

**OPINION 8**  
THE DILEMMA OF  
DISPLACEMENT**WORLD 11**  
RUSSIA HOSTS AFGHAN TALKS,  
CALLS FOR INCLUSIVE GOVT**SPORT 14**  
ROHIT FINDS HIS GROOVE AS  
INDIA OUTPLAY AUSTRALIA

LUCKNOW, THURSDAY OCTOBER 21, 2021; PAGES 14 ₹3



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PRATIK GANDHI  
12 VIVACITY

# UDAN has taken a big leap: PM

## Inaugurates Kushinagar airport, lays foundation stones of 12 projects

PNS ■ KUSHINAGAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the Central government had approved around 900 new air routes under UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme and of them 350 had already become operational while more than 50 new airports, or those which were not in service earlier, had become operational.

Addressing a public meeting after inaugurating the Kushinagar International Airport and laying the foundation stones of 12 projects worth over Rs 345 crore, including a Rs 280 crore 500-bed new medical college in Kushinagar, on Wednesday, the prime minister said, "The Union government is also working on preparing more than 200 airports, heliports and water ports for seaplanes in the next four years. The aim behind all these steps is to provide better connectivity to people living in the remotest corners while air, rail, road and waterways add to people's comfort. More middle-class people are able to avail flight services

today than in the past due to the steps taken by the government. The process of setting up eight new flying academies at five airports has also started for training the youth in the aviation sector."

On the policy front, Modi said that allowing defence airspace for civilians' travel had reduced both distance and time between destinations considerably, and added, "The recently launched 'Drone Policy' is going to bring life-changing transformation in fields ranging from agriculture to health and disaster management to defence."

Stressing the importance of developing Buddhist sites as a priority of both the Central and Uttar Pradesh governments, the prime minister said, "The Kushinagar airport will provide better connectivity to Buddhist sites in both UP and Bihar for both domestic and foreign travelers because of its strategic location near Lord Buddha's birthplace Lumbini and Sarnath."

Describing the Kushinagar International Airport as a tribute to Buddhists across the

world, Modi said that the region had witnessed the journey of Lord Buddha from enlightenment to Mahaparinirvana and with the opening of the airport on Wednesday it was getting connected directly to the world. "The airport will benefit farmers, livestock farmers, shopkeepers, workers and entrepreneurs while creating job opportunities for scores of youths in tourism and hospitality sectors as well as related industries," he said.

Without naming Samajwadi Party, Modi said that before 2017, the policy of the government was to allow loot and called themselves as 'samajwadis' whereas they were actually 'parivarwadi'.

"Today, under the leadership of Yogi Adityanath, criminals are asking for clemency because the Bharatiya Janata Party government has destroyed their network. Even women stand benefited as they have got houses, cooking gas and power connections," he said.

Announcing that the  
*Continued on Page 11*



Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia presenting a memento to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kushinagar on Wednesday. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, along with several Union ministers, were also present on the occasion.

## Persons betraying nation won't be let off: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday asserted that no matter how powerful a person may be, stern action should be taken against those who work against the interest of the nation or its people by indulging in corruption. Virtually addressing a joint conference of the CVC and the CBI at Kevadia in Gujarat, the PM asked the agencies to ensure that there are no safe havens anywhere in the world for those who betray the country.

Modi's assertions come against the backdrop of the Centre's engagement in legal proceedings to bring back

alleged economic offenders like Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi, who have taken refuge in foreign countries after allegedly duping the nation of thousands of crores of rupees.

"You have to remember that your partnership is with this 'mitti' (soil), with *Maa Bharti* (Mother India). There should not be any safe havens anywhere in the world for those who betray the country or its people," Modi said in his address.

"However powerful one may be, stern action should be taken against those who work contrary to the national interest or against the people of the country. Everyone should con-

tinue to work in the national interest," he said.

Modi said due to the hard work of his Government in the last six-seven years, a faith has been established among people that corruption can be stemmed.

"In the last six-seven years, we have been able to establish a faith among people that it is possible to stop corruption in the country. People of the country have faith today that they will get benefits of Government schemes without any give and take or without any middlemen," he said.

"Corruption, big or small, takes away the rights of common people. It is a hindrance in the progress of the country

and affects our collective energy," he added.

Taking a swipe at earlier dispensations, Modi said, "The way the earlier Government functioned, it lacked the political and administrative will to fight corruption. Today, there is a political will and administrative reforms are also being carried out to achieve the goal."

Post-Independence, the mindset of the Governments was to keep everything under their control. Those Governments kept maximum control with themselves and due to it, the system witnessed many wrong practices, he said.

Maximum control, be it at home, in family or in the

country, causes maximum damage, he said. Modi added, "We started as a mission to simplify the life of people by reducing controls, we believe in minimum Government and maximum Governance."

Exhorting officials to work to prevent corruption, instead of just focusing on ways to detect crime after a fraud takes place, the PM listed various initiatives taken by his Government to curb corruption in the last seven years by using technology and trusting people.

The PM also asked officials of the CBI and CVC to brainstorm on how to find ways to save people from cyber frauds.

## SC raps UP for slow Lakhimpur probe

### Court asks Govt to shed image, orders witness protection

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday reprimanded the Uttar Pradesh Government for "dragging its feet" in the probe into Lakhimpur violence and ordered the protection of witness. The apex court cautioned the State police that probe should not be an "unending story" and UP Government is required to "dispel" that impression and should ensure recording of statements of witnesses before magistrates.

"We think you are dragging your feet, please dispel that impression," said the top court, and red-flagged the issue of non-recording of statements of nearly 40 prosecution witnesses, of the total 44, before judicial magistrates under section



164 of the CrPC.

"Please ask them to immediately take steps to record section 164 statements. That is the most important thing... Protection to the victims as well as the witnesses," said the bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli.

Statements under section 164 of the CrPC (Code of Criminal Procedure) are

recorded before a judicial magistrate and they have evidentiary value. The State Govt informed the court that statements of four out of the 44 witnesses have been recorded by the judicial magistrate.

Ten people, including Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra, have been arrested in connection with the violence

*Continued on Page 11*

## 4 LeT terrorists killed in Op All Out, migrants' murder avenged

### Soldier martyred, 2 hurt; 17 ultras killed in 2 weeks

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The joint team of security forces on Wednesday avenged the death of migrant labourers by eliminating four Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) terrorists in the South Kashmir districts of Shopian and Kulgam. Three Army jawans also sustained bullet injuries during the operation in the Dragad area of Shopian.

One among them, Sepoy Karamveer Singh, succumbed to his injuries in hospital. He hailed from the Rampur area of Madhya Pradesh.

After the recent killing of migrant labourers from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the security forces have launched an operation All Out to flush out the terrorists.

So far, 17 terrorists have



Security forces during an encounter with terrorists at Nar Khas forest area of Poonch district on Wednesday

PTI

been eliminated in 11 encounters in the last two weeks. Eleven civilians, including five laborers, also lost their lives during targeted killings.

Kashmir range IGP Vijay Kumar said two LeT terrorists

killed in Devsar area of Kulgam were behind the killing of two labourers from Bihar.

In the first operation, security forces eliminated two terrorists, including Adil Ahmad Wani, a LeT terrorist, believed

to have targeted a carpenter Sageer Ahmad hailing from Saharanpur area of Uttar Pradesh.

In the second encounter, a joint team of security forces neutralised LeT district commander Gulzar Ahmad Reshi in the Devsar area of Kulgam. Reshi was behind the killing of two poor labourers from Bihar.

According to a police spokesman, a joint cordon and search operation was launched in the Dragad area of Shopian after receiving inputs about the presence of LeT terrorists in the area on Wednesday. After confirming their whereabouts in the areas the terrorists were given the opportunity to surrender.

Instead of paying heed to these appeals, the terrorists chose to open indiscriminate firing on the security forces, he said. The police spokesman said in the encounter, two terrorists were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter.

*Continued on Page 11*

## CAPSULE

**WEAPONS, 1 KG DRUGS RECOVERED AT BORDER**

**Chandigarh:** The Punjab Police and the BSF have recovered a huge cache of weapons near the India-Pakistan border in the Khemkaran area of Tarn Taran district. In a joint operation, the Counter Intelligence wing of the Punjab Police and the BSF recovered 22 pistols, 44 magazines and 100 rounds of ammunition, the police official said. One kg of heroin was also recovered, he added

**43 NAXALS SURRENDER IN SUKMA DISTRICT**

**Sukma:** A total of 43 Naxals, including nine women cadres, surrendered before the police in Chhattisgarh's worst Maoist-hit Sukma district on Wednesday.

**COVID-INDUCED NIGHT CURFEW LIFTED IN UP**

**Lucknow:** In view of the improved Covid-19 situation in Uttar Pradesh, the State Government lifted night curfew between 11 pm to 6 am.

**CBI FILES CHARGESHEET IN DHANBAD JUDGE CASE**

**New Delhi:** The CBI has filed a chargesheet against two accused in the alleged murder of Dhanbad Judge Uttam Anand, who was mowed down by an auto-rickshaw on July 28.

### Man accused of theft dies in police custody

**Lucknow/Agra:** A man accused of stealing Rs 25 lakh from a police station in Agra died in police custody after his health deteriorated during interrogation, officials said on Wednesday. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Agra, Muniraj G said an inspector, a sub-inspector and three constables, who were on duty at Jagdishpura police station when the accused died, were suspended after an uproar in the city over the incident.

The accused, Arun, a sanitation worker, suddenly fell sick on Tuesday night while a raid was being carried out at his house to recover the stolen money, the SSP said. He was taken to a hospital where doctors declared him dead, he said. An FIR has been registered over the death without identifying anyone, officials said, adding a team has been formed to investigate the case.

■ Details on Page 2

## Char dham yatra resumes as rain fury subsides after killing over 50

PNS ■ DEHRADUN/NEW DELHI

As rain subsided in Uttarakhand after taking lives of over 50 people and damaging properties worth hundreds of crores, the "char dham" yatra resumed on Wednesday. The "char dham" pilgrimage was suspended for three days, from October 17 to 19, amid warning of heavy rainfall in the hill State during this period.

At least 14 people, including eight trekkers from West Bengal and Delhi, have gone missing at separate places in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district amid snowfall.

After its late withdrawal from northwest India, the southwest monsoon remains active over some parts of the country. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the southwest monsoon will withdraw completely from



Stranded tourists being evacuated by the NDRF from the landslide affected area following heavy rain in Nainital

PTI

the entire country around October 26, paving the way for the commencement of the

northeast monsoon. There will be rainfall activity over Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry,

coastal and south Karnataka during October 20-24.

*Continued on Page 11*

### Can't promise no coercive action as Param Bir not traceable: Maha

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The whereabouts of former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh were not known, the Maharashtra Government on Wednesday told the Bombay High Court.

As Singh is not traceable, it did not wish to continue its assurance that no coercive action (such as arrest) would be taken against him in an Atrocities Act case, the Government said.

"He isn't traceable. In these circumstances, we do not want to continue our earlier statement where the Government said it would not take any coercive action against him," State senior counsel Darius Khambata told a division bench of Justices Nitin Jamdar and Sarang Kotwal.

*Continued on Page 11*

## Denied bail, Aryan moves Bombay HC

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A Special Court set up under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act on Wednesday rejected the bail pleas of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's eldest son Aryan Khan and two others in the mid-sea drug bust case, prompting Aryan's lawyers of to challenge the sessions court's order in the Bombay High Court.

Apart from Aryan's bail application, the two other bail pleas that Additional Sessions Judge VV Patil rejected — in his much-awaited order — were that of his co-accused Arbaaz Merchant and Munmun Dhamecha.

"Bail application nos 2571/21, 2576/21 and 2583/21 stand rejected. Accordingly, the bail applications are disposed of. The authenticated copy of roz-



nama be supplied to advocates and SPP," the Judge noted in his order that he passed at 2.45 pm.

Less than two hours after the Special Court rejected his plea, Aryan's lawyers moved the High Court challenging the lower court's order denying him bail in the mid-sea drug bust case.



## CLASSIFIED

### NOTICE

I Pawan Kumar Agarwal S/o Late Brij Kishore Agarwal R/o 118/185-A, Kaushalpuri, Kanpur have changed my Name Pawan Agarwal to Pawan Kumar Agarwal for all future purposes.

### NOTICE

I Nishchay Jagdish Jethanandani, Nishchay J Jethanandani Nishchay Jagdish, Nishchay Jethanandani S/o Jagdish M Jethanandani R/o Gomti Nagar Lucknow. Declare all names are one and same person.

### OBITUARY

#### OBITUARY



**NAIK ALOK KUMAR PANEDY**  
02 DEC 1991-11 OCT 2021

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF NAIK ALOK KUMAR PANEDY WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH MILITARY HOSPITAL AHMEDABAD.

FROM: LT GEN SANDIP MUKHERJI AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

### OBITUARY

#### OBITUARY



**SEPOY DASARI GOPICHAND**  
26 NOV 1997-10 OCT 2021

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF SEPOY DASARI GOPICHAND WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH 354 FIELD HOSPITAL

FROM: LT GEN SANDIP MUKHERJI AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

## Army rescues 26 people trapped in flood in Pilibhit

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Army rescued around 26 people who were trapped in the flood water of river Sharda in Pilibhit district on Wednesday.

Officials said that so far 26 villagers had been airlifted and evacuated safely. The superintendent of police was camping at the Ramanagara post to supervise

the operation. About 500 villagers are trapped in the flood waters of river Sharda. On Tuesday, the PACs flood unit personnel made efforts to rescue these villagers by boats but the operation was postponed due to the strong current of Sharda.

In the night, the farmers blocked the highway in Puranpur, demanding that the

people of Ramanagara area trapped in the floods across Sharda, be airlifted to a safe place. On this demand, some farmers gathered at Madhotanda police station and staged demonstrations.

Later, the officials who reached the spot assured to get the villagers airlifted. In the night itself, District Magistrate

Pulkit Khare contacted the high officials and got an army helicopter from Bareilly along with soldiers. On Wednesday morning, the army personnel started the rescue operation by helicopter. In the first sortie, about a dozen villagers were brought safely by helicopter. Most of them were women and children. After this some other people

were brought safely. Those rescued were taken to Nagariya Khurd Kala gram panchayat camp and arrangements were made for their food there. All the stranded people are hungry and thirsty. Army personnel say that about 500 villagers are trapped in the villages near river Sharda and it will take some time to bring everyone safely.

## Rajbhar hints at going with SP in UP polls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) chief Om Prakash Rajbhar has hinted that his party would go with Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party in the Uttar Pradesh assembly polls next year. Rajbhar said that an official announcement would be made at the Mau Maharally on October 27. Rajbhar said here on Wednesday, "We had invited Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, Congress, Bharatiya Janata party to accept our demand but only Akhilesh Yadav accepted our invitation and I talked to him for one hour today."

He said a maharally was being organised on October 27 in which people belonging to deprived sections, Dalits and minorities would participate.

"Though we have demanded 27 seats, we will sit with SP and talk about it. But it is certain that we will stick with SP," he said.

### OBITUARY

#### OBITUARY



**NAIK INAMADAR JAMIR PARVEJ**  
01 JUN 1980-09 OCT 2021

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF NAIK INAMADAR JAMIR PARVEJ WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH HQ INDIAN MIL TRG TEAM (IMTRAT)

FROM: LT GEN SANDIP MUKHERJI AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

### OBITUARY

#### OBITUARY



**HAVILDAR SHAIK SHARIF SHAIK HABIB**  
15 DEC-1973-22 SEP 2021

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF HAVILDAR SHAIK SHARIF SHAIK HABIB WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH HQ INDIAN MIL TRG TEAM (IMTRAT)

FROM: LT GEN SANDIP MUKHERJI AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

### OBITUARY

#### OBITUARY



**NAIK NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUBEY**  
15 SEP 1992-06 OCT 2021

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF NAIK NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUBEY WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH 200 FD REGT.

FROM: LT GEN SANDIP MUKHERJI AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

### OBITUARY

#### OBITUARY



**SUBEDAR P MAHESH KUMAR**  
21 JUN 1975-13 SEP 2021

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF SUBEDAR P MAHESH KUMAR WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE & ALLIED SCIENCES (INMAS).

FROM: LT GEN SANDIP MUKHERJI AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

### OBITUARY

#### OBITUARY



**HAVILDAR GUPTA NITIN KUMAR RADHESHYAM**  
25 AUG 1990-20 SEP 2021

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF HAVILDAR GUPTA NITIN KUMAR RADHESHYAM WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH HQ 11 INF DIV (MED).

FROM: LT GEN SANDIP MUKHERJI AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

## Dalit youth suspected of stealing ₹25L dies in Agra police custody

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Valmiki Jayanati turned out to be a dampener for Agra police as a Dalit youth suspected of stealing Rs 25 lakh died in police custody shortly after being taken to his home for recovering the booty in Jagdishpura police station area on Wednesday.

As the news of his death spread, hundreds of members of Valmiki community laid siege to the police station and staged a strong protest, accusing the cops of killing the victim by using third degree torture during interrogation. The protest ended only after a case was registered against the police team and Senior Superintendent of Police of Agra G Muniraj suspended five cops, including an inspector, a sub-inspector and three constables.

As per reports, victim Arun Kumar worked as a janitor and used to clean the premises of Jagdishpura police station. On October 17, a total of Rs 25 lakh and some confiscated pistols were found missing from the 'malkhana' of the police station. After the incident came to light, the SSP of Agra suspended six police officials, including the then station house officer (inspector). However during the probe, the police zeroed in on Arun and during quizzing he reportedly confessed to stealing the money from the police station and stashing it at his home. On Wednesday, a police team took the suspect to his house and while the cash was being recovered, Arun's health deteriorated. The cops rushed him to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced dead upon arrival. Soon after his death, members of Valmiki community gheraoed the police station, accusing the police of using extreme methods to exact a confession leading to Arun's death. The community also declared to cancel Valmiki Jayanti celebrations on Wednesday to protest the custodial killing.

The agitators also demanded a compensation of Rs 1 crore for Arun's family. The victim's family alleged that the circumstances leading to Arun's death needed to be investigated. ADG, Agra Zone, Rajiv Krishna said, "Our officers are in contact with his family. They're cooperating. Action will be taken if there was any negligence. The family has filed a complaint; they suspect that he was beaten up by police following which he died. An FIR has been registered and the matter will be probed."

## Priyanka stopped from going to Agra; released

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary and UP incharge of the party, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's motorcade heading to the house of a Dalit youth who died in police custody in Agra on Valmiki Jayanti was stopped by the Lucknow police personnel on Agra-Lucknow Expressway on Wednesday.

Priyanka had targeted the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh for the death of Dalit youth Arun Kumar in the custody of Jagdishpura police station personnel in Agra. On Wednesday morning, the Congress general secretary accompanied by some party leaders left her Kaul House residence in Lucknow to meet and express condolences to the family members of deceased Arun Kumar at Agra. But as her motorcade reached the Agra-Lucknow Expressway, officers and personnel of Lucknow police accompanied by a magistrate stopped the vehicles from proceeding forward, citing imposition of prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Soon, scores of Congress leaders and workers resorted to sloganeering against the Yogi government and created a ruckus. After some heated exchange of words, Priyanka and some of her party men were taken to the reserve police lines and detained till evening. Upon her release after a day-long high drama, Priyanka and her party leaders proceeded to Agra in the evening.

In a video that went viral soon after, Priyanka is heard saying, "They say I can't go to Agra. They stop me wherever I go. Should I keep sitting in restaurants just because it is politically convenient for them? I want to meet them (victim's kin), what is the big deal? The moment I try to visit any place other than the party office, then they (administration) try to stop me. It also caused inconvenience to the public. What is the law and order issue? Someone has died...we are just two-three persons going to meet the family."



# सोच ईमानदार काम दमदार

## राजधानी लखनऊ में अति विशिष्ट अथितियों के प्रवास हेतु

## ₹60.42 करोड़ से निर्मित

## अति विशिष्ट गृह नैमिषारण्य (बटलर पैलेस)

का

# लोकार्पण

कार्यक्रम का लाइव प्रसारण

**DD UP न**

Youtube.com/DDNEWS

Youtube.com/dduttarpradesh

सूचना एवं

**UPGovtOfficial**

**CMOUTtarpradesh**

**CMOfficeUP**

सोशल मीडिया हैंडलस के माध्यम से देख सकते हैं।

**मुख्य अतिथि**

# योगी आदित्यनाथ

## मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा

**गस्त्रिमययी उपस्थिति**

दिनांक:

**21 अक्टूबर, 2021**

समय:

**मध्यह्न 12:00 बजे**

स्थान:

**अति विशिष्ट गृह नैमिषारण्य (बटलर पैलेस) लखनऊ**

**डॉ. दिनेश शर्मा**

उप मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

**ब्रजेश पाठक**

मंत्री, विधायी एवं न्याय तथा ग्रामीण अभिव्यंजन सेवा, उत्तर प्रदेश

**आशुतोष टण्डन**

मंत्री, नगर विकास, शहरी समग्र विकास नगरीय योजनाएं एवं गरीबी उन्मूलन उत्तर प्रदेश

**डॉ. महेन्द्र सिंह**

मंत्री, जलशक्ति उत्तर प्रदेश

**संयुक्ता भाटिया**

माहवीर लखनऊ

एवं अन्य गणमान्य महानुभाव



राज्य सम्पत्ति विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश



# Rains, weather conditions give rise to dengue cases

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Rains and general weather conditions have caused a spurt in dengue cases across the state. DG, Medical & Health, Dr Ved Vrat Singh said that the total number of cases in Lucknow has reached 770 since January while the state tally stands at 14,868. Seven patients have died of dengue across the state. In Lucknow where the average daily cases are 25-28, Dr Singh said some of them included referral cases from other districts.

Admitting that the number of cases is high, he said rains should have stopped and the

temperature come down by this time. “However, the temperature is not dipping and it is still raining. If the temperature does not drop, the breeding of the mosquitoes will also not stop, and the cases will continue to increase. Also, it is our perception that with the onset of the winters and increased use of blankets in rural areas, the chances of mosquito bites also plummet. As far as rains are concerned, they cause waterlogging which results in breeding of mosquitoes,” he said. He added that the cases were contained in districts such as Firozabad and Mathura. “In Firozabad, there

were no cases on October 19,” he said.

Dr Singh said the basic challenge which they are facing is mosquito breeding. “We are making efforts to check mosquito breeding but whenever efforts are made, rains occur, again causing water stagnation, which results in a further increase in dengue cases,” he said.

He added that the Dastak campaign was underway for surveillance of dengue cases and besides, they were also carrying out source reduction for dengue and malaria cases. “It is endemic as of now, and we are trying to contain it,” he said.

## Woman tortured for dowry by hubby, in-laws

**Lucknow (PNS):** A woman accused that her husband and in-laws tortured her for dowry and did not provide medical help due to which she had to suffer two abortions. Police registered a case under different sections of IPC, including one for domestic violence.

The victim, identified as Manju of Vikas Nagar, named her husband Virendra Kashyap, his mother Ramkali, his elder brother and his wife, Pramod Kashyap and Neetu Kashyap (all of Madiain) in the FIR. Manju married Virendra Kashyap in 2011 and her father had spent over Rs 5 lakh in the function. Manju alleged that she was tortured over the demand of Rs 1 lakh and a motorcycle soon after she reached Virendra's house. “I was asked to talk to my father about the demand which he was unable to fulfil,” she said. The woman said her husband and in-laws termed her infertile to get rid of her.

“They wanted to harass me by terming me infertile to such an extent that I left the house on my own. I conceived twice — in 2014 and 2018 — but had to suffer abortion due to lack of medical care,” she alleged. She further said that she gave birth to a child in 2019 but her husband abandoned her in the hospital. “They took all the ornaments given to me by my parents and did not take me to their house despite repeated pleas. They even tried to force me to commit suicide,” she alleged.

Meanwhile, a woman accused a man of raping her in Mall police station area on Wednesday. In her complaint, she stated that she had gone to relieve herself outside her house when the accused caught hold of her. “He gagged me and dragged me towards the thickets where he forced himself upon me. He left the scene while threatening to kill me,” she alleged.

## Man commits suicide over tiff with wife

**Lucknow (PNS):** Troubled by his wife's proximity with another woman, a man ended his life at his house in Gontinagar on Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Nikhil. His wife had left for some place and he was picked at this. On Tuesday when he did not wake up, his parents reached his room and found him hanging from the ceiling with a dupatta tied around his neck.

The police recovered three suicide notes which Nikhil

allegedly wrote to different police officers, seeking justice for him and security to his daughter. Nikhil stated that his wife Anju and her female friend were friend to his death. “Anju's friend spoiled my life forever,” he had stated in the note. Preliminary investigation revealed that Nikhil married Anju in 2012 and the couple had a daughter. A few years after the marriage, Anju started working with a woman and got extremely busy. Anju started paying low

attention to her family, including Nikhil and her daughter.

A couple of days back, Anju said she wanted to live separately. The couple had a fight over the issue. Anju again insisted on living separately. She threatened to end her life by consuming some poisonous substance and the family called her mother, who took Anju and her daughter along with her. “Nikhil requested Anju to come back and when his pleas fell on deaf ears, he ended his life,” his father said.

## city 03

## Group of men open fire during Ramlila

**Lucknow (PNS):** During dialogue delivery between Ravana and Marich during a Ramlila in Jankipuram, a group of men reached the scene and opened fire in air on Tuesday. A stampede-like situation was prevented, thanks to strenuous efforts on Tuesday night.

The Ramlila convener lodged a case against five accused and identified one of them as Rustam of Jankipuram. As per reports, around 1.30 am on Tuesday, the artistes dressed as Ravana and Marich reached the stage and started the performance. The group of men reached the scene on two bikes and opened fire in air. However, the audience was unfazed. The group opened fire again and this time, the spectators started running for cover.

A case was lodged against Rustam and his aides. Vice-president of the Ramlila committee Umesh Mishra said the police were not present at the spot.

