

OPINION 6
IN THE END, THE
GAME IS THE WINNER

WORLD 8
ENCOURAGE AFGHANISTAN
TO SHUN TERRORISM: XI

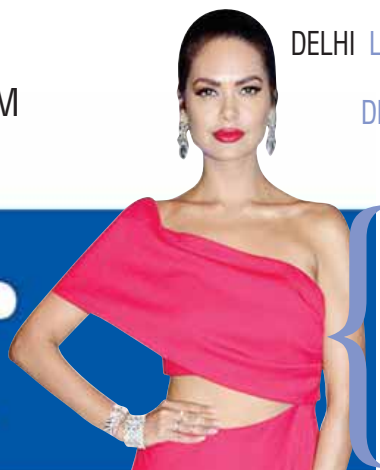
SPORT 12
HARMILAN KAUR SETS
NATIONAL RECORD IN 1500M

BHOPAL, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹1.50



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Record 2 crore get jabs on PM's b'day

India's total Covid shots is 78.72 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India crossed two crore Covid-19 vaccination in a day for the first time since the launch of the national inoculation programme almost eight months ago as the Government raced to set the landmark on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday on Friday.

The one crore-mark was crossed by the afternoon itself, after which Ministers and BJP leaders put out tweets urging more to get their shots. Social media was also abuzz with congratulations wishes from a large number of supporters even as the Opposition mocked the event as "PR stunt" and fudging of data. Adding Friday's tally, daily vaccinations crossed the one-crore mark for the fourth time in less than a month.

Among States, Jaggard Bihar registered the highest single-day vaccination at 16.28



A health worker inoculates a Covid-19 vaccine dose to a beneficiary wearing face mask of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on PM's 71st birthday, during a mega-vaccination drive in Beawar on Friday

PTI

lakh, followed by Karnataka at 15.47 lakh, Madhya Pradesh at 13.09 lakh, Uttar Pradesh at 12.12 lakh and Gujarat at 11.35 lakh.

Incidentally, Uttar Pradesh has registered the highest number of vaccinations in total so far at 9.18 crore, followed by Maharashtra with 71.3 crore, Madhya Pradesh 5.49 crore, Gujarat 5.47 crore and Rajasthan 5.23 crore.

"On PM @Narendra Modi

Ji's birthday, till 1:30 pm, the country has crossed the mark of 1 crore vaccines, the fastest so far, and we are continuously moving forward. I believe that today we will all make a new record of vaccination and give it as a gift to the Prime Minister," Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya tweeted with the hashtags "VaccineSeva" and "HappyBdayModiji".

The Government's tracker

90% people in Mumbai have anti-bodies

Mumbai: As part of its latest sero-survey conducted in the country's commercial capital since the outbreak of the Covid-19 in March-April last year, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said on Friday that Covid-19 anti-bodies were found in a sizeable 90.26 per cent of Mumbaiers who were either fully or partially vaccinated.

The study conducted between August 12 and September 9 found antibodies among the 79.86 per cent of unvaccinated citizens.

Detailed report on P5

showed around 42,000 vaccinations in a minute, said a senior health officer.

"Celebrating the relentless efforts of India's vaccination against Covid-19, we have added a ticker to show vaccinations happening in near real-time.

We are currently clocking over 42,000 vaccinations a minute or 700/second," tweeted National Health Authority chief RS Sharma.

Must ensure radicalisation, extremism don't rise: Modi

At SCO meet, PM asks members to encourage 'moderate Islam' in Af

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Drawing attention to the developments in Afghanistan and the Taliban take-over there, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday gave a call to fight "extremism and increasing radicalisation" at the summit meeting of the nine-member forum of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). He emphasised on the history of "moderate Islam" in the Central Asia and also talked about "territorial integrity" in a veiled message to China.

Addressing the summit, the Prime Minister said, "The land-locked Central Asian countries can benefit immensely by connecting with India and its 'vast market' and indirectly took on China when he said "connectivity cannot be one way street" and affirmed that projects need to be "transparent", giving respect to "territorial integrity".

