL	422.70	422.70	400.00	405.00	
SBI	1193.50	1215.90	1186.55	1197.60	5.10	IDEA	10.68	10.75	9.91	10.00	NCLINDIA	76.60	77.40	70.20	71.10	ABCAPTAL	108.45	108.85	106.00	106.25	DEEPAKFERT	452.90	452.90	426.30	431.25	UJJIVAN	164.45	165.90	157.15	158.05	
HDFC	2825.00	2827.95	2800.00	2821.90	9.50	HINDUNILVR	2667.00	2732.00	2521.40	2546.45	IDFCFIRSTB	51.60	51.65	48.35	48.50	DALBHARAT	2095.55	2107.55	2008.15	2029.00	GRANULES	326.95	326.95	318.15	320.15	CENTURYPLY	533.35	572.25	551.30	563.00	
CIPLA	906.00	917.30	903.25	906.00	2.25	MINDTREE	4759.45	4908.60	4716.40	4740.95	SUZLON	7.65	7.65	7.10	7.16	COLPAL	1670.10	1678.25	1630.60	1636.95	CERA	6201.00	6340.45	6201.00	6298.85	AAVAS	2915.40	2929.75	2748.65	2820.90	
BHARTIARTL	699.00	699.00	675.45	682.00	1.40	ITC	262.50	262.50	245.10	246.10	EICHERMOT	2862.60	2862.60	2687.80	2704.25	FORTIS	260.50	264.40	252.55	256.65	PIIND	3356.85	3365.95	3232.50	3235.00	TATAMETALI	1102.90	1102.90	1065.00	1067.00	
ICICIBANK	755.00	755.00	738.75	746.65	1.20	DIXON	5834.00	6240.00	5551.35	5715.25	VENKYS	3110.45	3260.00	2986.65	3038.85	VBL	902.50	918.80	897.00	901.00	ASHOKA	120.50	121.55	111.60	113.30	MAHSCOOTER	4797.60	5023.35	4729.95	4750.50	
TATACONSUM	849.00	862.00	840.10	844.00	0.05	SAIL	130.05	131.35	121.55	123.00	HEROMOTOCO	2905.45	2929.00	2875.25	2873.90	BRIGADE	44.50	46.80	43.85	44.65	HAWKINCOOK	6391.80	6550.50	6251.60	6339.70	BAIAJCON	256.75	256.75	248.65	250.05	
NTPC	150.95	152.10	148.10	149.50	-0.05	AMBUJACEM	410.70	412.50	387.40	389.50	MARUTI	7651.15	7768.70	7589.25	7653.20	AFPLE	1150.00	1160.75	1107.40	1116.90	ORIENTCEM	160.35	161.75	154.00	155.95	TIINDIA	1400.70	1407.20	1353.65	1375.15	
HDFCLIFE	789.00	709.05	698.55	703.20	-0.40	DEEPAKNI	2883.00	3020.00	2777.55	2910.10	MUTHOOTFIN	1567.00	1589.00	1535.75	1552.95	GSPC	134.50	135.30	125.00	126.90	MHDHANI	209.70	203.80	195.15	197.00	GESHIP	345.15	350.95	335.20	336.30	
BAJAJ-AUTO	3930.20	3955.00	3892.25	3912.00	-3.95	LTTS	5000.00	5469.20	4990.40	5123.40	PVR	1740.00	1746.65	1677.45	1682.70	KRBL	319.75	322.95	300.20	302.85	KEI	996.25	1003.80	961.10	996.90	NBVENTURES	126.60	131.05	120.75	125.05	
NESTLEIND	19475.00	19732.05	19284.05	19406.55	-31.90	HINDCOFFER	152.00	159.30	145.35	148.95	UPL	756.00	759.80	727.55	734.85	EDELWEISS	81.20	84.20	79.65	79.95	REDINGTON	155.15	155.30	146.20	147.60	GICRE	146.20	149.55	144.05	144.25	
COALINDIA	187.30	188.95	183.60	184.95	-0.35	DMART	5002.00	5065.05	4727.00	4755.55	SONATSOFTW	939.70	1009.15	928.10	966.80	CENTURYTEX	948.95	948.95	893.40	900.05	UCOBANK	146.65	14.94	14.22	14.32	SANOFI	8215.00	8241.10	8033.65	8035.00	
TCS	3669.00	3690.15	3625.20	3634.45	-12.70	TATACOFFEE	240.20	254.00	230.25	235.60	GRAPHITE	628.00	633.35	600.00	604.20	UPIDILIND	2515.00	2531.90	2455.90	2468.85	CAPPL	920.30	930.00	879.95	879.95	EPL	22.85	23.20	22.00	22.15	
MARUTI	7670.20	7768.60	7585.00	7613.10	-43.90	TECHM	1497.00	1558.25	1478.00	1539.25	DELTAECORP	292.70	297.30	273.55	276.75	UPL	1688.45	1716.25	1659.70	1668.25	GHCL	470.00	474.05	447.00	447.00	JBCHEPHARM	1804.35	1804.35	1770.65	1787.20	
BRIITANNIA	3863.55	3868.35	3780.00	3800.75	-36.60	INFY	1810.00	1833.90	1782.55	1821.45	CIPLA	905.00	917.00	903.45	906.20	DBL	680.40	685.00	648.20	654.90	ATUL	10739.00	10749.00	10050.00	10216.70	IFBIND	1180.95	1195.25	1169.00	1170.00	
HEROMOTOCO	2904.10	2930.00	2865.50	2870.00	-34.10	NMDC	159.50	159.50	151.40	152.40	GMRINFRA	43.10	44.40	41.50	41.75																
SUNPHARMA	837.00	842.20	826.65	826.00	-9.90	PNB	46.80	47.40	43.90	44.20	ICICIPRULI	681.95	682.15	655.65	661.00																
HINDALCO	547.70	547.70	525.05	535.90	-6.90	TATAELXSI	6400.00	6610.00	6175.00	6283.20	PAGEIND	37912.85	40228.80	37580.25	38286.00																
AXISBANK	820.00	827.00	798.50	800.30	-13.00	GODREJPROP	2450.10	2541.90	2354.05	2396.55	CADILAHC	533.65	536.00	524.05	526.60																
ASIANPAINT	3260.90	3269.10	3176.10	3187.00	-54.50	IBULHSGFIN	251.95	264.50	248.50	252.95	PETRONET	234.30	235.60	230.00	230.65																
DREDDY	4905.00	4920.00	4790.00	4948.85	-82.65	LT	1805.00	1884.90	1801.60	1846.40	HAVELLS	1463.00	1482.00	1412.40	1428.30																
BAJFINANCE	7890.00	7914.70	7671.00	7720.30	-145.25	SBIN	500.00	504.10	483.30	488.45	BDL	415.05	455.00	415.05	429.00																
GRASIM	1757.00	1770.45	1711.55	1721.40	-32.55	ZEEL	311.20	321.00	301.35	309.75	NHPC	36.20	36.70	33.55	34.00																
SBIN	500.35	504.20	483.25	488.70	-9.25	BAJAJFINSV	18864.00	19319.95	18600.00	19054.05	INDIGO	2065.00	2083.75	2005.15	2017.55																
ONGC	163.35	163.50	158.00	159.00	-3.10	JINDALSTEL	465.00	472.20	435.40	440.60	POWERGRID	205.45	205.45	197.00	198.50																
SHREECEM	2820.05	2839.35	2756.20	2764.95	-543.35	NATIONALUM	123.75	123.75	112.50	114.15	PCL	151.00	151.65	143.25	144.05																
IOC	136.65	137.25	133.35	133.60	-2.75	TATACHEM	1109.75	1121.25	1067.55	1078.75	BPCL	465.80	465.80	450.00	452.25																
INDUSINDRK	1222.00	1240.00	1185.60	1199.00	-26.60	CANBK	201.00	201.35	189.05	190.75	SRF	2335.00	2374.35	2297.00	2309.15																
BPCL	463.90	465.00	449.95	452.05	-10.45	BANKBARODA	94.25	94.80	88.50	89.40	AARTIND	1165.00	1168.40	1093.05	1098.85																
ADANIPORTS	815.00	820.00	785.00	791.00	-19.55	BHEL	75.00	76.50	68.00	69.65	VARROC	308.00	310.05	294.55	297.00																
UPL	75.00	75.90	72.60	73.10	-19.50	IBREALEST	175.70	176.80	158.45	161.90	HINDPETRO	334.00	336.85	322.10	323.10																
DIVISLAB	534.00	539.00	517.75	519.00	-153.05	RELIANCE	2726.00	2750.00	2708.00	2731.50	NAMVINFLUOR	3878.00	3985.00	3825.00	3860.25																
ULTRACEMCO	7489.00	7489.00	7153.00	7187.00	-21.20	T																									



GLOBE TROTTING

**98 WOMEN SWORN IN AS JUDGES IN EGYPT**  
**Cairo:** Nearly 100 women Tuesday became the first female judges to join Egypt's State Council, one of the country's main judicial bodies. The 98 women were sworn in before the council's chief judge, Mohammed Hossam el-Din, in a celebratory event in Cairo. The swearing-in came months after President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi asked for women to join the State Council and the Public Prosecution, the two judicial bodies that until recently were exclusively male.

**SCUBA DIVER DISCOVERS ANCIENT SWORD**  
**Jerusalem:** An Israeli scuba diver has salvaged an ancient sword off the country's Mediterranean coast that experts say dates back to the Crusaders. Israel's Antiquities Authority said Monday the man was on a weekend dive in northern Israel when he spotted a trove of ancient artifacts that included anchors, pottery and a meter-long (yard-long) sword.

