

OPINION 8
EDUCATE TO ACHIEVE
ATTITUDINAL CHANGES**WORLD 11**
US SABOTAGING CPEC:
PAKISTAN PM'S AIDE**SPORT 14**
ASALANKA'S UNBEATEN
WIN AGAINST B'DESH

LUCKNOW, MONDAY OCTOBER 25, 2021; PAGES 14 ₹3



the pioneer

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SONU SOOD
ADOPTS A
NEW ROLE
13 VIVACITY
CAPSULE**CHINA PASSES NEW LAND BORDER LAW**

Beijing: Asserting that sovereignty and territorial integrity of China are "sacred and inviolable", the country's national legislature has adopted a new law on the protection and exploitation of the land border areas, which could have bearing on Beijing's border dispute with India.

BAJRANG DAL ATTACKS PRAKASH JHA'S SET

Bhopal: Bajrang Dal activists allegedly ransacked the set of the third season of web-series 'Ashram' here and also threw ink on its producer-director Prakash Jha, accusing him of portraying Hindus wrongly, police said. The windscreens of two buses of the crew were also broken in stone-pelting, they said.

FB SELECTIVELY CURBED DIVISIVE USER CONTENT

New Delhi: Facebook in India has been selective in curbing hate speech, misinformation and inflammatory posts, particularly anti-Muslim content, according to leaked documents obtained by *The Associated Press*, even as the internet giant's own employees cast doubt over its motivations and interests.

MYANMAR REFUGEES ENTERING MIZORAM

Aizawl: More refugees from Myanmar's Chin state are entering the southern and eastern border districts of Mizoram due to continuing clashes between the neighbouring country's army and rebels, a senior police officer said on Sunday.

Is the third Covid wave knocking on our door?

Scientists find infectious mutant AY.4.2 cases in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Is the third wave of Covid-19 all set to knock on India's door? While there have been divergent views whether the third wave if it comes, will be virulent or not, scientists of the INSACOG network monitoring variations in SARS-CoV-2 have found prevalent in India "in very low numbers," a new mutated form (AY.4.2) of the coronavirus. The AY.4.2 has caused panic in Europe as it is presumably more contagious than the Delta variant.

AY.4.2, which is one of the 45 sub-lineages of Delta and is dubbed by many as Delta plus, is likely to be named 'Nu'. While research regarding the new mutant is still in the initial phase, studies so far show that this mutant is far more transmissible than the Delta variant. The Government has already been warning the people to not lower their guard during the ongoing festival season. West Bengal which just celebrated



People shop at a crowded Sadar Bazaar ahead of the Diwali festival in New Delhi on Sunday

PTI

Durga Puja has reported a surge in Covid cases.

Though the health system is already geared up to meet the emergency and hopes to perform better in the third wave when compared to the second and first wave, the mutation is suspected to be the cause for the exponential rise in Covid-19 cases in the UK, Russia (a lockdown will start in Moscow next week) and Israel last week. The UK has recorded about 50,000 new Covid infections,

marking another three-month high. Hospitalisations and deaths are also on the rise.

However, scientists say the AY.4.2-related findings still carry a high level of uncertainty and it is still early to say this lineage carries a higher risk of illness and/or death.

On October 21, the US Centers for Diseases Control said it has less than ten reported cases of AY.4.2 in its database so far, but the UK health authorities have found 15,120

cases of VUI-21OCT-01—the other name for AY.4.2—since it was first detected in July.

Dr Anurag Agrawal, director at CSIR Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) in Delhi, said, "AY.4.2 is present in India based on the revised definition, but at very low numbers, less than 0.1 per cent." IGIB is one of the main laboratories involved in the INSACOG genomic surveillance exercise.

Continued on Page 12

Mid-sea drug bust case turns murky

Witness makes charges of pay-offs against NCB's Wankhede

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a sensational twist to the ongoing investigations in the mid-sea drug bust case, a "panch witness" picked holes in the statements by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) regarding the circumstances leading to the detention of the accused in the case on October 2 and alleged a "money deal" involving the NCB's western zonal head Sameer Wankhede.

Talking serious cognisance of the allegations made in a notarised affidavit by a "panch witness" Prabhakar R Sail (40) that Wankhede had conducted himself in a questionable manner in the investigations and had among other things taken his signatures on ten blank papers, NCB Deputy Director-General, South West Region Mutha Ashok Jain issued a formal statement to the media.

"Our Mumbai unit Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede has categorically denied these allegations. As some of the contents of the affidavit relate to vigilance matters, I am here-



by forwarding the affidavit to the Director-General of the Narcotics Control Bureau and requesting for further action," Mutha Jain said in a statement issued here in the evening.

Alluding to the affidavit released to the media by Sail, Mutha Jain said: "A witness has given details of movements and activities on October 2" — the day the mid-sea bust was registered. As he is a witness in the case and as the case is before the honourable court and sub-judice, he needs to submit his prayer to the honourable court rather than (release it) through social media if he has anything to say. In addition, there are several vigilance-related allegations against certain persons in the

affidavit which are based on overhearing by Prabhakar."

Meanwhile, the NCB's Mumbai Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede on Sunday approached the Mumbai Police Commissioner seeking protection from likely legal action "being planned" against him by unknown persons to falsely frame him concerning an alleged vigilance related issue."

In his single-page letter addressed to Police Commissioner Hemant Nagrale, Wankhede stated he came to know that some "precipitate" legal action for falsely implicating him is being planned by unknown persons in relation to the alleged vigilance related issue in NCB.

Continued on Page 12

Four JeM ultras planning attacks on CRPF camps, IAF bases in J&K

Intelligence input has come amid spiral in violence against civilians

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a spurt in terrorist attacks in Kashmir Valley, an Intelligence input has warned that four heavily-armed terrorists of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit could attack CRPF camps and IAF bases in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) in the coming weeks.

The input has come amid a spiral in violence against civilians, especially Hindu minorities, including local Sikhs and migrant labourers in the Valley. The warning also coincides with an increase in



terror attacks against security forces. The Army alone has suffered at least nine casualties in the ongoing counter-terror operations in Poonch district.

The jacked-up violence is being seen as part of a renewed bid by Pakistan to rekindle terrorism in the Valley and led to

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Srinagar to assess the security situation. Shah held meetings with the top brass of the security set-up there in the wake of concern at the highest level due to the recent surge in violence there.

"The terrorist cadres are

equipped with heavy weapons and are controlled from Pakistan," reads the alert that has been shared with various stakeholders of the security in Kashmir Valley.

Earlier in June, a similar alert was issued by the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) suggesting a group of four terrorists had on June 11 attempted terrorist action on the CRPF on June 11, 2021 and lobbed grenades on the CRPF and run away into a nearby jungle.

The modus operandi of the group of four terrorists identified by the security agencies was firing on the forces and snatching weapons from the district police and the CRPF men when the paramilitary personnel lay-down on the ground to avoid being hit by the bullets being fired upon them.

Continued on Page 12

PAK END JINX WITH 10-WICKET WIN OVER INDIA



Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli, centre, hugs Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan after Pakistan won the the Cricket Twenty20 World Cup match between India and Pakistan in Dubai, UAE on Sunday

AP

Time for sidelining people of Jammu over, says Shah

Visits last IB village; boosts morale of jawans, civilians

PNS ■ JAMMU

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday visited one of the last villages located on the International Border (IB) with Pakistan where he boosted the morale of the border guards and local villagers in the Makwal area of Jammu frontier. On the second day of his visit to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), he also said that the "time for sidelining the people of Jammu has come to an end."

Accompanied by Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha, Additional Director General, BSF Western Command NS Jamwal and other officials, Shah visited



Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses during a public rally at Bhagwati Nagar in Jammu on Sunday

PTI

one of the forward posts in the area and interacted with the jawans. Patting the backs of the brave border guards, Shah motivated them to serve the country with complete dedication while their families would be looked after by the Narendra Modi Government.

Earlier in the day Shah

inaugurated the new campus of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Jammu. Several other development projects were also inaugurated by the Home Minister in the presence of Sinha and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Continued on Page 12

Modi to give 'Diwali gifts' to Kashi, nation

PNS ■ VARANASI

Final touches have been given to the venue at Mehendiganj on Ring Road Phase-2 (Package-1) where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will give big 'Diwali gifts' not only to his parliamentary constituency by inaugurating 28 projects worth Rs 5,189 crore but also to the nation by launching Pradhan Mantri Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana (PMASBY) worth Rs 64,180 crore here on Monday.

It was a hectic day for the administrative and police officers as well as Bharatiya Janata Party leaders to ensure perfect completion of all the arrangements. Just a day ago, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited here to inspect the rally site and some of the projects to be inaugurated by the prime minister, apart from holding a meeting with the officers.

Earlier, as many as 30 projects worth Rs 5,229.96 crore were scheduled to be inaugu-

rated but as two of them have yet not been completed, it has been decided that the prime minister will inaugurate 28 fully completed projects, including 16.98 kilometre-long Ring Road Phase-2 Package-1 from Rakhauna (Rajatalab) to Wazidpur (Harahua) worth Rs 1011.29 crore.

It is the project where a grand 850 x 550 feet grand pandal has been erected for Modi's rally. The proposed rally will also mark the start of election campaigning for the BJP on the eve of upcoming assembly election in the state, especially in this region of Purvanchal (eastern UP). The work on Ring Road Phase-2 (Package-2) is also going on in full swing.

Besides, the other prominent projects which will be inaugurated are 72.15 km Varanasi-Virno (Ghazipur) stretch on Varanasi-Gorakhpur National Highway (NH-29) worth Rs 3,509.14 crore; Konia bridge worth Rs 26.21 crore; *Continued on Page 12*

Modi to travel to Rome for G-20 meet, UK for COP-26

Will meet world leaders, discuss pandemic fight, eco recovery

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with the leaders of the G-20 nations will take stock of the ongoing fight against the corona pandemic and ways to speed up economic recovery. He will travel to Rome for the G-20 summit and then attend the World Leaders' Summit in Glasgow, UK. The five-day visit commences on October 29.

Giving details of his schedule, the Ministry of External Affairs said here on Sunday, the Prime Minister will participate in the 16th G-20 Summit in Rome from October 30-31 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Italy Mario Draghi.



This will be the 8th G-20 Summit that the Prime Minister would be attending. The G-20 has emerged as the premier global forum for inter-

national economic cooperation. India is scheduled to host the G-20 Summit in 2023 for the first time.

The forthcoming Summit under Italian presidency is centred around the theme "People, Planet, Prosperity," focussing on the areas of recovery from the pandemic and strengthening of global health governance; economic recovery and resilience; climate change and energy transition; sustainable development and food security.

Modi will also hold several bilateral meetings, including with the Italian Prime Minister, the Ministry said.

Thereafter, Modi will travel to Glasgow to attend the World Leader's Summit of the 26th Conference of Parties (COP-26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), at the invitation of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Continued on Page 12



₹5,189 करोड़ की 28 विकास परियोजनाओं का लोकार्पण

₹4,584 करोड़ से सड़क एवं पुल निर्माण

- वाराणसी रिंग रोड फेज-2 पैकेज-1 रखौना राजातालाब से वाजिदपुर हरहुआ तक, लंबाई 16.98 किमी. का निर्माण
- वाराणसी-गोरखपुर एनएच-29 पैकेज-2 वाराणसी से विरनोन गाजीपुर, लंबाई 72.15 किमी. राजमार्ग का निर्माण
- वाराणसी में कोनिया-सालारपुर मार्ग पर वरुणा नदी के कोनिया घाट पर पुल का निर्माण
- वाराणसी में बाबतपुर-कपसेठी-भदोही मार्ग पर कालिकाधाम के निकट वरुणा नदी पर दो लेन पुल का निर्माण

₹307 करोड़ से एस.टी.पी. निर्माण

नदी में स्वच्छ और निर्मल जल का प्रवाह, नदी तट एवं घाटों के सौंदर्यकरण से पर्यटन विकास

₹173 करोड़ से छात्रावास, क्रीडास्थल एवं संकाय भवन का निर्माण

₹78.57 करोड़ से शहरी जनसुविधाओं का विकास

₹33 करोड़ की कृषि परियोजनाओं से बायो गैस और जैविक उर्वरक का उत्पादन

₹12.35 करोड़ से चांदपुर-महेशपुर औद्योगिक परिक्षेत्र का विकास
₹1.5 करोड़ से वाराणसी जंक्शन रेलवे स्टेशन पर एक्जीक्यूटिव लाउन्ज का निर्माण

एवं

₹64,000 करोड़ की प्रधानमंत्री आत्मनिर्भर स्वस्थ भारत योजना का शुभारंभ

योजनान्तर्गत देश के नागरिकों के लिए स्थानीय स्तर पर बेहतर चिकित्सा सुविधाएं

देश के सभी प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र, सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र एवं जिला अस्पतालों में सुविधाओं का आधुनिकीकरण

नए चिकित्सा उपकरण, लेब, क्रिटिकल केयर यूनिट, वेंटिलेटर, ऑक्सीजन प्लान्ट आइसोलेशन बेड, ब्लड बैंक की स्थापना

प्रत्येक जनपद में पब्लिक हेल्थ यूनिट एवं मोबाइल हॉस्पिटल की स्थापना

प्रत्येक चिकित्सालय में चिकित्सक, पैरामेडिकल स्टाफ, विशेषज्ञ चिकित्सकों की समुचित संख्या में नियुक्ति



नरेन्द्र मोदी

प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा

गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

आनंदीबेन पटेल

राज्यपाल, उत्तर प्रदेश

योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश



डॉ. मनसुख मांडविया
मंत्री, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण और रसायन एवं उर्वरक, भारत सरकार

डॉ. महेंद्र नाथ पांडेय
मंत्री, भारी उद्योग एवं सार्वजनिक उद्यम भारत सरकार

अनिल राजभर
मंत्री, पिछड़ा वर्ग कल्याण एवं दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण, उत्तर प्रदेश

डॉ. नीलकंठ तिवारी
राज्य मंत्री, पर्यटन, संस्कृति एवं धर्मार्थ कार्य (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) तथा प्रोटोकाल (एमओएस), उत्तर प्रदेश

रवीन्द्र जायसवाल
राज्य मंत्री, स्टाम्प तथा न्यायालय शुल्क एवं पंजीयन (स्वतंत्र प्रभार), उत्तर प्रदेश

एवं अन्य गणमान्य महानुभाव

दिनांक : 25 अक्टूबर, 2021 | समय : मध्याह्न 12:00 बजे | स्थान : मेंहदीगंज (राजा तालाब), वाराणसी

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश



नए उत्तर प्रदेश का संकल्प एक जिला-एक मेडिकल कॉलेज

जनपद सिद्धार्थनगर, एटा, हरदोई, प्रतापगढ़, देवरिया
गाजीपुर, मिर्जापुर, फतेहपुर एवं जौनपुर में

₹2,329 करोड़ की लागत से नवनिर्मित
9 मेडिकल कॉलेजों



माधव प्रसाद त्रिपाठी
चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, सिद्धार्थनगर



महर्षि देवरहा बाबा
स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, देवरिया



वीरगंगा अवंतीबाई लोधी
स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, एटा



महर्षि विश्वामित्र
स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, गाजीपुर



स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, हरदोई



डॉ. सोनेलाल पटेल
स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, प्रतापगढ़



मां विन्ध्यवासिनी
स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, मिर्जापुर



अमर शहीद जोधा सिंह अटैया ठाकुर दखिब सिंह
चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, फतेहपुर



उमानाथ सिंह
राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, जौनपुर

- ◆ नए मेडिकल कॉलेजों से स्थानीय स्तर पर ही बेहतर चिकित्सा सुविधाएं
- ◆ 900 एमबीबीएस सीटें बढ़ने से युवाओं को चिकित्सा शिक्षा में नए अवसर
- ◆ 2,970 चिकित्सकीय बेड से स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं में विस्तार
- ◆ 2021-22 से शैक्षणिक सत्र प्रारम्भ, चिकित्सकों की बढ़ती उपलब्धता
- ◆ 5,800 चिकित्सक, नर्सिंग व पैरामेडिकल स्टाफ के लिए रोजगार के नए अवसर सृजित



लोकार्पण
नरेन्द्र मोदी
प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा



आनंदीबेन पटेल
राज्यपाल
उत्तर प्रदेश

योगी आदित्यनाथ
मुख्यमंत्री
उत्तर प्रदेश

डॉ. मनसुख मांडविया
मंत्री, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण
और रसायन एवं उर्वरक, भारत सरकार

सुरेश कुमार खन्ना
मंत्री, वित्त, संसदीय कार्य एवं चिकित्सा शिक्षा
उत्तर प्रदेश

स्वामी प्रसाद मोर्य
मंत्री, भ्रम एवं सेवायोजन तथा समन्वय
उत्तर प्रदेश

जय प्रताप सिंह
मंत्री, चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य, परिवार कल्याण तथा
मातृ एवं शिशु कल्याण, उत्तर प्रदेश

डॉ. सतीश चन्द्र द्विवेदी
राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार), वैद्यक शिक्षा
उत्तर प्रदेश

जगदम्बिका पाल
सांसद
हुमरियागंज

बृज लाल
सांसद
राजसभा

स्वतंत्र देव सिंह
सदस्य, विधान परिषद
उत्तर प्रदेश

राघवेन्द्र प्रताप सिंह
विधायक, हुमरियागंज

श्याम धनी राही
विधायक, कपिलवस्तु

चौधरी अमर सिंह
विधायक, शहरसगढ़

धुव कुमार त्रिपाठी
सदस्य, विधान परिषद, उत्तर प्रदेश

शीतल सिंह
अध्यक्ष, जिला पंचायत, सिद्धार्थनगर

दिनांक : 25 अक्टूबर, 2021 | समय : पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे | स्थान : बी.एस.ए. ग्राउण्ड, सिद्धार्थनगर

Adityanath launches ₹373-crore projects for Bhadohi

PNS ■ VARANASI

Just a day prior to the arrival of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his parliamentary constituency Varanasi, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched projects worth Rs 373 crore, including dedication of some completed projects apart from laying the foundation stones of others, in adjoining district Bhadohi on Sunday.

Addressing a public meeting at Vibhuti Narayan Government Inter College Grounds near Durgaganj, the chief minister said, “Bhadohi district is making a new identity today as the development work during the last four and a half years was done on accelerated pace and due to this the famous carpet industry of the district is flourishing across the world and the exports have increased remarkably in the recent time.”

“Earlier, the development work reached a standstill due to increasing influence of criminalisation of politics in the dis-

trict,” the chief minister said without taking any names.

According to him, elimination of criminals in politics and working on the vision of ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas’ has helped the district revive its past glory and march towards prosperity. “Earlier, the politicians were developing their own families only,” he said, adding that the projects launched on Sunday were not done during the last 70 years since Independence. He said Congress, Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party had only given patronage to criminals and developed their own family. Praising the prime minister, Yogi said that today various beautification works were started in Bhadohi on the birthday of Sant Ravidas apart from development of the birthplace of Nishadraj. “What was the condition of river Ganga seven years ago and how it seems today,” he asked the people, adding that under the Namami Ganga programme, continuous efforts were being made to keep



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addressing the gathering at Bhadohi on Sunday.

the river Ganga clean.

“Before 2017, festivals could not be celebrated in peace but today all the people are enjoying the same,” he said,

adding that the government would continue its efforts to demolish the property of those who built the same by grabbing it from others illegally.

Highlighting the achievements of his government, Yogi said that now the recruitment process was being done fairly and action was being taken

against those agencies showing negligence in the construction works. He said prior to 2017, there were just a few medical colleges in the state but now in

every district a medical college was being opened and such colleges had already been built in 59 districts and the medical college in Bhadohi would also be completed soon.

“Today everyone is getting electricity, the poor are getting free treatment, the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya is going on and more than 100 crore people have got free Covid vaccine,” he said, adding that it became possible only because of Bharatiya Janata Party governments at the Centre and in UP.

Earlier, in Varanasi, the chief minister made a hectic inspection of various projects scheduled to be inaugurated by the prime minister on Monday when the latter would address a public meeting at Mehendiganj. Apart from inspecting the rally venue near the newly-built Ring Road Phase-2 (Package-1), the chief minister also held a meeting with the officers in which senior BJP leaders were also present. Yogi stressed on better

coordination between administration, police and public representatives in order to make the prime minister programme a grand success, without any error. He instructed the officers to check the quality of all the projects to be inaugurated by the prime minister and ensure proper parking and all other arrangements as it was expected that about one lakh people would gather there. He also asked the police officials to take all preventive steps to keep watch on anti-social elements in the entire Varanasi city.

Later, in the late evening hours, Yogi inspected some of the projects to be inaugurated, including parking near Circuit House, Padma Vibhushan Girja Devi Hall at Chaukaghat Cultural Complex and others. Besides, Yogi also offered prayers at Kal Bhairav, Kashi Vishwanath and Annapurna temples and inspected the ongoing progress in the development of Kashi Vishwanath Corridor.

BR Maurya slams oppn for twisting her statement

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bharatiya Janata Party vice president and former governor of Uttarakhand, Baby Rani Maurya, has slammed the opposition parties for twisting her statement on women protection in Uttar Pradesh.

Addressing an event in Uttar Pradesh recently, Maurya had said, “A women officer and a sub-inspector sit at the police station. But I will say one thing -- never go to the police station after 5 pm, after it gets dark. Go the next morning. If it is extremely necessary to go, take along your brother, husband, or father.”

Following this comment, opposition party leaders slammed Maurya for her comments. Aam Aadmi Party Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh, attaching news related to this topic, said in a tweet, “Beti Bachao” (save the girl child). Samajwadi Party leaders also slammed the statement.

Replying to opposition charge, Baby Rani Maurya said, “I was in a Dalit settlement in Varanasi recently on the occasion of Valmiki Jayanti.

There were Dalit sisters as well as Muslim sisters in that programme. I was giving them information about Chief Minister Yogi ji’s and PM Modi ji’s government schemes.”

Number of medical colleges in UP nearing century-mark

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Yogi Adityanath government is going to set a new record on Monday from Siddharth Nagar when Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate nine new state medical colleges.

Uttar Pradesh will become the only state in the country to inaugurate nine medical colleges simultaneously. It will boost the health infrastructure in a big way as this endeavour will augment more than 3,000 hospital beds and 900 seats of MBBS in a single day.

This is in line with the resolve of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to establish medical colleges in all 75 districts of the state. Before 2017, there were a dozen medical colleges in the state, and in just four and a half years, UP is on the way to create a new record with a number of new medical colleges coming up.

Making the above claims here on Sunday, a government spokesman said that in UP, the government had already started seven state medical colleges between 2017 and 2021 followed by nine medical colleges to be inaugurated on Monday.

He said there were 14 new medical colleges in the pipeline, to be set up in Amethi, Auraiya, Bijnor, Bulandshahr, Chandauli, Gonda, Kanpur Dehat, Kaushambi, Kushinagar, Lakhimpur Kheri, Lalitpur, Pilibhit, Sonbhadra and Sultanpur districts by 2022-23. Apart from existing 30 pri-

Cluster Model 2.0 to boost 2nd vax dose coverage in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After successfully administering the first dose of the Covid vaccine to over 65 per cent of the total eligible population, the Uttar Pradesh government will now adopt the Cluster Model 2.0 to improve the second dose coverage in the state.

Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad in his directive to health officials said, “In addition to the current strategy, additional efforts are required to achieve the desired target. Giving priority to the full vaccination, the work of administering the second dose using the Cluster Model 2.0 should be done in those villages/localities where the first dose was successfully administered through the cluster model.”

