

OPINION 8
KASHMIR DILEMMA
IS DEEPLY ROOTED

WORLD 11
KEY SUSPECT BEHIND
B'DESH VIOLENCE HELD

SPORT 14
SINDHU LOSES
IN QUARTERS

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ATTRACTED
TO ROMANCE:
SANYA
12 VIVACITY

Vax feat is New India's show: PM

Modi says 100-cr milestone is a befitting reply to those doubting India's capabilities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday lauded the 100-crore vaccination "milestone" achieved by India and said it is "the answer to every question and doubts raised about India's ability over it."

Addressing the nation on the occasion, Modi said, "100-crore vaccinations are not just a figure, but a reflection of the strength of the country, it is the creation of a new chapter of history. This is a picture of a new India that sets difficult goals and knows how to achieve them."

The Prime Minister's praise for the country reaching a long way in its fight against the pandemic has come against the Congress-led Opposition's criticism of the Modi Government's handling of coronavirus and the large number of deaths taking place due to the shortage of life-saving Oxygen across the country.

He said the speed with which India crossed the 100-crore mark is also being appreciated across the world. However, he pointed out, in this analysis the point of beginning for India is often missed. He said developed countries

had decades of expertise in researching and developing vaccines. India mostly depended on vaccines made by these countries.

He said for "this reason when the biggest pandemic of the century struck, various questions were raised about India's ability to fight the global pandemic. Questions like from where India will get the money to buy so many vaccines from other countries, when India will get the vaccine, whether the people of India will get the vaccine or not, and whether India will be able to vaccinate enough people to stop the pandemic from spreading were all answered by achieving this feat of administering 100 crore vaccinations."

He stressed that India has not only administered 100 crore vaccine doses to its citizens "but has also done that free of cost." He said the acceptance that India enjoys in the world as a pharma hub will be further strengthened.

The Prime Minister said at the beginning of the corona pandemic, people were anxious that it would be very difficult to fight this pandemic in a democracy like India.

He said that the country



has only one mantra that if the disease did not discriminate, the results are amazing. The Government made public participation the first line of defence in the country's fight against the pandemic.

The Prime Minister said India's "entire vaccination program is born in the womb of science, has grown on scientific grounds and has reached all four directions through scientific methods."

The PM said resources were increased with extraordinary speed and the Cowin platform not only gave convenience to the common people but also made the work of our medical staff easier.

As against the Opposition parties' criticism of the Government for its "mishan-

dling" of the economy during the onslaught of the Covid-19, the Prime Minister said experts and many agencies from home and abroad are very positive about India's economy.

"Today not only are record investments coming in Indian companies but new employment opportunities are also being created for the youth. With record investment in start-ups, unicorns are being made. New energy is also visible in the housing sector", he said.

Modi said many reforms and initiatives taken in the last few months will play a big role in making India's economy grow faster.

In the backdrop of about 10-month-old farmers' agitation and demand for scrapping three farm laws intending to open up the agriculture sector to private traders, Modi said during the pandemic, the agriculture sector kept our economy strong.

"Today Government procurement of food grains is happening at a record level. The money is going directly into the bank accounts of the farmers," he said.

Modi stuck a note of caution against Covid-19 despite 100 crore vaccination saying "we need to be constantly careful no matter how good the cover is, no matter how modern the armour is, even if armour gives a complete guarantee of protection, weapons are not given up while the battle is on."

Scrap consumer Act if you don't want tribunals, SC tells Centre

Court angry over appointment delay

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The delay in filling vacancies in tribunals again invited the Supreme Court's wrath against the Centre.

Expressing displeasure over delay in appointments in the districts and State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions, the apex court on Friday said if the Government did not want the tribunals then it should abolish the Consumer Protection Act.

The bench comprising Justices SK Kaul and MM Sundresh said it is unfortunate that the top court is being called upon to examine and see that vacancies in tribunals are filled up.

"If the Government does not want the tribunals then abolish the act... We are stretching our jurisdiction to see the vacancies are filled in. Normally we should not spend time on this and the posts should be filled. Unfortunately, the judiciary is called upon to see that these posts are manned. This is not a very happy situation," the bench said.

The SC was hearing a suo motu case on the inaction of the Governments in appointing president and members/staff of Districts and State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions and inadequate



infrastructure across India.

The apex court in its order directed that the process of filling up vacancies in the State Consumer Commissions as per its earlier directions must not be impeded by the judgement of the Bombay High Court which had quashed certain Consumer Protection Rules.

As the hearing commenced, senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appointed as amicus curiae in the case, apprised the court of the judgement passed by the Bombay High Court at Nagpur Bench quashing certain Consumer Protection Rules.

He said the Centre introduced the Tribunal Reforms Act in violation of the apex court judgement in the Madras Bar Association case. Additional Solicitor General Aman Lekhi, appearing for the Centre, said the Government is in the process of filing an appeal against the Bombay High Court order which quashed certain provisions of Consumer Protection Rules.

He told the bench that the Tribunal Reforms Act introduced by the Centre was not in

consonance with the Madras Bar Association judgement of the apex court.

The apex court, however, remarked, "It seems that the bench says something and you do something else and some kind of embargo is being created and in this process, the citizens of the country are suffering. These are places for remedy like consumer forums. These are small issues that people deal with and these are not high stake matters."

The very purpose of setting up these tribunals to provide consumer remedy is not being met, the bench remarked.

The apex court also directed the States to submit data in a prescribed form within one week failing which the concerned secretary has to remain present before it.

After the conclusion of the hearing in the case, Justice Sundresh said there is a need to look into the problem from a different perspective and permanent consumer courts should replace consumer commissions which are manned by retired judicial officers on an ad-hoc basis.

Continued on Page 11

CAPSULE

MAN FALLS TO DEATH FROM 19TH FLOOR



Mumbai: A 30-year-old security guard fell to death from the balcony of a flat located on the 19th floor of a 61-storey residential building in central Mumbai after a major fire broke out there on Friday, a fire brigade official said.

INDIA SUCCESSFULLY FLIGHT-TESTS ABHYAS



Balalore: India on Friday successfully flight-tested the endogenously developed High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT), ABHYAS, from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Bay of Bengal in Odisha, a DRDO source said.

Koregaon panel summons 'missing' Mumbai ex-top cop

Former Pune CP Rashmi Shukla to also appear as a witness

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

At a time when he has gone "missing" and not responded to warrants issued to him in two important cases, the Koregaon Bhima commission of inquiry on Friday issued summons against Mumbai's former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh to appear before it as a witness in the ongoing investigations into the manner in which the previous BJP-led Government handled the 2018 Bhima Koregaon-Elgaar Parishad case.

The Commission headed by JN Patel, retired chief justice of Kolkata High Court, and comprising Sumit Mullick, former Maharashtra Chief

Secretary, also summoned Pune's former Police Commissioner Rashmi Shukla to appear as a witness in the ongoing proceedings before it.

The summons issued by the commission to both Param Bir and Shukla read thus: "Considering that Param Bir was ADG (law and order) State of Maharashtra at the relevant time when the incident of violence took place at Bhima Koregaon on January 1, 2018 and sometime prior and after that date in some parts of the State. As such he must have received valuable inputs concerning terms of reference before the commission."

"Under the tenure of Shukla who was the police commissioner for Pune city, some incidents of violence had taken place in and around Pune city. The CP office must have received valuable inputs/information concerning before the commission."

Continued on Page 11

Parents to get DBT for childrens' uniform, kit

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In an attempt to weed out anomalies and prevent delays in the purchase of uniforms for school children, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to transfer money for the purchase of uniforms, sweaters, shoes and school bags directly to the accounts of the parents of bona fide students. The decision was taken in a cabinet meeting held here on Friday.

"The government has decided to transfer money to purchase uniforms, sweaters, school bags, shoes and stockings to the accounts of the parents of students (classes I-VIII). The money will be paid through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)," a government spokesman said.

He said that students of primary, upper primary, non-

government aided primary/pre-secondary schools would benefit from this scheme.

"This will ensure a transparent system and develop a market at the local level which, in turn, will generate self-employment opportunities in rural areas. Due to timely availability of facilities to the students, their attendance and learning-teaching environment will also improve," the spokesman said, adding that with this arrangement, the state, district and block-level administrative officers would be in a position to focus more on improving the quality of education by being free from the procurement process.

At present, free uniforms are provided to the students of classes I-VIII by the government and these are arranged through different processes. Due to this, timely supply of

uniforms remains a challenge and sometimes complaints regarding the quality are also received.

"An amount of about ₹ 1,800 crore will be transferred through DBT in the bank accounts of parents of more than 1.60 crore students for free uniforms," an official said.

In another decision, the state cabinet approved the proposal to amend the UP Agriculture Export Policy-2019 to provide more help to the farmers.

The Uttar Pradesh Agricultural Export Policy-2019 has been promulgated with a view to increasing the export of agricultural products from UP to the farmers to get better prices for their produce.

"In view of the practical difficulties being faced in the construction of export-based farmer clusters, a provision

has been made to have at least 50 hectares of agricultural land within the boundaries of the development block. With this, cluster-based incentive benefits under the UP Agriculture Export Policy-2019 will be accessible and acceptable to the farmer groups in a timely manner," the spokesman said.

This will encourage exports and for simplification of the process, arrangements have been made to determine the process of proving export obligation by the government from time to time, the official said.

The cabinet, while relaxing the provisions of the Uttar Pradesh Defence and Aerospace Unit and Employment Promotion Policy-2018 (as amended), for the development of indigenous technology in the national security and defence sector,

allotted land in favour of the Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), and allowed 100 per cent relaxation on stamp duty on land purchase.

The BDL will set up a facility to manufacture propulsion systems to be used in the Akash missile in the defence sector with indigenous technology at the Jhansi node of the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor. A total investment of ₹ 400 crore has been proposed by the BDL.

In another decision, the government has decided to give free land to DRDO Brahmos at a token lease rent of ₹ 1 and also give 100 per cent exemption on stand duty on the purchase of 80 hectares of land. This project will come up in Sarojininarth tehsil at the Lucknow node of the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor.

CBI arrests six for posts against judges, judiciary

Andhra HC Registrar filed FIR against influencers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Friday arrested six more accused persons in an ongoing investigation of a case related to making derogatory posts on social media against judges and the judiciary.

The accused arrested in the case are Sridhar Reddy Avuthu, Jalagam Venkata Satyanarayana, Guda Sridhar Reddy, Sreenath Suswaram, Kishore Kumar Darisa, alias Kishore Reddy Darisa, and Sidduluri Ajay Amruth.



The agency said the arrested accused will be produced before the competent court.

The CBI had registered a case on November 11 last year against 16 accused and took over the investigation of 12 FIRs from CID of the Andhra Pradesh Police in pursuance of the orders of Andhra Pradesh High Court. The High Court had directed the CBI to probe the matter in response to a writ petition filed in 2020.

The original FIRs were registered on the complaints

from the Registrar General of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

"It was alleged that the key personnel occupying posts of prominence in the State of Andhra Pradesh by intentionally targeting the judiciary, made derogatory posts on social media platform against judges and judiciary following some court verdicts delivered by the judges of High Court of Andhra Pradesh," the agency has said.

Continued on Page 11

Kheri case: Minister's son remanded in police custody again

PTI ■ LAKHIMPUR KHERI

Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra, arrested for his alleged role in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, was on Friday remanded in police custody for two days.

It was for the second time that he was remanded in police custody. Chief Judicial Magistrate Chinta Ram.

Besides, Mishra, CJM Ram also sent three other accused in the case — Ankit Das, Shekhar Bharti and Latif — to police custody, according to the prosecution's request for their police remand. The two-day police remand for the four, starting from 5 pm on Friday, will end at the same time on Sunday.

After his arrest on October 9, the son of Union MoS (Home) was first remanded to police custody on October 11 with the remand period starting on October 12 and ending on October 15. After the expiry of his first remand period, he had been sent back to the Lakhimpur Jail under judicial custody.

"The Special Investigation

Team probing into the Lakhimpur Kheri violence had approached the CJM's court here again requesting police custody of Ashish Mishra alias Monu and three others — Ankit Das, Shekhar Bharti and Latif" Special Prosecution Officer SP Yadav told PTI.

"After hearing the arguments from the prosecution and defence counsel, the court remanded the four in police custody from October 22 to 24 for their custodial interrogation," he added.

While remanding the four in police custody, the court allowed their lawyers to watch their questioning from a distance without interfering with the investigation.

The court also asked the police to get the accused medically examination at the start and the end of their remand period. The court had earlier on Thursday remanded four other accused — Sumit Jaiswal, Satya Prakash Tripathi alias Satyam, Nandan Singh Bisht and Shishu Pal — in police custody for three days.

The police remand of all seven accused will end on October 24 evening.

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LIC

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CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I have changed my Minor Son from Viraj Sharma to Virat Sharma from now he may be known as Virat Sharma S/O Vikas Sharma R/o 16 Vasant Kunj 4/274A Parwati Bangla Road Kanpur.

NOTICE

I Sumbul Haroon mother of Mohammad Hassan wants to change my son's name to Mohammad Hassan Khan and his father's name from Javed Saeed to Mohd Imran Khan R/o F.N.402 Anand Apartments B- 980 ST-A Mahanagar Lko

NOTICE

I Akanksha D/o Kamal Kumar Shukla R/o 479 Kailash Vihar Jajmau Chakeri Kanpur-10 have changed my name from Akanksha to Akanksha Shukla. vide affidavit no-UP05764384241 227T dated 20 Oct 2021 before Kanpur Court (U.P.)

NOTICE

Notify that I have changed my son name from Prince to new name Thaker Pratham Arjunde for all purposes & records. I Thaker Arjunde Kamleshbhai S/o Thaker Kamleshbhai Jayantilal, R/o Vill & Post Prempur, Teh- Himmatnagar, Dist- Sabarkantha, State- Gujarat, Pin - 383225

NOTICE

I, Bhagwan Singh Kushwah Army Service No- 15417332-A, declared that my son Amit Singh passing high school Roll No-5151649 and intermediate Roll No-23687782 mention in father name Bhagwan Singh. Actual Amit Singh father's name is Bhagwan Singh Kushwah. According to Army Record mention in Bhagwan Singh Kushwah.

Declaration/Publication to all

I Munshi Singh Yadav S/o Late Rajdev Singh Yadav Village-Dhaneshpur Tahsil-Kasimabad Dist-Ghazipur. Declare that I am Ex. A.C.P. Nayab Subedar Retired on 30 September 2015 in my service record mention as name of my sons Aman Yadav is incomplete my son's name about his educational certificate is Aman Yadav not only Aman. So that my service record the name of my son Aman Yadav to be completed according educational Certificate as Aman Yadav.

सूचना

सूच्य हो कि मेरे सेवा (सेना, Army No. 18023589W, Rank-SRP) अभिलेखों में मेरा नाम Ramnuj Shukla अंकित है, जो त्रुटिपूर्ण है। जबकि अन्य अभिलेखों में मेरा नाम Ramanuj Shukla है, जो सत्य व सही है। Ramnuj Shukla और Ramanuj Shukla दोनों एक ही व्यक्ति (मेरा) नाम हैं। अतः मुझे Ramanuj Shukla के नाम से ही जाना, पहचाना व समझा जाए। रामानुज शुकला पुत्र सुरेश कुमार शुकला निवासी-ग्राम-मिश्रापुर धुला पोस्ट-गुलरिहा थाना-गदागंज तहसील-ऊवाहार जनपद- रायबरेली।

आवश्यकता है

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आवश्यकता है

B-Ed कोर्स के संवाहन हेतु निम्न पदों पर आवेदन आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं -
01. विभागाध्यक्ष : 01 पद. शैक्षणिक योग्यता: परस्तातक उपाधि 55 फीसदी अंको सहित एम. एड., पी.एच.डी. व किसी अध्ययन शिक्षा में पदवी का 15 वर्ष (सूचना 08 वर्ष) का अनुभव।
02. प्रवक्ता : शिक्षा शास्त्र : 04 पद. शैक्षणिक योग्यता : परस्तातक उपाधि 55 फीसदी अंको सहित एम.एड. एवं सम्बन्धित विषय में पद।
03. प्रवक्ता : गणित, हिन्दी, विज्ञान, सामाजिक विज्ञान, अंग्रेजी, म्यूजिक, फाइन आर्ट, शारीरिक शिक्षा : 08 पद. शैक्षणिक योग्यता: सभी पदों पर परस्तातक उपाधि 55 फीसदी अंको सहित एम.एड. एवं सम्बन्धित विषय में पद।
शैक्षणिक : यू.जी.सी. एवं एनसीटीई के मानकानुसार देय होगा।
नोट :- प्रत्येक उम्मीदवार अपने प्रमाण पत्रों सहित प्राथमिक पत्र विज्ञापन तिथि से 07 दिन के अन्दर महाविद्यालय कार्यालय में स्वीड पोस्ट, रजिस्ट्री या स्वयं पहुंचा दें। इसके उपरान्त कोई प्राथमिक पत्र मान्य नहीं होगा।
(सहैच सिंह) सचिव/प्रबन्धक
मो 9648670899

'BJP govts at Centre, state have eradicated corruption'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Hitting out at the opposition parties, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the BJP governments at the Centre and the state have eradicated the 'malaise of corruption' spread by the previous governments, and provided people a transparent and efficient system where government benefits reach all the people.

Addressing the 'Samajik Pratinidhi Sammelan' in Lucknow on Friday, the CM said that before 2014, there was dissatisfaction and distrust in the country, as there was a new scam every day. "Previous governments had nothing to do with the development but were keen on making money for their families," he said.

Stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' was not merely a slogan but a reality, the CM said: "We have worked for the development of all without any discrimination or indulging in appeasement like others. Had the opposition catered to all sections without any discrimination, the scenario today would have been different; they won't have been voted out of power."

CM reviews crop compensation assessment

Lucknow (PNS): After assessing crop losses caused by heavy unseasonal rains and floods in 35 districts of the state, the Uttar Pradesh government has sanctioned a special relief package of Rs 78 crore to be distributed as compensation to 2.35 lakh farmers.

At a high-level meeting on Friday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reviewed the progress of crop compensation assessment in Lucknow. Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue, Manoj Kumar Singh informed the chief minister that the assessment of damage caused to

agricultural crops due to floods and heavy rains was underway and more than 2.35 lakh affected farmers had been identified in 35 districts. These 35 districts include Deoria, Maharajganj, Siddharth Nagar, Gorakhpur, Mirzapur, Sant Kabir Nagar, Sitapur, Kushi Nagar, Ballia, Bahraich, Mau, Varanasi, Jhansi, Ghazipur, Barabanki, Jalaun, Kheri, Lalitpur, Chandauli, Kaushambi, Ambedkarnagar, Bijnaur, Basti, Gonda, Chitrakoot, Balrampur, Banda, Auraiya, Farrukhabad, Pilibhit, Lakhimpur, Kanpur Dehat, Bhadohi, Sultanpur, Agra and

Shravasti. The maximum affected farmers (37,848) are from Deoria while the least damage was reported in Shravasti.

The CM said that not a single eligible farmer should be deprived of compensation and everyone should be compensated as soon as possible. The compensation amount will be directly transferred to the bank accounts of farmers from the district treasury. In wake of natural calamities, the state government has been providing financial assistance from the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF).

According to the CM, a good government plays a vital role in providing good guidance to citizens. "People must know that BJP works in the interest of building a good society. It is dedicatedly fulfilling all the promises made to the 24 crore one by one, and is committed towards the development of farmers, women, and the poor," he said.

Emphasising that the state government functioned with full dedica-

tion, he said, "Today everyone has been given housing, toilets, gas, electricity without any caste, religion and regional bias. No criminal can dare to forcibly take possession of any farmer's land. The previous government did not want to construct houses for the poor and even obstructed the Centre's plan to provide 'pucca' houses to the beneficia-

ries." The CM also requested the pub-

lic to give a decisive verdict in 2022 as the previous government which could not stand by them in bad times was worthless.

"It is the responsibility of every citizen to know the difference between a good and bad government, and then choose what is beneficial for them," Yogi said.

Talking about terrorism, the CM said that no one could dare to indulge in anti-national and anti-social activ-

ities today. "Now, Pakistan and China cannot infiltrate into India's borders. If they do, the Indian army will give them a befitting reply," he added.

He alleged that the erstwhile SP government always worked for terrorists and terrorism. "During the previous regime, the cases against terrorists used to be withdrawn. Today, no one has the courage to plan any attack," he said.

"BJP gov't's zero-tolerance policy towards crime and criminals has shown positive results in the last four and a half years. There was a time when the power used to be a slave of the mafia, but today the bulldozer of our government runs on them," he added. Continuing with his attack on the Samajwadi Party, Yogi said: "Had there been a BJP government earlier, no one would have dared to open fire at Ram bhaktis in November 1990. Those who ordered firing on Ram Swaks for votes were 'Ramdrohi (anti-Ram). Lord Ram will never forgive them."

Under the guidance of PM Modi, the wait of 500 years for the construction of the grand Ram Mandir is going to be over. Once constructed, it will be the most magnificent temple in the world, he added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sumit Mittal son of Late Pradeep Kumar Mittal resident of B-18, Sindhu Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Lucknow hereby informed the general public that my father Late Pradeep Kumar Mittal was the absolute owner of Plot No. 11 & 12, Khasra No. 409, related Khewat No. 95/4, admeasuring area 579.925 Sq.mtr., situated at Station Road, District- Hapur by virtue of the sale deed dated 26/07/1988 executed by Sri Susheel Kumar Mittal himself & as a POA holder of Sri Satish Kumar Mittal and Sri Sudeesh Kumar Mittal himself & as a POA holder of Sri Sanjeev Kumar Mittal which is registered at book No. 1, Zild No. 2430, Page No. 392, Sl. No. 6480, Additional File Book No. 1, Zild No. 2482, Pages on 148 to 151 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Hapur and same has been lost somewhere. Whereas I am intended to construct a house upon the aforesaid property which is subjected to finance by a financial institution. An NCR has also been registered in this respect having details: 20210000111400, dated 08.09.2021, P.S. - Krishna Nagar, Lucknow. Anybody having claim or claiming any prior rights or interest in any manner in this property or has raised loan by depositing the aforesaid Sale Deeds to any person/bank/corporation/financial institution may submit objections within 07 days from the date of public notice. After the expiry of the period of this notice, no claim shall be entertained and such claim shall have no value in the eyes of law. It shall also be deemed that nobody has any objection for mortgaging the aforesaid property with Financial Institution, Lucknow.

Sumit Mittal
Resident of B-18, Sindhu Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Lucknow - 226023, Ph: 9793333110



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उत्तर प्रदेश

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सांसद
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सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

Second dose coverage picks up pace



SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

The exercise to administer the second Covid vaccine dose to people has been given an impetus in Uttar Pradesh, State Immunisation Officer Dr Ajay Ghai said. The number of second doses has increased considerably in the past ten days, he said.

"About a month back, the number of second doses was just 10 percent of the first. However, in the last ten days, the ratio of the first and second doses being administered in the state is 50:50," he said.

He pointed out that it was because the maximum vaccinations had taken place in the months of July and August, and now the people are due for their second Covishield doses after the completion of 84-day gap. "The second dose will further increase in the coming days and may probably come to a 60:40 ratio with the first," he said. Asked about the possibil-

Active Covid caseload dips below 100

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh witnessed the sharpest decline in the number of active COVID-19 cases on Friday as the tally dipped below the 100-mark for the first time since the surge witnessed during the second wave. The active caseload in the most populous state now stands at 85, of which 72 patients are in home isolation.

On Friday, the state also recorded another decline in the number of new Covid cases as the infections were

limited to 3, making it the lowest single-day tally. The Covid control mechanism in UP got a further boost with 44 districts becoming Covid-free with active as well as fresh cases declining to zero.

The drop in fresh and active cases in Aligarh, Amroha, Auraiya, Badaun, Baghpat, Ballia, Balrampur, Barabanki, Basti, Bahraich, Bijnor, Chitrakoot, Deoria, Etah, Etawah, Farrukhabad, Fatehpur, Firozabad, Gonda, Hamirpur, Hardoi, Hathras, Jhansi, Kanpur Dehat, Kanpur Nagar, Kasganj, Kaushambi,

tion centre because of the increased number of people given the first jab three months back. Asked if there were people who were not interested in getting the second dose, he said there are such people but are too few.