**HAITI GANG SEEKS \$17M FOR US MISSIONARIES**  
**Port-Au-Prince:** A gang that kidnapped 17 members of a US-based missionary group has demanded a \$17 million ransom for them, according to Haiti's justice minister, as quoted by the *Wall Street Journal*. Justice Minister Liszt Quittel said the gang was demanding \$1 million per person. Quittel did not immediately return messages for comment, but he also confirmed the figure to the *New York Times*.

**KHALILZAD RESIGNS AS SPECIAL AFGHAN ENVOY**  
**Washington:** Zalmay Khalilzad, the Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation who brokered the peace deal between the United States and the Taliban, has stepped down and replaced by veteran American diplomat Thomas West, Secretary of State Tony Blinken said. "As Special Representative for Afghan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad steps down from his role. I extend my gratitude for his decades of service to the American people," Blinken said.

# ‘Pak may remain on ‘grey list’ till FATF’s next meet’

**Islamabad:** Pakistan may remain on the 'grey list' of the FATF till the global money laundering and terror financing watchdog meets for its next session in April 2022, according to a media report on Tuesday.

Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) will be in session for three days from October 19-21 and it is expected that Tuesday's session may be informed that Pakistan is still short of meeting the FATF criterion, according to a report in The News International reported from the French capital.

The report, quoting sources in German media house Deutsche Welle, said the global body's decision on putting Pakistan off the 'grey list' may be taken in the next session slated for April 2022.

The FATF in June retained Pakistan on its 'grey list' for failing to check money laundering, leading to terror financing, and asked Islamabad to investigate and prosecute senior leaders and commanders of

UN-designated terror groups, including Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar.

It also asked Pakistan to work to address its strategically-important deficiencies.

Virtually connected delegates will join those that are able to travel to Paris for three days of meetings, during which they will discuss key issues to strengthen global action against the financial flows that fuel crime and terrorism, the FATF said in a statement on Monday.

The FATF said it will finalise key reports, including the revised guidance on virtual assets and their service providers and discuss next steps to strengthen its standards on transparency of beneficial ownership.

Delegates will also discuss the outcomes of the FATF's survey to identify areas where divergent anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing rules or their implementation cause friction for cross-border payments. FATF is leading work on this aspect of the G20's priority to improve

cross-border payments, it said.

The FATF, which will announce the outcomes of the plenary on October 21, will also update its statements identifying jurisdictions with strategic deficiencies in their measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

Pakistan was placed on the grey list by the FATF in June, 2018 and was given a plan of action to complete it by October, 2019. Since then the country continues to be in that list due to its failure to comply with the FATF mandates.

With Pakistan's continuation in the grey list, it is increasingly becoming difficult for the country to get financial aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the European Union, thus further enhancing problems for the country.

Pakistan has so far avoided being on the blacklist with the help of China, Turkey and Malaysia.

PTI

# Russia hits another record of daily coronavirus deaths

**MOSCOW:** Russia registered another daily record of coronavirus deaths Tuesday as rapidly surging infection rates raised pressure on the country's health care system and prompted the government to suggest declaring a nonworking week.

The government task force reported 1,015 coronavirus deaths over the past 24 hours, the highest number since the start of the pandemic. That brought the total death toll to 225,325 — by far the highest in Europe. It also registered 33,740 new infections over the past day.

Amid a spike in infections and deaths, Deputy Prime Minister Tatyana Golikova suggested introducing a weeklong nonworking period starting Oct. 30 that includes an extended public holiday. She said the Cabinet will ask President Vladimir Putin to authorize the move.

Until now, the Kremlin has ruled out a new nationwide lockdown like the one early on

in the pandemic that dealt a heavy blow to the economy and sapped Putin's popularity.

The daily coronavirus mortality numbers have been surging for weeks and topped 1,000 for the first time over the weekend amid sluggish vaccination rates, lax public attitude toward taking precautions and the government's reluctance to toughen restrictions.

Russia boasted about becoming the first country in the world to authorize a coronavirus vaccine in August 2020 even though it was only tested on a few dozen of people at the time, proudly naming the shot Sputnik V after the world's first satellite to underline the country's scientific achievements.

While extolling Sputnik and three other domestic vaccines developed later, Russia's state-controlled media chafed at the perceived flaws of Western-made shots, a controversial message that many observers saw as feeding public doubts about vaccines. **PTI**

# Mali asks Islamic High Council to dialogue with al-Qaida

**BAMAKO:** Mali's Government has asked the country's Islamic High Council to begin a dialogue with al-Qaida-linked groups in a new effort to address a nearly decade-long insecurity crisis. It is not clear when the dialogue will begin, but the council will lead discussions with Malian jihadist leaders Iyad Ag Ghaly and Amadou Kouffa of the al-Qaida-linked group known as JNIM, the council said.

Mohamed Kibiri, spokesman for the council, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that he was asked by the government last week to launch discussions. He said they are working with their representatives in the country's north. "The only directive we have received is to negotiate only with the Malians," he said. "The other jihadists we consider invaders."

He also said the subject of Shariah law is not "taboo. Everything is negotiable."

Mali's minister of religious affairs and worship, Mamadou Koné, confirmed that the gov-

ernment asked the council to lead discussions with the two groups.

This is not the first time the Malian government has asked the council to open dialogue with jihadist groups. Earlier this year, the council reached a cease-fire agreement between an al-Qaida-linked group and local fighters in a village in the Niono circle in central Mali. The jihadists granted freedom of movement to the villagers, and peaceful cohabitation with the army and local armed groups, in exchange for compulsory veiling of women, collection of taxes and traditional justice.

Mali has been fighting growing insecurity since 2012, when al-Qaida-linked groups took over parts of the north. Despite a French-led military operation that forced many rebels from their northern strongholds in 2013, insurgents quickly regrouped and have been advancing year after year toward the south of the country, where the Malian capital is located. **AP**

# Crowds outside Myanmar’s prisons greet freed detainees

**BANGKOK:** Crowds gathered Tuesday outside prisons around Myanmar, waiting for at least a glimpse of friends and relatives who were being freed under an amnesty for people arrested for protesting against military rule.

The head of the army-installed government, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, announced the amnesty covering more than 5,600 people on Monday. State television said it included 1,316 convicts who would be freed from prisons around the country and 4,320 others pending trial whose charges would be suspended.

The announcement came three days after the Association of Southeast Asian Nations delivered a rare snub by declining to invite Min Aung Hlaing

to an upcoming summit, even though Myanmar is part of the 10-member bloc.

The move reflected ASEAN's frustration with the continued stalling of a visit to the country by its special envoy, who was appointed as part of an initiative to find a way out of the violent crisis that has gripped Myanmar since the army overthrew Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government in February.

The government had refused to grant the request of the special envoy, Brunei Second Foreign Minister Erywan Yusof, to meet with Suu Kyi. She has been detained since the military takeover and is being tried on several charges that her supporters say are politically motivated. **AP**

# UN atomic agency head to visit Iran as nuke talks uncertain

**WASHINGTON:** The head of the U.N.'s atomic watchdog plans to visit Iran before the end of next month amid questions about whether Iran will return to negotiations aimed at reviving the languishing 2015 nuclear deal.

International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi said Tuesday he intends to visit Tehran "soon" to discuss and hopefully resolve specific concerns about Iran's nuclear program. Iran is in violation of several aspects of the 2015 deal that the IAEA is charged with monitoring and has suspended some elements of other cooperation with the watchdog.

On a visit to Washington, Grossi told reporters that he expects to go to Iran before the next meeting of the IAEA board of governors in late November. Some countries are pushing for the board to condemn Iran's nuclear activity, including violations of the nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or JCPOA.

Grossi, who met on Monday with Secretary of State Antony Blinken, would not predict whether the IAEA board would take such action, saying it will likely depend on what Iran does in the meantime. **AP**

# North Korea tests possible submarine missile amid tensions

**SEOUL:** North Korea on Tuesday fired at least one ballistic missile, which South Korea's military said was likely designed to be launched from a submarine, in what is possibly the most significant demonstration of the North's military might since U.S. President Joe Biden took office.

The launch of the missile into the sea came hours after the U.S. reaffirmed an offer to resume talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons program. It underscored how North Korea has continued to expand its military capabilities during the pause in diplomacy.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement it detected that North Korea fired one short-range missile it

believed was a submarine-launched ballistic missile from waters near the eastern port of Sinpo, and that the South Korean and U.S. militaries were closely analyzing the launch.

The South Korean military said the launch was made at sea, but it didn't say whether it was fired from a vessel underwater or another launch platform above the sea's surface.

Japan's military said its initial analysis suggested that North Korea fired two ballistic missiles. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said officials were examining whether they were submarine-launched.

Kishida interrupted a campaign trip ahead of Japanese legislative elections later this month and returned to Tokyo

because of the launch. He ordered his government to start revising the country's national security strategy to adapt to growing North Korean threats, including the possible development of the ability to pre-emptively strike North Korean military targets.

"We cannot overlook North Korea's recent development in missile technology and its impact on the security of Japan and in the region," he said.

Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi said one of the North Korean missiles reached a maximum altitude of 50 kilometers (30 miles) and flew on "an irregular trajectory" while traveling as far as 600 kilometers (360 miles). **AP**

## FROM PAGE 1

# CHINA RENEWS FOCUS ALONG ARUNACHAL AMID STAND-OFF

The IBGs will comprise a mix of infantry, artillery, air defence, tanks, and logistics units, and the new setup is expected to revamp the Army's warfighting capabilities, particularly along the borders with China and Pakistan.

"We have adequate forces that are available in each sector to deal with any contingency that may arise. We are practising and rehearsing various contingencies that may arise," he said.

Meanwhile, along with the drones, the Indian Army's aviation wing has also been deploying the Weapon System Integrated (WSI) variant of the Advanced Light Helicopter Rudra in the region adding more teeth to its tactical missions in the region. The government is also working on connecting Tawang with a railway network as part of the decision to enhance infrastructure in the region.