The state-wide launch of the cluster model earlier in June for the Covid vaccination drive made the task easy, equitable, and seamless, eliminating crucial roadblocks like transport and the digital divide. Ensuring that no section is left under this massive vaccination campaign, the UP government has instructed the officials to cover each and every-

one in getting their second doses in a hassle-free manner.

By the cluster strategy, till October 24, 2021, about 65 per cent of the beneficiaries in the state have been covered with the first dose and 20 per cent of the beneficiaries with the second dose. The state has contributed 12.54 crore doses in achieving the target of 100 crore Covid vaccinations by India.

Under the Cluster Model 2.0, action will be ensured as follows: In all the revenue villages of the district, the coverage of the first dose of the Covid vaccine should be assessed by the lekhpals. This will be an independent assessment that will provide reliable data.

Based on the assessment, all the villages will be divided into three categories -- (a) villages with 95 per cent or more first dose vaccination, (b) 80 to 95 per cent first dose vaccination and (c) less than 80 per cent of first dose vaccination.

On the basis of this list, the work of vaccination will be prioritised. Villages with more than 95 per cent and 80-95 per cent immunisation will be saturated on

priority. In this way, when a gram panchayat is saturated, the said village would be given the name of “first dose saturated village” and the village head would be honored there. The village which completes both the doses would be named ‘Covid safe village’.

The low achiever villages (category-c) would be saturated at the earliest with the inter-departmental coordination of Panchayati Raj, Education, ICDS, Village Development departments, and under the leadership of gram pradhans.

At the block level, the village category a and b would be prioritised for formulating the Cluster 2.0 approach with the help of partner organisations like WHO, UNICEF, UNDP among others.

For this, arrangements like split session, flexi timing, near to home, CVC would be made.

A mobilisation team consisting of gram pradhan, ASHA and Anganwadi workers, will visit the area on vaccination day, marking the missing beneficiaries, and will motivate them to get vaccinated.

Maharajganj and friendly nation Nepal may also avail excellent medical facilities from the medical colleges established in the eastern UP.

The government medical college in Basti is functional for two years while Siddharthnagar and Deoria will have medical colleges on Monday.

Earlier, five days ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone of a medical college in Kushinagar. In the remaining two districts of the division, Sant Kabir Nagar and Maharajganj, the medical colleges will be set up on PPP model. In another significant development, the AIIMS has also been established in Gorakhpur, which will be inaugurated by the prime minister in the next one and a half months.

The medical college of Siddharthnagar will be after the name of Madhav Prasad Tripathi, medical college of Deoria in the name of Maharishi Devraha Baba, medical college of Ghazipur in the name of Maharishi Vishwamitra, medical college of Mirzapur in the name of Maa Vindhayavasi, medical college of Pratapgarh in the name of Dr Sonelal Patel. The medical college of Etah will be named after Veerangana Avantibai Lodhi, the one in Jaunpur after former minister Umanath Singh and the Fatehpur medical college in the name of Amar Shaheed Jodha Singh Ataiya Thakur Dariyaon Singh.

PM Modi to chair DGPs'conference in Lucknow

Lucknow (PNS): With all political parties gearing up for the assembly elections, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party will get a shot in the arm when Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the All India Conference of Director Generals and Inspector Generals of Police-2022 in the state capital in November.

Preparations are in full swing in Lucknow for the annual conference that is scheduled to be held from November 20 to 22. The conference was held virtually in the year 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference organised by the Intelligence Bureau will be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. It will be attended by Director Generals of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), Central investigation agencies, National Security Agency (NSA) and state Director Generals of Police (DGPs).

In the three-day conference, various sessions will be held to discuss modernisation of police, terrorism and internal security. A senior official said that it would be the first time when a conference would be chaired by the prime minister for which police heads from the entire country would be coming to Lucknow.

Question mark on future of BSM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The alliance of Om Prakash Rajbhar-led Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) and Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party has put a question mark on the future of the Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha (BSM), a conglomerate of 10 very small regional and caste-based groups.

The BSM floated by Om Prakash Rajbhar also includes the Hyderabad-based All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) led by Asaduddin Owaisi.

The BSM has given a call for a rally of the morcha at Ballia on October 27. Samajwadi Party will also participate in the rally. The BSM has, however, prohibited the use of flags of the Samajwadi Party in the rally. The BSM is silent on the participation of the AIMIM in the rally. AIMIM was among the first political parties to join the BSM showing faith in the leadership of Om Prakash Rajbhar.

The BSM was formed and nurtured with the idea of carving a base among the most and extremely backward classes (MBCs and EBCs) to establish their identity away from dominant backward classes and ensure their representation in power politics.

After the alliance with the Samajwadi Party, the political credibility of Rajbhar is again under the scanner as after assembling 10 smaller parties under the BSM umbrella, he changed course suddenly and shook hands with the SP leaving other members of the BSM, including the AIMIM, to fend for themselves.

Rajbhar floated the SBSP before the 2017 polls and made common

cause with the Bharatiya Janata Party. The BJP-SBSP partnership enabled Rajbhar to expand his clout in east UP, beyond Varanasi and Gorakhpur, in 2017. In 2012, Rajbhar’s party had contested around 50 seats, winning none, but in 2017, he along with the BJP fought nine seats, winning four of them.

The alliance fell apart after the 2019 Lok Sabha elections and Rajbhar was dismissed from the Yogi Adityanath cabinet.

Besides the fate of the constituents of the BSM, Samajwadi Party also faces an uphill task of striking a balance with the dominant Yadavs and the EBCs and MBCs represented by Om Prakash Rajbhar and BSM.

Akhilesh Yadav has promised Rajbhar that the social justice committee’s recommendations providing separate quotas for the EBCs and MBCs within the 27 per cent quota for the OBCs would be implemented.

Rajbhar is also facing the challenge of striking a balance. After alliance with the Samajwadi Party, Rajbhar will have to part company with the constituent parties in the BSM. Rajbhar will also have to split from Owaisi’s All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen. Owaisi, in his campaign in Uttar Pradesh, is targeting the Samajwadi Party. Owaisi is specifically targeting Akhilesh Yadav for using Muslims as vote banks and doing nothing for their welfare.

For Owaisi, it is going to be difficult to remain in alliance with the BSM. Sources close to Owaisi said the AIMIM and Jan Adhikar Party chief Babu Singh Kushwaha may part ways with the BSM after the SBSP-SP alliance.

Ashish Mishra admitted to hosp after testing positive for dengue

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Union minister Ajay Kumar Mishra’s son Ashish Mishra, who is currently on two police custody remands and had to be lodged back in district jail, has been shifted to a government hospital after he reportedly tested positive for dengue.

Ashish Mishra has tested positive for dengue, confirmed a senior police officer.

Blood samples of the Union minister’s son were sent to the laboratory twice for tests recently. On Saturday, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) lodged him back in the district jail.

Mishra was arrested on October 9 in connection with the violence that was triggered after he allegedly ran his car over protesting farmers in Tikunia in Lakhimpur Kheri. Farmers had claimed that Ashish Mishra was in one of the vehicles, an allegation denied by him and his father who say they could produce evidence to prove Ashish was at an event at that time.

The SIT first took Ashish in three days’ police custody and lodged him back in the jail. On Friday, they again got his two-day police custody remand along with three other accused.

The SIT on Saturday arrested three people who were allegedly in one of the SUVs that drove into a group of protesters on October 3, killing four farmers. A journalist was also killed in the incident.

The SIT identified those arrested as Mohit Trivedi, Rinku Rana and

Dharmendra, all of whom are from Lakhimpur Kheri. With this, the number of people arrested in connection with the killing of the farmers and the journalist rose to 13.

“We have almost arrested all the accused found involved in the killing of farmers and a journalist. If any other name comes up then we will take action against them also. We are also collecting electronic evidence against the accused,” a SIT officer said.

The investigating agency produced the three before a local court that sent them to judicial custody. The court is likely to hear the SIT’s application for a 14-day custody remand of the three on Monday, according to a police officer. “The arrested persons were in the back seat of a Scorpio,” said a police officer.

The other two vehicles involved in the incident were a Mahindra Thar belonging to Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra whose son Ashish is the prime accused in the case, and a Fortuner owned by Ankit Das, who is the nephew of former Union minister Akhilesh Das. Both Ashish and Ankit are among those arrested.

Sources said the SIT came to know about the involvement of Trivedi, Rana and Dharmendra while questioning Shishu Pal who allegedly drove the Scorpio. The police had recovered the car in the district on Friday based on information that Shishu Pal provided.

The police refused to say who owns the Scorpio.

The Mahindra Thar and the

Fortuner were damaged and set ablaze in the violence triggered by the mowing down of the five people. Hari Om Mishra, who died in violence, was driving the Thar while Shekhar Bharti, who is among the 13 arrested, was driving the Fortuner, said a police officer.

The SIT has so far got the statements of more than 20 witnesses recorded before a magistrate.

The SIT said it had given momentum to its investigation into the killing of Hari Om Mishra and two Bharatiya Janata Party workers, and added that it was recording statements of witnesses at present.

The three were killed after the cars drove over the farmers. The police recently released six photographs of the violence and requested the public to provide information. “We have received a few pieces of information, and are presently verifying them,” the SIT officer added.

Meanwhile, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) has given a call for country-wide protests on October 26 to press for the dismissal and arrest of Union Minister Ajay Mishra in connection with the Lakhimpur violence, and also to mark the completion of 11 months of farmers’ agitation. The SKM also decided to postpone its Mahapanchayat in Lucknow, which was earlier scheduled to be held on October 26, to November 22.

In the statement, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha also clarified that Bhartiya Sikh Sangathan (led by Jasbir Singh Virk) had never been and would not be a part of SKM.

CPI (ML) criticises saffron party workers

Lucknow (PNS): The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) criticised the state government for giving a free hand to Bharatiya Janata Party, Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal workers who allegedly took law in their hand and attempted to disturb the communal harmony in Mirzapur on Friday.

On Friday, a vendor of the majority community was thrashed by a man of the minority community in the Adalhat locality of the district. As the news spread, BJP, VHP and Bajrang Dal workers assembled at the scene and demanded the arrest of culprits.

The CPI (ML) said the BJP, VHP and Bajrang Dal workers used the incident as a ploy to flare up the communal tension in the locality and thus committed the criminal act in the guise of pressing their demand of arrest of accused who beat the vendor.

“The BJP, VHP and Bajrang Dal workers in a huge number attacked the houses in minority dominated Garauri village in which the accused of the vendor thrashing case stays. The attackers were resisted by the residents of the minority dominated village and this created a communal tension in the area. Interestingly, the police and administration turned a blind eye at the time of attack at the village,” CPI (ML) state

secretary Sudhakar Yadav alleged. In a statement, Yadav said the VHP and Bajrang Dal workers on Saturday blocked the road in Adalhat locality and demanded arrest of the accused in the incident, again creating tension in the locality. “The man of the minority community had mercilessly thrashed the vendor of the majority community on Friday and had caused him to suffer critical injuries. Later the BJP, VHP and Bajrang Dal workers attacked the village of the accused person for revenge but the police did not intervene in any way,” Yadav alleged.

He said the police did not initiate action against those who thrashed the victim vendor nor did they initiate any action against those who attempted to disturb communal harmony.

Awshayak Suchna

Aap sabhi mahanubhav ko suchit kiya jata hai ki karwahi dinank 20.10.2021 ko prastay parit hua hai ki dinank 14.01.2022 ko Madarsa Mohammadia Faize Rasool Pipra Kanak Boda Tola Kushnagar ke sadharan sabha aur prabandhar samiti ka karya kaal samapti hone wala hai is liye dinank 01.11.2021 se 01.12.2021 tak madarsa prangad men shulk lekar vaidh sadasya bana liya jaye ichuk vayakti shulk jama kar raseed prapt kar len jinke dwara chunao karaya jayega.

Nivedak
Riyaz Ahmad
(Sadasya)
Madarsa Mohammadia Faize Rasool
Pipra Kanak Boda Tola Kushnagar

Reactivate surveillance committees to check vector-borne diseases: CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The surveillance committees constituted by the Yogi Adityanath government to check the spread of novel coronavirus in Uttar Pradesh will be reactivated to also check the spread of vector-borne diseases such as dengue, cholera, diarrhoea and malaria in the state. To ensure proper surveillance through these committees that played a vital role in timely identification, isolation of COVID-19 patients and distribution of medicine kits, thereby controlling the spread of coronavirus infection in the state, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has issued directives to reactivate them in view of rising cases of infections in other states.

In pursuance of the directives of the chief minister, over 73,000 surveillance committees will pay door-to-door visits and conduct thorough screening and tracing of every individual. The surveillance exercise will be carried out rigorously in view of the festive season which may result in increased transmission of diseases and illnesses.

Apart from making all necessary arrangements in hospitals for the treatment of ailing people, the government has also ordered continuous monitoring of the health of every patient to remove any chance of increased transmission of the virus or any water-borne, vector-borne diseases.

The authorities have also been asked to continue extensive cleanliness, sanitisation and fogging drives to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases. Aiming to break the chain of coronavirus, the Yogi government had deployed around 73,000 surveillance committees. House to house visits were undertaken in a mammoth drive in over 90,000

Gold bangle stolen by women pretending to be customers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two women stole a gold bangle from a shop in Manak Nagar police station area while pretending to be customers. The incident took place on October 19 and the case was registered on October 22. Shop manager Shailendra lodged a case in this connection. As per reports, the women reached the shop around 5 pm and asked salesman Neeraj to show them gold bangles. Neeraj showed them a pair of gold bangles which one of the women tried. She later asked Neeraj to show more gold bangles. They stole a bangle when Neeraj turned around to take out bangles of different designs and quietly disappeared from the shop.

In a CCTV footage, a woman was seen wearing both the gold bangles but putting only one back in the tray, Shailendra said.

Meanwhile, a case for reckless driving and causing death due to negligence was registered on Sunday against the driver of a vehicle which mowed down a youth on October 1. The deceased was identified as Saroj Kumar (22) of Soharmau in Unnao. On the fateful day, Saroj Kumar was returning home on a bike. His father Kandhai said Saroj Kumar was hit near Kisan Path by a speeding vehicle and he was declared dead at the Sarojininagar CHC.

SUICIDE

A main suffering from a renal disease ended his life in Mohanlalganj police station area on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Uday Raj of Kalander Kheda locality. Due to the illness, he was unable to work and his family was on the brink of starvation. Uday Raj was depressed as he felt helpless in feeding his family and took the extreme step.

In another incident, a drug addict ended his life in Mohanlalganj. He was identified as Sonu of Jyoti Nagar locality in the area. Reports said Sonu was found hanging from a tree in a vacant plot in the area on Sunday. He was found hanging from the tree with a scarf tied around his neck. Police sent both the bodies for the post-mortem examination.

No Zika virus threat in state after solitary case in Kanpur

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A day after Zika virus was detected in Kanpur, Director General of Medical & Health Services Dr Ved Vrat Singh said there was no case in Lucknow or any other part of the state. He said no alert has been sounded for the virus as it is a lone case but surveillance of dengue cases has been increased in Kanpur and the contacts of the patient were under the watch of health officials. However, the detection of Zika virus has raised concerns because it has never occurred in UP before. It is also rare in other parts of the country and only handful of cases have been found in Kerala.

Dr Singh said Zika is like any other virus and is caused by the same mosquitoes which spread dengue. “This virus can affect pregnant women and cause congenital disorders in babies,” he said.

Head of the Microbiology

villages of UP to identify and isolate novel coronavirus positive people and trace contacts. The effort was also lauded by the World Health Organisation and the NITI Aayog.

The surveillance committees operating both in urban and rural areas had played a vital role in the process of timely identification, isolation and treatment of people showing mild symptoms which stopped any further spread of the infection. Through these committees, screening of more than 18

department of KGMU Dr Amita Jain said that under the surveillance exercise for dengue in Lucknow, there has been no trace of Zika virus. “Zika virus is like the dengue virus and causes fever. It occurs because of mosquito bite,” she said.

Dr Jain said the strains of dengue which they have found in Lucknow are strains 1, 2 and 3, which means they are all the strains of dengue. She categorically pointed out that the different strains have no clinical implications, which means it does not imply that one strain is more infectious than the other, and it is merely epidemiological differentiation.

On Sunday, 24 cases of dengue were detected in the city. The cases were reported from Alambagh, Tudiaganj, Aliganj, Indiranagar, Silver Jubilee and Chinhat. The CMO teams visited 1,407 houses and issued notices to eight houses where dengue

crore people was done in the state. Earlier, on October 19, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had launched a month-long state-wide communicable disease control drive to keep a check on seasonal vagaries. The campaign has been rolled out in all 75 districts to educate the public about measures to prevent communicable diseases. Under this campaign, the health workers are paying door-to-door visits to identify patients with viral fever, vector-borne diseases and other symptoms. People are also

larvae were found. The district malaria officer visited New Haiderganj, Mallahi Tola, Kharika-1 and Chinhat.

Meanwhile, doctors pointed out there are a lot of fallacies and myths associated with dengue. A senior doctor said most of the time when the platelet count starts going down, patients are hospitalised even though it might not be required. “One should not panic and hospitalisation is required only if the platelets have gone down to a considerable level, and there is also bleeding,” he said. He said both Covid and dengue could happen at the same time.

“If people suffer from dengue once, they can have dengue again because it does not offer any immunity,” he pointed out. Asked whether an alternative system of medicine could also be used for dengue, he said whenever a disease has no perfect treatment or no perfect antidote, people tend to try other methods.

being made aware of the need to check mosquito breeding near their homes, keep cleanliness, and fight infectious diseases. In this regard, the government has ordered inter-departmental coordination to make the campaign successful.

It is noteworthy that the lekhpals, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, auxiliary nurse midwives (ANMs) and village heads have been entrusted with the responsibility to apprise the rural populace about various water-borne and vector-borne diseases and control their spread.

Former minister, accused of land fraud

Lucknow (PNS): Former minister for state in Samajwadi Party government Mohd Iqbal, his cousin and Ghaila village gram pradhan Ubaid, and Ubaid's uncle Azmat Ali were named in a case of land fraud in Wazirganj.

The complainant, Amit Mehrotra of Saadatganj, alleged that the accused duped him of Rs 22 lakh in the name of a land which they never registered in his name.

As per Mehrotra, the deal was struck for Rs 32 lakh by Ubaid, who showed him a piece of land in Ghaila village. Ubaid told Mehrotra that he, Iqbal and Azmat were joint owners of the land.

After the deal was finalised, Mehrotra paid Rs 22 lakh in the presence of his counsel Mirza Mazhar Abbas and Sahab in 2010. However, Iqbal and Azmat did not sign on the agreement paper, saying they would do it after the remaining amount was paid at the time of registration. A year later, Mehrotra went to meet Ubaid for registration the land in his name and take the remaining sum of Rs 10 lakh from him.

He alleged that Ubaid and others opted for dilly-dallying tactics and gave him a cheque of Rs 22 lakh, saying they did not want to sell the land.

In the meantime, Iqbal was appointed as the minister in the erstwhile SP government, and I was threatened for insisting on registration of the land,” he said. Mehrotra said he inquired about the land and was told by the villagers that the accused had grabbed lands in different localities in the city where they had opened showrooms and garments shops.

Mehrotra said he decided to encash the cheque given by Ubaid even though he had suffered a major financial setback in the deal. “However, the cheque was dishonoured by the bank,” he said. Mehrotra said he feared being killed at the hands of Iqbal, Azmat and Ubaid.

In another case, Dharmendra Maurya of Krishna Nagar lodged a case against an unidentified accused, alleging that the latter withdrew Rs 4,500 from his bank account. He further said that he had his ATM card with him and the accused cloning to withdraw money from his account.

Doctors discuss advances in MRI

Lucknow (PNS): The department of Radiodiagnosis, King George's Medical University, hosted a CME on 'Advances in MRI' on Sunday and it featured notable speakers from across the country. According to Dr Neera Kohli, the CME was organised with a view to updating the radiologists in newer applications of MRI, especially in foetal brain, and infant brain, adult heart and lung MRI were discussed. Techniques to reduce time in MRI with reduced noise were also discussed.

KGMU Vice-Chancellor Dr



Women performing puja before breaking Karwa Chauth fast on Sunday

Pioneer

Covid-19: Focused testing begins for second time

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

Focused testing has begun for coronavirus in Lucknow for the second time to ensure effective surveillance during the festive period of Diwali and Chhath. District Surveillance Officer Dr Milind Wardhan said focused testing for Covid was carried out for the first time from October 11 to 15, and it would now be conducted till November 2, as per the calendar provided by the state government.

On October 24 (Sunday), the focused testing was carried out in jails, including temporary jails, juvenile homes, Nari Niketan and old age homes, and samples of the staff and inmates were collected.

On October 25, the focused testing will be carried out in government establishments, including the offices where there is a possibility of the presence of interstate travellers. On October 26, the focus areas will be malls where lift operators, security staff, shop-owners, etc will be tested. However, customers will not be tested in the mall.

On October 27, auto/tempo drivers, bus drivers conductors and rickshaw-pullers will be tested. On October 28, the focus areas will be weekly markets and rural markets.

On October 29, shops selling electrical goods, utensils, vehicles etc will be surveilled while on October 30, closed campuses will be targeted.

On October 31, focused testing will be carried out in the sarrafa markets while on November 1, sweet shops and places of worship will be surveilled. In the places of worship, cleaning staff, priests, guides and nearby market staff will be tested. On November 2, the focus will be on cracker markets, vendors and sculptors.

Dr Wardhan said they have found only Delta variants in the genome sequencing carried out in Lucknow so far.

Meanwhile, secretary of Organised Medicine Academic Guild Dr Ishwar Gilada said there appears to be a lull in the Covid storm across the country. “Only West Bengal and Odisha have witnessed some hike, possibly after Durga Puja

but the numbers are low,” he pointed out.

He said that the corona infection was controlled in Uttar Pradesh but there was a need to vaccinate more people.

He said if there was no new variant of the virus, it would become endemic after three to four months. “It means that it will show in some pockets of the state while the other pockets will remain unaffected,” he explained.

However, he pointed out that the Delta plus variant was leading to a increase in the cases in the UK. “Since the world is a global village, the variant can pass from one country to another and hence it is difficult to say when the world will become Covid-free,” he added.

Dr Gilada said that globally, 77 percent vaccination was required for the world and African countries were being supported in a major way by India. “It is still important to wear masks and of all the containment methods, masking up is the easiest. There should be some enforcement and regulation to see that people mask up,” he added.



Police conducting a vehicle checking drive at Natha crossing in Lucknow on Sunday

Pioneer

Kher, Badshah to perform at Deepawali Mela

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Singers Badshah and Kailash Kher will be performing at the 'Deepawali Mela' being organised by Nagar Nigam and district administration from October 28 to November 2 at Jhulelal Park.

Municipal Commissioner AK Dwivedi said that under the main cultural programmes, the main attraction would be a laser show, Gomti aarti and 'phoolon ki Holi' by Geetanjali Sharma on October 28. Comedians Raju Srivastava and Sunil Pal will perform at the 'Comedy nite'

on October 29. Kailash Kher will perform at the 'Spiritual nite' on October 30, Badshah at the 'Bollywood nite' on October 31 and Malini Awasthi at the 'Folk nite' on November 1. There will be a 'Kavi Sammelan' on November 2 while one lakh diyas made from cow dung will be lighted on the banks of the river on November 3.

Dwivedi said that the street vendors would be provided a platform to sell their wares and it would be specially designated for them. He said there would be various activities like entertainment and cultural pro-

grammes to attract the crowds.

In a meeting with the Town Vending Committee, it was decided that there will be 800 stalls of 100 vendors from each zone under Nagar Nigam and the stalls will be selected through coordination of the zonal officers so that the maximum vendors can benefit.