**NOTICE**  
A Proposal for the mortgage residential Plot part of Khasara No. 354 admeasuring 141.75 Sq. Meter situated at Mauza-Palhani, Pargana & Tehsil-Sadar, District-Azamgarh, is pending before L.I.C. Housing Finance Ltd. The Original Sale Deed is registered at the office of Sub-Registrar, Sadar, Distt-Azamgarh vide Book No. 1, Zild No. 2865, at Serial No. 1657, dated 22.05.2009 executed by Mr. Virendra Kumar Duttak S/o Navjedi Kunwar W/o Bhagwandas, Aruna Rai & Kusum Rai D/o Ramashankar R/o Village-Palhani, Pargana-Nizamabad, Tehsil-Sadar, District-Azamgarh in favour of Mr. Anil Kumar S/o Hubraj R/o Village-Kalwari, Pargana-Nizamabad, Tehsil-Sadar, District-Azamgarh. It is informed to us that the above noted original sale-deed lost. If this original sale-deed is mortgage with any person(s), Financial institution(s) Bank(s) or any other one, may inform immediately to L.I.C. Housing Finance Ltd. Area Office Mau Branch Contact No. 9695640872 or Sanjay Kumar Singh Advocate Mob No. 9919972269 & 9765360669, otherwise the above noted proposal shall be finalize immediately after the expiry of 15 day of this publication.

**NOTICE**  
A Proposal for the mortgage residential Plot part of Khasara No. 159 admeasuring 113.4 Sq. Meter situated at Mauza-Jafarpur, Pargana-Nizamabad, Tehsil-Sadar, District-Azamgarh, is pending before L.I.C. Housing Finance Ltd. The Original Sale Deed is registered at the office of Sub-Registrar, Sadar, Distt-Azamgarh vide Book No. 1, Zild No. 2791, at Serial No. 205, dated 19.01.2009 executed by Mr. Manbahadur S/o Indrajit R/o Balaisa, Post-Palhani, Tehsil-Sadar, District-Azamgarh, in favour of Mrs. Vinia Pandey W/o Gangadhar Pandey R/o Arharhaya, Post-Gauri, Tehsil-Budhanpur, District-Azamgarh. It is informed to us that the above noted original sale-deed lost. If this original sale-deed is mortgage with any person(s), Financial institution(s) Bank(s) or any other one, may inform immediately to L.I.C. Housing Finance Ltd. Area Office Mau Branch Contact No. 9695640872 or Sanjay Kumar Singh Advocate Mob No. 9919972269 & 9765360669, otherwise the above noted proposal shall be finalize immediately after the expiry of 15 day of this publication.

कोविड-19

से बचाव की सम्पूर्ण सतर्कता के साथ

खुशहाल परिवार दिवस

प्रत्येक माह की 21 तारीख

खुशहाली का आधार पुरुष जिम्मेदार

परिवार कल्याण हेतु विशेष ध्यान

1 वर्ष के अन्दर की जटिल गर्भावस्था की प्रस्ताएं

नव विवाहित दम्पति

तीन से अधिक बच्चों वाले योग्य दम्पति

खुशहाल परिवार हेतु सभी सरकारी स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रों तथा होसला साड़ीदारी में अधिकृत प्राइवेट अस्पतालों में प्रदान की जाने वाली निःशुल्क सेवाओं का लाभ उठाएं

समय से परिवार नियोजन अपनाइए. अनचाहे गर्भ की चिंता से मुक्ति पाइए

टीका असरदार, लगवाए समझदार

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

कोविन पोर्टल के माध्यम से बुकिंग हेतु क्लिक करें

http://selfregistration.cowin.gov.in

WE-WIN

पुलिस स्मृति दिवस

21 अक्टूबर, 2021

कर्तव्य पथ पर प्राणोत्सर्ग करने वाले बहादुर पुलिस कर्मियों को श्रद्धांजलि

सदेश

'21 अक्टूबर' पुलिस स्मृति दिवस के गौरवमयी अवसर पर मैं शहीद हुए उन वीर पुलिसजनों को श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करती हूँ, जिन्होंने हमारे देश की सुरक्षा के लिये अपने उत्तरदायित्वों का निर्वहन करते हुये कर्तव्य की वेदी पर अपने प्राणों को न्योछावर कर दिया।

उत्तर प्रदेश पुलिस बल का इतिहास स्वर्णिम एवं गौरवशाली रहा है। इस बल की भारतवर्ष में ही नहीं, अपितु सम्पूर्ण विश्व में अपनी एक अलग पहचान है। अधिक आबादी वाले प्रदेश में उच्चकोटि का अपराध निर्वण एवं सुदृढ़ कानून-व्यवस्था सुनिश्चित करना ऐसे कार्य हैं, जिनमें पुलिस कर्मियों का न केवल निरन्तर सजगता व सतर्कता बरतनी होती है, बल्कि प्रत्येक क्षण नई चुनौतियों का सामना करते हुए अपने जीवन की जोखिम में डालना पड़ता है। गत वर्ष प्रदेश के 04 पुलिस कर्मियों ने कर्तव्य की वेदी पर अपने प्राणों की आहुतियां दी हैं। ऐसे पुलिसजन जिन्होंने अपने अमूल्य जीवन का बलिदान देकर कर्तव्य परायणता एवं शौर्य प्रदर्शन का अनुकरणीय उदाहरण प्रस्तुत किया है, उन्हें मेरा कोटिशः नमः।

मुझे विश्वास है कि जनमानस में सुरक्षा व शान्ति की भावना जागृत करने के उद्देश्य से हमारे इन वीर शहीदों की उत्कृष्ट कर्तव्य परायणता, निष्ठा एवं साहस से प्रेरणा लेकर हमारे समस्त पुलिसजन कर्तव्य के पथ पर निरन्तर अग्रसर होंगे।

सदेश

पुलिस स्मृति दिवस के अवसर पर मैं उन सभी शहीद पुलिसजन को श्रद्धासुमन अर्पित करता हूँ, जिन्होंने हमारे देश व समाज की रक्षा के लिए अपने प्राणों का बलिदान देते हुए अपना नाम इतिहास में स्वर्णिम अक्षरों में दर्ज कराया है। इन वीर जवानों की वीर-गाथा युगों-युगों तक अमर रहेगी।

पुलिसजन ने अत्यन्त कठिन परिस्थितियों में भी रात-दिन अपने कर्तव्यों को सर्वोपरि मानकर अपराधों पर नियंत्रण करने, कानून व्यवस्था को चुस्त-दुरुस्त रखने, सामाजिक सौहार्द स्थापित करने एवं विशेषकर बालिकाओं तथा महिलाओं की सुरक्षा करने में सराहनीय भूमिका निभाई है। प्रयागराज कुम्भ-2019, लोक सभा सामान्य निर्वाचन-2019 तथा त्रिस्तरीय पंचायत सामान्य निर्वाचन-2021 को शांतिपूर्वक सम्पन्न कराने में प्रदेश पुलिस बल का उल्लेखनीय योगदान रहा है। उत्तर प्रदेश पुलिस वैश्विक महामारी कोविड-19 के दौरान प्रदेश की जनता की सहायता के लिये सदैव तत्पर रही है। पुलिस कर्मियों द्वारा कोरोना वॉरियर्स के रूप में अभूतपूर्व परिश्रम कर जहाँ एक ओर नियमों का कड़ाई से अनुपालन कराया गया, वहीं उनके द्वारा मानवता की सेवा की नयी मिसाल पेश की गयी। पुलिस कर्मी अपने कर्तव्य का पालन करते हुए कोरोना पॉजिटिव भी हुए फिर भी सेवा में लगे रहे।

विगत वर्ष में प्रदेश पुलिस के 04 पुलिसकर्मी कर्तव्यपालन के दौरान शहीद हुए हैं। इन वीर शहीदों के पराक्रम से प्रदेश पुलिस का मान बढ़ा है। मुझे आशा ही नहीं पूर्ण विश्वास है कि इन शहीद पुलिस कर्मियों की गौरवगाथा वर्तमान पीढ़ी के लिये प्रेरणा का स्रोत बनेगी।

इस अवसर पर मैं शहीद पुलिस कर्मियों के परिजनों को आश्वस्त करता हूँ कि उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार शहीद पुलिस कार्मिकों की स्मृतियों को जीवित रखेगी एवं उनके परिजनों के कल्याण हेतु सदैव तत्पर रहेगी।

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा

Bank of Baroda

Possession Notice

For Immovable Property

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice to the following borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the dates as mentioned below. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda, for an amount ad interest thereon. **The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.**

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower Date of Demand/Possession Notice	Description of Immovable Property	Outstanding Amount(Rs.)
<b>BRANCH: ROSARB, AYODHYA</b>			
1.	<b>Borrower:-</b> M/s R.C. Garments Through its <b>Partners:-</b> (1) Renu Chaudhary W/o Narsingh Chaudhary, (2) Narsingh Chaudhary S/o Nand Lal. <b>Address:-</b> Village Parsa Langda, Post Sihari Serdaha Tehsil Bhanpur, District Basti 272190. <b>Guarantor:-</b> (1) Indramati W/o Nand Lal. (2) Bhupendra Kumar S/o Nand Lal. <b>Address 1 and 2 :-</b> Village Parsa Langda, Post Sihari Serdaha Tehsil Bhanpur, District Basti 272190. <b>Date of Demand Notice: 30.07.2021</b> <b>Date of Possession Notice: 21.10.2021</b>	All part and parcel of the property consisting of Simple mortgage of Plot No. 441. Area 0.299 hectares situated at Village Parsa Langda, Tappa Kohila, Pargana Basti East, Tehsil Bhanpur and District Basti in the name of Narsingh Chaudhary, Bhupendra Chaudhary S/o Nand Lal & Indramati W/o nand Lal; <b>Bounded as under: East:</b> nahar and thereafter rasta which is recorded as plot no. 445, <b>West:</b> Chak road, <b>North:</b> Chak Nali which is recorded as plot no. 442, <b>South:</b> Plot No. 440 belonging to Mohan Lal, Indra Lal S/o Dharm Raj and Ram Sahay S/O Sheo Sahay & Plot No. 439 belonging to Jag Narayan S/o Sheo Sahay.	Rs. <b>40,03,464.47</b> + interest other charges thereon w.e.f. <b>12.07.2021</b>

Date: 21.10.2021, Place: Ayodhya

Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

श्रद्धांजलि

प्रत्येक वर्ष "21 अक्टूबर" को हम सभी पुलिस स्मृति दिवस, उन वीर शहीद पुलिसजनों को श्रद्धांजलि देने के लिये मनाते हैं, जिन्होंने राष्ट्र व समाज की रक्षा के लिये कर्तव्यों का निर्वहन करते हुए अपने प्राणों की आहुति दी है।

यह शौर्य वीर गाथा 62 वर्ष पुरानी है। आज ही के दिन 21 अक्टूबर, 1959 को भारत की उत्तरी सीमा लद्दाख के हिमाच्छादित जनहीन क्षेत्र में केंद्रीय रिजर्व पुलिस बल के 10 जवान नियमित गश्त पर निकले थे। स्वचालित रायफलों व मोर्टारों से लैस चीनी सैनिकों ने छलपूर्वक हमारे क्षेत्र में एम्बुश लगाकर अचानक उन पर हमला कर दिया। अपनी मातृभूमि की रक्षा के लिये साधारण शस्त्रों के बावजूद चीनी सैनिकों का डटकर मुकाबला करते हुए केंद्रीय पुलिस बल के सभी बहादुर जवानों ने अपने प्राणों की आहुतियां दी थी। इन्हीं अमर वीर जवानों की याद में पुलिस स्मृति दिवस मनाने की परम्परा प्रचलित है।

01 सितम्बर, 2020 से 31 अगस्त, 2021 तक की अवधि में सम्पूर्ण भारत वर्ष में कर्तव्य की वेदी पर 377 पुलिसजनों ने अपने प्राणों को न्योछावर किया। इनमें उत्तर प्रदेश के 04 पुलिसजन क्रमशः उ.नि. श्री प्रशान्त यादव, आरक्षी श्री देवेन्द्र सिंह, आरक्षी श्री सोनू कुमार एवं आरक्षी श्री हरविन्द्र सिंह सम्मिलित हैं। कर्तव्य पालन में आत्म बलिदान करने वाले इन वीरों के पराक्रम से प्रदेश का सम्पूर्ण पुलिस बल गौरवान्वित है।

इन वीर पुलिस कर्मियों का त्याग एवं बलिदान देशभक्ति का अद्वितीय उदाहरण बनकर हमारी भावी पीढ़ी को सदैव कर्तव्य-परायणता के मार्ग पर निर्भीकता के साथ अनुगमन की प्रेरणा देता रहेगा। हमारे पुलिस कर्मियों का यह बलिदान उनकी सच्ची समर्पण भावना एवं कर्तव्य-परायणता का चोक्त है तथा कर्तव्यनिष्ठा एवं जनसेवा के प्रति उनकी संकल्पबद्धता को प्रतिबिम्बित करता है।

इस पावन अवसर पर मैं अपनी तथा सम्पूर्ण पुलिस परिवार की ओर से इन वीर शहीदों को श्रद्धासुमन अर्पित करता हूँ। उनके परिवार को आश्वस्त करता हूँ कि भविष्य में भी उत्तर प्रदेश पुलिस विभाग उनके सुख-दुख में पूर्ण मनोयोग से उनकी सेवा में समर्पित रहेगा।

(मुकुल गोयल)

पुलिस महानिदेशक, उत्तर प्रदेश

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश



# PM has realised vision of Buddhist circuit: Yogi

PNS ■ KUSHINAGAR

Expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his role in the development of Buddhist sites, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the prime minister had realised the vision of Buddhist circuit and the newly inaugurated airport would bring about positive changes to the lives of five crore people of the region.

Yogi was speaking at a function where the prime minister inaugurated an international airport in Kushinagar on Wednesday.

The chief minister said that from 1947 to 2014 only two airports were functional in Uttar Pradesh, including Lucknow and Varanasi, while the connectivity of the state was confined to around 16 cities.

“But today, Kushinagar airport has become operational as the 9th airport of the state

whereas there is direct air service from the airports of Uttar Pradesh to 75 major cities,” he said.

“Kushinagar, being the place of Mahaparinirvana of Lord Buddha, is a centre of deep faith and reverence for Buddhists all over the world. Humanity will remain indebted to Tathagata for the messages of friendship and compassion that he gave to the world,” he said.

Yogi quoted a line from Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s speech at the United Nations Organisation (UNO) in which he said, “Countries of the world have given war while India has given Buddha.”

With regard to the UDAN scheme, Yogi said: “The prime minister’s purpose behind the scheme was to ensure that even those wearing ‘hawai chappals’ (slippers) could travel by plane. This has been made possible through improved air connec-

tivity. Work is underway on 11 new airports in the state and work is going on war footing on Jewar International Airport as well as the airport at Ayodhya.”

The chief minister stressed, “The Kushinagar International Airport is very important for the people of eastern Uttar Pradesh as well as northwestern Bihar and neighboring Nepal.”

The Kushinagar International Airport has been built at an estimated cost of Rs 260 crore and will facilitate domestic and international pilgrims to visit Mahaparinirvana Sthal of Lord Buddha. The airport will be the nearest gateway connecting Buddhist pilgrimages in UP, Bihar and Nepal and is set to boost investment and employment opportunities in the region. The Union cabinet gave its approval for declaring Kushinagar airport in Uttar Pradesh as an international airport in June 2020.

# Foreign dignitaries hail airport inauguration

PNS/PTI ■ KUSHINAGAR

Several foreign dignitaries, including Sri Lankan minister Namal Rajapaksa, hailed the inauguration of the Kushinagar International Airport on Wednesday and said it will boost the number of Buddhist tourists visiting India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the airport at Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday and said his government has taken a number of steps to instil new energy in the aviation sector.

“Tourism between India and Sri Lanka has always been very robust. We have a lot of Indians coming to Sri Lanka and also Sri Lankan pilgrims coming to different states (in India), especially Varanasi, the prime minister’s constituency,” Rajapaksa told reporters at the inauguration event.

“We believe that opening up Kushinagar will increase the number of pilgrims (coming to India) from Sri Lanka and also (the number of) Buddhist pil-

grims from all over the world,” he said. Ambassador of Thailand to India Pattarat Hongtong said the Kushinagar airport will improve tourism between the two countries and facilitate Buddhist travellers.

Ambassador of Vietnam to India Pham Sanh Chau also said the Kushinagar airport will give a boost to the number of Buddhist tourists visiting India. Diplomats from 12 countries — Mongolia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, the Republic of Korea, Nepal, Japan and Singapore — attended the inauguration ceremony at the airport. On the invitation extended by Modi during the Virtual Bilateral Summit with Sri Lanka in September 2020 and as mentioned in the joint statement, “Mitratva Magga”, released after the meeting, the inaugural international flight at the airport arrived from the island nation to mark the occasion. A delegation, led by Rajapaksa, son of Sri Lankan



A group of Buddhist monks disembark the inaugural Sri Lankan Airlines flight after landing at Kushinagar International Airport, Wednesday

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, and comprising around 100 senior Buddhist monks, four state ministers

and other senior officials, arrived in Kushinagar. The monks belonging to different sects and prominent

temples represent more than 22 districts of the island nation. The inaugural international flight from Sri Lanka is likely to pave the way for increased traffic and a greater number of visitors to Kushinagar, particularly from Buddhist countries including Sri Lanka.

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, along with members of the diplomatic corps, visited the Ramabhar Stupa in Kushinagar and paid homage at the site of Lord Buddha’s cremation.

Earlier, Shringla welcomed the Sri Lankan delegation and also had a cordial and productive conversation with Rajapaksa at Kushinagar. The Kushinagar airport has been built at an estimated cost of Rs 260 crore and will facilitate domestic and international pilgrims to visit the “Mahaparinirvana” site of Lord Buddha. It is an endeavour to connect the Buddhist pilgrimage sites around the world, according to the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO).

**Mohan Meakin Limited**  
Regd. Office : SOLAN BREWERY (H.P.)  
CIN : L15520HP1934PLC000135

**NOTICE**  
NOTICE is hereby given that all private Roads and Paths passing through the under-noted properties belonging to Mohan Meakin Limited will be closed to the public from 25th October, 2021 to 26th October, 2021 (both days inclusive).  
Application for passes be made to the Gen. Manager of the Company at Lucknow Distillery.  
**Mohan Meakin Limited**  
Daliganj, Lucknow (U.P.) - 226001  
SOLAN BREWERY (H.P.) Dated : 18.10.2021

Sd/-  
(H.N. Handa)  
**SECRETARY**

**PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**  
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)  
Corporate Identity Number: U410PB2010SGC33813  
Website: www.pspcl.in, (Contact Number 96461-18774)

**Tender Inquiry No. 04/21/22/C/D**  
Dy. Chief Engineer/CIVIL DESIGN, PSPCL, E-2, Shakti Vihar, Patiala, invites E-tender for DNIT FOR PURCHASE OF 43 GRADE ORDINARY PORTLAND CEMENT CONFORMING TO IS:269/2015 (WITH LATEST AMENDMENTS)/PACKED IN NEW SYNTHETIC/JUTE BAGS CONTAINING 20 BAGS IN A MT AT PSPCL PILOT WORKSHOPS MOHALI, MUKTSAR & SARNA-- QUANTITY= 20000 MT. For detailed NIT & tender specification, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> (Contact No.- 0172-2970263, 0172-2970284) from 21.10.2021 from 05:00 PM onwards.  
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
RO NO. 7615512/49/2021/9067

C378/21

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-Tender Notice**  
Sr.DCM(FMS), NR/LKO acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites following E-Tenders closing date 12-11-2021 15:00. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.  
Manual offers are not allowed/accepted against this tender  
Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money **only through online payment modes** (as applicable) available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. (Not Applicable)

1	N.I.T.No.	C-GDSD-IMPR-VYN-21/SSK Di 20.10.2021
2	Name of work	Contract for Redevelopment/Repair, and maintenance of good shed at VYN station for improving existing providing additional facilities through private investment for 05 years
3	Approximate Cost	Rs. 3,22,84,800/- (Rs. Three Crore Twenty Two Lac Eighty Four thousand Eight Hundred Only).
4	Earnest Money	Not Applicable
5	Completion Period	Five Years (60) Months
6	Tender Closing Date and Time	12-11-2021 Time 15:00 hrs
7	Website	www.ireps.gov.in
8	Cost of Tender document form	Not Applicable
9	Eligibility criteria	As per Tender Document

Note:- 1."No post tender, correspondence for submission of additional documents shall be entertained after opening of offers. Even suo-moto post letters of the tenders shall be treated as NULL & Void."  
2388/2021  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**Office of the Executive Engineer, Provincial Division , PWD, Amethi**  
E-mail Id- [eeppdpwdcsmnagar@gmail.com](mailto:eeppdpwdcsmnagar@gmail.com)  
**E-Tender Notice ( I Call)**

पत्रांक 2907 / 14९0 / 2021 दिनांक 12.10.2021  
On behalf of Hon'ble Governor, U.P., Executive Engineer Construction Division PWD Amethi invites online bids for the following work from the eligible contractors registered in class A, B,C and D in UPPWD.  

Sl. No.	Division Name	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Document ( in Rs.)	Date of Completion (including rainy season)
1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	P.D. Amethi	Patch Repair of Varishganj Jamo Road (ODR Road)	27.04	0.00	Tender Cost + Stationary Charge+GST (Rs.944.00)	2 Month

The bid can be seen and downloaded online from 25.10.2021 and can be uploaded up to 12:00 Noon of 03.11.2021 The Technical bid shall be opened on 03.11.2021 at 12:30 Noon.  
All the conditions related to bid can be seen on <http://etender.up.nic.in> (Shailendra Kumar) Executive Engineer Provincial Division, PWD, Amethi  
UP- 168727 Date 18.10.2021 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

**For and behalf of Governor of UP**

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

Online tender through two bid system are invited by Cantt. Board Kanpur through the Government e-procurement portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> by the Cantonment Board Kanpur. The construction of works detailed in the table given below.  

S. No.	NIT NO.	Name of work and location	Last Date of Uploading tender	Estimated cost of tender (Rs.)
1	CBK/Engg /K-1013/1	Supply of G.I Poles 9 mtr & 11 mtr	29-10-2021	10,00,000/-

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

## Delhi-Kushinagar direct flights from November 26: Scindia

PNS ■ KUSHINAGAR

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia announced that direct flights between Delhi and Kushinagar would be launched from November 26.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of Kushinagar International Airport, he said that SpiceJet would operate four flights a week between Delhi and Kushinagar and informed that 17 new airports would be built in UP in the future. Governor Anandiben Patel, Union Law and Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju, Union Tourism and Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) Sripadyaso Naik, Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of State for Road Transport, Highways and Civil Aviation, Gen VK Singh, Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Meenakshi Lekhi, Uttar Pradesh’s Civil Aviation Minister



Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia felicitates Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of Kushinagar International Airport

Nand Gopal Gupta ‘Nandi’, Kushinagar MP Vijay Kumar Dubey and MLA Rajjinkanth Mani also attended the event. Built at a cost of Rs 260 crore, the Kushinagar international airport boasts of the longest runway with a length of 3,200 metres and width of 45 metres and can accommodate four big airplanes simultaneously.

## UP a region where there are pilgrimages at every step of the way: PM Modi

**Kushinagar:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday described Uttar Pradesh as a land whose contributions will last forever, and said it is a region where there are pilgrimages at every step of the way. Addressing a gathering after inaugurating an international airport here and laying foundation of several projects, he said as many as 18 Jain Tirthankaras out of the 24 had appeared in Uttar Pradesh, and added that personalities like Tulsidas and Kabirdas were also born on this soil.

“It is said about Uttar Pradesh that it has given the highest number of prime ministers. This is the beauty of Uttar Pradesh, but the identity of the

state should not be confined to this, and viewed from this. Uttar Pradesh cannot be confined to six to seven decades. It is a land whose history and contribution are ‘kaalateet’ (timeless),” the prime minister said.

He said Lord Ram also took incarnation on this land. It was also in Uttar Pradesh that social reformer Sant Ravidas was born, Modi said. Uttar Pradesh is a region where there are pilgrimages at every step of the way, he said.

Meanwhile, with Air India set to be acquired by Tata group, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the decision on the national carrier will give new energy to the country’s aviation sector.

His comments come weeks after Tata group emerged as the winning bidder for Air India paving the way for disinvestment of the loss-making carrier. Modi said the decision on Air India will give new energy to the aviation sector of India.

Tata group has emerged as the winning bidder for Air India, and on October 11, a letter of intent (LoI) was issued to the group. Earlier this month, the government accepted an offer by Talace Pvt Ltd, a unit of Tata group, to pay Rs 2,700 crore cash and takeover Rs 15,300 crore of Air India’s debt. After Tata’s acceptance of the LoI, the share purchase agreement (SPA) for the sale will be signed. **PTI**

**Office of the Executive Engineer, Provincial Division , PWD, Amethi**  
E-mail Id- [eeppdpwdcsmnagar@gmail.com](mailto:eeppdpwdcsmnagar@gmail.com)  
**E-Tender Notice ( I Call)**

पत्रांक 2907 / 14९0 / 2021 दिनांक 12.10.2021  
On behalf of Hon'ble Governor, U.P., Executive Engineer Construction Division PWD Amethi invites online bids for the following work from the eligible contractors registered in class A, B,C and D in UPPWD.  

Sl. No.	Division Name	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Document ( in Rs.)	Date of Completion (including rainy season)
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UP- 168727 Date 18.10.2021 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट [www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

**For and behalf of Governor of UP**

# 25 missing as two boats capsize in Ghaghara river

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Tragedy hit Lakhimpur Kheri when 25 people were feared to have been washed away after two boats capsized at different intervals in the river Ghaghara on Wednesday morning. The local administration reached the spot soon after getting information and started a rescue operation. They also managed to rescue three of the victims safely.

The teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and flood team of Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) were on the spot and carrying out search operations.

Taking cognisance of the accident of people drowning in the river Ghaghara in Lakhimpur

Kheri district, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed the district administration officials to immediately rush to the spot and carry out rescue and relief work on war footing. The chief minister said that with the help of the disaster management teams, rescue and relief work should be done expeditiously. He directed the officials to provide all possible help to the victims of the accident.

Lakhimpur Kheri district magistrate and district police chief also reached the spot.