India and China have held 13 rounds of Corps Commander level talks to end the stand-offs in Eastern Ladakh. However, the latest round on October 10 failed to make any breakthrough with the Chinese side not agreeing to suggestions made by the Indian Army.

The military dialogue took place more than two months after the last round of talks that led to the disengagement of forward-deployed troops from Gogra, or Patrol Point-17A, which was one of the flashpoints on the LAC in Ladakh, in early August.

# FEW TAKERS FOR 2ND SHOT AS INDIA NEARS 100-CR MARK, GOVT WORRIED

The States and UTs should focus on the second dose, said Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan after having a discussion and reviewing the mass vaccination drive across the country virtually with Health Secretaries and National Health Mission Managing Directors of states and UTs.

The Ministry also asked States and UTs to identify and prioritise districts with low coverage for focused action and explore requirements for mobilisation efforts, addressing local challenges, the need for additional Covid vaccination centres, and improving access in rural areas.

Officials have been asked to draft strategies such as the nationwide campaign to increase the uptake of the second dose of Covid-19 vaccines. "After the completion of 100 crore doses of

Covid-19 vaccine, there seems to be a need to promote the second dose. As the cases of infection are going down, people are also taking the second shot lightly and not turning up on their due dates," said a senior official at the Ministry.

Dr Rahul Bhargava, leading Hemato-Oncologist practicing in Fortis Hospital, Gurugram said people are becoming complacent as cases are declining. But they should know that the virus is still lurking in the air. "People should not lower their guard and seriously adopt Covid-19 appropriate behaviour. In fact not only people should get fully vaccinated, but the Government must also work on a strategy to provide booster doses," he said.

Dr RK Dhamija, head of the Neurological Department in Lady Harding Hospital expressed similar views and said vaccination means safety. At least vaccination will ensure that even if infected it will not be fatal, he added.

# PRIYANKA ANNOUNCES 40% QUOTA TO WOMEN IN UP POLLS

Hitting out at the Opposition about her new women strategy, she said, "Our rivals will see it with a negative mindset. Let them do so. I believe the real purpose of politics is development and change for betterment. Today the meaning of politics has changed."

Claiming that there was effort to mislead people by false propaganda about development and better life, she asked, "Who is able to pay Rs 1,000 for a cooking gas cylinder? Who is not troubled with escalating prices of petrol and diesel?"

"People are thinking what actually betterment has taken place in their life. People are unable to meet the household expenses but advertisements claim that all is good," she alleged.

Meanwhile, when asked whether the same formula of 40 per cent reservation for women would be extended to the Congress-ruled States, including Punjab, Priyanka said, "I am in charge of UP and we have taken this decision here. If they (Punjab), they are welcome to implement the formula."

She said women were being divided on the basis of caste which weakened their battle for justice. "A woman's struggle is not limited to a gas cylinder or Rs 2,000. It goes beyond that. We have to rise above the shackles of casteism and communalism and come together as a group," she said.

When asked whether wives and daughters of leaders would not take advantage of this reservation, Priyanka

said, "What is wrong with that if it leads to empowerment. In Amethi, a village pradhan's wife contested and won elections. After some months, he met me and said that his wife has started making decisions in the house as well. This is empowerment."

She said the Congress would help women fight elections and next time, they will be stronger. She further said the candidates would be decided on the basis of merit. Talking about the Opposition onslaught on her, Priyanka said, "The other parties should get more creative when they attack me. Political tourists and Twitter leaders have become stale," she said.

Priyanka is touring the poll-bound state for the last few months regularly and meeting the party workers. She is now all set to shift base permanently to Lucknow till elections are held.

Priyanka wants to send a message to the Congress workers that the party leadership is serious about its revival plans and wants to fight the next assembly polls with full force. Priyanka has asked party workers to strengthen the party at the block level, form committees and reach out to the public.

# MULTI-AGENCY PROBE INTO PANDORA STARTS

On October 5, the Centre ordered the Multi-Agency Group probe into the Pandora Papers case.

In a statement, the CBDT had said the government has taken note of this and relevant investigative agencies would undertake an investigation in these cases and appropriate action would be taken as per law.

To ensure effective investigation of these cases, the government has also decided to proactively engage with foreign jurisdictions for obtaining information in respect of relevant taxpayers/entities.

# 3 BANK EMPLOYEES AMONG 12 HELD FOR SIPHONING OFF MONEY FROM NRI ACCOUNT

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Cyber Cell) KPS Malhotra said, "Police conducted raids on 20 locations across Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, and arrested 12 people, including three employees of the bank who were involved in issuing the cheque book, updating the mobile phone number and removing the debt freeze of the account."

The group lived in an employee of the bank for issuing a cheque book and removing the account's debt freeze by promising her Rs 10 lakh. They also

promised to buy insurance from her for Rs 15 lakh, a target assigned to her by the bank for appraisal purposes, the DCP said.

In the past too, attempts were made to withdraw money from this account, and two cases had been registered in Ghaziabad and Mohali, the police said.

More raids are in progress, they added.

HDFC Bank in statement said, "Our systems detected unauthorised and suspicious attempts to transact in certain accounts. We reported the matter to law enforcement agencies for further and necessary investigation, and lodged an FIR."

Based on the FIR, police have arrested some suspects, including bank staff, it said, adding, "We have suspended bank staff pending outcome of the investigation."

# B'DESH PM ASKS MINISTERS TO TAKE ACTION AFTER ATTACKS ON HINDUS

Prime Minister Hasina, who joined the meeting through video conferencing from her official residence, also urged the people of the country not to trust anything on social media without fact-checking, he added.

She has instructed the home ministry to remain vigilant and take steps to prevent such incidents from recurring, Islam said.

Local media reported that six Hindus were killed in separate attacks, but the figures could not be confirmed independently.

"The Comilla incident is being investigated. What really happened can be known soon," he said, adding that the home ministry is working to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Prime Minister Hasina has promised to bring to justice the perpetrators of recent violence. She has announced to provide all possible assistance to the affected families.

The foreign ministry statement underlined that the Government of Bangladesh "unequivocally condemned those incidents and took serious note of the reactions from within and outside the Hindu community."

Regrettably, it said, the domestic elements that opposed Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan 50 year ago were still propagating their "toxic narratives to instigate violence, hatred and bigotry".

But the government took quick steps to contain the disturbing situation, calling out paramilitary and other elite law enforcement forces to support police and administration to secure the Hindu religious sites and idols, it said.

Police have arrested 450 suspected

attackers in different parts of the country and a manhunt was underway to track down more.

"A total of 71 cases were filed and so far 450 people were arrested. The figure of cases and arrests could rise as a manhunt is underway to track down the culprits who are on the run to evade justice," a police spokesman said.

"The Government remains committed to prevent the recurrence of such untoward incidents and would expect that further complication or misunderstanding would be averted through responsible and fact-based reporting through all media platforms," the foreign office statement said.

The statement claimed that Bangladesh is perhaps the only country where the major religious festivals of all religions are observed as public holidays.

This year, on the occasion of Durga Puja, the Prime Minister donated Taka 30 million (USD 35,000) to the Hindu Kalyan Trust for the smooth observance of the festival.

Meanwhile, the ruling Awami League party organised 'harmony rallies' and took out peace processions across the country on Tuesday against the recent communal violence.

"Do not fear, Hindu brothers and sisters. Sheikh Hasina and the Awami League are with you. Sheikh Hasina's government is a minority-friendly government," Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader said at a rally in front of the party's central office on Bangabandhu Avenue here.

He asked his party members to build resistance against communal forces, The Daily Star newspaper reported.

He said that the ruling party will remain on the streets till the communal forces are dealt with.

Party's leaders and workers all over the country are ready to give a proper reply to these forces, he was quoted as saying by the paper.

# RAIN WREAKS HAVOC IN U'KHAND, 23 LIVES LOST

In Ramgarh area of Bhawali Tehsil of Nainital, cloudburst triggered a landslide due to which a retaining wall fell over some huts of labourers.

Nine people died while one was injured in the incident. Five people were reported dead in the Totapani village of Mukteshwar in Nainital district.

In view of the incessant rains, Dhani reiterated his appeal to Chardham yatris to stay where they are and not to resume their journeys before the weather improved.

With 23 rain-related deaths on Tuesday, the State's toll rose to 28, according to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC), which also said the Kumaon region was the worst-

hit. Five deaths were reported on Monday.

Director General of Uttarakhand Police Ashok Kumar, who accompanied Dhani on a visit to the rain-hit areas of the Kumaon region, said roads, bridges and railway tracks have been damaged in Kathgodam and Lalkuan in Nainital and Rudrapur in Udham Singh Nagar.

It will take at least four-five days to repair the damaged tracks, Kumar told PTI.

Three Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopters have arrived in the State and are assisting in relief and rescue operations. Two of them have been deployed in Nainital district, which has suffered extensive damage due to cloudbursts and landslides, Dhani said.

According to a rough estimate, around 100 pilgrims from different parts of Gujarat who had gone to Uttarakhand for the Chardham Yatra were stranded following heavy rains and landslides, Gujarat Revenue Minister Rajendra Trivedi said.

The National Disaster Response Force has rescued over 300 people from flood-affected areas of Uttarakhand, the federal force said on Tuesday. The NDRF has deployed 15 teams in the State.

Meanwhile, heavy rainfall was reported from other parts of the country as well including Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, according to the IMD, which forecast an intense spell of rain over east and northeast till Wednesday, and south peninsular region during next four-five days.

A 35-year-old woman and her mother-in-law died in Uttar Pradesh's Fatehpur after a wall of their house collapsed following heavy rains. In Bareilly, also in UP, two labourers died of electrocution in Bisalpur road after coming in contact with a solar panel following heavy rains, police said.