Modi was alluding to the "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor" or CPEC which India does not recognise as it passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Modi said India is helping

to increase connectivity in Afghanistan via Iran's Chabahar Port. The Prime Minister also welcomed Iran as the ninth member of the forum.

Though the Prime Minister spoke through video-conferencing, India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is physically representing India on at the SCO summit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Jaishankar met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi and discussed bilateral relations, particularly the situation at the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh.

In his address, the Prime Minister highlighted India's concerns over regional stability and asked the SCO member States, which includes China, Russia, Pakistan and central Asian countries, to ensure the grouping works closely together on issues like connectivity and trust.

Modi referred to "radicalization" many a times saying the biggest challenges before SCO are "peace, security and trust deficit" and sought the 21-year-old forum to take initiative and "fight radicalism and extremism and develop a com-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the SCO Summit virtually on Friday

PTI

mon template for it".

The SCO was formed in June 2001 with Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as members. India and Pakistan became full members in June 2017.

The Prime Minister said the Central Asia has been a region of moderation where "Sufism flourished", and asked SCO should take steps and work to develop a strong network of existing "moderate institutions" there. He called for encouraging "moderate Islam".

"Today, we can see what is happening in Afghanistan. As SCO members it is a must for us all to ensure that there is no radicalisation and extremism on the rise there.

"If we take a look at history, we will find that Central

Asia has been a bastion of moderate and progressive cultures and values. Sufism flourished here over the centuries and spread throughout the region and the world. We can still see them in the cultural heritage of this region," the Prime Minister said.

Jaishankar: Early resolution must for LAC peace

New Delhi/Beijing: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has told his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi that the two sides should work for an early resolution of the remaining issues along the LAC in eastern Ladakh to restore peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

CAPSULE

YOUTUBE PAYS ME ₹4L PER MONTH: GADKARI

Bharuch: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday said he gets ₹4 lakh every month as royalty from YouTube, as viewership of his lecture videos posted on the platform has increased during the pandemic period.

ULTRAS KILL NON-LOCAL LABOURER, COP IN J&K

Srinagar: Terrorists killed a policeman and a non-local labourer in separate incidents in Jammu & Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday, officials said.

DELHI RECORDS 1 DEATH, 33 NEW COVID CASES

New Delhi: Delhi recorded one death due to Covid-19 and 33 fresh cases at a positivity rate of 0.04 per cent, according to data shared by the city health department on Friday.

NIA HAS HELD 168 PEOPLE IN TERROR CASES

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) said on Friday that it has so far arrested 168 people in 37 cases of terror attacks, conspiracy and funding which have been inspired by the Islamic State (IS) ideology in the country. It said charge sheets have been filed in 31 of the cases, the most recent of which was registered in June, and that 27 accused have been convicted after trial.

1st physical GST meet since Covid indecisive; Tax on Covid drugs cut till year end

VIRENDRA NATH BHATTA ■
LUCKNOW

The Goods and Service tax council, comprising the Finance Ministers of all States and Union Territories and Union Finance Minister, which met here on Friday failed to arrive at a decision on the inclusion of petroleum products and diesel in the GST.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that it was not time for including petrol and diesel.

The council extended concessional tax rates on Covid-19 medicines, cut tax on cancer drugs and waived GST on import of highly expensive



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs the 45th GST Council meeting in Lucknow on Friday

PTI

medicines for muscular atrophy.

The 45th meeting of the GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising State Finance Ministers, is the first physical meeting since the onset of the Covid-19 pan-

demic. The last such meeting took place 20 months ago on December 18, 2019.

The council's agenda included discussion on taxing petrol and diesel under the single national GST tax, extending tax concession to 11 Covid-19 drugs, and review tax rates

of over 4-dozen items, like oncology medicine and coconut oil among others.