SDM Dhaurahra, Renu, Police Station incharge Raj Karan Sharma, Tehsildar Santosh Kumar Shukla were present with the rescue team on the spot. SDM Renu said that nothing was being confirmed yet, based on the information, relief

efforts were on. There were 10 people in one boat and 18 people in the other boat, out of them three people have been rescued and saved.

Reports said that the local villagers went on boats to collect wood which came floating after trees on the banks of the river fell due to floods and heavy rains. On Wednesday, they were collecting wood in the river Ghaghara when the mishap took place in Mirzapur village in Isanagar police station area of Dhaurahra tehsil.

Sunder and Ashok Kumar, both sons of Gaya Prasad, Sunder’s son Trimohan, Dhode, Deepu and Surendra Kumar, all sons of Nankau, Kripa Dayal, Murari, and Raju were said to be in one of the boats and were reported missing.

### SCHOOLSCAN

#### GOLD MEDAL

Mohammad Hadi, a class IV student of City Montessori School, Chowk Campus, has won the gold medal in the national-level inter-school online competition ‘Brainbrain Wonderkid-2021’. The competition was organised by Brain-o-brain, wherein over 2,800 students from nearly 1,000 noted schools of the country participated.

# RMLIMS completes its first incompatible renal transplant

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The department of Urology and Nephrology, RMLIMS, on Wednesday announced successful completion of its first incompatible renal transplant. The operation was performed on September 17 under the leadership of RMLIMS director Prof Soniya Nityanand.

The recipient, a 26-year-old man, is a resident of Lakhimpur Khiri. His blood group is B+ and he had been suffering from chronic kidney disease for the last 12 months. He received a kidney from his 48-year-old mother, whose

blood group is AB+.

The preparation for the transplant started on September 3, said Dr Abhilash Chandra, with plasmapheresis sessions done up to five times prior to the operation. The patient endured the procedures well, said Dr Namrata Rao. The surgery was performed by Dr Alok Srivastava, Dr Sanjeet Kr Singh and Dr Ishwar Dhayal. Laparoscopic removal was carried out for the donor, with the anaesthesia team being led by Prof Deepak Malviya, Dr Sujet and Dr Manoj Giri.

The patient was discharged with normal renal

functions in the first week of

October. Dr Abhilash pointed out that ABO-incompatible transplants could broaden the donor pool for kidneys significantly. “The transplant team plans for three more ABO-incompatible kidney transplants in the coming months. These transplants take extra two weeks’ time in preparation and require some additional financial support,” he said. Dr Namrata said that the institute administration has been helpful in sorting out these problems, as the transplant team recently completed 100 transplants since its inception in 2017.

## RDSO to adopt GPR tech for better train operations

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

To improve train operations, especially high-speed and heavier-axle load trains, the Research Design and Standard Organisation (RDSO) has decided to adopt advanced Ground Penetration Radar (GPR) technology for monitoring the condition of track ballast. The ballast holds the track in place as the trains roll over it. Its condition and formation play a vital role in the operation of trains.

GPR is a non-destructive method which uses a combination of electromagnetic

radiations and detects the reflected signals from sub-surface. These reflected signals are analysed by software and facilitates the condition monitoring of ballast and detect the subsurface conditions of formation. Explaining the technology, a spokesman said the track ballast is used to form the track bed upon which sleepers are laid. “It is packed between, below, and around the sleeper. It is used to bear the load from the railroad sleeper, to facilitate drainage of water, and also to keep down vegetation that might interfere with the track structure,” he said.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction-IV, Northern Railway for & on behalf of President of India invites open e-tender under **Two Packet System** for the following work.

1	Name of work and location	“Extension of ROB-786 (Katali Pul) with Bowstring type steel girder using crane launching method in connection with 4-Line entry and exit with yard remodelling of Lucknow (Charbagh) station on Lucknow Division of Northern Railway”.
2	Completion period of work	15 (Fifteen) Months
3	Approx. Cost of the work	Rs. 1547.39 lacs
4	Earnest money amount (to be deposited online)	NIL
5	Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tender may be uploaded up to <b>11:30 hrs on 12.11.2021</b> on IREPS website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . The tender will be opened at <b>11:30 hrs on 12.11.2021</b> .
6	Details Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice and tender document is available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> w.e.f. <b>22.10.2021</b> . Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from <b>29.10.2021 to 12.11.2021</b> . All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document.

No. 52-Tender/Dy.CE/IV/LKO. Date. 20.10.2021 2388/2021  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE





UP Minister Ashutosh Tandon reviewing preparations for proposed visit of PM in Varanasi on Wednesday.

Pioneer

# Tandon reviews preparations for Prime Minister's visit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

UP Minister for Urban Development and Minister In-charge of the district Ashutosh Tandon reviewed the preparations for the proposed arrival of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi at the meeting with the officers at Circuit House here on Wednesday. He enquired the details and instructed the officers to complete the works on time.

Giving information about the proposed visit of the PM to his parliamentary consti-

tency, District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma apprised the Minister in detail about the arrangements made on every aspect right from the arrival to the departure of the PM. In the meeting, Commissioner of Police (CP) A Satish Ganesh, IG SK Bhagat, SP (Rural), Chief Medical Officer (CM) and senior officers of Electricity, Supply, Panchayat, Fire and Municipal Corporation and other departments were present and they also gave information about their works.

The Minister was informed

by the police officers that there would be tight and leaf-proof security arrangements at the route as well as the venue throughout the stay of the PM. Besides, there will be proper arrangements for fire tenders, ambulances, toilets for public convenience, drinking water system, better cleanliness, uninterrupted power supply and force in plain dress at the public meeting place apart from the route from where the motorcade of the PM would pass through. Special focus would also be given for better traffic management.

They also told the Minister that sector wise magistrates and district level officers have already been posted at the venue and route sites. Tandon instructed the officers to maintain better cleanliness, electricity supply, and a good traffic system in the entire district. The people coming to the public meeting should be as comfortable as possible. Mayor Mridula Jaiswal, MLA Saurabh Srivastava, MLA Surendra Narayan Singh, Divisional Commissioner Deepak Agarwal and others were present on the occasion.

# Pandey inaugurates oxygen plant

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Taking a lesson from the acute crisis of oxygen during the second wave of the COVID-19, the district administration and the Health department are making preparations for its availability in advance to face the similar situation if it arises in the possible third wave of the pandemic. And in this order, an oxygen plant has been installed at the community health centre in Narpattur which has also come into function from Tuesday last.

The Union Minister for Heavy Industry Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey formally inaugurated this oxygen plant at a brief programme held on Tuesday. The oxygen plant has been installed by the CSR Fund of the HDFC Bank under its Parivartan Yojana. With the inauguration by Dr Pandey, the plant has come into function.

There is a requirement of about 7 LPM oxygen for one bed and the capacity of this plant is 150 LPM which is sufficient to supply the oxygen to the beds of the community centre as per requirement, said the minister and expressed gratitude to the PM Narendra Modi



Union Minister MN Pandey inaugurating oxygen plant in Varanasi on Tuesday

Pioneer

on the behalf of the district for this oxygen plant. The PM always remains concerned to make better and latest medical facilities available to the people of his parliamentary con-

stituency and the district witnessed a basic change in record time because of his efforts, said Dr Pandey adding, the people of the district will always remain grateful to him for the

improvement in the health services. The Additional Director/Chief Medical Officer Dr VB Singh, nodal officer of oxygen plant Dr Atul Singh and others were present on the occasion.

# Asthma patients throng Garhwaghat Ashram

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Rush of people was seen at Garhwa Ghat Ashram on the auspicious occasion of Sharad Purnima here on Wednesday when they thronged there to get herbal medicine for treatment of Asthma and other chronic diseases which was distributed by the Sadguru Sarnanand Maharaj. Every year, a good number of people gather there on this occasion and after getting the medicine, they stay there. Later, during the evening hours, they cook Kheer (a dish of milk and rice) and keep the same in the open sky during the night hours.

Later, they would consume the dew-absorbed kheer with medicines on Thursday after offering prayers to Lord Chandra Dev and Goddess Laxmi as they believe that prasad is very effective for the health. To keep watch while keeping the Kheer in open



Sadguru Sarnanand distributing herbal medicine to people on the occasion of Sharad Purnima in Varanasi on Wednesday.

Pioneer

sky, the people observe Jagran and throughout the night at various places, the programmes of Bhajan are organised. Besides, Akashdeep is also lit at various places including Dashashwamedh and other ghats to pay tributes to forefathers and martyrs and the same would remain lit throughout the month of Karthik till Karthik Purnima (Dev Deepawali).

Meanwhile, hundreds of people took a holy dip in the river Ganga at various ghats on this auspicious occasion. The main rush of devotees was seen at Dashashwamedh and adjoining ghats. Earlier, some people observed Sharad Purnima on Tuesday and on the occasion, the annual Shringar of the famous Gayatri Mandir at Lahurabir was held. All the idols of deities and tem-

ple premises were decorated. In the first phase of the programme, the women and others took out a Kalash Shobha Yatra (procession), while in the next phase, the prayers were offered with the fruits, sweets and other articles by the Vedic Brahmins as per tradition.

Later, Shodshopachar Puja after recital of Manglacharan was performed by the Vedic Brahmins and it was followed by Maha-aarti. In the evening, a Bhajan Sandhya programme was organised. Secretary of Mahamaya Trust Samiti Paritosh Dixit, assistant secretary Shambhu Nath Chaturvedi, Satya Narayan Pandey, Dr Shashi Kant Dixit, Pyare Singh, S Upadhyay, Deena Nath Jhunjhunwala and others were present. After the conclusion of the programme, Prasad was distributed and the entire puja programmes were performed by Tribuvan Nath Pandey, Murari Upadhyay and Rakesh Pandey.

# Santosh, Smriti hold BJP meeting

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As the assembly elections are loom- ing close, various political parties have intensified their activities and in this direction, to hold a meeting with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers National General Secretary (Organisation) BL Santosh visited here on Wednesday. The meeting with the party workers was held at the Regional Office, Rohania. The meeting was also attended by Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani.

In the beginning, as per the tradition the meeting began amidst the chanting of Vedic mantras. Later, Santosh, Smriti and others held a meeting with the president, district in-charges and other office-bear-



BJP holding a meeting of office-bearers at Regional Office in Varanasi on Wednesday.

Pioneer

ers of 16 districts of the Kashi regional unit of the party in view of preparations for the forthcoming assembly elec-

tions. As the Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also arriving in his parliamentary con-

stituency on October 25, such activities of BJP would be intensified further in the coming days. In the meeting, the party workers discussed preparations right from assembly to booth level.

Santosh also held meetings with the MPs and MLAs of the region apart from MLAs, MLCs, IT and other cell office-bearers and gave them some tips regarding strengthening the party's organisation and image. Important among those who also attended the meeting were State General Secretary (Organisation) Sunil Bansal, Co-Convener Sunil Ojha, Regional President Mahesh Chandra Srivastava, UP Cabinet Minister Anil Rajbhar and many others. Later, Santosh visited Kashi Vishwanath temple to offer prayers.

# Deepawali Mela to be held from Oct 28

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

UP Minister for Urban Development and Minister In-charge of the district Ashutosh Tandon has instructed the officers to organise attractive Deepawali Mela in the Nagar Nigam and all other urban municipal areas in a planned manner to provide opportunities for the sale of materials manufactured by street vendors and self-help groups (SHGs). These Deepawali Melas will be organised from October 28 to November 4.

While reviewing the preparations at Circuit House here on Wednesday, Tandon directed the officers concerned

to give an attractive look to these festivals, along with various entertainment activities, cultural programmes such as magic-shows, street plays etc. Besides, the programmes like puppet shows, local folk singing, skill and art performance etc should be organised apart from displays of traditional art as well as modern technology, he added.

According to him, laser-shows should also be organised, along with competitions for cleanliness, selfies with great leaders and various types of posters and slogans. He said that in these fairs, attractive swings for children and food stalls for the visitors should also be the features. Besides,

dedicated registration desks should also be set up for the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Svanidhi Yojana. Along with this, in collaboration with banks, stalls should also be set up to give information to the people about digital transactions. He also directed that proper arrangements should be made at the fair sites to protect the people against COVID-19 and other types of infectious diseases.

According to the officers present there, necessary arrangements will also be made by the concerned local bodies for organising these fairs in their respective areas and action will be taken by the fair management committees

constituted under the chair-manship of the DM for organising these fairs in the district.

Meanwhile, on the occasion of Valmiki Jayanti, Tandon visited Sewa Basti (Sadar Bazar) and paid homage by garlanding the statue of Maharishi Valmiki.

On the occasion, he said that according to mythology, one incident had changed the entire life of Maharishi Valmiki, the author of Ramayana. Mayor Mridula Jaiswal, MLA Saurabh Srivastava, MLA Surendra Narayan Singh, Manish Kapoor, Naveen Kapoor and many others were also present.

# NCR flags off its first Kisan Rail to Assam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The North Central Railway on Tuesday flagged off its first Kisan Rail from Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh to Bihar in Assam. The train loaded with potato crop was sent to the North East area to cater to the needs of the residents and markets there.

The potato growers took it as an opportunity to sell their crop in the North East markets where potato is in demand, but the supply is short. It was the first Kisan Rail of the Prayagraj division of the NCR (train number 00416) which left Mainpuri at 6.25 hours to reach Bihar in Assam on Wednesday.

The train was loaded with 326 MT potatoes, and the Railways has earned a revenue



of Rs 15.40 lakh. Kisan Rail provides 50 percent concession

on loading charges as compared to normal parcel booking.

This is an initiative of the Government of India to ensure transportation of agricultural produce to other parts of the country at cheaper price and a faster delivery in the interest of the farmers. Fruits, vegetables, dairy products and other perishable goods reach the destination in minimum time, and also at an affordable price. Owing to the subsidised charges the farmers had to pay only Rs 7,85,808 in place of Rs 15,41,392.

Officials said that they are in contact with farmers to reach their produce to other parts of the country through Kisan Rail, which takes less time in reaching the destination, that too at lesser charges.

# Unauthorised constructions removed from Azad Park

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

On the directions of the High Court, the Prayagraj Development Authority officials reached Chandra Shekhar Azad Park on Wednesday afternoon with JCB machines to pull down unauthorised constructions in its premises. The court termed all those constructions as unauthorised which were raised after 1975.

About a week earlier, some mazars and graves had been removed, while on Wednesday the machines reached Prayag Sangeet Samiti to pull down staff residences constructed after 1975.

Staff members had received a warning earlier, so they had removed their belongings on Tuesday itself. Some constructions at Allahabad Museum were also demolished during this drive.

**VACCINATION CAMP HELD:** The Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE) and the Central Hospital of North Central Railway organised a Covid vaccination camp to administer the second dose to the officers, staff members and their family members on Wednesday.

The camp was organised at the CORE Officers Club 'Maitri' in two sessions — from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and from 1 pm to 4 pm. As many as 108 people were given the second dose.

**YOUTH KILLED AS**

**GUN ACCIDENTALLY GOES OFF:** A youth died of gunshot injury in Arail area under Naini police station of the trans-Yamuna segment of Prayagraj on Wednesday.

Reports suggested that it was an accidental death owing to misfire from a country-made pistol when a close friend of the victim was demonstrating the functioning of the gun and it went off. It was around 10 in the morning when Abhilash Pandey of Arail was having breakfast with his friends. One of the friends had brought a country-made pistol with him and was demonstrating how it works. Suddenly the gun went off and the pellets hit Abhilash Pandey (25) in his chest from a point-

blank range. Abhilash died on the spot while his friends disappeared from the scene.

The police sent the body for the post-mortem, and a manhunt was launched for those who were present there at the time of the incident.

SP, trans-Yamuna, Saurabh Dixit and other police officers reached the spot to collect first-hand information. Local resident said that a party was going on inside the house where the gunshot was heard.

Dixit said some friends had gathered at Abhilash Pandey's house on Wednesday morning and one of them had a country-made pistol. While he was demonstrating the functioning of the pistol, it went off and killed Abhilash Pandey.

# DFC builds 80m bridge in 3 hours

**ALLAHABAD (PNS):** The Dedicated Freight Corridor project added yet another feather in its cap by building an 80-m bridge in just three hours. This achievement was witnessed between Chunar and Vishwanathpuri stations. Area chief of the DFC project Om Prakash said that this 80-m steel girder bridge weighs 520 MT, and it was laid in just three hours. Goods trains going towards Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay station from Prayagraj will use this bridge, while trains going towards

Jharkhand from Chunar will go from under this bridge. The construction of this bridge will avoid the surface crossing of the trains, and will provide more speed to trains. These constructions are of international standard, and certainly boost the economy of the country, he said.

**DEMAND FOR MAGH MELA LAND TO BE ALLOTTED BY MELA ADMN:** Saints associated with the Khak Chowk Vyavastha Samiti have demanded that land allotment for Magh Mela

2022 should be made by the mela administration, and not by the samiti. President and general secretary of the Khak Chowk Vyavastha Samiti Sitaram Das and Santosh Das, respectively, have parted their ways, so there is no meaning in allotting the Khak Chowk land to the samiti. The saints and Vairagis who get land in Khak Chowk area, have sent a letter to UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, requesting him to ensure allotment of Khak Chowk land by the officers of the mela administration to

avoid any clash. Usually, the mela administration hands over the Khak Chowk land to the Khak Chowk Vyavastha Samiti which allots land to over 3,000 saints in that area, but the samiti is divided into two factions, and will not be able to do justice with land allotment work, so it will be better if the mela administration allots land of Khak Chowk directly without any involvement of the Samiti. Over 3,000 saints are entitled to get land in Khak Chowk area of Magh Mela.



# UPSIDA holding meets to push entrepreneurship development

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority is observing Entrepreneurship Development and Promotion Week at various industrial areas across the state on the directive of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The state has witnessed a balanced industrial development and amiable industrial ecosystem conducive for entrepreneurs and industrialists. As a result in the last four-and-a-half years, the 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 has been invested in these units, creating more than 80,000 employment opportunities.

The annual growth rate of investment in UP has seen a remarkable increase of 50 per cent, which is much above the annual growth rate achieved

during the previous financial years. 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.

During this week, the UPSIDA is going to organise meetings with entrepreneurs and allottees of its various industrial areas to spread awareness about digital reforms, service delivery process simplifications and investor-friendly policy initiatives undertaken by the industrial development authority.

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

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. The UPSIDA plans to hold such interactive sessions in other industrial areas throughout the week to disseminate information about investor-friendly interventions by the industrial development authority. In addition to the executives from industry associations, entrepreneurs and industrialists actively participated in these sessions and shared their experiences and feedback.

During these sessions, UPSIDA officers informed the participants about the digital reforms introduced by the industrial development authority such as applying through Nivesh Mitra, a single window clearance system, for availing oneself of 24 services that are online round the clock and every week and throughout the year; transparent e-auction

process for allotment of plots in industrial areas with more than 75 per cent 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 redress 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 Uttar Pradesh as a pioneer in organised industrial development.

UPSIDA Chief Executive Officer Mayur Maheshwari said that the initiative was 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 industrial areas of the UPSIDA.

## ATS arrests illicit arms supplier

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Anti-Terrorists Squad (ATS) arrested a youth involved in supply of illicit arms and cartridges in different parts of the state in Babupurwa police station area here on Wednesday morning.

The police recovered a huge quantity of illicit arms from his possession. However, one of his accomplices managed to escape. Acting on a tip-off, ATS Inspector Pankaj Awasthi arrested a youth at the Jhakarkati bus stand. He was identified as Abhishek Pal, a resident of Ratanpur Piparpur in Amethi. His accomplice, Anil Kumar Maurya of Ayodhya Nagar in Amethi, managed to escape.

Police recovered six pistols of .32 bore, 12 magazines, 12 cartridges and a mobile phone from the possession of Pal.

Inspector Pankaj Awasthi said the call detail record of Pal's cell phone was being recovered while a team was deputed to arrest his accomplice. With the help of CDR, details about other gang members would be ascertained.

Efforts are on to collect details about the place from where Pal brought the arms and the spot of their delivery.

## Coal minister visits NCL

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi visited Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) located in Singrauli on Tuesday. He chaired a review meeting wherein he appreciated the efforts being made by team NCL for uninterrupted coal supply to power plants of the country in the testing time and exhorted for more contribution in energy security of the nation. During the visit he inspected the Nigahi mine



from the viewpoint and discussed the mine operation with the senior management of NCL and gave necessary instructions. During it the minister felicitated the best workers of the project and motivated the ground workforce team of miners to increase production and despatch in the best interest of the nation. Minister flagged off 190 tonne indigenously developed electric drive dumper prepared to promote Make in India. He gave the message of increasing the green cover by planting saplings in the mine area. He also encouraged team NCL for sustainable mining activities. During his tour the minister also visited Jayant OCP, which is one of the largest coal mine of NCL. He visited the Jayant view point and inspected the mine. After that he watched the operation

of Ganga dragline and surface miner as well as the coal face. After the visit the minister gave necessary directions to the senior officers of the Jayant Area regarding the increase in production and despatch. Dragline is one of the heaviest earth-removing excavators of the planet used in coal mines for removing material above coal seam while the surface miner is a heavy machine used to extract coal without drilling and blasting gives crushed coal as output. Minister also laid down the foundation stone of incremental 10 MTPA CHP being built under First Mile Connectivity (FMC) which will boost eco-friendly and mechanised coal despatch from the project. He also inspected the railway siding of Dudhichua. This siding has a capacity of 5 MTPA for trans-

portation of coal through rail routes to different power plants. During the visit along with Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi, CMD NCL Prabhat Kumar Sinha, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Shyam Bhagat Negi, Director (Technical) Coal India Binay Dayal, PS to Minister Dr Honna Reddy N, PA to Minister Raghavendra Yerkad, functional directors of NCL, and other senior officers were also present. Notably, NCL is targeting 119 MT coal production and 126.5 MT coal despatch in the current fiscal. Till date NCL has produced 59.6 MT coal and has dispatched 64.03 MT of coal. NCL operates with 10 open cast coal mines spreading across Singrauli and Sonbhadra district of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh respectively.

## SBI organises Festive Season Loan Mela

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The State Bank of India, one of the biggest banks of the country, organised a Festive Season Loan Mela keeping in view the various needs of the customers especially during the festival season.

The SBI main branch organised the loan camp at one place where the customers were provided easy loans at attractive interest rates. The bank in its loan mela accommodated various loans which are normally needed around the festival time, prominent being car loan, personal loan, gold loan, home loan, Mudra



State Bank of India Main Branch held a Festive Season Loan Mela on its premises.

loan, Pradhan Mantri Samridhi Yojana and PMEGP loans.

The bank officials apprised the customers about the loans, especially the loan products and the digital products.

The camp attracted dealers of cars like Hyundai, Toyota, Maruti Suzuki and they put up colourful camps on the campus to apprise the visitors of loans and the benefits. Ratan Taneja and Neelesh Dwivedi distributed loans to the tune of Rs 6 crore. The SBI loan camp was one of the most successful ones and prominent among those present on the occasion were JP Yadav, RM Anuragi and KH Gupta. Chief Manager, SBI Main Branch, Kanpur, Alok Srivastava proposed the vote of thanks.

## Karad visits LIC central office

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Dr Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad, Minister of State, Department of Financial Services, visited Life Insurance Corporation of India's Central Office, Mumbai.

LIC Chairperson MR Kumar, Managing Directors Siddhartha Mohanty, Mini Ipe, and BC Patnaik welcomed the minister. In his keynote address, Karad focused on people and how they could be benefited.

While expressing satisfaction over the Brand image of LIC, Karad expressed the desire to see LIC occupying Numero Uno position in global insurance brands. Subsequently he visited various departments of



Dr Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad, Minister of State, Department of Financial Services, visited LIC of India Central Office.

the central office and interacted with departmental officials,

wherein he emphasised upon the prompt disposal of work.

## Dr Prakash receives Best Director award

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology Director (Research) Dr HG Prakash received the Best Director of the Year Award from Dr Ulyses U Manila, Philippines and Vice Chairman, Philippines Farakkal International Vice Chairperson, Prof Raghunath for his major contribution in research work.

Dr Prakash has a huge experience and has completed 14 research projects in areas of animal nutrition, forage production, farming system based research and diversification and intensification based operational research and two projects under operation, and has developed more than 10 technologies for enhancing agricultural production besides conducting 981 outreach activities.

The CSA faculty was pleased to hear about his big achievement. **DM VISIT:** District Magistrate Vishak G Iyer, while inspecting the progress of the Metro rail works, visited the various sections under construction. He first visited IIT-K station where the major work is being carried out. He then inspected the station area, enquiry counter, ticket counter, metro yard, workshop, administrative building and finally the Geeta Nagar metro station. He expressed satisfaction over the speed and quality of the work and said it was a prestigious



Dr HG Prakash, Director Research, CSA University.

project of the UP government and thus it had to be completed on time without any compromise of quality.

**‘STATISTICS HELPS MAKE TEACHING-LEARNING PROCESS MORE EFFICIENT’:** Dr S Mamta, head of statistics department, while addressing a virtual seminar on ‘Importance of Statistics in Education’ on the World Statistics Day on Tuesday said measurement and evaluation were essential part of teaching and learning and statistics enabled the researchers to study these scores objectively and it made teaching-learning process more efficient.

Discussing the importance of statistics in politics, she said citizens of India wanted to know and understand how their government functioned and beyond mere knowledge, they wanted to interpret how political structures, policies and practices impacted their lives. She said elections and public opinion polls were key

tools in collecting and disseminating public information.

She said this year the theme of World Statistics Day was ‘End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture’. She said collection of statistics was important in educational management as it enabled one as a school manager to perform duties with precision using calculated guesses.

Highlighting the importance of statistics in teaching, she said the ability to interpret statistical data was advantageous to analyse laboratory results, book and journal articles, and as an aid in approaching problem-solving scientifically. She said statistics allowed one to critically evaluate students, teaching, and the results of educational research. She said it was a scientific approach to analyse numerical data in order to enable one to maximise interpretation, understanding and use. She said this meant that statistics helped turn data into information; that was, data that had been interpreted, understood and was useful to the recipient.