The stalls will be put up for the work being done for the welfare of street vendors, such as the PM Swanidhi, registration under Labour department and stalls of banks for procuring loans. A special campaign will be held on pilot basis for digital boarding.

Stress on pausing and cleaning immediate environment

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH) organised a webinar series under the aegis of 'Special Swachhata Campaign'. CISH director Dr Shailendra Rajan discussed the importance of pausing and cleaning immediate environment in order to contribute to the restoration of ecological balance. Dr Neelima Garg delivered the first lecture on micro-

bial technologies for waste to wealth conversion. She outlined the methods for converting fruit waste into a variety of products with high economic value.

The second speaker was Dr HS Singh, who spoke on 'Agro ecosystem cleanliness - Do we have alternative pesticides?' He questioned the availability of safe molecules that could serve as an alternative to harmful pesticides, as well as the use of natural agro-ecosystem ser-

vices. Alternatives to chemicals for pest management were discussed, beginning with innovations at the level of government-funded organisations and farmers' fields. Many simple cultural methods can reduce pest population, resulting in a significant reduction in the quantity and frequency of insecticides used on the crop. Several botanicals have been identified as potential pesticide alternatives, but finding them on the market is difficult.

Several pests, such as mealybug on papaya, have been introduced into the Indian cultivation system as a result of carelessness when importing the material.

Many institutions are working on integrated pest management (IPM) practices, but farmers are not adopting them because they do not provide the same benefits as organic produce. Because their products are mostly non-organic, they don't have to worry about

crop loss from non-chemical pest control methods, the speakers said. Dr Rajan stated it is necessary to make IPM technology sustainable, which can only be accomplished if farmers receive better returns for their produce by using pesticide alternatives. He said that there should be a price difference between organic and conventionally produced products. “The concept of a family farmer may be useful in ensuring the long-term viability of

IPM. Consumer-farmer relationships can help you get a better price for IPM technology adoption as well as produce safe fruits and vegetables. Incentives such as paying a higher price for IPM products will encourage low-input farming and pave the way for pesticide alternatives. Farmers' livelihood will improve as a result, and more research into alternative pest management methods will begin. As IPM technologies become more

widely adopted, more research will be conducted, resulting in new start-ups and entrepreneurs. Many start-ups could spring up in urban areas of big cities like Delhi and Lucknow to produce vegetables using alternative methods. Start-ups will be concerned not only with production but also with the supply chain and market position. By utilising available public infrastructure and manpower, businesses can start up and create jobs,” he said.

BLW registers 61.5 pc growth



GM Anjali Goyal, along with officers, at a newly-produced WAG9 loco at BLW in Varanasi.

Pioneer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the leadership of General Manager (GM) Anjali Goyal, Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) is constantly touching new heights. Despite the corona pandemic, BLW is fulfilling the target given by the Railway Board in loco production with the continued sincere efforts of the officers and employees following the Covid protocol.

This achievement is commendable as even though BLW employees were severely affected by the corona as about 25 per cent of them infected positive in the second wave of COVID-19, all activities were done with 50 per cent of employee capacity. Despite these adverse circumstances, BLW has produced 64 more locomotives, registering a 61.5 per cent increase between April and September last in compar-

ison to the same corresponding months last year. Not only this, about 98 per cent indigenous equipment has been used in the loco production, responding to the Prime Minister's Self-Reliant India Mission apart from helping the MSME and domestic manufacturing sector a lot.

Besides, in response to the world's largest free Covid vaccination campaign in which the country has already crossed

remarkable 100-crore vaccination mark, BLW with the support of its medical team also set a new record by administering more than 1,23,000 vaccine doses, which is the highest in a single centre in Varanasi. This record is unique in itself, which shows the dedication of the doctors, officers and employees of BLW towards the general public. In this campaign, special facilities of vaccination are being provided for elderly, pregnant women and specially handicapped under the supervision of specialist doctors of BLW.

Not only this, in response to the Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana (RKVY) launched by Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnav on September 17 last, to help the local youth get skilled and employable industry-based training through railway training institutes in which a total of 50,000 youths will be trained in the next three years through 75 Railway training institutes across the country, BLW has been designated as the nodal agency for making the syllabus and evaluation process for training.

In this direction, BLW has already distributed toolkits and certificates to the first batch trained in four technical trades (Electrician, Fitter, Machinist and Welder) after completing training on October 13 last.



Married women pray for the well-being of their husbands during the Hindu festival of Karva Chauth, inside a temple in Prayagraj on Sunday

Pioneer

Investigation officer can't question rape victim after her statement to magistrate: HC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Allahabad High Court has held that once the victim/prosecutrix in a rape case has recorded her statement before the magistrate and it is different from her statement recorded before the investigation officer (IO), the IO cannot interrogate her again and put specific questions to her pertaining to the two different versions given by her in the two statements.

In such a situation, the IO also cannot record her statements and proceed with the investigation further, the court added.

In the matters in hand, the prosecutrix/victim after giving

her statement under Section 161 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) before the IO levelling allegations of rape against the accused, had changed her version later in her statement recorded under Section 164 of the Code before the magistrate.

The IO then recorded the statement of the prosecutrix/victim again under Section 161 of the Code and put specific questions to her with regards to the said variations in her statements and recorded her answers to the said questions.

Giving this judgement, Justice Samit Gopal observed, "The statement made by the prosecutrix/victim under section 164 of the Code before the

magistrate stands on a high pedestal and sanctity during the course of investigation than that of her statement recorded under section 161 of the Code by the investigating officer."

The court observed, "The act of putting specific questions pertaining to the variations in the said two statements by the investigating officer is viewed with an impression of clearly challenging the authority of a judicial act. The IOs have clearly exceeded their jurisdiction by proceedings to investigate in such a manner. The same appears to be with a sole purpose to frustrate the statements recorded by a magistrate."

While deciding this specific point in its judgment dated October 1, the court directed the UP DGP to look into the said new trend of investigation and issue suitable guidelines so that the sanctity and authority of the judicial proceedings are maintained and they should not be frustrated by any act done during investigation.

Besides, the court also directed the Registrar (Compliance) of this court and the state government counsel to communicate this order to the DGP, UP, Lucknow for its compliance and necessary action within a period of one month and submit a compliance report within one week thereafter.

Followers of Ravi Das take out march

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Accusing the district administration and implementing agency for not sticking to its promise to preserve and beautify the Sri Guru Ravidas Chabutra Panchayati, the followers of the great Saint Ravi Das on Sunday took out a march from Maidagin to Chowk demanding, "The district administration should make ensure its beauty by preserving its original existence."

The followers of Guru Ravi Das gathered at Sri Guru Ravi Das Pratham Updesh Sthal in Maidagin and took out a march under the banner of Sri Guru Ravi Das Aitihashik Sthal Bachao Sangharsh Samiti which culminated at Sri Guru Ravi Das Chabutra Panchayati Chowk in Chowk.

Acharya/Seer of Sri Guru



Guru Ravidas followers taking out a procession in Varanasi on Sunday.

Pioneer

Ravi Das Janm Sthan Mandir / Ashram, Seergoverdhanpur Bharat Bhushan Das charged that the officers in the district administration and implementing agency had assured of preserv-

ing and beautifying the Chabutra when the building of the followers of Guru Ravi Das were acquired for the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor but the officers concerned did not stick to its promise.

What about to say to preserve the Chabutra or make its beautification, the attempts were made to destroy its existence, the followers charged adding that the PM, the Governor, the CM and senior administrative officers were apprised of it but none paid attention towards this.

The attempt of the implementing agency to end the existence of this Chabutra which is sacred for them and moreover the deaf ear paid by the officers and others have caused the resentment among the followers of Guru Ravi Das, the seer said and urged the CM and officers to ensure the preservation and beautification of the sacred Chabutra.

Prominent among those who joined the march included Mohan Das, Vidhi Bhushan Das, Kamal Das Brahmchari and Ram Vilash.

Restoration of Assi, Varuna discussed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The two-day 2nd International Conference on the theme 'Talks of the Tributaries: Rivers Varuna and Assi in the middle Ganga Basin' concluded in a hybrid (virtual as well as physical) mode at Annie Besant Lecture Theatre on Saturday in collaboration with the Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University), National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, C-Ganga, IC-IMPACTS and 2030 Water Resource Group (2030 WRG). It was participated by experts from the IITs of Roorkee, Delhi, Kanpur, Guwahati apart from MNIT Allahabad, NIT Patna,

MMMUT Gorakhpur, BBAU Lucknow, RMLAU Ayodhya and REC Azamgarh. The international experts from France, Australia, Canada, Israel, Thailand, South Korea etc were also involved. All stakeholders including government departments, NMCG, State Mission for Clean Ganga (SMCG), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), National Research Institutes such as NEERI, Municipal agencies like MGNREGA, Irrigation department (UP) and civil society representatives took part. The broad social and environmental aim of the conference was to seek national and international expert advice and finalise a practical course of action to restore the health of two tributaries, rivers Varuna

and Assi in middle Ganga Basin near Varanasi. As a first step towards the larger objective, two ghats including Shashtri ghat (on Varuna) and Sankat Mochan ghat (on Assi) have been selected and proposed to be developed for bathing purposes.

During the conference, the speakers said that it is extremely important to identify the major pollution issues in Varuna and Assi rivers and involve them in rejuvenation activities. For this the causative critical data for pollution, facts and figures need to be matched and analysed. Speakers said that ideas/proposals/concepts would be invited from both domestic and international experts to learn about tools, approaches to clean rivers across the world that can be

applied to these tributaries. Along with this, assessment of new and contemporary technologies is also necessary for the rejuvenation of rivers.

In the conference, Rajiv Ranjan, Director General, NMCG, Ministry of Jal Shakti told about the programmes of NMCG. Prof Harvey PJ, CNRS, France expressed concern for the health of the rivers and expressed their desire to work together. GPS Rathore, Chairman, UPPCB discussed the work being done towards cleanliness in river Varuna. The convenor of the programme was Prof PK Singh and the co-convenors Dr Anurag Ohri and Dr Shishir Gaur. The guests were welcomed by Prof PKS Dixit, head of the Department of Civil Engineering, IIT (BHU).

Malini gives musical tribute to 'Guru' Girja Devi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The music festival 'Pushpanjali', being organised in three cities dedicated to the famous vocalist Padma Vibhushan late Girija Devi, had a grand opening on Saturday evening at Rudraksh Convention Centre here. Padmashree Malini Awasthi, senior disciple of Girija Devi and her favorite accompanist, along with senior artists Pt Kameshwar Nath Mishra (tabla) and Pt Dharmanath Mishra (harmonium) inaugurated the ceremony by lighting the lamp.

While remembering her Guru at the ceremony, Malini Awasthi, a well-known folk singer, said that she was blessed visiting the soil where the great artist was born and expressed her happiness participating in the being organised on the eve of death anniversary of Girja Devi alias Appaji. According to her, the event was scheduled to be held on May 8 last year on



Malini Awasthi paying musical tributes to her Guru Girja Devi at Rudraksh in Varanasi on Saturday evening.

Pioneer

Appaji's birth anniversary but due to the Corona crisis it could not be organised on the occasions last year and even this year. She suggested organising Thumri Mahotsav every year to revive the branch of school popularised by Appaji and in the memory of Ustad Bismillah Khan, Sitara Devi, Pandit Kishan Maharaj, Pandit Gudi Maharaj and others.

While welcoming the participants Tarun Raj gave

detailed views regarding the event and the activities. He said that 'Pushpanjali' was organised to pay homage to Girija Devi and would also be organised in Prayagraj and Lucknow on October 27 and October 31 respectively. The programme was conducted by Preetesh Acharya.

In the programme, other prominent disciple of Girja Devi Mansi Majumdar (Kolkata) also present her pro-

gramme apart from famous singer of Rampur Sahaswan Gharana Ustad Rashid Khan (Kolkata), who also had a great association with Girija Devi during her stay in Kolkata and in ITC Music Research Centre. The artists were supported by Ram Kumar Mishra and Kubera Mishra on tabla, Murad Ali on sarangi, Armaan Khan accompanied in singing while Pandit Dharmanath Mishra and Vinay Mishra sang on harmonium.

Cong leader's video goes viral

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The relationship between senior Congress leader Pramod Tiwari and the controversy is increasing continuously. In a fresh move, the congress leader Pramod Tiwari, named in the case of clash with Bharatiya Janata Party MP Sangam Lal Gupta at an event in Pratapgargh last month has commented that "Police ki aisi ki taisi". The video of his statement is becoming quite viral on the internet.

The video of former Congress Rajya Sabha member Pramod Tiwari's indecent

remarks on the police, who was present during the departure programme of Congress's 'Pratigya Yatra' in Varanasi on Saturday went viral. Tiwari is making indecent remarks for the police in the video. It is not clear where the video is from, but in a conversation with one of his supporters, it is coming out of the mouth of the former Rajya Sabha member that - "Police ki aisi ki taisi". He is saying this twice.

Pramod Tiwari said that he had gone to mourn the Verma family located in Deum village of Sangipur, Pratapgargh. Their relatives started crying. The son

of the deceased said that the police are not taking any action in the matter. On this I said, leave it like this. We do something by talking. I didn't tell this to the police but asked for that matter. This is not an insult, he added.

Earlier, on September 25, several cases were registered by the police against Pramod Tiwari and his daughter and Rampur Khas MLA Aradhana Mishra Mona after the assault in the Garib Kalyan Mela held at Sangramgargh block of Pratapgargh.

Pramod Tiwari had also gone to the Lucknow Bench of

the Allahabad High Court regarding this matter, but the FIR was not dismissed. Police have registered five FIRs against Congress leader Pramod Tiwari, his MLA daughter Aradhana Mishra Mona and supporters. An FIR was also registered on the day of the incident. Apart from this, the police have also registered a case against 27 named and 50 unknown. Here the effect of the ruckus that lasted for about an hour lasted for two days. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took cognizance of the incident. After this, Lalganj CO Jajmohan was suspended.

Cop suspended for protecting accused in Shine city scandal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Action is being initiated against police officers for allegedly protecting the prime accused and his associates in the Shine City scandal of crores of rupees here in Prayagraj. The then Inspector of Civil lines police station Ravindra Pratap Singh has been placed under suspension, while the same recommendation has been made against then investigation officer Rajesh Kumar Singh who is at present serving the GRP. The Prayagraj DIG initiated this step after reports that

the above police officers, instead of arresting the accused, provided all possible lease to them, and they could not be nabbed even after more than one year of FIR against them at Civil Lines police station.

Real estate traders Rashid Naseem and Asif Naseem had grabbed crores of rupees of the investors in the name Shine City project. An FIR had been lodged against them with the Civil Lines police station on September 30, 2020 for this fraud. Besides the above two prime accused some more, including Mohammad Jasim

Khan, Neeraj Srivastava, and Javed Iqbal had been named in the FIR.

After registering the FIR, investigation had been handed over to the then Civil Lines Police Out Post incharge Rajesh Kumar Singh, but barring two, the police did not lay its hand on any of the prime accused for reasons best known to Rajesh Kumar Singh and Ravindra Pratap Singh in this multi-crore rupees fraud.

Seeing the attitude of the Civil Lines police, the matter was later handed over to the crime branch, and now the

Economic Offence Wing has also been involved to do justice. The officers are now of the view that the Civil Lines police kept on extending opportunities to the influential accused instead of sending them behind the bars.

YOUTH FOUND DEAD: The body of a 28-year-old youth was found in a pool of blood near the boundary wall of a brick kiln outside Kaima village of Mohabbatpur Pinsa area in the neighboring district of Kaushambi. He was murdered by a blow to the head with a brick.

Zika virus case detected in Kanpur, preventive measures taken: CMO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur's Chief Medical Officer Dr Nepal Singh, on Sunday, said a Zika virus case had been detected on Saturday and the sample of the identified case had been sent to the King George's Medical University in Lucknow for testing.

He said that 10 medical teams had been rushed to the area and preventive measures had been taken, including spraying of larvicidal in the entire surrounding area.

The CMO said all efforts were being made to ensure that there was no spread of Zika virus disease caused by a virus transmitted primarily by Aedes mosquitoes, which bite during the day. He said as it was a vector-borne disease, preventive measures were very important and with the support of Kanpur

Nagar Nigam, cleanliness drive had been carried out and would be taken up in all the affected areas of the city.

He said Zika virus was a mosquito-borne flavivirus that was antigenically and structurally similar to the viruses that caused dengue and its infection was typically asymptomatic but could cause fever, rash, joint pain, or conjunctivitis.

He cautioned that Zika virus infection during pregnancy could cause serious birth defect, eye abnormalities and a number of developmental impairments known as congenital Zika syndrome. He said infection with Zika virus was also associated with other complications of pregnancy including preterm birth and miscarriage.

The CMO said the golden

adage prevention is better than cure was the thumb rule and advised people to keep their surrounding clean and use mosquito repellent and not allow water to stagnate around their residences. He said this was mainly due to the rise in mosquitoes at the end of the monsoon rains.

Dr Singh said during the first week of infection, the Zika virus was present in blood. He said the symptoms include fever, rash, conjunctivitis, joint pain, retro-orbital pain, headache and muscle pain.

He said the symptoms lasted between four and seven days and most of the infections were mild but severe infection required hospitalisation.

He the government was making every effort to protect people from the vector-borne

disease and thus evidence-based guidance for controlling vectors and protecting people against infection was being carried out on a war footing.

He said the medical team was also providing training on clinical management, diagnosis and vector control with support from doctors of the prominent government hospital, especially those associated with medical colleges. He said the potent method was behavioural change and for this the medical team was trying to improve public awareness so that people could know how to protect themselves and their communities from such mosquitoes and other vectors. He said access to water and sanitation was a very important factor in disease control and elimination.

CS an important part of mgmt, administration of company: Gupta

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Noted company secretary and ex-member of regional council, Shashi Kant Gupta, company secretary was an intellectual and thus there was no role of haste in profession which could prove to be a blunder. He said first and foremost was that the company secretary had to remain always well updated on the subject and study each and every document as keenly and possible.

Addressing a workshop, Gupta said such programmes were essential so that they kept the company secretary updated on the frequent changes that kept on occurring in the Act.

He said the company secretary was an important part of the management and administration of the company and as one was the legal representative of a company, managed various regulatory functions, such as company incorporation, preparation and audit of adequate business reports; filing of annual returns; dealing with amended laws regularly, etc.

He said the company secretary was also active as a management consultant on the company's board of directors and guided them in corporate governance, strategic management; project planning, capital market and securities law.

Addressing the gathering company secretary Manoj Gupta said company secretaries were the building blocks of companies and they must carry their duties with reasonable care. He said in addition to the role as legal mentor, company secretary must ensure that all business processes comply with all legal requirements as failure to comply may result in liability for wrong doing and termination for dishonesty or violation of the company's legal rights.

He said the major responsibilities were to carry out the incorporation procedure, like validation of documents and procedures used in registration, ensuring the sending of registration data and its distribution to the registrar, submission of application for additional share capital, monitoring data on share certificates allotment and keeping records of share warrant holders.

He said company secretary was in fact a business promoter as the Companies Act granted them special rights to promotion and incorporation of companies and serving audit and certification services; along with signing the annual returns. He said company secretary acted as an auditor: to ensure company discipline and compliance with the law. He said in addition to this the company secretary acted as a consultant for share issuance, preparation of prospectus or sales certificate, loan syndication and documentation.

Others present included Gopesh Sahu, Manoj Yadav, Dhruv Tandon, Vaibhav Agnihotri, AK Katiyar and many more.

Robot to protect, monitor natural gas soon

KANPUR (PNS): Very soon a robot is going to take the responsibility of protecting and monitoring natural gas in the country. Charing with gas inside the pipeline, this 10 kg robot will immediately issue an alert to the monitoring centre on any danger. It has been prepared by the Mechanical Engineering Department of IIT Kanpur on the project of Rs 5 crore received from the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL). Running at a speed of 40 km per hour, this robot will be capable of monitoring the entire line of 1300 km. He will complete this entire journey in seven to eight days. In fact, many times the leakage starts when the gas pipeline bursts and there is a situation of chaos in the populated areas. On receiving the information, the team stops the gas supply from the safety valve. To deal with these situations, GAIL took steps towards strengthening the security mechanism and approached IITs. Professor of Mechanical Engineering Department of IIT Kanpur Bishakh Bhattacharya and his team designed the robot.

Trains to be cancelled, diverted

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Due to operational difficulties caused by possible dense fog and bad weather, cancellation, reduction in frequency and diversion of trains will be done by the railway administration from December 1 to February 28, 2022, CPRO PK Singh said.

CANCELLATION

BARAUNI-AMBALA SPL: The 04534 Barauni-Ambala special to run from Barauni Jn from December 4 to February 26, 2022, and the 04533 Ambala-Barauni special to run from Ambala from December 6 to February 28 will remain cancelled.

ANVT-SMI SPL: The 14006 Anand Vihar Terminus (ANVT) - Sitamarhi (SMI) special to run from ANVT from December 1 to February 28 and the 14005 Sitamarhi-ANVT special to run from Sitamarhi from December 3 to March 2 will remain cancelled.

AF-LJN SPL: The 02180 Agra Fort (AF)-Lucknow Jn (LJN) to run from Agra Fort and 02179 LJN-Agra Fort special to run from LJN will remain cancelled from December 1 to February 28.

LJN-MTC SPL: The 01817 Lucknow Jn-Meerut City (MTC) special train to run from December 1 to February 28 and the 01818 Meerut City-LJN to run from Meerut City from December 2 to March 1 will remain cancelled.

DBRG-LGH SPL: The 05909 Dibrugarh (DBRG)-Lalgarh (LGH) special to run from Dibrugarh from December 1 to February 28 and the 05910 Lalgarh-Dibrugarh special to run from Lalgarh from December 4 to March 3 will remain cancelled.

ASR-JYG SPL: The 04674 Amritsar (ASR)-Jayanagar (JYG) special to run from Amritsar from December 3 to February 27 and the 04673 Jaynagar-Amritsar special to run from Jaynagar from December 4 to February 28 will remain cancelled.

DBRG-CDG SPL: The 05903 Dibrugarh-Chandigarh (CDG) special to run from Dibrugarh from December 6 to February 28 and the 05904 CDG -Dibrugarh special to run from Chandigarh from December 8 to March 2 will remain cancelled.

NTSK-ASR SPL: The 05933 New Tinsukia (NTSK)-Amritsar special to run from New Tinsukia from December 7 to February 22 and 05934 Amritsar-New Tinsukia special from Amritsar from December 10 to February 25 will remain cancelled.

ASR-LKU SPL: The 04684 Amritsar-Lal Kaun special to runn from Amritsar and 04683 Lalkuan-Amritsar special to run from Lalkuan from December 4 to February 26 will remain cancelled.

ASR-GKP SPL: The 04924 Amritsar-Gorakhpur special to run from Amritsar from December 2 to February 24 and 04923 Gorakhpur-Amritsar special to run from Gorakhpur from December 3 to February 25 will remain cancelled.

REDUCTION IN FREQUENCY

DELHI-AMH SPL: The 02226 Delhi-Azamgarh (AMH) special running daily from Delhi on December 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25 and 29, on January 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26 and 29 and on February 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23 and 26 will on every Wednesday and Saturday twice a week remain canceled. The 02225 Azamgarh-Delhi special running daily from Azamgarh on December 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26 and 30, on January 3, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27 and 30 and on February 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24 and 27 will on Thursday and Sunday twice a week be remain cancelled.