In West Bengal, the Met Department said heavy rainfall is very likely to continue till Thursday morning even as the low-pressure system that developed over the Gangetic Basin in the southern part of the state moved to Bihar, parts of which received heavy rains during the day.

The weatherman warned of extremely heavy rainfall over Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Alipurduar till Wednesday morning and downpour till Thursday over all sub-Himalayan districts.

The IMD forecast more rain on Wednesday in Odisha, which has already been battered by low-pressure area-induced downpour for the last three days. Fishermen were advised not to venture into the Bay of Bengal for the next 48 hours.



The lack of policies and practices that validate and support the LGBTQIA+ youth and the failure in implementing existing safeguards puts them at a physical and psychological risk, restricting their potential to excel in their education, says AACHAL JAIN

In today's time, schools are prioritizing equality and have been working on providing an environment where all the children can learn, thrive, and succeed. The teacher's role can be instrumental or integral in ensuring that LGBTQIA+ students get an equal opportunity to grow and learn in a safe environment, by supporting and advocating for them. Based on research, about 96 per cent of the LGBTQIA+ students believe that at least one adult in their educational institution extends support, understanding and reassurance.

The lack of policies and practices that validate and support the LGBTQIA+ youth and the failure in implementing existing safeguards means that these students will continue to face bullying, exclusion, and discrimination during the most impressionable years of their growing up. This puts them at a physical and psychological risk thereby restricting their potential to excel in their education. Hence, it is important to highlight the guidelines around the importance of inclusive schools that support the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community.

**Develop curriculum to promote inclusivity**

Developing lessons that eliminate bias and inculcate positive representations of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Agender/Aromantic/Asexual individuals in history and events is one way educators may build a positive classroom atmosphere. Featuring unisex or gender-neutral names could be another! Normalise conversations about queer scientists, historical figures or mathematicians in the classroom. LGBTQIA+ students in schools with an inclusive curriculum can relate to adverse school experiences and strengthen their sense of belonging to the school community.



**Focus on the emotional well-being**

Efforts to develop and understand school protective factors and their impact on LGBTQIA+ students have often encountered institutional challenges. Formative research on the role of protective factors such as school networking, supportive educators, anti-bullying strategies has shown promising ways to improve the LGBTQIA+ community's health and well-being. Develop a positive environment

Supportive educators are a lifeline for LGBTQIA+ children, and school is frequently the only place where they can connect with peers and adults who can mitigate rejection and provide acceptance. As John Dewey has shared "Schools are a reflection of our society", it is crucial that schools take active steps to create a safe and supportive learning environment. This can be done in simple ways like putting up "safe space" signs or rainbow flags in the



Achal Jain  
Pastoral Care Coordinator,  
Aditya Birla World Academy

AN INCREASING AMOUNT OF EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT HAVING A GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE (GSA) ON CAMPUS HAS A LONG AND HEALTHY IMPACT ON STUDENT'S HEALTH, WELFARE, AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT. PRIDE CLUBS AND GROUPS FOR LGBTQIA+ STUDENTS ARE ESSENTIAL

corridors. Schools could speak about landmark days for LGBTQIA+ community in the school assembly, display books with LGBTQIA+ representation in the library, etc. Over time, these little things will help create a shift in attitudes among the others.

**Conduct programmes to build awareness**

Sex education is a common area to start when it comes to teaching the students about sexual orientation and gender identity and encouraging inclusion of LGBTQIA+ individuals and families. At the moment, sex education programmes seldom, if ever, include sexual orientation and gender identity, and when they do, the content is often misleading and extremely negative. Therefore, this space needs attention of all stakeholders to implement LGBTQIA+ inclusive sex education. We may also need to look into legal aspects when working on this.

**Promote student support groups**

Pride clubs and similar student groups for LGBTQIA+ students are particularly essential platforms for linking students with support-

ive adults. An increasing amount of evidence shows that having a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) on campus has a long and healthy impact on the student's health, welfare, and academic achievement. Student-led GSAs can assist schools in combating LGBTQIA+ student harassment, foster dialogue about diversity and acceptance to create a thriving safe space for queer and trans youth at school.

**Provide training to staff and teachers**

Schools must ensure that the staff is competent and confident in their ability to implement learning opportunities such as cultural skills training and safety training to increase awareness of issues affecting LGBTQIA+ students and develop effective strategies to improve their educational experience. Schools must also examine their policies around bullying, discrimination and exclusion highlighting the need for the staff to respond to all forms of abuse. Schools must also ensure that vocational training involves LGBTQIA+ students with different and overlapping identities, as this can truly help make a difference!

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

**Real education should consist of drawing the goodness and the best out of our own students.**

— Cesar Chavez

## FASHION DESIGN COURSES AT EDU BRAIN ACADEMY

The Edu Brain Academy collaborated with the National and International universities offering bachelor programmes in Fashion Design, Fashion Business Management, Communication Design and Interior Architecture & Design. It also offers postgraduate programmes in Fashion Design and Fashion technology.

It offers these programmes through its creative studio-based education at its campus in New Delhi, Haryana, Uttarakhand.

It recently announced opening of admissions at the Edu Brain Academy School of Design for UG, PG and diploma-level courses.

**Applications:** Eligible students can apply online and offline. Admissions on marks and merit basis.

**Eligibility:** For the degree course, students should have completed Class 12 from any stream from a recognised board. For the diploma course, students should have passed Class 10 in any stream from an approved school board. Personal Interview.

**Deadline:** 30th October



## MSC SATELLITE DATA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow is inviting applications for the MSc Satellite Data for Sustainable Development course starting in January 2022. The course will have a focus on the practical use of satellite data in direct applications to SDGs through the analysis of case studies and engagement, through student projects and invited talks with start-ups and NGOs actively working in the field. Students will gain an insight in to the broad use of satellite data across various industries and will be equipped with the necessary technical skills

**Eligibility:** First or second-class honours degree (or international equivalent) in either Engineering, Science, Public Policy, Law, and Business.

**Fees:** 1,850 for international students

## Admissions for Spring 2022 at Truman State University

Truman State University has announced student enrolments for on-campus studies for its programmes – Computer Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Biochemistry and Business Administration for those aspiring for international education. Classes commence January 10, 2022.

"The ravages of the global pandemic have impacted the dreams and decisions of many Indian students who planned to study abroad in the past 18 months," said Tim Urbonya, Executive Director of International Education at Truman. We are looking forward to welcoming our new Indian students in the spring 2022 session in Missouri."

Programmes provide students with the skills and experience industry requires.

To help students reach their study goals during these challenging times, Truman introduced special merit-based scholarships of up to \$10,000 for high achieving students from India.

The deadline to apply for Spring semester scholarship consideration has been extended to October 30, 2021, while the deadline to apply for fall 2022 scholarship consideration is April 30, 2022.

# It is time to prosper digitally

The use of the digital course has deepened hopes of a radical shift in various sections such as agriculture, health, education, small loans, and commerce in the next few years

We recently celebrated the 26th anniversary of the launch of internet services in India. In the past 26 years, our country has touched many digital technology dimensions. IndiaStack is one among them, which is vital for overall digital development. It is a combination of several digital technology projects to provide a robust digital infrastructure to the country. Even today, it has solved many complex problems of the country. IndiaStack's mantra is to promote paperless, non-attendance, non-currency service, and transaction processes.

Stack is a commonly used word in Information Technology, including compatible technologies that create software, web apps, or mobile apps. The stack requires the operating system, server, programming language, database, and other related technical aspects to be consistent. The Government of India has developed IndiaStack for the entire country, providing various facilities and services including identification, verification, and payment. The basic services currently available are Aadhaar Authentication, Aadhaar e-KYC, Electronic Signature, DigiLocker, UPI, and Digital Consent (currently under development). Its services have enabled our country to emerge as a leader in fintech. It is the only stack to be launched that is named after a country, and which has a proper combination of governance, technology, and regulators.

Fintech came into being in 2009 with the setting up of two institutions - the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), and the Unique Identity Authority of India (UIDAI). In 2012, UIDAI facilitated consumer verification for businesspeople by enabling e-

**The use of the digital revolution in the last decade has led to a direct increase in transparency and accountability in public services. Our small and medium industries have also undergone positive changes. In the next phase, the Government is working on the appropriate, effective, and controlled use of personal data**



organisation of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology also ensured digital verification of documents and certificates by providing DigiLocker services to the general public. Thanks to this development, it has now become unnecessary to carry physical documents. All these services are part of the IndiaStack Scheme of the Government of India.

Because of the services included in it, the direct benefits of the schemes reached the general public. Farmers, senior citizens, or BPL families, everyone gets 100% allowance, pension, and other benefits directly to their

accounts. Now, people in remote areas can conduct financial transactions from their mobile phones with the help of the UPI app. We no longer have to sign many documents at government offices; Aadhaar's one-time password leads to quick verification. At the same time, fast and better disposal of services has begun. The use of IndiaStack has also facilitated the rapid and convenient collection of Indian taxes.

The Government is engaged in providing a more significant and efficient structure to the digital revolution.

IndiaStack is not as closed a system as China, where the country-made apps alone are promoted. It also does not follow economic principles such as laissez-faire as in the United States, where only a few companies have more market dominance in the open market. It is a robust, integrated, and open platform that can be used by Government, private, businesspeople, and people of all walks. In the next phase of the digital revolution, the Government is working on the appropriate, effective, and controlled use of personal data. It has also planned to use artificial intelligence and blockchain technologies for Civil Services.

The use of the digital revolution in the last decade has led to a direct increase in transparency and accountability in public services. Our small and medium industries have also undergone positive changes from the digital revolution. The use of the digital course has deepened hopes of a radical shift in various sections such as agriculture, health, education, small loans, and commerce in the next few years.