The discussion on inclusion of petrol and diesel under GST was taken on the direction of the Kerala High Court. The court had directed the matter to be placed before the council for discussion. However, the Centre and the States failed to arrive at a decision regarding the inclusion of petrol and diesel under the ambit of GST regime.

Kerala Finance Minister vehemently opposed any move to bring petrol and diesel under the GST regime as that will further reduce revenue generation for the State and asserted that the Centre should reduce its levies on the two commodities to provide relief to the common people.

Central excise and State VAT (Value Added Tax) make up for almost half of the retail selling price of petrol and diesel. Bringing them under the GST would impact revenue generation for the States.



Devotees immerse idols of Lord Ganesha in a pond on the occasion of Dol Gyaras festival in Bhopal on Friday

Pioneer photo

Indore finds way to cleaner future by transforming its waste to wealth: Gadkari

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL



known for its farmers. If tractors start operating from CNG here, then not only the farmers will get financial relief but the pace of development of the state will also double.

He told the Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan to arrange for CNG-run tractors. The central government will provide you the CNG pump.

Continued on Page 3

Rackets gifted to PM quote ₹10 cr bids

Money from auction to go for Namami Gange Mission; memorabilia include sports gear

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fancy the javelin used by gold medalist Sumit Antil in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games or the one used by Neeraj Chopra in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games! Currently, put up for e-auctioning on the Culture Ministry website, the highest base price for each javelin is ₹1 crore.

The proceeds from the e-auction will go to the Namami Gange Mission aimed at conserving and rejuvenating the Ganga River. The memorabilia include sports gear and equipment of the medal-winning Olympians and Paralympians, a replica of the Ayodhya Ram Mandir, Chardham, sculptures and

paintings among others.

The highest quoted bids for the badminton rackets of Krishna Nagar, the Paralympic gold medallist, and that of Suhas Lalinakere Yathiraj, who won the gold and silver medals at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic games respectively have already gone up to ₹10 crore. In contrast, the lowest-priced item is a small-sized decorative elephant for ₹200.

The base price of Nagar's racket is ₹80 lakh while that of Yathiraj is set at ₹50 lakh. The fence used by CA Bhavani Devi in fencing at the Olympics 2020 received the highest bid of ₹10 crore while its base price is ₹60 lakh. Devi is the first Indian fencer to ever qualify for the Tokyo Olympics after qual-



ifying for the 2020 Summer Olympics.

The boxing gloves worn by boxer Lovlina Borgohain, who won a bronze decoration in the welterweight (64-69kg) classification semi-final for women at the Tokyo Olympics, becoming the third Indian boxer to win at Tokyo Olympics has received a bid of ₹1.80 crore. The base price for the gloves is ₹80 lakh.

The highest bids for the javelin which gave India its first



gold in the 2020 Olympics is over ₹1.20 crore while its base price is ₹1 crore.

The sharp-shooting glasses worn by Manish Narwal, who bagged a gold medal in the mixed 50m pistol SH1 final at Tokyo 2020 Paralympic games has so far received the highest bid of ₹95.94 lakh. The shooting glasses were presented by him to the Prime Minister

The wooden model of the Ram Mandir placed inside a glass box has received the highest quoted of ₹3 lakh so far.

Individuals and organisations can participate through the website pmmementos.gov.in between September 17 and October 7. Once the auction ends, the Ministry will notify the highest bidders through email.

Manipur's two chillis get GI tag

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Manipur's Tamenglong Orange and Hathei, special chilli varieties, have been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Terming it to be historic, Chief Minister N Biren Singh took to Twitter saying, "What a great start to the day for Manipur! I'm really happy to share that 2 (two) products of Manipur viz Hathei Chilly & Tamenglong orange have been granted the GI Tag. This is a historic milestone in the history of Manipur which will increase the income of the farmers immensely."

The GI tag identifies goods of special quality attributable to its geographical origin.