SHC-NDLS SPECIAL: The 02553 Saharsa (SHC)-New Delhi special train running daily from Saharsa on December 7, 14, 21 and 28, on January 4, 11, 18 and 25 and on February 1, 8, 15 and 22 on Tuesday once a week will remain cancelled. The 02554 New Delhi-Saharsa special running daily from New Delhi on December 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, on January 5, 12, 19 and 26 and on February 2, 9, 16 and 23 will on Wednesday once a week will remain cancelled.

MFP-ANVT SPL: The 02557 Muzaffarpur-ANVT special running daily from Muzaffarpur on December 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, on January 5, 12, 19 and 26 and February 2, 9, 16 and 23 will on Wednesdays once in a week will remain cancelled. The 02558 ANVT-Muzaffarpur special train running daily from ANVT on December 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 and on January 6, 13, 20 and 27 and on February 3, 10, 17 and 24 will on Thursday once day a week remain cancelled.

JYG-NDLS SPL: The 02561 Jaynagar-New Delhi special running daily from Jaynagar on December 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, on January 6, 13, 20 and 27 and February 3, 10, 17 and 24 on Thursday once a week will remain cancelled. The 02562 New Delhi-JYG special running daily from New Delhi on December 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, on January 7, 14, 21 and 28 and on February 4, 11, 18 and 25 on Friday once day a week will remain cancelled.

BARAUNI-LJN SPL: The 05203 Barauni-Lucknow Jn special running daily from Barauni on December 7, 14, 21 and 28, on January 4, 11, 18 and 25 and on February 1, 8, 15 and 22 will on Tuesday once a week remain cancelled. The 05204 LJN-Barauni special running daily from Lucknow on December 8, 15, 22 and 29, on January 5, 12, 19 and 26, and on February 2, 9, 16 and 23 on Wednesday once a week will remain cancelled.

RXL-ANVT SPL: The 05273 Raxaul-ANVT special running daily from Raxaul on December 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, on January 6, 13, 20 and 27 and on February 3, 10, 17 and 24 once day a week on Thursday will remain cancelled. The 05274 ANVT-Raxaul special running daily from ANVT on December 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, on January 7, 14, 21 and 28 and on February 4, 11, 18 and 25 will remain cancelled on Friday once a week.

GWL-BARAUNI SPL: The 04185 Gwalior (GWL)-Barauni special running daily from Gwalior on December 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27 and 30, on January 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27 and 31 and on February 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24 and 28 will twice a week on Monday and Thursday remain cancelled. The 04186 Barauni-Gwalior special running daily from Barauni on December 3, 7th, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28 and 31, on January 4, 07, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25 and 28, and on February 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22 and 25 and March 1 will on Tuesday and Friday twice a week remain cancelled.

DIVERSION

PATNA-KOTA SPL: The 03237/03239 Patna-Kota special running from Patna on every Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday except Friday from December 1 to February 28 in place of its scheduled route Kanpur-Tundla-Agra-Mathura-Bharatpur, will be run via the diverted route i.e. Kanpur-Farrukhabad-Kasganj-Mathura-Achhnera-Bharatpur.

KOTA-PATNA SPL: The 03238/03240 Kota-Patna special running from Kota on every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday except Saturday from December 1 to February 28 in stead of its scheduled route Bharatpur-Mathura-Agra-Tundla- Kanpur, will be run by being diverted via Bharatpur-Achhnera-Mathura-Kasganj-Farrukhabad-Kanpur-Lucknow.

TWO PAIRS OF TRAINS CANCELLED

Due to the rail line between Bhirakeri-Palia Kalan stations of Lucknow division of NER being damaged by water of Sharda river as a result of heavy rains the following two pairs of trains will remain cancelled for about 12 days or till the water level recedes, CPRO PK Singh said. Consequently the 05361 Bahraich-Mailani (MLN) unreserved special to run from Bahraich, the 05362 Mailani-Bahraich unreserved special to run from Mailani, 05357 Bahraich-Nepalganj Road unreserved special train to run from Bahraich and the 05358 Nepalganj Road-Bahraich unreserved special train to run from Nepalganj Road will remain cancelled till November 2.

12 cases disposed of

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

The Thana Samadhan Diwas organised at all 15 police stations of the district on Saturday in which 12 cases out of 87 were disposed of. DM PK Laxkar and SP AK Singh jointly held meetings at Madihan and Dehat Kotwali police station. At Madihan the DM reached on 10.40 am, found 30 lekhpals absent, directed the official concerned to withhold their one day salary



and issue show cause notices to submit clarification within three days. To check the quality of disposal of case of last Thana Samadhan Divas the DM randomly made a call to an applicant who told that till date no official had visited the spot. The DM directed the official concerned to take action against the team which had to dispose of the case. At Katra Kotwali police station ADM (F&R) and CO city held the meeting, at Vindhychal police station it was held by city magistrate Vinay Kumar Singh. At Dehat Kotwali out of two applications only one could be disposed of on the spot, at Lalganj police sta-

tion out of seven only one could be disposed of while at Jamalpur police station out of four, three cases could be disposed of.

Meanwhile the DM while presiding over the district level Shram Bandhu meeting at the Collectorate on Saturday said mere registration of labourers of unorganised sector was not sufficient but it is the need of the hour that we benefit them with government welfare schemes. He said the departments through which registration was not as per target get help of other departments and achieve it. ALC Suvigya Singh said ₹5,00,70,290 had been deposited under UP Bhawan Evam Sannirman Karmkar Kalyan Adhiniyam which was 48.60 per cent of the financial year 2021-2022. The meeting was also attended by CMO Dr PD Gupta, deputy commissioner, industries, VK Chaudhary and others. Meanwhile at a meeting held at Collectorate the DM directed the officials concerned to complete all arrangements at Deepawali Mela venue timely. He said as per government's decision Deepawali fairs will be organised at one place in urban areas of the district. Such fairs will start from October 28 and conclude on the Diwali day in evening, he said. Shops of those items produced under different government schemes like NRLM, Khadi Gramodyog, Industries department etc will be also set up. The entire arrangements will be to be done by Nagar Palikas in coordination with other agencies concerned. For Mirzapur city the venue was decided at GIC which was inspected by DM and other officials.

Sacrifices of martyrs remembered

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

Police Shaheed Smriti Diwas parade was organised in Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) unit VSTPP, Vindhyanagar, in memory of police personnel martyred while performing their duty during the past one year i.e. September 1, 2020, to August 31, 2021. All Force members and guests present there while remembering the martyred police personnel paid floral tribute to them. Thereafter a two minute silence was observed for the peace of their souls. The parade was organised under the leadership of Senior Commandant, CISF unit, VSTPP Vindhyanagar, Jai Prakash Azad. On the occasion the senior commandant remembered the sacrifices of the martyred police personnel. Executive Director of NTPC



Vindhychal V Sudarshan Babu was the chief guest at the parade. General Manager (Operations and Maintenance) Somesh Bandyopadhyay, Chief General Manager (CGM) SSC, Vipran Kumar, Assistant Commandants SV Reddy and Ajit Toppo,

senior officers of NTPC Vindhychal management, IB/CISF officers, subordinate officers and jawans attended the Police Shaheed Smriti Diwas. Chairperson of Suhasini Sangh, K Aruna Jyoti, chairperson (Sanrakshika) Kavita Azad, general secretary (Sanrakshika) Sita Mahalakshmi were also present. From September 1, 2020, to August 31 this year a total of 377 police force members were martyred in the country, out of which eight members of CISF are also included.

KDA forms panel to prepare records of pending courts cases

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Development Authority Vice Chairman Arvind Singh has set up a three-member committee to prepare records of cases pending in different courts.

The committee will assist in effectively pursuing the legal cases to get the land vacated from unauthorised possessions of land mafias through the professional partnership model devised by the KDA.

At a meeting organised in KDA on Saturday, Singh held in-depth discussions with senior lawyers and officers on the implementation of the PPM.

Addressing the participants, Singh said the legal cases were pending in courts for long for want of proper records and in the absence of proper legal action steps initiated by the enforcement department to get the KDA land vacated from the unauthorised possession had failed to get due success.

Besides, he said, due to



KDA VC Arvind Singh takes part in workshop with the lawyers.

Pioneer

KDA's failure to produce proper records of its properties in the court, cases were decided in favour of the opposite party.

Allahabad High Court counsel Abhinav Krishna Srivastava stressed the need for conducting a survey of urban ceiling lands jointly by the KDA and the state government, especially in areas where the implementation of the development authority's projects

was being affected.

Singh said a lawyers' camp would be organised in the KDA on the fourth Saturday of every month to discuss important cases and prepare counter replies after going through the relevant files and records.

After the workshop, the KDA vice chairman directed the secretary to obtain attested copies of the records relating to the original khataunis of crop

years 1348, 1356 and 1359 from the Revenue Board, get them scanned and keep them in the safe custody of KDA. This would greatly facilitate the settlement of legal cases, he said.

KDA secretary, additional secretary, officer-in-charge of Land Bank department, tehsildar, law officer and other senior officers were present in the meeting.

BHU's Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav cycle yatra welcomed in Kanpur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Dr Raj Shekhar, while welcoming the 14-member NSS contingent on Sunday, said this Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav cycle yatra reflected the spirit of nationalism especially when the nation was celebrating the 75th year of Independence.

He emphasised upon the need of full commitment towards goal of life and advised that one should be vigilant in deciding one's goal on the basis of personal strengths and weaknesses.

It may be mentioned here that to commemorate the 75th year of Independence, Banaras Hindu University has flagged off a cycle yatra from BHU to Rajghat in Delhi.

Dr Shekhar said this yatra consisted of 14 NSS volunteers of BHU led by Dr Bala Lakshendra, the programme coordinator, NSS BHU. The cycle yatra started on October 17, 2021 and travelled to Prayagraj, Kalakakar (Pratapgarh), Rae Bareli Lucknow, Kakori and Bithoor before reaching Kanpur. He said the yatra would culminate at Rajghat in New Delhi on October 31, which was known as National Unity Day to commemorate birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

The contingent consists of volunteers hailing not only from UP but also from Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. During the course of their travel they interact with students of various colleges, discuss with them the values of freedom fighters and their contribution to society. They also spread awareness about discarding the single use plastic to make environment clean and green.



Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Dr Raj Shekhar welcomed the 14-member NSS contingent cycle yatra on Sunday.

Pioneer

NSS State Liaison Officer Anshumali Sharma also motivated the volunteers to serve the society in their own interest.

Earlier Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University welcomed the 'Cycle Yatra' from BHU Varanasi to Rajghat, New Delhi, here on Saturday.

This 'Yatra' has been organised by the National Social Services to support the Amrit Ka Mahotsav organised by the Union Ministry of Culture on the eve of the 75th year of India's Independence. During the journey, the NSS cyclists intend to create awareness among the youth about the local brave heart's of the Indian Freedom Struggle in all colleges and universities. The Cycle Yatra started on October 17 and will end on November 3.

The chief Guest for welcoming the Cycle Yatra at the university was the Minister of State for Higher Education Neelima Katiyar. Along with that, NSS coordinator Dr KN Mishra, CDC Dr RK Dwivedi and volunteers of NSS and students of the university were

also present to welcome the cycling party.

In the welcome speech, Katiyar said the participants were not mere cyclists but a ray of hope for the uplift of society and country. She said that service to others was an integral part of Indian culture. Citing the quote of Swami Vivekananda that 'people should give up worshipping idols and worship Mother India only', Katiyar said all should start doing that now to eradicate the evils of society and make India a 'Vishwaguru', well deserved by it.

The cycle yatra is led by Prof Bala Lakwinder of BHU, who said that he had taken a resolution on International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on October 17 to work for removing poverty from India.

He also wished to create awareness about all those local heroes who had been forgotten with time during the span of the journey and suggested that the volunteers of this yatra should meet as many youths as possible and inspire them to

join the NSS to work for the welfare of society. He also praised CSJM University's efforts and cooperation to further propagate the visions of NSS.

To commemorate the event, the university planted saplings on the campus. The convener of this event was NSS coordinator Dr KN Mishra and the vote of thanks was proposed by CDC Dr RK Dwivedi.

The event was also attended by Dr Anil Yadav, Dr Vivek Sachan, Prof Sanjay Swarnkar, Dr RP Singh, Dr BP Singh, Dr Rashmi Gore and Dr Sandhya Sharma.

The BHU students who are part of this 'NSS 'Cycle Yatra' are Rahul Kumar (Bihar), Suryabhan Singh (UP), Navneet Singh (UP), Manish Kumar Sahu (Chhattisgarh), Shubham Kumar (Bihar), Upendhu Kumar (Bihar), Manish Kumar Pandey (Jharkhand), Nitish Kumar Suman (Bihar), Abhishek Kumar (UP), Divya Kumar Pathak and Tushar Mohan (Bihar).

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PAPER WITH PASSION

New Kashmir

Amit Shah has extended his hand; it's now time for the youth to reciprocate

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is on his first visit to Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370. From his point of view, he pressed all the right buttons on his first day in Srinagar. He wants calm in the region that is like a becalmed ship in the last two years. Shah kicked off the visit by chairing a security meeting. Two aspects of the Valley's disquiet were jarring: Continuing violence despite heavy security presence and radicalisation of local youth. The Minister was worried that the unending violence was undoing the Government's efforts to stabilise the situation. He was probably told in return that with the terrorists targeting ordinary individuals, it was difficult to give protection to every citizen. The toll has already crossed 30. Shah later interacted with people at the Raj Bhavan, addressed youth and visited the house of a slain police officer. His wife was given a Government job. As outreaches go, the visit is a serious outreach campaign of the Centre in Kashmir by the Home Minister himself. It comes at a time when recent violence is threatening to stall Delhi's attempts at rapprochement, the usual pressures from the international community and the snide remarks from Pakistan. The Government would not want the ongoing exercise of constituency delimitation to be delayed. It has perhaps set an agenda for itself wherein the constituencies would first be subjected to delimitation, favouring the Jammu region as Kashmir complains or rectifying its under-representation as Jammu counters, after which elections would be held.



The formation of the next Government will reveal which region has an edge and that may determine future State politics. Like he announced in the Parliament, Shah also said in Srinagar that the return of statehood would be taken up thereafter. The Government is of the view that the Kashmiri youth should be persuaded to join the national mainstream as the region returns to a new normal. Nearly 70 per cent of the State's population is under the age of 35. Shah said he was in Srinagar to make friends with the Kashmiri youth, assuring them of all help for education, employment and development. It is not yet known how these youth have reacted to the Home Minister's persuasion. That is the key. They are being asked to forget all of the past and embrace a "new era in Kashmir". The "era" was brought in on the back of decisions like the internet ban and curfew that were necessary to foil a plot to provoke Kashmiris, as the Home Minister explained. Tourism is flourishing and there is no curfew now, he said, even as Srinagar was enveloped in one of the toughest security blankets with the use of drone cameras, detention of hundreds of people, including youth, and seizure of hundreds of motorcycles in preparation for the Minister's visit. Shah amplified his aspirations in earnest. It is up to the aspirations of the youth to match his.

PICTALK



Women perform rituals to celebrate Karva Chauth, in Jammu

AP

Under fire

The Oppn is sharpening its claws to take on the BJP, especially in Punjab and Goa

The BJP is coming under increasingly ferocious attack from various quarters ahead of next year's Assembly elections in five States. The ruling party at the Centre has its Government in UP, Uttarakhand and Goa and is a governing alliance partner in Manipur while Punjab currently has the Congress Government at the helm. In Punjab's politics, there is a lot of churning going on, especially in the Congress. Going into the elections, it is one of the few States where the beleaguered party is still considered to be on a better footing than its rivals. The open, long-drawn power struggle between Navjot Singh Sidhu and then Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has not really done the Congress any good turn. Following the acrimonious duel, the party high command was forced to opt for Dalit leader Charanjit Singh Channi as the Chief Minister. All eyes are now on the leadership to see how the forced change and the sulking Captain affect its fortunes: Will it manage to retain power despite the



bad blood within and anti-incumbency, or whether the AAP will concretise its hold or if the BJP will turn out to be the dark horse?

According to poll pundits, the BJP faces a tough competition only in Punjab and is set to romp home comfortably in the other four States. However, there is a silent storm brewing against it over the coastal horizon of Goa, too. While TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee has since July's 'Martyrs' Day' event started making an outreach to the electorate there, her nephew and TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee has now made a shriller pitch for the party's all-out debut in Goa, saying they will register a win in the State. The AAP is also pulling out all the stops in both Punjab and Goa to fulfil Arvind Kejriwal's aspiration to go national. However, all said and done, the impact of the BJP's mammoth poll machinery can't be underestimated, whenever it starts rolling full throttle. There already is speculation in the media that Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant may be replaced soon for the party to contest the election on a clean slate. Besides, hundreds of the RSS cadres have fanned across the State and are working silently to ensure that the BJP stages a comeback. Time will tell which party's calculations hit the bull's-eye at the hustings.

Educate to achieve attitudinal changes



JS RAJPUT

The NEP 2020 recommends the integration of academic and vocational knowledge, which indicates the impact of Gandhian education philosophy

The strength and resilience of Indian democracy receive widespread appreciation. For the outside world, it is amazing that a Prime Minister loses House confidence by one vote, and accepts it without even asking for a recount. But the fading away of the Independence struggle-generation has led to severe erosion of values, the impact of which is visible all around. The violence and murder in Lakhimpur Kheri, lynching of a young Dalit person in Rajasthan and the barbaric killing of a young man at the Singhu border are among the instances of avoidable loss of life in a civilised society. Is it not a shame that blatant discrimination is practised even in *ex gratia* payment to victims? This is not the democracy that MK Gandhi and numerous other luminaries fought for. Selfish motives, shortsighted goals and vested interests are denting India's image globally. Gandhi found everything in India attractive as "India has everything that a human being with highest aspirations could aspire for". He found India "fitted for religious supremacy of the world", and that India is a *karmabhumi*, not a *bhagbhumi*. He was convinced that India's mission was different from that of others.

On October 20, 1927, he said about Hindu dharma: "I have found it to be the most tolerant of all religions known to me. Its freedom from dogma makes a forcible appeal to me inasmuch as it gives the votary the largest scope for self-expression. Not being an exclusive religion, it enables the followers of that faith not merely to respect all the other religions, but also to admire and assimilate whatever may be good in other faiths." Gandhi did not mean that "everything in India that attracted" him included abhorrent practices like untouchability, dowry, child marriages, and much more. He loved India, its diversity, its culture, and lamented its downfall over the centuries because of foreign invaders and internal deficiencies. He was very clear in his priorities for resurgence of a new India: Education for all, dignity for all. As one goes through his writings that indicate his vision for India, political freedom was only



one of the steps towards a new democratic India; freedom from hunger, poverty and ill-health was the prerequisite in the march towards equality, transparency, brotherhood and human dignity. His was a unique endeavour, the essence of which could be comprehended in that immortal sentence: "My life is my message."

This was the level of transparency he had set for those who were to take over the reins of power after India's Independence. He preached only what he could practice. His approach, as is well known by now, attracted global interest only because he became a unique example of courage, bravery and commitment to conviction. Billions the world over were convinced during his lifetime that only the Gandhian way could extricate mankind — and our planet — from the clutches of distrust, bigotry, racism, caste prejudices, terrorism, fundamentalism and much more that jeopardised the very human existence. The global foundation for a world of peace was to be laid in the pragmatic implementation of the universalisation of education which, Gandhi thought, was the only ray of hope for the suffering masses. The *Hind Swaraj* he penned in 1909 is now being perused with much



SADLY, NO EFFORT WAS MADE TO BRING FORTH A MODEL OF EDUCATION ROOTED IN INDIAN CULTURE AND, AT THE SAME TIME, COMMITTED TO NEW KNOWLEDGE. THIS FORMULATION WOULD BE COMPLETE WHEN SYNCHRONISED WITH GANDHI'S WRITINGS

more respect and sincerity.

Violence must totally vanish from Gandhi's land. One is convinced that the solution lies in reverting to Gandhi and re-articulating his thoughts in the current idiom. While those in power have the obligation to find immediate solutions, the long-term strategy must focus on education, right from the early days to universities. Attitudinal transformation can be possible only through Gandhian vision, the essence of which he had presented to the nation in the 'Basic Education', which he thought was his most significant contribution. Why Gandhi was so enamoured by this idea? He wanted education to draw the best out of "head, hand and heart". This, he thought, was the best way to transform a lay learner into a full-grown personality. It is indeed laudable that with literacy below 20 per cent at Independence, India is touching 80 per cent and, that too, when population growth has been more than three times. It has also led to certain aberrations in teaching and learning, most prominent being the concentration on "head", and near-total neglect of "hand and heart". The consequences are before us. The 75-year experience must put the system on

the right path.

The manner in which the National Education Policy-2020 lays focus on character building, value inculcation and recommends the integration of academic and vocational education clearly indicates the impact of Gandhian education philosophy. Sadly, the philosophy that Gandhi and his colleagues had articulated was simply ignored by the earlier decision makers. No effort was made to bring forth a model of education rooted in Indian culture and, at the same time, committed to new knowledge. This formulation would be complete when synchronised with Gandhi's writing in the *Young India* issue of June 3, 1926: "The highest form of freedom carries with it the greatest measure of discipline and humility. Freedom that comes from discipline and humility cannot be denied; unbridled license is a sign of vulgarity injurious alike to self and one's neighbours."

To re-emphasise, education must concentrate on preparing men and women of character and commitment who practise integrity, honesty and selfless service as their dharma.

(The author works in education, social cohesion and religious amity. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AI CAN'T TAKE OVER JOURNALISM

Sir — As industries are being affected by the age of automation, it is feared that journalism could be next. But this ever-busy field needs more human power for reporting and publishing news and stories than machines. The profession involves much more than mechanisation. Publishing houses might soon opt to switch journalists with Artificial Intelligence robots and applications to minimise human hands. But clearly, AI involved works can account for only about 10 per cent of the total function in journalism. Another key aspect of journalism is that it involves a lot of emotional intelligence. For example, a journalist visiting a flood-ravaged area or a fire-affected spot and speaking to people who are rendered homeless, can never be compared with a robot's workmanship.

It is important to remember that journalism is more than just the sum of its parts and the profession's human character cannot be automated, as journalists provide more than just information. As former journalist and professor at the University of Minnesota Rodrigo Zamith aptly sums up, "Accuracy requires proper verification. Robots cannot get it right every time."

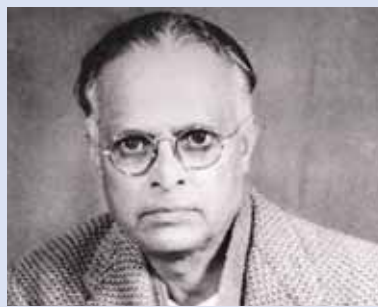
Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

ALL EYES ON THE JUDICIARY

Sir — Eventually, a ray of hope came from the Supreme Court for Kavita Lankesh, who has been waiting since four years to get justice for her slain sister Gauri Lankesh from the judiciary in the cold-blooded murder case. The brave and outspoken Gauri Lankesh was silenced to death by perpetrators for her anti-Hindutva ideology and for her trenchant critics. It was also an attack on the freedom of speech and expression and fourth pillar of democracy — the media. The delay in the process of trial speaks volumes about the loophole in the lethargic police system and court proceedings which is an ordeal and complicated rigmarole.

The Supreme Court has definitely restored faith of people on judiciary, hav-

Centenary of an era



October 24, 2021, marked the birth centenary of the legend and master cartoonist RK Laxman. One of the greatest cartoonists of all times and a pioneer in satirical cartoon, Laxman's black and white strokes and wits remain etched in the hearts of Indians irrespective of generations and time. His subtle humour and remarkable cartoons remain a class apart and have been an inspiration for cartoonists in India.

ing rejected the Karnataka High Court order of the Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act (KCOCA) case against one of the prime accused, Mohan Nayak, who was a stooge of an organised crime syndicate masterminded by Amol Kale and Rajesh D Bangera in the Kannada journalist's murder. Hope this case will now get a steady closure with course correction without any further delay, ensuring justice to Gauri Lankesh, her family and reinstate faith of the journalist fraternity in the judiciary.