Meanwhile, Organised Medicine Academic Guild secretary Dr Ishwar Gilada said that the experience of mass vaccination programme within such a short duration was not there anywhere in the world and wasn't an easy task for setting up infrastructure like cold chain, supply chain management, software application to maintain data and establishing close to 1,00,000 vaccination centres across the width and length of the country. "If we look at data, India has increasingly administered more doses every month since January, overcoming the initial vaccine hesitancy. It is important to note that the daily vaccination rate is also not uniform," he added.

Dr Gilada said though the World Health Organization is aiming for all countries to fully vaccinate 70% of their respective population by June next year, India plans to do that in next 70 days by giving 2 crore vaccines per day.

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Platelet demand increases with spurt in dengue cases

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The demand for platelets has increased across the city hospitals in view of the increasing number of dengue cases. According to head of KGMU's Blood Transfusion department Dr Tulika Chandra, the demand has almost doubled. However, pointed out that the situation is still under control and manageable.

Dr Anupam Verma from SGPPI's Transfusion Medicine department said the demand has definitely increased but the situation is not alarming. He said only 10-12 percent of the patients require platelets, including those who have haemorrhagic dengue fever or those whose platelet count has gone below 20,000, which is the baseline marker.

"It is for the clinicians to decide which patients require platelets and can they be managed," he added.

Most of the procedures required for the transfer of platelets broadly cover three ways. "In the single donor platelet transfer, we use a dialysis-like machine to which the donor is connected. We take out the entire blood through the machine and it is a 50-

minute procedure in which the platelets are drawn out of the blood and then returned to the machine. The same blood group donor is called for the exercise," Dr Verma explained.

He said that in the second procedure, which is called the random donor platelet transfer, they take one unit blood from different donors and obtain platelets of different blood groups. Then there is a third procedure in which the platelets of the same blood group obtained in the random donor process are pooled through a machine after the white blood cells are removed, which makes it a new product that is as good as the single donor platelet.

Dr Verma said they normally give RDPs first to the patients but if the platelet count is very low, they go for SDP.

"The demand for the SDPs has increased currently and if there is demand from the hospitals, we also try to meet it," he said.

He added that they try to arrange the single donor from the volunteers they have but most of the time people are not too keen because it involves insertion of tubes and all, and so they tell patients' relatives to arrange for the donors.

Jobless youth hangs self

Lucknow (PNS): A youth hanged himself at his house in Mallahi Tola under Thakurganj police station on Friday. He was identified as Deepak Kashyap (22). His elder brother Ranjit Kashyap said Deepak ended his life due to joblessness. He told the police that Deepak slipped into depression after he lost his job due to lockdown in March 2020 and was facing financial crisis ever since. Younger sister Prachi found Deepak hanging on Friday morning. Ranjit lodged a complaint with the Thakurganj police station.

Meanwhile, police freed a teenage girl from the clutches of kidnappers on Friday afternoon and arrested two persons for their involvement in the crime. They were identified as Sonu Kanaujia and Chandan Chauhan. The police said the 16-year-old girl, a student of class XI, was forcefully taken away by the culprits from her college near Maharaja Bijli Pasi Qila under Ashiyana police station on October 20. Her parents lodged a police complaint later that night when she did not return home. The police swung into action and raided the Alambagh bus station from where the girl was rescued. The miscreants tried to escape but they were nabbed. The girl was handed over to her parents.

India, US share much in common: Prof Richards

Lucknow (PNS): India and the United States share much in common and even though the US is an old democracy, it has much to learn from the developments taking place in newer democracies like South Africa and India, Prof David Richards from New York University of Law said while speaking at an international webinar on 'Transcending Hender Norms — An International Human Rights Perspective', organised by the Faculty of Law, Lucknow University, on Friday.

Several renowned speakers addressed issues like gay rights, preventing discrimination against women, gender justice, gender sensitivity and reproductive rights of women.

Prof Richards presented his paper on 'Comparative constitutional law developments in USA, South Africa and India as the source of development in gay rights' at the webinar. He expressed appreciation for the two judgments of the Supreme Court of India of Justice (Retd) PS Puttaswamy case and Suresh Kumar Kaushal case. He quoted excerpts from the judgment referring to opinions of Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice Dipak Misra as an important development and departure from the earlier colonial regime in India. Director of Indian Law Institute Prof Manoj Kumar Sinha, an authority in human rights and international law, spoke on convention of elimination of all forms of discrimination against women to which India is a signatory. He spoke on the role played by Hansa Mehta in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and changing its terminology from 'all men are born free' to 'all human beings are born free', thus making it inclusive of all genders. Senior advocate Priya Hingorani spoke on gender sensitivity in justice delivery System. She spoke on the increasing participation of women in judiciary to ensure gender sensitivity. In her interactive session with students of LU as well as other participants, she emphasised on PIL as an important tool for making justice delivery more inclusive of all genders.

CM meets TSA head

Lucknow (PNS): Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday met Dr Shailendra Singh, who recently received the 'Behler Turtle Conservation Award'. Singh said they were invited by the CM office after he won award. The award was set up to recognise the outstanding achievements, contribution and leadership excellence in turtle conservation and biology, and is called the Nobel Prize of Turtle Conservation. Singh said his team effort has been successful in bringing back three critically endangered turtle species from the brink of extinction. Singh is a Lucknow-based aquatic wildlife scientist who spearheads Turtle Survival Alliance India Programme. The TSA team, including Dr Singh and Arunima Singh, apprised the CM of the organisation's joint efforts towards conserving threatened fresh-water aquatic wildlife of the state. He said the CM assured the TSA India team all the possible support towards the conservation of turtles and important aquatic wildlife of UP.

Online sales likely to impact traditional mkts this Diwali

Lucknow (PNS): Brisk online sales in Covid pandemic times in the run-up to Diwali are expected to dent the offline markets which otherwise witness huge crowds. President of Udyog Vyapar Mandal Sandeep Bansal said their expectations regarding sales this Diwali are not much.

He said the buyer has become increasingly lazy and is not ready to step out. "The online sales have impacted the traditional markets in a major way. The customers who are getting everything online are not interested in taking the pains to step and in the rush. We expect no extraordinary sales this Diwali and if we are able to sell the stock which we have purchases, it would be enough," Bansal said. He said that as compared to last year when the Covid impact was still fresh, the sales could increase by 10-20 percent, but the real comparison should be made with the pre-Covid Diwali sales in 2019.

Bansal said they have been constantly urging the government to not let the markets be monopolised by online marketplaces. "We will end up losing customers in this situation," he added.

Commenting on online markets selling products at cheaper rates, he said they have appealed to the traditional sellers to also lower the rates because it is a case of survival for them.

नए उत्तर प्रदेश का संकल्प

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भारत सरकार सहायतित योजना फेज-3 के अन्तर्गत

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मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा

गौरवमयी उपस्थिति

<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">सुरेश कुमार खन्ना</p> <p style="font-size: small;">मंत्री, वि.त. संसदीय कार्य एवं चिकित्सा शिक्षा उत्तर प्रदेश</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">जय प्रताप सिंह</p> <p style="font-size: small;">मंत्री, चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य, परिवार कल्याण तथा मातृ एवं शिशु कल्याण, उत्तर प्रदेश</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">मेनका संजय गांधी</p> <p style="font-size: small;">सांसद सुलतानपुर</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">स्वतंत्र देव सिंह</p> <p style="font-size: small;">सदस्य, विधान परिषद उत्तर प्रदेश</p>
<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">सूर्यभान सिंह</p> <p style="font-size: small;">विधायक, सुलतानपुर</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">सीताराम वर्मा</p> <p style="font-size: small;">विधायक, सदर</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">देवमणि द्विवेदी</p> <p style="font-size: small;">विधायक, लम्बुआ</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">राजेश गौतम</p> <p style="font-size: small;">विधायक, कदीपुर</p>

व अन्य गणमान्य महानुभाव

दिनांक : 23 अक्टूबर, 2021 | समय : अपराह्न 1:00 बजे | स्थान : हर्ष महिला पी.जी. कॉलेज देहली बाजार, सुलतानपुर

चिकित्सा शिक्षा विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

मध्यांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि०, हरदोई ई-निविदा सूचना

अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा अनुमोदी एवं कार्य में दक्ष ठेकेदारों से ई-निविदाओं को मागों में उपरो सरकार की पोर्टल etender.up.nic.in पर आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा सूचना www.mvnl.in पर भी अवलोकित की जा सकती है। निविदा प्रपत्र अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 01.11.2021 समय 17:00 बजे तक एवं प्रथम भाग खुलने की तिथि 02.11.2021 समय 14:00 बजे नियत है। निविदा में संशोधन, तिथि वितरण, पुनर्प्रकाशन आदि की सूचना भी उक्त पोर्टल पर एवं वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी।

1 अति अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या 141/विनिम्ह/2021-22 :- विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-प्रथम, हरदोई के उपखण्ड क्षेत्रों में निजी नलकूप (LMV-5) के अनमोडर्ड उपभोक्ताओं के स्थल पर मीटर लगाने का कार्य। निविदा मूल्य रु 1180.00 जीएसटी सहित एवं घरोहर धनराशि रु 8250.00।

2 अति अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या 142/विनिम्ह/2021-22 :- विद्युत वितरण खण्ड-द्वितीय, हरदोई के उपखण्ड क्षेत्रों में निजी नलकूप (LMV-5) के अनमोडर्ड उपभोक्ताओं के स्थल पर मीटर लगाने का कार्य। निविदा मूल्य रु 3540.00 जीएसटी सहित एवं घरोहर धनराशि रु 11500.00।

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, हरदोई पत्रांक-2703 दिनांक - 22.10.2021 "साष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें"

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender No. : BMF_03_28_AMC_MIG_MAG, dated 19.10.2021. Open e-Tender is invited in single packet system by Dy. CME/BMF/BGB, Eastern Railway for the following work : **Name of Work : Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of 27 nos. MIG/MAG Welding Plant of make 'Migatronica India Pvt. Ltd.' of BMF/Budge Budge for 03 years at Bogie Manufacturing Factory, Budge Budge.** **Advertised Value: Rs. 25,31,054/- Earnest Money/Bid Security : 0.00. Tender Closing Date & Time: 18.11.2021, 12.00 hrs. Bidding Start Date : 04.11.2021. Date and Time of uploading of tender: 19.10.2021 at 15.45 hrs. Manual offers are not allowed.** MISC-125/2021-22

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.e-tenders.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. E-TENDER NOTICE

Following E-Tenders are invited from the experienced/reputed contractors for the execution of following works. For more details login on website www.etender.up.nic.in

1 - Very Short Term E-Tender No.32/AETC/2021-22:- Work of Providing maintenance gang for 03 months for Maintenance of 220 kv S/S Azamgarh under Ecty. 400 KV S/S Division, Azamgarh. (Tender Submission date 29.10.2021 upto 17.00 Hrs. and Tender Opening date 30.10.2021 at 14.00 Hrs.) Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only. Earnest money will be in the shape of RTGS/NEFT duly pledged in favour of Superintending Engineer, Ecty, Transmission Circle, UPPTCL, Azamgarh. **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (TRANS), AZAMGARH No. 1421 Date 22.10.2021 SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION**

SP-SBSP alliance may give new shape to caste politics

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The fledgling alliance of the Samajwadi Party with the Om Prakash Rajbhar-led Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP), announced on October 20, intends to reconfigure the caste-based identity politics in the state.

The potential of this alliance, if it succeeds, will be put to test in east and central UP. The Morcha is seeking to assert its identity in electoral politics without the dominant backward castes like Yadav and Kurmi breathing down their necks.

It will be more of a trial for the Samajwadi Party whose politics revolves around the domination of the Yadavs in the OBC hierarchy. Since its inception three decades ago, the Yadav-dominated Samajwadi Party will have to share the political space with the deprived castes among the OBCs.

The BSM slogan, borrowed from the Bahujan Samaj Party of yesteryears, is 'Jiski jitni sankhya bhaari, uski utni bhagidari', encapsulating the reality and spirit of proportional representation in power structures. This

was denied to the MBCs and EBCs in the post-Mandal era because dominant castes among the OBCs — Yadavs, Kurmis and Lodh-Rajputs — cornered all the benefits of reservation as per the Mandal Commission report.

The journey of the BSM's architect, Om Prakash Rajbhar, embodies the political trajectory of the EBCs and MBCs. Rajbhar was once with the BSP but left to protest Mayawati's functioning. He floated the SBSP before the 2017 polls and forged an alliance with the BJP. The SBSP was named after Suheldev, an 11th century ruler of Shravasti. Suheldev is believed to have vanquished an invader, Ghazi Saiyyad Salar Masud, and was venerated as a hero by the Rajbhars. To the BJP, Suheldev epitomised "Hindu nationalism" because he was a Raja who trounced the muslim invader. The BJP-SBSP partnership enabled the former to enlarge the circumference of its influence in east UP, beyond Varanasi and Gorakhpur.

The alliance came apart after May 2019 Lok Sabha polls. Rajbhar alleged that the Yogi Adityanath government was unwilling to imple-

ment the report of the social justice committee for the separate quota for the EBCs and MBCs within 27 per cent quota for the OBCs.

The SBSP-SP alliance, if succeeds, is all set to alter the configuration of caste politics. It will pose a challenge to the non-Yadav OBCs and non-Jatav Dalit electoral equation forged by the BJP which reaped rich political dividends in 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha and 2017 UP Assembly polls. Despite the promising potential, Akhilesh Yadav will face a formidable challenge in working out the seat-sharing formula among the Yadavs and the MBCs and EBCs.

The alliance has another significant aspect and that is the fate it spells for Asaduddin Owaisi's All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM). Owaisi was looking to make the kind of breakthrough he achieved in the Bihar Assembly polls where his party won five seats for the first time. However, it was a measure of a realistic assessment of his own strength and that of UP's ground realities that Owaisi chose to be a part of Rajbhar's front rather than go solo from the start.

AKY takes jibe at UP minister for his remarks on fuel prices

Lucknow (PNS): Taking a potshot at Uttar Pradesh minister Upendra Tiwari over his remark that 95 per cent people did not need petrol and diesel, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said the truth was that those people did not need the BJP. On Thursday, Tiwari had said that the prices of petrol and diesel were not increased much considering the per capita income and that 95 per cent people did not need them.

"The BJP minister of Uttar Pradesh said that skyrocketing petrol prices do not bother the common people because 95 per cent of the people do not need petrol. Now, even the minister will not need it as the people will make him 'paidal' (out of power). The truth is that 95 per cent of the people do not need the BJP," Akhilesh tweeted in Hindi on Friday.

Referring to the recent Lakhimpur Kheri incident where four farmers were mowed down by a Mahindra

Thar jeep driven by BJP workers, the SP president sarcastically asked, "Does Thar need diesel?"

Speaking to mediapersons in Jalaun, the UP minister, replying to a query on rising prices of petrol and diesel, had said, "Today, there are just a handful of people who travel in four-wheelers and use petrol. At present, 95 per cent people don't need petrol. If you compare with per capita income, the prices of petrol and diesel have not increased much. Today, the opposition parties have no issues with them. You see the data before 2014. What is the per capita income after the formation of the Modi and Yogi governments. Today, the per capita income has doubled." On the success claimed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on completion of 100 crore Covid jobs, Yadav said the BJP was in a self-congratulatory mode even as galloping inflation has made the lives of common man a living hell.

North Eastern Railway

Tender Notice No. S&T/Con/E-Tender/08 of 2021

Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Construction/N. E. Railway/ Gorakhpur for and on behalf of President of India invites through E-Tender for the following works from the contractors having sufficient experience as per eligibility criteria mentioned in tender document.

Tender Notice No. & Description of Work : S&T/Con/E-Tender/08 of 2021 Name of Work : Left over work of GD-BLP Section for "Execution of Outdoor works including part supply of material for laying of OFC cable for provision of OFC Communication System in Intiyathok-Balrampur (Excluding) section (19.50 km) of Lucknow Division of N.E. Railway. **Approx. value (Rs.) :** 59,33,030.04. **E.M.D. Money :** Nil. **Cost of Tender Forms :** Nil. **Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter :** 3 months. **Date & time of closing 15.00 hrs. on 09.11.2021. Note :-** 1. The tender document cost and earnest money cost to be paid through Net banking or Payment gateway only and by giving the other details online on website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.

2. Validity of offer and earnest money should be 45 days from opening of tender. 3. Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria, terms & conditions is available at website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.

Chief S&T Engineer/Con., CPRO/Sig-45 Gorakhpur

Do not travel with inflammable article in train

Priyanka to flag off Cong Pratigya Yatra today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress will take out three 'Pratigya Yatras' across Uttar Pradesh. The first Pratigya Yatra will be flagged off by party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra from Barabanki on Saturday. During these rallies, the Congress leaders and workers will communicate party's 'seven pledges' to people of the state, apart from its election manifesto. Priyanka will also interact with the public regarding these pledges.

On Friday, the Congress also organised a function to hand over cheques of Rs 1 crore (Rs 50 lakh each by Chhattisgarh and Punjab governments) to the family members of four farmers and a journalist who were killed in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence. While demanding the removal of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra Teni, the Congress also advocated for a time-bound trial so that the culprits could be punished at the earliest.

Former MP and in-charge of UP campaign committee PL Punia, along with other party leaders, said that Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra would flag off all the yatras from Barabanki on Saturday and also address a public meeting, wherein she would give out details of the seven resolutions of the party for the upcoming assembly polls.

He said that the first route of Pratigya Yatra (Varanasi Awadh) would start from Varanasi and end in Rae Bareilly, covering Chandauli, Sonbhadra, Mirzapur, Prayagraj, Pratapgarh and Amethi. It will be led by former MP Pramod Tiwari along with former MP Rajesh Mishra and former MLA Nadeem Javed.

The second Pratigya Yatra (Barabanki Bundelkhand) will start from Barabanki and end in Jhansi, meandering through Lucknow, Unnao, Fatehpur, Chitrakoot, Banda, Hamirpur and Jalaun districts. It will be led by former MP PL Punia while other leaders will be former Union minister Pradeep Jain Aditya and chairman of Media department and former state minister Nasimuddin Siddiqui. The third yatra (West UP) will start from Saharanpur and will end in Mathura, covering Muzaffarnagar, Bijnore, Moradabad, Rampur, Bareilly, Budaun, Aligarh, Hathras and Agra districts. It will be led by former Union minister Salman Khurshid and Congress MP candidate from Lucknow Acharya Pramod Krishnam.

Six IPS officers shifted

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government on Friday shifted half-a-dozen IPS officers, including DIG Upendra Kumar Agarwal, who has been heading the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Lakhimpur Kheri violence and deaths. However, he has been asked to continue with the probe.

Agarwal was asked to take charge as the new DIG of Devipatan Range. A 2005-batch IPS officer, Agarwal was attached with the UP Director General of Police headquarters in Lucknow and was later asked to head the SIT.

Besides, erstwhile DIG of Devipatan Range Rakesh Singh was posted as the new IG of Prayagraj Range, replacing KP Singh, who will now be the IG of Ayodhya Range. Former IG of Ayodhya Range Dr Sanjeev Gupta has been shifted to Lucknow as the IG, Law and Order. Also, IG, Law and Order, at the DGP office, Rajesh Modak will be the new IG of Basti Range, replacing Anil Kumar Rai, who has been posted as IG of PAC in Central Zone, Lucknow.

During preliminary probe, seven police personnel, including four posted in Basti, were found to be negligent. Two of them were posted in Siddharthnagar and another in Sant Kabir Nagar. All four police personnel posted in Basti have been suspended and reports sent to the SPs of respective districts regarding the remaining three cops. Departmental action will also be initiated.

Earlier on September 10, UP Congress had announced that it would organise a Pratigya Yatra in Uttar Pradesh ahead of the assembly polls scheduled next year. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Advisory and Strategy Committee of the UP Congress unit chaired by Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

AKY, PGV HAVE A CHANCE MEETING

In a coincidence, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav had a brief meeting with Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on board a flight from Delhi to Lucknow on Friday. Both the leaders boarded the same Vistara flight on Friday afternoon and were surprised to see each other. Pictures of the two leaders meeting on board the aircraft soon went viral on social media.

Sources said that Akhilesh and Priyanka greeted each other and even had a brief chat. While Akhilesh was in business class, Priyanka Gandhi was sitting at the back. When the flight landed at the Lucknow airport, the two leaders had a brief conversation.

The Samajwadi Party chief had gone to Delhi from Lucknow on Friday morning to meet his father and SP patron Mulayam Singh Yadav while Priyanka was coming from Delhi to Lucknow for flagging off her party's Pratigya Yatra from Barabanki on Saturday morning. In the previous 2017 assembly polls in UP, the Congress and Samajwadi Party were in alliance which came a cropper.

4 cops suspended for security lapse at CM's function

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Four police personnel were suspended after a major security lapse came to the fore during Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's function in Basti district on Thursday.

Basti SP Ashish Srivastava said that 45 minutes before the chief minister's arrival at the venue, a circle officer located a man with a licenced revolver at the auditorium where the CM's function was scheduled. The man was later taken out of the auditorium and his identity was ascertained.

During preliminary probe, seven police personnel, including four posted in Basti, were found to be negligent. Two of them were posted in Siddharthnagar and another in Sant Kabir Nagar. All four police personnel posted in Basti have been suspended and reports sent to the SPs of respective districts regarding the remaining three cops. Departmental action will also be initiated.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E-Tender Notice Number: NCR-PRY/JOCOMM/NFR/12/2021/033721	
Date: 20.10.2021	
E-Tender Notice	
Following open e-tenders on prescribed tender forms are invited by the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, North Central Railway, Prayagraj on behalf of President of India.	
1 Tender No.	144/2021-146/2021
2 Details of work including place	Contract of RDN (Non Digital) Commercial Publicity at Prayagraj Chheoki, Prayagraj & Etawah Railway Stations for one year.
3 Approximate cost in Rs.	Prayagraj Chheoki (₹16,57,062.00), Prayagraj (₹12,18,626.50) & Etawah (₹59,827.00)
4 Cost of Tender Form in Rs.	Prayagraj Chheoki (₹2,360.00), Prayagraj (₹2,360.00) & Etawah (₹1,180.00)
5 Office address from where the tender information can be obtained	Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Divisional Railway Managers Office, N.C. Railway, Nawab Yusuf Road, Civil Lines, Prayagraj
6 Earnest Money to be deposited in Rs.	Prayagraj Chheoki (₹33,200.00), Prayagraj (₹24,400.00) & Etawah (₹1,200.00)
7 Period of Contract	One Year
8 i- Date and time for dropping the tender form ii- Date & time for the opening of tender	i- From date of publishing of tender notice in newspaper to 15.11.2021 Upto 13 hrs. ii- At 15 hrs. on 15.11.2021
9 Website & Notice board where the full detail of tender can be seen	Tender shall be available on www.ireps.gov.in upto 13:00 hrs. on 15.11.2021 i.e. date of opening of the tender. The tender notice can also be viewed on Railway's website www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in
11/25/2021 V	
North Central Railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR	

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (TENDERING) M-3 DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI H-BLOCK: SECTOR-15: ROHINI: DELHI-89 E-mail Id:- eetenderingm3.djb@gmail.com

"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand hygiene"

PRESS NIT No: 26(2021-22) Press Notice Tender

S. No.	Name of work	Amount Put to tender/ Estimated Cost	Tender Fee	Date of release of tender procurement solution/L.D.No.	Last date/time of receipt of bid through e-procurement solution
1.	Boring and installation of tube wells at Narela UGR/ BPS in AC-01 Narela under EE(Nw)-II (Presently under ACE(M)-3)	Rs. 29,40,439/-	Rs. 500/-	21.10.2021 2021_DJB_209949_1	02-11-2021 Upto 3:00 P.M.

Further details in this regard can be seen at <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.

ISSUED BY P.R.O.(WATER) Advt.No. J.S.V 505(2021-22) Sd/- (SUOHIR KUMAR) Executive Engineer (T) M-3

"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand hygiene"

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M)-10 H-BLOCK UDYOG NAGAR INDL. AREA PEERA GARHI CHOWK NEW DELHI-41

NIT No- 35 /EE(M)10/(2021-22) Press Notice Tender

S. No.	Name of work	Amount Put to tender (Rs.)	EMD	Tender Fee's	Dt. of release of tender procurement solution (L.D. No.)	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Improvement of water supply by replacement of old/damaged/corroded water line in Pkt. A-3 Sec-3/ Rohini AC-12 Mangolpuri Under EE(Nw)/IAE/EE(M)-10	₹7,62,135/-	Exempted vide office memorandum No. F34/2020-PPD 12.11.2020 and DJB endorsement No. DJB/2020-21/Misc-I/PT/1971 Dated: 23.12.2020	500/-	21/10/2021/ 2021_DJB_209959_1	08-11-2021 at 3:00 P.M.