Prabhat Sinha, IT Expert & Amazon Bestseller Author of Innovate & Seize Your Success

## Internet, new playground for gen Z

The generation Z, also termed as Centennials, are the generation of the people born between 1997 and 2012. One unique thing about it is that we basically grew up on the internet. Anything our parents say they would do on pen and paper, we say, "There's an app for it."

Some elders say that we might be spoiled or spoon fed but we are just working in a more efficient way. A few decades into the past, one might have to go through an entire dictionary to find the meaning of one word, but not today. With Google today, we can find the meaning of any word, or in that case, the answer to any logical questions we may have, at the tap of a few buttons.

We love to meet and interact with people face-to-face, who doesn't? Well to meet people, we don't have to mandatorily be in the same location. With apps like Zoom, Skype, Facetime, imo, Google Duo right at our fingertips we can meet anyone, anywhere and at any time.

One cooler thing that we have is that we can purchase basically anything without having to go in-store waiting in long queues.

Groceries, clothes, stationary, food, furniture, you name it! You can buy anything you wished only with the click of a few buttons. Gen Z also accounts

for more than three-quarters (77%) of digital buyers with estimates to reach 85% (over 55M) by 2025.

The oldest people in our generation are now scratching the surface of adulthood. Gen Z is coming, to become a part of the multi-generational workspace. It is a bit evident that there will probably be a vast involvement of technology in it. If our new ways and perspectives are dealt with in the right way, powerful forces of innovation and introduction of new skills and abilities will be brought to the team.

Technology and the exposure to social media platforms at such an early age has influenced our lives immensely. If channeled in the right way, it can be vastly beneficial, if not, it will have its disadvantages. We are, without a doubt, the most potential laden generation of all time. But as Franklin D Roosevelt once said, "Great power involves great responsibility."

Like every other generation before us, the hope of humanity regarding advancement lies with us. With our whole lives ahead of us, we should look up with optimism because given time, opportunity and information, virtually everything is possible.

The writer is Diva Ailani, Student, Jasudben ML School

## Food expedition for class 5 students

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

Heritage Xperiential Learning School, known for its experiential learning pedagogy, recently launched a food-based expedition for its Class 5 students. Learning expeditions at Heritage are designed to allow for application of knowledge from multiple disciplines and usage of various skills, packing in experiences that

make learning real for students. The "I Am What I Eat" expedition explored the various aspects connected with food which ranged from studying the various components of food, deficiency diseases, and what comprises a balanced diet. It also introduced students to different types of food systems and farming practices like organic farming.

The unique aspect about

this expedition was that none of the above topics were taught only from the textbook but real-life, hands-on experiences were built into the learning of each of these. Some of the experiences that students had included nurturing a kitchen garden in their home, identifying and creating healthy recipes and selecting cooking methods, cooking oils and utensils which they found to be healthier

options explaining their reasons for choosing them.

Neena Kaul, Principal, Heritage Xperiential Learning School, said, "We at Heritage believe in enabling and empowering students so the effort is always to simulate real-life where one does not apply knowledge in a compartmentalized manner and being able to transfer knowledge across situations and subjects is critical.

## SRM and Mahindra sign MoU

PNS ■ KATTANKULATHUR

The Department of Automobile Engineering under the School of Mechanical Engineering at SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mahindra and Mahindra, Mahindra Research Valley, Mahindra World City, Chennai.

The key highlights of this MoU are, FIIP - Faculty Industry

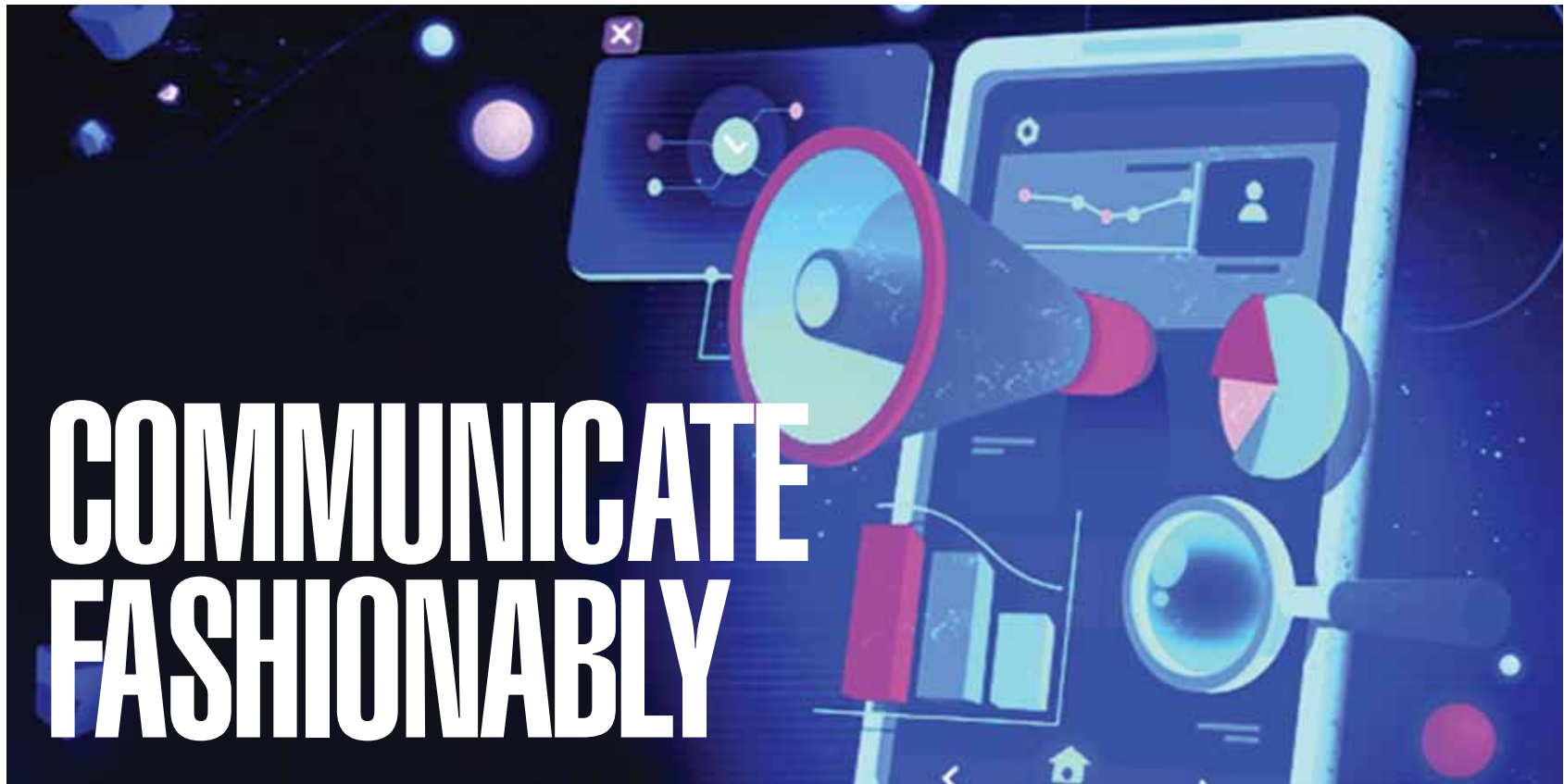


Immersion Programme for SRMIST Faculty members; usage of SRM - BRIN Centre, Centre of Excellence in Automation Technologies on "Hydraulics and

Pneumatics Technologies", Mechatronics and Wind Tunnel facility for M&M's Mahindra Research Valley ("MRV") engineers and experimental study;

MRV experts to deliver guest lectures to SRM students and SRM Faculties to deliver trainings to MRV engineers, in turn, based on need; M&M to offer internship to SRM Students; at MRV, without any payments; Submission of joint R&D proposals to Government; Industry visit for SRM students at MRV; and any other collaborations as the parties may mutually agree on from time to time. Dr Shankar M Venugopal elaborated the broad areas of research done at the valley.





# COMMUNICATE FASHIONABLY

Marketers are using digital tools like search advertising, email marketing and search engine marketing to build brand awareness and recall, says DR SUNITA GUPTA KONWAR

Fashion marketing is where fashion and business intersect to build awareness of brands' core philosophy and products, connect with the target audience, drive sales and boost revenue. Fashion entrepreneurs need to be thoroughly abreast of marketing communication trends and position their brand as the top choice for customers. Unlike other sectors, fashion communication campaigns should be able to achieve their goals and objectives within a short timeline after their launch. Thus, the short cycle is the salient feature of fashion marketing campaigns.

The fashion industry is highly dynamic, with trends rapidly evolving. The competition is also stiff marked by the entry of several new brands. Here are some marketing communication trends redefining the fashion industry.

The acceleration of digital transformation has reimaged the fashion communication landscape. Marketers are increasingly leveraging digital tools such as search advertising, email marketing, search engine marketing, etc., to build brand awareness and

recall. Nevertheless, mobile-friendly websites, advertisements and landing pages are among the top trends for the fashion industry due to increasing traffic from mobile devices over any other channels.

Mobile marketing provides personalised, location and time-sensitive information to customers on the go. Nevertheless, the rise of digital platforms in no way implies the death-knell of traditional marketing. While digital platforms help to boost engagement and reach, traditional media build awareness and recall. Both mediums will co-thrive as fashion brands ramp up their communication strategies to achieve tangible outcomes.

The COVID-19 has catalysed digitisation, paving the way for fashion shows to go digital. Designers are collaborating with tech companies to harness computer-aided models to showcase the new collections. A salient feature of these events is the harnessing of innovative technologies like Augmented Reality and Artificial Intelligence to offer curated experiences. For instance,

**The penetration of e-commerce, proliferation of emerging technologies and increasing social media consumption have prompted marketers to rethink their marketing communication strategies to monetise existing platforms effectively**

The fabric of reality simulated an experience of guests moving down a purple carpet in a futuristic museum toward the exhibition hall.