Janga Bahadur Sunuwar | Bagrakote

FARMERS' PROTEST OR FARM LEADERS'?

Sir — It refers to the suspension of Yogendra Yadav from the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) for a month for his meeting with the family of a deceased BJP worker who was among the eight killed in the Lakhimpur Kheri incident. Undoubtedly, meeting the family members of a deceased opponent is a part of human culture, which was not tolerated

by the others in the SKM. It is time that the SKM makes it clear whether it has authorised Rakesh Tikait to negotiate with the State Government, or otherwise he should also be suspended from the SKM. Firstly, any such agitation of farmers should be led only by those who are real farmers. If real farmers would have been involved in the agitation, no vegetables would have been available during such a long agitation. There would have been an acute shortage in food supplies and the prices of grains and pulses would have gone up drastically. The Central Government should access the details of assets and incomes of all those who are leading the farmers' agitation so that anything fishy may be exposed. The extra-luxurious mini-townships developed on the agitation sites speak volumes about the genuineness of the farmers' agitation.

Madhu Agrawal | Delhi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

India has always worked for world peace. This is seen in our contribution to the UN Peacekeeping forces.

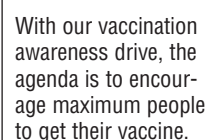


Prime Minister
—Narendra Modi



We urge the US side to be cautious in words and deeds on the Taiwan question.

Chinese Foreign Ministry
spokesperson
—Wang Wenbin



With our vaccination awareness drive, the agenda is to encourage maximum people to get their vaccine.

Actor
—Sonu Sood



It is not something that we are proud of as a team. Obviously just plain to see, 55-odd for an international team is unacceptable.

West Indies skipper
—Kieron Pollard

I have never seen such chaos and anarchy as what is playing out in the Punjab Congress today.



Congress leader
—Manish Tewari

FIRST COLUMN

LEBANON IS A SHIP WITH MANY HOLES

Lebanon has gone from being a middle-class country to a very poor one in last five years



GWYNNE DYER

Off the Lebanese coast about 60 km north of Beirut a 104-metre battleship stands vertically, with her bow and some 30 metres of her length plunged into the mud. The seabed is 140 metres down, but you can even scuba-dive on the stern if you are a technical diver. The ship is a bit like Lebanon, for reasons I'll explain later. Five years ago Lebanon still looked like a middle-class country with a lot of poor people. Now it looks like a very poor country with a few rich people. Indeed, even the civil war of 1975-1990 did less damage to the economy, though it destroyed several hundred thousand lives and much of the country's infrastructure. The current disaster's roots are in that war. It drove the Lebanese back into the relative safety of their own sectarian communities, Christian, Sunni Muslim, and Shia Muslim, and warlords arose to protect those communities. By the end of the war in 1990, they were the new political and financial elite, with well-paid militias to enforce their will on their own communities — and they didn't go back to their day jobs. They became a corrupt and nepotistic club. That system was visibly coming apart by the 2010s. There simply wasn't enough money to share out among the elites. Lebanon pro-



duces almost nothing, not even enough food for its own people, and its imports are paid for with remittances, foreign aid, and loans. With not enough money coming in to sustain their immense patronage networks, the elites started taxing the poorer sections, and in 2019 something snapped. Suddenly Beirut's streets were full of protesters demanding fundamental change. Lebanon is a former French colony, so French President Emmanuel Macron flew in and offered the Lebanese government £11 billion in return for structural reforms that would root out the corruption at the heart of government. But the elites who benefit from that system are the government, in practice, so of course they said no, thanks. Then came the massive explosion in Beirut's port district last year. That got the International Monetary Fund involved, offering Lebanon huge loans if the corrupt system is reformed, but it's likely that the government will turn them away again.

It's getting close to the edge. Last Thursday Hezbollah staged a mass protest in Beirut, demanding the removal of the judge presiding over the inquiry into who was responsible for importing the 2,750 tonnes of fertiliser that caused last year's port blast. When the march entered a Christian district at least one sniper opened up on it. Seven Shias died, and the crowd (some of whom were armed) tried to storm Christian neighbourhoods in retaliation. And still the Lebanese political class refuses to bend.

So why does that political class resemble the captain of HMS Victoria, the defunct battleship that did a nose-dive in 1893? Because the officer commanding the British Mediterranean Fleet, Vice-Admiral Sir George Tryon, was one of the most stubborn men in history. He ordered a very complex manoeuvre in which two parallel lines of battleships would make simultaneous U-turns towards each other, winding up going in the opposite direction but with the parallel lines much closer together. And he got the distance wrong.

Everybody else on the bridge could see the ships were actually going to collide, and several of them spoke to Tryon about it, but he ignored their advice. The ship that was going to ram him also queried his orders, but he persevered. So they collided, and the admiral went down with his ship.

Think of Lebanon's political class as Admiral Tryon, and the country as HMS Lebanon. Technical divers only. (Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'The Shortest History of War'. The views expressed are personal.)

Artificial Intelligence in counter-terrorism

Security agencies need unhindered data access to predict future radicalisation apart from the spread of fake news that supplements ulterior agendas



NISHTHA KAUSHIKI

In 2015, the IS declared its expansion to include the Khorasan region, which includes the modern political boundaries of Iran, Central Asia, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Since early 2020, the IS-K has been regularly publishing its 'Voice of Hind' in the Kashmir Valley to radicalise the youth and destabilise the Valley. The scope of the IS-K has expanded to India and Bangladesh. The killings of non-Kashmiris and Hindus in the Valley, apart from the pre-planned vandalising of the Durga Puja pandals in Bangladesh, point out the increasing tentacles of IS-K working in tandem with the Taliban. The developments call for the incorporation of new methods in the domain of counter-terrorism.

The most prominent measure that can be adopted is the pre-detection of the people with terror intent. The current usage of drones, sting operations and informants do not suffice under the prevailing circumstances. Artificial Intelligence (AI) can immensely help the forces and reduce their vulnerabilities. AI technologies are being used actively by many nations for policing and counter-terrorism operations with offensive weaponry. The objective here is to make accurate predictions and adopt an approach to 'what will happen' rather than 'what happened'. The government should recognise the legal entity of the AI technologies for counter-terrorism operations. It should become legally obligatory for the telecommunications service providers to mirror the conversations of suspected terrorists in sensitive zones such as Kashmir, Punjab and West Bengal, apart from the other border areas.

Security agencies should have unhindered data access to predict future radicalisation apart from the spread of fake news that supplements the ulterior agendas. Tracking the financial transaction information and the travel patterns of suspected individuals apart from identifying sleeper cells that purchase dual-use explosive materials are some of the methodologies followed. To enhance the efficacy of the existing methods and check further radicalisation apart from the exposure to other hybrid warfare tactics such as fake news, the surfing data of institutes of higher education should be monitored.

New indigenous platforms supporting the Google and Yahoo search engines that identify potential recruits through scanning their internet browsing history should be encouraged. These surveillance centers and their servers should be under the strict vigil of the central police forces or the armed forces. Google has developed the redirect method, which uses search algorithms, keywords, and phrases frequently used by people with violent tendencies.

The second step for pre-detection can involve reversal through psychological and mindset change through soft counter-radicalisation measures that can be locally tailored through AI. Such novelty has to be brought about in counter-terrorism operations. For instance, Saudi Arabia has



THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TECHNOLOGY IS BEING USED ACTIVELY BY MANY NATIONS FOR POLICING AND COUNTER-TERRORISM OPERATIONS. THE OBJECTIVE IS TO MAKE ACCURATE PREDICTIONS AND ADOPT AN APPROACH TO 'WHAT WILL HAPPEN' RATHER THAN 'WHAT HAPPENED'?

(The writer is an Assistant Professor at Central University of Punjab, Bathinda. The views expressed are personal.)



a holistic counter-terrorism program since 2005 that consolidates even the 'correct notions and concepts of Islam'. 'Sakina' programme is one such example of Saudi Arabia.

According to the reports, one of the most preferred recruitment platforms of IS is Facebook and Twitter, wherein the IS, through its tweets and re-tweets, can create a closed online micro-community around the recruit or the targeted recruit. As the communication between recruit and the handling agency develops, end to end encryption platforms like WhatsApp and Telegram are used for private 'dark' conversations to compel the individual to commit violent crimes.

The problem lies in 'one standard encryption' policy throughout the country, making no distinction between an 'operational' area and a 'peace' area. A counter move can perhaps be possible wherein sensitive areas are out of bounds for these encrypted platforms due to national security. Privacy perhaps should only be allowed in 'peace' areas where there are no immediate threats to national security. As new threats such as Talibanization of Pakistan and re-radicalisation of the Valley emerge, it becomes imperative for the government to adopt novel law enforcement tools to counter them.

At the level of land-based counter-terror operations, where troops operate at the level of small teams, methods have to be revolutionised. Besides the satellite data providing real-time intelligence, thermographic cameras can be installed in the forests apart from

surveillance from UAVs. In the bordering villages, various AI-enabled cameras with monitoring at two undisclosed locations (to avoid sabotage) can immensely help the security forces. Cameras fitted with Facial Recognition (FR) features can help locate any suspicious 'entry' in sensitive areas.

In the cities, especially around the festivals, crowd scanning with multiple AI tools for locational tracking and thwarting terrorist attacks can be done. In some critical areas, the government can also introduce identity cards with biometric chips that have data of iris, facial expressions, and fingerprints.

The tools of AI can be customised even for regular policing in case the terrorists intermingle with the crowd. For instance, China uses Hikvision and Cloud Walk while the US depends upon Pred Pol in cities like Los Angeles for counter-terrorism and policing. Also, gunfire detection software-Shot Spotter is also used by the American agencies to detect shooting by using acoustic sensing technology to deter crimes.

Even the minute details of the number and the types of weapons in possession of the terrorists and other anti-national elements can be ascertained if specific biologically inspired AI surveillance mechanisms involving high-speed data processing can be used for preventive search operations and threat elimination. The same technologies can also be effectively used during counter-terrorism operations to overview, monitor and report the operational developments of the ter-

rorists to the security agencies.

Third, the Indian industries using 'dual use' AI should be brought within the domain of a new initiative of 'civil-military interface' in which certain companies can be roped into implanting AI technologies to the existing indigenous weapons under the supervision of DRDO. For instance, indigenous guns or rifles can be experimentally mounted with low weight AI cameras or biometric systems with an ability to detect and eliminate potential terrorists if they use a ring of human shields to escape or launch attacks on the forces.

For this, establishing an AI intelligence cell in the armed forces and civilian intelligence agencies with active coordination can probably solve the issues in implementing such novel methods. Agencies have to be working in tandem with detailed distinctions and overlaps of their duties and responsibilities to ensure that there is no 'conflict of interest' which can potentially hamper the counter-terrorism strategies. The larger aim of the AI intelligence cell of the Indian army should be to increase its own operability domestically and develop an ability to be able to work with the AI divisions of our allies such as Israel, the US, and Japan apart from the others. Finally, equal importance has to be given to the increasing role of perception management through regular media briefings by the army to raise the social acceptance of the government security measures. Citizen surveillance and alertness also have to be encouraged to thwart the terrorist attacks.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

VOTING FOR THE CONGRESS AND THE LEFT FRONT WOULD BE NO DIFFERENT FROM OPTING FOR THE NOTA (NONE OF THE ABOVE) BUTTON.
—TMC LEADER
ABHISHEK BANERJEE



THE TMC DOES NOT WANT TO FIGHT THE BJP, WHICH IS WHY IT IS ATTACKING THE CONGRESS. IT IS CLEAR NOW.
—CONGRESS LEADER
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY

A new vision of the education system

New ways to improve the standard of education need to be adopted for a work culture of intimacy, involvement and best work practices

In the last few years, there has been visible signs of the higher education system favouring the West and the US and is yet to become a truly global phenomenon. India has emerged as the global hub of education with an inclusive quality, equity and access and new vigour and insights.

The global education system has started respecting the level of insight our education system has. There have been attempts to find a common ground to solve upcoming global challenges. Perhaps the pangs of the pandemic has made the world realize the urgent need for an alternative to the particularistic grounds of prowess which so far resulted in the supremacy of the economically prosperous system over the rest.



SUDHIR HINDWAN

(The writer is a professor and expert on strategic affairs. The views expressed are personal.)

Some important ways to improve the standard of education need to be adopted for a work culture of intimacy and involvement and best work practices. The best thing about the National Education Policy is that it has recognized the need to expand and equip for all the best practices by creating an umbrella of professional fair treatment and recognizing the diversities and thereby bringing everyone together.

The strength of higher education system lies in creating its internal dynamism by ensuring inclusive growth. Human and financial relations and dealings are not as simple as they appear and require constant monitoring by competent authorities. The provisions of Multidisciplinary



Education and Research Universities (MERUs) on par with IITs and IIMs, the National Research Foundation, the National Educational Technology Forum and Indian Institutes of Translation and Interpretation would create an environment for students to reach their best by encouraging academic excellence, embracing new information and opening new job-oriented courses. Besides, it would help in understanding social responsibility.

There is always a scope to improve course contents through academic discourse by bringing about changes through cognitive discourse. One is seeking multiple options in order to help form an integrated team consisting of meritorious members for holistic development of social sciences. Two, introducing new innovative mechanisms in social sciences designed to help students identify career goals available in that field.

Three, more integrated academic programs and services that provide supplemental support to both teaching and learning in diverse disciplines making it more relevant with present circumstances. Four, growth and enrichment of students and the community, both inside and outside of

the classroom through community development exercises. Five, more research centres to ensure academic excellence in all disciplines. Six, exclusive intellectual skills designed to prepare students to engage in nuances of socio-economic and political issues related to global order.

There is a need to link school education with college and thereafter, research. Students must be sensitized through webinars which are low cost and quite intense interactive experiences. The role of mass media in political and social mobilization can be ensured through active participation of students in communicating initially with fellow students and then with the masses at large.

Increasing participatory

of students through myriad baskets of activities has to be ensured. This practice can gradually be transformed into community-wide physical activity campaigns to help the new generation understand the benefits of physical activities and coordination and cooperation to make them strong, energetic and sensible.

There is a need to provide an ambience of contiguity, working in unison, harmony and critical thinking through multidisciplinary scholarly culture for educational impetus. It is expensive as it only requires a positive attitude towards contribution and reiterating our commitment towards the nation.

A new culture of liberal literature is necessary to nurture a feeling of self-less service.

This would ensure that students contribute ideas and engage with them in a creative environment.

Academicians are the epitome of sacrifice and inspiration whose relentless drive brings out the best in their students. Students can be taught how learning the essential precepts through practical teaching mechanisms can make them reflective. The philosophy of the academics should be to ensure that even the rural and left-out segments of the student population are guided to enter the mainstream of life. The mentors ought to broaden the horizon of comprehension and supplement the practice of argumentation with more inclusive and wholistic approach.

More drones to be used to help people in day-to-day work: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delivering his monthly radio talk *'Mann ki baat'*, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said drone technology would be increasingly used to help out people in their day-to-day work. While he informed that “Rangoli” , “Lori” and “patriotic song” competitions will form part of the celebrations of the 75th year of the country’s Independence, he also spoke about the rise of the 'Nari-Shakti' in the country.

Modi touched on a range of issues such as the vaccination drive against Covid-19, the United Nations Day, Centre's new drone policy and women empowerment.

Modi lauded vaccination efforts across the country and said that healthcare workers left no stone unturned to inoculate

citizens and even walked long-distances in hills to accomplish the task as he spoke with a health worker at Bageshwar, in Kumaon hill region of Uttarakhand.

While asking people to enliven their lives with various traditional cultural forms, the Prime Minister also said that the modern drone technology should be increasingly used to make life easy for the people.

"Drone Technology. Up until a few years ago, when the name of Drone used to come up, what used to be the first feeling in the minds of the people?... Of the army, of weapons, of war. But today if we have any wedding procession or function, we see a drone shooting photos and videos", he said.

"The spectrum of a drone's usage and its capabilities is not just limited to that. India is one of the first countries in the world, which is preparing digital records of land in its villages with the help of drones. India is working extensively on using drones for transportation. Whether it is farming in the village or delivery of goods at home; Providing help in emergency or monitoring law and order", said the Prime Minister. "It is not long before we will see drones being deployed for all these needs of ours. Most of these have already started. Like a few days ago, nano-urea was



sprayed in the fields through drones in Bhavnagar, Gujarat. Drones are also playing their role in the Covid vaccine campaign. We got to see a picture of this in Manipur, where vaccines were delivered via a drone to an island. Telangana has also done trials for vaccine delivery by drones", said Modi, elaborating on the potential future role of drones in the day-to-day life.

The Prime Minister also pointed out that the strength of women joining the police force has more than doubled and reached 2.15 lakh.

"Earlier it was believed that services like army and police are meant only for men. But today it is not so. The statistics from the Bureau of Police Research and Development show that in the last few years, the number of women police

personnel has doubled. In 2014, while their number was close to 1 lakh 5 thousand, by 2020 it has increased by more than double and this number has now reached up to 2 lakh 15 thousand", he said.

Even in the Central Armed Police Forces, Modi said the number of women has almost doubled in the last seven years.

"And I'm not talking just about numbers. Today the daughters of the country are performing even the toughest duties with full force and zeal. For example, many daughters are currently undergoing one of the most difficult trainings, that of Specialized Jungle Warfare Commandos", he said.

Steering his talk to Indian traditions and culture, Modi said 'Rangoli', 'Lori' and 'patriotic songs' competitions organised by the culture ministry

would form part of 'Amrit Mahotsav' of the country's independence.

"A listener of “Mann Ki Baat” has suggested that Amrit Mahotsav should be connected to the art of Rangoli too. For centuries, we have had a tradition of lending colours to festivals through Rangoli. The diversity of our country is visible in Rangoli. Rangoli is drawn in different states with different names and on different themes.

"Therefore, the Ministry of Culture is also going to conduct a National Competition associated with this. Just imagine, when a Rangoli related to the freedom movement will be created", wondered Modi while accepting new ideas to celebrate national independence ", he said.

Modi, in his address, also

remembered freedom-fighter and warrior Birsa Munda and his great role in preserving local culture and forest.

"Next month, the birth anniversary of one such icon and a brave warrior, Bhagwan Birsa Munda ji is falling on the 15th of November. Bhagwan Birsa Munda is also known as 'Dharti Aaba'. Do you know what this epithet means? It means the father of earth.

" The way Bhagwan Birsa Munda fought to protect his culture, his forest, his land, it could have only been done by 'Dharti Aaba'. He taught us to be proud of our culture and roots. The foreign rule subjected him to countless threats and applied immense pressure, but he did not relinquish the tribal culture", the Prime Minister said in his tribute to Munda.

Modi also touched on another art form known as 'Lori' where "sanskars are inculcated in young children through lullabies and they are introduced to the culture. Lullabies also have their own diversity", he said.

"So why don't we, in the Amritkaal period, revive this art also and write lullabies pertaining to patriotism, write poems, songs, something or the other which can be easily recited by mothers in every home to their little children. In these lullabies there should be reference to modern India, the vision of 21st century India and its dreams.

"The ministry has decided to organize a competition related to it after receiving suggestions from the listeners", said the Prime Minister.

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INS Vikrant’s 2nd phase sea trials begin

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The second phase of sea trials of the first indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier Vikrant commenced on Sunday with the warship sailing out from Kochi. The maiden trials lasting more than a week were held in early August.

With the maiden trials completed successfully, India had joined the elite club of nations having the capability to build aircraft carrier. US, UK, France, China and Russia are other countries have this niche expertise.

Once it passes the sea trials, INS Vikrant is likely to be inducted into the Navy by the end of next year. It is the largest and most complex warship to be built within the country. The 40,000-tonne aircraft carrier set off on its maiden sea trials, 50 years after its namesake played a major role in the 1971 war. It was built at a cost of more than Rs 23, 000 crores by the public sector Cochin Shipyard.

Once the extensive sea tri-



als are over, the aircraft carrier will be put through the stringent aviation trials before induction into service.

The aircraft carrier is around 262 metres long and 62 metres wide. In June, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reviewed the construction of the aircraft carrier that will be able to accommodate up to 30 fighter jets and helicopters. The warship will have a fleet of Mig-29K fighter jets and Ka-31 helicopters.

There are 14 decks in all,

including five in the superstructure. The ship has over 2,300 compartments, designed for a crew of around 1,700 people, including specialised cabins to accommodate women officers.

The ship has been designed with a very high degree of automation for machinery operation, ship navigation and survivability. 'Vikrant' has a top speed of around 28 knots and cruising speed of 18 knots with an endurance of about 7,500 nautical miles

At present, India has only

one aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya. It was built by the Russians as per Indian specifications. The Indian Navy has been focusing on significantly bolstering its overall capabilities in view of China's growing efforts to increase its military presence in the Indian Ocean Region. The Indian Ocean, considered the backyard of the Indian Navy, is critical to the country's strategic interests.

In order to achieve self-reliance in shipbuilding, the Navy's programme is rightly poised to provide requisite 'Economic Stimulus', with 44 ships and submarines on order being built indigenously.

After the completion of the first phase of trials, the Navy had said performance of the key systems was found to be satisfactory.

Navy spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal had said the ship's performance, including of the hull, main propulsion, power generation and distribution (PGD) and auxiliary equipment were

tested during the sea trials.

"Trials, which were reviewed by Vice Admiral AK Chawla, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Southern Naval Command on the last day, have progressed as planned and system parameters have been proved satisfactory," Madhwal said.

The delivery of Vikrant is being targeted to coincide with celebrations to commemorate the 75th anniversary of India's independence 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', he said. The construction of the ship began in 2009.

Commander Madhwal said that the successful completion of the maiden trials, despite challenges faced due to the coronavirus pandemic, was a testimony to the dedicated efforts of a large number of stakeholders.

Around 550 Indian firms including about 100 MSMEs are registered with the Cochin Shipyard Limited(CSL) and they provided various services for the construction of the aircraft carrier.

Process for providing new battalions for ITBP in last stages: Min

New Delhi:The process to authorise new battalions for the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), guarding the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between India and China, is in the last stage and the Government is determined to provide transport and logistical support to all security forces, Union Minister Nityanand Rai said on Sunday.

Addressing the 60th Raising Day event of the mountain-warfare-trained ITBP, Mr. Rai said the Government had last year sanctioned 47 new border posts and a dozen staging camps (operational bases for troops undertaking border patrol) to the force.

"Deliberations for providing new manpower and battalions for the ITBP are in the last stages", Mr. Rai, the Minister of State for Home Affairs, said.

Officials said the force is expected to get a sanction of

seven new battalions comprising about 8,000 personnel for its new border posts that will mainly come up in the Arunachal Pradesh sector of the LAC on India's eastern flank.

The proposal for sanctioning new ITBP battalions and a sector headquarter in the north-east has been under the consideration of the Home Ministry for over two years now. But with the last year's sanction of the new border outposts and staging camps, the proposal is expected to get approval soon, they said.

An ITBP battalion has a strength of just over 1,000 personnel.

At the rising day event, Mr. Rai lauded the ITBP for their bravery and for giving a "befitting reply" to their opponents during the clashes between Indian and Chinese forces in Ladakh during May-June last year.



He also decorated 20 ITBP officers and personnel as he pinned police medals for gallantry on their uniform for displaying bravery and courage during the clashes. These medals were announced by the Centre on Independence Day eve.