Further details in the regards can be sent at <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O.(WATER) Advt.No. J.S.V 506(2021-22) Sd/- (Himanshu Agarwal) EX. ENGINEER (M)-10

कार्यालय : अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जोन-3 जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम, लखनऊ

पत्रांक संख्या- 1031/EE-3/GL7/21 दिनांक : 22.10.2021

अति अल्पकालीन निविदा-सूचना

जलकल विभाग जोन-3 द्वारा निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 29.10.2021 अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक शुल्क जमा करके कैंडा कान्ट्रर से प्राप्त कर तथा दिनांक 29.10.2021 को अपराह्न 4:00 बजे तक निविदा जाली जा सकती है तथा प्राप्त निविदा उसी दिवस को अपराह्न 4:00 बजे निविदादाताओं अथवा उनके प्रतिनिधि के समक्ष खोली जायेगी। निविदा विवरण निम्नानुसार है :-

क्रम सं०	कार्य का विवरण	निविदा शुल्क	EMD	अनुमानित लागत (₹ में)
1	Supply & fixing of 250 mm dia Kiosker make Sluice valve at Khadra, Lucknow	Rs. 150/++ 12%GST	Rs. 2800.00	1,39,500.00 +18%GST
2	जोन -3 के अन्तर्गत शिवनगर खदरा पम्पिंग स्टेशन के पम्पो, स्टार्टर, पैनल एवं समस्त विद्युत केबिल ट्रांसफार्मर एवं ओवर हैड टैंक के वाल्वो आदि का अनुरक्षण एवं जलापूर्ति हेतु वॉल्वो को खोलना व बन्द करना तथा जोनल पम्पिंग स्टेशन का (03 माह हेतु) (सी0डल्यू0आर0) पूर्ण संचालन एवं अनुरक्षण सम्बन्धित कार्य।	Rs. 500/++ 12%GST	Rs. 9600.00	4,78,161.00

जमानत राशि अधिशासी अभियन्ता जलकल विभाग, जोन-3 लखनऊ के नाम बन्धक होगा, जमा करना अनिवार्य है। सभी निविदादाताओं का रजिस्ट्रेशन, जी0एफडी0 न0 की छायाप्रति निविदा के साथ संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा। बिना जमानत धनराशि के व निर्धारित तिथि व समय के उपरान्त किसी भी निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। किसी एक व समस्त निविदा को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी अथवा महाप्रबन्धक जलकल विभाग नगर निगम को सुरक्षित होगा। किसी कारणों से अवकाश होने पर निविदा अगले कार्यदिवस में निविदा क्रय की जा सकती है तथा खोली जा सकती है। अन्य शर्तें निविदा प्रपत्र में उल्लेखित हैं।

अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जोन-3

कार्यालय प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक (उत्पादन) मध्य प्रदेश, सतपुड़ा भवन, भोपाल

दूरभाष एवं फैक्स नं. 0755-2674354 E-mail pccfprod@mp.gov.in

क्रमांक/उत्पा.निर्वर्तन.विज्ञापन/124/2097 भोपाल, दिनांक 22.10.2021

वनोपज के घोष विक्रय की सूचना

मध्यप्रदेश शासन, वन विभाग के विभागीय काष्ठगारों/बाँसगारों में माह नवम्बर, 2021 में विभिन्न स्थलों पर विभिन्न तिथियों में ईमारती काष्ठ, जलाऊ चट्टें, बाँस एवं अन्य सामग्री के नीलाम की तिथियाँ पूर्व से अधिसूचित हैं। Covid-19 संक्रमण के दृष्टिगत भविष्य में शासन स्तर से जारी होने वाले निर्देशों के अनुरूप नीलामों की कार्यवाही की जायेगी। नीलाम की तदर्थ तिथियाँ, नीलाम का प्रकार तथा काष्ठगारों में विक्रय हेतु उपलब्ध वनोपज व अन्य सामग्री की जानकारी मध्यप्रदेश शासन, वन विभाग की वेबसाइट mpforest.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है।

अपर प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक (उत्पादन) म.प्र. भोपाल

Mayawati hits out at Cong

Lucknow (PNS): Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati slammed the Congress for making lucrative promises to girls to win the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls and said that the party was facing 'bad days' due to 'non-fulfilment' of its promises which has resulted in severe lack of public confidence in the outfit. Mayawati further said that the BJP was also poised to face the same fate as that of the Congress due to its failure to fulfill promises made to the people.

In a series of tweets posted on Friday, the BSP chief said, "Congress has governments in Rajasthan and Punjab, so have they done something there so that people should believe their words? If not, how can people believe them? This is the reason why there is a severe lack of public confidence in the claims and promises of parties like Congress and BJP?"

CITYBRIEFS



VISIT

Chief General Manager of Punjab National Bank (Head Office, Delhi) Rajesh Verma visited the Circle Office in Lucknow on Friday.

He planted a sapling in the premises of the circle and garlanded the statue of Lala Lajpat Rai. Speaking at the Staff Training College, he called upon to staff members make the 6S scheme (Welcome, Sankalp, Shikhar, Prosperity, Self-respect and Sampark) launched by the bank successful so that the benefit of this scheme reaches all the sections of the state.

The next week will be celebrated as Vigilance Awareness Week by the bank across the country. Keeping this in mind, Verma also explained the importance of preventive vigilance. Zonal Manager Sanjay Gupta and all the staff members were present on the occasion.

PLACEMENT DRIVE

Sixteen students were selected by Brisk Logic Pvt Ltd through a campus placement drive organised by the Training and Placement Cell of Faculty of Engineering and Technology, University of Lucknow. Twelve students (Vikas Rathore, Yash Aggarwal, Yogendra Singh, Anurag Prasad Sahu, Aparna Verma, Ashutosh Singh, David Kumar, Prachi Gautam, Prateek Shukla, Ritu Verma, Siddharth Singh, Shreya Kushwaha) were selected as web developer intern, three (Shekhar Sharma, Anumeha, Sujata Yadav) as BDEs and one (Shweta Yadav) as the digital marketing intern. The company offered a maximum package of 3.5 lakh per annum to the students.

GOLD MEDAL

Achyut Pandey, a class IX student of CMS Kanpur Road Campus, brought laurels to

the institution by winning the gold medal in the International Mathematics Olympiad, organised by Science Olympiad Foundation, Gurugram, Haryana. Students from several countries participated in this prestigious event, wherein Achyut bagged the gold by displaying his skills to solve mathematical problems. He was awarded the gold medal and a certificate.



PM to launch PMASBY from Varanasi



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the biggest health infrastructure scheme Pradhan Mantri AatmNirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana (PMASBY) worth Rs 64,180 crore from his Parliamentary constituency Varanasi on October 25. Modi will be visiting the state to inaugurate nine medical colleges from Siddharthnagar, and 30 projects worth Rs 5,000 crore, along with the national medical scheme from Varanasi. Under this scheme, the work of infrastructure, surveillance, and research among others will be carried out in urban and rural areas.

The Union government announced the Prime Minister AatmNirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana (PMASBY) for the health sector, including a set of reforms and initiatives for long-term infrastructure strengthening of the public health system. Accordingly, the PMASBY with an outlay of about Rs 64,180 crore over five years was announced in the Budget 2021-22 on February 1 and got Cabinet nod in September.

Directions have been issued for the participation of healthcare professionals and staff from functional health and wellness centres at panchayat level, block PHCs and CHCs, sub-district and district hospitals at the block and district level, and the Government Medical College of Varanasi through virtual means.

The objective of PMASBY is to fill critical gaps in health infrastructure, surveillance, and health research - spanning both the urban and rural areas so that the communities are Atmanirbhar in managing such pandemic/health crises.

The measures under PMASBY for health sector focus on developing capacities of health systems and institutions across the continuum of care at all levels - primary, secondary, and tertiary and on preparing health systems in responding effectively to the current and future pandemics/disasters. The scheme will provide a much-needed infusion of funds to develop infrastructure needed for strengthening state health systems and meeting future pandemic needs.

UP government plans cheap accommodation for employees

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Yogi government plans to provide cheap accommodation to its employees. It is planning to build houses for them on land freed from the possession of infamous land grabbers/mafia like Mukhtar Ansari, Ateeq Ahmed and Badan Singh Baddo.

"Preparations have also been intensified to build shelters for the poor on these illegal 'havelis' of the mafia demolished by the state government. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the Housing department to prepare a proposal for the scheme," a top government official said in Lucknow on Friday.

At a high-level meeting on Friday, the chief minister reviewed the progress of the scheme and gave instructions to the officers to construct shelters for the poor at the earliest on the land vacated from the mafia across the state. He said that housing is a basic necessity and every fam-

ily should get it. The government will build affordable houses for Group C and Group D employees also on the lands freed from the land grabbers and mafia. There is also a plan to build affordable housing for journalists and lawyers. The chief minister has directed the Housing department to send a proposal soon in this regard.

In unprecedented action initiated against the mafia/land-grabbers in Uttar Pradesh, the state government agencies have vacated more than one-and-a-half lakh acres of land, both government and private, estimated at over Rs 1,850 crore.

As per the Revenue department data, till August 15, about 62423.89 hectares (more than 1,54,249 acres of land) has been freed. Along with this, the Revenue department has sent 187 land mafia to jail while marking 2,464 encroachers and 4,407 FIRs have been lodged by filing 22,992 revenue suits and 857 civil suits.

Ajay Mishra sent to 2-day police remand

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A local court has sent Ashish Mishra Monu, the son of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra Teni, and three others in 2-day police remand on Friday in connection with the October 3 violence in which eight people, including four farmers and a journalist, were killed in Lakhimpur Kheri.

The CJM court of Chintarnam granted 2-day police remand of Ashish Mishra and three others, including Ankit Das, his driver Shekhar Bharti and his private gunner Lateef. The court granted police remand of these four accused, as demanded by the



Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the incident.

The remand already commenced from Friday evening and the SIT took the custody of all four from the district jail. The remand will end on October 24 at 5pm. Earlier too, Ashish was taken on 3-day police remand from October 12 to 14. Meanwhile, district judge Mukesh Mishra will hear the bail petition of Ashish

Mishra on October 28. The CJM court has already rejected his bail petition. Ashish has pleaded innocence in the bail petition. It has been alleged that the SUV in which Ashish was travelling crushed the farmers and others in the Tikonia area of Kheri.

As many as 10 people, including Ashish Mishra, have been arrested by the SIT in the Lakhimpur Kheri case in which a convoy of SUVs, which included a Mahindra Thar owned by Ajay Mishra, ran over a group of protesting farmers on October 3. Four farmers were killed in the incident while four others, including a journalist, were killed in clashes that followed.

Teachers up in arms over being asked to collect plastic waste

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a bizarre order, the Education department of Uttar Pradesh government has asked its teachers in primary schools to collect plastic waste and asked them to recite Valmiki Ramayana, drawing widespread condemnation. The teachers' association has even threatened to go on strike.

On October 20, Basic Shiksha Adhikari of Firozabad Anjali Agarwal issued an order asking block education officers (BEO) to collect plastic waste from primary schools under the Swachh Bharat Mission and deposit the same at a designated Panchayat Bhawan. It is not clear as to why the Firozabad official issued such an order, as the one-page order did not specify the motive and only referred to the Swachh Bharat campaign.

It is not clear as to why the Firozabad official issued such an order, as the one-page order did not specify the motive and only referred to the Swachh Bharat campaign.

In another order passed on October 20 itself, the chief development officer of Kassarjani deputed 15 primary school teachers to recite verses of Valmiki Ramayana during Valmiki Jayanti during a function organised at Sankat Mochan Dham in Salai. The two government orders have irked the fraternity of teachers.

"The government expects teachers to do everything except teaching. The teachers are already deployed in census, polio eradication, Covid vaccination and other government operations having nothing to do with teaching or grooming children. And now, the officials

have asked the teachers to collect plastic garbage and recite Ramayana. In villages there are safai karamcharis already posted but instead of asking them to collect plastic waste, teachers have been given the onerous work to collect 100 kg of plastic waste. Officials expect us to go from one village to another and collect plastic waste instead of taking classes in the schools," said a teacher in Lucknow.

In the aftermath, Uttar Pradesh Junior High School (Purv Madhyamik) Shikshak Sangh has asked the government to withdraw its order, failing which teachers would stage a protest. Director General, School Education, Anamika Singh said that she has sought detailed information about the orders issued by the Firozabad official. "I do not know why such an order was issued," she said.

Fresh firing after 48 hrs in Poonch

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Fresh exchange of firing was reported after a gap of almost 48 hours on the 12th day of the counter terrorist operation going on in the Nar Khas forest area of Mendhar tehsil in Poonch on Friday. After confirming the presence of the highly trained terrorists in the area the security forces exercised extra caution to prevent further loss of lives.

Till date nine Indian soldiers including two JCO's have sacrificed their lives while not a single terrorist, believed to have taken shelter behind natural caves in the forest area, has been neutralised.

The security forces are now expected to adopt a new strategy to tackle the situation at hand.

As the searches continued during the day the security forces recovered two small boxes, suspected to be IEDs. The same were destroyed in situ to prevent any grievous injury.

Meanwhile, security has been beefed up across different parts of Kashmir valley ahead of the three day long visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir beginning October 23. Several new check posts and bunkers came up in different parts of Srinagar to

prevent targeted killing of civilians and security personnel.

The common citizens were subjected to frisking in main city centres including Lal Chowk area of Srinagar. Paramilitary forces along with jawans of the Jammu & Kashmir police were seen randomly checking vehicles and verifying papers of two wheeler owners. In the recent strikes on civilians, the terrorists used two wheelers for swift movement in the busy market areas.

In Jammu, a high level security review conference was chaired by the corps commander of Nagrota based 16 corps.

5 of family killed as house collapses

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Tragedy hit Jaunpur when five members of a family were buried alive while six others were critically injured when a two-storey dilapidated house collapsed in Roza Arjun locality in the wee hours of Friday.

A police officer said that Qamaruddin had an old house in Roza Arjun locality and it was in a dilapidated state. After dinner, all 11 members of the family went to bed in a room in the house. The house collapsed during the wee hours and all of them got trapped under the debris. Locals alerted the local police soon after which a police team along with rescue personnel reached the spot. The team rushed all the victims to a hospital where

five of them were declared dead. They were identified as Sanjida Bano (45), Azimullah (68), Mohammad Kaif (8), Mohammad Saif (30) and Miswaha (28). The police said the rescue operation continued for several hours.

Those injured were identified as Chandni (12), Hera (10), Asuseiden (20), Sanno (60), Sneha (14). They were undergoing treatment at the hospital. Joint Magistrate Himanshu Nagpal and Additional Superintendent of Police, City, Dr Sanjay Kumar also reached the spot.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the incident and sent condolences to the bereaved family. The chief minister issued instructions for proper treatment to those injured.

Canara Bank logo and text: Together We can POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the CANARA BANK under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 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 on the dates mentioned against each account (details of which have been mentioned hereunder) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Table with columns: Sl. No., Name & Address of the Borrowers/ Guarantor & Outstanding Amount, Date of Demand Notice, Date of Possession Notice, Description of Immovable Property.

Date: 23-10-2021 Place: Kanpur Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

DHFL National Office Address: HDLI Towers, B-wing, 6th Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Station Road, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400051.

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Table with columns: Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s), Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date, Description of secured asset (immovable property).

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to DHFL as aforesaid, DHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the cost and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of DHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.



BJP leaders reviewing preparations for proposed PM's rally in Varanasi on Friday.

Pioneer

BJP intensifies activities to make Modi's rally a success

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Apart from intensifying its activities by the district administration, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has also increased its efforts to make the proposed rally of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi in his parliamentary constituency at Mehandiganj (near Ring Road Phase-2) on October 25 a grand success. About one lakh chairs are being arranged to make the rally on the eve of upcoming assembly elections a historic one.

Meanwhile, the Special Protection Guard (SPG) offi-

cers arrived here and inspected all the places including the rally site where the PM is expected to visit. It has yet not been confirmed whether the PM will go to Mehandiganj by road or directly land there by helicopter. Hectic efforts are being made to make the helipad at the rally site ready. At this big helipad three helicopters can land at a time.

Apart from this, the BJP leaders held a meeting under the chairmanship of state co-incharge Sunil Ojha to review the party's preparations for making all the arrangements of the proposed PM's visit perfect. The meeting was also attend-

ed by state vice-president and MLC Laxman Acharya, regional president (Kashi unit) Mahesh Chandra Srivastava, MLA Surendra Narayan Singh and many others. A BJP team led by district president Hansraj Vishwakarma also visited the rally site and inspected the arrangements and preparations. In an 850 x 550 feet long pandal, the chairs will be put in 53 blocks and the stage from where Narendra Modi will inaugurate 31 projects would be eight feet high so that everyone present there can see Modi without any problem.

According to information, as many as five parking sites are

being developed there so that in case of heavy rush proper traffic arrangements can be made. The entire pandal and ground sites would be flooded with saffron and white colours and there would be separate entries for VVIPs, VIPs and others. Barricading work has almost completed apart from beautification of Ring Road right from Harahua to Mehandiganj. At the crossings, ready-made trees, flower plants and even grass brought from different states are being planted for beautification apart from beautiful wall paintings. Besides, selfie points are being developed there.

Minister gives appointment letters to 60 tech assistants

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal distributed appointment letters to the newly appointed 60 technical assistants in the Agriculture department at Circuit House here on Friday. Congratulating these technical assistants, Jaiswal said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath have a fair appointment policy and in UP, six lakh appointments have been made in various departments based on the individual's ability.

According to him, the government has a zero corruption policy and told the newly appointed technical assistants that the government is making rapid efforts to double the income of the farmers and as all these appointments are in the Agriculture department, which has direct relation with the farmers, play an effective role in increasing the income of the farmers, he said. Chief Development Officer (CDO) Abhishek Goyal, Deputy Director (Agriculture) AK Singh, District Agriculture



UP Minister Ravindra Jaiswal presenting an appointment letter to a technical assistant in Varanasi on Friday.

Pioneer

Defense Officer and others were present on the occasion.

GIRLS TAKE OUT RALLY AGAINST SOCIAL EVILS: Under the joint aegis of Lok Samiti and Asha Trust, a Balika Mahotsav (girls' festival) was organised in Harsos village here on Friday. Scores of teenage girls from villages like Harsos, Benipur, Gosapur, Birbhanpur, Harpur, Jansa, Nagepur, Mehdiganj etc took out a rally against female foeticide, sexual abuse, dowry, child marriage and other prevailing social evils. They were carrying

banners and placards apart from raising slogans against social evils.

Later, Balika Mahotsav was held at Harsos Panchayat Bhawan. The programme was inaugurated by Lok Samiti convener Nandlal Master lighting the lamp along with representative of gram pradhan Om Prakash Patel and Rita Uttam from Mission Shakti Abhiyan. On the occasion, girls performed plays and presented cultural programmes based on child marriage, dowry, female foeticide, inequality, sexual

abuse etc. Besides, the artists of Prerna Kala Manch presented a street play based on girl child education.

Speaking on the occasion, Nandlal Master said, 'Dowry is a curse in the society, due to which many women are harassed and due to child marriage, the girls are not only deprived of getting proper education but also it poses bad effects on their health of girls.' Convener of Mahila Chetna Samiti Priyanka Patel said, 'Today girls are not safe at home as even their family members and relatives often sexually abuse them.'

Rita Uttam of Mission Shakti Abhiyan made the girls aware about the campaign run by the government and their rights. She also gave information about the helpline numbers 112, 198, 181, 102 etc issued to help girls and women. Chandrakala and Madhubala welcomed the participants while Soni presided over it. Anita conducted the programme and the vote of thanks was proposed by Prema. Riya Devi, Asha, Saroj, Amit, Prema, Sunil, Rajesh, Rajkumari, Manab Bano, Rajkumari, Rani and others were also present.

SP submits memorandum to VNN

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Terming its popular work 'Halla Bol', Samajwadi Party (SP) leaders reached Nagar Nigam here on Friday to submit a memorandum to the Municipal Commissioner (MC) Pranay Singh. They claimed that they gheraoed the officer in protest against Nagar Nigam's apathy towards basic civic problems of the residents in the city.

When the SP delegation reached there, the party leaders were asked by the officer to follow the COVID-19 guidelines and wear the masks. Over the issue there was some debate between the SP leaders and the Nagar Nigam officer which was pacified by some senior party worker Bahadur Singh Yadav.

During the meeting, the city SP president Vishnu Sharma, while expressing displeasure over the apathy of Nagar Nigam, demanded proper house tax fixation. He



SP delegates submitting memorandum to municipal commissioner in Varanasi on Friday.

Pioneer

said that due to prevailing irregularities, some petty traders are being forced to pay tax of Rs 5,000 in place of Rs 800. He also expressed his concern over denial of the officers to respond to the calls of the people. He said that in the name of drive against illegal encroachments, small and

petty traders are being harassed.

During their meeting, party's corporators Kamal Patel and Haroon Ansari also expressed their concern over the improper sewage system. The party workers submitted their memorandum in which they raised a five-point char-

ter of demands. Important among those who were also present were Rambabu Yadav, Jitendra Yadav, Varun Singh, Jamal Ansari, Rajesh Pasi, Duddhath Rajbhar, Gopal Yadav, Prashant Singh Panku, Shankar Vishnani, Sandeep Sharma, and Priyanshu Yadav.

Santosh gives five tips to BJP workers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

National general secretary (Organisation) of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) BL Santosh gave five tips to the party workers while addressing the booth workers of Bhelepur Shakti Kendra of Mahamana Mandal under Varanasi Cantonment assembly constituency at Mumukshu Bhawan in Assi area here on Thursday. 'A BJP worker is a social worker first, then a political one and the living proof of this was seen during the corona crisis when the BJP workers without caring for their lives, helped the needy and helpless people', he said.

Giving five tips to the booth workers, Santosh asked the party workers at booth level to visit nearby vaccination centre once in a week, resolve the problems of the health

warriors if they face the same, meet voters once in 15 days and establish contact with them, contact beneficiaries of central and state government schemes and set the responsibility for the regular work apart from highlighting government achievements through social media.

Meanwhile, Santosh visited the parliamentary office of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Gurudham Colony and got to know about the functioning of the office from the office in-charge Shivsharan Pathak. He was accompanied by state co-incharge Sunil Ojha, regional president Mahesh Chand Srivastava, Kashi region in-charge Subrata Pathak, regional general secretary Ashok Chaurasia and others.

Earlier, he held a meeting with the Sant Samaj in which the heads of various maths,

temples and others were present. 'Kashi has been a mythological city that contemplates and nurtures knowledge and culture since time immemorial and it is a centre of the rise of Sanatan culture. With the joint efforts of all of us, we will soon achieve the goal of all-round development of the country', he said, seeking the suggestions from the saints and representatives of general secretary of Kashi Vidvat Parishad Prof Ramnarayan Dwivedi, Dr Shrivastava Maharaj, Mahant Kotwal Das, Mahant Swami Ram Das Maharaj, Mahant Govind Das Maharaj, Mahant Santosh Das and others.

The meeting began with the recital of Manglacharan by the chief priest of Kashi Vishwanath temple Pt Shrikant Mishra and then Swami Jitendranand Saraswati wel-

comed the guests. Expressing gratitude to the saints, regional BJP president Mahesh Chand Srivastava said that the Sant Samaj of Kashi has always given its blessings to the party. The programme was conducted by Dr Sunil Mishra.

Important among those who were also present were Mahant Shankarpuri, Bharat Bhusan Maharaj, Ishwar Das Maharaj, Anil Gujrati, Challa Subbarao, Challa Annapurna Prasad, Mani Maharaj, Rameshwar Ojha, Ravindra Giri, Vidhibhushan and others. On behalf of the BJP, the function was also attended by Kashi region in-charge and MP Subrata Pathak, general secretaries Ashok Chaurasia and Sushil Tripathi, Cantt MLA Saurabh Srivastava, Rakesh Sharma, Navratan Rathi, Madhukar Chitransh and Kunal Pandey.

Pallavi Patel sits on dharna

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Annoyed with the district administration for denying permission to take out Tractor Adhikar Yatra, the Apna Dal (AD) leader Dr Pallavi Patel on Friday sat on a dharna on the road in protest and said, 'The fight is for the right of backward class and we will win it. The movement launched by Dr Sone Lal Patel for the cause of deprived sections of society could not be stopped by using the force.'