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CM urges people to get shot duo

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has called upon the citizens to get both doses of the vaccine under any circumstance for complete protection and safety from corona. Chouhan was addressing the citizens after observation of the vaccination center located in Maharana Pratap College campus in Vidisha district headquarters today. Chief Minister's wife Sadhna Singh, MLA Basoda Leena Jain, District Panchayat President Toran Singh Dangi were also present. Chief Minister Chouhan said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made free

vaccines available by caring about the lives of every citizen of the country. He thanked the Prime Minister and wished him a happy birthday. The Chief Minister said that Corona is controlled now, but it is not eradicated. We all have to be careful about the third wave and stop it, he said. For this, get both doses of the vaccine, wear a mask and follow the guideline of Corona. Chief Minister Chouhan has directed the district administration and health staff to identify those who are not vaccinated by surveying from the voter list and get them vaccinated by September 26 at any cost. The Chief Minister said



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan puts a mark on the hand of a beneficiary at the launch of the third mega vaccination drive in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

that there will be no corona due to vaccination and even if it happens, there will be no danger to life. He also thanked voluntary organizations, public representatives and government employees who have become participants in the mega campaign of vaccine. Earlier, Chief Minister Chouhan discussed with the citizens who came to the vaccination center to get the vaccine and appealed to them to get all the citizens of their street and locality vaccinated. He also presented certificates to the vaccinated citizens and citation of appreciation to the health employees.

Preparations overseen ahead of Shah's Jabalpur visit today

PNS ■ JABALPUR

Senior officials conducted inspection regarding the preparations for the visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to Jabalpur on September 18, today the officers inspected the venues and directed to complete all the necessary preparations before time. IG Umesh Joga, Collector Karmveer Sharma, Superintendent of Police Siddharth Bahuguna, District Additional Collector Rajesh Batham, Sher Singh Meena and Bimlesh Singh and other concerned officers were present during the inspection.



During this, along with all the necessary preparations for the Jabalpur visit of Union Home Minister Shah, it was told that all necessary arrangements should be strengthened. In the main program of the Union Home Minister, there are programs related to the

Ujjwala scheme based on the women empowerment at the Veterinary College Ground and the honor of Tribal Heroes at the Garrison Ground. The preparations for all these programs were reviewed. Along with this, along with the program organized at Shaheed Memorial Ground, visited Circuit House, Narsingh Mandir Shastri Bridge and Dayodaya, saw the preparations for the programs and instructed for proper arrangement of all the programs. During this, it was said that all necessary arrangements should be made according to the dignity and grandeur of the ceremony.



BJP workers offer a huge laddoo weighing 71 Kg at Lord Hanuman Temple on the birth anniversary of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Bhopal on Friday (L) Youth Congress activists stage a protest on the birth anniversary of PM Narendra Modi, as National Unemployment Day, at PCC headquarters in Bhopal on Friday (R)



Youth Congress activists stage a protest on the birth anniversary of PM Narendra Modi, as National Unemployment Day, at PCC headquarters in Bhopal on Friday (R) Pioneer photo

Webinar on World Ozone Day-2021 held at RTU

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A webinar on World Ozone Day 2021 was organized at Rabindranath Tagore University on Friday. The webinar was organised by the Faculty of Science, Environment Club and Centre for Science Communication in association with Mahendra College of Engineering Namakkal, Tamil Nadu through Webinar with the blessing of Vice Chancellor Dr. Brahma Prakash Pethiya and Registrar Vijay Singh. As a part of the celebration, awareness on the theme "The Montreal protocol- Keeping us our food and vaccines cool" were held. The welcome speech was delivered by Bhawna Agrawal, Co-Convener, followed with addressal by Neetu Paliwal, Dean and formal briefing by Chitra Singh, Prabal Roy, Director of Centre for Science Communication has highlighted about the today's scenario on ozone layer after that Keynote Speaker N. Zulfareen from Namakkal, Tamilnadu in her speech she emphasized the need for making people aware about the climate change and depletion of ozone layer. Ranjit Puse brief about the Environment Club which is running in the University followed by Vote of thanks at the end he conveys his sincere thanks to each and every one who worked for the success of the programme.