The Minister said the 'Operation Snow Leopard' conducted by the ITBP in Himalayan ranges gave a "big message that India will never compromise on its sovereignty and security." The force proved it was "second to none" when it

them with better weapons and technology.

ITBP Director General Sanjay Arora also praised his troops for their gallant action during the clashes with the Chinese People's Liberation Army last year in the Ladakh area.

He recounted the initiatives taken by the force to combat the coronavirus pandemic in the country by operating health facilities in the national capital region.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who is in Jammu and Kashmir, greeted the personnel and their families through a Twitter message.

"ITBP is well known for protecting the motherland in the toughest of terrains and serving the nation during natural calamities. India is proud of ITBP's valour and determination," he said.

PM GREETES ITBP ON FORCE'S RAISING DAY

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also greeted the ITBP personnel on the occasion of the force's Raising Day. "From dense forests in Arunachal Pradesh to the icy heights of the Himalayas, our @ITBP_official Himveers have answered the nation's call with utmost dedication. Their humanitarian work during times of disaster is noteworthy. Greetings to all ITBP personnel on their Raising Day," the Prime Minister tweeted.

The about 90,000-personnel strong ITBP was raised on this day in 1962 in the aftermath of the Chinese aggression. PTI

Centre to hold meetings with States on its order to limit edible oil stock

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre will hold a meeting with State Governments to review action taken on the stock limit order on edible oils.

In a letter written to all States by Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey, the department has outlined initiatives taken by the Centre to ease prices of edible oils for relief to consumers and in view of the festive season. Retail prices of edible oils are still high despite steps taken by the Government to reduce prices during the festive season.

The Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) on Sunday said it is monitoring the prices of cooking oils as demand rises during the festive season and will hold a virtual meeting with States on October 25 to review action taken by them on its stock holding limit order. On October 10, the Centre had imposed stock limits on traders of edible oils and oilseeds, barring certain importers and exporters, till March 31, in a bid to control domestic prices and provide relief to consumers.

"The DFPD is monitoring the prices of edible oils and there availability to the consumers. This is especially important to the context of the upcoming festival season in which demand of edible oils will increase. Various steps have already been taken by the government like based on the interaction with all the states and edible oil industry associations, stock disclosure notification has been issued and DFPD has created a web portal to monitor the stock of edible oils/oilseeds on a weekly basis in the country," the department said in a statement on Sunday.

It further stated that demand and consumption of edible is different for the different states/UTs as per the preference of the consumers. However, for finalizing the stock limit quantity of edible oils and oilseeds, the

states/UTs may consider/explore the previous stock limit imposed for edible oils and oilseeds by the state/UTs.

"It may be considered that any stakeholder (refiners, miller, wholesaler etc.) should not hold the stocks in excess two months of the storage capacity. For guidance states may prefer to indicative limits which may have been imposed by states earlier is enclosed for consideration. However, for other categories similar quantities as appropriate for the state may be fixed. For example: for refiners, stocks of maximum of 2 months of the average scale of last six months could be used. Similarly, quantities may be fixed for extractors/millers may be fixed," the department said.

As an example, the Department said that, for refiners, stocks of maximum of 2 months of the average scale of last six months could be used. Similarly, quantities for extractors/millers should be fixed. On Friday, the Centre said it was hopeful that key oilseeds- and edible oil-producing states would start imposing stock limits from the next week.

The average retail price of mustard oil on Friday was ruling at Rs 185.55 per kg, groundnut oil at Rs 182.86 per kg, sunflower oil at Rs 168.21 per kg, soya oil at Rs 154.91 per kg, vanaspati at Rs 138.31 per kg and palm oil at Rs 132.64 per kg. Prices have fallen by Rs 3-4 per kg following the recent cut in import duty.

During November 2020 to September 2021 (11 months), the imports of vegetable oils increased 2 per cent to 1,24,70,784 tonnes compared to 1,22,57,837 tonnes in the corresponding period of the previous year. Out of the total vegetable oil imports, edible oil imports rose to 1,20,85,247 tonnes from 1,19,50,501 tonnes. Non-edible oils rose to 3,85,537 tonnes from 3,07,333 tonnes. Vegetable oils marketing year runs from November to October.

‘Antidepressant mirtazapine not effective in treating dementia’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Antidepressant mirtazapine, a drug used to treat agitation in people with dementia is no more effective than a placebo, and might even increase mortality, according to a new study.

The research, led by the University of Plymouth and published in the journal The Lancet, has shown that mirtazapine offered no improvement in agitation for people with dementia - and was possibly more likely to be associated with mortality than no intervention at all.

Agitation is a common symptom of dementia, characterised by inappropriate verbal, vocal, or motor activity, and often involves physical and verbal aggression. Non-drug patient-centred care is the first intervention that should be offered but, when this doesn't work, clinicians may move to a drug-based alternative.

Antipsychotics have proven to increase death rates in those with dementia, along with other poor outcomes, and so mirtazapine has been routinely prescribed. This study was designed to add to the evidence base around its effective-



tiveness.

Funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), the study recruited 204 people with probable or possible Alzheimer's disease from 20 sites around the UK, allocating half to mirtazapine and half to placebo. The trial was double-blind, meaning that neither the researcher nor the study participants knew what they were taking.

The results showed that there was no less agitation after 12 weeks in the mirtazapine group than in the control group. There were also more deaths in the mirtazapine group (seven) by week 16 than in the control group (only one), with analysis suggesting this was of marginal statistical significance.

Lead researcher Professor Sube Banerjee, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health and Professor in Dementia at the University of Plymouth, explained why the results were so surprising but important.

"Dementia affects 46 million people worldwide – a figure set to double over the next 20 years. Poor life quality is driven by problems like agitation and we need to find ways to help those affected," he said. In India, it is estimated that 5.3 million people above the age of 60 have dementia. This equals to one in 27 people, according to the Dementia in India 2020 report. Alzheimer's dementia is the most common type of dementia.

"This study shows that a common way of managing symptoms is not helpful – and could even be detrimental. It's really important that these results are taken into account and mirtazapine is no longer used to treat agitation in people with dementia.

"This study has added important information to the evidence base, and we look forward to investigating further treatments that may help to improve people's quality of life."

Centre’s CSC ties up with NCRB to provide NOC for sale of second-hand vehicles

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Centre's digital kiosks, Common Service Centre (CSC), has tied up with the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) to provide No Objection Certificate (NOC) which is mandatory for sale of second-hand vehicles.

The NOC is mandatory for sale-purchase of second-hand vehicles. The NCRB has requested State governments to integrate CCTNS services with Digital Seva Portal so that these can be delivered and made accessible to citizens through the network of CSC.

Vehicle NOC allows citizens to ascertain the status of a vehicle before they go for second-hand purchase. The NOC certificate shows whether the vehicle for sale is in the police records for any reason. An NOC is also mandatorily required by the RTO before the transfer of ownership. With this partnership, citizens

can visit their nearest CSC and easily generate and download the NOC, required by the RTO.

CSC will also create awareness about these services in the community they operate. The service will now be available from over 4-lakh CSC across India. CSC is an SPV under the Ministry of



Electronics & IT.

Commenting on the significant tie-up, CSC SPV Managing Director Dr. Dinesh Tyagi said: "There is a growing market for pre-owned vehicles for personal and commercial use. Mobility is an important part of commercial and entrepreneurial activities. Our extensive network of CSCs can capitalize on this demand and provide NOCs to vehicle owners. Citizens particularly in rural areas can benefit from this partnership as they don't have to travel long distances to visit NCRB offices and can get NOC from their nearest CSC."

"To extend this service to citizens, CSC Digital Seva Portal will relate to Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS). CSC VLEs will use the vehicle matching facility of this service to search vehicle details and generate NOC by providing Registration Number, Chassis Number and Engine Number," Tyagi added.

GLOBE TROTTING

TAIWAN SHAKEN BY 6.5-MAGNITUDE QUAKE
Taipei: An earthquake shook Taiwan's capital, Taipei, on Sunday and caused falling rocks that injured a woman and damaged a car. No deaths were reported. The 6.5-magnitude quake struck at 1:11 p.m. and was centered near Yilan, a city about 35 kilometers (22 miles) east of Taipei near the northeastern coast, according to the Central Weather Bureau. It was followed seconds later by a 5.4-magnitude quake. Buildings in Taipei swayed. The subway and some other mass transit services were suspended. A woman was injured by falling rocks in Taroko National Park in Hualien County, south of Yilan, the Central News Agency reported. It said one car on a highway was damaged also by falling rocks but no one was injured.

TEXAS DRAG RACE DRIVER SLAMS INTO SPECTATORS
Kerrville: A driver lost control during a Texas drag racing event on an airport runway and slammed into a crowd of spectators, killing two children and injuring eight other people, authorities said. A 6-year-old boy and an 8-year-old boy were killed in the crash Saturday afternoon at an event called "Airport Race Wars 2" at the Kerrville-Kerr County Airport, police said in a news release.

AFRICA TRIES TO END VACCINE INEQUITY
Cape Town: In a pair of Cape Town warehouses converted into a maze of airlocked sterile rooms, young scientists are assembling and calibrating the equipment needed to reverse engineer a coronavirus vaccine that has yet to reach South Africa and most of the world's poorest people. The energy in the gleaming labs matches the urgency of their mission to narrow vaccine disparities. By working to replicate Moderna's Covid-19 shot, the scientists are effectively making an end run around an industry that has vastly prioritized rich countries over poor in both sales and manufacturing.

PAK: ISLAMISTS SUSPEND MARCH UNDER PACT
Lahore: A radical Islamist party agreed Sunday to suspend for three days its march of thousands toward the capital Islamabad after Pakistan agreed to drop pending charges against the party's leader. Party supporters Saturday departed the eastern city of Lahore, clashing for a second straight day with police who lobbed tear gas into the crowd.

US sabotaging CPEC: Pakistan PM's aide

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Chief of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority has accused the United States of sabotaging the multi-billion dollar project, the economic lifeline of Pakistan, a media report said. The ambitious CPEC was launched in 2015 when Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan. It aims to connect western China with the Gwadar seaport in southwestern Pakistan through a network of roads, railways and other projects of infrastructure and development. "From the point of view of the emerging geo-strategic situation, one thing is clear: the United States supported by India is inimical to CPEC. It will not let it succeed. That's where we have to take a position," Khalid Mansoor, the

Special Assistant to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on CPEC affairs said while addressing the CPEC Summit at the Institute of Business Administration in Karachi on Saturday. Islamabad is the seventh largest recipient of Chinese overseas development financing with 71 projects worth USD 27.3 billion currently underway as part of the CPEC. Many Western think tanks and commentators have termed the CPEC an economic trap that has already resulted in bloated public debt levels and disproportionately high Chinese influence in Pakistan's economy, a report in the Dawn newspaper said. The premier's aide said the United States and India continue to "make attempts to manoeuvre Pakistan out of" China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) — a global infrastructure

development plan — under which the Chinese government has been investing heavily in about 70 countries, the report said. "There's no way Pakistan will forgo any of its benefits. It has more than once burnt its fingers in (the Western) alliance in the past," he said, adding that their attempts to dilute China's strategic influence in the region will fail. Mansoor said the Western powers view the CPEC as a symbol of China's political ambition. "That's the reason CPEC is seen suspiciously by both the United States and Europe... they view CEPC more as a move by China to expand its political, strategic and business influence," Mansoor said, noting that China has been able to allay that apprehension "to a great extent". The United States

is now "taking stock of the economic and political consequences" of withdrawing from the region, he reasoned. "I had a detailed discussion with the people in the American embassy. I told them CPEC is available for them as well. They have also expressed their wish that they would like to develop some kind of involvement and see how it can be beneficial for both countries," he said. Mansoor said Islamabad is seeking the expansion of the CPEC to Afghanistan and has discussed the possibility of Taliban-led Afghanistan joining the multibillion-dollar economic corridor. He said there has been "deep interest" in developing economic connectivity between Afghanistan and Pakistan and with other neighbouring countries, including Iran.

Israel set to OK 3,000 West Bank settler homes this week

AP ■ TEL AVIV

Israel is expected to move forward with thousands of new homes for Jewish settlers in the West Bank this week, a settlement watchdog group said Sunday. The plan for some 3,000 new settler units in the West Bank has already drawn calls for restraint from the U.S., which on Friday voiced "concern" over the expected approvals. Hagit Ofra from the anti-settlement group Peace Now said a committee is set to meet Wednesday to approve 2,800 units deep in the West Bank, complicating any efforts to create a Palestinian state. More than half of those are receiving final approval, meaning construction could begin in the coming year. On Friday, U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price said the U.S. was "concerned" about the housing plans. He called on Israel and the Palestinians to "refrain



In this file photo, workers take a break before European Union officials visit the construction site for the Givat Hamatos Israeli settlement, in Jerusalem

from unilateral steps that exacerbate tension and undercut efforts to advance a negotiated two-state solution" to the conflict. The Palestinians seek the West Bank, along with the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem — areas Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war — for their future state. The Palestinians view the settlements, which house some 700,000 settlers, as the main obstacle to peace. Most of the international com-

munity considers settlements illegal. Israel views the West Bank as the biblical and historical heartland of the Jewish people. Ofra said Israel is also set to approve 1,600 units for Palestinians in the areas of the West Bank that it controls. But critics say the move comes at the initiative of villagers and not the Israeli government and that the figure is a fraction of the building permits requested by Palestinians over the years.

US urges N Korea to stop missile tests, return to talks

AP ■ SEOUL

A senior US diplomat on Sunday urged North Korea to refrain from additional missile tests and resume nuclear diplomacy between the countries, days after the North fired-off its first underwater-launched ballistic missile in two years. Sung Kim, the top US official on North Korea affairs, spoke after meeting with South Korean officials to discuss North Korea's recent missile tests that have come amid a long-running stalemate in nuclear diplomacy between Washington and Pyongyang. "We call on the DPRK to cease these provocations and other destabilizing activities, and instead, engage in dialogue," Kim told reporters, referring to North Korea by its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "We remain ready to meet with the DPRK without preconditions and we have made clear that the United States harbours no hostile intent towards

the DPRK," he said. Last Tuesday, North Korea fired a newly developed ballistic missile from a submarine in its fifth round of weapons tests in recent weeks. South Korean officials said the submarine-fired missile appeared to be in an early stage of development. That marked the North's first underwater-launched test since October in 2019 and the most high-profile one since President Joe Biden took office in January. Missiles fired from submarines are harder to detect in advance and would provide North Korea with a secondary, retaliatory attack capability. Tuesday's launch violates multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions that ban any activity by North Korea in the area of ballistic missiles. Kim said the test poses a threat to the international community and is "concerning and counterproductive" to efforts to promote peace on the Korean Peninsula. Kim's South Korean coun-

terpart, Noh Kyu-duk, said the two had an "in-depth" discussion on Seoul's push for a symbolic, political declaration to end the 1950-53 Korean War as a way to bring peace. Noh said he and Kim also reaffirmed that North Korea's issues of concern can be discussed once talks are restarted. The US-led talks on ending North Korea's nuclear programme have been largely stalled since early 2019, when a summit between then President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un collapsed due to disputes over US-led sanctions on the North. The Biden administration has repeatedly said it's ready to meet North Korea "anywhere and at any time" without preconditions. But North Korea says a return to talks is conditional on the US dropping what it calls a hostile policy toward Pyongyang, an apparent reference to the sanctions and regular military drills between Washington and Seoul.

Obama criticizes Youngkin in Virginia Gov's race

AP ■ RICHMOND, VA

Former President Barack Obama offered a sharp rebuke of the Republican candidate for Virginia governor, Glenn Youngkin, as he encouraged voters on Saturday to support Democrat Terry McAuliffe in the closely watched race. Obama accused Youngkin of portraying himself as a friendly everyman while encouraging what Obama called "lies and conspiracy theories" about widespread voting fraud in the 2020 elections. Former President Donald Trump has continued to push the false narrative about election fraud, which fueled the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. "Either he actually believes in the same conspiracy theories that resulted in a mob, or he doesn't believe it but he is willing to go along with it, to say or do anything to get elected. And maybe that's worse ... because that says something about character," Obama said.



Youngkin, a former private equity executive and a first-time candidate, initially made "election integrity" the centerpiece of his campaign and refused for months to say whether President Joe Biden was legitimately elected. He has since said that Biden was, and that there was not widespread fraud in last year's elections.

Another country stops Sputnik jabs after South Africa HIV fears

AFP ■ JOHANNESBURG

Namibia has discontinued the use of Russia's Sputnik V Covid-19 vaccine following concerns raised by neighbouring South Africa, the health ministry said on Saturday. Neighbouring South Africa earlier this week said it would not approve Sputnik V due to concerns it could increase the risk of HIV infection among men, a claim the vaccine's developer says is unfounded. The Namibian health ministry said in a statement that following South Africa's decision it was suspending, with immediate effect, use of the shots until the formula is listed for emergency use by the World Health Organization. "The reason for discontinuation of the administration of the vaccine is being done out of abundance of caution that men who received Sputnik V may be at higher risk of contracting HIV when exposed to it," said the ministry.

Over 2K migrants march out of southern city in Mexico



A caravan of migrants, mostly from Central America, heading north, stop to rest in the Alvaro Obregón community, Tapachula municipality, Mexico on Saturday

AP ■ TAPACHULA

Over 2,000 migrants, mainly Central Americans, began walking out of a city in southern Mexico on Saturday where they have essentially been trapped. The migrants walked along a highway leading west and north toward the U.S. border, and pushed past a line of state police who were trying to stop them. There were minor scuffles and a small child suffered a slight head wound, but the migrants continued on their way. They made it only a few miles (kilometers) to the nearby village of Alvaro Obregón before stopping to rest for the night at a baseball field. José Antonio, a migrant from Honduras who did not want to give his last name because he fears it could affect his case, said he had been waiting in Tapachula for two months for an answer on his request for some sort of visa. "They told me I had to wait because the appointments were full," said the construction worker. "There is no work there (in Tapachula), so out of

necessity I joined this group." He said he hopes to make it to the northern city of Monterrey to find work, adding "We'll go on, day by day, to get as far as we can." Police, immigration agents and National Guard have broken up smaller attempts at similar breakouts earlier this year. Tens of thousands of migrants from Honduras, El Salvador and Haiti have been waiting in the southern city of Tapachula for refugee or asylum papers that might allow them to travel, but have grown tired of delays in the process. Unlike previous marches, the one that started Saturday from Tapachula did not include as many Haitian migrants, thousands of whom reached the U.S. border around Del Rio, Texas in September. In August, National Guard troops in riot gear blocked several hundred Haitians, Cubans and Central Americans who set out walking on a highway from Tapachula. Mexico requires migrants applying for humanitarian visas or asylum to remain in the border state of Chiapas, next to Guatemala, for their cases to be processed.

Pope Francis: Don't send migrants back to Libya and inhumane camps

AP ■ VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis on Sunday made an impassioned plea to end the practice of returning migrants rescued at sea to Libya and other unsafe countries where they suffer "inhuman violence." Francis also waded into a highly contentious political debate in Europe, calling on the international community to find concrete ways to manage the "migrant flows" in the Mediterranean. "I express my closeness to the thousands of migrants, refugees and others in need of protection in Libya," Francis said. "I never forget you, I hear your cries and I pray for you." Even as the pontiff appealed for changes of migrant policy and of heart in his remarks to the public in St.

Peter's Square, hundreds of migrants were either at sea in the central Mediterranean awaiting a port after rescue or recently coming ashore in Sicily or the Italian mainland after setting sail from Libya or Turkey, according to authorities. Dozens of others sent out a plea for help from a flimsy rubber dinghy. "So many of these men, women and children are subject to inhumane violence," he added. "Yet again I ask the international community to keep the promises to search for common, concrete and lasting solutions to manage the migrant flows in Libya and in all the Mediterranean." "How they suffer, those who are sent back" after rescue at sea, the pope said. Detention facilities in Libya, he said "are true concentration camps."

Turkey decision on envoys regrettable, says Finland's PM

AP ■ HELSINKI

Finland's leader said Sunday that the Turkish president's decision to order that 10 foreign ambassadors, including the Nordic country's envoy, be declared persona non grata after calling for the release of a jailed philanthropist and human rights activist was a "regrettable situation." Prime Minister Sanna Marin told public broadcaster YLE that "this is a tough reaction" from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who announced the move on Saturday. A declaration of persona non grata against a diplomat usually means that the individual is banned from remain-

ing in their host country. The diplomats were summoned to Turkey's foreign ministry on Tuesday. The envoys from the U.S., France, Germany, Netherlands, Canada, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway and New Zealand had issued a statement calling for a resolution to the case of Osman Kavala, a businessman and philanthropist held in prison since 2017 despite not having been convicted of a crime. "This is a very regrettable situation. We've considered it important that the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights are respected and complied with, and therefore have called for the release of this human rights activist," Marin said.

Cheaper Covid-19 tests in place for vaccinated travellers to England

PTI ■ LONDON

Fully vaccinated travellers returning to England from countries not on the travel ban red list can use a Covid-19 negative Lateral Flow Test (LFT) instead of the more expensive Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test, under the new rules effective from Sunday, which could boost the country's tourism sector. Other parts of the UK — Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland — are also expected to follow similar LFT rules for vaccinated travellers in the coming weeks. Travellers vaccinated in over 100 countries, including

India, will also be treated the same as returning fully vaccinated residents in England, the government said. This means that travellers arriving in England from a non-red list country can use LFT instead of the PCR on or before day two. "I'm delighted that from today eligible travellers to England, who've had the life-saving Covid-19 vaccine can benefit from a cheaper lateral flow test, providing faster results," UK Health Secretary Sajid Javid said. "This huge boost to the travel industry and the public will make it easier and cheaper for people to book holidays

and travel abroad, and it is because of our incredible vaccine programme that this is possible. Anyone who tests positive must take a PCR test, which, if positive, may be genomically sequenced to check for variants and further help us fight this virus," he added. Travellers must take a photo of their LFT and booking reference supplied by a private provider and send it back for verification. They will also be able to book a test which they can take on arrival at several testing centres located at certain airports in England. "The change in rules for post-arrival tests will give pas-

sengers more options and faster results, just in time for many half-term holidays. It's thanks to the success of our vaccination programme that we can make this switch — giving the industry and consumers a much-needed boost," said UK Transport Secretary Grant Shapps. Travellers who have already bought PCR tests for travel do not need to undergo another test. "Testing and self-isolating if you are positive remain crucial steps to managing the pandemic and stopping the spread of Covid-19 in the community," Dr Jenny Harries, Chief Executive of the UK Health Security Agency, said.

China reports 43 new Covid cases

PTI ■ BEIJING

China reported 43 new Covid cases, including four locally transmitted infections in Beijing, health authorities said on Sunday. The four new locally transmitted coronavirus cases detected in Beijing pushed the total infections in the city during the current outbreak to 13. The four people, who live in the same residential community in Beiqijia Township located in the northern suburban district of Changping, are all close contacts of previously confirmed cases, the municipal health commission said.

They have been sent to a designated hospital for treatment and epidemiological investigation is underway, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. National Health Commission (NHC) said besides the four infections in Beijing, 39 other cases were reported from different parts of the country. This include 17 imported cases. Of the new 26 local cases, seven were reported in Inner Mongolia, six each in Gansu and Ningxia, four in Beijing and one each in Hebei, Hunan and Shaanxi, the commission said.

WINTER SESSION OF PARLIAMENT Govt likely to introduce 2 key financial sector Bills

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government may introduce two key financial sector bills, including the proposed law for facilitating privatisation of public sector banks as announced by the Finance Minister in the Budget.

The Government is also likely to table amendments to the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Act, 2013, to enable separation of the National Pension System Trust (NPS) from the PFRDA for ensuring universal pension coverage.