In view of the announcement made by the AD to take out the Tractor Adhikar Yatra from Sarnath, the police personnel were deployed at the residence of party leaders including the residence of its national president Krishna Patel at Manik Nagar Colony in Lahartara-Baulia and her daughter Dr Pallavi Patel.

The police force was also deployed at Mahabodhi Inter College in Sarnath, the venue from where the yatra was to be taken out. When Dr Pallavi along with party workers reached there to take out the yatra, the police officers stopped her. She raised her voice against the police action and tried to take out the same, the police officers informed her that the district administration has not given permission for the same because of the security concern in view of the coming festivals and proposed



AD leader Pallavi Patel staging dharna in Varanasi on Friday.

Pioneer

visit of the PM.

Dr Pallavi sat on dharna on the road along with party workers in protest against the decision of the district administration and said, 'Our fight is for the rights of the backward class and we will win it. None could stop the movement launched by the party founder Dr Sone Lal Patel for the cause of deprived sections of the society, by using force.'

The police officers held a talk with Dr Pallavi and succeeded in pacifying her. Thereafter, she ended her dharna and said that the yatra

would be taken out at the earliest.

The AD had sought permission from the district administration to take out a Tractor Adhikar Yatra from Sarnath but the latter denied its permission.

The Yatra was to be taken out on the issues of farmers' rights, social justice and employment and it was to cover 1200 km and culminate at Mirzapur on October 30 by passing through the districts of Jaunpur on October 23, Pratapgarh on October 24, Prayagraj on October 25,

Kaushambi on October 26, Fatehpur on October 27, Banda on October 28 and Trans-Yamuna in Prayagraj on October 29, informed the party state general secretary Gagan Prakash Yadav. It is noteworthy that earlier, the district administration had not allowed the Rajya Sabha Member and UP In-charge of Aam Aadi Party (AAP) Sanjay Singh when he was coming to city from the airport in Babatpur to join the party Tiranga Sankalp Yatra which was to be taken out from Kutchery to Maldahia on Thursday last.

Two proposed flyovers to ease traffic problem

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Two proposed flyovers will ease traffic problems in City West areas besides providing an easy approach for Bamrauli airport. One will be of four lanes while the other is proposed to be of two lanes only. Designs of these flyovers have finalised and the Bridge Corporation will start work within a couple of months on these projects of Rs 284 crore. The flyovers will be functional by 2024 if things continue to move smoothly.

After the construction of the two flyovers people will not have to cross the Jhalva area. They will reach the airport directly from Kanpur Road via Kalindipuram. This will bypass the traffic bottleneck of Rajrooppur, Chakiya, and Dhoomanganj.

Those who go to the Lukerganj side from Kanpur road will not have to face traf-

fic jams on GT Road, and will ease the traffic problems near the Chauphatka over bridge. Traffic flow on the railway under path near Indian Oil tanker filling centre, will also be reduced when the above flyovers are completed.

The approach of the two lane flyover will be from near the Chauphatka over bridge, and it will be ensured that old houses near Chak Niratul are not demolished to pave way for the proposed flyover.

The four lane Railway Over Bridge near Subedarganj railway station will take people from Kanpur Road to Airport. The two lane bridge will also provide better connectivity of City West areas with Kanpur Road. Both will begin from near the existing Chauphatka over bridge.

The four lane ROB will be downed near Kalindipuram where some houses are to be demolished, otherwise there

will be no disturbance near the starting point of Chauphatka over bridge.

The two lane bridge will be connected to the Chauphatka over bridge, and it will be an easy approach for those who want to go to Lukerganj area from Kanpur Road.

The four lane ROB will be over 1.5 km long, while the proposed length of the two lane flyover will be 700 mt.

RPF PAYS TRIBUTE TO SOLDIERS: On the occasion of Police Commemoration Day 2021, Railway Protection Force paid tribute to the immortal soldiers of Railway Protection Force by organising Memorial Day Parade in Quarter Guard premises of Railway Protection Force/ Regional Training Centre Subedarganj, Prayagraj on Thursday.

During the Memorial Day Parade, Ravindra Verma, Inspector General cum Principal Chief Security

Commissioner Railway Protection Force/North Central Railway, RSP Singh, Chief Security Commissioner, Manoj Kumar Singh, Senior Divisional Security Commissioner Prayagraj Division, RK Singh, Security Commissioner cum Principal, Regional Training Centre Subedarganj and other officers and jawans of Railway Protection Force were present and paid homage to the soldiers who lost their lives in the line of duty. On this occasion, Mr Verma told all the present personnel about the importance of this day and motivated them to work in the interest of railways. On this occasion, the martyred Railway Protection Force personnel of Indian Railways were remembered and tributes were paid. A new memorial has been constructed at RPF Regional Training Centre Subedarganj to acknowledge their supreme sacrifice.

Rahul bags best player of the tournament award

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The final match of inter house volleyball tournament in men and women categories was played on Friday at Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology And Sciences (SHUATS), Prayagraj. In men category the final match played between Red house and Yellow house at the Volleyball Court. Red house won the final match by 25-22, 25-20 and got the title of the tournament. Pink house finished third Place while Blue house had to settle for fourth position.

In women category Pink house won the final match by 25-17, 25-21, 15-10 against yellow house. Blue house finished third while Red house had to settle for fourth position. Athletics committee chairman Dr CJ Wesley extended thanks to Mr Ashish Massey (Volleyball Incharge) for a very well organised inter house Volleyball tournament.

The Chief guest was Mr Prabhakar Rai, president of District Volleyball Association who was honoured with a plant given by Dr CJ Wesley. Mr Anand Sharma, national player and man of the tournament at junior nationals was honoured with love of token by Dr Devraj Badagu.

Mr Pankaj Shukla, national player and joint secretary of district volleyball association Prayagraj was also honoured

with a token of token by Dr Shamlu. S Masih, national badminton player and Chief Warden.

The Chief guest encouraged the players to play the game with true spirit of sportsmanship and passion. He also congratulated the winner and runner-up team on the occasion of the closing ceremony of final match.

In men's category, best player of the tournament was Rahul Sharma of red house while the award for promising player of the tournament was given to Ratan Soni of yellow house. Similarly, In the women category, best player of the tournament was Anjana Mishra of yellow house while the award of promising player

of the tournament was given to Kanchan Rai of pink house.

TWO VETERAN WRITER TO GET RAM CHANDRA AWARD: The first Ram Chandra Gupta Memorial Theatre Award will be given away to veteran writer and actor Rajendra Tiwari and Rupa Kumar on October 31 this year.

Lifetime achievement award will go to Atamjit Singh of Lucknow, while the chief guest on the occasion will be former NSD director Devendra Raj Ankur.

This will be followed by a Nautanki presentation Laila Majnu by the artistes of Vinod Rastogi Smriti Sankhan. The programme will begin on the NCZCC stage at 5.00 pm.

DC inspects road repairing work

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Dr Raj Shekhar, carried out an spot inspection of the nine km road on Friday to check out the ground realities and to further expedite the road repair works. He said the Priority Section of 9 km with 9 Metro stations was almost ready and the trial run of the Metro was expected soon on this priority section. He said it was a fact that during the construction works of the Metro during the past two years, the road below the Metro track had damaged and was retarding the pace of the heavy vehicles on account of shabby and uneven roads with sub-standard patchwork. He said the 'Road Repair Helpline' in the last one week had received around 21 complaints related to the Metro route and road damages.

The DC said it had been directed to the authorities to ensure that the patchwork and pot hole filling of the entire 9 km should be completed by November 15 and the coal tar carpeting should be completed by December 15. He said the patchwork between IIT to Rawatpur must be completed by October 30, while between Rawatpur to Motijheel November 12 and Motijheel onwards work was in progress for the next phase. He said the carpeting work between



Kanpur Divisional Commissioner inspecting the road in the priority sector of Metro at Kalyanpur on Friday.

University and Rawatpur need to be completed by November 8, between IIT and University by November 20, between Rawatpur and Gol Chauraha November 27 and between Gol Chauraha and Motijheel December 10. He also directed the Project Director to complete the work within the stipulated timeframe with no compromise on quality.

Dr Shekhar also directed that looking into the increased number of vehicles and the need of the hour SE NH division need to widen all the bridges and culverts in 4 lane and 6 lanes. He said currently there were two lanes. He also directed the SE PWD and SE NH to lay interlocking bricks on all the sidewalks of the road adjoining and coal tar carpet-

ing which will help in avoiding dust and water retention. He said both point 2 and point 3 works would be taken up by NH Division and PWD in this financial year or in next financial year.

He also directed PD Metro to ensure that green belts at all the open areas near every Metro station on this 9 km priority section was done.

Fire breaks out in bikes' showroom

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Bullet bikes and property worth lakhs of rupees were gutted into fire which broke out on the third floor of its showroom in Saket Nagar, under the Kidwai Nagar police station late Thursday night. Seeing the fire, homeguards on picket duty informed the showroom's security guard. Immediately, two fire tenders from Meerpur Fire Station rushed to spot and controlled the fire after around two hours. Amit Shukla of Ashiyana (Lucknow) owns the Royal Enfield (Bullet) showroom in Saket Nagar. Gyanendra Shukla of Saket Nagar is posted there as General Manager. Security guard Uday Narain Dwivedi of World Bank, Barra, was on night duty on Thursday night. Late night, when he was present at the outside counter of the showroom, picket homeguards Indrapal Singh and Sushil Pandey informed him about a fire on the third floor of the showroom. Uday Narain immediately informed his general manager while the homeguards, to Kidwai Nagar police station about the incident. On the information of thana police, Fire Officer of Meerpur Fire Station KK Singh rushed to spot with two fire tenders. In presence of the security guard Uday Narain, firemen broke out the locks on the main gate to climb on the upper floors and to enter into the third floor. Thereafter, they carried out the rescue operation. General Manager Gyanendra Shukla said the fire broke out in the accidental unit situated on the back side of the third floor due to electric short circuit. Over three bikes lying there to settle their accidental claim, some furniture, one cabin and some spare parts were gutted in the fire. As the power supply was suspended after the incident, exact amount of loss could not be ascertained due to darkness prevailing there, he added. But on Friday morning, he saw several bikes being reduced to ash and suspected heavy loss of goods and property. Fire Officer KK Singh said with the help of two fire tenders, the fire was controlled after around two hours. No casualty was, however, reported in the incident.

Tribute paid to martyrs

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

On the occasion of Police Smriti Diwas (Police Commemoration Day) on Thursday at 2nd Battalion Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF), Rajhi Camp premises tributes were paid to the brave Force personnel who had attained martyrdom. This year the names of total eight brave personnel of Railway Protection Force (RPF) and RPSF who were



were announced. In the honour of the brave personnel salute was given with reversed arms and a two minutes silence was observed. On the occasion Anirudh Chaudhary, Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, RPSF, Rajhi camp, and RPSF Training Centre's all Force members and officers paid floral tributes to the brave personnel who had attained martyrdom.

Vaccination programme going on uninterruptedly in NER

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Under the guidance of General Manager, North Eastern Railway (NER), Vinay Kumar Tripathi, for protection from Covid-19 pandemic and its prevention along with NER headquarters, at Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Varanasi and Izzatnagar divisions, production units, health centres, stations etc vaccination programme is going on uninter-

ruptedly. In NER till October 20 railway personnel, their families, retired railway personnel and coolies (porters) working at stations, vendors etc have been administered as many as 48,243 first doses and 35,875 second doses of vaccine for protection against Covid-19, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said. Similarly, 78,396 first doses and 52,456 second doses have

been administered to non-railway persons. Thus a total of 1,26,639 people have been given the first dose of the vaccine and 88,331 the second dose. For protection from Covid-19 and its prevention more than 100 crore vaccine doses have been administered so far all over India, in which North Eastern Railway, a zonal unit of Indian Railways, has made a significant contribution with 2,14,970 vaccinations.

Changes in timings of Gkp-LTT spl at many stations from Nov 15

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration has made changes in arrival/departure timings of 05018 Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT) special train at Itarsi, Banapura, Timarni, Harda, Khirkiya, Chhanera and Talwadia stations located in

Bhopal division of West Central Railway (WCR) from November 15. Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said. As per the changed timing the 05018 Gorakhpur - Lokmanya Tilak Terminus special train will arrive at Itarsi at 02.50 hrs and depart at 03.00 hrs, arrive at Banapura at 03.26 hrs and

depart at 03.28 hrs, arrive at Timarni station at 03.48 hrs and depart at 03.50 hrs, arrive at Harda at 04.05 hrs and depart Harda at 04.07 hrs, arrive at Khirkiya at 04.28 hrs and depart at 04.30 hrs, arrive Chhanera station at 04.58 hrs and depart at 05.00 hrs and arrive at Talwadia station at 05.58 hrs and depart at 06.00 hrs.

Carry out work of service lane on war footing: DM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Kanpur District Magistrate, City, Vishak G Iyer, while inspecting the Panki Industrial Area on Friday and expressed concern over the service lane as most of the work had yet not been completed and the retaining wall had been totally ignored which was hindering the smooth movement of the traffic on the route. He warned the officials for their apathy and insensitivity toward the people's inconvenience and warned that in case the work did not begin in 48 hours then the contractor will be black listed and a named FIR will be lodged against him. He said the work of service lane should be carried out on a war footing without any compromise of quality.

The DM also expressed concern over the traffic snarls especially on the main road at the petrol pump and said the curve had to be made encroachment free and for this all the encroachments need to be removed and the road should be accessible to the traffic in free and fair manner. He then visited the road from canal to CTI culvert and took a feedback of the construction work going on there and said once the main road was con-



District Magistrate, Vishak G Iyer inspecting the Panki Industrial Area on Friday.

structed the pressure on the route will be drastically reduced and said it could also be an interlocking road as the canal was beside and thus directed the officials to top ensure that the work was started and completed on time.

The DM then inspected the Panki-Dadanagar bridge repair work which was still incomplete and expressed concern

over the slow pace of work and directed the contractor that within 48 hours if he did not report for work then he would be blacklisted and action be taken against him. He said all the construction works being carried out should be completed within the stipulated time frame and each day monitoring of the work and its progress had to be carried out.

He also warned the officials that people should not be made to suffer on account of the department and contractor's apathy.

Prominent who were part of the inspection were Kanpur Municipal Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Commercial Tax, Executive Engineers, PWD and many other officials.

Firecracker sellers warned to refrain from footpath sales

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Additional Police Commissioner, AP Tiwari has warned the firecracker sellers to refrain from footpath sales. He said it had been decided that those who wanted to obtain permission to set up firecracker shops will have to apply online with their Aadhar card and PAN cards. He said it had been decided to keep the sales of firecrackers restricted keeping in view the pollution it created on Diwali festival. He said the district administration had decided to allot one particular place in the city where all retailers holding valid permission can put up their shops.

It may be mentioned here that during Diwali a large number of firecrackers manufactured in the surrounding districts and remote areas were sold in the city which led to evading excise duty. Besides it has on unmet occasions led to blasts resulting in deaths of the family members involved in manufacture of illegal firecracker.

This year the district administration has decided to keep an observation on such hidden firecracker units and ensure that only those who had the sanction from the government will be allowed to put up their vendors.

Tiwari said excess of firecrackers had always been a health hazard and thus with major efforts being made to ensure that no such illegal manufacturing was carried out and so no mishap may occur. He said all those were kept to put up stalls to sell firecrackers will have to apply online.

Although majority of the firecrackers come from Sivakasi yet the local manufacturing carried out covert manufacturing which also posed risk of life.

Sainik Sammelan organised

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Sainik Sammelan and crime meeting were organised at Police Lines on Thursday. Presiding over the meeting SP Ajay Kumar Singh first sought the complaints of police personnel from all branches and directed the officials concerned to dispose of matters without inordinate delay and inform him. Addressing the cops he made it clear that all possible steps should be taken for controlling crime. He directed to sub-



mit chargesheets of top-five and top-10 level criminals. The cops were instructed to keep an eye on the activities of all types of mafia. He directed to maintain proper coordination with the excise department to control illegal trade and manufacturing of liquor at any cost. Under Mission Shakti phase-III the SP directed to organise chaupals and seminars up to village level and school wise to train girls to build self confidence and develop self reliance. The cops were directed to ensure delivery of all court notices, proper disposal of complaints under IGRS etc. The cops were directed to com-

plete investigations timely. The meeting was also attended by ADM (F&R), ASPs, COs, SHO, all the branch heads of police, RI Police Lines etc.

DIRECTIVE: As many as 20 cases were brought for public hearing before member, UP State Commission for Women, Anita Singh on Thursday. Hearing the case of a woman from Halia the member directed the official concerned to get admitted the two minor children of the victim at residential school run by Social Welfare department. In another case under Katra Kotwali police station the member directed to keep the victim woman at 'Sudhar Grih'. She made it clear that government was committed to making available healthy social atmosphere so all the possible steps should be taken instantly. During the public hearing ADM (Land Revenue) Hari Shankar Yadav, City Magistrate Vinay Kumar Singh, CO (City) Prabhat Rai and Probation Officer Shakti Tripathi were present along with the other officials concerned.

ROAD MISHAP: Rajendra Gupta (25), a resident of Dhanahi village under Padari police station, was on the way on Mirzapur-Chunar road with his son Shubham (4) and friend on a bike when he was hit by a pick up near Padari power sub-station. As a result, Shubham died on the spot while Rajendra and Dheerendra Singh were brought to the divisional hospital by police. However, Rajendra Gupta died in the hospital during treatment.

DRM inspects stations, sees progress of works



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under his one day inspection programme, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Varanasi, Ramashray Pandey, while doing extensive inspection of Aunrihar, Jakhman, Dulhapur and Mau Junction on Thursday forenoon and Mohammadabad, Azamgarh, Khorasan Road and Didarganj railway stations in the afternoon, taking cognizance of passenger amenities saw the progress of works of various development schemes running there. In this sequence the DRM reached Mau Junction by his inspection special train, took cognizance of passenger amenities and expressed satisfaction. He did an extensive inspection of Mau station's platform, passenger hall, waiting room, foot over-bridge, offices there and besides the cycle stand and instructed the officials concerned regarding cleanliness. Thereafter he left for inspection on Mau-Shahganj rail section and after inspecting Mohammadabad, Azamgarh, Khorasan Road and Didarganj stations reached Shahganj.

During it he did extensive inspection of Mohammadabad, Azamgarh, Khorasan Road and Didarganj stations and gave necessary instructions regarding the passenger amenities, clean-

ness and maintenance. On the occasion he was accompanied by Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM - Infra) Gyanesh Tripathi, Senior Divisional Engineer SDE (Coordination) Rakesh Ranjan, SDGM Sanjeev Sharma, Senior Divisional Operations Manager NK Joshi, Divisional Engineer (General) AK Singh and senior supervisors. With the aim of reviewing upgradation in passenger facilities and development projects the DRM also conducted window trailing inspection of Aunrihar-Mau, Mau-Shahganj and Shahganj-Jaunpur rail sections.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has improved life style of common man: Minister

KANPUR (PNS): Minister of State, Youth Welfare and Panchayati Raj, Upendra Tiwari, while addressing the seminar on 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' at Kailash Bhawan on Friday said the campaign launched by the Government was aimed at maintaining cleanliness at home, workplace and the surrounding areas. He said the vision of Clean India was the dream of Mahatma Gandhi and this was being given a practical shape by the efforts of the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. He said this campaign focused on the eradication of open defecation all over the country and this campaign had largely improved the life style and hygiene of the common man.

He said Uttar Pradesh government was doing every bit to make sure that the state and the country became cleaner and more hygienic by every passing day, and as responsible citizens, it was our duty to make sure that one did ones bit to help with this noble mission. He said the cleanliness of ones surroundings was ones responsibility, not only when it came to houses but also public places. He said cleanliness in public places not only improved the standard of living but also gave

a very positive image about India to the tourist that visited India.

He said as per Indian tradition and culture special emphasis had been laid on cleanliness as it was important for a healthy and disease-free lifestyle in the long run. He said all the religious ceremonies were carried out after the thorough cleaning of the surroundings because religion also taught the importance of cleanliness. He said a clean lifestyle did not always mean the removal of dirt from surroundings, but it also meant one should be more organised in life. He said the waste disposal method in UP had drastically changed after the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was launched and it was important that the citizens were aware of the correct methods of waste disposal. He said the waste disposal system allowed to separate the waste into different categories so that the safai karmacharis can easily dispose of or recycle the waste. He said with better awareness of the waste disposal, everyone can be a valuable part of the vision of 'Clean India'.

Tiwari said since the launch of the mission a huge shift had been seen in people

especially Uttar Pradesh and more and more people were coming forward in cleanliness drives and small actions of people were helping in the achievement of 'Clean India' vision. He said people were more aware of not littering in public places and about waste management in general. He said all over UP cleanliness drives were being organised with the support of the people of the country. Later he administered oath for cleanliness. Prominent present on the occasion were Panchayati Raj Adhikari, Kamal Kishore, Deputy Director Sports Mudrika Pathak, AK Gupta and several others.

VENDOR KILLED: A vegetable vendor was hammered to death with the weight by an e-rickshaw puller when the former asked him to return his borrowed money under the Kalyanpur police station late Thursday night. The vendor fell unconscious and was taken to Kalyanpur Community Health Centre (CHC). After the first aid, he was sent home. On Friday morning, he succumbed to his injury. Hearing about the incident, legislator Surendra Maithani, ADCP (West), DCP (West) and ACP Kalyanpur

along with force rushed to spot. Kin staged agitation alleging the lax attitude of the police. A native of Harchand Kheda, Narval (Kanpur), Sanjay alias Guddu lived in a rented house in Surendra Nagar, Rawatpur (Kalyanpur). He was a street vegetable vendor. Some time ago, local e-rickshaw puller Mahesh had taken Rs 100 from Sanjay to consume liquor. On Thursday night, when Sanjay visited Mahesh's place and asked for return his borrowed money, the latter abused him. On protest, Mahesh attacked on Sanjay's head with the weight lying on latter's handcart. Sanjay immediately fell unconscious on the spot. With the help of local residents, family members took the profusely-bleeding Sanjay to Kalyanpur police station. Police took him to CHC wherefrom, after the first aid, he was sent to home. On Friday morning, the condition of Sanjay again deteriorated and before his wife Meera called neighbours, he succumbed to his injury. Kalyanpur ACP Dinesh Kumar Shukla said on the basis of complaint, FIR would be lodged and action taken against the e-rickshaw puller. After the incident, the accused was absconding.

BLW sets new record

PNS ■ VARANASI

Under the world's largest and free Covid vaccination campaign, India on Thursday demonstrated its strength and capability by crossing the 100 crore vaccination mark in which even Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) did not lag behind in



making its contribution. BLW with the support of medical team and health workers, set a new record by administering 1,21,634 vaccine doses, in which the number of first doses is 72,782 and of second doses is 48,852. It is the highest in any single vaccination centre in Varanasi. This record is unique in itself, which shows the dedication and loyalty of BLW doctors,

officers and employees towards the general public. BLW is sincerely contributing to the success of the world's largest free vaccination campaign. By administering 50,000 doses of vaccines till July 15 at this centre, as many as 75,000 doses till August 18 and the 1,00,000th dose on September 13 BLW has set new records in making its contribution. A short time which is a matter of pride for it, PRO Rajesh Kumar said. GM Anjali Goyal extended heartiest congratulations to the BLW medical team. She expressed happiness over the record set by BLW with the coordination and cooperation of the state government. In order to make this campaign of the Government of India successful, by breaking its own record, the GM suggested to set a new one every day.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Jab half done

The 1 billion vaccines is a big milestone but our fight against the virus is just half way through

A billion vaccinations are done in India. That is a gigantic achievement. Only two countries in the world can claim the record. The other country is China. It reached the one-billion mark in June and the two-billion mark in September. As India celebrates the billionth dose, there is also the realisation that the job is half done. Just under a billion more doses will ensure that the country's adult population gets fully vaccinated. India's eligible adults need over 1.8 billion doses. Anything less than that is unacceptable. Seventy-five per cent of India's adult population — over 707 million people — has received one dose. Seventy more days remain till December 31. Twelve million doses a day are needed to fully cover the entire adult population in this period. There could also be about 70 million "vulnerable" adults above 45 yet to get even a single dose. Next, come the children. Over 35 per cent of the population is in the group of 0-14 years. Over 41 per cent of the population accounts for children under 18. India needs 26 crore to vaccinate children in the 12-17 age group. A similar number of doses are needed for children below 12.