She said statistics was an interdisciplinary study and it became absolutely relevant and paramount whenever there was a need for research and development.

**INNOVATION CHALLENGE WORKSHOP BEGINS:** A two-day workshop on Innovation Challenge

jointly organised by the Centre for Skill Knowhow, Innovation, Leadership and Entrepreneurship Development and the Centre for Recycle and Upcycle, Entrepreneurship Incubation Cell of CSJM University in collaboration with MOU partners Srijan Sanchar started at the university auditorium on Wednesday. Proposals received for the Innovation Challenge with the theme ‘Innovate for Sustainable Living -2021’ underwent Phase I screening on the inaugural day. Twelve participants presented their ideas/business model/prototypes in on-line mode in front of a jury of experts from academia and industrial sectors. Innovative ideas were presented by the students, which received very good suggestions for improving their business model. Ten best presentations will be selected for Phase II and final presentation.

As part of the phase II screening, all participants were invited for an off-line workshop with expert mentors and panelists from industry which will cover aspects related to pitching of ideas and developing feasible business models. Based on their innovative and feasibility, Start-Up ideas will receive first prize of Rs 10,000 and second prize of Rs 5,000.

All the participants of the Innovation Challenge will receive participation certificates, said a press release issued by media incharge Dr Vivek Singh Sachan on Wednesday.

## IIT-K to organise 2nd edition of Heritage Olympiad

KANPUR (PNS): The Start-up Innovation and Incubation Centre (SIIC), an IIT-Kanpur incubatee, will be organising its second edition of the Heritage Olympiad, Culture, on the occasion of Children's Day on November 14. The second edition of this Olympiad will focus on imparting a preliminary understanding of the Indian heritage and how traditions are created and passed on to the generations ahead.

IIT Kanpur Director Prof Abhay Karandikar, in an official release, said, "SIIC has had a history of creating, supporting, and promoting technology and knowledge intensive innovations that uphold the Indian heritage. Cultre's Heritage Olympiad goes beyond just imparting knowledge around the subject, it also prompts people to learn about their country and its diverse history." In 2020, the event received more than 2,500 registrations across age groups ranging from 9 to 65 years. Cultre received tremendous support from prominent organisations, including UNESCO, Amar Chitra Katha, National Rail Museum, Sahapedia, Nehru Planetarium, Mehrangarh Museum Trust and Royal Opera House, Mumbai. The Olympiad serves the primary objective of integrating heritage education in the mainstream curriculum by making it more accessible to students at the school level and tailoring the conceptual definitions around heritage education as per the Indian context.

The curriculum for the Olympiad closely aligns with the syllabus and curriculum followed across major national and international boards to ensure the development of a sound perspective of Indian heritage.

## KNN to slap fine for keeping pets without informing authorities

KANPUR (PNS): As per the decision of Kanpur Nagar Nigam executive committee, the citizens will now have to inform the authorities before bringing home a pet. Those failing to do so will have to pay a fine of Rs 1,200, irrespective of breed and size of the animal. The KNN is also planning to bring pet clinics under the purview of licence. Mayor Pramila Pandey said, "A survey conducted three months ago revealed that out of more than 2,800 pets in the city, less than 50 were registered. She said to tighten the grip on the defaulters, the authorities had introduced the new fine. Those with unregistered dogs at home will now have to pay a hefty fine. Earlier, the registration fee for indigenous breeds of dogs was Rs 250 and Rs.500 for foreign breeds.

## BDS-Mau special from Oct 26

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

In view of festivals the railway administration for the convenience of passengers will run the 09193/ 09194 Banda Terminus (BDTS)-Mau-Bandra Terminus weekly puja special train. All coaches in these trains will be of reserved class and passengers travelling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention guidelines, Senior Public Relations Officer (SPRO) Chandra Prakash Chauhan said.

The 09193 Banda Terminus-Mau superfast special train will on October 26, November 2, 9 and 16 on every Tuesday depart from Banda Terminus at 22.25 hrs, from Borivali at 22.50 hrs, on second day from Vapi at 01.07 hrs, from Surat at 03.20 hrs,

from Vadodara at 05.05 hrs, from Ratlam at 08.45 hrs, from Kota at 12.15 hrs, from Sawai Madhopur at 13.40 hrs, from Gangpur City at 14.35 hrs, from Hindaun City at 15.15 hrs, from Bayana at 16.05 hrs, from Agra Cantt at 18.15 hrs, from Shamsabad Town at 18.45 hrs, from Etawah at 22.05 hrs, on the third day from Kanpur Central at 00.10 hrs, from Prayagraj Jn at 03.15 hrs, from Janghai at 04.23 hrs, from Mariahua at 05.13 hrs, from Jaunpur at 06.20 hrs, from Aunrihar at 07.20 hrs and reach Mau at 09.00 hrs. On the other hand, the 09194 Mau-Bandra Terminus special train will on October 28, November 4, 11 and 18 on every Thursday depart from Mau at 19.00 hrs, from Aunrihar at 20.05 hrs, from Jaunpur at 21.35 hrs,

from Mariahua at 22.23 hrs, from Janghai at 23.08 hrs, on second day from Prayagraj Jn at 00.50 hrs, from Kanpur Central at 03.40 hrs, from Etawah at 05.50 hrs, from Shamsabad Town at 07.20 hrs, from Agra Cantt at 08.30 hrs, from Bayana at 10.50 hrs, from Hindaun City at 11.15 hrs, from Gangpur City at 11.55 hrs, from Sawai Madhopur at 12.40 hrs, from Kota at 14.05 hrs, from Ratlam at 18.15 hrs, from Vadodara at 21.49 hrs, from Surat at 23.54 hrs, from Vapi at 01.28 hrs, on third day from Borivali at 03.49 hrs and reach Banda Terminus at 04.30 hrs. A total of 24 coaches, including one of AC second class, two AC third class, 15 of sleeper class, four general second class and two of SLR/D will be attached in this special train.

## Hindi essay competition organised

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Under the aegis of North Eastern Railway (NER)'s Rajbhasha department on Tuesday in Multidisciplinary System Training Centre (MSTC) here and under the guidance of Chief Rajbhasha Officer and Principal Chief Engineer (PCE) Satish Kumar Pandey and Deputy Chief

Rajbhasha Officer and Deputy General Manager (General) Krishna Chandra Singh the zonal Hindi essay, noting and drafting competitions were organised. A large number of officers and employees of headquarters, divisions and workshops participated in them, Senior Public Relations Officer, CP Chauhan said. The competition was organised under

the supervision of Rajbhasha Adhikari/Headquarters Mohammad Arshad Mirza and employees of Rajbhasha department. The names of the participants who secure first place in each category of the competition will be sent for inclusion in Hindi essay, noting and drafting writing and debate competitions to be organised by the Railway Board at all-railway level.

## Lightning claims two lives

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Lightning claimed two lives under Adalhaat police station on Tuesday. As per reports, Ajit Bind (15) and Mamta (12), children of Shyam Narain Bind, a resident of Suraha village under Adalhaat police station, got burnt when lightning struck them while they were in their field during day hours. Their family rushed them to a hospital at Ahraura but they died during treatment. On getting information, the police reached the spot and completed the legal formalities.

**TRAINING:** Regarding revision of electoral roll, training of BLOs related to assembly constituencies Majhawaan and City of blocks Majhawaan, City, Pahadi and Kon was held at Mandi Samiti on Tuesday. Tehsildar Sunil Kumar trained to download Garuda app first, then AMF app and login password with the purpose of gathering information about polling booth and related 27 information. The trainees were directed to gather information like condition of the booth, available facilities etc and asked to get help from tehsil staff. The ADOs (panchayat), ABSAs and BEOs were directed to be fully trained so that they could properly guide the staff involved in revision work. The BLOs were directed to remain present positively with all required stationery items, including forms related with revision during the special drive on November 7, 14, 21 and 28. On the occasion

SDM, Chandrabhan Singh, and trainee deputy collector A Kumar gave tips for successful drive.

**WORKSHOP:** A three-day workshop on integrated fishery and poultry farming concluded at Mujehra village, 10 kilometres away from the district headquarters. In it pashu mitras from Barabanki, Chandauli, Bhadohi and Mirzapur gathered and learnt the lessons to run business successfully and earn more with less expenditure. The workshop was convened by A n u j Srivastava in which Shailendra Singh, Prashant Srivastava, Vinay Tiwari, Harsh Singh, Neha, Jyoti etc were present.

**MISHAP:** One person died in road accident under City Kotwali police station here recently. According to reports, Jagdish Prasad Kaseria (50), a resident of Jairam Giri Ka Bagecha Ksarhatti locality under City Kotwali police station, was going on his motorcycle when he was hit by a tractor in Vasliganj locality. The police brought him to the divisional hospital where he was declared as brought dead by the doctors. After completing the legal formalities the police sent his body for post-mortem examination.



## Two arrested for murder

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAIUN

Police arrested two accused in connection with a murder case from Pindari trijunction under Ait police station on Tuesday. An illegal pistol of 315 bore, two cell phones etc were recovered from the accused identified as Durgesh Kumar Ahirwar and Mohit Kumar. SP Ravi Kumar said Ramevak (42) was shot dead on the night of September 10/11 this year while sleeping outside his house in Igai Kala village under Ait police station. An FIR was lodged under Section 302 of the IPC. The health of Durgesh's cousin brother,



er's, who was mentally ill, deteriorated due to Ramevak's 'tantric' rituals and he died. Holding Ramevak responsible for it the accused decided to kill him. Mohit helped him in collecting information about him. The team which made the arrest comprised incharge Ait police station, inspector Vinay Diwakar, inspector Jitendra Singh, S-Is Kulbhushan Singh, Gokul Singh, Ravi Mishra, Rajkumar, Yogendra Sharma, Ravi Kumar besides Manoj Kumar, Rohit Singh, Jagdish Chandra, Kamalveer, Rohit Gurjar, Amar Singh, Jitendra Kumar, Shabnam and Devdutt.



# OPS-EPS rift visible; hints of fracture in AIADMK

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The process of disintegration of the AIADMK began in right earnest on Wednesday as a prelude to the Golden Jubilee celebration of the party that falls in 2022. The AIADMK's chief coordinator O Panneerselvam was conspicuous by his absence in the official delegation that called on Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi on Wednesday. This comes amidst reports that the party is getting ready to revert back to the single power centre of general secretary against the present system of dual leadership. As on date the AIADMK is led by the Palaniswamy-Panneerselvam combination. But following the debacle of the party in two successive elections (2019 and 2021) there has been a strong demand by veteran leaders to go back to the system of general secretary heading the party.

No official reason has been given by the AIADMK for the absence of Panneerselvam though the delegation was led by Leader of the Opposition Edappadi K Palanisamy and included former ministers C V Shanmugham, K Jayakumar, K P Munusamy, Vaithiyalingam, Thankamani and Velumani.

According to Palanisamy,



the leaders submitted a memorandum to the Governor listing the “widespread” irregularities in the recent Panchayat election held in the newly carved out nine districts. The opposition AIADMK was routed in the polls which was swept by the DMK.

Accusing the ruling party for irregularities in election is a ritual in Tamil Nadu and both the AIADMK and the DMK have figured as ‘accused’ depending on who is ruling the State. What is left unsaid this time by Palaniswamy is another issue which he raised with the Governor. The ruling DMK is selectively targeting leaders belonging to the Palaniswamy camp by subjecting their residences and offices to raids by the Directorate of Vigilance and Ant-Corruption (DVAC), a convenient tool in the hands of the ruling party.

While senior functionaries of the party like Rama Ramanathan are tight lipped about the absence of Panneerselvam in the delegation to Raj Bhavan, they said all was well within the party. Ramanathan said that the report about Panneerselvam not accompanying Palaniswamy was being blown out of proportion. Sources close to Palaniswamy told *The Pioneer* that Panneerselvam has not been informed of the scheduled meeting between the AIADMK team and the Governor. “The recent statement on golden jubilee celebrations issued by the party had the signature of only Palaniswamy though all state-ments till date were issued with the signatures of both the leaders. This is the indication that plans are afoot to convene the general body meeting to elect the general secretary.

# BJP, TMC spar over Didi’s silence on anti-Hindu riots

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bangladesh riots continued to have its political ramifications in this side of the border with the BJP firing more salvos at Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for giving no reactions to “the torture being perpetrated on the minority Hindus of that country.”

Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar on Wednesday attacked the Chief Minister for her “mysterious silence on the Bangladesh riots where Hindus are being murdered, looted and tortured at will.” He said “this is the same Chief Minister who had threatened to go to the United Nations if Citizenship Amendment Act was implemented in Bengal ... now why she has suddenly gone silent on the riots taking place in Bangladesh where houses and properties of Hindus are being looted and burnt down ... and they are being killed ... why is she not uttering a single word on this.”

The Chief Minister’s silence on the issue was a matter of concern he said adding the BJP would however do its duty by organizing protests until the Hindus of Bangladesh got justice.

Bengal opposition Leader



Suvendu Adhikari earlier linked the Chief Minister’s silence to her alleged “vote bank politics” saying “the Chief Minister does not want to earn the displeasure of a particular section of the society who are incidentally her voters ... so she is keeping mysteriously silent about the whole issue. ... But the people of Bengal are observing this silence closely.”

The Trinamool Congress however hit back saying unlike the BJP it was not trying to politicize the issue. “We have already protested against what happened in Bangladesh ... Mamata Banerjee is unwell and is not appearing in public for same reason ... our senior leader and Minister Partho Chatterjee has already spoken about this ... the BJP has pre-

ferred to ignore what the TMC leader said ... this is because they want to politicize the issue and encash it,” senior TMC leader and Bengal Minister Subroto Mukherjee said.

Meanwhile, actor and director Aparna Sen too condemned the Bangla riots saying “in a modern democratic system right to practice one’s own religion is guaranteed everywhere ... hence it is the duty of the majority community to ensure that the minorities can follow and practice their religion without hindrance ... I am not talking only about Bangladesh though my immediate context is the riots taking place in that country ... I am talking about all the countries including India.”

# BJP open to alliance with ‘nationalist’ Amarinder

## Captain is a patriot: BJP

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

A day after former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh announced that he would launch his own political party and hoped for a “seat arrangement” with the BJP in poll-bound Punjab, the saffron party said it is open to alliances with those who put national interests first.

With Amarinder set to float his own political outfit with the BJP which has lost political ground in the State following Akali Dal’s exit from the National Democratic Alliance in protest against three Central farm laws, Punjab may witness a triangular election battle with the ruling Congress and the AAP being the other two strong contenders for the seat of power in the State.

Given the fact that farmers from Punjab form the core of the agitation against the three farm laws which they feel may hit the traditional “mandi system” of sell and purchase of agricultural produce and may even end minimum support price, sooner or later, the BJP may think in terms of seeking some sort of reconciliation with the farmers to pave the



way for an alliance with Amarinder.

BJP party general secretary and Punjab in-charge Dushyant Gautam on Wednesday said “Amarinder is a patriot” and the BJP is open to an alliance with him. “Amarinder was once a soldier and his stand on the issues of national security should be praised,” the BJP leader said.

On Amarinder’s condition of resolving farmers’ issues, BJP general secretary said Singh did not talk about ending the farmers’ agitation. “He talked about farmers’ issues. We are committed to it and are working for the welfare of farmers. If the time comes, both will sit together and discuss farmers’ issues,” Gautam was quoted as saying by news agency PTI.

As far as the agitation is concerned, it is politically motivated, he alleged.

“Our main agenda is nationalism and keeping the nation first. All those parties who want to form alliances with us on this agenda are

welcome,” he said.

Amarinder has openly announced that he would seek that congress Punjab chief Navjot Singh Sindhu is defeated in the polls as he is a “threat to the national security”.

Soon after resigning as the Chief Minister, Amarinder had met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

“...He (Amarinder) was a soldier. He knows about the threats to the country and how to secure it is. He is patriotic. And whenever it was a matter of national security and security at the borders, we have appreciated his stand,” Gautam said, adding that nationalists are not “untouchables” to the BJP.

The BJP leader also said his party has often been critical of Amarinder on social issues of Punjab.

Gautam, however, indicated that nothing has been finalised yet as “Amarinder still needs to form his party and put forward his views”.

Amarinder-BJP poll tie-up in Punjab is certain to invite Congress, AAP and Akali Dal’s political attack against him that the former Chief Minister has ‘betrayed farmers’ interests. The Congress, AAP, and Akali Dal are publicly backing agitating farmers’ demand for the annulment of three farm laws.

# Did Capt collide with BJP in framing farmers law, asks Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday took a swipe at former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, asking him if he had colluded with the BJP in bringing the three agriculture laws against whom the farmers are protesting since last year. The comments came a day after Amarinder Singh, who resigned as Chief Minister in September after he had fallen out with the Congress leadership, said he would float his political party and may align with the BJP if the farmers’ protest is resolved.

“The way such statements are being given in public, the

question is whether Amarinder Singh and the BJP were in collusion with each other over the bringing of three black agri laws,” said Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh, adding Singh’s statements vindicate the party’s decision to replace him as chief minister.

“It seems the BJP and Amarinder Singh were together in bringing the three farm laws,” he said when asked about Singh’s statement. The Congress veteran had quit as Chief Minister, saying he will not face further humiliation by the party, and was replaced by Charanjit Singh Channi.

Vallabh said that ‘99 per

cent of Punjab MLAs understood these issues” and the language used by Singh that he has no problems in tying up with BJP, which brought the three black laws, proves the Congress party’s action of replacing him was right.

Vallabh said without underestimating his contribution to the Congress, Singh’s statements are proving what some skeptics used to say a few weeks ago and now he is ready to go with that party which is not giving a legal guarantee to the MSP.

Harish Rawat, the AICC general secretary in-charge of Punjab, also said that Amarinder Singh has proved

what the MLAs were saying for some time that he is with the BJP and the Akalis. He said ‘he will cut into the votes of the Congress and will, in turn, help the BJP’, but people of Punjab now understand everything.

Rawat has also urged the party high command to relieve him of the duties of in-charge of Punjab as he wanted to spend all his time in his ‘karm-bhoomi’ Uttarakhand, which has been badly affected by floods. In a Facebook post, he said elections are due in Punjab and Uttarakhand after some months and one cannot spend full-time in both places.

“If I do justice to my motherland then only I will be able

to do justice to my workplace. I am very grateful to Punjab Congress and the people of Punjab for continuous blessings and moral support to me,” he said in his post.

**Notice Regarding Lost Certificate**

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# Heavy rain, landslides bring life to standstill in N Bengal

PNS ■ KOLKATA

After Uttarakhand it is the turn of the eastern mountains of North Bengal with cloud bursts and heavy rains bringing lives in most townsof the northern part of the State to a standstill.

The road link between Bengal



and Sikkim was snapped due to landslides at various places off Rangpo, sources in Darjeeling district administration said adding a part of the Balasan Bridge the one that connects Bengal to Assam and Bihar had subsided resulting in total block- ing of the traffic which was cur-

rently being divert through another route.

Similarly National Highway 10 and 55 had been blocked due to landslides and flash flood, sources said adding heavy rains in Bhutan had caused rivers like Jaldhaka to overflow. Two children were drawnn Kalimpong flowing flash flood.

“There has been heavy rains for the past three days with Siliguriwitnessing 245 mm of rain... Darjeeling getting more than 200 mm, Kalimpong 199 mm, Jalpaiguri getting 151 and Malbazar witnessing 320 mm rain,” Paresh Adhikari a minister said adding the tourists who were currently in the hills have been asked not to move out.

There has been heavy landslides at Lava, Bijanburi, Gorubathan, Sukhia Pokhri, Manebhanjan and elsewhere lead-

ing to virtual closer of most of the roads connecting hill towns to Siliguri.

# Special court rejects bail pleas of Aryan, two others

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

A Special Court set up under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act on Wednesday rejected the bail pleas of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan’s eldest son Aryan Khan and two others in the mid-sea drug bust case, prompting Aryan’s lawyers of to challenge the sessions court’s order in the Bombay High Court.

Apart from Aryan’s bail application, the two other bail pleas that Additional Sessions Judge VV Patil rejected -- in his much-awaited order-- were that of his co-accused Arbaaz Merchant and Munmun Dhamecha.

“Bail application nos 2571/ 21, 2576/ 21 and 2583/21 stand rejected. Accordingly, the bail applications are disposed of. The authenticated copy of roznama be supplied to Advocates and SPP,” the Judge noted in his order that he passed at 2.45 pm. Less than two hours after the Special Court rejected his plea, Aryan’s lawyers moved the high court challenging the lower court’s order denying him bail in the mid-sea drug bust case.

Aryan’s lawyers will make a mention of his plea before Justice Nitin Sambre for urgent listing.

The Special court, it may be recalled, had on October 14 reserved its order on Aryan’s bail plea, after the Prosecution opposed the plea alleging that he was a regular consumer of drugs for the past few years and

that he was part of the conspiracy in the mid-sea drug bust case.

Twenty-three-year-old Aryan and seven others were initially detained on the night of October 2 and later arrested on October 3, after the NCB officials busted a rave party and seized 13 grams of cocaine, 5 grams of MD (Mephedrone), 21 grams of Charas, 22 pills of MDMA (Ecstasy) and Rs 1.33 lakh in cash from Goa-bound Cordelia Cruises’ Empress ship, off the Mumbai coast.

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

Aryan and other accused have been booked for offences under Section 8(c), 20(b), 27, 28, 29 and 35 under the NDPS Act.

After his arrest, Aryan was remanded to NCB custody till October 4, which was extended till October 7. On October 8, the Mumbai Esplanade Court rejected the bail pleas of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan’s son Aryan Khan and two others on the grounds of maintainability. Thereafter Aryan and four accused moved a Special NDPS court.

After hearing the arguments by Aryan’s senior Advocate Amit Desai and other lawyers for the accused in the case and Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Anil Singh, the special NDPS court had on October 14 reserved its order on a bail applica-

tions made by Aryan and two other accused in the mid-sea drug bust case for October 20.

Though the grounds on which the special NDPS Court has rejected the bail pleas of Aryan and other accused, both the defence lawyers and Prosecution had argued for and against Aryan and other accused being granted bail.

In a plea made on behalf of Aryan before the Special Court, had made a strong case for their client’s bail on the grounds: that no revocatory of drugs has been made from his person and that since the offences arraigned against Khan are Sections 8(c), 20(b), 27, 28, 29, 35 of the NDPS Act and that since no Narcotic drugs or psychotropic substance has been recovered from him, the bar against grant of bail under Section 37 of the NDPS Act will not apply.

In another contentions, Aryan’s lawyers had stated that recoveries of the other accused cannot be held against Khan nor can the entire recovery be used against him in light of the precedents of the Supreme Court and High Court, that the NCB is relying solely upon the WhatsApp chats without verifying the accuracy of the chats “which have no connection with the case”.

Aryan’s lawyers had also stated that the NCB had invoked the provisions under the NDPS Act “mechanically” without any evidence or corroborating evidence to support ingredients for the offences. “There

is nothing to suggest that Khan is in any way connected with the manufacture, possession, purchase or transport of the substances and hence the ingredients for the offences under NDPS Act are not made out,” Aryan’s lawyers had told the Special Court.

On its part, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) had told the court that Aryan had a role to play in the illicit procurement and distribution of drugs and that he was in touch with some persons linked to an international drug network, even as a Special Court adjourned the hearing on bail pleas of Aryan and others for Thursday after partly hearing the arguments.

“There is material on record to show that Khan was in touch with some persons abroad who appear to be a part of an international drug network for illicit procurement of drugs. The investigation is still in progress,” the NCB had told the court.

Rebutting the contention of Aryan’s lawyers that since the offences arraigned against Khan are Sections 8(c), 20(b), 27, 28, 29, 35 of the NDPS Act and that since no Narcotic drugs or psychotropic substance has been recovered from him, the bar against grant of bail under Section 37 of the NDPS Act would not apply, the NCB told the court: “The role of one of the accused cannot be dissected from another. Even if there is no recovery of small substances, the accused are involved in conspiracy”.

**बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा**  
**Bank of Baroda**

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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 accounts.(The details of Borrower(s)/Mortgagor (s)/ Guarantor (s)/Secured Assets/Dues/Reserve Price/Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below:-

Date & Time of Auction: 16.11.2021 , 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM				
Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers/ Guarantors & Date of Demand & Possession Notice/Amount of Debt	Description of Immovable Property	Reserve Price (₹) Bid Increase Amount	Date & Time of Property Inspection & Deposit of EMD
<b>BRANCH: ROSARB, AYODHYA</b>				
1.	<b>Borrowers:-</b> (1) Radheyshyam Pandey S/o Ganesh Dutt Pandey. (2) Archana Pandey W/o Radheyshyam Pandey <b>Address of 1 and 2 Borrowers :-</b> Jawahar Nagar, Ward No. 11, near Godown of Chhapriya PO Naugarh, Nagar Palika Parishad Siddharth Nagar 272203. <b>Date of Demand Notice: 30.11.2012</b> <b>Date of Possession Notice: 12.04.2013</b> <b>Outstanding Amount: Rs. 29,74,377.52</b> + Interest thereon & other charges w.e.f. 31.07.2021	All part and parcel of the property consisting of Equitable mortgage of Gata No. 1142 situated at mauja Birpur No. 14, Tola Naugarh Bazar (Nagar Palika Parishad Siddharth Nagar) and Chohalla Jawahar Nagar), Pargana & Tahsil Naugarh, District Siddhartha Nagar in the name of Radheyshyam Pandey S/o Ganesh Dutt Pandey, Total Area 5440 Square Feet. <b>Bounded as under(As Per Sale Deed):</b> East: Remaining Aaraji Muker, West: Khet Samujh, North: Bagh Ghisiyawan, South: Chak Road Kachha.	<b>Reserve Price Rs. 41,78,864/- (₹M)</b> <b>Bid Increase Amount Rs.10,000/- (₹M)</b>	21.10.2021 to 15.11.2021 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM 2110.2021 15.11.2021 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM
2.	<b>Borrowers:-</b> M/s Mamta Traders Through its Proprietor Archana Pandey W/o Radheshyam Pandey. <b>Address:-</b> Jawahar Nagar, Ward No. 11, near Godown of Chhapriya PO Naugarh, Nagar Palika Parishad Siddharth Nagar 272203. <b>Guarantors:-</b> Radheshyam pandey S/o Ganesh Dutt pandey. <b>Address:-</b> Jawahar Nagar, Ward No. 11, near Godown of Chhapriya PO Naugarh, Nagar Palika Parishad Siddharth Nagar 272203. <b>Date of Demand Notice: 30.11.2012</b> <b>Date of Possession Notice: 12.04.2013</b> <b>Outstanding Amount: Rs. 64,66,316.43</b> + Interest thereon & other charges w.e.f. 31.07.2021	All part and parcel of the property consisting of Equitable mortgage of Gata No. 1001 situated at Mauja Birpur No. 14, Tola Naugarh Paschim, Pargana & Tahsil naugarh, District Siddharth Nagar in the name of Archana Pandey W/o Radhey Shyam pandey, Total Area 52.11 ½ dhur <b>Bounded as under:</b> East: House of Sogra begum etc and then Road PWD, West: Gata No. 1006 graveyard, North: Chak marg, South: Gata No. 1002.	<b>Reserve Price Rs. 7,45,025/- (₹M)</b> <b>Bid Increase Amount Rs.10,000/- (₹M)</b>	21.10.2021 to 15.11.2021 Between 10:00 AM from 4:00 PM 21.10.2021 to 15.11.2021 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/e-auction.htm](http://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm) & <https://ibapi.in>. Also prospective bidders may contact the authorised officer on Mobile No. 9517599985

**Date: 21.10.2021** **Place: Ayodhya** **Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda**



## Fetch up!

Though there are ample vaccines now, fully vaccinated people still being fewer is alarming

It was vaccine hesitancy then. It is vaccine complacency now. Some people seem disinterested in taking the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccination. Many are convincing themselves that the chances of a third wave of the pandemic look dim because of low infection rates. Adherence to safety protocol has already slackened; so has the urgency to take the second dose. It is also no longer the case that vaccine stocks are low. They are ample. In the second week of October, 11.12 crore doses were available with the States on a given day but only 38 lakh doses were administered. In Odisha, around 13 lakh people were overdue for the second dose in August-end. Such cases are being reported from all the States. The longer waiting period of 84 days between the two Covishield jabs could be one reason for the low job rate. It is also possible that overcrowding at vaccination centres puts off some people. Or, like in rural areas, they may not want to travel long distances to get their jabs. Whatever the reasons, the fact is lakhs of people are not taking their jabs when they become due. In August, the Union Government said in response to an RTI query that over 3.86 crore Indians had failed to take the second dose within the stipulated time. The poor response for the second dose is making the Government jittery. For, the process of vaccination is incomplete till the second dose is administered.



Some hospital studies reveal that a single dose of Covishield offers protection against symptomatic infections with the Delta variant in a range of 18-61 per cent. The fully immunised had 97 per cent protection against death and the partly vaccinated, 69 per cent. Secondly, an incomplete vaccination gives the coronavirus the chance to infect or mutate in a manner to resist the vaccine. Either way, it militates against the massive vaccination exercise the country has undertaken. Remember how on account of complacency, the strains of tuberculosis bacteria began to resist antibiotics and the country registered the highest number of drug-resistance tuberculosis cases in the world. The Union health ministry is running campaigns about the importance of the second jab but says it cannot force people who deliberately miss the second jab to take it. In contrast, in a judgment in May, the Karnataka High Court made it the Government's obligation to ensure that the second dose is provided. Even though the case was about the scarcity of vaccines, in principle, The court said vaccination affects the right to life. The truth is, the Government can be faulted for the scarcity of doses, and the lack of adequate vaccination centres but it cannot be responsible for people's complacency. That is something the people have to handle for themselves. It is their responsibility to get vaccinated to be safe and, importantly, keep others safe.

### PICTALK



Devotees take part in the International Dussehra festival, in Kullu

PTI

## Straying off

As the farmers' protest approaches its first anniversary, the very spirit of it is in question

Are the farmers and their leaders protesting against the Union Government's three farm laws losing touch with reality? Have they lost their way, probably misguided by the political inputs they might be receiving by the Opposition parties in what was initially their fight for justice? Are they doing what they had set out to do? Or, have their shepherds unwittingly crossed on to another path and are leading the flock influenced by interested political entities? These are the questions that need asking as the farmers' protest approaches its first anniversary. Already, the protests have run out of fizz; so much so that a deserted Rakesh Tikait had to shed tears to emotionally blackmail the disgruntled farmers to make them return to the protest site. Since then, he has travelled far and wide, from West Bengal to Punjab and Haryana, to amass support — and possibly funds — for the farmers' cause. But the truth of all this on ground really is that the public perception against the agitation has turned from sympathetic caring to irritatingly banal.



The locals have been inconvenienced for too long and they have started reacting adversely to the cause though, to be fair to them, nobody across the country is genuinely against the welfare of farmers and hence they have so long been supported in the pursuit of their goal; right or wrong is for the courts to judge. The farmers and their leaders themselves have done no less to hurt their own cause. Though the Lakhimpur Kheri incident may have divided people depending along the lines of which social media group members they are, the farmers haven't had a good advertisement for themselves beginning from the Red Fort on January 26, to the gherao of the Mini Secretariat, followed by the violence in Karnal, and now the brutal murder at the Singhu border. It's high time for the farmers to coax their leaders into thinking about the right strategy and execute it efficiently. Otherwise, the support and sympathy they have received thus far is likely to wane and they would have hardly anything to show for their struggle. In a democracy, that shouldn't happen. But, in a similar vein, in a democracy nobody has the right to take away the rights of anybody else. My right to swing my hand ends where your nose begins; they should remember this.

# The dilemma of displacement

The whole country is going through a weird moment. Not that violence is new to India, but it was never so blatant and cover-up so brazen

When the State acts with aggression against its people on spurious grounds, One can only expect danse Macabre. Only this time it was performed by Bijoy Shankar Bania, who stomped over the corpse of Moinul Haq who had succumbed to the police gunshots. When hate has paralysed the minds and poisoned the thinking, anything is possible.

It is diabolical and sends chills down the spine. The stomper was a Government photographer. He accompanied the police team that went to evacuate the Government land in Dholpur village in Assam on September 23, 2021. He has been arrested and would be out as soon as jumping over a dead body is no big crime legally. Amoral is not punishable under the law. It is a hate crime at its best or worse. A professional psychologist would be better placed to understand the mind of a person who stomps over a dead body, religion of dead body notwithstanding. He had hatred for a community that made him do a dastardly act. It gives a peep into the mindset of the people now on the daily diet of communal hatred that has poisoned the minds of the people.

The Government of Assam was ostensibly dealing with a spin off of love jihad, land jihad with all its so-called good intentions. It acted with brute force but legally. Thanks to a nineteenth-century archaic law called 'Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886'

Dhalpur was "grazing ground" on Government land. The "chars" had erected their shanties and were around for quite some time. Around 800 people have been evicted in the drive, whereas the real numbers could be around 20,000, if not more. The people evicted were served with notices a few hours before the eviction. The violence was a logical corollary in Assam's Darrang district. However, the Government did not realise that it would come to such a pass. The police opened fire so much for the Government's will to solve the land issue with its "good intentions".



After winning the elections on a manifesto that promised illegal encroachments to be cleared, it was on the cards. Those addressed in the manifesto knew it would be Bengali Muslims, dubbed Bangladeshis in local parlance. The BJP harped upon its narrative of land jihad and consolidated its votes. The Bengali Muslims were portrayed as encroachers upon the land of the indigenous Assamese.

The Government wanted land for a farming project for locals called the "Garukhuti Project". The forceful eviction drive that led to resistance and firing. It killed Moinul Haque and the twelve-year-old child, Sheikh Farid, died on the altars of the Garukhuti project. The public good led to public misery. Though legally dressed it was naked oppression defying the basic premise of law.

In Assam, land is a far more emotional issue than elsewhere. Assam has been home to a multi-ethnic group which are often jostling for the land.

The marginalised communities are the worst sufferers in eviction drives. Be it eviction drives for beautification like 'Turkman Gate' in Delhi in the seventies or Kathputli colony rather recently or acquiring land for a pro-

IN ASSAM, LAND IS A FAR MORE EMOTIONAL ISSUE THAN ELSEWHERE. ASSAM HAS BEEN HOME TO A MULTI-ETHNIC GROUP WHICH ARE OFTEN JOSTLING FOR LAND

ject like in Bengal's Singur or Evicting forest land encroachers in Kerala or Niyamgiri in Odisha. The marginalised communities are touted as squatters standing in the way of development. It is conveniently forgotten that they too are citizens of India, who deserve to have the dignity of a small place to call their own

Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886 gives the right to the commissioner to forcibly remove acquisitions but after due notice. This was not done. The Government could also have the option of going to court, though time taking, would have given a fair chance to the person. It was not used. The Government wanted to act and wanted to be seen as acting harshly.

Even if the persons were illegal squatters on Government land, the eviction must be done following the procedure established by law. This would need a fact-finding exercise to gauge whether a person is illegally encroaching upon the said land, or has a bona fide claim upon that land.

The Government followed a "summary eviction" procedure, under Rule 18 of the Settlement Rules made under the archaic 'Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886'.

However, a person cannot be directed to vacate the land if they have a bona fide claim over the land. Rule 18 also mandates a publication of notice to provide the illegal encroacher with 15 days to vacate the land. This was again not done.

The stomping of the corpse was a 'George Floyd' moment for India but it passed rather calmly. That speaks volumes about sensitivities that we have as a nation. The whole country is going through a weird moment in history. Take, for instance, the incident at the Lakhimpur Kheri. Allegedly, the son of a Union Minister mauled the protesting farmers. Not that violence is new to India but it was never so blatant and cover-up so brazen.

The Opposition leaders were rounded up while the national media called people going there "political tourism"! Incredible as it may sound, the Opposition and voices of dissent are shrinking. The over-enthusiastic bird heads are getting out of control. The frankenstein planted in their heads is now manifesting in danse macabre.

(The writer is a columnist and documentary filmmaker. The views expressed are personal.)

### SOUND BITE

Unfortunately, the Opposition and a section of yellow media is unable to digest the love and affection we receive from people.

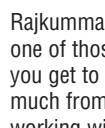


Andhra Pradesh CM — YS Jagan Mohan Reddy



We had said that when the Government is established, work (on nuclear talks) will be maintained, and now it is being pursued.

Iranian President — Ebrahim Raisi



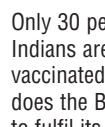
Rajkumar Rao is one of those actors you get to learn so much from and enjoy working with.

Actor — Paresh Rawal



You always need that sixth option to free your bowlers, in case someone has a bad day.

India vice-captain — Rohit Sharma



Only 30 per cent Indians are fully vaccinated. How does the BJP plan to fulfil its promise to vaccinate all by December 2021?

Congress spokesperson — Jaiveer Shergill

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### LITERATE VS EDUCATED

Sir — No kudos is enough for the humanitarians of West Bengal's Dharwadanga village for continuing with the 43-year old tradition of celebrating Lakshmi Puja jointly by transcending all norms of religious barriers amidst this utmost communally vitiated environment all around. Tarak Das — secretary of the Lakshmi Puja committee — humbly states that though he is not "very educated" (being a school dropout), he can't forget the lines of Kazi Nazrul Islam — *Mora ek brinte duti kusum Hindu Musliman* (we are two buds of one stalk — Hindus and Muslims) — and so we never differentiated among Hindus and Muslims!

Far from being "not very educated", Tarak Das and his Hindu-Muslim companions of farming community are infinite times more "educated" than innumerable so-called "educated" who are outright communal to the core despite being armed with academic degrees and holding medium to high Chairs in respective professions. Mere earning of a university degree hardly serves the moral fabric of the society. Hence if the concerned authorities really want to see a society where the future citizens of the society turn truly educated while pursuing degrees for career prospects; then inculcation of moral values, principles and humanity remain the urgent need of the hour in school curriculum.

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

#### PINK IS BEAUTIFUL, FOR ALL

Sir — Pink has not always been considered a colour for girls. There was no sudden, unanimous cultural shift but both men and women wear pink attire and that suits them well. It gets noticed, no matter who wears it. The amount of attraction that pink receives is much more than that of red. Pink is more English in nature and is combined with the right options and right apparels, it can give an elegant tone — a pink tie, for example.

Pink is a light tint of red and was named after a flower of the same name. It was first used as a color name in the

#### Two-wheelers are two-seaters!



The Assam BJP chief has said that tripling on two wheelers will be allowed when the price of petrol goes up to Rs200 per litre in the State. It is foolish to link the number of persons to ride on a two wheeler with petrol price. The capacity of two wheelers has been limited to two. Extra seats beyond that are likely to increase the chances of accidents due to inability of the rider to balance in certain conditions. Is it

late 17th century. According to surveys in Europe and the United States, pink is the color most often associated with charm, politeness, sensitivity, tenderness, sweetness, childhood, femininity and the romantic. As long as you are aware of how different work environments have a different way of dressing and in the daily routine pink occupies the top spot and women love to wear their favorite colour and pink is the best suited for them. A pleasing colour like pink pays well for your appearance and brings about a sea change in your dress sense as well.

Jayanthi Subramaniam | Mumbai

#### THE EARTH IS SUFFERING

Sir — International prices of petroleum, coal, natural gas and LPG are too high and unbearable for the poor and the middle class. Better if India imports clean renewable energy (solar, wind, green hydrogen) batteries rather than the conventional fuel. Also India should make big plans to produce clean renewable energy on both small scale and large

scale — solar roads, solar and wind energy plants in Thar desert, Ladakh and J&K. This can generate employment, help reduce air pollution and provide low cost fuel.

Also climate change related weather catastrophes such as floods, cyclones in various parts of India can be reduced to an extent. Other measures should include — increasing the use of e-paper, e-books, e-bills, mechanical pencils and chopsticks, and cashless transactions. This can save millions of trees and limit deforestation. It is pertinent that we keep the oceans clean and plastic free so that they can absorb more carbon dioxide and mitigate various kinds of pollution. That is why many countries are growing sea plants, seagrass and sea phytoplankton too. It is high time that we imbibe such measures from individual to national level so that the ecosystem yields less damage.

Nivriti Sreelekha | Secunderabad

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DEVENDER SINGH ASWAL

Eyebrows were raised when a member of the Kasturirangan-led committee, set up recently to revise the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) and lay down the broad guidelines for school syllabus and textbooks, said that the existing curriculum in schools dwells "too much on defeats", and that "in the light of new facts, history should be rewritten". The member, an ideologue, also remarked that textbooks should talk about the "fighting spirit" of rulers such as Maharana Pratap in battles against foreign invaders. When Dr Muri Manohar Joshi, HRD Minister in the Vajpayee government, caused some revision in the school text books, it was considered by the left-wing as saffronisation of the syllabus. The revision of the extant NCF has been necessitated by the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. It is not new or novel. It was last revised in 2005, and earlier in 1975, 1988 and 2000. The NEP, the first education policy of the 21st century, aims to address the many growing developmental imperatives of India. The NEP envisages revision and revamping of all aspects of the education structure, including its regulation and governance and to create a new system aligned with the aspirational goals of the 21st century and the SDG4, while building upon India's great traditions and value systems. The NEP unambiguously says that 'the pursuit of knowl-



edge (Jnan), wisdom (Pragya), and truth (Satya) was always considered in Indian thought and philosophy as the highest human goal. A member of the National Steering Committee entrusted the task of drafting the NCF, and a right-wing ideologue, has hinted at re-writing history and the text books 'in the light of new facts' of history. The precise mandate of the steering committee is to develop the NCF within the mandated remit. The NEP speaks, among other things, of incorporating local content and flavour as the students must know about their past, immediate surroundings and topography, India's civilisational heritage, constitutional values, so as to develop the spirit of critical thinking and enquiry. The Policy advocates multilingualism, ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promotion of life-long opportunities for all by 2030 by incorporating rapid changes in the knowledge landscape in the globalised world. The aim is to promote India as a global study destination by providing premium education at affordable costs so as to help 'restore its role as a Viswa Guru'. Evidently, the founding fathers of our republic laid the foundation of a civic nation, and not an ethnic nation by crafting a republican democratic Constitution, solemnly affirming to secure to all its citizens: justice, liberty, equality and fraternity-assuring the dignity of the individual. When one speaks of India's civilisational heritage and the need for inculcating the spirit of enquiry and scientific temper, the following Vedic hymn flashes across the mind — 'Whether God's will created it (the universe), or...Only He who is its overseer in highest heaven knows, Only He knows, or perhaps He does not know.' In a steering committee of 12 eminences in diverse fields of knowledge, there may be initial difference of opinion but when they talk together, deliberate, build consensus, they will surmount parochial considerations and develop the national curricular framework in perfect accord with the hallowed provisions of the NEP 2020, staying clear of the potential carping criticism of the extreme left or the radical right, by not harking too much on the past. Of course, we must analyse the past — without being its prisoner — in the context of the present for the purpose of building a resurgent India by laying the foundation of a sound, secure and holistic school education system to meet the aspirational needs of the 21st century.

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

# Making sense of the power crisis debate

For import-dependent India, it is costlier to import longer haul Australian coal than shorter haul Indonesian coal which is getting diverted to China



SUBHASH C PANDEY

A barrage of news about rising electricity consumption, rising international price of coal and shortage of coal with power plants have raised fears of an impending power crisis. There are 135 coal-fired power plants with total installed capacity of about 202 GW meeting about 70 per cent of electricity supply. On October 7, more than half of these plants had coal stocks of less than three days. 16 small plants with total capacity of 17GW had no coal stock. Low coal stocks with thermal power plants does not mean shortage of coal in the country.

Here is the big picture; facts that speak for themselves. There is absolutely no shortage of power if people are willing to pay its price, both in terms of cash and health.

International Energy Agency has highlighted that energy demand has shot up worldwide as economic activity picks up post-pandemic. During April-September 2019, India's electricity consumption was 68100 crore units (kwh). It fell down 62500 crore in April-Sept 2020, mainly during the lockdown months of April-May 2020. However, electricity consumption during April-Sept 2021 jumped to 71500 crore units, more than the pre-covid level even though there was a distressing second wave in April-May 2021 and the tour/travel/hospitality industry is not yet back to pre-covid level. Air/rail travel is not fully restored.

Increase in electricity demand is a positive sign indicating economic recovery. Increased coverage of households with access to electricity connection have brought new electricity consumers in the market. Growing digital economy also contributes to rising demand. A welcome surge in electricity demand has raised supply concerns, especially, as all indications are further increase in electricity demand in coming months.

Since 2013, total primary energy consumption in India has been the third highest in the world after China and the US. Total power generation capacity in India has increased from 243 GW in March 2014 to 320 GW in March 2017 to 388 GW in August 2021. Out of this, 202 GW is coal/lignite fired thermal power, 46 GW is from large hydroelectric projects, 45 GW from Solar and 40 GW from Wind power. Renewable energy capacity is about 37 per cent of total and India will reach 40 per cent renewable energy capacity well before 2030 as per target accepted under 2015 Paris Climate Change agreement.

Although coal-based power plants contribute only to 52 per cent of installed electricity generation capacity, these plants meet almost 75 per cent of total electricity demand. So even though we have made impressive gains in expanding solar power, we are still largely dependent on coal for electricity. Our domestic production of coal is about 730 MMT and we annually import over 300 MMT. Electricity sector accounts for about 2/3rd of total coal consumption.



SINCE 2013, TOTAL PRIMARY ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN INDIA HAS BEEN THE THIRD HIGHEST IN THE WORLD AFTER CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES. TOTAL POWER GENERATION CAPACITY IN INDIA HAS INCREASED FROM 243 GW IN MARCH 2014 TO 388 GW IN AUGUST 2021

(The writer is former Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. The views expressed are personal.)



India is the second largest coal consumer after China. International prices of coal have risen recently for two reasons. Sharper increase in gas prices mean that countries are increasing dependence on cheaper coal-based thermal plants.

China is facing increased electricity demand in post-pandemic economic recovery and in a trade war with Australia, China stopped coal imports from Australia, one of the major exporters of coal.

Coal makes up nearly 60 per cent of China's energy consumption. Increased coal/power demand from China has set coal prices soaring high and many coastal power plants depending on (previously cheaper) coal imports are now switching to domestic coal in India.

For import dependent Indian power producers, it is costlier to import longer haul Australian coal than shorter haul Indonesian coal that is increasingly getting diverted to China. The net result of all this is higher demand for coal, higher price for coal and resultant financial stress on power generating companies.

There have been temporary supply disruptions (monsoon-related) in coal mining and transportation. The coal supply position is steadily improving but there are basic issues to be addressed to ensure long term health of the power sector which is victim to populism. Coal supply is a temporary problem. There is enough coal and production/transport will increase once monsoon woes are over. But the real issue of financial distress on power generating companies remains. Power generating companies owe about ₹20,000 crore to Coal India Limited alone.

Thermal plants are expected to have stock of 20 days requirement

but many power producers don't have money to stock coal because they have themselves not been paid by discoms for power supplied. Discoms are cash starved because tariffs don't cover all costs, many consumers don't pay their bills or delay payment. Power theft and leakage through unmetered supply continues to be rather high. This is all reflected in discoms inability to pay to power producers.

Power producers give 45 days' credit to Electricity Distribution companies (discoms). If the dues are not cleared in 45 days, outstanding dues are called 'overdues' liable to charge of penal interest.

On 17 October, 2021, discoms owed an overdue amount of ₹98,067 crore to power generation/transmission companies. Nearly ₹23,310 crore is payable to public sector thermal power generating companies (NTPC, etc.) Around ₹51,899 crore is payable to public sector thermal power generating companies (maximum amount payable to a single company is ₹25,611 crore, to Adani Power). Around ₹17,980 crore is payable to renewable power producers and ₹4,877 crore is payable to PowerGrid.

If coal companies have to recover ₹20,000 crore from power utilities, will it make sense for them to produce more coal and supply on credit? If power producers are not getting paid for power supplied, will they not reduce production? Does it make sense for them to improve plant load factor and produce more electricity to supply on credit? That is the real problem.

The discom reform scheme UDAY ended in 2019-20 with most of the states failing to meet their stipulated targets. On July 1, the Centre has launched a new scheme of 'Reforms-based and Results-linked,

Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme' to provide conditional financial assistance to discoms for strengthening of supply infrastructure. The scheme with total outlay of ₹3,03,758 crore will involve Central government budget support of ₹97,631 crore by 2024-25. All existing power sector reform schemes namely DDUGJY, IPDS, PM-KUSUM scheme would be subsumed into this new umbrella program.

Among the many contemplated reforms is a measure to create separate feeder for agricultural electricity supply, expansion of network of solar run irrigation systems. Other pending electricity reforms are removal of cross subsidies and open access, introducing competition by allowing consumers choice of electricity supplier.

States are presently administering two types of cross subsidy arrangements. One is between high-end and low-end household consumers and the other is between household consumers on one hand and industrial/commercial consumers on the other.

There are just too many consumer categories and tariff lines - slabs and fixed charges, making electricity pricing quite complex and non-transparent. On top of tariffs fixed by 'independent regulators', States levy electricity duty (as it is not subsumed in GST) which ranges from 0-70 per cent for certain categories of consumers.

Cross-subsidy burden on industry is problematic because it adversely affects cost competitiveness — manufacturing and exports and resultant job creation. It is frustrating that these reforms are getting delayed and deferred. Any myopic politics will sap the nation of energy in the long run.

## POINTCOUNTERPOINT

RAHUL GANDHI IS A DRUG ADDICT AND A DRUG PEDDLER. I DO NOT SAY THIS, IT HAS APPEARED IN NEWS REPORTS.  
—KARNATAKA BJP PRESIDENT  
NALIN KUMAR KATEEL



KATEEL MIGHT HAVE CONSUMED SOME DRUGS SEIZED FROM THE ADANI PORT, WHICH IS WHY HE IS MAKING SUCH REMARKS.  
—AICC GENERAL SECRETARY  
RANDEEP SURJEWALA

# Women officers in the armed forces

There is no doubt that officers and other ranks have to undergo a sea change in their thinking process and attitude to accept gender equality

The recent Supreme Court judgement directing the Government to open the portals of the National Defence Academy for women has finally paved way for across-the-board gender equality in the armed Forces. Eligible women will now be permitted to appear for the NDA Entrance Examination for the first time and the sky will be the limit for their career aspirations. This will now enable women to join all available combat or non-combat branches of the three services.

Notwithstanding the above judgement, women have always had their presence in the armed forces, though in a limited role like that of doctors in all the three wings of the armed forces. It



RAVI CHANDER KOCHHAR

(The writer, a retired Rear Admiral, is Group Pro Vice Chancellor & OSD (HR), Amity University, Uttar Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)

has, however, been almost three decades when women entered many other branches where only men dominated once.

The women officers in Indian armed forces have come a long way and have adapted well with the changing times. However, it is incumbent on the services to be accommodative in assimilating women in all domains — be it combat, administration, engineering or medical. Therefore, the onus is still upon the male-dominated armed forces to recognize the power of women officers and facilitate them to achieve their full potential.

I still fondly remember, whilst I was in command of INS Vikrant in 1992, when the first batch of women officers



reported onboard for initial sea training for Short Service Commission in the Indian Navy. The lady officers were very enthusiastic and took keen interest in the training. Normally when officers join for sea training, they all live on the ship throughout their training. In this case as there were no separate arrangements onboard for their stay, the ship was in harbour and they would come in the morning and leave in the

evening. Throughout their training they exhibited their skill levels, adaptability, physical fitness and mental alertness to match with standards laid down for men.

These young lady officers were quick on the uptake and always enthusiastic to learn the service ways. They were happy with the training but had one observation — why they could not stay onboard. It was explained to them that as of now the arrangements onboard ships are for men, especially living spaces and washrooms. Whilst they all understood the existing constraints, they were keen to know when ships will have women's quarters as well. I recollect my reaction to that was 'when a child is born, he/she first learns to

crawl, then stand and only thereafter runs'. I can only say that the time has come for all of them to run.