The hallmark of the show was a 360-degree immersive experience, including a mix of fashion, music and graphics. It also leveraged the power of collaboration among digital experts and designers to produce animated videos.

Technology has also emerged as a panacea to enhance efficiency, ensure cost-effectiveness and maximise Return On Investment (ROI) ROI on fashion communication campaigns. Technologies like AI help marketers gain insight into behavioural and purchase patterns of their target audience, segment them and customise their strategy accordingly.

Social shopping is among the relatively new fashion marketing trends. Fashion brands are linking their social media handles with their websites to enable viewers to make a purchase at one click anytime and anywhere.

Fashion bloggers/vloggers help reach out to new markets, increase lead generation and drive

sales for businesses.

Live streaming is another avenue with constant growth. Live streaming videos help fashion brands amplify their reach by enabling netizens to tune in to events from their devices in real-time. The fashion communication strategy should be geared towards establishing their official Livestream channels instead of relying on third-party players, besides YouTube, Instagram Live, Facebook Live, Vimeo Livestream, Streamshark and Ustream are fantastic live streaming platforms.

The penetration of e-commerce, the proliferation of emerging technologies and increasing social media consumption have prompted marketers to rethink their marketing communication strategies to monetise existing platforms more effectively and maximise their ROI from them. Nevertheless, great content with powerful storytelling and emotion will continue to be the key ingredient of successful marketing campaigns.

The writer is course leader, Associate Professor, Fashion Business Management, Indian Institute of Art and Design

## ‘Prepare engineers for digital roles’

The need of the hour is to promote experiential learning in engineering colleges across the country, says NARAYAN MAHADEVAN

As per the Oxford language dictionary, the word engineer means a person who designs, builds or maintains engines, machines, or structures. Similarly, engineering is the branch of science and technology concerned with the design, building, and use of engines, devices, and facilities. The word had originated to define to describe the people behind structural or building marvels. However, over the period of time, the definition of engineer has expanded.

Today, we have several fields of engineering - ranging from civil to mechanical, electrical and software. With rapid digitalisation in every area, it is vital to prepare future engineers from every engineering field for digital roles. In India, the engineering curriculums are limited to theories, rote learning, and getting high scores, none of which is beneficial in getting the jobs rather they have only limited the job prospects of engineering graduates.

The need of the hour is to promote experiential learning in engineering colleges across India. Companies nowadays look for employees that are innovative and experimental with their roles. Due to the lack of practical knowledge, engineers in India are not suitable for the available job profiles. One of the reasons that India has left behind in leading the tech innovation despite producing such a large number of engineers is that being experimental is not encouraged, new ideas are not given the space to grow in engineering institutes.

Apart from changing the curriculum, making the Indian engineers ready for future technologies is upskilling them and providing them with the required training. Engineering institutes need to encourage problem-solving and critical thinking skills by shifting the base to project-based education. Here are some of the other ways that can be adopted to make future Indian engineers tech-savvy.

### Boot camps

Most engineers go for boot camps during their college. There are often instances of engineering graduates learning more at boot camps and internships than during their course of the degree. It is the reason why some



Narayan Mahadevan  
Founder, BridgeLabz

companies prefer CVs that have boot camps experience on it because it means better skilled. Hence, encouraging more boot camps for engineers is another way to go.

### IT Labs

When it comes to building and nurturing talent, it is not the sole responsibility of engineering institutes. Companies need to come forward with opportunities where students can learn the process of, for instance, building applications from beginning to end. It will expose them to the process of coming up with an idea, designing it and project management, among other parts of the journey of making a tech-based product. Hence, introducing young engineers to IT labs is one way to make them a better workforce.

For engineers of tomorrow, the change has to come from within in the whole education and training process. In a nutshell, the way terms engineering and engineer have become inclusive of other fields, and it is vital for these fields themselves to become inclusive of technological advancements for a better future. India has given CEOs to tech giants like Google and Facebook. It's time we start engineering products of the level that cater for the world markets across fields.

Law governs the universe and every discipline contains the element of law within its sphere. By its very nature law is dynamic and progressive suiting to the needs of the society. By the term 'Law', we mean a set of rules specified for a given area which regulates the conduct of humans and prepares the people kind to meet the future exigencies.

Interestingly, law is omnipresent as its presence is found in every field of study, namely, medical, engineering, media, management, chartered accountancy, sociology, economics, geography, political science, psychology,

anthropology, philosophy, history, cultural and religious studies and so on and so forth. For instance, under the ambit of medical studies, one studies subjects like medical jurisprudence, forensic science and laws relating to negligence. One gets acquainted with Intellectual Property Rights Law, Cyber Laws, Information and Technology Laws and Telecommunication Laws, to name a few. In the field of mass media, various media related laws are covered like Prasar Bharti Act, 1990, Cable Networks Act, 1995, Press Council of India Act, 1978, relevant constitutional provisions and Right to Information Act, 2005. The

## MIND IT

study in Management and Chartered Accountancy too remains incomplete without the study of business and commercial laws too.

The Central Board of Secondary Education made an incredible move by introducing legal studies as a subject from Class XI onwards in schools in 2013. The study of law helps an individual to understand his rights and duties. In India, law degrees are conferred as per the

provisions of the Advocates Act, 1961.

The study of law assumes tremendous importance as lawyers are considered to be the social scientists, social engineers and above all social entrepreneurs.

Dissemination of quality legal education signifies the grooming of budding lawyers in the proper environment resulting in the right conditioning of their minds to serve the society.

Since change is the only constant in

law, therefore the concept of continuing legal education has been introduced in India in the recent past so that the lawyers keep themselves abreast with the latest development in the field of law.

The progressive efforts for providing continuing legal education to the lawyers must be made by various law schools/ universities, courts, commissions, law firms, ministries and various NGOs which are working for improvising the quality of legal education in India. The popular methods employed in continuing legal education encompass participation in seminars/ webinars, workshops, colloquiums and

conferences, writing research papers/articles and providing pro bono legal services and teaching.

Study of law is not only the learning of legal provisions but also training of mind to analyse and interpret legal provisions and suggest changes suiting needs of the time and society. To conclude, the study of law by every section of society certainly results into the expansion of legal awareness, raising one's consciousness and promoting a sense of well-being for one and all in the society.

The writer is Dr Daksha Sharma Assistant Professor of Law, School of Law, Bennett University



**The The Faculty of Science Masters Scholarship** are open for international students — January 2022 intake.

Scholarships of between £3,000 - £5,000 are available to new international students joining the MSc Advanced Computer Science or MSc Advanced Software Engineering in the Faculty of Science commencing January 2022 at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow.

**Eligibility:** In order to be considered for a Faculty of Science International Masters Scholarship, candidates must:

Be a new, international fee-paying student holding an offer of admission of a full-time place in MSc Advanced Computer Science or MSc Advanced Software Engineering.

Be self-funded. The Faculty of Science's decision on the awarding of scholarships is final. Appeals will not be considered.

For further information visit: <https://www.strath.ac.uk/study-with-us/scholarships/sci-encescholarships/facultyof-science-mastersscholarshipsfor-international-students-january-intake2122/>

**Application deadline:** It is December 15, 2021.

**The Shawnee State University invites applications for its Merit-Based**

### Scholarships in the US, 2022.

**Eligibility:** An ACT score of 30 and a higher or an SAT score of 1320+ and a high school grade point average of at least 3.8/4.0 scale you will be considered for this prestigious award. Those in consideration will be asked to submit sample work.

**Shawnee Achievement Award:** Score of 27 and a higher or an SAT score of 1210+ and a high school grade point average of at least 3.8/4.0 scale.

**Shawnee Excellence Award:** Score of 25 and a higher or an SAT score of 1130+ and a high school grade point average of at least 3.6/4.0 scale.

**Shawnee Success Award:** Score of 23 and a higher or an SAT score of 1060+ and a high school grade point average of at least 3.4/4.0 scale.

**Blue & Gray Award:** Score of 21 and a higher or SAT score of 980+ and a high school grade point average of at least 3.2/4.0 scale.

**English language:** Students whose first language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in English by submitting satisfactory scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

**How to apply:** Apply to Shawnee State. Application for admission will be used as your application. Send ACT/SAT score to the Office of Admission. Send your current high school grade point average to their Office of Admission.

**Application deadline:** It is December 1, 2021.

### QUESTION-SOLVING (PCMB) AT RANCIKE LEARNING

Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹12,000-₹15,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/3f6a45](https://internshala.com/i/3f6a45)  
Deadline: October 28, 2021

### WEB DEVELOPMENT AT THRIFTY SOFTWARE

Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹20,000-₹25,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/166170](https://internshala.com/i/166170)  
Deadline: October 28, 2021

### TEACHING (MATHEMATICS) AT SKILLSANTA

Location - Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹18,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/4469c4](https://internshala.com/i/4469c4)  
Deadline: October 28, 2021

### BUSINESS ANALYTICS AT SUPRDAILY

Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹40,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/e716a6](https://internshala.com/i/e716a6)  
Deadline: October 28, 2021

### IOS APP DEVELOPMENT AT ANTINO LABS

Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹20,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/c18468](https://internshala.com/i/c18468)  
Deadline: October 28, 2021

### DATA MINING AT OPEN HAND SOLUTIONS

Location: Chandigarh, Ambala, Mohali  
Stipend: ₹13,500 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/441b8c](https://internshala.com/i/441b8c)  
Deadline: October 27, 2021

### OPERATIONS AT JAIN AVIATION INTERNATIONAL

Location: Ranchi  
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/2f6367](https://internshala.com/i/2f6367)  
Deadline: October 27, 2021

## INBRIEF

### WHITE LIGHT EMITTER FOR LEDs

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras Researchers have developed a white light emitter for use in LEDs. The development of energy-efficient Light Emitting Diodes or LEDs replaced the energy-inefficient incandescent lamps in lighting and display applications.