Movie 'A Man Close to Ship's Heart' screened at Shaurya Smarak

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A film depicting the lives of Navy engineers 'A Man Close to Ship's Heart' was screened at Shaurya Smarak here on Friday. The film deals with the training of Marine Engineers at the Marine Engineering Colourage at Calcutta. It also brings to the screen the employment opportunities open to the Indian youth in this field. The film was screened under the regular film screenings held at Shaurya Smarak every day. The movies screened here are based on the Indian Army, Navy and other armed forces. Produced by the Films Division, this film A Man Close to the Ship's Heart is produced by B. N. Mehra and directed by IN Engineer. The Indian Navy is a well balanced and cohesive three-dimensional force, capable of

The film was screened under the regular film screenings held at Shaurya Smarak every day

operating above, on and under the surface of the oceans efficiently safeguarding the national interests. It is to be noted that the film featured the engineers who work for the country in seas and oceans. The film features the advanced technologies used by the Navy even in submarines and people work for it i.e. the engineers. The same water surface is equipped with veneer, fatal warheads equipped with deadly weapons. Modern missiles to combat the problem of air in the air above the surface, the combatants. There are also the capabilities of the aircrafts to be there on the ships.

MIT School of Government to conduct 11th Bhartiya Chhatra Sansad from Sept 23-28

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

MIT School of Government hosted a virtual press conference on Friday to announce the 11th edition of its flagship six-day Annual National Conclave, Bharatiya Chhatra Sansad or BCS (Indian Student Parliament). BCS will be inaugurated by Rajnath Singh, Minister of Defence, Government of India, followed by a special session with Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India. The conclave will start from September 23 and the closing ceremony will take place on September 28, 2021, with Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India and Devendra Fadnavis, Leader of Opposition, Maharashtra State Legislative Assembly & Former CM, Maharashtra giving the valedictory speeches. High Dignitaries like Ramesh Bias, Governor of Jharkhand, Dharmendra Pradhan, minister for education and skill development and entrepreneurship, Government of India and M.



Veerappa Moily, Former Minister for petroleum and natural gas, law and justice, Government Of India and Chief Minister, Karnataka will also be addressing various sessions over the period of 6 days. In its 11th year, BCS, which is the country's largest platform that encourages and empowers youth of the country to participate actively in politics, will be held virtually for the first time to make it accessible to youth from all parts of the country.

3-day Gangaur Utsav held online

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Gangaur Utsav, a three-day festival of arts associated with the ritualism and folk tradition of Gangaur, is being organized by Tribal Folk Arts and Language Development Academy. The event began on Friday online. The local tradition of Shiva and Shakti is prominently found in the folk and community of Madhya Pradesh. On the first day of Gangaur festival Gangaur dance by Sadhna Upadhyay of Khandwa and Gangaur dance by Jaswant Bharve of Dindori and Gudumbaja were performed. It was broadcast on the department's YouTube channel. Gangaur dance was performed by Sadhna Upadhyay and group, in which the artists gave dance performances on five Badhawa..., O Saiba..., Karan Kasturi..., Ratnapur Si..., Hariya Javra..., In the presentation, the artists presented the greetings given before the arrival of the mother, the traditional aarti of Gangaur Mata's Nimari and the scenes of the Jaware sown with her welcome. Next dance performance Hey Saiba..., River ki dho dhad..., Makh lai do sab shringar..., Ranu Bai's palm sweeping in the courtyard. In singing, Sadhna Upadhyay, Sangeet Gangrade, Gauri Shankar Sen and Vikas Gurjar on Harmonium, Manoj Savner on Dholak, Jitendra Gurjar on Dhol accompanied the singer. Gangaur folk festival is celebrated in the month of Chait and Vaisakh in Nimar, Bhuna and Malwa provinces. In this, Pavli of Mother Gangaur is called on the first day and for nine days she is served by keeping jewels in the name of Mother.