On the lighter side, many of those young lady officers found their soul mates amongst the naval officers during their initial service career and thereafter, lived happily ever after. Being from the same service the understanding between the partners also proved to be of higher quality, essential for marital harmony. In short it is a win in situation, as both the partners know each other's service conditions and do not take long to settle.

I can only say that the day has come when the idea of women joining armed forces had taken shape and has now evolved to women getting

permanent commission and entering areas dominated by men like fighter pilots, combat units and serving onboard ships and sailing on operational missions.

There's is no doubt that officers and other ranks have also to undergo a sea change in their thinking process and attitude so as to accept gender equality and when required, take orders from women officers in command. Having said that, women must also remember that they are getting into new fields and must tread with caution and never hesitate to take guidance from men who have been holding the fort for a much longer period.

By the way in the US Navy, for the first time, a woman officer has recently

been appointed to command a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. I have no doubt it is only a matter of time when we will have lady officers in command of combat units and move shoulder to shoulder with their male counterparts.

Indian history is replete with examples of women in command of combat troops, like 'Rani of Jhansi' and many others who have led troops in battle and given a befitting reply to the enemy. It was only somewhere along the time when we lost the plot and armed forces became the forte of men alone.

At the end, I can only say, 'Welcome to Indian armed forces, brave Ladies, you are indeed the pride of India.'



# Events lined up to celebrate 100 cr job feat



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With around 99.4 crore doses already administered on Wednesday, the Government hopes to complete 1 billion, or 100 crore, doses by Thursday. The Government has lined up a string of programmes for the ‘great achievement which comes nine months after the vaccination drive started in the country.

Sources said party leaders have been asked to visit vaccination centres; party chief JP Nadda will be in Ghaziabad in UP, which votes early next year, for the occasion, while General Secretaries Arun Singh and Dushyant Gautam will be in Tamil Nadu’s Coimbatore and Lucknow, respectively.

To mark the billionth shot the government had also planned to make announcements over loudspeakers on trains, planes, and ships, and hoist the national flag at the Red Fort in Delhi. In the meantime,

the Government said that it has set a target of vaccinating the entire adult population of the country by the end of 2021. Bharati Pravin Pawar, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare said that more than 99 crore doses of Covid-19 vaccines have been administered in the country so far, the Minister added.

Only one other country has administered over a billion vaccine doses - China (crossed 1 billion doses in June), which is also the only other country to have a population of more than one billion.

Last month the centre - to celebrate Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s 71st birthday - administered over 2.5 crore doses in a day; that was the fourth time over one crore doses were given in a day.

The administering of one billion vaccine doses - given the unknown and unpredictable nature of the coronavirus, the scale and intensity of the pandemic, and the challenges sur-

## CO2 emissions to keep rising for want of bids on safe constructions: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic caused CO2 emissions from buildings and construction to fall significantly in 2020, but a lack of efforts to decarbonise in real sense means that emissions will keep rising and contribute to dangerous climate change, according to the 2021 Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction.

The report, published by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)-hosted Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC), finds that in 2020, the sector accounted for 36 per cent of global final energy consumption and 37 per cent of energy related CO2 emissions, as compared to other end use sectors.

While the level of emissions within the sector are 10

per cent lower than in 2015, reaching lows not seen since 2007, this was largely due to lockdowns, slowing of economies, difficulties households and businesses faced in maintaining and affording energy access and a fall in construction activity. Efforts to decarbonize the sector played only a small role.

With large growth projected in the buildings sector, emissions are set to rise if there is no effort to decarbonize buildings and improve their energy efficiency. In Asia and Africa, building stock is expected to double by 2050. Global material use is expected to more than double by 2060, with one-third of this rise attributable to construction materials.

“This year showed that climate change is an immediate, direct threat to every community on this planet, and it is

only going to intensify,” said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP. “The buildings and construction sector, as a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, must urgently be decarbonized through a triple strategy of reducing energy demand, decarbonising the power supply and addressing building materials’ carbon footprint, if we are to have any chance of meeting the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C.”

The GlobalABC’s Global Buildings Climate Tracker found that there have been some incremental improvements in action to decarbonize and improve the energy efficiency of the sector.

In 2015, 90 countries included actions for addressing building emissions or improving energy efficiency in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under



the Paris Agreement. This number has now hit 136, although ambition varies.

Since 2015, an additional 18 countries have put in place building energy codes - a move that is crucial to shift emissions downwards - bringing the total to 80. Local cities and governments have also developed codes. Investment in energy efficiency rose to over 180 billion USD in 2020, up from 129 billion in 2015. Green building certification has increased by 13.9 per cent compared to 2019.

Overall, however, the report finds that these efforts are insufficient, both in terms of speed and scale.

Other key findings of the report include: two-thirds of countries still lack mandatory buildings codes; most of the increase in energy efficiency spending came from a small number of European countries; too small a share of finance goes into deep energy retrofits, and there is a lack of ambitious decarbonization targets in NDCs.

Energy demand in the

buildings and construction sector is likely to rebound as economic recovery efforts take hold and as pent-up demands for new construction are realized. By 2030, to be on track to achieving a goal of net-zero emissions by 2050, the International Energy Agency says that direct building CO2 emissions would need to decrease by 50 per cent while indirect building sector emissions will have to drop through a reduction of 60 per cent in power generation emissions.

## ‘Flower protein expression’ could accurately predict hospitalisation or death: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Especially helpful in cases of the early phase of Covid-19 illness, the ‘flower protein expression’, a particular protein on the cell surface, could accurately predict hospitalisation or death as well as forecast who would have a less serious infection, scientists have said in a study published in EMBO Molecular Medicine.

The study shows that analysis of a particular protein on the cell surface is likely to predict who is in danger of a serious infection caused by the virus, explains Assistant Professor Rajan Gogna, lead author of the new study.

“Cells have a so-called fitness status, and by analysing it we could predict hospitalisation or death in Covid-19 patients, potentially making such a biomarker an earlier prediction tool, especially because it can be detected from the common nasal swap covid-19-tests,” says Rajan Gogna from the Won Group at the Biotech Research & Innovation Centre.

If the cell fitness status is poor, it indicates that the cell

does not develop well, either because the cell is aged, lacks reliability, has an ill-functioning metabolism or is disease prone etc. Earlier in 2021, the research team discovered that fitness status is expressed in proteins called flower proteins. These flower proteins are on the surface of the cell, and they are expressed in two forms, explains Rajan Gogna.

“In one form, they tell the surrounding cells that this cell is doing well. In the other form, they indicate to the surrounding tissue that this particular cell is not doing well and thus has a bad fitness status. If the cell’s fitness status is not great, the cell will get phased out and killed by the surrounding cells.”

Especially helpful in cases of the early phase of COVID-19 illness, the flower protein expression could accurately predict hospitalisation or death as well predict who would have a less serious infection.

“The method could predict who needed hospitalisation with an accuracy of 78.7 per cent. With COVID-19 patients who would not have a serious

infection, the prediction was accurate at 93.9 percent,” said Associate Professor and Group Leader Kyoung Jae Won, who analyzed the data using machine learning.

In order to analyse the data, the researchers performed a post-mortem examination of the infected lung tissue in deceased COVID-19 patients to determine the flower protein’s functional role in acute lung injury, which is the main cause of death from the disease.

“The cell fitness, expressed by the flower protein, could help explain why some people respond poorly to COVID-19 and provide an opportunity for pre-identification of high-risk individuals. This discovery has the potential to help save their lives by severely alerting them to be extra protective of themselves, or until they are fortunate enough to get their hands on a vaccine.

In some other nations, the population in general has great hesitancy against vaccination. But people are not hesitant about a test, and we hope this will improve outcomes,” said Rajan Gogna.

## Negative RT-PCR test must for int’l travellers visiting India



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

All international travellers visiting India will need a negative RT-PCR test, according to the revised guidelines for international arrivals that will be implemented from October 25. An order issued by the Union Health Ministry said, “The global trajectory of Covid-19 pandemic continues to decline with certain regional variations. The need to monitor the continuously changing nature of the virus and the evolution of SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern (VOCs) must still remain in focus.

“The existing guidelines (issued on 17th February 2021 with subsequent addendums) for international arrivals in India have been formulated taking a risk-based approach. In view of increasing vaccination coverage across the globe

and the changing nature of the pandemic, the existing guidelines for international arrivals in India have been reviewed,” said the guidelines.

The order stated that the revised protocols need to be adhered to by international travellers as well as by airlines at points of entry (airports, seaports and land borders) for risk profiling of passengers.

As per the order, all travellers should submit a self-declaration form on the online Air Suvidha portal before the scheduled travel, upload a negative Covid-19 RT-PCR report (this test should have been conducted within 72 hrs prior to undertaking the journey) and each passenger shall also submit a declaration with respect to the authenticity of the report and will be liable for criminal prosecution if found otherwise.

## NIA raids locations in J&K terror conspiracy case, 4 held

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday conducted searches at multiple locations in four districts of Jammu and Kashmir and arrested four accused persons in the J&K terrorism conspiracy case.

The agency conducted searches at 11 locations in Srinagar, Pulwama, Kulgam and Baramulla districts of Jammu and Kashmir and arrested four accused persons - Suhail Ahmad Thokar (Kulgam), Kamran Ashraf Reshi (Hazratbal, Srinagar), Rayid Bashir (Srinagar) and Hanan Gulzar Dar (Srinagar), the NIA said in a statement.

The case relates to conspiracy for undertaking violent terrorist acts in Jammu and Kashmir and other major cities by cadres of proscribed terrorist organisations Laskkar-e-Tayabba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Al Badr and similar other outfits and their affiliates including The Resistance Front (TRF) and People Against Fascist Forces (PAFF)

## Multiple spots raided in Mudra drug haul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA on Wednesday conducted searches in Delhi in the case of seizure of 3,000 Kg drugs at Mundra Port, Gujarat. The agency conducted the searches at a godown in Nebsarai here, the agency said. The search was conducted at Nebsarai in connection with the seizure of

narcotics substance imported in the guise of semi processed talc stones by private firm Aashi Trading company. “During the search conducted today white powder material, suspected to be talc mixed with narcotics, has been seized with the help of FSL (Forensic Sciences Laboratory),” the NIA said in a statement.



among others.

The NIA had registered the case on October 10, 2021 and initiated the investigation. Till now, nine accused persons have been arrested in this case by the agency.

“Searches conducted today have led to recovery and seizure of electronic devices and incriminating jihadi documents/posters etc.,” it said.

Preliminary investigation has revealed that the four arrested accused persons are terror associates/OGWs (over ground workers) of various proscribed terrorist organisations and have been providing logistical and material support to the terrorists, it added.

## BSF seizes bag full of foreign made pistols

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Border Security Force (BSF) on Wednesday said it has recovered a bag containing 22 pistols of Chinese, Pakistani and Italian make besides hundreds of rounds of ammunition from the border in Punjab in a joint operation with the Punjab police.

The seizures of the weapons, ammunition and the contraband items were made in the operational area of Khemkaran in Ferozepur district of Punjab.

“On 19th Oct’ 2021, based on intelligence of Punjab Police regarding presence of consignment ahead of Border Security Force

(in between B S Fence Gate No 159 to 160) in the AOR (area of responsibility) of BOP (Border Out Post) Uttar and T Bundh, a joint search operation was carried out by the BSF troops and a team of Punjab Police, Amritsar” the BSF said in a statement.

During the search operation, one shoulder bag (black in colour) was found lying inside the paddy fields (short of 10 metres from International Boundary), in the said alignment of BOP No 160/2 in the operational area of BOP T Bundh, it said.

From the recovered shoulder bag, the seized contraband included 22 pistols.

## Jacqueline appears before ED

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Having evaded four summonses served to her by the agency, Bollywood actor Jacqueline Fernandez on Wednesday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to record her statement under prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with a money laundering case related to alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekar who has allegedly duped high profile personalities of Rs 200 crore.

Fernandez appeared before the agency here at around 3 PM. Along with the summonses, the agency had also asked Fernandez to bring with her bank statements pertaining to her debit and credit cards trans-

actions, they added.

Fernandez’s financial transactions and her alleged association with Sukesh Chandrashekar are under the ED scanner. While investigating the money trail of Chandrashekar, the investigators learnt about the alleged link between Fernandez and the conman, sources said.

The ED sleuths are seeking to ascertain any possible financial transactions between Chandrashekar and Fernandez.

The investigators are learnt to have posed to her questions like when was the first time she met either Chandrasekar or his wife Leena Maria Paul. Did she speak to Chandrashekar over the phone and if yes, how many times and whether she knew if

the person on the other side was Chandrashekar.

In August, the ED had one questioned Fernandez in connection with the case and then she had reportedly told the investigators that she was also a victim of Chandrashekar and denied any wrongdoing.

Chandrashekar, along with his wife and actor Leena Paul, is in ED custody along with five others in connection with the Rs 200 crore extortion case.

Earlier this month, actor and performer Nora Fatehi was also questioned by the agency over her reported links with Chandrashekar and Paul.

Fatehi’s spokesperson had later issued a statement saying that the actor did not have any personal links with conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar.

## Cong demands immediate restoration of J&K statehood

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday demanded immediate restoration of statehood and a democratically elected government in Jammu and Kashmir, while alleging that the Centre has “utterly failed” to tackle the situation there. The party also questioned the “silence” of Home Minister Amit Shah after the “selective killings” of 32 civilians and nine soldiers in the Union territory.

“Even after the selective murder of 32 civilians and nine soldiers, the home minister is still silent. This means that neither the Government

of India, under whose direct jurisdiction is Jammu and Kashmir, is able to understand the situation, nor can it tackle the situation,” Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh said at the AICC Press conference.

“We demand that full statehood be given to Jammu and Kashmir immediately and there should be a government by democratic process and as per the Constitution of the country, and not by bypassing the Constitution. The people who have left Jammu and Kashmir should be immediately provided with financial assis-

tance and employment opportunities at the place of their return,” Vallabh said in the wake of the exodus of migrant workers from Jammu and Kashmir.

Noting that Government of India made several promises about the development of the Union territory, he asked why employment rate there is the lowest in the country and why the tourist footfall and capital inflow has decreased since it came under the direct control of the Centre.

Selective murders are taking place because the Centre is unable to govern the State.

## Govts plan to double production of energy from fossil fuels by 2030: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Despite increased climate ambition and net-zero commitments, Governments still plan to produce more than double the amount of energy from fossil fuels in 2030, than the amount that would limit global warming to the Paris Agreement level of 1.5°C, according to the 2021 Production Gap Report, released Wednesday by research institutes and the UN Environment Programme

(UNEP).

Over the next two decades, governments are projecting an increase in global oil and gas production, and only a modest decrease in coal production, said the report, cautioning that taken together, these plans mean that fossil fuel production will increase overall, to at least 2040.

For Executive Director of UNEP, Inger Andersen, “there is still time to limit long-term warming to 1.5°C [above pre-industrial levels], but this win-

dow of opportunity is rapidly closing.”

Andersen said that at the UN Climate Conference, COP26, taking place in early November in Glasgow, “governments must step up, taking rapid and immediate steps to close the fossil fuel production gap and ensure a just and equitable transition.”

“This is what climate ambition looks like,” she said.

This year’s report provides profiles for 15 major producer countries, showing that most

**This year's report provides profiles for 15 major producer countries, showing that most will continue to support fossil fuel production growth**

will continue to support fossil fuel production growth.

Reacting to the report, the UN Secretary General highlighted recent announcements by the world’s largest economies to end financing of coal, calling them “a much-needed step” in phasing out fossil fuels.

For António Guterres, though, the report shows that “there is still a long way to go to a clean energy future.”

“It is urgent that all remaining public financiers as well as private finance, including com-

mercial banks and asset managers, switch their funding from coal to renewables to promote full decarbonization of the power sector and access to renewable energy for all,” he said.

As per the report, countries surveyed plan to produce around 110 per cent more fossil fuels in 2030 than would be consistent with the 1.5°C limit, and 45 per cent more than what would allow a 2°C heating impact.

The report, first launched in 2019, measures the gap between

governments’ production plans and the levels consistent with the Paris Agreement. Two years later, the size of the gap has remained largely unchanged.

Current plans would lead to about 240 per cent more coal, 57 per cent more oil, and 71 per cent more gas production in 2030 than would be consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

Global gas output is projected to increase the most between 2020 and 2040, continuing a trend of long-term

global expansion inconsistent with the Paris Agreement.

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, countries have directed over \$300 billion in new funds towards fossil fuel activities - more than they have towards clean energy.

For lead author of the report, Ploy Achakulwisut, the research is clear: “Global coal, oil, and gas production must start declining immediately and steeply to be consistent with limiting long-term warming to 1.5°C.”



# Russia hosts Af talks, calls for inclusive Govt

**MOSCOW:** Russia hosted talks on Afghanistan on Wednesday involving senior representatives of the Taliban and other factions, a round of diplomacy that underlines Moscow's clout.

Opening the talks, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov emphasized that "forming a really inclusive government fully reflecting the interests of not only all ethnic groups but all political forces of the country" is necessary to achieve a stable peace in Afghanistan.

Russia had worked for years to establish contacts with the Taliban, even though it has designated the group a terrorist organization in 2003 and never took it of the list. Any contact with such groups is punishable under Russian law, but the Foreign Ministry has responded to questions about the apparent contradiction by saying that its exchanges with the Taliban are essential for helping stabilize Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union fought a 10-year war in Afghanistan that ended with its troops withdrawing in 1989. In recent years, Moscow has made a strong comeback as an influential power broker in international talks on Afghanistan, hosting the Taliban representatives and members of other

factions for bilateral and multilateral meetings.

Unlike many other countries, Russia hasn't evacuated its embassy in Kabul and its ambassador has maintained regular contacts with the Taliban after they took over the Afghan capital in August.

Lavrov in his opening speech at the conference commended the Taliban for their efforts to stabilize the situation in the country and ensure the operation of state structures.

Last week, Russian President Vladimir Putin noted that there must be no rush in officially recognizing the Taliban as the new rulers of Afghanistan, but emphasized the need to engage in talks with them.

At the same time, he emphasized the security challenges posed by the Islamic State group and other militants based in northern Afghanistan, and noted that drug trafficking from Afghanistan will continue to present a challenge.

Russia has vowed to provide military assistance to its ex-Soviet allies in Central Asia to help counter the threats, and held a series of joint drills in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan that neighbor Afghanistan.

Another sweeping military exercise in Tajikistan

involving 5,000 troops, more than 700 military vehicles and combat jets has started this week. **AP**

## Pak Army chief urges world to avert humanitarian crisis in Afghan

**Islamabad:** Pakistan Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa on Wednesday urged the international community to get together to stop a brewing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, which is now ruled by the Taliban.

Gen Bajwa made the appeal during his meeting with Stefano Pontecorvo, Senior Civil Representative NATO, who called on him at the army headquarters in Rawalpindi, the army said in a statement.

During their meeting, matters related to mutual interest, peace and stability in the region and the Afghanistan situation were discussed, it said.

"There is a need for global convergence on Afghanistan to avoid a humanitarian crisis," Gen Bajwa said.

The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's role in the Afghan situation including successful evacuation operations and efforts for regional stability. He also assured to enhance cooperation with Pakistan on Afghanistan and regular engagement by the NATO countries for all bilateral issues. Pakistan has been trying to convince the world to engage with the Taliban in Afghanistan as it fears a humanitarian crisis in the neighbouring country due to looming shortages of food and other essential commodities. The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan on August 15, two weeks before the US was set to complete its troop withdrawal after a costly two-decade war. **PTI**

# Protesters in Bangladesh demand law to protect minorities

## They condemn violence against Hindus

**DHAKA:** Demanding that the Bangladesh government should enact a new law to ensure religious freedom for everyone, protesters and academicians across the country condemned the mob attacks on the Hindu community and vandalisation of temples and idols during Durga Puja festivities.

Attacks on Hindus and their 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.

Condemning the attacks on the Hindu community, protests were held across the country for the sixth day on Tuesday, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Speakers at various programmes demanded that the perpetrators of the violence be brought to justice, as well as other measures to protect minorities in Bangladesh, it said.

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) demanded exemplary punishment for those involved in the attacks on Hindu temples and Durga Puja venues across the country.

They also urged the government to enact a new law to ensure religious freedom for everyone.

Over a hundred teachers from various departments of the university participated in the programme and made a human chain, voicing the demands, at the Dhaka University campus.

Condemning the violence, DU Vice-Chancellor M Akhtaruzzaman said: "'The Durga Puja celebration of this country was a model of secularism for the entire world. This festival is supposed to be open

to people of all religions. The rise of communal evil in various parts of the country is disgraceful and cannot be tolerated. We urge the government to identify the perpetrators immediately and bring them to book." According to M Wahiduzzaman, former VC of Noakhali Science and Technology University, the government should immediately enact a law that effectively discourages communal violence.

"Compensation must be ensured for all the victims of the recent attacks," he added.

Former Vice-Chancellor of Jagannath University Mijanur Rahman said perpetrators of communal violence often get away without punishment, and this needs to be stopped.

Leaders and activists of the Progressive Student Alliance and the Khulna University Teachers' Association also condemned the violence against the Hindu community.

Students and teachers of Dhaka University also staged a street drama titled 'Dekhte Ki Pao, Purche Bangla? (Can you see that Bangla is burning?) to protest the attacks.

Rights activists under the banner Poets, litterateur, artists and journalists against communal terrorism' organised a rally in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh on Tuesday. **PTI**

# Vladimir Putin orders week-long paid holiday as Covid cases soar in Russia

**Moscow:** Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday ordered a nationwide week-long paid holiday to curb Covid infections in Europe's worst affected country and urged Russians to show "responsibility" and get vaccinated.

Putin approved a government plan to declare a non-working week across the country from October 30 as Russia registered a record 1,028 coronavirus deaths in a single day.

"The main aim is to protect the lives and health of our citizens," the 69-year-old Kremlin chief said during a televised meeting.

He said the severity of the outbreak in Russia was linked to the country's vaccination rates that are "unfortunately" low.

Infection rates have soared in recent weeks amid a stalled vaccination campaign, with only 35 percent of the country fully inoculated despite several widely available vaccines including Sputnik V.

Putin said he was surprised by how many Russians were refusing the vaccine, even among his "close friends."

"It's strange. People with a good education, scientific degrees... I just don't understand what is happening."

Putin has made numerous pleas for Russians to get Covid jabs, and on Wednesday once again called on people to get immunised.

"Please, show responsibility," he said.

On Wednesday, the country recorded over 34,000 new virus cases and a total of 226,353 fatalities -- the highest death toll on the European continent. Russian authorities have been accused of vastly downplaying the scale of the pandemic, and Putin told regional authorities not to under-report the number of virus cases, calling it "dangerous."

Putin has introduced paid holidays during coronavirus peaks before, most recently in May. The new non-working week will coincide with national school holidays.

Deputy Prime Minister Tatiana Golikova said the new restrictions were tough but necessary. **AFP**

# Iran urges UN action against Israeli threats to n-programme

**Tehran:** Iranian Ambassador to the UN Majid Takht Ravanchi has called for an action by the UN Security Council (UNSC) to tackle rising Israeli threats to Tehran's nuclear programme.

In a letter to the UNSC on Tuesday, Takht Ravanchi said over the past months, the intensity of Israel's "provocative and adventurist threats" to Iran's nuclear programme have consistently grown and reached an alarming level, Xinhua reported on Wednesday citing Tasnim news agency.

The Iranian envoy referred to the latest remarks by Israeli senior military officials of "operational plans against Iran's nuclear programme", saying that "such systematic explicit and public threats by the Israeli regime against a founding member of the United Nations constitute flagrant violations of international law". Takht Ravanchi warned against any possible military act of Israel against Iran and its nuclear programme, stressing that Iran reserves the right to self-defence to decisively respond to any threat. **IANS**

# Bus bombs kill 14 in Syria capital shells elsewhere kill 10

**Damascus:** Two bombs attached to a bus carrying Syrian troops exploded in Damascus during the morning rush hour Wednesday, a military official said. Fourteen people were killed in the attack, one of the deadliest in the capital in years.

While the Syrian government's decade-long conflict with insurgents continues in parts of the country including the rebel-held northwest, bombings in Damascus have become exceedingly rare since President Bashar Assad's troops pushed opposition fighters from the capital's suburbs in 2018.

The explosions, which also left several wounded, happened at a busy intersection, near a main bus transfer point where commuters and schoolchildren typically converge. After the blasts, Syrian state TV showed footage of smoke rising from a charred bus as soldiers hosed down the vehicle and onlookers flocked to a nearby bridge to watch.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but several insurgent and jihadist groups that seek to overthrow Assad are active in Syria.

Separately, rescue workers reported 10 people were killed, including four children and a woman, in government shelling of a town in the last rebel enclave in the country's northwest. The UN Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator Mark Cutts described as "shocking" the reports of the shelling that hit a market and roads near schools as students were heading to classes.

In addition to the four children killed, their teacher also died, according to UNICEF, the UN children's agency.

"Today's violence is yet another reminder that the war in Syria has not come to an end. Civilians, among them many children, keep bearing the brunt of a brutal decade-long conflict," the agency said. "Attacks on civilians including children are a violation of international humanitarian law." **AP**

# 48 died, 31 missing in Nepal's flood

**Kathmandu:** At least 48 people have died and 31 others went missing in Nepal's flood and landslides triggered by incessant rains from Sunday, Nepal's Ministry of Home Affairs said.

Similarly, thousands of farmers across the country have lost their crops to rains this year. Destruction of the paddy crop is a major setback for Nepal's overall economy. Paddy alone contributes around 7 per cent to the national gross domestic product and is the major income source for more than half of the population. Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba has called an emergency Cabinet meeting on Wednesday afternoon to discuss the situation created by the rain, floods, and landslides. As many as 11 districts of the country reported deaths and missing people, according to the Home Ministry.

## FROM PAGE 1

### UDAN HAS TAKEN A BIG LEAP: PM

Central government had started another scheme which was going to open new doors of prosperity in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh, the prime minister said that under PM Swamitva Yojana, work of providing home ownership documents to the households of the village had started which would benefit the people in getting loan against their houses.

"One who is homeless or is living in a slum and when he gets a pucca house having a toilet, electricity, gas and water connection, the confidence of that person soars further," Modi said.