While LEDs have been available in almost all colours, white LEDs are a more recent development. Conventional LED materials can't emit white light and specialised techniques like coating blue LED with yellow phosphor and combining blue,

green, and red LEDs, have been used to produce white light. There has been a worldwide search for materials that can directly emit white light rather than through these indirect techniques that can cause loss of efficiency.

The innovation has been patented by the Researchers and was recently granted the Technology Translation Award. The Science and Engineering Research Board provides financial assistance to researchers, academic institutions, research and development laboratories, industrial concerns, and other agencies. The team proposes to use the grant money of ₹30 lakh to produce LEDs using their distorted perovskite materials.

### JAIN ONLINE TO CO-HOST EDUCATE SUMMIT

The Jain Online has partnered to co-host Techspections EDUCATE 2021 to be held on October 23, 2021.

The 4th edition of the summit will witness a huge gathering of industry leaders across the nation on a single virtual platform to

discuss the future of Indian education in a new normal era.

Industry leaders will discuss evolving trends in education space.

### TESTING OF NEW ENGINEERING EXAM

The Pearson VUE, the global leader in computer-based testing has announced the launch of a new engineering exam.

The entrance exam for engineering is a first-of-its-kind product, aimed specifically at engineering students during the important university admissions

stage.

The first exam was launched in December 2020 as a general aptitude test for all undergraduate courses.

Building off the successful market entry of this exam, Pearson VUE is now starting to offer tailored exam content for specialist subjects.

### LSAT-INDIA 2022 IN TWO CYCLES NOW

The Law School Admission Council (LSAC) has announced plans to administer the LSAT-India 2022 in two cycles using the online proctored format that will allow law school aspirants to take the test safely, from the convenience of their own homes.

The first administration of the test will be conducted on January 15, 2022 and the second administration

would be over a five-day period, starting May 9, 2022 to accommodate the larger number of anticipated test takers.

Registration are open. In our continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the LSAT-India 2022 will again be administered through an online delivery system with artificial intelligence-assisted remote proctoring to ensure the integrity and validity of each test. This format

enabled more than 7,600 aspiring law students, as well as law colleges to enjoy an uninterrupted admission cycle despite the extraordinary circumstances of the global health emergency.

The LSAC's Vice President Yusuf Abdulkareem explained that two opportunities to appear for the LSAT-India will help aspirants maximise their law college admission process.

### PROGRAMMES ON AI, BI, ML & DL FOR CORPORATES

The Times Professional Learning launched their signature programme, DATA JEDI, a comprehensive suite of Data Science, AI, Business Intelligence, Machine and Deep Learning training services to enhance an organisation's data analytical capabilities and create a data-driven culture for achieving desired business outcomes.

These courses will enable organisations build resource capability facilitating digital transformation and upskilling learners across domains. There are five courses — Business Intelligence Transformation, AI & ML for Everyone, ML & Data Science Essentials, ML & Data Science: Specialised Programmes, and Application-Based ML & DS Programmes.

### EDUCATION LOANS FOR UG & PG IN RAJASTHAN

The EmpowerYouth.com has now opened up its offerings to students in Rajasthan, after the immense success of their education loans for studies across Punjab and Himachal.

The organisation has tied up with Shyam University, Dausa to help their students with availability of education loans. More such partnerships across Rajasthan are being

finalised.

The students will be provided with interest free education loans. In addition, the company will provide various other benefits like campus placements for jobs and internships, as well as expert sessions with industry leaders from across India and the globe.

The organisation has also tied up with [PaisaOnline.net](https://www.paisaonline.net) to provide fee-financing solutions to

students coming from rural areas of the State of Rajasthan.

Loans up to ₹10 lakh will be provided under interest-free scheme to the students for college education in EmpowerYouth.com partner institutions. Loans in non-partner institutions will be provided at very low rates of interest.

For more information, please visit: [www.empoweryouth.com](https://www.empoweryouth.com)





## Srikanth, Sameer too advance at Denmark Open

PTI ■ ODENSE

Returning to action after a break, double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu saw off Turkey's Neslihan Yigit in straight games to join compatriots Kidambi Srikanth and Sameer Verma in the second round of the Denmark Open here on Tuesday.

Sindhu, the reigning world champion, took 30 minutes to get across Yigit, ranked 29th, 21-12 21-10 in her women's singles opener of the BWF World Tour Super 1000 tournament.

The fourth seeded Indian, who had skipped the Sudirman Cup and Uber Cup Final after the Tokyo Olympics, will next face Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan.

Former champion Srikanth and Sameer also made winning starts to their men's singles campaigns at the USD 850,000 event.

While Srikanth, who had claimed the title in 2017, outsmarted compatriot B Sai Praneeth 21-14 21-11 in 30 minutes, Sameer, ranked 28th, prevailed over Thailand's world no 21 Kunlavut Vitidsarn 21-17 21-14 in a 42-minute clash.

World no 14 Srikanth will meet world no 1 and top seeded Japanese Kento Momota in the second round, while Sameer is likely to face Denmark's third seed Anders Antonsen in the next round.

Indian men's doubles players, however, had a mixed day in office. While Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty defeated English pair of

## Sindhu should prioritise winning All England title, says Padukone

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India ace PV Sindhu is currently the best badminton player in the world but she should prioritise winning the All England Championship, which is the only trophy missing from her illustrious cabinet, said the legendary Prakash Padukone on Tuesday.

Sindhu, a double Olympic medallist and the reigning world champion, has won medals in almost all big-ticket events but the All England trophy has eluded her so far.

Padukone, India's first All England champion, said Sindhu should plan her schedule in such a way that she is in the best possible shape for winning the prestigious title.

Callum Hemming and Steven Stallwood 23-21 21-15 in their opener, MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila stunned England's world no 17 pair of Ben Lane and Sean Vendy 21-19 21-15 to make a positive start to their campaign.

But Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy lost 18-21 11-21 to Malaysia's Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin in the opening round to bow out of the competition.

World no 7 Sindhu, who had claimed a bronze at Tokyo Games to go with her Rio sil-

"If I was in her (Sindhu's) place, I would do that (prioritise the tournament). That is one title, which is missing from her ... otherwise I think she has done a fantastic job," Padukone said after launching the PSM Badminton Coaching Programme at the National Sports Club of India.

"...probably she is the best badminton player, she has won everything: Olympics, World Championship, five medals. All England is one which is not in her (winners list trophies)," he told reporters here on Tuesday.

Sindhu had become the first Indian woman to claim two Olympic medals when she won the bronze at Tokyo Games to go with her silver at Rio five years ago.

ver medal, hardly broke any sweat during her opening contest against Yigit.

The Indian was up 5-4 and then kept moving ahead to comfortably pocket the opening game.

The second game was no different as Sindhu erased a 1-3 deficit to grab a 10-4 lead. Yigit made it 9-10 before the Indian held a two-point advantage at the break.

After the interval, it was a one-way traffic as Sindhu sealed the contest without much ado.

# Scotland beat PNG for second win in a row Inch closer to Super 12s

PTI ■ AL AMERAT (OMAN),

Richie Berrington slammed a stroke-filled 70 while Josh Davey snapped four wickets as Scotland inched closer to the Super 12s with a comfortable 17-run win over Papua New Guinea in their Group B match of the ICC T20 World Cup on Tuesday.

Scotland grabbed the top position in Group B with two wins having shocked Bangladesh in their opening game. Berrington put on 92 runs off 65 balls with Matthew Cross (45) before adding

another 33 with Calum MacLeod (10) as Scotland posted a challenging 165 for 9 after opting to bat.

Kyle Coetzer's men then produced a splendid bowling effort to skittle out PNG for 148 in 19.3 overs with Davey (4/18) emerging as the stand-out bowler.

PNG thus made an early exit to their maiden campaign at the T20 World Cup following the second successive loss. They had lost to Oman by 10 wickets in their tournament opener.

Chasing 166 to win, PNG needed their batters to fire but they couldn't get any momentum and were soon reduced to 35 for 5 in 6 overs.

Norman Vanua (47) and Kiplin Doriga (18) then fought back adding 53 off 29 balls to raise hopes but Watt broke the partnership dismissing the latter in the 17th over.

Davey then returned to remove Vanua to dash PNG's slim hopes of a maiden victory

in its first global appearance.

Earlier, Berrington slammed three sixes along with six hits to the fence during his 49-ball stay to set the foundation for a big score but PNG put brakes in the last three overs, conceding only 19 runs and taking six wickets in the process.

Kabua Morea (4/31) and Chad Soper (3/24) were the most successful bowlers for PNG.

George Munsey smashed three fours to give Scotland a flying start but Morea castled skipper Coetzer at the other end in the third over to deal the first blow.

Munsey too perished soon while trying to muscle a delivery from Soper as Scotland slipped to 26 for 2 in 3.4 overs.

## T20WorldCupwindow

**DOUBTING WARNER AN ABSOLUTE NO-NO: MAXWELL**

**Abu Dhabi:** Doubting David Warner "is an absolute no-no," says Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell who is confident that the out-of-form opener will turn things around in the T20 World Cup. Warner has been woefully out-of-form with his IPL franchise Sunrisers Hyderabad removing him from captaincy in May before dropping him from the playing XI for the second time this year during the second leg. He scored 0 and 2 in the two games he played for Sunrisers in the UAE which was followed by a first-ball duck for Australia in the warm up match against New Zealand on Monday. "If you ever doubt Davey, it's an absolute no-no," Maxwell was quoted a saying by 'ESPNcricinfo.' You know he's going to turn it around. He's a superstar of all three formats. He's made so many runs. He's going to go down as one of the greats of the game." Warner heads into the World Cup having not played an international match in the shortest format for over a year but despite that he has the backing of his teammates including white-ball skipper Aaron Finch.