Amid the celebrations, a note of caution is necessary. The first issue is the supply of vaccines. Most of the billion shots have come in the last two or three months. The vaccine roll-out that began in January did not pick up pace for the first half of the year because of the short supply of vaccines and teething problems with the supply chain. The Government

needs assurance from the vaccine suppliers that the pace of supply will not slacken now. The Government wants to complete the programme by this year-end. That means the speed of vaccination has to be phenomenal. It will be a bigger logistical challenge. The Government has also to counter the usual hitches like vaccine hesitancy and vaccine complacency. Reports still come in about health workers trying to convince people, mostly in the interior rural areas, to take the vaccine. Reports also talk about people, in both urban and rural areas, being careless about taking the jabs. Thousands of people are also missing their second dose because of overcrowded vaccination centres or the centres being far away from their homes. The Government is tackling this problem by reaching vaccines to far-off places via drones. A tougher task that faces the Government is when to vaccinate the children. Emergency use authorisation has been given for some vaccines but peer-reviewed human trial reports are yet to be studied and the vaccines released for use. The biggest worry would be about vaccinated parents in the rural areas visiting the vaccination centres again for their children's sake. Also, the Government has to decide if paediatricians should be allowed to vaccinate children as well. That can speed up the process.

PICTALK



An Army personnel during a workshop, in Rajouri district

PTI

Rivals meet

Cricket fans are in for a treat as India, Pakistan come face to face after 2019

Cricket between India and Pakistan is a different ballgame altogether, especially if it's a World Cup game. The stakes are high, the spirit is fierced and, of course, a sense of rivalry prevails during the game. Having said that, the ICC T20 World Cup 2021 is already off the mark and the two sides will go head-to-head come Sunday, at the Dubai International Stadium, the UAE. Though both the teams have already played one warm-up match each, the real heat will come out when they collide on October 24. This comes as hope for the Pakistan Cricket Board which earlier took jolts when New Zealand in September pulled out of a limited overs game just minutes before it was set to start off. The New Zealand Cricket said they were abandoning their tour of Pakistan following a Government "security alert". A few days later, England, too, cancelled their men's and women's teams white-ball series in Pakistan, citing security concerns. The setbacks were disheartening for the Pakistani cricket fans too. Therefore, the T20 World Cup seems to be the only platform for



Pakistan to represent itself, after its whining about India at the UN General Assembly 2021.

Pakistan has never tasted success against India in the T20 or ODI World Cup and it would certainly look forward to changing that. The two teams have not faced each other since the 2019 ODI World Cup. The Pakistan captain Babar Azam is often compared with his Indian counterpart Virat Kohli and how they stand against each other would be worth the watch. However, ahead of the match, there was strong uproar against the India-Pak match in view of the terrorist attack on Indian Army personnel in the Poonch sector of Jammu and Kashmir on October 11. Several politicians including Union Minister Union Minister Ramdas Athawale, AAP leader Atishi Marlena and former Olympian Pargat Singh strongly called for the cancellation of the match against Pakistan. AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi targeting the Government said, "Our nine soldiers died in J&K, and on October 24 India-Pakistan T20 match will happen". But apparently, the match cannot be called off under the International Cricket Council's (ICC) commitments. If the idea is to send a "strong message" to Pakistan or Pakistan-based terrorist groups, pulling out of a match will not help. Rather, the leaders should build pressure on the Government to wipe out the terrorist hideouts. That would send a strong message. That would be the solidarity the martyrs deserve.

Kashmir dilemma is deeply rooted

To overcome the gulf in Kashmir, everyone should understand one another so that the Government does not keep going round the mulberry bush



PRAFULL GORADIA

A Kashmiri acquaintance recently described the situation in Kashmir as a continuation of the Indo-Pak conflict by proxy. The soft locals fear that their Valley will soon be filled with outsiders, whereas tougher Kashmiris look at the abolition of Article 370 as an opportunity to prolong the fight.

At least from the time of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan of Aligarh fame, the belief that the British dispossessed Siraj-ud-Daulah of Bengal, Tipu Sultan of Mysore and Wajid Ali Shah of Awadh, has lingered. The feeling also is that when the British Crown left India, it should have the courtesy to "return it to us". Homeland and New Medina was the cause of Partition. This was also MA Jinnah's decoy for British ears in 1946-47.

Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad firmly opposed the partition of India because in a hundred years, India would have had a Muslim majority. In 1983, a Pakistani journalist visited Tehran to interview Iran's religious dictator Ayatollah Khomeini, in connection with the celebrations around Pakistan Day, namely March 23. The interviewer's final question was: What did Khomeini *sahib* think of Qaid-e-Azam Jinnah? The Ayatollah's answer was: He was a brilliant man but could have benefited from vision. He should have been patient and his community would have gotten the whole of India, not merely its crumbs. But then, Jinnah was not a *momin* but a recently minted coin.

It is true that until 1935, Jinnah was widely called "the ambassador of Hindu-Muslim unity", a term coined by Sarojini Naidu. In his presidential address on the eve of proposing the Pakistan Resolution in 1940, Jinnah said, "We know that the history of the last 1,200 years has failed to achieve unity and has witnessed India always divided into Hindu India and Muslim India. Muslim India cannot accept any constitution which must result in a Hindu majority Government; in combination with democracy, it would be a Hindu Raj which Muslims, cannot tolerate.

The Qaid's other contention



was that "Muslims are not a minority. Muslims are a nation according to any definition; they must have their homeland, their territory and their State."

Dr BR Ambedkar wrote in his 1941 reply to Jinnah's resolution: No one has expressed shock at the thought of separating Karnataka from Andhra, what then is there to be shocked in the demand for the separation of Pakistan? If it is disruptive in its effect, it is no more so than the separation of Hindu provinces such as Karnataka from Maharashtra, or Andhra from Madras. Pakistan is merely another manifestation of a cultural unit demanding freedom. There is nothing new about the resolution which merely resuscitates the scheme which was put forth by Mohammad Iqbal in 1930. Mr Rahmat Ali gave it the name Pakistan. After Iqbal, there is nothing new in linking the northwestern provinces.

"Uncannily, there is nothing new in linking together many districts of Bengal and Assam into one province. Viceroy Curzon had done it in 1905. The British or the Anglo-Indian was not a nation; Indians' referred only to the people of India."

"French Orientalist Joseph

Renan has written that a nation is a living soul, a spiritual principle. The Doctor continues: "The Hindus draw their inspiration from the *Ramayana* etc; whereas the Muslims derive their inspiration from the Quran and Hadith'. Thus, the things that divide and the things that unite, in Ambedkar's opinion, there is no argument against the claim for partition if they insist upon it.

The Doctor quotes Lord Acton's phrase that Pakistan is a soul wandering in search of a body. Ambedkar went deep into the subject and showed that the Indian army then was dominated in numbers by Muslim Punjabis, but their pay and perks were indirectly paid for by the Hindu provinces. He concluded by writing that in any case it is better to have the enemy outside the borders rather than inside.

To go back to the Kashmir problem, could it be that the Government in Delhi and the Governor in Srinagar are unable to relate to the Kashmiris who are of a different faith? They begin with God, move on to the Prophet and then to the scripture. On the other hand, we do not have a single authoritative book or Prophet, but are believers in karma. Their way

of thinking, in the lingo of logic, is called deductive, which begins with a premise and ends with a logical conclusion, top down. Our faith is inductive and begins with ground realities to move upwards till it reaches a conclusion. A few scholars realise the huge gulf between the two categories of faiths, Abrahamic and Eastern.

The Abrahamic method of approaching the issue would be to shoot and kill, whereas the Eastern way would be to worry about the relationship between the two sides after the bullets and battles. This explains that we are an ancient civilisation and at the same time, have taken nearly 75 years to get down to grappling with the problem.

India and Pakistan were born as independent countries at the same time. Yet look at the difference in the distance covered by the two countries. To overcome the gulf in the Kashmir Valley, everyone should understand one another so that the Government of India does not keep going round and round the mulberry bush.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the *Rajya Sabha*. The views expressed are personal.)



COULD IT BE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IN DELHI AND THE GOVERNOR IN SRINAGAR ARE UNABLE TO RELATE TO THE KASHMIRIS WHO ARE OF A DIFFERENT FAITH?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BLOCKING ROADS IS NOT THE WAY

Sir — The Constitution gives us the right to protest, but unorganised protests make life of commoners difficult. Roadblocks cause traffic problems and as a result, the public suffers. This also leads to excess fuel consumption and ultimately more pollution. Road is public property. Therefore, it should be used in the same way. The method of agitating the public by blocking the roads is wrong. To get the attention of the Government, roads are blocked. But, the protestors don't care that the public is suffering unnecessarily.

Just like the protesters have questions, the common people also have a question, why are people being harassed by blocking the road through this movement? Delhi is a busy city and the police have to always be on their toes. In such a situation, there is an agitation by blocking the road. This puts a lot of pressure on the police. The public will not have difficulty when protests are staged in a more organised and peaceful way. It is the duty of the protesters to take care of this. Now, the Supreme Court has told the farmers what is right. The apex court said that the farmers have the right to protest but they cannot block the roads and the farmers must abide by the decision.

Jayesh Rane | Mumbai

TOO EARLY TO CELEBRATE

Sir — It is definitely a milestone that India has administered 100 crore doses so far, but not a moment to celebrate as only 30 per cent of the population is fully vaccinated. Approximately 88 crore additional doses are needed to fully vaccinate the adult population. Even so, India must stand up and salute all scientists, doctors, frontline workers as well as vaccine manufacturers, in making India proud with vaccine development and administering the same to a billion people. Hats off to all.

But, how a publicity lover, power hungry Government, will not take the credit for it as the Assembly polls are coming closer? As a second country after China, India crossed the billion vaccines mark, but the way India used its resources

Remembering Shammi



The trilogy of legendary actors Shammi-Joy-Biswajit not only carved a niche for itself in the Indian cinema, but also ruled the roost in the very presence of the firmly established Dilip-Raj-Dev triumvirate in the 1960s-70s. October 21 was the birth anniversary of a tall, handsome and energetic Shammi Kapoor who rose from the ashes of 18 flops shouting a skyhigh 'yahoo' in 1960's blockbuster *Junglee*, that went to become his trademark and the heartbeat of thousands of his fans. Thereafter, Shammi Kapoor never looked behind and had to his credit numer-

ous hits and superhits like — Jaanwar, Bad Tameez, Bluff Master, Prince, Rajkumar, Professor and *Brahmachari*, Pagla Kahin Ka, Latt Sahib and dozens more. Even the songs picturised on Shammi Kapoor were largely sung by Rafi Sahib in Shammi Kapoor's signature style.

Shammi Kapoor was awarded thrice by the Filmfare — twice as Best Actor for *Brahmachari* and *Vidhata* (supporting), besides the Lifetime Achievement Award. Born as Shamsheer Bahadur Singh, Shammi Kapoor was born on October 21 in 1931 and left for his heavenly abode in August, 2011. Ironically, this iconic star, besides another departed taller and handsome Joy Mukerji and by God's grace living legend Biswajit, is still awaiting, though posthumously, an official acknowledgement of his unmatched acting flair! His younger brother Shashi Kapoor was conferred with the Padma Bhushan and Dadasaheb Phalke Awards in 2011 and 2015 respectively.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

to drain for upgrading or boosting the image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not worth it. Israel, which has a record of administering double dose to the entire population, has never drained its resources to boost the image of their political leader. The truth is that we could have been here in July; only if the Government had been proactive. By not vaccinating sooner, it has hurt India's economy too.

Bidyut K Chatterjee | Faridabad

KASHMIR SITUATION CAUSE FOR CONCERN

Sir — Is the situation in Kashmir snowballing into a major national problem? Otherwise, how would one explain the former J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik's contention that everything was normal during his tenure and things have changed drastically overnight. Is the abrogation of Article 370 slowly repulsing with renewed vigour from the natives or is it a ploy from neighbouring country, not to speak of new developments in

SOUND BITE

Nitish Kumar is afraid of facing the people of the State. That is why he travels in helicopters to campaign in the election.



RJD leader — Tejaswini Yadav

The countries that were fighting there (in Afghanistan) for 20 years bear primary responsibility for what is happening there.

Russian President — Vladimir Putin

Being an athlete and playing sports has played a tremendous role in shaping my personality.



Actor — Deepika Padukone

I'm obviously backing Team India to win the match but personally, I believe no team should be taken lightly.

India cricketer — Ajinkya Rahane

When you buy petrol and diesel, remember that the Modi Government has earned Rs 23 lakh crore through tax.



Congress general secretary — Priyanka Gandhi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

THE BREXIT IS NOT A 'FANTASTIC DEAL'

A new crisis is bubbling up as the Northern Ireland part of the Brexit deal is falling apart



GWYNNE DYER

International treaties are serious business. A lot of time and effort goes into negotiating them, and they become part of international law. It's very rare for a politician to say, only a couple of years after negotiating a treaty, that his country always felt it was "a little bit provisional and open to review." That was Lord David Frost, who is still described as Britain's chief Brexit negotiator two years after Brexit happened. (That's because he is still trying to renegotiate it.) At the time he called the Brexit treaty an "excellent deal" and Prime Minister Boris Johnson hailed it as a "fantastic deal", but that was before the 2019 election. A new crisis is bubbling up now because the Northern Ireland part of the deal is falling apart. It could trigger a British trade war with the European Union and a return to real war in Northern Ireland, but the deal is falling apart mainly because the Conservative-led British government was lying when it agreed to it in 2019. Boris Johnson was new in office in 2019 and desperately needed to 'get Brexit done'. Only then could he call an election and hope to win a majority in Parliament. So, he made an agreement with the EU on post-Brexit trade relations, especially regarding Northern Ireland, that fell far short of what his government actually wanted. Dominic Cummings, who was Johnson's right-hand man until he lost an internal power struggle a year ago, explained



last week why he and a few allies got Johnson to sign a document they had no intention of honouring. "We wriggled [through the negotiations with the EU] with the best option we could," Cummings said, "and intended to get Johnson to ditch the bits we didn't like after whacking (Labour Party leader Jeremy) Corbyn" in an early election. And so, it came to pass.

The Conservatives buried Corbyn in a landslide in the December 2019 election, and the United Kingdom finally left the EU in January 2020 — or rather, most of it did. The 'bits we didn't like' mostly had to do with Northern Ireland, which for customs purposes remained in the European Union. Why? When the agreement was signed both the UK and the Irish Republic were members of the EU, so the border between them could be opened: no check-points, no movement controls, no customs duties. That allowed Nationalists to come and go as they wished and think of themselves as Irish citizens, while Loyalists could go on believing they lived in the United Kingdom. Now, there would continue to be complete freedom of movement for people and goods throughout Ireland, while goods coming into Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK would go through EU customs checks at the Northern Irish ports. Which brings us to the present. There have been serious delays in the way the customs controls work in the Northern Irish ports, and the EU has just offered to exempt about half the affected food and medicines from all checks. That was an olive branch, but Johnson just raised a new demand: that the European Court of Justice no longer have jurisdiction over possible violations of the treaty. And Lord Frost has threatened to 'suspend' the treaty entirely if the EU does not give in. EU authorities suspect that Johnson is seeking an excuse to blow up the treaty so that he can scapegoat the Europeans for the ensuing trade war and renewed war in Northern Ireland. Matters are getting worse in the UK on a number of fronts, and he needs a distraction. Would he really do that? He probably doesn't know yet himself.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'The Shortest History of War'. The views expressed are personal.)

Germany expects new Chancellor by Xmas



VOLKER LENNART PLÄN

Despite being hailed as winner of this election, Scholz faces a difficult situation as he has to negotiate with two more parties to form a Government

Germany's federal elections have delivered the suspense promised by the polls: a close race between the two grand old parties (the Union, i.e., CDU & CSU combined and the Social Democrats, SPD) and a fractured mandate in which none of the political parties represented in the German Parliament (Bundestag) can form the government on their own. Although the winner of the elections, SPD, is currently an ally in Angela Merkel's "Grand Coalition", it has been traditionally as well as ideologically an arch political rival of the conservative "Union" — the party alliance of CDU (now commonly known as "Merkel's Party") and CSU which together stand as the second winner.

The SPD beat the Union by a slim margin of less than one per cent (25.7 per cent vs 24.1 per cent). Yet the difference feels monumental to Germany's national political landscape: for the first time in almost 20 years, the SPD ended the race ahead of the Union.

The main reason for the result may be found in the loss of the "Merkel factor". Her immense popularity among the vast spectra of voters from moderate to left led to the Union's successive electoral victories. But with her departure as Federal Chancellor, this unifying factor vanished. And with it a certain cohesion within the party. Merkel herself did little to build a second line of leadership and empower a successor to lead the Union and win the upcoming elections. Her only endorsement went unsuccessful when Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer succeeded her as head of party (CDU) in 2018 but did not stand up to the party's expectations. She had to make way in early 2021 for the current chancellor candidate Armin Laschet.

The unclear mandate throws up three possible scenarios for government formation: A renewal of the incumbent Grand Coalition finds no friends within the parties nor the public and has since been ruled out. This leaves Union or SPD only the option of taking on board two of the smaller parties to form a governing majority in the German Bundestag. Any coalition with the right-wing populist party AfD had been ruled out beforehand by all four.

Both Union and SPD derive the equal claim to form the next government. It is not the 0.8 percent lead that gives the SPD the advantage in taking the reins. In the past days, the Union found itself increasingly engaged in negative debates about consequences from the historically bad election results while the SPD managed to reinforce its public perception of a winner. Their light improvement — still their third-worst result in the history of Germany's post-war elections — lets the party and their chancellor-to-be Olaf Scholz shine.

Despite being hailed as winner of this election, Scholz faces a difficult situation as he has to negotiate with two more parties to form a majority government in the Bundestag.



GERMANY IS A LEADER IN THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) AND SEES ITS FUTURE AT THE HEART OF IT. ACCORDINGLY, OTHER EU MEMBER STATES ARE EAGERLY AWAITING THE IMMINENT OUTCOME OF THE COALITION TALKS. LARGER DECISIONS SUCH AS THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE POSTPONED UNTIL THEN

(The writer is Resident Representative, Hans Seidel Foundation India. The views expressed are personal.)



The two parties that find themselves in a position as unusual as convenient are the Green Party and the FDP (Germany's Liberal Party). The Greens emerged with their best ever result of a Federal Election, largely fuelled by their political stance on climate change. Conversely, the Liberals (FDP) openly favour the Union for a government as they see more ideological overlap with their economy-focused politics. It is this divergent ideological positioning, which led to FDP and Greens meeting first for initial talks to iron out differences and explore common grounds. There can be no Government without the support of these two smaller parties. All in all, Germany is readying up for a new era of three-party coalition.

Now the country witnesses that the CDU — stately centre of power for 50 years in the past — finds itself discussing internal consequences of their election result. Despite gaining almost the same number of seats as that of the SPD, the party faces calls from within that the disappointing result would not suffice as mandate to form a government and too, criticism of the common chancellor candidate, Armin Laschet. The party is sledging its own (elected) candidate while he is engaged in coalition talks with the Greens and Liberals. With the impaired bargaining position, the Union would find it challenging to deliver sufficient arguments to convince Greens and FDP to join a so-called Union-led "Jamaica Coalition" (dubbed for its colour combination of the black,

green and yellow parties). Instead, the country is preparing for a so-called "traffic light" — coalition of Red (SPD), Yellow (FDP) and Green.

On last Sunday, both SPD and Green Party received the blessing from their respective party committees to go ahead with negotiations to form the next German Federal Government. The FDP is expected to follow suit. Seen as the "odd man out" earlier in the three-way-coalition, their charismatic leader Christian Lindner was quick to preempt doubts about the party's agreement to go ahead with the talks. This is seen as the main obstacle removed. The unanimity among the three new partners is not perceived without scepticism: in 2017, the FDP withdrew from three-way-talks (on a "Jamaica coalition" with CDU/CSU and Greens) at an advanced stage. This time, however, the Union of CDU and CSU does not seem to pose an attractive alternative anymore.

The ensued discussion initially centred around personnel: Public polls (before the election) displayed a considerably higher popularity of the CSU party head and Chief Minister of the Free State of Bavaria — Markus Söder — as compared to Laschet. Söder's candidacy was rejected by the CSU's much larger sister party CDU (of which Laschet is a member). While many in the party expect Söder to run for Chancellor in 2025, the main focus is now on reconciliation, renewal and display of unity. At a party summit of the Union's youth organisation, a new path was already declared before the new government

is formed: Merkel's party will accept the unusual role in opposition rather than risk the "experiment" of heading a potentially unstable three-party-government under a weakened leader. It would not befit the self-concept of a party whose roots of success lie in stability. It has now four years to shed off the weight of the Merkel persona. Sacrificing its top candidate Laschet, who is incumbent Chief Minister of Germany's most populous state North Rhine-Westphalia, is a price the Union seems to be willing to pay.

The rift within CDU and CSU is an unwelcome damper for the Liberals' hope to form a conservative-liberal government again after the Merkel II cabinet (2009-2013). It leaves the FDP with little hope to play a larger role in the upcoming government. Having scored 11.5 percent in the elections, the traditional role of providing the Deputy Federal Chancellor and Foreign Minister will fall to the Green Party — regardless of which party will lead the government.

Germany is a leader in the European Union (EU) and sees its future at the heart of it. Accordingly, other EU member states are eagerly awaiting the imminent outcome of the coalition talks. Larger decisions such as Free Trade Agreement negotiations may be postponed until then. Additionally, it might take months (as it did in 2017) for the parties to come to an agreement. With a general understanding among all three parties underway, Germany could have a new government and Federal Chancellor by Christmas.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE TRAVEL IN FOUR-WHEELERS AND USE PETROL. AT PRESENT, 95 PER CENT PEOPLE DON'T NEED PETROL.
— BJP LEADER
UPENDRA TIWARI



THE MINISTER SAID THAT PEOPLE DO NOT NEED PETROL. THE TRUTH IS THAT 95 PER CENT OF THE PEOPLE DO NOT NEED THE BJP.
— SAMAJWADI PARTY PRESIDENT
AKHILESH YADAV

Private players crucial in defence manufacturing

The corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board has to be seen in the overall context of improving India's military industry capability

India has to make its armed forces self-reliant — 'Aatmanirbhar'. The Army accounts for more than half of the total defence budget of India, with most of the expenditure going into the maintenance of cantonments, salaries and pensions, instead of critical arms and ammunition.

On February 1, 2020, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman earmarked ₹4,71,378 crore for the Ministry of Defence (MoD). Of the total allocation, ₹3,23,053 crore was provided for the Defence Services Estimates (DSE) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The balance allocation is distributed between defence pensions and MoD (Civil). Representing a growth of 9.4 per cent,



PK VASUDEVA

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MoD's overall allocation translates into an increase of ₹40,367 crore. This raises the question, how would this increase affect India's defence and modernisation in particular?

This budget is just 1.7 per cent of the GDP, which is just not sufficient for the modernisation of defence forces keeping in view the threat perception from China and Pakistan.

India emerged as the second-largest importer of arms transferred between 2016-20, with a share of 9.5 per cent of global arms imports. To make India self-reliant, the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) has been split into seven government-owned corporate entities to help improve self-reliance in defence preparedness. Business in the



seven new entities started from October 1, 2021. These new companies are: Troop Comforts Limited (TCL); Yantra India Limited (YIL); Gliders India Limited (GIL); India Optel Limited (IOL); Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWE India); and Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVANI).

The companies now have an order book of ₹65,000 crore. These orders were already in the pipeline and

were just shifted to the new entities. These companies have complete functional autonomy and the interests of the employees are fully protected.

According to Defence Minister Raj Nath Singh, "It is to transform the Ordnance Factories to improve expertise in product range; profitable and productive assets; ensure self-reliance; enhance cost effectiveness and improve quality and increase competitiveness."

The Centre, in May 2020, had announced increasing the FDI limit from 49 per cent to 74 per cent under the automatic route in the defence sector. The government has been emphasising boosting indigenous defence manufacturing. The Ministry has set a goal of a turnover of ₹1.75 lakh crore

in defence manufacturing by 2025 that included an export target of ₹35,000 crore worth of military hardware.

Despite these initiatives, India's military industry capability shows a sorry picture and the private sector is still not being treated as a partner in India's quest for higher self-reliance. A GE 404 engine from the US powers the much-hyped indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), while the radar is sourced from Israel. The Kaveri engine development by the Gas Turbine

Research Establishment (GTRE) has been an unmitigated disaster. German MTU engines power the Main Battle Tank (MBT), the showpiece indigenous tank. Despite the hike in FDI, the inflow has only been \$300

million from April to September 2020; largely due to the number of caveats for allowing 76 per cent FDI.