The Government is likely to table amendments in the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, during the forthcoming Winter Session of Parliament, sources said. Apart from this, amendments would be needed in the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970, and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980, for privatisation of banks, sources said.

These Acts led to the nationalisation of banks in two phases and provisions of these laws have to be changed for the privatisation of banks, they said.

A month-long winter session of Parliament is expected to start by the end of the next



month. The second batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants, allowing the Government to undertake additional expenditure other than the Finance Bill, would also be introduced for approval. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting the Budget for 2021-22 had announced the privatisation of public sector banks (PSBs) as part of disinvestment drive to garner Rs 1.75 lakh crore.

“Other than IDBI Bank, we propose to take up the privatization of two Public Sector Banks and one General Insurance company in the year 2021-22,” she had said.

For ensuring privatisation of a general insurance company, the government has already received approval from Parliament for the

General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2021, in the

monsoon session ended in August 2021.

With the amendment in the PFRDA Act, sources said, powers, functions and duties of NPS Trust, which are currently laid down under PFRDA (National Pension System Trust) Regulations 2015, may come under a charitable Trust or the Companies Act.

The intent behind this is to keep NPS Trust separate from the pension regulator and managed by a competent board of 15 members. Out of this, the majority of members are likely to be from the government as they, including states, are the biggest contributor to the corpus.

The Trust was established by PFRDA for taking care of the assets and funds under NPS. The proposal to separate the two job roles has been under consideration for the last couple of years.

A country can provide fishery subsidies if it maintains stocks at sustainable levels: India's proposal in WTO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A member country of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) can provide subsidies to its fishermen if it maintains stocks at a biologically sustainable level, according to a proposal submitted by India last month.

India has also proposed that a country engaged in distant water fishing (fishing beyond 200 nautical miles from its sea shores) cannot provide fishery subsidies for 25 years from the date of entry into force of the fisheries subsidies agreement, an official said.

Fishing in distant waters or in some other country's territory is a major problem when it comes to maintaining fish stocks at sustainable levels. Such activities lead to depletion of fish stocks in the oceans and this happens because of use of highly mechanised vessels or boats for industrial fishing.

This agreement is under discussion among the 164 WTO members in Geneva.

The aim of these negotiations is to discipline subsidies with the overall objective to have sustainable fishing and to eliminate IUU (illegal, unreported and unregulated) fishing subsidies and prohibit subsidies contributing to overcapacity and overfishing.

There are primarily three areas of fishing -- territorial waters (12 nautical miles from the sea shore), EEZ (exclusive economic zones - 200 nautical miles), and high seas. There are certain developed countries



which go into high seas for exploiting the fishing stock.

The current proposal submitted by India assumes significance as it has stated that the draft text which is at present under negotiations is unbalanced.

“The present text is unbalanced and only when Indian suggestions (from its proposal) are considered and incorporated suitably, then only it will be a balanced text for negotiations. The present text cannot form the basis of negotiations because it is not balanced.

Only when these suggestions are discussed, deliberated and in some manner incorporated in the revised text, then India can start the text-based negotiations,” the official said.

In the WTO, member countries negotiate through a text to finalise an agreement.

The official added that the current draft text, which is under negotiations, does not provide a conducive policy space for developing and least

developed countries (LDCs) that are yet to develop their fishing capacities.

“Therefore, the principle of polluter pays and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities concept must be applied in line with the popular demand of developing countries made at a meeting on July 15 this year,” the official said.

The suggestion of India for a moratorium of 25 years on countries that are engaged in distant water fishing is based on FAO's (Food and Agriculture Organization) code of conduct for responsible fisheries, which was adopted in 1995. It has recognised the issues of overfishing and depletion of fish stocks.

Further, India has also proposed that member countries engaged in distant water fishing after this agreement comes into effect should have to reduce such activities by certain specified percent every year till overcapacity or overfishing persists.

India sees registration of over 16,570 new firms in September

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 16,570 new companies were registered in the country in September, taking the total number of active companies to more than 14.14 lakh, according to official data.

Data from the corporate affairs ministry showed that a total of 22,32,699 companies were registered in the country as on September 30.

Out of them, 7,73,070 companies were closed, 2,298 were assigned dormant status as per the Companies Act, 2013, 6,944 were under liquidation and 36,110 were in the process of being struck-off.

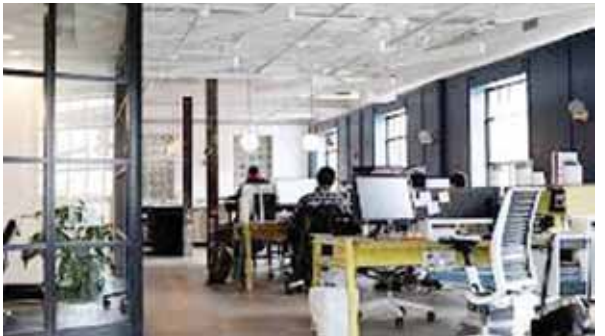
As per the ministry's monthly information bulletin for the corporate sector, there were 14,14,277 active companies as on September 30.

Citing an analysis registration of new companies during September 2019 to September 2021 period, the

ministry said the data indicates that monthly registration of companies has increased after hitting lowest of 3,209 in April 2020.

“A total of 16,570 companies were registered in September 2021 as compared to 16,641 in September 2020. An increase (24.68 per cent) in registration of companies has been witnessed in September 2021 over the previous month...

A total of 4,535 LLPs were registered in September 2021 as compared to 4,016 LLPs in September 2020,” the ministry said. Out of the 14,14,277 active companies, the ministry said 14,05,098 were limited by shares, 8,872 were limited by guarantee and 307 were unlimited companies. Among the 7,73,070 closed companies at the end of September, 7,13,052 were declared defunct and struck-off after issuance of notice under the Companies Act.



FROM PAGE 1

IS THE THIRD COVID WAVE KNOCKING ON OUR DOOR?

According to reports, Dr Agrawal said further details and the exact number of AY.4.2 cases in India would be available soon.

AY.4.2 is a descendant of the Delta variant, which has so far been considered the most dangerous form, affecting millions. Delta has been studied closely using genome sequencing since early this year and its tribe has extended up to AY.39. The lineage AY.4 was considered the fastest growing in many continents, including India, in the last three months until the UK health authorities earlier this week announced the spread of AY.4.2.

The UK health authorities have named AY.4.2 as a “variant under investigation” that “appears to have a modestly increased growth rate compared to Delta”. The AY.4.2 lineage has mutations of Delta and Delta derivative AY.4 and has spike mutations A222V and Y145H that help the virus enter human cells more easily. The UK, which has the biggest database on AY.4.2 has started comparative analyses of ‘Pandemic not over’

Recent studies have shown that the Oxford vaccine, sold as Covidshield in India, is effective against Delta. The third genomic sequencing report of the BMC in Mumbai showed that while breakthrough infections (getting Covid despite vaccination) have been noted, the vaccine has resulted in a lower number of hospitalisations, disease severity and deaths.

MID-SEA DRUG BUST CASE TURNS MURKY

Among other things, Sail has made a serious allegation that he “overheard” Kiran Gosavi, for whom he works as a personal bodyguard and who is also an “independent” witness in the case, while talking to one Sam D'Souza, as saying: “you put a bomb of Rs 25 crore, let's settle for Rs 18 crore and give Rs 8 crore to Sameer Wakhende.”

Gosavi is one of the nine independent witnesses in the cruise ship raid and alleged recovery of drugs, in which Bollywood super star Shah Rukh Khan's eldest son Aryan Khan and seven others were detained on October 2 and formally arrested on October 3.

Gosavi is an “absconding accused” booked for allegedly duping a Pune-based man on the pretext of offering a job in Malaysia.

Sali also stated in his affidavit that he had seen Pooja Dadlani (Shah Rukh Khan's manager) talking to Gosavi. He also claimed that on being told so by Gosavi, he went to a location sometime later to collect Rs 50 lakh cash and that he collected “two bags filled with it.”

Sail claimed that he carried the two bags of cash and delivered them to Sam D'Souza near Trident Hotel in south Mumbai. “However, when he (Sam D'Souza) counted the case, it was only Rs 38 lakhs,” he stated in the affidavit.

Alleging that Gosavi might have been either killed or abducted, Sail claimed in his concluding remarks of his six-page affidavit: “I say that KP Gosavi is missing now and I now fear that NCB officials and other persons involved may kill me or abduct me like KP Gosavi. As seen in big cases, witnesses are often killed or taken away and I therefore

want to state the truth.”

In his shocking revelations on the circumstances leading to the arrest of youngsters in the mid-sea bust case, Sail quoted Gosavi as saying that in all 13 people were arrested on October 2 (and not eight persons as claimed by the NCB). Among other things, Sail stated that he was told by Gosavi's driver Vijay Suryavanshi on the morning of October 2 to wait near the NCB's office in south Mumbai, “where Gosavi is in meeting with NCB official” and later at around 12 noon, Gosavi had asked him to come at “Green Gate.”

From there, Sail and Gosavi bought a lot of foodstuff including Frankie rolls, cold drinks and water, which they took inside the Green Gate near the boarding pad of the cruise ship, and he distributed the eatables to Wankhede and other NCB staffers.

Sail remained in the waiting area of the International Cruise Terminal and that afternoon Gosavi sent him a few photographs on WhatsApp with instructions to keep a lookout for them.

Sail identified one of the persons and informed Gosavi who replied to me “That person who I identified is caught and 13 people are arrested.” At 7 pm that day, Gosavi asked Sail to bring his Innova car inside after telling the CISF security personnel Sameer Wankhede's name, but the security did not permit the vehicle, forcing him (Gosavi) to come out, change his clothes and again enter the Green Gate.

“At about 10.30 pm I was called by KP Gosavi to the boarding area. I saw Aryan Khan in one of the cabins at the cruise boarding area. I saw one girl Mumun Dhamecha and others in one of the cabins with the NCB sleuths,” Sail stated, adding that NCB officer took Aryan Khan in the Innova car to the NCB office. “At around 1 am, I received a call from Gosavi, instructing me to sign as a pancha and calling me to the NCB office. I reached there and Sameer Wankhede instructed the staff to take my signature and name. One Shekar from NCB told me to sign on ten blank papers,” Sail stated, adding that he sent a copy of his Adhaar card by WhatsApp to the NCB official.

In his affidavit, Sail subsequently goes on to talk about what he “overheard” Gosavi telling one Sam D'souza about the money deal.

FOUR JEM ULTRAS PLANNING ATTACK ON CRPF CAMPS, IAF BASES IN J&K

The other modus operandi of the terrorist pinpointed was not snatching weapons from the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the Jammu & Kashmir police as they fire back on the attackers. The terrorists were also instructed by the Pakistani masterminds not to fire on any party which is close to a bunker as the personnel inside the bunker may fire back on the attackers.

Such detailed modus operandi of the terror groups suggest they have full assessment of counter action by various security forces. The ultras know to discriminate between the forces in terms of perceived retaliation by them to the attackers. The terrorists have clearly identified the soft targets primarily in the district police and CRPF which is a matter of concern for the agencies, sources said.

“The repeated inputs of CRPF being chosen by the terror groups for terrorist attacks pose a major challenge to the Central paramilitary to seek an image makeover by displaying itself to be making the potential to hit back hard against the ultras. There is also a need to review the current trend of CRPF relying mostly on the Jammu & Kashmir police for intelligence and acting as an adjunct of the police for security planning and counter-terror action,” conceded a senior security official.

Long-term security challenges need to be addressed through a mix of independent dynamic action against the terror groups on the ground and perspective plans for the long haul to contain terrorism being directed by Pakistan through the terror groups affiliated to the Pakistan army and ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence), officials added.

TIME FOR SIDELINING PEOPLE OF JAMMU OVER, SAYS SHAH

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Shah said that the era of injustice towards the residents of Jammu was over and now no one can cause any injustice to them. “You have faced injustice for years, but now Jammu and Kashmir will develop together and both will take India forward together,” he said.

Presenting his Government's report, Shah listed schemes that have been inaugurated during the last few years. “Earlier there were 500 medical seats, now 2,000 students pursue their MBBS degree and no one needs to go anywhere. I have not seen a modern IIT campus like the one which has been inaugurated here today. Discussions were also held about how IITs, IIMs and AIIMS will complement each other by creating new types of courses together. Apart from this, 25,000 Government jobs have been given by the Service Selection Board, out of which 7,000 people have been handed their appointment letters today,” he said.

Asserting that new investments will help create five lakh new jobs, Shah said so far land has been allotted for an investment of Rs 7,000 crore in Jammu and Rs 5,000 crore in Kashmir.

The Union Home Minister said that today some people raise questions about security, but “let me give some figures to them. Between 2004-2014 as many as 2,081 civilians died, which is 208 civilians per year. From 2014 to September 2021, 239 civilians lost their lives in an unfortunate manner which is 30 per year instead of 208,” he said, adding that the Government wanted to create a situation where not even a single person is killed and terrorism ends completely.

MODI TO TRAVEL TO ROME FOR G-20 MEET, UK FOR COP-26

The COP-26 is being held from October 31 to November 12 under the Presidency of the UK partnering with Italy. The high-level segment of COP-26, titled the World Leaders' Summit (WLS), will be held on November 1-2. Heads of State of more than 120 countries will attend the meet. The COP-26 was originally slated to be held in 2020, but was deferred to 2021 in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The UNFCCC embodies the global will and vision to combat climate change. The periodic Conference of Parties to this convention have emerged as global climate summits, providing an opportunity for stocktaking and for charting the way forward.

Modi last attended the COP-21 in Paris in 2015, when the Paris Agreement was concluded, and whose implementation commences this year. At COP-26, the Parties will work to achieve the completion of Paris Agreement implementation guidelines; the mobilization of climate finance; actions to strengthen climate adaptation, technology development and transfer; and keeping in reach the Paris Agreement goals of limiting the rise in global temperatures.

The Ministry said Modi will hold numerous bilateral meetings on the sidelines of COP-26, including with Boris Johnson.

MODI TO GIVE ‘DIWALI GIFTS’ TO KASHI, NATION

Kaikadham bridge worth Rs 19.14 crore; Sangam ghat near confluence of rivers Ganga and Gomti at Kaithi worth Rs 10.66 crore; Markandey Mahadev Ghat on river Ganga at Kaithi worth Rs 5.14 crore; tourism development work under PRASAD Yojana Phase-2 at Dashashwamedh Ghat worth Rs 10.78 crore; underground parking at Circuit House worth Rs 26.77 crore; underground parking at Town Hall worth Rs 23.31 crore; Padam Vibhushan Late Girja Devi Hall at Chowkaghat Cultural Complex worth Rs 6.94 crore and bio-CNG plant at Shahshahpur Goshalaya Kendra worth Rs 23 crore.

Meanwhile, elaborate security arrangements have been made at the venue and other places, including Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport at Babatpur and the meeting of Advance Security Liaison (ASL) was held under the chairmanship of ADG to give final shape to all security arrangements at the venue as well as routes. Senior police officers were also present.

District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma and other senior officers also visited the rally site to inspect the arrangements. For ensuring foolproof security, about 3,000 police personnel, including NSG commandos, three IG-rank police officers, 13 SPs, 25 ASPs, 40 DSPs and 12 companies of PAC apart from fire tenders, dog squad, bomb disposal squad and intelligence personnel have been deployed. For maintaining law and order, prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code have already been imposed since Saturday which would remain effective till Monday midnight.

Besides, rehearsal was made by the administrative and security personnel apart from launching a massive checking drive in various adjoining areas including at Rohania, Mirza Murad, Raja Talab, Harahua and others apart from railway stations, bus depots, hotels etc. Three helpiads have been constructed near the rally meeting apart from Swiss cottages for the VVIPs including the prime minister, UP governor and chief minister. Along with this, several traffic restrictions have been imposed in the areas and for parking of vehicles, as many as five sites have been developed. There will be nine entry gates, excluding the ones for VVIPs and VIPs.

Rent of retail space up 11-17% in Delhi's upscale mkts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rentals of high-street retail Rare inching back to pre-Covid levels in Delhi-NCR on the back of revival in business, as rents in upscale Khan Market, South Extension and Connaught Place have risen 11-17 per cent during July-September compared to the previous quarter, according to Cushman and Wakefield.

“Rentals inching back to pre-Covid levels as market activity strengthens,” global property consultant Cushman and Wakefield (C&W) said in its report ‘Marketbeat- Delhi-NCR, Retail Q3 2021’ (July-September).

The Delhi-NCR market recorded improved retail activity during the September quarter, the consultant said, adding that early signs of recovery could be seen with a pick-up in retail leasing. “With rentals inching back to pre-COVID levels and accommodation on commercial terms narrowing, the only direction for retail in the coming months is upwards,” said Vibhor Jain, Managing Director, North, Cushman & Wakefield.

“Increased vaccination and a low caseload have certainly played an important role in the return to normalcy and higher consumer confidence,” the report said.

On rent scenario, the consultant found that the rentals of high street location Khan Market increased 12.5 per cent to ₹1,350 per square feet during the July-September quarter as against the previous quarter.

Govt may raise over ₹10,000 cr via Bharat Bond ETF

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is likely to launch the next tranche of the Bharat Bond ETF by December and expects to raise over ₹10,000 crore to fund growth plans of central public sector enterprises, according to a senior finance ministry official. The official added that the fund requirements of CPSEs are being worked out and the third tranche of the exchange-traded fund (ETF) will be launched by the end of the calendar year. “We are finalising on the amount to be raised but it would be over ₹10,000 crore,” the official said.

Bharat Bond ETF is an exchange-traded fund that invests in debt of public sector companies.

Petrol, diesel prices hiked for 5th straight day

DIESEL ABOVE ₹100 IN WEST BENGAL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol and diesel prices on Sunday were hiked for the fifth straight day by 35 paise per litre each, pushing pump rates to new high across the country. The price of petrol in Delhi rose to its highest-ever level of ₹107.59 a litre and ₹113.46 per litre in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

In Mumbai, diesel now comes for ₹104.38 a litre, while in Delhi, it costs ₹96.32 per litre.

This is the fifth consecutive day of the price hike. There was no change in rates on October 18 and 19, prior to which prices were hiked by 35 paise per litre each on four straight days.

While petrol has already hit the ₹100-a-litre mark or more in all major cities of the country, diesel has touched that level in over one-and-a-half dozen states and UTs from



Jammu & Kashmir to Tamil Nadu. West Bengal on Sunday became the latest state to have the nation's most used fuel above that level.

Purulia, Krishnanagar, Baharampur and Cooch Behar districts of the state had diesel above ₹100-a-litre mark.

Prices differ from state to state, depending on the incidence of local taxes.

Petrol price has been hiked on 21 occasions since September 28, when a three-week-long hiatus in rate revision ended. In all, prices have gone up by ₹ 6.4 a litre.

438 infra projects show cost overrun of ₹4.3 lakh crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 438 infrastructure projects, each worth ₹150 crore or more, have been hit by cost overruns totalling more than ₹4.3 lakh crore, according to a report.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation monitors infrastructure projects worth Rs 150 crore and above.

Of the 1,670 such projects, 438 reported cost overruns and 563 were delayed.

“Total original cost of implementation of the 1,670 projects was ₹21,66,048.11 crore and their anticipated completion cost is likely to be ₹25,96,907.70 crore, which reflects overall cost overruns of ₹4,30,859.59 crore (19.89 per cent of original cost),” the ministry's latest report for September 2021 said.

According to the report, the expenditure incurred on these projects till September 2021 is ₹12,54,512.40 crore, which is 48.31 per cent of the anticipated cost of the projects.

However, the report said that the number of delayed pro-



jects decreases to 380 if delay is calculated on the basis of latest schedule of completion.

Further, for 808 projects neither the year of commissioning nor the tentative gestation period has been reported.

Out of the 563 delayed projects, 100 have overall delay in the range of 1-12 months, 120 have been delayed for 13-24 months, 216 for 25-60 months and 127 projects have delays of 61 months and above.

The average time overrun in these 563 delayed projects is 47 months. Reasons for time overruns as reported by various project implementing agencies include delay in land acquisition, delay in obtaining forest and environment clearances, and lack of infrastructure support and linkages.



ADDING EXTRA TO THE ORDINARY

Replicating his real life, actor-philanthropist SONU SOOD focusses on the impactful work by individuals through his forthcoming show, *It Happens Only In India*. He tells SAIMI SATTAR why it has become essential to narrate such inspirational stories

Sonu Sood had made a career of playing the antagonist after his debut in supporting roles in Tamil films *Kallazhagar* and *Nenjilile*. That was till the time the pandemic struck.

From distributing food packets and sending migrant labourers home to supporting students and providing employment, all it took was two years. The mere mention of his name is enough to evince widespread admiration all around. Not surprisingly, National Geographic Channel roped him for a new show, *It Happens Only In India*, where he narrates stories of people who have gone above and beyond the daily grind to leave a lasting imprint on lives around them.

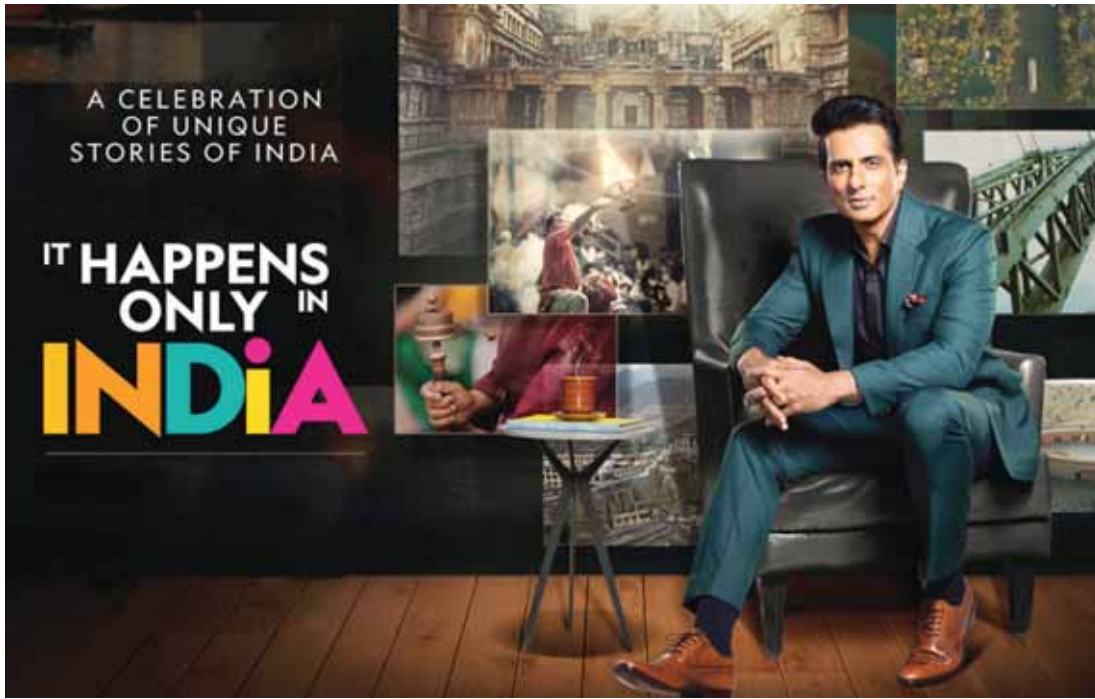
❖ **It happens only in India is something we say a lot about this country. So, what was it that made you take the show up?**

The kind of social media madness that we are obsessed with means that we do not have time to tell stories. As children, we heard stories being narrated by our grandparents which have left an imprint on our minds. However, the younger generation does not have anyone to tell them stories and neither do they have the time.