Speaking on the importance of UP, Modi said that the state had not only given the maximum number of prime ministers but also had pilgrimage sites at every step and there was energy in every particle.

"UP is home to Lord Rama and Lord Krishna. Vedas and Puranas were written in Naimisharanya. In the medieval period, Tulsidas and Kabir Das were also born here. This state has also got the privilege of giving birth to a social reformer like Sant Ravidas. Our glorious Sikh Guru tradition also has a deep connection with Uttar Pradesh," he said.

The prime minister also welcomed the maiden Sri Lankan flight and delegation that landed at Kushinagar airport on Wednesday.

### CHAR DHAM YATRA RESUMES AS RAIN FURY SUBSIDES

"Yamunotri-Gangotri, Kedarnath Dham Yatra has started again. However, due to the closure of Badrinath Highway near Joshimath, the Badrinath Yatra could not start at present. Badrinath Yatra will also become smooth soon," Uttarakhand Police tweeted.

The decision to start "char dham" yatra was taken after Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami took the review meeting following an aerial review of Garhwal and Kumaon.

According to Uttarakhand Char Dham Devasthanam Management Board, more than one thousand pilgrims stranded in Son Prayag and Lincholi have proceeded to Kedarnath temple after the administration allowed the yatra. Pilgrims for Badrinath yatra have been stopped at Joshimath and Pipalkoti due to landslide and heavy rains.

According to the IMD, the southwest monsoon withdrawal line currently passes through Kohima, Silchar, Krishnanagar, Baripada, Malkangiri, Nalgonda, Bagalkote, and Vengurla. "Conditions are becoming favourable for further withdrawal of the southwest

monsoon from remaining parts of northeast India, the entire north Bay of Bengal, remaining parts of West Bengal and Odisha, some parts of the central Bay of Bengal, parts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, entire Goa, some more parts of Karnataka and some more parts of central Arabian Sea around October 23", the IMD said.

"With likely setting in of northeasterly winds in the lower tropospheric levels over the Bay of Bengal and extreme south Peninsular India, the Southwest Monsoon is likely to withdraw from the entire country around 26th October 2021. Simultaneously, the Northeast Monsoon rains are also likely to commence over Southeast Peninsular India from around 26th October 2021," it said.

The northeast monsoon brings rains over Tamil Nadu, parts of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Puducherry, and Andhra Pradesh. The withdrawal of the southwest monsoon from northwest India commenced on October 6. The retreat was the second-most delayed withdrawal of the southwest monsoon since 1975. The southwest monsoon withdrawal from northwest India in 2019 started on October 9.

The withdrawal of the southwest monsoon from northwest India usually begins on September 17. However, the southwest monsoon remains active over several parts of the country. The IMD said a cyclonic circulation lies over Bihar and neighbouring areas.

Under its influence, fairly widespread to widespread, light to moderate rainfall with isolated heavy fall and thunderstorms and lightning is very likely over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya, Tripura, sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim on October 20 and 21 and over Gangetic West Bengal and Bihar on October 20 and (it will) reduce thereafter.

SC RAPS UP FOR SLOW LAKHIMPUR PROBE

that has triggered a political slugfest ahead of the crucial Assembly elections in the State.

The bench also raised the issue of filing of the status report on the day of hearing with the CJI observing, "We waited till 1 am last night for any filing. But we received nothing."

Senior advocate Harish Salve, who appeared along with advocate Garima Prasad for the State Government, said the status report has been filed in a sealed cover on Wednesday because of the impression that it was for the perusal of the court only. "No that was not required and we have just received it now..We never said anything about sealed covers," the bench said while declining the request to hear the mat-

ter on Friday. It listed the next hearing on October 26.

The Bench said, "Mr Salve, you said that you (police) have examined 44 witnesses and out of them, four witnesses' statements have been recorded under section 164 (before a judicial magistrate) of CrPc. Why have you not recorded the statements of other witnesses under 164?"

Salve responded to say that the process is going on, adding that earlier the concern was that it appeared that police were going "little soft on the accused and now they all have been arrested and now everybody is in jail."

He said there were two crimes and in the first one, the accused drove into the farmers during their protests and in the second FIR, three of the accused, who drove into the farmers, were lynched. In the lynching case, the probe is "little difficult" as who did what is difficult to ascertain given the big crowd of farmers, he said. The bench said it was asking questions about the first FIR and sought to know the number of accused and their status in the probe.

"Today, how many of them are in judicial custody and how many of them are in police custody... Because, until or unless they are interrogated you may not get any information." In his reply, Salve said total 10 accused have been arrested and out of them, four are in police custody while the remaining six have been sent to jail in judicial custody.

The bench then said, "What happened to the remaining six accused and asked, "Did you apply to seek their police custody or they were straight-way sent to judicial custody. They were in police custody and as you did not seek their police remand so they were sent to judicial custody. What is the situation in this case? We just want the facts to be clarified."

The top court said there are situations where the police demand the custody of the accused and the court declines and send the accused to judicial custody and there are cases in which police say that the accused is no longer required in police custody and therefore, the court has no choice but to send the accused to police custody. "What is the situation in this case?", the court asked. The State counsel said the accused were interrogated in police custody for three days before being sent to jail.

"Mr Salve, This should not be the unending story," the bench said, and raised the issue of witness protection saying that the SIT is best suited "to identify those who are the most vulnerable witnesses or who can be browbeaten tomorrow...Influenced". On the recording of statements, Salve said they were being recorded and would begin

as the courts have reopened after vacation.

### 4 LET TERRORISTS KILLED IN OP ALL OUT

They have been identified as Adil Hussain Wani son of Ghulam Hussain Wani resident of Shirmal, District Commander Shopian of proscribed terror outfit LeT (TRF), and Shakir Ahmad Wani son of Ghulam Qadir Wani resident of Litter Pulwama.

As per police records, both the killed terrorists were involved in several terror crime cases including civilian atrocities. Terrorist Adil Ahmad was active since July-2020 and was involved in several terror crime cases including the recent killing of one poor carpenter Sager Ahmad Ansari of Saharanpur UP at Litter Pulwama on 16/10/2021.

IGP Kashmir congratulated the joint teams for carrying out anti-terrorist operations successfully and also congratulated police and security forces for working with great synergy and coordination on the ground that led to 11 successful anti-terrorist operations post recent civilian killing.

## CAN'T PROMISE NO COERCIVE ACTION AS PARAM BIR NOT TRACEABLE: MAHA

Param Bir Singh's counsel Mahesh Jethmalani said he had not been declared as an absconder yet.

"In this case, he was summoned twice and both the times he responded," Jethmalani said.

The high court was hearing a petition filed by the senior IPS officer seeking to quash the FIR lodged against him under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and relevant IPC sections on a complaint filed by police inspector Bhimrao Ghadge.

The judges adjourned the hearing to the next week.

Ghadge, presently posted in Akola district, has levelled allegations of corruption against Singh and some other officers when Singh was Thane police commissioner. Singh pressurised him to drop the names of some persons from a case and when he refused, he was framed up in false cases, Ghadge claimed. The FIR was registered under the Atrocities Act as the complainant belongs to an SC community as well as for extortion and some other Indian Penal Code offenses.

Singh's lawyer claimed that the FIR was a backlash over Singh's allegations of corruption against former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh.

# Jailed Russian Opp leader Navalny wins top EU prize

**Brussels:** Imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was awarded the European Union's top human rights prize Wednesday in a clear slap at President Vladimir Putin.

In awarding the Sakharov Prize to Navalny, the European Parliament praised his "immense personal bravery". The 45-year-old activist was poisoned with a nerve agent last year and promptly arrested upon his return to Moscow from treatment in Germany and later imprisoned.

"He has campaigned consistently against the corruption of Vladimir Putin's regime, and through his social media accounts and political campaigns, Navalny has helped expose abuses and mobilize the support of millions of people across Russia. For this, he was poisoned and thrown in jail," parliament President David Sassoli in a statement.

Sassoli called for Navalny's immediate release.

The recognition of Navalny will further sour relations between the 27-nation bloc and Russia. These ties have been on the decline for years, especially following Moscow's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and its support for a separatist insurgency in eastern Ukraine.

The impact reverberated beyond the EU as well.

Days after Russia suspended its mission at NATO and ordered the closure of the alliance's office in Moscow in retaliation for NATO's expulsion of Russian diplomats, the organisation's chief said he embraced the news. **AP**

# Former German troops arrested over alleged terror plot

**Berlin:** Two former German soldiers have been arrested on suspicion of trying to form a terrorist mercenary force to fight in Yemen's civil war, officials said. The former soldiers -- Arend-Adolf G and Achim A, face terrorism charges after police raids in southern Germany on Wednesday, the BBC reported.

They allegedly planned to recruit up to 150 men for a private army made up of former police officers and soldiers.

According to prosecutors, they wanted to offer their services to Saudi Arabia's government for illegal missions in Yemen. Yemen has been racked by a civil war between the Saudi Arabia-backed internationally recognised government and the armed Houthis movement since 2014. Saudi Arabia entered the civil war in 2015 shortly after the capture of the capital, Sanaa, by the Houthis, who are supported by Iran. **IANS**

# Queen cancels travel plans within UK after medical advice to rest

**London:** Britain's Queen Elizabeth II has cancelled a planned visit to Northern Ireland following medical advice to rest for a few days, Buckingham Palace said on Wednesday.

The 95-year-old monarch was to begin a two-day trip to Hillsborough in County Down and attend a church service marking the centenary of the formation of Northern Ireland in Armagh on Thursday, but will now remain at Windsor Castle instead.

"The Queen has reluctantly accepted medical advice to rest for the next few days," a Buckingham Palace spokesperson said. "Her Majesty is in good spirits and is disappointed that she will no longer be able to visit Northern Ireland, where she had been due to undertake a series of engagements today and tomorrow. The Queen sends her warmest good wishes to the people of Northern Ireland and looks forward to visiting in the future,"

the spokesperson said.

The decision is not believed to be related to coronavirus and the monarch is now said to be resting at her Windsor Castle residence in Berkshire, south-east England.

The Queen, the UK's longest-serving monarch, has been attending a series of public events in recent days, including hosting a Global Investment Summit at Windsor Castle on Tuesday evening. It was revealed on Tuesday that the Queen had declined a so-called "Oldie of the Year" award, from a magazine of the same name, saying: "You are only as old as you feel".

She is still expected to attend the UN COP26 climate conference in Glasgow.

The Queen was seen using a walking stick for the first time at a major public event earlier this week, when attending a Westminster Abbey service marking the centenary of UK armed forces charity Royal British Legion. **AP**

# Pak PM accused of selling gifts received from other countries' heads

**Lahore:** Pakistan's Opposition parties on Wednesday accused Prime Minister Imran Khan of selling gifts he received from other countries' heads, including an expensive watch worth USD 1 million.

Gifts are routinely exchanged between heads of states or officers holding constitutional positions during a state visit. According to the gift depository (Toshakhana) rules, these gifts remain the property of the state unless sold at an open auction. Rules allow officials to retain gifts with a market value of less than Rs 10,000 without paying anything. The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

"Imran Khan has sold the gifts he received from other countries," PML-N vice president Maryam Nawaz tweeted in Urdu. **PTI**





**Bollywood**  
 'Working non-stop is never a problem. It is a blessing for any actor'  
 —Tahir Raj Bhasin

# EXPLORING THE CONFLICT WITHIN

Writer-director, HARDIK GAJJAR, and lead actor, PRATIK GANDHI, tell CHRISTY VARGHESE that there is much more to *Bhavai* than the controversy surrounding its previous name, *Raavan Leela*

Pratik Gandhi became a household name after the raging success of *Scam 1992*. However, how many of us can claim to know that he was quite a prominent name in the Gujarati theatre circuit, much before *Scam 1992*?

Hardik Gajjar, the writer-director of Gandhi's forthcoming film, *Bhavai*, is someone who knew him from his theatre days. They have collaborated on and off over the years, their camaraderie only grew with time. And believe it or not, Gandhi was shooting for the film when he got the opportunity to star in *Scam*.

*Bhavai* was all set to release in theatres on October 1. However, the release date was pushed forward to October 22, following the announcement by the Maharashtra government that cinema halls in the state will reopen on October 22.

You may have heard of *Bhavai*, although under a different name; it had been named *Raavan Leela*, however, after a certain section of audience flagged the concern that the film may hurt religious sentiments, the name of the film was duly changed.

When we quiz Gajjar on the prompt renaming of the film, he shares unabashedly, "I did not expect the audience to misinterpret the name of the film. When I coined the name, *Raavan Leela*, I was talking about the Raavan that is all around us. When I conceptualised the film, what I had in mind was the essence of the story — internal conflict. Am I right, or am I wrong? And I believe the best way to depict the same was through *Ramayana*. I feel that both Ram ji and Raavan are within us. It is all about perception, and intention. When we got to know that some people were not pleased about the name of the film, we changed it without any hesitation, since it has no bearing on the film itself. There is nothing in the film related to the *Ramayana* or Ramlila, for that matter."

What does *Bhavai* mean, though? "It all depends on your perception. (chuckles before continuing) For me, the word mean two thing. When something



goes wrong in life, it is termed 'bhavai' in our lingo. As in, 'Ye kya bhavai ho gaya?'. Bhavai is also a form of folk-theatre in Gujarat," expresses Gajjar animatedly.

He went on to reveal that he has a long line up of projects with Gandhi in the pipeline, with the next one being the horror rom-com, *Atithi Bhooto Bhava*.

When we ask Gajjar whether he has a message for the audience, pat comes the reply, "I welcome everyone's opinion, but I would urge you to go watch the film with an open mind before passing your verdict on the same."

Keep reading for excerpts of our conversation with the protagonist of *Bhavai* and *Scam 1992*, Gandhi...

**Q We heard that after Scam 1992, you opted to star in a Gujarati web-series, Vitthal Teedi, because of your character. Other interviews have you stating that when it comes to choosing new projects, you go by your intuition. What was it about Bhavai that reeled you in?**

The same formula. The first time the film was narrated, I felt that I could relate to the character's emotions. And without any second thoughts, I said yes, let's do it. This was before *Scam* and I was searching for something I could perform in. I wanted to get into the shoes of a character in a story that touched me. And the process you mentioned, I have been following it since a long time now.

**Q What is the premise of Bhavai?**

The most simple way I can explain the story without giving away the plot is that we are talking about moral dilemma here. If you see Ram and Raavan as a metaphor, the good and evil is present within us all.

We all are constantly involved in the fight between Ram and Raavan. It is up to us, we have to decide who wins — Ram or Raavan?

But literally speaking, *Bhavai* is a love-story. It has nothing to do with Ram or Raavan per se.

**Q When you say that it is up to us,**

**whether we choose to be Ram or Raavan in any given moment, can you say that it is as simple as that? In a world where external factors influence everything we do, can we really claim to be in complete control of our lives?**

Let me try and explain. If we take social media for instance, there are times when one has this strong urge to say something, without even thinking of the repercussions. But if we can control our urge in that moment, having that sense of mastery over yourself changes the game altogether. And I believe this is the situation throughout our life, everywhere.

However, I would agree with you that there are many variables, which we need to constantly factor in, since they are not in our control. But what we can control is how we react to it. Otherwise the world would be a chaotic place. Because, I am sure, everyone has this urge to lash out at people. Road-rage is one example that will get my point across. And such things are happening everywhere. What is of vital importance is that crit-



ical moment, when you hit that point of saturation, do you lose control over yourself? Or are you able to take a step back, and take stock of the situation? That is why they say, don't react, just respond.

**Q Going by the first example you stated, about controlling one's urge to be impulsive on social media, do you regret achieving stardom after Scam 1992?**

(laughs) Not really, no. I am well aware of the fact that once you are well known, each and every word that you utter needs to be measured. It is bound to reach a large number of people. Even if I was not a prominent actor and was instead employed elsewhere, it's a personal choice. How you speak, what you speak, it is on you. And it should be well thought.

However, I will agree that once you have made it in the entertainment industry, you have to be more careful of your actions and words than people engaging in other professions.

**Q How have your dreams changed post Scam 1992?**

My dreams have not really changed, but I am more hungry now. I want to enact more characters, and be part of good scripts. In fact, I would like to broaden my horizon and perform without having language as a barrier. You might think that I have my eyes set on the international platform, however, I would love to perform in regional cinema also; I am raring to go.

## On a roll

Actor ADARSH GOURAV is all set to star alongside Meryl Streep, Sienna Miller and Kit Harington for Scott Z Burns' anthology, *Extrapolations*. By TEAM VIVA

Adarsh Gourav had a breakthrough role in *The White Tiger* playing the role of Balram Halwai which found him incredible fame, both locally and internationally. The talented young actor earned himself three major award nominations including a BAFTA, AACTA and Independent Spirit Awards a few months back for his first international project. Now, the actor has bagged his second major project, Scott Z Burns' anthology series for Apple TV+, titled *Extrapolations*. The show stars big wigs of the acting fraternity from the west alongside Gourav, including Meryl Streep, Sienna Miller, Kit Harington, Tahar Rahim, Matthew Rhys, Daveed Diggs, Gemma Chan and David Schwimmer.

The series explores the stories of how the changes to the planet will impact love, family, work both on a personal level and at a large human level. It will feature eight interconnected episodes which will display the need for survival in the current era, across the globe. The show has Scott as the writer, director and executive producer, with the show being helmed by Michael Ellenberg's Media Res. The show also has Ellenberg, Greg Jacobs, Dorothy Fortenberry and Lindsey Springer as executive producers.

Adarsh recently flew off to the US, to New York where the show is currently expected to go into production. Adarsh will wrap this project before heading back to India to start his next, *Kho Gaye Hum Kahan* with Ananya Panday and Siddhant Chaturvedi.

Adarsh expresses his joy, saying, "This is beyond anything I can express, to be honest. But to be working with such an incredible team at such an early juncture of my career is truly rewarding. I'm elated to be part of this project and grateful that I will be working alongside some of the very best in the business. I have grown up and looked up to each of my co-stars and to now be sharing screen space with them is incredible. This story is such an important one for our current generation and is interconnected with the realities of today."



India is the world's second-most populated country, with a majority of its people between the age group of 10 to 24. This means that the country is at a relative advantage as young adults constitute a greater percentage of job seekers. thereby having the potential to boost its economy.

However, for the past decade, India's youth unemployment rate has been hovering around the 22 per cent mark. Almost 2 million graduates and half a million postgraduates are unemployed in India. Various reasons can be attributed to the number of educated yet unemployed youth in the country such as recession, demand-supply mismatch, but the skill gap is perhaps the greatest contributor to this pressing national problem.

### Accessibility and quality of education

Despite having thousands of educational institutions in the country, there are at least 35 million children aged between six and 14 years in India who have no access to formal education. India being an agrarian economy has more than 70 per cent of its people living in villages. Most children living in rural areas are expected to support their families for meeting their livelihoods. Girls, especially, are dissuaded from going to school and are compelled to master household chores. Furthermore, the condition of schools in some rural areas is challenged with serious concerns such as ill-equipped staff, insufficient funds and lack of hygienic facilities, etc.

There is a desperate need to bridge the divide between urban and rural schools and their ability to impart technical and industrial skill. While a few technical and engineering institutions aim to provide practical training to their students to make them job-ready, they are not necessarily accessible to all.

### Bridging the skill gap

The current job market requires

## The need of the moment

PARIDHI KHAITAN talks about the importance of vocational training, citing India's vast reserve of untapped potential



students to acquire practical skills on top of their theoretical knowledge. However, almost 80 per cent of the new job seekers get little to no opportunities for skills-based education. The talent acquisition process, wherein practical knowledge-based skills and experience are valued above academic degrees, is becoming more selective than ever before. In rural areas, attaining higher education is highly challenging, hence the presence of vocational training programmes proves to be advantageous as it provides industry-relevant education and hands-on skill training where students can acquire various soft and hard skills. Proficiency in basic office software tools such as PowerPoint, Excel, and Word, competency in communication skills, critical thinking, and problem-solving are some of the fundamental requisites for job seekers.

### Broaden your horizons

Vocational training programmes are extremely crucial to partake as they offer a sneak peek into the real-world work scenario and help students make informed career decisions using a practical approach. These programmes are designed

for most industry sectors. Such vocational training programs facilitate students to make better career decisions.

### A viable alternative

Vocational training addresses the affordability and accessibility challenges faced by rural children. It also empowers women belonging to low-income groups by improving their job prospects. Besides carpentry, welding, automotive repair, heating, and air conditioning, tailoring, and beauty care, vocational training programs also cater to various 21st century ready sectors such as healthcare, education, IT, financial services, retail, tourism, etc. Students passionate about such new-age sectors need not enrol themselves in highly expensive degree courses but can just attain the necessary skills through diploma courses at very affordable fees.

### Foreign exchange

There was a time when students had no other choice but to move out of India to acquire specialised job skills. The lack of relevant facilities and exposure triggered high migra-

tion rates. The advent of global online vocational training programmes has bridged this limitation in the country. Today, Indian students can pursue these courses at affordable rates from the comfort of their homes. This has improved the retention rate of talent in the country.

### Initiatives by the government

Under the Skill India Mission launched in 2015, the Government of India has upskilled about 1.7 crore youth by January 2021, intending to train Indian youth to become self-reliant and financially stable. Various development courses like training workshops sponsored by ISRO and AIIMS (New Delhi), among others, were made available to youth under this program.

It is with schemes like these that India can bridge the skill gap and make educated youth industry-ready. But selecting the right vocational course for a student can be tricky. Making career choices influenced by family or peer pressure could sabotage the benefits these vocational courses are meant to offer. Choosing the right course, based on individual skills and interests, is the only way to succeed.

To ensure one doesn't falter in making the right choice, more and more students today are opting for digital career counselling. Such services bring together technology-based digital platforms and industry professionals with in-depth domain knowledge and know-how of various careers to help individuals make well-informed choices.

(The author is the MD of ProTeen, an online career guidance platform.)

It all started with an Instagram post where he announced how he quit drinking a year back. Not that actor Sidhartha Mallya was an alcoholic, just that he experienced anxiety, the morning after.

"Getting thousands of responses on an honest post was overwhelming and made me think how many more lives could I touch, and maybe help if I shared more experiences," he shares in an interview.

Mallya's memoir, *If I'm Honest*, published by Westland Publications, which recently hit the stands takes the reader back to 2016 when he went through depression. Something that came as a bit of a surprise to him, given that he seemingly had the world at his feet — he was young, had just graduated from a prestigious drama school and had upcoming film projects.

However, despite all the awaiting opportunities, he was unhappy. That was when he realised that something was not right and sought professional help. Thus began the journey to understanding his current mental state as well as an exploration of the other mental issues he has suffered throughout his life and where they might have stemmed from.

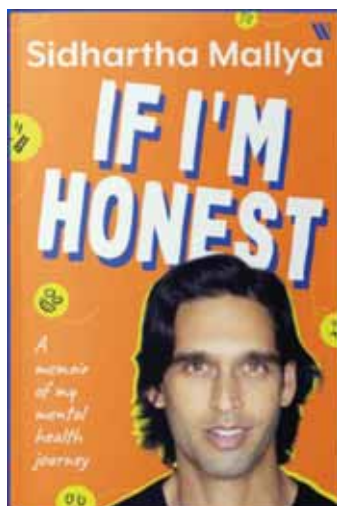
In this memoir, he opens up about struggling with depression, living with OCD, the effects of his parents' divorce, why he quit drinking and also what helped him overcome his challenges.

"There are a few messages that I want to get across. One is that everyone can suffer from issues of mental health. And also, I think, by being honest, as the title suggests, I want to convey that it is okay to talk about these things. To embrace your own truth. It makes no sense to be ashamed talking about it," he says.

Ask him if there was the much-hyped 'catharsis' post finishing the book, and he asserts, "Frankly, the whole process was quite difficult. You have to do a lot of self-work to be able to talk about these things. Writing it and reliving those things do take a toll

## It is ok to not feel ok

Actor SIDDHARTHA MALLYA shares that he wants to help as many people as possible through his memoir, *If I'm Honest*, where he opens up about lesser-known details of his life



was the fact that the director is known to do his own thing without getting distracted by box office consideration. "He is not a conformist, and that is what makes him special. We shot the film in 2014, a time when the Indian cinematic landscape was very different. All these OTT platforms did not exist then."

Stressing that digital platforms have opened doors to multiple genres without the pressure of a box office success and also actors who might not be A-listers, he adds, "Everything is subscriber-based, and the success of a show is not based on box office revenue. Therefore, you don't need your star names in these projects anymore. I think what it has done is it has given a lot of actors the opportunities to be in really good projects that they would not have been really able to be in the traditional model."

Currently working on a few film projects, the lockdowns for this actor were not really drastic. "Believe it or not, despite what the people might think, I am not the most social person. I like being in bed by 9 pm and getting up by 6:30 in the morning. So, the lockdowns did not really change my life very much. I know a lot of people who love social interactions. I actually spent a lot of the time working on myself."

And how is it being Vijay Mallya's son? "Well, I do not want people to think 'Vijay Mallya's son wrote a book'. I hope that I get respected. And if you don't like me, if you don't like my book, that is fine. But do not dislike the book because you associate me with someone else that you don't like."

—IANS

## TRENDBLAZER



### SONU HOSTS NEW NATGEO SERIES

Bollywood actor **SONU SOOD** is all set for a new series titled *It Happens Only in India*. Hosted by him, this 10-part series by National Geographic Channel will take viewers into the lesser-known and well-researched narratives from across the length and breadth of India.

As per Sonu, "No matter how much you learn about India, you can't know enough. The country's diversity has tons of incredible stories that are yet to be revealed and this show will take viewers on a fascinating journey."

### fairtalk



"I'm hoping with the forthcoming show, *Sasural Wonder Phool*, we are able to change a few things. It would be comforting to know that we could inspire people to be more comfortable when they're talking about sex or sex-related issues. I honestly feel that my character in the show, Ashima, reflects our society wonderfully. She's not so comfortable talking about sex."