The Kalam Committee assessed our Self Reliance Index (SRI) in 1993 as 30 per cent, with a road map to increase it to 70 per cent in a decade's time. The committee had identified a number of critical subsystems like the focal plane array, passive seekers, stealth, AESA radar, RLG and carbon fibres where India's design and development quality needs to be ramped up. Weapons, propulsion and sensors remain the main bugbears of India's design capability in the DRDO and India's SRI has not inched forward.

Technology transfer has been India's major policy mosaic to build major systems

and platforms since 1963 (in the aftermath of the MiG-21 aircraft). HAL has been producing Sukhoi Su-30 on the basis of technology transfer documents from Russia. Similar is the story of the T90 produced in the Avadi tank factory.

The major problem afflicting the OFB is not the lack of autonomy or accountability but the wherewithal to improve capability. Its corporatisation has to be seen in the overall context of improving India's military industry capability, self-reliance quotient, design capability in critical systems and quality, time and cost-effectiveness and involvement of private players in defence manufacturing as partners in tandem with OEMs and design houses.

HIGH-LEVEL MEET FROM MONDAY

Army Top brass to discuss situation along LAC, LOC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Situation at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) facing China and Line of Control (LOC) with Pakistan will figure prominently during the Army Commanders' conference starting here next week. The top brass will review the operational readiness of the force to deal with any threat.

The four-day meet starting Wednesday will take place at a time when tension prevails at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh and the recently held 13th round of Corps Commander level talks did not yield any result.

Given the stalemate at the stand-off sites, both the countries are readying their troops for winter deployment in the forward areas in Eastern Ladakh. The Commanders will take stock of the preparations made to ensure troops posted there during the harsh winter months are able to perform their duty effectively.

To that effect, logistical back up will also be reviewed, sources said here on Friday.

At present, more than 50,000 troops each from both the sides are deployed in forward areas besides the friction points thereby leading to tension. The conference will review the current status of readiness of these troops, they added. Army Chief General M M Naravane had visited some forward posts in the first week of this month at the LAC in Ladakh and reviewed preparedness for winter months.

In fact, the status of the entire 4,000 km long LAC stretching from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east will be reviewed by the commanders.

As regards Pakistan, the ceasefire by both the armies in February this year at the LOC to avoid collateral damage has, so far, managed to hold except



some incidents last month when the Pakistan army violated the pact. The firing was in an apparent attempt to push militants into Jammu and Kashmir from launch pads across the LOC in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK).

The commanders will review the situation especially

in the backdrop of recent spurt in terrorist violence in Kashmir, sources said. Army Chief General M M Naravane visited Jammu region earlier this week to assess the situation on the ground.

The commanders conference of all the three Services take place twice a year.

PM misleading country, only 21% fully vaccinated: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the Government celebrated the 100-crore vaccination mark, the Congress on Friday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi accusing him of misleading the country on the job drive as only 21 per cent of the country's population was fully vaccinated.

The Congress asked the Prime Minister to bring out a white paper on how his Government intends to vaccinate all adults by year-end, a promise made by him earlier.

Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh also alleged that the Prime Minister, in his address to the nation, did not talk about issues of inflation and terrorism confronting the country.

He said that instead of offering condolences to the families of 4.53 lakh people who lost their lives due to the coronavirus, the Prime Minister is celebrating.

"The Prime Minister should talk about the issues confronting the nation, but instead he is celebrating

'Mahotsava'. The PM touched issues in a wrong manner and shared wrong data while trying to mislead the country," he told reporters.

Vallabh also alleged that "the PM gave the data which is semi-baked, as half-truth is very dangerous."

He said there are only two countries having more than 50 crore population and the claim that India is the first country to achieve 100-crore plus vaccinations is "false" as China had achieved 216 crore doses of vaccinations in September.

He said China has double vaccinated 80 per cent of its population while India has only vaccinated 20 per cent of the population.

"We would like to ask the prime minister that it would have been nice if he had shared when we are going to start vaccinations for our school-going and college-going students. It would have been good if the PM answered when his promise of the entire population would be fulfilled by December 31, 2021.

"Please share a white paper



on how we are going to receive 106 crore vaccines in the next 70 days to vaccinate our entire adult population," Vallabh said.

He said that "we thought he would talk about inflation because from January 1 till date there is a hike in (price of) diesel by 29 per cent and petrol by 27 per cent."

"Is there anybody on this earth except the prime minister's few friends whose income level has increased in last nine months by 29 per cent," he asked.

"We were expecting you to speak on the issue when innocents were killed in Jammu and Kashmir, including 32 persons murdered in the last two weeks and nine soldiers gave supreme sacrifice saving our motherland. But the prime minister does not have time for any of such things.

Announcement for Haj, online process to start in Nov: Naqvi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Thursday said the official announcement of Haj 2022 will be made in the first week of November and along with that the process of online application for Haj will also be started.

He said that selection process of Haj pilgrims will be done according to complete vaccination with both the doses and guidelines and criteria to be decided by Indian and Saudi Arabia Governments, keeping in view Corona protocols during the time of Haj 2022.

While chairing Haj Review Meeting here Naqvi said that Digital Health Card, "E-MASIH" health facility and "E-luggage pre-tagging", providing all information regarding accommodation/transportation in Makkah-Madinah, will be provided to all the Haj pilgrims.

He said that preparations for Haj 2022 have been started keeping in mind the health and corona protocol of Saudi Arabia Government and Government of India.

The entire Haj 2022 process in India will be 100 per cent digital. India sends the second largest number of Haj pilgrims after Indonesia.

Naqvi said that arrangements for special training for Haj 2022 regarding Corona protocols and Health and Hygiene are being made in India and Saudi Arabia for the Haj pilgrims. National-international protocol guidelines due to pandemic position will be implemented and followed strictly during Haj 2022.

Haj 2022 process is being chalked out after deliberations among Ministry of Minority Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Haj Committee of India, Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia and India's Consul General in Jeddah and other agencies keeping in view all aspects of the pandemic challenges.

CAPSULE

152 SAKSHAM CENTRES LAUNCHED IN A WEEK

New Delhi: As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a total of 152 Centre for Financial Literacy & Service Delivery (SAKSHAM Centres), one stop solutions/single window system for basic financial needs of Self-Help Group across 77 districts of 13 states have been launched under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development during 4-8th October, said a statement here from the Ministry.

WELLINGTON COLLEGE TO OPEN SCHOOLS IN INDIA

New Delhi: After setting up its schools in China and Thailand, international schools' group, Wellington College, is making its foray in India to establish its first educational institute in Pune. In this regard, its subsidiary Wellington College International has joined hands with the Unison Group, a premium education provider in India. The Wellington College, founded under the British Royal Charter in 1853, is a leading UK day and boarding school while Unison Group has four education institutions in Dehradun and Delhi NCR, according to a statement here.

LUCKNOW UNIVERSITY HOLDS SCIENCE EVENT

New Delhi: Four policies formulated by Department of Science and Technology (DST)—on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR), Liberalised Geospatial Guidelines and Scientific Research Infrastructure, Sharing Maintenance and Networks (SRIMAN) would go a long way in taking benefits of science, technology and innovation to the common man and realise the dreams of Atmanirbhar Bharat, said Dr Akhilesh Gupta, senior adviser, Department of Science & Technology, at a programme organised online by the University of Lucknow.

ARMY TIES UP WITH AMITY UNIVERSITY

New Delhi: The Indian Army on Friday tied up with Amity University to establish a long-term symbiotic relationship for Academic & Research Cooperation. It will be the first of a kind with any private university, towards starting a joint "Centre of Excellence" for Studies in Engineering, Innovation & Technology at AUUP premises.

Govt expects Indian carriers purchasing more wide-bodied aircraft

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is looking forward to Indian airlines purchasing and leasing many more wide-bodied aircraft once the Indian aviation sector recuperates from the Covid-induced crisis.

Only two Indian carriers — Air India and Vistara — currently have wide-bodied aircraft, which have bigger fuel tanks that allows them to operate long-haul flights such as on India-US routes.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia while speaking at a conference of Public Affairs Forum of India on Friday, said Air India's successful sale to the Tata group is a testament of the belief of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and this Government that "the private sector has an integral to play in

making sure that service value proposition is there for all customers".

"I think in many ways, this (privatisation) changes the long standing perception of the Government in business," he added. The Centre had announced on October 8 that a Tata group subsidiary made the winning bid for Air India by quoting Rs 18,000 crore. Both Air India and Vistara are owned by the Tata group now.

The minister said: "Our national flagship carrier (Air India), over the last 10 years, due to the policies of the past governments, had really become a drag on the resources of the country." "That divestment process was completed. The hand over is in process. I wish the new owners all success," he mentioned.

Scindia said there is a need to have a level playing field and

break down of all the gatekeepers to allow proliferation of aviation sector players -- not only new players but also existing players that will augment capacity.

Stating that he does not want to put the cart before the horse, Scindia said once the normalisation happens, there should be expansion of capacities. "And the expansion of capacities that I would like to see is not only for domestic traffic but also for international traffic. So, I am looking forward to our domestic airlines purchasing many more and leasing many more wide-bodied aircraft so that they can also travel abroad," he said.

"And these long-haul flights, which will shorten the gap between the RASK and the CASK, the revenue structure and the cost structure of the airline, is something that I am



looking forward to," he stated. RASK stands for revenue per available seat-kilometre and it is calculated by dividing the total revenue earned from a flight with the total number of seats and the distance travelled. Similarly, CASK stands for cost per available seat-kilometre.

The minister said he is looking to the return of normalcy in the domestic aviation sector in the next couple of months. He said he wished his very best to the two airlines -- re-born Jet Airways and new airline Akasa -- that were coming on board.

SC seeks response from Twitter India ex-MD on UP's plea against Karnataka HC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday sought response from former Twitter Managing Director Manish Maheshwari on an appeal of the Uttar Pradesh Government against the Karnataka High Court's decision to quash a notice seeking his personal appearance as part of the probe into a communally sensitive video uploaded by a user on the microblogging site.

The bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana took note of the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the State Government, and issued notice to Maheshwari, who has been transferred to the USA by his employer Twitter Inc in August. "We issue notice. We need to hear the case," said the bench which also comprised justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli.

Earlier, the State Government, which has filed the plea through Senior Superintendent of Police of Ghaziabad, had on September 8 mentioned its appeal for an urgent hearing. The plea challenges the July 23 order of the Karnataka High Court quashing the notice issued to Maheshwari to appear before the police and cooperate in the

probe related to uploading of a communally sensitive video on Twitter. The Karnataka High Court has interfered with the summons issued to the then Twitter Managing Director by the Uttar Pradesh Police, the law officer had said.

Holding the notice as "mala fide", the high court had said the notice under Section 41(A) of the CrPC should be treated as Section under 160 of CrPC, allowing the Ghaziabad Police to question Maheshwari through virtual mode, at his office or his residential address in Bengaluru. Section 41 (A) of the CrPC gives power to police to issue a notice to an accused to appear before it when a complaint is filed and if the accused complies with the notice and cooperates, then he is not required to be arrested.

The Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh) Police had issued a notice under Section 41-A of the CrPC on June 21 asking him to report at the Loni Border police station at 10:30 AM on June 24. Maheshwari then moved the Karnataka High Court as he was at that time staying in Bengaluru in Karnataka. On June 24, the High Court, in an interim order, restrained the Ghaziabad

Police from initiating any coercive action against him.

The Ghaziabad Police on June 15 booked Twitter Inc, Twitter Communications India Pvt Ltd (Twitter India), news website The Wire, journalists Mohammed Zubair and Rana Ayyub, besides Congress leaders Salman Nizami, Maskoor Usmani, Shama Mohamed and

writer Saba Naqvi.

They were booked over the circulation of a video in which an elderly man, Abdul Shamad Saifi, alleged that he was thrashed by some young men, who also asked him to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' on June 9. According to police, the video was shared to cause communal unrest.

Defence Ministry signs ₹400-crore contract with US for procurement of arms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to provide more lethal equipment to the Navy to destroy enemy submarines and warships, the Defence ministry has signed a contract with the US worth over ₹400 crores for torpedoes and expendable(chaff and flares).

These weapons will be fitted on the long range P-8I long range maritime reconnaissance

aircraft now with the Navy. These aircraft are also US made and the Indian Navy has 11 aircraft manufactured by Boeing.

The defence ministry said here the torpedoes deal worth Rs 423 crores is through the Foreign Military Sale route wherein the US stands guarantee for all the contractual clauses and delivery schedule.

These weapons are the outfit of P-8I Aircraft which is used

for Long range Maritime Surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare and Anti-Surface Warfare (ASW).

The first batch of the P-8I was inducted in 2013 and the latest one joined service earlier this week. In addition to unmatched maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare capabilities, the P-8I has been deployed to assist during disaster relief.

SC directs Centre to issue order for grant of PC in seven days to 39 women officers in Army

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a relief to some Women Short Service Commission Officers (WSSCO) in the Army, the Supreme Court on Friday

directed the Centre to issue orders granting Permanent Commission (PC) to 39 such officers in seven working days and furnish the details of 25 officers with rea-

sons, who were not considered.

The Centre informed the top court that after re-examining the case of each 72 women SSC officers, one officer has decided to quit, 39 officers can be considered for PC, seven have been found medically unfit and 25 officers cannot be granted PC as they have adverse ACR report of indiscipline and disobedience and poor operational report.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and BV Nagarathna said that in respect of the officers forming part of the group of 36 WSSCOs who have filed four contempt peti-

tions in the top court and are not found eligible for grant of PC, the Centre shall file statements in a tabulated form giving the reasons for each of the officers not found eligible or are denied PC.

"In the above facts, we are of the view that ends of justice would be met, if to begin with, orders for the grant of PC are issued for all the 39 officers, in terms of the statement which have been made before this court by the ASG Sanjay Jain within a period of one seven working days from today. Compliance shall be scrupulously ensured within seven working days", it said.

The Centre has earlier told the top court that all these 72 WSSCOs have been found unfit for grant of permanent commission in the Army.

ASG Jain said that besides the 39 WSSCOs of the 72 officers, one officer has decided to quit while seven officers have been found medically unfit and 25 officers have been denied PC on disciplinary grounds, disobedience, and weak operational report. The apex court listed the matter for further hearing after Diwali vacation.

On October 1, the top court had restrained the Army from discharging the 72

WSSCOs, who were not considered for PC, till further orders and had sought a reply within a week on why they were not considered for the service.

The women officers have alleged that the top court's March 25 ruling was not considered by the Army and all 72 of them were rejected from consideration for the PC at one go. The apex court had directed that within three months, all serving SSC women officers have to be considered for PCs irrespective of them having crossed 14 years or, as the case may be, 20 years of service.

Covid seasonal infection linked to low temp and humidity: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-19 is a seasonal infection linked to low temperatures and humidity, much like seasonal influenza, researchers from Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) have claimed.

The results, published in Nature Computational Science, also support the considerable contribution of airborne SARS-CoV-2 transmission and the need to shift to measures that promote "air hygiene".

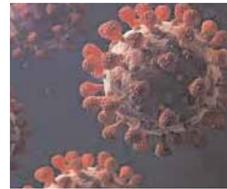
key question regarding SARS-CoV-2 was whether it was behaving, or will behave, as a seasonal virus like influenza, or whether it will be equally transmitted during any time of the year.

"The question of whether Covid-19 is a genuine seasonal disease becomes increasingly central, with implications for determining effective intervention measures," explained Xavier Rodó, director of the Climate and Health programme at ISGlobal and coordinator of the study.

To answer this question, Rodó and his team first analysed the association of temperature and humidity in the initial phase of SARS-CoV-2 spread in 162 countries across five continents, before changes in human behaviour and public health policies were put into place. The results show a negative relationship between the transmission rate (R0) and both temperature and humidity at the global scale: higher transmission rates were associated with lower temperatures and humidity.

The team then analysed how this association between climate and disease evolved over time, and whether it was consistent at different geographical scales. For this, they used a statistical method that was specifically developed to identify similar patterns of variation (i.e. a pattern-recognition tool) at different windows of time.

Again, they found a strong negative association for short time windows between disease (number of cases) and climate (temperature and humid-



ity), with consistent patterns during the first, second and third waves of the pandemic at different spatial scales: worldwide, countries, down to individual regions within highly affected countries (Lombardy,

Thüringen and Catalonia) and even to the city level (Barcelona).

The first epidemic waves waned as temperature and humidity rose, and the second wave rose as temperatures and humidity fell. However, this pattern was broken during summertime in all continents. "This could be explained by several factors, including mass gatherings of young people, tourism, and air conditioning, among others," explains Alejandro Fontal, researcher at ISGlobal and first author of the

study.

Finally, using an epidemiological model, the research team showed that incorporating temperature into the transmission rate works better for predicting the rise and fall of the different waves, particularly the first and third ones in Europe. "Altogether, our findings support the view of COVID-19 as a true seasonal low-temperature infection, similar to influenza and to the more benign circulating coronaviruses," says Rodó.

This seasonality could contribute importantly to the transmission of SARS-CoV-2, since low humidity conditions have been shown to reduce the size of aerosols, and thereby increase airborne transmission of seasonal viruses such as influenza. "This link warrants an emphasis on 'air hygiene' through improved indoor ventilation as aerosols are capable to persist suspended for longer times," says Rodó, and highlights the need to include meteorological parameters in the evaluation and planning of control measures.

Key suspect behind B'desh violence held

PTI ■ DHAKA

A 35-year-old Bangladeshi man, the key suspect who was arrested overnight in connection with a slew of violence against Hindus and mob attacks on temples in the country during Durga Puja festivities, would be interrogated by security agencies, police said on Friday.

Iqbal Hossain was arrested from Cox's Bazar sea beach area on Thursday night after a massive hunt and is suspected to be the one who placed a copy of the Quran at a Durga Puja venue in Cumilla, some 100 km southeast of Dhaka.

Attacks on Hindu temples have been reported 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.

"We have arrested (eastern) Cumilla's Iqbal Hossain, who is the key suspect of the one week's of widespread communal unrest from the Cox's Bazar beach," a police headquarters spokesman said.

He added that police and

Iqbal Hossain was arrested from Cox's Bazar sea beach area after a massive hunt and is suspected to be the one who placed a copy of the Quran at a Durga Puja venue

other security and intelligence agencies would now interrogate Hossain, whom the police earlier described as a "vagabond".

TV footage showed Hossain was brought under heavy security escorts from Cox's Bazar to Cumilla by road while officials said after initial interrogation he would be produced before a court seeking him to be placed under police remand for next several days.

"We expect the court to order him to be remanded in our custody when several other security and intelligence agencies would interrogate him as well," another police officer in Cumilla said.

The violence erupted on October 13 after a copy of Islam's holy book of Quran was

found at the feet of a Hindu goddess in Cumilla ahead of the Hindu community's Durga Puja. Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Unity Council said over 70 temples, makeshift puja pavilions and many Hindu households were burnt or damaged across Bangladesh in subsequent violence which drew sharp international concern.

Social media was widely used to spread the unrest, forcing authorities to briefly suspend Facebook and internet connectivity to contain the violence.

Police said they had launched a massive manhunt for Hossain based on the clue from the security camera footage at the Cumilla's puja pavilion.

Their initial investigations indicated he was a vagabond while family members claimed he was a mentally imbalanced person. However, police said even if the claim was true some vested quarters could have used him to instigate the violence.

"This could not be mere a task of a vagabond; somebody is definitely there behind the incident to instigate the attacks," Hindu rights activist Rana Dasgupta said.

Woman from India among 2 foreigners killed in shootout in Mexico's Tulum resort

AP ■ MEXICO CITY

Two foreigners, including one from India, were killed and three wounded in a shooting at a restaurant in the Mexican Caribbean resort town of Tulum, authorities said on Thursday.

Authorities said one of the dead women was from Germany and the other from India. The three wounded included two Germans and a tourist from the Netherlands.

The shooting broke out Wednesday night at a street-side eatery that has some outdoor tables, right off Tulum's main strip.

The fight was between two groups that operate street-level drug sales in the area, the Quintana Roo state prosecutor's office said in a statement.

The tourists were apparently dining at the restaurant and may have been caught in the crossfire.

One woman died at the scene and the other in a hospi-

tal. One of the aggressors, who was also wounded, was subsequently arrested. There was no immediate word on the condition of the wounded tourists.

Tulum has experienced growing pains moving from laid back beach retreat to major international destination. It had long been spared the violence seen sporadically in larger Cancun and Playa del Carmen further up the coast.

But in June, two men were shot to death on the beach in Tulum and a third was wounded. The administration of President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has pinned its hopes on Tulum, where it has announced plans to build an international airport and a stop for the Maya train, which will run in a loop around the Yucatan peninsula.

But Quintana Roo state, where beach resorts like Tulum, Playa del Carmen and Cancun are located, has been plagued by both violence and corruption.

From exile, female former Afghan leader keeps fighting

AP ■ NEW YORK

Two months after the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan, one of the country's once-prominent female leaders — a former parliament member, candidate for president and a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize — is visiting the United Nations, not as a representative of her government but as a woman in exile.

In an interview with *The Associated Press*, Fawzia Koofi called for humanitarian aid sent to Afghanistan to be contingent on the participation of women in its distribution, as well as free and safe travel for Afghans into and out of the country.

Aid "should not be politicized. ... Women should be involved in every stage of it and they should be listened to. Women should not be only the recipients," said Koofi, part of a delegation of Afghan women visiting the UN to urge member states not to compromise on inclusion and equal rights.

Since fleeing Kabul in August, Koofi has been living in



Fawzia Koofi, one of the Afghanistan's once-prominent female leaders — a former Parliament member, candidate for President and a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize

enjoy at least the freedom of choosing which school they should go. But now, their choice is limited to which room in their houses they should spend during the day. This is heartbreaking."

Koofi, a former deputy speaker of parliament, was one of only four women in talks to reach a power-sharing deal with the Taliban, which ultimately failed. She described watching the Taliban's commitment to negotiations change after they signed a peace agreement with the United States in February 2020.

"After they signed the agreement, they were more extreme and they were more into buying time, preferring a military strategy," she said.

Taliban fighters pursued that strategy in the summer, seizing province after province until they reached Kabul in August. When then-President Ashraf Ghani fled, the Taliban entered the capital, sparking panic among many who had opposed their rule and feared for their lives and futures.

hotel rooms in Europe. She described the pain of separation from her country, of two decades of hopes dashed and of searching for permanent residence for herself and her two daughters.

"This is not an Afghanistan I fought for," she told the AP. "The Afghanistan that I was hoping for was (that) women should not suffer as much as I suffered during my childhood, during the time that I was a teenager, when (the) Taliban took over."

"I wanted other girls to

China vows no concessions on Taiwan after Biden comments

AP ■ BEIJING

China on Friday said there is "no room" for compromise or concessions over the issue of Taiwan, following a comment by US President Joe Biden that the US is committed to defending the island if it is attacked.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin reiterated China's longstanding claim that the island is its territory at a daily briefing after Biden made his comment a day before at a forum hosted by CNN.

China has recently upped its threat to bring Taiwan under its control by force if necessary

by flying warplanes near the island and rehearsing beach landings.

"When it comes to issues related to China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and other core interests, there is no room for China to compromise or make concessions, and no one should underestimate the strong determination, firm will and strong ability of the Chinese people to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity," Wang said.

"Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory. The Taiwan issue is purely an internal affair of China that

allows no foreign intervention," Wang said.

Biden's comments on Thursday were viewed as stretching the "strategic ambiguity" Washington has maintained over how it would respond to an assault on the self-governing island republic.

The US should "be cautious with its words and actions on the Taiwan issue, and not send any wrong signals to the separatist forces of Taiwan independence, so as not to seriously damage China-US relations and peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait," Wang said.

Russia's Covid deaths soar to another record

AP ■ MOSCOW

Coronavirus infections and deaths in Russia climbed on Friday to another pandemic record, putting a growing strain on the country's health care system. The government coronavirus task force reported 37,141 new infections and 1,064 deaths in the past 24 hours. That brought Russia's death toll to 228,453, Europe's highest by far.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has responded to the worsening situation by ordering Russians to stay off work from Oct. 30 to Nov. 7, when the country is already observing an extended holiday.

Russian authorities expect

the order to help limit the spread of the virus by keeping them out of offices and off public transportation, where mask mandates have been widely ignored. The government also urged local authorities to tighten their own restrictions during the period.

In some regions where the situation is even more threatening, Putin said the nonworking period could start as early as Saturday and be extended past Nov. 7.

Asked Friday if the Kremlin could extend the nonworking period nationwide or order a tighter lockdown, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said it would depend on the evolving situation.