Coming to this show, *It Happens Only In India*, on National Geographic, which features people who were unaware that they have a hero within them and unknowingly they tapped into it to do something that astonished and inspired the country. It was important to tell the world that rather than stories beginning from, 'Once upon a time', they are some that start with, 'There was this common man in Jharkhand who...'. And when we tell the story of a common person to another of his ilk, it makes him/her special. It is important to narrate these incidents. I am happy that I can narrate these stories which happen to inspire me as well. It is striking that, with just an idea, a person can change lives and inspire people.

❖ **Why is India unique, in your opinion?**

If we talk about India, there are



so many people, religions, languages. We see everything changing every day. When we meet people abroad, they always react to us coming from the country and express a desire to visit India. They want to explore India. Even as an Indian, if you visit the four corners of our nation, it would appear as if you are in four different countries. Not just geographically, the people, attire, food, everything is starkly different. There is definitely a certain uniqueness. While we might be saying it because we are Indians, yet we can't dismiss the fact that there is something special about our country that exerts a sense of awe across the globe.

❖ **Do you believe in the power of one? That a single person can make a difference?**

I always believe that you can only fight battles alone. *Karwaan to baad me judta hai* (People joined me later). During the pandemic, when we were helping people and I told some friends who have settled abroad that

I am planning to send people to their homes. Their reaction was, "How is it even possible that when we can't even step out of our buildings, how can you send people in buses?" I told them, "Let me try." And when those 10 buses were leaving with 350 people on board for Karnataka, I did not know a single person. But the happiness on their faces and the thankfulness in their folded hands told me that this story is not restricted to these few. It is spread across the entire country. I still don't know how I was able to do this. It isn't about what's inside a person that propels him/her forward. It is the prayers and the blessings of the people that take this ahead. When I was sending people to their homes, it was the prayers of their parents and family members that enabled me to get permission from different authorities. I hope, the blessings will keep coming.

❖ **Initially, you started with distributing food packets, realised that people wanted to go home and**

then your focus shifted to generating livelihoods. Essentially, one thing has led to another.

To date, I have been able to employ 2.80 lakh people. Earlier we were assisting 2,000-2,200 students in education and now we are teaching around 22,000 children. We are distributing medicines to people... but I do not know all of this is happening. We start an initiative, people got motivated and got involved with it. In medicine, for instance, doctors, hospitals and pharmaceutical companies came forward to do their bit. It was a chain reaction which spread like a wildfire. I recall the CEO of a big hospital telling me, "We were doing a lot of charity work earlier as well but after getting involved with your initiative, we have seen the transformation in the doctors, staff, pharmaceutical companies who feel that you are doing this for people you don't know. As a result, doctors waived off their fee, pharmaceutical companies gave medicines for free, hospitals did not charge for beds." So, more and more

people became involved with the effort. The reaction was magical. I do not know how it happened. That is the biggest lesson of our life. We wonder how this will happen... and then it does. We often leave things midway but that is what we shouldn't be doing. We should persevere. We might fall or falter in the effort but we have to dust that off and move forward.

❖ **You played an anti-hero on screen but now you are perceived as a hero in real life. How do you bridge the gap between the two?**

I don't know. A number of times it has happened that brands have debated whether to take me on board for endorsing their products as I have played negative roles on screen. They wondered if the brand was in sync with my image. And then, there came a time when I signed every single brand. When you try to change your image, it might not happen. It does on its own, with the blessings of others. I can give examples of some iconic films which were not made but just came about. If you had asked me about this work earlier, I would not have been able to visualise it. Two years back if you had told me that, "Two hundred people would come to your house every day to ask for help," I would have replied, "You have lost your mind. How is that even possible?" You learn every day but you have to remember the lesson so that when you are put to test, you pass with flying colours.

❖ **On the professional front, do you have any projects in the pipeline?**

I completed a Telugu film, *Acharya*, with Chiranjeevi and it will release next year. There is a Yash Raj film with Akshay, Prithviraj and me. Then, there is a home production which will start next year. I have missed many big offers as I am caught up with meeting people and do not get the time to read scripts. But three-four films are up for release next year.

(The first episode of *It Happens Only In India* airs tomorrow at 8 pm, only on National Geographic Channel.)

WEBBED



DYBBUK

Mahi, a newly married woman, brings an antique Jewish box into her home. When Mahi and her husband Sam begin to have paranormal experiences, they soon learn that the box is a dybbuk containing an evil spirit. It starts streaming on Amazon Prime Video from October 29.



HUM DO HAMARE DO

A comedy drama film directed by Abhishek Jain and produced by Dinesh Vijan, *Hum Do Hamare Do* features Rajkumar Rao and Kriti Sanon as a young couple who are keen to adopt parents. It starts streaming on Disney+ Hotstar from October 29.



MARADONA: BLESSED DREAM

The series depicts the life and career of football player Diego Maradona, from his beginnings in Villa Fiorito to achieving glory with Barcelona, Napoli and the Argentine team. It starts streaming on Amazon Prime Video from October 29.



Bollywood couple Neha Dhupia and Angad Bedi captured during the launch of Marks & Spencer's Indian Fusion Collection
Photos by Pankaj Kumar

The sight of children in their uniforms, with bags on their shoulders and trooping into the school, has been a rare sight for a better part of the last two years. While children were forced to stay home in the wake of the pandemic, they gradually accepted a new way of schooling — online learning.

However, with the restrictions slowly easing out and things lining back to normal, schools are gradually reopening their gates and welcoming back their students.

However, there is a larger imperative in question. How do schools make the transition smooth for their students after a long time away?

❑ **Be open to in-depth conversations**

Coming back to school after a long hiatus can prove to be a major change in a child's life. Many children may have receded into their comfort zones and shells, and may not find it easy to speak to people all over again. At such times, one can take small steps into making students feel comfortable and more aware. Teachers need to motivate students to speak up and share their emotions. Engaging in open conversations encourages students to express themselves better and provides reassurance that they are in a safe space.

❑ **Organise ice-breakers**

A new beginning calls for newer measures. Orientation programmes for kids can be a great way to break the ice and

Getting back in the groove

Returning to school after an extended hiatus may be stressful for students. ROHAN PARIKH suggests ways to help facilitate learning and growing in the new normal



make students feel more at ease while they're at school. Through such a programme, students can get to know more about their daily learning schedule once again, meet and greet teachers, explore extracurricular activities, which gives them a better sense of belonging and adventure at school.

❑ **Set small, achievable goals**
Change is a good thing when

it's balanced and calculated. But sudden change can often lead to anxiety. Switching from the world of online learning to a 'back-to-school' model might not be easy for a child. Hence, if students feel nervous about jumping back into school life, teachers can set micro goals and help by guiding their classroom, reconnecting students with old friends and making them more comfortable at their



desks through numerous activities.

❑ **Prioritise mental health for children**

Lockdown has made everyone more anxious and stressed — especially children. This sudden shift in lifestyle has given rise to numerous mental health issues in children. At such times, instead of emphasising a child's learning gaps, teachers need to focus more on a student's growth over the past two years. With more openness about understanding a student's mental state, teachers can appreciate their grit and resilience in cruising through this challenging year.

❑ **Engage with your students**

In the initial days of the school reopening, students might feel that they've fallen behind on their curriculum. Spending the whole year in front of the com-

puter can make them feel highly non-competitive. Thus, students need to be kept engaged through various activities and other learning initiatives. An excellent attendance record and active participation can be the key to bridging the prevalent learning gaps and strengthening the bonds.

❑ **Ask for help if the going gets tough**

Managing students is not an easy feat; add the pandemic, and it's a different ball game altogether. Kids are still trying to make headway in a post-pandemic world and are highly dependent on their teachers to guide them. Hence, teachers need to take the reins and help students come to terms with these new changes. However, things can get overwhelming for a teacher as well. At such times, calling for additional help can assist help you become better at managing the students during these tough times.

Time can heal anything, so all we have to do is give things some time. Schools need to realise that students seek to experience a sense of normalcy when they return to school. By acknowledging the way they feel and giving them the space to come to terms with their feelings, schools can become an integral part of the students' emotional journey.

(The author is the MD of The Green Acres Academy, a school by The Acres Foundation.)

TRENDBLAZER



EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS: SAIF

Actor **SAIF ALI KHAN** has completed 28 years in the Hindi film industry. Looking back at his journey, he shared that it went better than what his parents had expected of him.

"When I was in school my parents used to worry about me, thinking that I might end up in a slightly destructive life. I am proud of the fact that life is going quite well, as of now, even though it has been hard work at times," shared Khan, who was recently seen in *Bhoot Police*.

fairtalk

AAHANA KUMRA



'Amal, my character, in *Call My Agent*, the forthcoming series, is a talent agent who has to go through a myriad of emotions everyday because getting actors jobs, or putting projects together is not everyone's cup of tea. I am overwhelmed by the positive reviews we have been receiving ever since the trailer was released and I am sure the show will be an absolute entertainer.'

dailytalk

PARINEETI CHOPRA



'I think I had a dream launch 10 years ago with *Ladies Vs Ricky Bahl* and when I look back, I cannot help but feel that I have had an amazing career. It's the same as an amazing life. You have to have high highs and low lows. You have to have successes and failures. Joys and pain. I wouldn't have been the actor that I am today if it wasn't for all of that.'

INSPIRING OTHERS LIKE HIM: ED SHEERAN

Grammy winning-singer **ED SHEERAN** hopes that his stint as a storyteller will help children, like him, who have a stutter.

He will be reading Jordan Scott and Sydney Smith's *I Talk Like A River* in a forthcoming episode of CBeebies' *Bedtime Story*.

"Growing up, I had a stutter like the boy from the story and, as a new dad, I hope it helps inspire and support other children," expresses Sheeran.



Pak register first-ever WC win over India

PTI ■ DUBAI

Asupremely stylish Babar Azam broke a 29-year-old jinx by guiding Pakistan to an emphatic 10-wicket victory over India in the ICC T20 World Cup here on Sunday, their first in 13 attempts against the bitter arch-rivals at a global event.

The law of averages had to catch up with India sooner or later after having won seven ODI and five T20 World Cup games since they first met at Sydney in 1992.

It was also a day when Virat Kohli scored a half-century but was pale in comparison of Babar (68 not out off 52 balls), who looked regal in attack, elegant in defence and composed in a chase of 152, which was achieved in 17.5 overs.

Worse, India haven't ever lost a T20 International by 10 wickets and Pakistan won by such a margin for the first time, and what an occasion to achieve the feat.

Babar had the exuberance of Mohammed Rizwan (79 not out off 55 balls) to match his cool quotient as Pakistan, not for once during the entire match, looked like imploding. In between them, they hit 12 boundaries and five sixes to make it a 'Super Sunday' for Pakistan.

On the day, there was only one team that could have won and that was Pakistan, who were better on a man-to-man comparison with each Indian player.



It started with the captains. On a track where Kohli struggled, Babar just effortlessly found the gaps and when required, hit those sixes as release shots.

If India lost three wickets in power play, Pakistan literally humil-

iated their rivals with an opening stand, which will be billed as one of the best in this format for years to come.

If Shaheen Shah Afridi was a rockstar with his searing pace and incisive swing, his new-ball counter-

part Bhuvneshwar Kumar bowled at early to mid 120 kmph with no swing at all.

If Pakistan's spin troika of left-armer Imad Wasim (0/10 in 2 overs), leg-spinner Shadab Khan (1/25 in 4 overs) and off-spinner Mohammed Hafeez (0/10 in 2 overs) gave only 47 runs in their eight overs together, Varun Chakravarthy (0/33 in 4 overs) didn't have any 'mystery' about him as he and Ravindra Jadeja (0/28 in 4 overs) gave away 61 runs.

If there was one team that felt the pressure it was India as Babar seemed like a man who was sitting in that Indian dressing room that had no control over the proceedings.

In the chase, Pakistan looked in complete control and Bhuvneshwar's lack of pace and non-existent swing made it easy for Rizwan to effortlessly cart him over square leg for a six. Skipper Babar was also elegant as he punched Mohammed Shami off the back-foot and rocked back to pull Jadeja over deep mid-wicket for a six.

The 50 came in the 8th over and before India realised, the duo had taken the game away by posting the highest ever opening stand against India in T20 internationals.

When India batted, Kohli got support from Rishabh Pant (39 off 30 balls) during a 53-run stand but had to do the bulk of heavy lifting in a pressure cooker scenario, something he has been accustomed to for the past

one decade.

His innings had five fours and a six as India managed a score which gave the bowlers at least something to fight for on a track that can't exactly be called batting-friendly.

Shaheen, one of the most exciting fast bowlers produced two unplayable deliveries at the biggest stage under pressure, which any batter would have found difficult to negotiate.

The most difficult delivery from a left-arm fast bowler is the one that holds the line just when the batter had committed for the angle.

In the case of Rohit (0), before he could adjust his footwork, he got one that was pitched on block hole and straightened. It caught him plumb in-front.

KL Rahul (3) thought that the ball will straighten but it shaped in to breach his defence and disturb the off-stump.

Suryakumar Yadav (11) did get a six over backward square leg off Shaheen and a boundary off Imad Wasim (0/10 in 2 overs) but Hasan Ali bowled one back of the length which he edged while trying to cut and a diving Mohammed Rizwan behind the stumps pounced it.

Pant joined Kohli as the power play score read a disastrous 36 for three. They added 53 runs in 6.4 overs to get some momentum back in an exciting stand dominated by the left-hander.

The Indian captain did show Shaheen, who is the boss as he made room by shuffling towards leg-stump and lofted him straight into his team's dug-out for a six.

For Hasan Ali, he reserved an exquisite square drive before he let Pant take over the show, having partially stabilised the initial rot.

Watching that there is a fielder placed at '45', Pant first played a lap shot off leg-spinner Shadab Khan (1/22 in 4 overs) and then back-cut Mohammed Hafeez from the middle-stump to get two boundaries.

But the real fun was when he smoked Hasan for two one-handed sixes.

Shadab had the last laugh as a mistimed slog sweep turned into a return catch.

Kohli, who was playing the second fiddle then took chagrestage as he attacked Hasan with a pull-shot and a then played a cover drive as 10 runs came off the 16th over.

However, Pakistani bowlers didn't err much at the death to keep the score under check, credit for which should go to Harris Rauf (1/25 off 4 overs).

Scoreboard

BANGLADESH (BATTING)	SRI LANKA (BOWLING)
Mohammad Naim (62)	Chamika Karunaratne 3 (12, 1 wkt)
Mushfiquir Rahim (57)	Binura Fernando 3 (27, 1 wkt)
Liton Das (16)	Lahiru Kumara 4 (29, 1 wkt)

Total 171 (4 wickets, 20 overs)

SRI LANKA (BATTING)	BANGLADESH (BOWLING)
Charith Asalanka (80)	Shakib Al Hasan 3 (17, 2wkt)
Bhanuka Rajapaksa (53)	Nasum Ahmed 2.5 (29, 2wkt)
Pathum Nissanka (24)	Mohammad Saifuddin 3 (38, 1wkt)

Total 172 (5 wickets, 18.5 overs)

Scoreboard

INDIA (BATTING)	PAKISTAN (BOWLING)
Virat Kohli (57)	Shaheen Afridi 4 (31, 3wkt)
Rishabh Pant (39)	Hasan Ali 4 (44, 2wkt)
Ravindra Jadeja (13)	Shadab Khan 4 (22, 1wkt)

Total 151 (7 wickets, 20 overs)

PAKISTAN (BATTING)	INDIA (BOWLING)
Mohammad Rizwan (79)	Bumrah 22/0
Babar Azam (68)	Bhvneshwar 23/0

Total 152/0 (17.5 overs)

pointstable

Group A	Team	Matches	NRR	Points
	England	1	+3.970	2
	Sri Lanka	1	+0.583	2
	Australia	1	+0.253	2
	South Africa	1	-0.253	0
	Bangladesh	1	-0.583	0
	West Indies	1	-3.970	0

Group B	Team	Matches	NRR	Points
	Pakistan	1	+0.973	2
	India	1	-0.973	0
	Afghanistan	0	+0.000	0
	Namibia	0	+0.000	0
	New Zealand	0	+0.000	0
	Scotland	0	+0.000	0

Shakib becomes T20 World Cup's highest wicket-taker



PTI ■ SHARJAH

Bangladesh's premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan on Sunday became the leading wicket-taker in the history of T20 World Cups, surpassing former Pakistan skipper Shahid Afridi when he dismissed Sri Lanka's Pathum Nissanka during their Super 12 match here. Shakib entered the game with 39 wickets in 28 matches. Having produced a match-winning spell (4/9) against Oman in the preliminaries, Shakib, one of the world's leading all-rounders, found himself among the wickets in the team's first Super 12 game, against Sri

Lanka. Afridi picked 39 wickets in 34 matches.

Shakib went past Afridi's record when he used his vast experience to get the better of Nissanka with a flighted delivery.

Two balls later, Shakib bowled Avishka Fernando for his 41st wicket in the tournament.

With Bangladesh having made the Super 12s and guaranteed to play at least five matches, it was only a matter of time before the left-arm spinner bettered Afridi's record.

Shakib is also the current highest wicket-taker in T20Is.

Asalanka's unbeaten win against B'desh

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Young left-hander Charith Asalanka smashed an unbeaten 80 off 49 balls while fellow southpaw Bhanuka Rajapaksa made a quickfire half-century as Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh by five wickets in their T20 World Cup Super 12 Group 1 match here on Sunday. Sri Lanka suffered a mid-innings mini batting collapse but recovered in time to chase down the target of 172 with seven balls to spare, thanks to brilliant half centuries from Asalanka and Rajapaksa (53 off 31 balls) with the duo stitching 86 runs in quick time for the fifth wicket in jus 8.4 overs.

The 24-year-old Asalanka, who has played just eight ODIs and four T20Is before Sunday's match, held the Sri Lanka innings together, hitting five

fours and as many sixes in his entertaining unbeaten knock.

Coming in the 10th over, the 30-year-old Rajapaksa smashed three fours and as many sixes in his 31-ball innings as Sri Lanka reached 172 for 5 in 18.5 overs.

However Bangladesh would certainly be disappointed with their shoddy outfielding as Litton Das dropped regulation catches of both Rajapaksa and Asalanka denying his team a shot at victory.

Bangladesh got the breakthrough with the fourth delivery itself as left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed got rid of opener Kusal Perera (1) who failed to read a flatter and quicker delivery and was clean bowled.

Despite the early jolt, Sri Lanka were on the ascendency with Asalanka getting the

boundaries with ease. He hoisted Nasum for two sixes in the third over and then punished Mahedi Hasan for another maximum to take Sri Lanka to 54 for 1 at the end of powerplay.

But Shakib Al Hasan triggered a mini batting collapse with two wickets — that of Pathum Nissanka (24) and Avishka Fernando (0) — in four balls.

Mohammad Saifuddin then dismissed Wanindu Hasaranga (6) as Sri Lanka lost three wickets in 10 balls for the addition of nine runs.

Sri Lanka were 80 for 4 at the halfway mark and set-batter Asalanka, who reached to his fifty off 32 balls, kept them in the hunt. He was going great guns by hoisting Mahmudullah for two sixes in the 14th over.

Sri Lanka needed 46 from

the final five overs but Asalanka and new batsman Rajapaksa decisively titled the balance of the game in their favour. Rajapaksa smacked three sixes in a sensational show of batting pyrotechnics in the 16th over bowled by Saifuddin from which Sri Lanka took 22 runs.

Earlier, opener Mohammad Naim and Mushfiquir Rahim cracked impressive half centuries to steer Bangladesh to a competitive 171 for four.

Joining forces in the eighth over when their side was struggling at 56 for two, Naim and Rahim stitched a quick 73-run stand in 8.3 overs to keep the momentum going.

Naim hit six boundaries in his 52-ball 62-run knock while Rahim remained unbeaten on 57 from 37 balls with the help of five fours and two sixes.



Chelsea, Man City win big without playing a striker in EPL

AP ■ LONDON

Chelsea and Manchester City didn't field a recognized striker between them for their Premier League games.

It didn't stop them combining for 11 goals in ominous displays by the two title contenders.

Missing injured strikers Romelu Lukaku and Timo Werner, Chelsea still powered to its biggest win of the season — 7-0 against Norwich — with playmaker Mason Mount scoring a hat trick.

City doesn't have an out-and-out striker in its squad after failing to sign a like-for-like replacement for Sergio Aguero in the offseason but that isn't stopping the champions scoring freely this season.

A 4-1 victory at Brighton, secured mainly

thanks to two goals by Phil Foden, followed a 5-1 win at Club Brugge mid-week in the Champions League. It was the sixth time in 14 games in all competitions that City has scored three or more goals.

Chelsea will spend another week leading the league — it is two points ahead of City and four clear of Liverpool, whose game in hand is at Manchester United on Sunday — and the strength in depth in the squad should ensure Thomas Tuchel's team maintains a title challenge this season.

There have been 16 different scorers for Chelsea in all competitions this season, with Callum Hudson-Odoi, Reece James and Ben Chilwell also netting against last-place Norwich alongside Mount's first Premier League hat trick.

OTHER SPORTS

Harmanpreet stars in Melbourne Renegades' win

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

India's T20 skipper Harmanpreet Kaur dished out an all-round performance to guide Melbourne Renegades to a comfortable seven-wicket win over Sydney Sixers in the Women's Big Bash league on Sunday.

The 32-year-old took two wickets for 17 runs in her four overs to restrict Sydney Sixers to 118 for 4 and then blasted an unbeaten 35 off 29 balls, studded with one four and two sixes, to script a successful chase in 17 overs.

Harmanpreet, who had recently returned to action after recovering from a shoulder injury, was adjudged the player of the match.

Young Shafali Verma, however, had a disappointing day as she



was dismissed for a golden duck by Melbourne skipper Sophie Molineux (1/18).

Shafali's teammate in Sydney Sixers Radha Yadav had a decent outing as she scalped one wicket for 12 runs in two overs but wasn't enough to stop the Renegades. Yadav also took a sharp

return catch to dismiss Courtney Webb (23).

In another match, Poonam Yadav endured a tough time as she bled 19 runs for no wicket in her 2 overs but her team Brisbane Heat won the match by 5 runs over Adelaide Strikers in a rain-hit game.

Vardhan, Balu qualify for main draw of tennis Nationals

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former champion Vishnu Vardhan and Sharmada Balu recorded easy wins over their respective opponents to qualify for the men's and women's singles main draws of the Fenesta national hard court tennis championships, here on Sunday.

Vishnu foiled the bid of talented Ajay Malik 6-2 6-1 while Sharmada Balu beat Kiran Kalkal 6-1 6-2 in her match.

"It was a good match, I am very happy with the way I played. I think in the last three matches, this is the best I have played. Court 1 is my favourite here at the DLTA. I am indeed happy to be playing the Fenesta Open again, in the main draw," said Vishnu.

Also making it to the men's singles main draw were Parikshit Somnani and big-hitting Siddharth Vishwakarma.

Parikshit outplayed Jagmeet Singh 6-3, 6-2 while Lucknow's Siddharth got the better of Lohith Aksha Bathrinath 6-2 6-4.



Vishwakarma said he was taking it step by step.

"It was a good game. I was a bit nervous as I started playing after a long time," he said.

In other final round qualifying matches, Shruti Ahlawat beat Anjali Rathi 6-2, 6-1 while Sudipta Sen beat Ishwari Anant 6-3, 6-0.

Farhat Aleen Qamar won 6-3 6-3 against Sonashe Bhatnagar while Sehali Arora beat Radhika Yadav 6-4, 6-0.

"I struggled a bit in the beginning but was able to pull through. Overall, I am happy with my wins over the last two days and am in the main draw," said Sharmada Balu.