### dailytalk



"As an artiste, one always looks to expand their horizons and I am glad that I am on the path to growth. I think the best part about being an actor is that you get to experiment with different kinds of roles. In *14 Phere*, I got to play the diverse role of Zubina, the aspiring artiste who plays the fake mother to both Vikrant and Kriti during different weddings."

### KEEP DOING YOUR THING: MEGAN FOX

Actor **MEGAN FOX** says it is hard to be a woman and has encouraged other women to wear whatever makes them 'feel good' and not to worry about someone else's opinion.

She acknowledges that it's easier said than done. However, style is a reflection of your mood. She reveals, "I change multiple times a day sometimes, don't you? That's my best advice for anyone — wear what makes you feel good and do not worry about what other people say."





# ABHIDHAMMA DAY CELEBRATIONS

PM Modi believes that Buddha is universal because he encouraged people to start from within as *Buddhatva* is a sense of ultimate responsibility



Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, participated in an event marking the celebrations of Abhidhamma day at the Mahaparinirvana temple in Kushinagar.

The Governor and Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, union ministers, G Kishan Reddy, Kiren Rijiju, and Jyotiraditya Scindia, the cabinet minister of Sri Lankan government, Namal Rajapaksa, Buddhist delegation from Sri Lanka, diplomats from Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Lao PDR, Bhutan, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Japan,

Singapore, Nepal, and others, were present during the occasion.

Addressing the event, PM Modi noted the auspicious occasion of Ashwin Poornima and the presence of holy relics of Lord Buddha. Welcoming the delegation of Sri Lanka, he traced back the connections between India and Sri Lanka to emperor Ashoka's son, Mahendra, and daughter, Sanghamitra, taking the message of Buddhism to Sri Lanka. He also remarked that it was believed that on this day, Arahata Mahinda, a Buddhist monk, returned and told his

father that Sri Lanka had accepted Buddha's message with enthusiasm. The belief spread and Buddha's message was accepted by and for the whole world. Buddha's dhamma was for humanity.

Lauding the role of the International Buddhist Confederation in spreading the message of Lord Buddha, the Prime Minister remembered Shri Shakti Sinha, who passed away recently, for his contribution as DG of the International Buddhist Confederation. He also remarked that Buddha came back to Earth from Tushita

heaven and on Ashwin Purnima, the monks also completed their three-month *varshavas*.

He also said that Buddha was universal and *buddhatva* was a sense of ultimate responsibility. He underlined that many questions arise along with environmental concerns and climate change. But, if we adopt the message of Buddha, then instead of 'who will do', 'what is to be done' path would start to show itself. PM Modi mentioned that Buddha was in the soul of humanity that connected different cultures and countries.

"India never believed in restricting the knowledge, great messages or the thoughts of great souls. Whatever was ours was shared with the entire humanity and that is why, human values, like non-violence and compassion, are settled in the heart of India so naturally", he commented.

He stated that Buddha was the source of inspiration for the Constitution of India as Buddha's Dhamma Chakra is sitting on the tricolour of India and giving us momentum. Even today, if someone goes to the Parliament of India, then the mantra, 'dharma chakra pravartanaya', is observed.

Talking about the influence of Lord Buddha in Gujarat and, specifically, the Prime Minister's birthplace, Vadnagar, he said Buddha's influence could be observed in western and southern parts of the country in equal measures as the eastern parts.

"The history of Gujarat shows that Buddha is beyond boundaries and directions. Mahatma Gandhi, born in the land of Gujarat was the modern flag-bearer of Buddha's message of truth and non-violence", he added.

Quoting Lord Buddha, "appa deepo bhava", meaning, "be your own lamp", the Prime Minister said that a self-illuminated person would show the path to the world. He concluded, saying that the day would mark the motivation for India to become self-reliant, providing strength to participate in the progress of every country in the world. PM Modi also remarked that Lord Buddha's teachings were being taken forward by India in the mantra of 'sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka



## Strengthening fuel security

### NTPC ties up with Talabira mines of NLC in Odisha

In its effort to strengthen fuel security, NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation) Limited, the country's largest power generator, commenced coal offtake from Talabira mines of NLC in Odisha. As per the agreement, NTPC shall offtake coal from Talabira mines to Lara and Darlipalli. Besides this, NTPC is also ramping up coal production from its captive mines.

The present installed capacity of

NTPC Group is 66,900 MW (including 13,425 MW through subsidiaries), comprising 47 NTPC stations (23 coal-based stations, seven gas-based stations, one hydro station, one small hydro, 14 solar photovoltaic system (PV), and one wind-based station), and 26 joint venture stations (nine coal-based, four gas-based, eight hydro, one small hydro, two wind, and two solar PV).

## Top innovators

### BHEL wins the Clarivate South and South East Asia Innovation awards

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has been adjudged as the winner of the Clarivate South and South East Asia Innovation award, 2021, under the corporations in India. BHEL's efforts, as a leader in innovation, were recognised and placed among the top innovators in India. The award has been won by BHEL earlier in the years 2018 and 2020 also.

The Clarivate awards were announced, at the Clarivate South and South East Asia Innovation forum, that were held virtually earlier. The award was received by Renuka Gera, the director (IS&P, additional charge E, R&D) on behalf of BHEL, from Rajat Sikka, the



director of Intellectual Property group, South Asia and South East Asia of Clarivate Analytics.

## Addressing public concerns

Dr Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad visits the LIC central office and expresses his desire of seeing it as a top company

Dr Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad, the Minister of State, department of Financial Services, Government of India, visited the central office of LIC of India in Mumbai on October 18.

The chairperson, MR Kumar, and managing directors, Siddhartha Mohanty, Mini Ipe and BC Patnaik, welcomed the minister.

Karad addressed his focus on people and how they can be benefited. While expressing satisfaction over the brand image of LIC, he stated the desire of seeing LIC occupying a numero uno position in global insurance brands.

Subsequently, he visited various departments of the central office and interacted with departmental officials, wherein he emphasised on the prompt disposal of work.



## New investment strategy

LIC Mutual Fund announced the launch of LICMF BAF, an open-ended dynamic asset allocation fund which would invest across equity, debt and money market

The investment strategy for LIC MF Balanced Advantage Fund (LICMF BAF), essentially a hybrid scheme, would be uniquely driven by the Fundamental Driven Mathematical model.

Explaining the dynamics of the model-based unique investment approach for the new fund offer in LIC MF BAF, Dinesh Pangtey, the CEO of LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management Ltd said, "Bond yields, in a way, represent the opportunity cost of investing in equities and perception of risk appetite. We at LICMF would be using this inverse relationship between equity and debt in



LICMF BAF for switching from equity to debt and vice versa, based on the Fundamental Driven Mathematical model."

LICMF BAF model would precisely use this relationship to determine optimal asset allocation level for the scheme. The model would use interest rates, one-year forward price-earnings ratio and earnings yield, to arrive

at the optimum asset allocation level.

Pangtey added that the model automatically would arrive at asset allocation between equity and debt, as the underlying fundamentals change. However, the equity and debt portfolio should be managed actively by seasoned fund managers.

The model would be designed

in such a way that it automatically factors in, any change in any of the parameters, on a real-time basis and keep changing the price to earning band using linear progression.

LICMF BAF would not only help investors participate in the market rally but, more importantly, it would also aim to minimise the downward risk, and this would be a crucial part of any investment strategy. LICMF BAF would be benchmarked against a customised index, LIC MF hybrid composite 50:50 index. The index composition would be 50 per cent nifty, 50 TRI and 50 per cent nifty 10 year benchmark G-Sec. The fund endeavours to keep gross equity allocation 65 per cent or above to enable investors to avail equity taxation benefits.

The New Fund Offer (NFO), which has opened on October 20, would close on November 3, 2021. The fund managers for LIC MF BAF would be Yogesh Patil for the equity portion, and Rahul Singh for the debt portion.

International Chef's day 2021 was celebrated at SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur, which had live food demonstrations. The theme for this year's event was 'Healthy food for the future'.

Organised by SRM Institute of Hotel Management (SRMIHM) and South India Chef's association, chief guest Chef Dr K Damodaran, president of SICA, held an interactive session with students. The celebrity chef, who also holds a Guinness world record, shared his work experience and love for cooking healthy meals while demonstrating on how to do the traditional *meen kolumbu*.

"Chefs are the backbone of the food industry," he stated, while urging senior chefs to pass down their skills and knowledge to the youngsters so that the latter may have the opportunity to get creative and innovate newer meals.

"Traditional food has a lot of healthy optional medicinal values. This will help in beating Covid," Damodaran added.

Chef Damodaran was honoured with the Life Time Excellence award by

## Healthy food for the future

SRM honours chef Dr K Damodaran with Life Time Excellence award on International Chef's day



SRMIHM. Guest of honour, chef N Sheetharam Prasad, and general secretary of IFCA, and culinary director of GRT Hotels & Resorts, was honoured with the Service Excellence award. The Vocational Excellence award was presented to Chef Dr M Thirulogachander.

In his speech, Prasad said, "Students need to do a lot of research to develop good healthy eating habits." He urged all the upcoming chefs to practise cooking and eating local food.

SRMIHM also honoured 19 chefs, from all over the country, who had participated in the mega event. Chef Zubin Writer, executive sous chef at ITC grand Chola also held a live demonstration for students.

The fruit mixing ceremony was held during the event in which all the guests and chefs took part. The event concluded with cultural performance and prize distribution ceremony.

Also present at the event were SRMIST registrar Dr S Ponnusamy, the director of hotel management, Dr D Antony Ashok Kumar, and vice-principal of SRM IHM Lalitha, among others.

## Welfare schemes for people

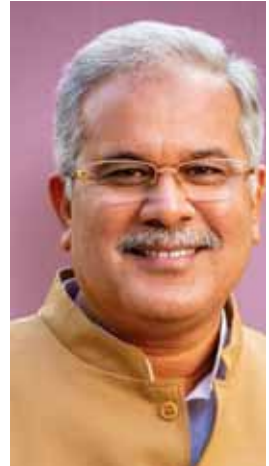
Chhattisgarh CM, Bhupesh Baghel, receives the highest popularity rating amongst all heads of Indian states, according to the Governance Index

As per the CVoter Governance Index, the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel, is the best performing Chief Minister in the country.

He has received the highest popularity rating among all chief ministers of states. The index report attributed his popularity to several welfare schemes introduced by the state government.

Recent schemes, such as Mahatari Dular Yojana, that will provide free education to children who lost their guardians/parents to Covid, is appreciated by all. The government will bear the entire expenses of their education.

The report says that the Chief Minister is popular among the masses because of his strong decision-making ability and his CEO style of working. Around 94 per cent people of Chhattisgarh are happy with the Baghel's performance.



## Milestones in environmental management

Union Mines secretary, Alok Tandon, IAS, inaugurates the lean slurry project of NALCO at Angul

The secretary of Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Alok Tandon, inaugurated the lean slurry project of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) at Angul yesterday, marking a significant milestone in the Navratna company's journey of business excellence and

adopting outstanding practices in environmental management.

Completion of the lean slurry project by the company will ensure 100 per cent utilisation of ash generated at the company's Captive Power Plant (CPP) and marks a big step forward in its commitment towards environ-



ment-friendly and sustainable operations.

Tandon, accompanied by Sridhar Patra, CMD of NALCO, visited the smelter and captive power-plants of NALCO at Angul and appreciated the efforts of NALCO in achieving the targets and scaling new heights of success amidst a challenging business environment. The IAS also interacted with officials and employees and motivated them to maintain the tempo of production and productivity.



# Rohit finds his groove as India outplay Australia

PTI ■ DUBAI

India fine-tuned their T20 World Cup preparations with a convincing nine-wicket win over Australia in their final warm-up game here on Wednesday but the sixth bowler's slot remained a worry as even Virat Kohli rolled his arm over going into the tournament proper.

Captaining the side with Kohli only taking the field to bowl, Rohit Sharma (60 retired off 41) showed sublime touch alongside opening partner K L Rahul (39 off 31) as India chased down Australia's 152 for five in 17.5 overs.

Suryakumar Yadav (38 not out off 27) came at number three in Kohli's absence and got valuable time in the middle which should boost his confidence going ahead.

Hardik Pandya (14 not out off 8) came at four to finish the game and he did it with a clean hit over the bowler's head.

Another plus for India was seasoned pacer Bhuvneshwar



Australia's Marcus Stoinis looks on as India's Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul run between the wickets during the Cricket Twenty20 World Cup warm-up match between India and Australia in Dubai, on Wednesday

AP

Kumar finding rhythm after a poor outing against England. India had also beaten England in their earlier practice game.

The batting department looks more or less settled and the five specialist bowlers also inspire confidence but the same can't be said about the extra bowling option with Hardik not bringing his all-round skills to the table at the moment.

"Hardik is coming along pretty well, but it'll be a while before he will start to bowl. He hasn't started bowling, but he should be ready by the start of the tournament," said Rohit at the toss for the warm-up match against Australia.

The team management is hoping he will be ready to bowl during India's World Cup campaign which begins with the marquee clash against Pakistan on Sunday.

Skipper Kohli kept things tight with two overs of medium

pace but to expect him to do the job in high-pressure scenarios would be asking for too much from him.

India conceded 58 runs off the last five overs and that is something they would like to improve on.

After losing the toss, India put up a decent bowling effort. Rohit mentioned at the toss that Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami were rested from the game but the skipper took the field to bowl a couple of overs in which he conceded 12 runs.

India had Australia on the mat at 11 for three after Aaron Finch opted to bat first. David Warner's barren run continued after a failed attempt at a reverse sweep had him trapped in front off Ravichandran Ashwin.

With his very next ball, Ashwin got rid of birthday boy Mitchell Marsh who played for the turn which wasn't there only to edge it to the first slip. Ravindra Jadeja had Finch

## Hardik expected to bowl when Indian T20 WC campaign begins: Rohit

PTI ■ DUBAI

India vice-captain Rohit Sharma on Wednesday said that all-rounder Hardik Pandya is expected to be "ready" to bowl when the team starts its T20 World Cup campaign here on Sunday. Rohit, who is leading the side in the warm-up game against Australia as Virat Kohli has been rested, said the team needs a sixth bowler during the showpiece.

"Hardik is coming along pretty well, but it'll be a while before he will start to bowl. He hasn't started bowling, but he should be ready by the start of the tournament," said Rohit at the toss for the warm-up match against Australia.

"We have quality in the main bowlers, but you need an option for a 6th bowler," he

added. India play Pakistan in their opening match here on Sunday. Pandya's fitness is a concern heading into the tournament as he did not bowl at all in the IPL. The team management has repeatedly stated that Pandya's bowling is crucial for the team's balance. Besides Kohli, pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami were also rested from Wednesday's warm-up game.

"We want to make sure that we get the 6th bowling option, some options in the batting order as well, we'll try all those things today," Rohit said.

"We wanted to bat first as well, just wanted to try and get runs on the board." India had beaten England by seven wickets in their first warm-up game on Monday, riding on a 24-ball 51 from KL Rahul.

in-form Glenn Maxwell (37 off 28) tried to break the shackles with a 61-run partnership. While Maxwell used his

reverse sweep to good effect, Smith kept himself busy by rotating the strike.

## T20WorldCupwindow

**12 YR OLD DEIGNED SCOTLAND T20 WC JERSEY**  
**Dubai:** Scotland beating teams such as Bangladesh in the ICC T20 World Cup was never unthinkable. But what is difficult to believe is that the team's striking dark blue and purple-coloured jersey has been designed by a 12-year-old girl. Rebecca Downie is the young designer and she has been cheering her team, which proved to be the most impressive in the first week of the tournament. The team chose the design from over 200 entries from school children across the country. The jersey is based on the colours of Scotland's national emblem — the thistle.

**'IF WE DON'T GET RESULTS , WE SEARCH FOR SCAPEGOATS'**  
**Karachi:** Former captain Misbah-ul-Haq said that there will be no improvement in Pakistan cricket unless it changes its culture and stops hunting for scapegoats. Speaking for the first time after his sudden resignation as head coach last month, Misbah said "cosmetic surgery" will not change anything in Pakistan cricket as the problems are deep rooted in the system."The problem is that in our cricket we only look at results and we don't give time or have patience for planning ahead and improving the system," he said on 'A-Sports' channel.

## Namibia beat Netherlands, keeps them in hunt for Super 12

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

In a sensational display of power-hitting, David Wiese conjured up a 66-run knock to fashion Namibia's six-wicket win over the Netherlands in a crucial first round Group A game of the T20 World Cup here on Wednesday.

Wiese's maiden international half-century changed the pace of the game in matter of minutes as runs flew thick and fast after he took charge at the crease and in the process added 93 runs with skipper Gerhard Erasmus (32) for the fourth wicket. Chasing 165 to stay alive in the competition, debu-

tants Namibia were stuttering at 52 for three after nine overs but Wiese single-handedly sank the Dutch side.

His onslaught on the spinners, especially the monstrous straight sixes, was a treat to watch as the Dutch bowlers were guilty of putting the balls in the slot for Wiese to clobber.

And even if the pacers drew the length changed the pace of the game a bit back, the 36-year-old Wiese had enough power to muscle the ball around for big shots.

He raised his fifty in just 29 balls, with a six off rival skipper Pietar Seelaar. His 40-ball unbeaten knock was adorned with five



sixes and four shots to the fence. Erasmus too timed the ball beautifully and got boundaries with ease in his 22-ball knock

that had four fours and a six.

The victory has kept Namibia in hunt for the Super-12 stage and now need to beat

Ireland in their final game in the first round.

They had lost to Sri Lanka in their opening match.

The Netherlands now have lost both their games and their chances to make it to the next stage are quite low.

Earlier, opener Max O'Dowd (70) struck his second consecutive half-century and shared a 82-run stand with Colin Ackermann (35) to help the Netherland post a competitive 164 for four.

O'Dowd, who had hit 51 against Ireland in the previous match, expressed himself freely, going after the bowlers. At times he played uppish shots, not exactly in control but still kept finding the gaps to keep the scoreboard going.

## It should be spinners' World Cup, says Rashid Khan

PTI ■ DUBAI

The ICC T20 World Cup will belong to the spinners, Afghanistan's star leg-break bowler Rashid Khan has asserted, and said they can beat any team if they bat well in the showpiece. Since being picked up by IPL team Sunrisers Hyderabad as an 18-year-old in 2017, ace leg-spinner Rashid has emerged as T20 cricket's leading wicket-taker in this period with 333 scalps and is wanted by franchises across the world.

Appearing in his second T20 World Cup, Rashid feels spinners are always "effective" on pitches at three venues in the UAE, where the Super 12s, the



semi-finals and final will be played.

"Conditions here are always good for spinners and it should be spinners' World Cup," Rashid was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"Doesn't matter how wickets are prepared here, it is always helpful for the

spinners. Spinners will play a huge role in this World Cup.

"As we have seen in the IPL, spinners have brought back their team in the game. I feel that will be same in the World Cup as well. The best spinners will bring their team back in the game and win it"

Rashid feels Afghanistan, who are in Group 2 along with India, Pakistan and New Zealand, would need to do "lots of hard work" considering all their opponents in the Super 12s are "good players of spin".

Afghanistan have played 14 T20Is at the three venues in the UAE and have won all of them.

PTI ■ ODENSE

Young Lakshya Sen thumped compatriot Sourabh Verma in straight games to enter the second round but it was curtains for Saina Nehwal at the Denmark Open Super 1000 tournament here on Wednesday.

Lakshya, who had finished runners-up at Dutch Open last Sunday, dished out a superb performance to outclass national champion Sourabh 21-9 21-7 in 26 minutes.

The 20-year-old from Almora, who had failed to make the cut for the Sudirman Cup and Thomas Cup Final after losing his only match in the trials, is likely to clash with second seed



and Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark next.

London Games bronze medalist Saina, who had retired midway through her first match at Uber Cup Final due to a groin injury, couldn't match Japan's world no 20 Aya Otori and lost

21-16 21-14 in the opening round.

The Indian doubles players had a dismal outing as apart from Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa, none of the others could put up a fight in their respective matches.

While Satwik and Ashwini's gallant battle ended with a 17-21 21-14 11-21 loss to China's Feng Yan Zhe and Du Yue in mixed doubles, Meghana Jakkampudi and Poorvisha S Ram lost 8-21 7-21 to Indonesian combination of Nita Violina Marwah and Putri Syaikhah in women's doubles. Commonwealth Games bronze medalists Ashwini and N Sikki Reddy also went down 17-21 13-

21 to second seeded Korean pair of Lee Sohee and Shin Seungchan.

Lakshya had claimed five titles in 2019 before COVID-19 forced the suspension of the BWF calendar.

On Wednesday, the world no 25 Indian was up against Sourabh, an opponent against whom he had lost twice in the past but it made no difference as Lakshya dished out a dominating show to blow him away.

He led 7-2 early on and never looked in trouble as he reeled off seven straight points from 13-7 to grab seven game points. Sourabh saved two before Lakshya pocketed the opening game.

"Leading into pre-season I really wanted to give the Ashes a crack but in the end I haven't had the preparation I would have liked heading into the coming season," Pattinson was quoted as saying by cricket.Com.Au in a statement.

"If I was to be part of the Ashes I would need to do myself and my teammates justice. I didn't want to be in a position of battling with my body when you need to be 100 per cent fit and ready to go at any time. That would not be fair to myself or the team.

"It was then I felt that instead of trying to play at the very highest level, knowing I have only got three or four years of cricket left, I would focus more on Victoria, helping the young guys develop, perhaps some cricket in England and spending more time with my family."

## Messi scores 2 goals to rescue PSG



AP ■ PARIS

Lionel Messi scored twice in quick succession, including an exquisite Panenka-style penalty, to rescue Paris Saint-Germain as it rallied to beat Leipzig 3-2 in the Champions League after being dominated for long spells.

Messi equalised in the 67th minute on Tuesday, poking home from close range after goalkeeper

Peter Gulacsi tipped his first shot onto the post. He then sent Gulacsi diving to the left before dinking the ball softly down the middle for his third goal since joining PSG from Barcelona.

They have all come in the Champions League, with Kylian Mbappe setting up the first two and winning the penalty for Messi's winner against Leipzig in the 74th minute.

Mbappe pointed straight at Messi to tell him he could take the spot kick.

"It's normal, it's about respect," Mbappe said.

"He's the best player in the world. I've always said it's a privilege to play with him."

It was the 34th time that Messi scored at least two goals in a Champions League game, bringing the Argentina captain's total to 123

goals in the tournament. He remains second to longtime rival Cristiano Ronaldo on 137.

Mbappe then took a penalty in the fourth minute of stoppage time, awarded following a video review for a foul on right back Achraf Hakimi, but he blazed it well over.

PSG is atop Group A with seven points, one more than Manchester City. Leipzig is last with no points.

Mbappe opened the scoring with a ninth-minute goal. But after that, the visitors took control by pressing high up the field and forcing panicky PSG into numerous errors.

"(Were we) lucky, no? You make your own luck," Mbappe said.

"But of course, it was difficult, Leipzig played well. We had some low spells which were perhaps a little bit too low."

Striker Andre Silva equalised in the 28th and midfielder Nordi Mukiele volleyed in powerfully in the 57th, with left back Angelino setting up both with his deft left foot.

"Leipzig have a good team, full of confidence," PSG winger Julian Draxler said. "They caused us some problems, but we ruthlessly exploited the room we were allowed."

PSG was missing forwards Neymar and Mauro Icardi, which gave Draxler a rare start alongside Mbappe and Messi in attack. Neymar has a sore adductor while Icardi was excused for family reasons.



## Olympic flame arrives in Beijing amid boycott calls

PT ■ BEIJING

The Olympic flame arrived in Beijing on Wednesday amid calls from overseas critics for a boycott of the Feb. 4-20 Winter Games.

Beijing's Communist Party Secretary Cai Qi, the top official in the Chinese capital, received the flame at a closely-guarded airport ceremony.

Beijing successfully hosted the Summer Olympics in 2008, although the event failed to produce the more open political and social environment in China that many had hoped for.

Activist groups disrupted the flame lighting ceremony in southern Greece on Monday, accusing the International Olympic Committee of granting legitimacy to rights abuses in China.

IOC officials have said they are committed to seeing the competition go ahead and that rights issues are not part of their remit.

Speaking in the ancient stadium of Olympia, IOC President Thomas Bach said the Games must be "respected as politically neutral ground."

Activists on Tuesday said human rights in China have deteriorated since 2008, claiming that the Summer Games "emboldened" China.

## SINGLES

**BENZEMA ABSENT FOR BLACKMAIL TRIAL**

**Versailles :** Real Madrid forward Karim Benzema wasn't present Wednesday for the opening of his three-day trial for involvement in an alleged attempt to blackmail former France teammate Mathieu Valbuena over a sex tape. The 33-year-old Benzema's legal team told the court in Versailles that professional obligations made it "impossible" for him to attend. Valbuena's lawyer said he deplored the absence. Benzema played for Madrid in Kyiv on Tuesday against Shakhtar Donetsk in the Champions League. Madrid plays again Sunday against Barcelona in the Spanish league. Four other people accused of attempted blackmail in the case were present in court.

**AKEAL HOSEIN REPLACES FABIAN ALLEN**

**Dubai:** Left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein was on Wednesday approved as replacement for an injured Fabian Allen in the West Indies squad for the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup. The Event Technical Committee of the tournament has approved Hosein as a replacement for Allen, the ICC said in a statement. Hosein, who has played nine ODIs and six T20Is, was picked after Allen was ruled out due to an ankle injury. Hosein was a reserve as per the allowance for teams to travel with extra players in view of COVID-19 quarantine requirements.

**OLYMPIANS HEADLINE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Hisar:** Olympians Simranjit Kaur (60kg) and Pooja Rani (81kg) headline a strong field for the National Women's Boxing Championship, which will double up as a selection trial for the world championships, starting here on Thursday. The tournament, which is being conducted in association with Haryana Boxing Sangh, will see participation of more than 320 boxers from 36 States/UTs/Boards from across the country. Apart from Simranjit (60kg) and Pooja (81kg), who is the reigning Asian champion, 2019 World Championships bronze-medallist Jamuna Boro (54kg), defending champion Pwiloa Basumatary (60kg) and Asian Championships bronze medalist Jaismine (60kg) will be seen presenting strong challenges.