Taliban interim Govt vows to not let Af soil be used by Pak Taliban and Baloch nationalists

Islamabad: The Taliban leadership in Afghanistan has vowed to not let its soil be used by Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) to carry out terror operations in neighbouring Pakistan, according to Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

Qureshi and Pakistani spy agency ISI chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed made an unannounced visit to Kabul on Thursday to meet the Taliban administration in Afghanistan, including Interim Prime Minister Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, underlining Islamabad's want for lasting peace and

stability in the war-torn country. During wide-ranging discussions, Akhund assured Qureshi that the TTP and the BLA would not be allowed to carry out terror operations from Afghan soil, Qureshi said.

The TTP and BLA have carried out scores of attacks in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces this year alone, mainly targeting security forces and in some cases religious processions and even Chinese citizens working on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

FROM PAGE 1

SCRAP CONSUMER ACT IF YOU DON'T WANT TRIBUNALS, SC TELLS CENTRE

"We need to have a permanent structure like the permanent court. The time has come for us to have a permanent court for consumer court and have judges as we select it for district and higher judiciary. We need to look at it from a different perspective. We have to rethink if we go on with an ad hoc continuance of members for 5 years etc," Justice Sundresh said.

The judge said, "What is the point of having a retired judicial officer? What is the motivation level for him and what will be his mindset? How do you fix accountability? Is it required for the development of the institution?"

The top court had in January said consumer rights are "important rights" and non-manning of posts and inadequate infrastructure in the district and state consumer commissions across the country would deprive the citizens of redressal of their grievances.

The top court had appointed senior advocate Gopal Shankaranarayan and lawyer Aadiya Narain as amicus curiae to assist it in the matter.

KOREGAON PANEL SUMMONS 'MISSING' MUMBAI EX-TOP COP

Therefore, the commission deems it expedient to examine Param Bir and Shukla and for production of documents as prayed in the application. Singh and Shukla would be at liberty to file an affidavit, if they desire, hence, the order," Justice (Retd) Patel, who heads the two-member commission, stated.

The commission has asked both Param Bir and Shukla to respond to the summons by November 8.

While Param Bir has gone "missing" for more than three months now, Shukla -- who was the Pune Police Commissioner when the 2018 Koregaon Bhima violence took place -- is currently posted in Hyderabad as the Additional Director General of CRPF (South Zone).

The inquiry relates to the cases registered against 23 activists in connection with the violence that erupted on January 1, 2018 at a gathering of thousands of dalits at Bhima-Koregaon in Pune district. The dalits were celebrating 200th anniversary of January 1, 1818 victory of British troops over Peshwa Bajirao at Bhima Koregaon in Pune district, and also the provocative speeches delivered by the activists at an Elgaar Parishad held in Pune on December 31, 2017, a day before the celebrations at Bhima Koregaon.

The Maharashtra Government had set up commission after NCP chief Sharad Pawar expressed serious displeasure over the Centre's decision over the investigations into the 2018 Bhima Koregaon-Elgaar Parishad case. "Under the Constitution, maintaining law & order is a State subject. In the first place, it was improper on the Centre to encroach upon the rights of

the State and take over the case from the Pune police. It was much more improper on the State Government's part to support the Centre's move (to ask the NIA to take over the case)," Pawar had said then.

"The re-investigations are necessary in the case, because the Centre's move has aroused suspicions...The Centre might have apprehended that if a re-investigation is ordered into the case, the previous BJP Government and its hand-picked officials might be exposed. Only an independent probe will bring out truth in the case," Pawar had said.

The police had arrested ten CPI (Maoist) activists in two batches in connection with the Elgaar Parishad-cum- Bhima-Koregaon riots case. They were among the 15 activists against whom the police had registered cases. The five are still absconding.

All the accused have been booked for serious offences under unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), 117 (abetting commission of offence), 120-b (conspiracy) read with 34 (common intention), 121, 121 (A) (waging or attempting to wage a war, or abetting waging of war, against the Government of India) 124A (sedition), 153 -A (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot...) and 505-1b (statements conducing public mischief) of Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Among other things, they have been charged with involvement in a conspiracy to kill Prime Minister Narendra Modi and overthrow the democratically elected Government in the country.

In a development relating to Param Bir, the Maharashtra Government told the Bombay High Court on Thursday that it has not been able to trace Param Bir and assured the court that it would not take coercive action against the latter. While his whereabouts are not known, he approached the High Court through his lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani to mention his plea seeking the quashing of FIR registered against him.

The Maharashtra Government-appointed Justice (retired) Kailash Uttamchand Chandiwal Commission of enquiry -which is hearing into the allegations of corruption made by him against Maharashtra's former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh --has sent several summons, fined him and even issued a bailable arrest warrant against him. The Thane police have registered an FIR against under SC/ST (prevention of Atrocities Act).

CBI ARRESTS SIX FOR POSTS AGAINST JUDGES, JUDICIARY

"Action was also initiated by the CBI, after it had registered this case to get objectionable posts removed from the social media platforms, public domains and a lot of such posts/accounts were removed from the Internet," the agency said in a statement.

During investigation of the case, the CBI had earlier arrested five accused and also filed five separate chargesheets against them.

"Investigation is continuing, including through the channels of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) and Interpol to collect evidence from abroad," it added.

Successful UPSC aspirants have no right to be allocated cadre of their choice or home state: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said that successful civil services aspirants have no right to be allocated a cadre of their choice or their home state, and also noted that before selection they opt to serve anywhere in the country "with eyes open" but later "scramble" for home cadre.

The historic judgement in the Mandal case was also cited by the apex court to observe that the candidate belonging to the SC/ST or OBC category, if found suitable by the Union Public Services Commission (UPSC) for selection on merits under general category, "shall be appointed against unreserved vacancies".

The observation of the top court came on an appeal of the Central government against a verdict of the Kerala High Court which had asked it to grant home cadre Kerala to A Shainamol, a Muslim woman IAS officer who was posted in Himachal Pradesh.

A bench comprising

Justices Hemant Gupta and V Ramasubramanian set aside the verdict of the High Court asking the Centre to grant Kerala cadre to the woman IAS officer.

The bench also held that if a candidate hailing from reserved Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), or Other Backward Class (OBC) category does not take benefit of quota and gets selected in the general category then later he or she cannot take recourse to reservation for getting cadre or place of appointment of choice.

"The allocation of cadre is not a matter of right. It was held that a selected candidate has a right to be considered for appointment to the IAS but he has no such right to be allocated to a cadre of his choice or his home state. As stated above, allotment of cadre is an incidence of service.

"The applicant as a candidate for the All-India Service with eyes wide open has opted to serve anywhere in the country. Once an applicant gets

selected to service, the scramble for the home cadre starts..." Justice Gupta, writing the 36-page judgement for the bench, said.

Referring to the Indian Administrative Service (Recruitment) Rules, the bench said the procedure for allocation of cadre is a mechanical process and admits no exception except in terms of the rules.

"The State has no discretion of allocation of a cadre at its whims and fancies. Therefore, the Tribunal or the High Court should have refrained from interfering with the allocation of cadre on the argument of the alleged violation of the allocation circular," the top court said.

Shainamol secured 20th rank in the UPSC civil services examination in 2006 and she despite belonging to the Muslim OBC category was selected under the general category and was allocated Himachal Pradesh cadre after the Centre sought consent of the Himachal Pradesh gov-

ernment on November 13, 2007.

She then moved the Ernakulam Bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) which directed the Centre to allot and accommodate her against "the outsider OBC vacancy in the Maharashtra cadre by virtue of her merit over the candidate already identified and allotted the Maharashtra cadre." Both the Centre and the IAS officer challenged the verdict in the Kerala High Court which allowed the plea of the government challenging the direction of the Tribunal to accommodate the IAS officer in the Maharashtra cadre was allowed.

However, the high court also allowed the plea of the IAS officer seeking the declaration that she was eligible to be allotted the Kerala cadre.

The top court allowed the Centre's appeal saying the OBC has not availed any relax-

ations or concessions admissible to OBC candidates. "She was a general merit candidate, thus not entitled to OBC reserved seat in her State. She was allocated to Himachal Pradesh cadre as a general category candidate falling in Rule 7(3) in view of her merit position as a general category candidate." The bench examined the question of whether consultation in respect of allocation of cadre is required to be done with the state from which the candidate belongs or with the state to which the candidate is being allocated.

"The entire basis of the claim of the applicant is that there was no consultation with the State of Kerala. The said argument is however untenable. The applicant was allocated to the State of Himachal Pradesh and there was consent duly given by the State of Himachal Pradesh for her allocation to that State. In fact, no consultation was required to be carried out in respect of the applicant with Kerala State," it held.

Save people with artificial limbs from airport security ordeal: Sudhaa to PM

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Narrating the ordeal she goes through at the airports during security checks, actor and well-known Bharatanatyam dancer Sudhaa Chandran has made an appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide a special card to people with artificial limbs.

The 56-year-old actor posted a video on her Instagram page on Thursday evening and said she is "totally hurt" to go through the "grill" at the airports every time she is flying.

"Totally hurt....Each time going through this grill is very very hurting....Hope my message reaches the state and the central govt authorities...And expecting a prompt action..." she wrote.

In the video, which seems to be shot at an airport, Chandran first introduced herself. "This is a very personal note that I want to tell our dear

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. This is an appeal to the Central Government and the State Government. I am Sudhaa Chandran, an actress and dancer by profession, who has danced with an artificial limb and created history and made my country very proud of me," the actor said.

Chandran said she has requested the airport authorities on a number of occasions to conduct an "ETD (Explosive Trace Detector) for her artificial limb" but they always ask her to remove it.

"Every time I go on my professional visits, each time, I am stopped at the airport, and when I request them at the security, to the CISF officials, that please do an ETD (Explosive Trace Detector) test for my artificial limb, they still want me to remove my artificial limb and show it to them. Is it humanly possible, Modi ji? "Is this what our country is



talking about? Is this the respect that a woman gives another woman in our society? It is my humble request to you Modi ji that please give us a card just like senior citizens have," she said in the video.

On Friday, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) replied to a news story about Chandran's grievances and apologised to the actor for the "inconvenience".

"We are extremely sorry for the inconvenience caused to Ms. Sudhaa Chandran. As per

protocol, prosthetics are to be removed for security checks only under exceptional circumstances," read the tweet from CISF.

"We will examine why the lady personnel concerned requested Ms. Sudhaa Chandran to remove the prosthetics. We assure Ms. Sudhaa Chandran that all our personnel will be sensitised again on the protocols so that no inconvenience is caused to travelling passengers," it added.

Chandran lost right leg at the age of 16 in 1981. She got injured in an accident and was later admitted to a hospital, where doctors had to amputate her leg after discovering gangrene formation.

She subsequently regained some mobility with the help of a prosthetic Jaipur foot. Since then, she has been performing as a professional dancer as well as acting in films and television shows.

Winter Session of Parl from 4th week of Nov

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Winter Session of Parliament is likely to start in the fourth week of November. The month-long Session, which is likely to have around 20 sittings, would conclude ahead of Christmas. Though an official decision has not been taken yet, the sources said the session could commence from November 29 and would end around December 23. In the wake of the pandemic, the Winter Session of Parliament was not held last year and all the subsequent sessions — Budget and Monsoon — were curtailed due to Covid.

The Winter session assumes significance as it will be held just months before the assembly elections in five states, including politically crucial Uttar Pradesh, which is seen as a semi-final for the 2024 general elections.



"Fresh characters and meaningful scripts fuel my passion."
 —Vikrant Massey

SHORTCIRCUITS



SANYA MALHOTRA

The romantic bit of *Meenakshi Sundareswar*'s script was what made me go for it. As someone who is in the audience, I crave to binge-watch romance. At present, I am organically attracted to light-hearted romantic comedies, so that can be the main reason I was attracted to this character and script. For me, it was love at first sight with Meenakshi.



AYUSHMANN KHURRANA

'It's only once in a while that an actor comes across a story that makes them jump out of their comfort zone. While I have always backed novel stories, *Anek* pushed me to perform with a renewed zest. It's the kind of script that drives a person to give it their all. I feel extremely fortunate, and proud, that I got to headline a project like this.'



PARINEETI CHOPRA

'The kind of accolades and appreciation I received for my films this year was the biggest birthday present for me. So I feel that on the work front, I am in a great place...We have been shooting for the past two weeks in Nepal. A working birthday in the middle of the mountains is exactly what a 2021 birthday should be for me.'



ZACH GALIFIANAKIS

'My kids don't really know what I do. They think I'm an assistant librarian somewhere. I want to protect their innocence as much as possible. They're just children after all. People used to come up to me and be like, 'Oh, my kids love *The Hangover*, and I'm like, 'You're a terrible parent'. They need to mature a little bit before they see such films.'

GWYNETH PALTROW

'Ever since I was Covid-positive, I wasn't been feeling good. I had really high inflammation levels and the doctor said that, at least for three months, I should abstain from alcohol, sugar and anything that's processed. I kind of begrudgingly did it, and then I just started feeling good. I'm not going to do it forever, but I have been trying to value my health and wellness a little more lately.'



LAND OF HEROES

KHUSHBU KIRTI visits the tea capital of North India, Palampur, and remembers the sacrifices of the Kargil martyrs

You might know Palampur as the tea capital of North India, owing to its lush green tea gardens that it is enveloped in. However, another attribute that sets the town apart from many other places is that it has produced the bravest of war heroes.

The recently released OTT hit *Shershaah* has ensured that most people know everything about late Captain Vikram Batra, his life, his bravery and about his birthplace, Palampur. Having said that, not many know that the Kargil hero who lost his life in 1999, Captain Saurabh Kalia, was also born in the same town of Kangra valley. Kalia was an Indian Army officer who was captured by Pakistan Army, along with three other soldiers, tortured and murdered. The news had taken the country by shock and outrage. He was one of the first martyrs of the Kargil war, and the brutal killing of these soldiers had sundered the calm before the storm.

Along with them, the famous immortal names of Brigadier Sher Jang Thapa, one of the recipients of the Mahavir Chakra, Major Sudhir Walia, posthumous awardee of Ashoka Chakra, and Major Som Nath Sharma, posthumous Param Vir Chakra awardee, also come to my mind. While Major Somnath and Brigadier Thapa were world war martyrs, Major Walia died while leading an assault on a militant hideout in Kupwara district. The three gallants mentioned above were also born in the Kangra district.

Recently, I received an opportunity to explore Palampur and so, I made it a point to visit memorials set up as tribute to these heroes.



SAURABH VAN VIHAR

The ecological park is one of the major tourist attractions of the place. Besides the rich history that it carries, honouring Shaheed Captain Kalia, the nature park is a scenic and tranquil sight located on the banks of the Neugel Khad. It is situated in the village of Kwat and spreads over an area of about 13 kilometres. While offering the mesmerising view of the Dhauladhar ranges in the background, the attractions present include bird-watching, boating, sight-seeing, and so on.

The Saurabh Van Vihar is also home to a variety of flora and fauna, and loquacious birds which only elevate the beauty of the park.



The bridge augmented in tro-colour heightens the patriotic fervour in every visitor.

However, unfortunately, a recent flood had destroyed the park and so when I had visited the location, I traced, from the ruins, what it actually used to be. Boating was discontinued, but pleasure-activities like bird-watching, around the beautiful lake, and soaking in the nature could still be carried out. I had goosebumps throughout as the homage to the fallen hero was inexpensive.

While hoping the park would soon be repaired, I also feel more ecological parks like these, as dedications to the fallen brave, should be built.

SHAHEED CAPTAIN VIKRAM BATRA GOVERNMENT COLLEGE



While staying in Palampur, I decided to pay homage to the memorial of Captain Batra, too. The Shaheed Captain Vikram Batra Government college, Palampur (Kangra), came into existence in 1995 as Govt College, Palampur. It was renamed in the memory of the war hero in 1999.

It also contains the bust of the late soldier, which says 'Ye dil mangy more', something that Captain Batra would say often to his comrades and had, in turn, immortalised the slogan.

As we already know, Batra, 13 JAK Rifles, and his Delta company was given the job of securing point 5,140. He was nicknamed SherShah



(for his unwavering courage) and that was what he was called on the Pakistani radios, too.

His company is credited with killing around eight enemy soldiers and recovering a heavy machine gun.

The capturing of point 5,140 set in motion a chain of successful events during the Kargil war.

Captain Batra had also, posthumously, received the Param Vir Chakra.

Getting back to normal

Indie artiste RITVIZ kickstarts Johnnie Walker's #ReVibeTheNight campaign which aims to refuel India's after-hour culture. By TANMAYA DAS

Johnnie Walker, a leading scotch-whisky brand, announces the launch of #ReVibeTheNight, a one-of-a-kind campaign to fill India's most beloved venues with music, movement, people, and magic. The brand has roped in some trailblazing artistes such as the renowned hip-hop rapper, Divine, prominent electronic music producer, Ritviz, and internet sensation, Lisa Mishra, to refuel the after-hour culture in India through their live performances in India's most loved hotspots.

Prior to the world going into lockdown, the after-hour culture in India thrived at celebrated community hubs that eventually became a safe-haven for individuals, a place where they found their sense of self-expression and belonging that fueled progress. This community was driven through the culture of live music and enthralling performances that created their very own vibe, a vibe that built extraordinary, forever-lasting relationships.

The campaign was initiated with a live performance by Ritviz at Dragonfly in New Delhi's Aerocity yesterday. From New Delhi the platform will go live across India including Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Chennai, Hyderabad, Pune, Goa and Guwahati till December 2021. Read on for our interaction with Ritviz:

At what age did you start learning music? What were your initial hurdles?

I have a background in classical music. My mom is an Indian classical singer and my dad plays the tabla. Growing up, music surrounded the house. So, for me, walking into music was very easy. I was four-five years old when I saw my mom doing her *riyaaz*.

Music was very effortless because my mom never pushed me to learn music. It was something I really wanted to pursue, I wasn't asked to join. As I grew up learning Indian classical music, I was obviously also exposed to the West and VHI and all of that, which pulled me closer to other styles of music.



Do you recall your first steps in the music industry?

In 2014, I released my first EP *Vizdumb* and then I released the five-track *YUV* in 2016. *Udd Gaye* was my first major hit, and changed my life.

Any advice for aspiring artistes?

Don't think of money, even though it sounds absurd. You have to give music the topmost priority. If you chase anything else then you'll be caught up in other things.

Everything is built around music for me. When I sit and make music, I don't do it to please anyone, but because I like it. The minute you lose that, you lose the plot, you lose music. It's hard, so either find the support system or find that confidence to carry on.

Who is your inspiration?

My mother is the most inspiring person in my life. For every new song, her nod is a validation and a push.

Your set of influences in your life make you. That is why probably I have now started listening and learning other styles and a lot more that would probably inspire more crazy culminations in the future. The idea is to keep a constant set of learning.

What are your expectations from the campaign?

I am extremely excited for the campaign! The team at Johnnie Walker, with their #ReVibeTheNight campaign, is taking a bold step towards re-energising the after-hour culture in India through live performances across iconic community spaces, with all Covid-19 safety measures in place. I think with such initiatives, we are responsibly moving back to live gigs, which has really been the best avenue to form a connection with our audiences, once again. Lisa Mishra and I have also created a new soundtrack for the campaign and I really think that the audience will love it.

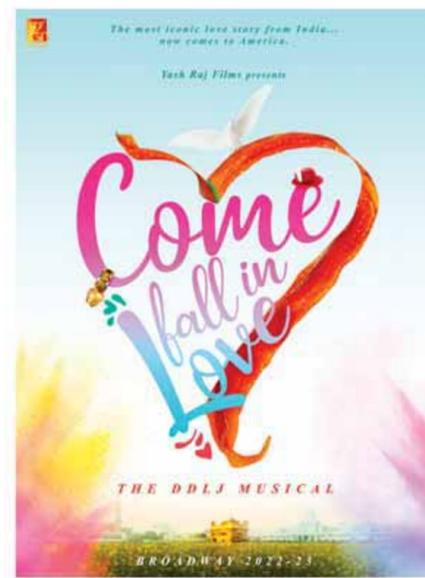
The renowned Indian studio's, Yash Raj Films', chairman and managing director, Aditya Chopra, has directed and produced some of the biggest blockbusters. His debut directorial, the historic romantic film, *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*, which released in 1995, is still running in theatres. Popularly called *DDLJ*, it is one of the highest grossing movies in the history of Indian cinema and the biggest IP of the country's rich and diverse movie industry.

After 26 years, Aditya Chopra is set to direct *DDLJ* again and it will mark his debut as a director on Broadway. He strongly feels Broadway and Indian films are two long lost lovers separated in time because of their intrinsic similarities. Both celebrate heart-warming stories and human emotions through music and dance. Aditya has been working on this passion project for the past three years and has roped in a stellar, extremely diverse team, comprising some of the best talents of Broadway and India for the same.

Come...Fall In Love: The DDLJ Musical is being produced by Yash Raj Films, and is based on an original story by Aditya. The musical will feature book and lyrics by Laurence Oliver award-winner, Nell Benjamin (for films like *Legally Blonde* and *Mean Girls*), and top Indian songwriters, Vishal Dadlani and Shekhar Ravjiani, will serve as composers. Tony and Emmy winner Rob Ashford (for films like *Frozen*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *The Boys from Syracuse*) will choreograph with associate choreographer, Shruti Merchant. The design team will also incorporate set design by Emmy and Tony award winner, Derek McLane (for *Moulin Rouge!*, *Hairspray Live!* and *33 Variations*) and music supervision will be done by Tony, Grammy, and Emmy award-winner, Bill Sherman (known for music in *In The Heights*, *Sesame Street*, and *Hamilton*). Adam Zlotovich is the executive producer for the project. The musical is set to be on

Come...Fall In Love

Western musical theatre and Indian films are two long lost lovers separated in time, says film-maker ADITYA CHOPRA. He is set to make his Broadway debut with an adaptation of *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*. By TEAM VIVA



theatre and Indian films are two long lost lovers that have gotten separated in time."

He continued, "In autumn of 2021, I am embarking on my most ambitious project till date. I'm reuniting two long lost lovers, Broadway musical and Indian films. 26 years back I started my career with a film called *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* (*DDLJ*), what it is more famously known as). The film created history and changed my life and many others forever. But what many don't know is that I never intended to make *DDLJ* in Hindi. As a 23 year old young man greatly influenced by Hollywood and American pop culture, I thought I would make a couple of Indian films and then I would be off to Hollywood and make *DDLJ* for a worldwide English-speaking audience with Tom Cruise as my leading man. That obviously didn't happen. *DDLJ* released in 1995 and became the longest running film of Indian cinema. It gave me my identity and kickstarted an amazing journey for which I'll always be grateful." Now, Aditya is going back

to his original vision of the story of *DDLJ*, a love tale of an American boy and an Indian girl, a love story of two cultures...two worlds. But this time the medium is not cinema, but theatre.

"26 years later I will be directing *DDLJ* all over again, but this time as an English language Broadway musical for a worldwide audience. I'm terribly nervous and incredibly excited. I'm a hardcore cinema guy, and have never done theatre in my life. And here I am, trying to pull off the craziest ambition of my life. But, what is giving me confidence is the fantastic team that I have. Each one of them is a master of their field and their brilliance and expertise is going to make this a fantastic show. The past three years as we have developed this passion project, I have learnt so much from them and discovered the unbelievable talent that the Broadway community has. I feel like I am 23 again, the same age I was when I directed *DDLJ* for the first time. I'm once again a student, each one of my team members is more experienced than I am. In the world of theatre, I'm the rookie and I'm loving every moment of it. I'm all set to learn, explore, create and enjoy with these wonderful theatre artists and the discover the magical world of Broadway musicals," the director concluded.

About the Broadway theatrical, Benjamin expressed, "*DDLJ* was my introduction to Indian filmmaking before I even knew who the amazing Aditya Chopra was, and the movie had such joy and heart that I fell in love with it. I was so happy to be approached to do the musical and I hope my work helps everyone fall in love with Simran and Raj and their journey across multiple cultures again. The world can always use a little more cultural understanding, and I can't wait to sit in a theater with an audience, sharing the joy and surprise of *Come Fall In Love: The DDLJ Musical!*"



BACK AT IT

DJ trio SWEDISH HOUSE MAFIA reunites and links up with THE WEEKND for new music, ahead of a global tour scheduled for next year

DJ supergroup Swedish House Mafia, known for bringing house music to the masses with their arena shows, are ready to turn the crowd up with a new collaboration with The Weeknd and a global tour on the horizon.