**LOVE HAVING DHONI IN DRESSING ROOM**

**AS HE BRINGS SENSE OF CALM: KL RAHUL**

**Dubai:** Picking Mahendra Singh Dhoni's brain is on KL Rahul's checklist for the next few weeks as he wants to utilise every bit of advice from Team India's mentor, who, according to the opener, always instils a sense of calm into the dressing room. Rahul, who is all set to open with Rohit Sharma in the T20 World Cup where India will start against Pakistan on Sunday, said that there couldn't have been a better "mentor" than Dhoni in what promises to be a tough journey. "Obviously, MS Dhoni (being) back with the team feels amazing because we have played under him and we have looked towards him as a mentor even when he was our captain," Rahul, who scored a fine half-century in the warm-up game against England, said during a Clubhouse session on 10 years of Red Bull Campus Cricket.

**WILL PROBABLY BOWL IN NEXT WARM-UP MATCH AGAINST INDIA, SAYS STOINIS**

**Dubai:** Australia all-rounder Marcus Stoinis has said that his hamstring is on the path of recovery and he will probably bowl in the next warm-up match against India on Wednesday. Stoinis, who opted out of Australia's T20 tours of the West Indies and Bangladesh, suffered an untimely hamstring injury in the IPL 2021. He spent three weeks on the sidelines, returning as a batter in Delhi Capital's season-ending loss to Kolkata in the playoffs. The all-rounder scored 28 from 23 balls in Australia's three-wicket win over New Zealand on Monday in a warm-up match in Abu Dhabi, but he didn't bowl. "The hammy is good and it's tracking pretty well. It feels like it's on the right track and it's ready to go. I'll probably bowl in that next game," Stoinis was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au.

**Agencies**

# World Snooker Qualifiers: Pankaj Advani shines with 121-point effort

IANs ■ MUMBAI

India's most celebrated cueist, Pankaj Advani (PSPB) neatly constructed a brilliant 121 points effort as he rallied splendidly from the loss of the opening two frames to prevail over Dhvaj Haria (PSPB) 4-2 and record his fourth successive win in the Men's 'Y' Camp (1st leg) round-robin league matches of the World Snooker Qualifiers, a BSFI National Selection Tournament on Tuesday.

The 36-year-old India No. 2 Advani, started hesitantly and the left-handed Dhvaj cashed on



the opportunities to take a 2-0 lead. But, the cool and calculated Advani, winner of multiple

World titles, showed his class as he turned on the magic in compiling a stupendous run

which drew loud cheers and applause from the goody crowds as he went on to win the third frame and get back into the match.

That three-figure break, the highest break so far in the competition, seemed to have knocked the fight out of Haria as the Bengaluru-based Advani went on to comfortable win the next three frames to complete a satisfying 29-74, 31-79, 121(121)-00, 69-14, 69-03 and 72-17 win.

On Monday night, Advani had defeated Pushpender Singh (RSPB) 4-1 (68(51)-34, 86-01, 00-86(86), 120(84)-11, 61-25)

win, the organisers informed in a release on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, National champions Aditya Mehta (Men) and Vidya Pillai (Women) both suffered setbacks. The 35-year-old Mehta (PSPB) came lost to Dhvaj Haria (PSPB) who played steadily to clinch a 4-2 (13-87, 79-39, 44-55, 82-00, 67-01, 71-36) victory late on Monday. However, Mehta regained his winning form and with breaks of 83 (2nd frame), 72 (4th), and 56 (5th) defeated Pushpender Singh (RSPB) 4-1 (55-19, 98(83)-00, 56-65(46), 129(72)-00 and 69(56)-33) to keep his qualifying hopes alive.

## Hardik, not bowling will not impact India's chances, feels Kapil Dev

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

Legendary cricketer Kapil Dev has opined that all-rounder Hardik Pandya not bowling will not impact Team India's chances at the ICC T20 World Cup. However, he added that it will affect the 'combination and the options' for Virat Kohli.

Kapil's comments came after Hardik refrained from bowling in India's warm-up match against England, which the Men-in-Blue won on Monday. Kohli used five full-time bowling options and they conceded 188 runs. Hardik (12\* off 10

balls) played as a specialist batsman.

"An all-rounder always makes a massive difference to a team. Hardik not bowling will not impact India's chances, but it will make a difference in terms of Kohli's options. If an all-rounder is available for both, it enhances the captain's ability to rotate bowlers and gives him the extra option to fall back on," Kapil Dev told Sportskeeda.

"In Hardik's case, India should be okay given the talent in the team, but him bowling even two overs will obviously lend more flexibility," he added.

## Indian women's football team faces Swedish top tier side in friendly match today

PTI ■ STOCKHOLM

With three recent international wins under its belt, a confident Indian women's football team will take on Swedish top tier league side Hammarby IF in a friendly match here on Wednesday.

This is the first of the two friendlies the Indian team will play in the Scandinavian country.

The team played four matches against UAE (4-1), Tunisia (0-1), Bahrain (5-0) and Chinese Taipei (1-0) as part of preparations for next year's women's AFC Asian Cup.

"It's a big challenge for us in Sweden, but the girls are motivated to give their best in every game," said goalkeeper Aditi Chauhan on the eve of the match.

"It's often about who wants more on the pitch, and our girls are certainly pumped up after the results that we have had recently," she added.

The Indian team under Swedish coach Thomas Dennerby scored 10 goals in the four international friendly games while conceding only one to register three wins and one loss.

"These games have been very helpful for the team. They helped us reflect on the team and individual performances. These matches helped us look at our strengths and weaknesses," another player Dalima Chhibber said.

"As a team, we are focused on building up to the AFC Women's Asian Cup next year, and competitive matches like these help us plan for the areas where we need to improve," Chhibber said that the team is working hard to adapt to the philosophy that coach Dennerby is trying to inculcate in the team.

"We are working with a new coaching philosophy both on and off the field. The preparations for the flagship tournament is going on in full swing," she said.

# Once having cycled across 17 nations 67-YR-OLD MAYURE ON MISSION KASHMIR TO KANYAKUMARI



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Having once paddled across 17 nations and 15,000 kilometres to reach Athens back in 2004, veteran Maharashtra cyclist Sanjay Mayure has embarked on 'Bharat Darshan' as he has undertaken a challenge to cycle from Kashmir to Kanyakumari in two months.

A renowned cyclist from Maharashtra's Vidarbha region 67-year-old Mayure reached New Delhi on Tuesday after having started his mission from Srinagar's Lal Chowk on October 8.

From Delhi, Mayure will be heading to Gwalior followed by

Nagpur and then off to Hyderabad. From Hyderabad, he will be reaching Bengaluru before the final stretch which consists of three cities — Madurai, Ramanathapuram and Rameswaram covering around 4,100 kms.

Mayure is expected to cover this distance in the next two months. "I think age is just a number. It is very easy to give excuses to avoid difficult tasks. Cycling has been my passion right from childhood. It kept me healthy and busy at this age too," said Mayure, who had some years back retired as Nayab Tahsildar of revenue department at DM's office.

Asked how he manages his accommodation as there is a fair amount of expense associated with this kind of a journey across India. "I have never taken money and mostly managed on my own. I have spent lot of nights at Gurdwaras and ate the langar food and at times stayed in Mandirs where I have survived on prasad. Some places where I have no option, I stay at budget hotels to cut costs. But this is my passion and I can't ask for money from anyone," said Mayure, who hails from a small town Buldana, which is 50 kms from Ajanta, Ellora Caves.

Mayure, who won several cycling races in his younger days and earned the reward of 'Ghaticha Raja' (King of Ghats), was 50 years old when he had cycled across 17 countries to encourage Indian Olympians during the Athens edition.

So how does he manage costs and Mayure revealed a story of passion. "My wife is a retired SBI officer, my son is also working in a bank and my daughter-in-law is a teacher. I can't tell how much my wife encourages me. I save my pension money and then use it for these trips.

# SAFF Championships title not a 'special success'

**Aim is to qualify for 2023 Asian Cup: Coach**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India winning the SAFF Championships for an eighth time is not a 'special success' as the country is dominant in the South Asian region and the bigger aim is to do well in the 2023 Asian Cup qualification, national football team head coach Igor Stimac said on Wednesday. India won the regional tournament after beating Nepal 3-0 in the final in Male on Saturday to hand Stimac his first trophy as in-charge of the team.

"I don't consider it (the SAFF title) as a special success because it is normal that India wins when it goes to SAFF but it demonstrates that we are very dominant in this competition and we can progress in our game a lot more," Stimac said at a virtual interaction. He, however, admitted that his team was under a lot of "result pressure" after drawing Bangladesh (1-1) and Sri Lanka (0-0) in the first two round-robin league matches.

The results had put India in danger of going out of reckoning for the final. India then beat Nepal 1-0 and hosts Maldives 3-1 in must-win matches before out-

playing the Himalayan country 3-0 in the summit clash to stamp their authority.

"It was obviously a difficult situation we found after the first two matches but they looked bad only because of the results. There was no big difference in approach, the numbers and statistics, we had enough shoots, scoring chances, movement and energy by players.

"We scored sometimes and didn't score sometimes and that made the difference. So, we had a lot of results pressure on our shoulders but we dealt with it the way it should be and in the end we won the trophy which was really important." Stimac was speaking from Bengaluru after his return from Maldives and he is leaving for Dubai Tuesday night with the U-23 national team, which he has taken charge of for the 2022 Asian U-23 Championships qualifiers in the UAE from October 25 to 31.

The Croatian gaffer said that the side's aim is to make it to the 2023 Asian Cup for which the qualification third round is set to begin early February next year.