The trio dropped a new song and music video on yesterday, melding their thumping, body-rocking beats with The Weeknd's dark cinematic vocals on *Moth To A Flame*. It comes as they are announcing a 44-date arena world tour in 2022 with stops in Miami, Las Vegas, Houston, Toronto, London, Paris and Madrid.

It's a long awaited return for the DJs — Steve Angello, Axwell and Sebastian Ingrosso — who announced their breakup in 2012 after reaching heights that few other DJs had and leading a wave

of interest in EDM music with their grandiose live shows.

"I think time was the best thing that could happen to us," Angello expressed during an interview from Stockholm.

With hits like *Don't You Worry Child* and *Save The World*, they were the first DJ act to sell out Madison Square Garden and got top billing at Coachella, where they will return in 2022. The anticipation has been building since the three announced their reunion at a surprise set at Ultra Music Festival in Miami in 2018, but behind the scenes it was a years-long process of getting a new label, new management and new music. Known for being perfectionists and their slow pace of recording, the pandemic gave them the time they needed as they worked in their



studio in Sweden.

"We made more songs in the past two years than we did in the

20 years before that, which is incredible," said Angello. They also now share the same management

team with The Weeknd, who has hinted at the collab on his social media.

After meeting in Los Angeles, they found a track they all loved and the Toronto-born superstar let inspiration lead him, said Axwell. "He just, boom, went for it and it sounded amazing," said Axwell. "We were like, 'Well, did you have this written down or how was it like? Did you prepare notes?' (He said.) 'I just looked at some text messages on my phone.'"

They released two other singles this year, including *Lifetime* featuring Ty Dolla Sign along with 070 Shake and *It Gets Better*, both of which reached the Top 15 of Billboard's Hot Dance/Electronic Songs chart. The new songs are leading up to their full-length album *Paradise Again*, slated for release next year.

The opportunity to push boundaries again was the motivating factor to come back together and put aside differences that led to their split, shared Angello, who remained coy on the exact reasons.

"Enough time went by for me to feel like I was missing something, right? So like when you're running 100 miles an hour, you don't have time to reflect. But if you let some time pass, all of a sudden, those things that, those things that tore us apart were kind of destroyed," said Angello.

During the breakup, they all kept working and performing. Angello released his own solo records while Axwell and Ingrosso put out an album in 2017 together. But when the Corona virus pandemic took hold in 2020, not having an audience was one of the hardest parts for these DJs who had spent decades performing live in clubs, arenas and festivals all over the globe, setting the unrelenting musical pace for tens of thousands of dancing fans.

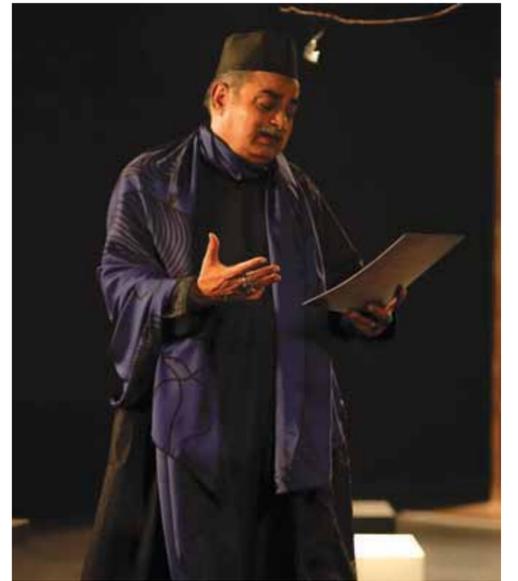
"I understand why a lot of heritage bands continue touring for the rest of their lives," said Ingrosso. "Because once you're in there and you've done that once in your life with the energy and the positivity, it's like a piece of our hearts that's missing."

Ingrosso said every once in a while, they'd turn their studio into a nightclub, just to get a chance to feel the music the way it's meant to be experienced. "Sometimes we threw a little party here and there around the studio just to listen to music when you're not totally 100 per cent sober, if you know what I mean," Ingrosso revealed.

Their 2022 tour starts on July 29 in Miami and runs through November 13 in Tampere, Finland. —AP

Checkmate

It is wonderful that the new generation is rediscovering classic stories from the subcontinent, says veteran actor, IRFAN KHOOSAT. By TEAM VIVA



The actor and comedian, Irfan Khoosat, is the father of popular Pakistani director, Sarmad Khoosat. The veteran actor will be reading Munshi Premchand's iconic tale, *Shatranj Ki Baazi*, in Zee Theatre's show, *Yaar Julahay*.

In 1924, Munshi Premchand wrote a riveting tale in Urdu and Hindi about two inveterate chess players. In 1977, the legendary filmmaker, Satyajit Ray, created *Shatranj Ke Khiladi*, based on the same tale.

Now, director and actor, Sarmad Khoosat, is presenting *Shatranj Ki Baazi*, a dramatised reading of the same classic story. The reading is part of *Yaar Julahay*, featuring stories from the subcontinent.

It will be screened on Tata Sky Theatre throughout this week. Set in Lucknow in the last days of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah, the story centers around the landowners, Mirza Sajjad Ali and Mir Roshan Ali, and their obsession with chess in the face of the rapidly deteriorating political, social, and cultural conditions of Awadh. Irfan expressed, "I have been

associated largely with funny characters but this was a serious part. I am also very happy that the new generation is rediscovering classic stories from the subcontinent via a format similar to Dastangoi. When stories are performed and not just read by an actor, they acquire tangible humanity. This is a very good initiative and must continue."

Speaking about his father's role, Sarmad said, "A lot of literature has been written about partition, but the mutiny of 1857 has not been extensively written about. That is why this story by Munshi Premchand has an iconic significance. His descriptive writing brings to life the milieu and the atmosphere in which the story is set and when he writes the conversations between two people, he transports us to another era. The moment I read *Shatranj Ki Baazi*, I felt only my father could do justice to it because the role needed a certain gravitas, manner, and diction. Abba pulled off the reading with great theatricality and used different voices for different characters."

WHAT MOVED YOU TODAY

National Geographic India encourages enthusiasts to share their most precious captures that have touched hearts through the campaign, Your Lens. By TEAM VIVA

National Geographic India, a brand with a rich legacy of distinctive and impactful storytelling, is currently conducting a unique ongoing property titled — 'Your Lens'. With a campaign thought of 'what moved you today', Your Lens is encouraging photographers and enthusiasts to share the most precious captures that have emotionally moved them and touched their hearts. With a successful start, they have received thousands of entries, spread across various themes such as breathtaking landscapes, majestic wildlife, thrilling adventures,

vibrant festivals, people and portraits and many more from around the country.

Assessed by the established National Geographic explorer and photographer, Prasenjeet Yadav, the best images will be featured across the National Geographic television channel in India, social media platforms and the website, www.nationalgeographicyourlens.in.

Every month, best images will be selected and featured. Some of the shortlisted images, along with the photographer's thoughts, are given below:



"I've been a photographer since the age of 14, and have been learning every day. The photograph, at the Patrika Gate in Rajasthan, is probably my best. This one is from my solo trip to Jaipur." —Pratish Patel, Mumbai



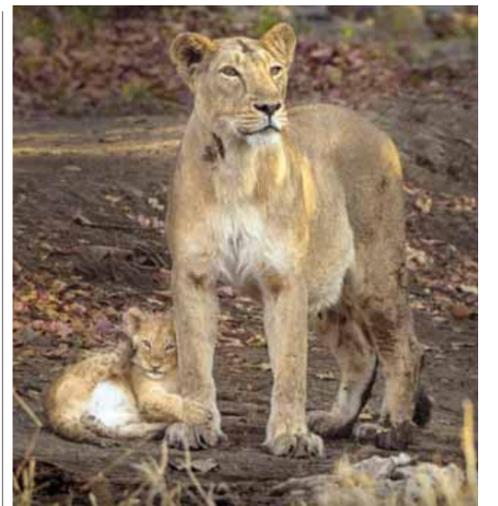
"It's hard to describe how beautiful the bank of the Brahmaputra is. Where dozens of fishermen patiently try their luck, one of them caught my eye, as light from the sun and reflection of the sky perfectly balanced in such a way that I felt like God himself sketched it on the water." —Ansari, Bangalore



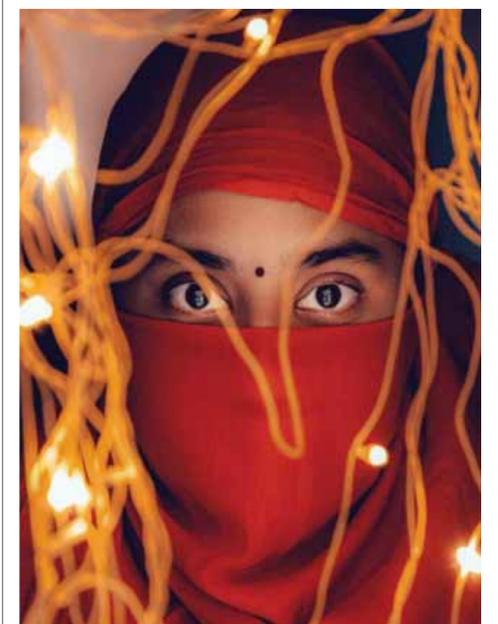
"The Wildest Brothers — we documented these two in their wildest mood at the Great Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, a place filled with surprises. Their mother was out in search of food and these two pups were home alone." —Parth Kansara, Bhub



"Being a nature enthusiast, I have always wanted to capture an image concerning pollution that is increasing every day." —Satya Manidhar Vegi, Tuni



"Clicked this image in Gir National park. The cub was very playful." —Goswami Chetan, Jamnagar



"Light in the eyes speaks louder than the words." —Susruth Sai, Nellore

Sindhu loses in quarters

PTI ■ ODENSE

Returning to action after a break, India's double Olympic medalist P V Sindhu on Friday bowed out of the Denmark open badminton tournament after losing in straight games to world no 8 Korean An Seyoung in the women's singles quarterfinals here.

Playing her first tournament since winning the bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics in August, Sindhu couldn't match her fifth seeded young Korean rival, going down 11-21 12-21 in 36 minutes.

Sindhu had also lost to An Seyoung in straight games the last time they clashed here two years ago in their only career meeting.

The reigning world champion, who had taken a break to rejuvenate after a hectic Olympics campaign, just couldn't find a way across the attacking game of the Korean, who was always a step ahead during the contest.

An Seyoung made a



superb start and took just six minutes to grab a massive seven-point lead at the break with Sindhu unable to find a crack in the Korean's game.

The Indian tried to control the net but committed few unforced errors with the Korean showing great athleticism to return everything thrown at her.

The Korean dominated the forecourt and played some exceptional shots, including a few diving forehand returns, to lead 16-8. In the end, Sindhu netted to give 10 game points to the Korean, who sealed the opening game when the Indian erred again.

Sindhu tried to change her tactics by playing high lifts

but she was not disciplined enough and after trailing 7-8 at one stage, she slipped to 8-11 at the break.

It was a one-way traffic after the interval as An Seyoung jumped to 20-10 in a jiffy. Sindhu saved two match points before committing another error.

On Thursday night, India's

Sameer Verma notched up a stunning straight-game win over world no.3 Anders Antonsen to storm into the quarterfinals but it was curtains for Lakshya Sen at the Super 1000 tournament here.

World No 28 Sameer, who had qualified for the World Tour Finals in 2018 after winning three titles, produced a sensational performance to outwit local hero Antonsen 21-14 21-18 in a 50-minute men's singles battle.

The 27-year-old from Madhya Pradesh will lock horns with 33-year-old Tommy Sugiarto, a bronze winner at the 2014 World Championships.

However, it proved to be too daunting a task for Lakshya to match Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen as he thrashed the Indian 21-15 21-7 in a lop-sided second-round contest.

Coming into the match with a dismal 1-5 head-to-head count, Sameer showed great athleticism and tactical acumen to down Antonsen, a silver medalist at the 2019 World Championships.

Mentors can't do much, it's players who have to perform : Gavaskar

PTI ■ DUBAI

A mentor can only help as much because it is the players who will have to go out there and perform the "actual task", the legendary Sunil Gavaskar said on the appointment of Mahendra Singh Dhoni as the Indian team mentor for the T20 World Cup.

India will play Pakistan on Sunday in the Super 12s and Gavaskar feels that in this format Virat Kohli's team can't be termed clear favourites.

"Mentor can't do much," Gavaskar told Aaj Tak.

"Yes, he can help you prepare in change room as it's a fast-paced game and if needed, help you tweak the tactic."

"May be speak to batters and bowlers during time-out, so the move to employ Dhoni is a good one but Dhoni will be in the change room and it's the players who have to perform the actual task in the middle. How they handle pressure would determine what the result will be," Gavaskar said during the event.

Gavaskar feels Kohli will feel lesser pressure now that he has



decided to quit captaincy in the T20 format.

"When you become a captain, you can't just think about yourself, he has to speak to a batter who is going through a bad patch or discuss strategies with a bowler.

"Amid all this, one tends to neglect his own form. When you don't have that pressure, you can focus on your own game. I think it will be good for Virat that after T20 World Cup, he doesn't have to think about responsibilities.

"So he can focus on his own

game and score as many runs as possible," he added.

Gavaskar, one of the most respected voices in world cricket, also pointed out that India's failure to win knock-out games in global tournaments has been primarily due to the faulty team selections.

"India's problem in big matches has been team combination. If they would have got final XI selection right in knock out games, they would have had less problems. At times, your thought process is different," he said.

"In knock-outs and finals, you should bat first, put runs on the board, whatever you put, 140 may be, the other team has to score and it's not always easy to score at seven runs per over in international cricket," he explained.

In T20 cricket, Gavaskar has found one flaw with the Indian batting and that's losing momentum between overs 7 and 12.

"India's batting weakness has been in the overs after Powerplay, between 7 and 12. After 7 overs, we start struggling.

Erasmus, Wiese take debutants Namibia to Super 12s of T20 WC

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Gerhard Erasmus led from the front with a well-crafted unbeaten fifty to guide debutants Namibia to a historic eight-wicket win over Ireland in the first round Group B match and qualification spot in Super 12s of the ICC T20 World Cup here on Friday.

Erasmus (53 not out off 49 balls) guided Namibia's chase of 126 in the company of David Wiese, who made an unbeaten 28.

Namibia made a quiet start to their chase. Boundaries were hard to come by for Namibia batters as they dealt mostly in singles and twos. Their struggle can be gauged from the fact

that they found the fence only four times in the first 10 overs, scoring 49 for one.

Needing 77 off the last 10 overs, Erasmus and Zane Green (24) shared 48 runs for the second wicket to keep Namibia in the contest.

The duo played sensibly and brought down the equation to 55 off 42 balls and with nine wickets in hand, Namibia were clear favourites to win the contest.

But Green failed to clear Kevin O'Brien at mid-off to make the contest interesting.

After his two wickets with the ball, Wiese came to Namibia's rescue by hitting Craig Young for back-to-back sixes in the 15th over to bring



down the equation to 33 off the last five overs.

Needing 21 off 18 balls, Erasmus lofted off-spinner Simi Singh over the long-off boundary and then struck two

boundaries in the 19th over off Craig Young to finish off the chase in style with nine balls remaining.

Namibia have joined Sri Lanka in the Super 12s from

Group A. Earlier, asked to bowl, Namibian bowlers made a strong comeback after Ireland made a brisk start to restrict them to a modest 125 for eight.

Ireland started brightly with Paul Stirling (38) and Kevin O'Brien (25) sharing 62 runs off just 44 balls for the opening stand.

But Namibia pulled things back by removing both the openers in quick succession as Ireland slumped to 67 for two in 8.4 overs.

After the opening partnership, Ireland innings literally fell apart, barring skipper Andy Bilbirmie (21), no other batter could reach dou-

ble-digit score. The dismissal of Gareth Delany pegged back Ireland considerably as their batters found it difficult to keep up the scoring rate, reaching just 95 runs for the loss of three wickets at the end of the 15th over.

Bilbirmie tried his best to lift the innings but he also struggled to rotate the strike against some incisive bowling by Namibia in the second half of the innings, picking up six wickets by conceding just 54 runs in the last 10 overs.

Ireland's problems were compounded when left-arm pacer Jan Frylinck snared two wickets in the 16th over -- first Bilbirmie LBW and then Curtis Campher.

T20WorldCupwindow

PANDYA WILL BE AN IMPACT PLAYER FOR INDIA: RAHANE

Dubai: Star all-rounder Hardik Pandya will be an impact player for India in the ongoing T20 World Cup, India Test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane said, urging the side to rally around the injury-ravaged cricketer whose role as a bowler is uncertain due to fitness issues. There has been a lot of debate regarding Pandya's inclusion in the squad as he did not bowl in the recently-concluded IPL. The team management has, time and again, stressed on the importance of his bowling to the side's overall balance.

I AM READY TO BACK WARNER'S ABILITY: FINCH

Abu Dhabi: Australia captain Aaron Finch is ready to back the "ability and judgement" of his out-of-form opening partner David Warner, hoping that he would come out all xames here, are 0, 2, 0, 1. "I am backing Davy's ability and judgement," Finch said on the eve of the South Africa game. "If you look at his World Cup history, it's bloody good and would he like more runs? Absolutely. He is one of the greatest players Australia has ever produced and I have no doubts that come game one, he will be absolutely fired and ready to go," the skipper added. Finch said that his recovery from a knee injury had been quicker than expected.

F1 title fight could take big swing

AP ■ AUSTIN

The US Grand Prix is not a must-win race for Lewis Hamilton, and the seven-time champion brushed off such a suggestion even as he trails Max Verstappen in the title fight and his rival should be favored at Mexico City in the next round.

Verstappen is a two-time winner in Mexico City, where Formula One races Nov. 7 and the Red Bull team has been dominant. But up first is Sunday's race at the Circuit of the Americas and Hamilton, who calls COTA his "happy hunting ground" because he's won five times in Texas, trails Verstappen by six points in the standings.

"It's important to win every race somehow, you know, maximizing our points, that's our goal over these next six races,"



Hamilton said Thursday.

"It's going to be incredibly difficult and there will be moments where we can perhaps edge (Red Bull) out. I don't like to assume that Mexico is not going to be strong but they are usually very strong in Mexico."

Formula One returns to North America its next two rounds for the first time since the start of the pandemic. Races in Austin and Mexico City were canceled last year, and Montreal is set to return next year for the first time since 2019.

The series comes back now with a thrilling title fight between upstart Verstappen and the superstar Hamilton. He clinched his 2015 and 2019 titles at COTA and Hamilton has won in five of F1's eight races at the track.

Verstappen, a seven-time winner this season, hasn't won at COTA but has been good. His sensational drive in the rain to fourth as a 17-year-old rookie with Toro Rosso in 2015 unveiled his potential as a championship contender.

He finished second in 2018 and third in 2019, but now he and Red Bull are in the championship lead.

Teammates could play a huge role Sunday.

Valtteri Bottas drove his Mercedes to victory ahead of Verstappen in Turkey two weeks, and won in Austin in 2019 from pole position.

PTI ■ LONDON

The fifth and final Test between India and England, which was suspended due to a COVID-19 outbreak in the visitors' camp last month, was on Friday rescheduled to July next year.

The England and Wales Cricket Board announced that the game has been moved to Edgbaston from Manchester and will be part of India's white-ball tour. The match will be held from July 1.

"With India leading the series 2-1, the concluding fifth match will now take place from July 1, 2022, at Edgbaston, following an agreement between the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)," said the ECB in a statement.

"Ticket holders do not have to take any action as all tickets will remain valid for the equivalent rearranged matchday at their host venue.

"Host venues will communicate the new fixture details to ticket purchasers and the options available to them, including the timeframe for requesting a refund if they are not able to attend the new matchday," the ECB added.

Last month, BCCI President Sourav Ganguly, in an interview to PTI, had made

Fifth Test between India and England rescheduled to July 2022



it clear that the rescheduled match would be an extension of the series and not a standalone game.

"We want the series to be completed as this will be our first series win (in England) since 2007," Ganguly had said.

India were leading 2-1 when the match was called off after the visiting players refused to step on to the field following positive COVID-19 cases among its support staff, including head coach Ravi Shastri.

Benzema faces verdict in blackmail trial

AP ■ VERSAILLES (FRANCE)

A French court trying an alleged blackmail case involving Real Madrid forward Karim Benzema and four other defendants expects to render its verdict on Friday.

Benzema hasn't been attending the trial that opened Wednesday in Versailles and is scheduled to wrap up Friday. He is charged with complicity in the alleged attempt in 2015 to blackmail France teammate Mathieu Valbuena over a sex tape thought to have been stolen from his mobile phone.

Prosecutors asked Thursday that Benzema be fined 75,000 euros (\$87,000), the maximum allowed on the charge, and be given a suspended 10-month jail term. The law allows for a maximum of 5 years imprisonment.

The four other defendants are being tried on charges of attempted blackmail.

AP ■ LONDON

Arsenal hosts Aston Villa after a tepid start to the season that's been summed up by drawing the last two matches to sit 12th in the Premier League after eight games.

It took Alexandre Lacazette's late equalizer to grab a point against Crystal Palace on Monday and the forward will now be pushing for a start against Villa. The 30-year-old Frenchman has played only 72 minutes in the league so far.

There is no new contract on offer with his current deal expiring at the end of the season. Bukayo Saka could miss Friday's game after being forced off at half-time on Monday after being kicked on the calf. Villa is in 13th place with 10 points.

Osasuna goes for its fourth straight victory in the Spanish League when it hosts Granada. A win would leave the team tied on 20 points with leader Real Sociedad ahead of the weekend matches.

Osasuna hasn't won four in a row in the league since 2010. It won four of its last five matches, with the only setback a home loss against Real Betis. Granada is just outside the relegation zone with six points from eight matches.

It beat Sevilla in its last game for its first win of the season after going winless in its first seven matches. Granada is winless in its last six away games in the league.

Arsenal hosts Villa



lost three of its past four matches, drawing the other, and is in 17th place, above Genoa and Cagliari on goal difference alone.

Spezia is only a point ahead after last week's win over bottom-placed Salernitana snapped a run of three straight losses. Torino is just two points above the relegation zone but has faced Lazio, Juventus and Napoli recently.

Mainz hosts Augsburg with

both teams looking to turn around wretched recent form. Mainz won three out of its first four league games this season, but none of the four since, and has dropped to 11th.

Augsburg is 16th, hasn't won any of its last three games and has the unwanted record of joint-fewest goals scored with four from eight games.

Last-place Saint-Etienne is

looking for its first win this season against Angers. The 10-time champions have just four points from 10 games and were routed 5-1 by Strasbourg in their previous game last week.

Saint-Etienne will be without suspended midfielder Zaydou Youssouf and has several doubtful players, including goalkeeper Etienne Green and right back Yvann Maçon.

SINGLES

JAISMINE EASE INTO SECOND ROUND OF WNB

Hisar: Asian Championship bronze-medallist Jaismine and defending champion Pwilo Basumatary of Assam advanced to the second round of the 60kg category with convincing victories in the Women's National Boxing Championships here on Friday. Representing Haryana, Jaismine comfortably beat Chhattisgarh's Rajbala by the unanimous 5-0 verdict in her opening round, while Basumatary out-punched Karnataka's Theertha Lakshmi at the St Joseph's International School here.

SAMEER TO ENTER QUATERFINALS

Odense: India's Sameer Verma notched up a stunning straight-game win over world no.3 Anders Antonsen to storm into the quarterfinals but it was curtains for Lakshya Sen at the Denmark Open Super 1000 badminton tournament here. World No 28 Sameer, who had qualified for the World Tour Finals in 2018 after winning three titles, produced a sensational performance to outwit local hero Antonsen 21-14 21-18 in a 50-minute men's singles battle on Thursday. The 27-year-old from Madhya Pradesh will lock horns with 33-year-old Tommy Sugiarto, a bronze winner at the 2014 World Championships

AMATEUR AVANI WON HERO WPGTN SEASON

Panchkula: Amateur Avani Prashanth won her second title of the season as she held off the seasoned Amandeep Drall by a shot to win the 11th leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour here on Friday. Avani and Amandeep played even par rounds, which helped the former stay ahead to emerge victor at the Panchkula Golf Club. Avani totalled 2-under 214, while Amandeep aggregated 1-under 215. Three players, Pranavi Urs (76), Jahnavi Bakshi (73) and Vani Kapoor (73) were tied for third place at 4-over 219. Seher Atwal (75) was sixth at 221 and Rhea Jha (73) was seventh. Saaniya Sharma, amateur Kriti Chowhan and Hitaashee Bakshi occupied the eighth to 10th places.