Woman carrying drugs worth ₹35K arrested

Bhopal: Habibganj police have arrested a drug peddler woman carrying drugs worth Rs 35000 at Danapani restaurant on Friday; accused woman was found involved in drug peddling for long, said police. Police said that the action was taken after receiving information that a woman carrying drugs and nabbed and a police reached rushed to the spot and tracked woman peddler who appeared and were nabbed. Police have seized 3.6 kg of Cannabis which were carried in plastic bag. The drug peddler was identified as Laxmi Bai (30) of PC Nagar EWS. During the initial investigation it was found drug peddler was booked in the year 2007 and 2017 for drug peddling by Habibganj police. After the initial investigation police have registered a case under sections 8 and 20 of the NDPS Act. SR



Ujjain Lokayukta nab CMO for taking bribe from farmer For clearing water bill

PNS ■ UJJAIN

The team of Ujjain Lokayukta on Friday caught CMO Shobharam Parmar of Nagari Nagar Parishad of Mandsaur district red-handed taking a bribe of ₹5000, he was demanding a bribe from the farmer to pay the bill. The farmer had supplied water to the city council through his motor pump during the summer. The farmer was making rounds to get the bill passed. The farmer Kanhaiya Lal Dhakad, a resident of Daloda in Mandsaur, had complained to Lokayukta Ujjain on September 15. The city council of the district had issued a tender for water supply through a release on the issue of water in summer. In March 2021, tender was opened in the name of Shobharam, a letter was given to supply water from tube well every day. The council made an agreement to give Rs 15000 every month in for providing water for 4 hours every day.

The city council made the payment from February to June but the outstanding payment of 15 days of July which was Rs 15000 was stopped and to release a bribe of Rs 5000 was being demanded. After the complaint, Ujjain Lokayukta has arrested the CMO of Nagari Nagar Parishad, Shobharam Parmar, red-handed taking a bribe of Rs 5000. In another case the Panchayat coordinating officer of Garoth district was caught red-handed by the Lokayukta team while taking a bribe of Rs 5000. The applicant Dinesh Kumar Meena resident of village Ramnagar Tehsil Garoth district Mandsaur demanded ₹20,000 by Panchayat Coordinating Officer Omprakash Rathore to end the investigation of false complaint made against him by unknown person, which was on Friday, September 17 at 3.30 pm in the district. Accepting Rs 5000 as first installment outside Ujjain Lokayukta team, DSP Vedanta Sharma was caught red-handed by the team of Inspector TI Balveer Singh Yadav, staff Nitesh Lalawat, Umesh Jatav Sunil Parsai, Neeraj Rathore.

Sewa Sadan's Khategaon vision center launched



Bhopal: Local MLA Ashish Gobind Sharma inaugurated a vision center at Khategaon on Thursday. The center has been setup by Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital with the co-operation of an INGO Seva Foundation. As per the new guidelines of central government in Covid-19 pandemic situation, free eye camps are not organized. In place of free camps now poor cataract patients are identified in vision centers from where those patients are sent to SSEH for their free surgeries. Patron of senior citizen forum J.P.S. Tomar, Secretary Satish Mittal and Managing trustee of SSEH L.C. Janiyani were main amongst dignitaries present in the function. MLA Ashish Gobind Sharma said that it will be a big help to poor and needy eye patients on opening of this vision centre in Khategaon. He said that the possibilities of human development will take place when the ailing patients will get benefits of their overall health fitness. MLA told diligent and skilled manpower is only possible when our people are physically fit. He said that the efforts of the sewa sadan eye hospital in this direction is exemplary. Managing Trustee of SSEH welcome the MLA and dignitaries present in the function. He threw the light on the charity works and achievements of the eye hospital. He also disclosed the contribution of Paramhansa Sant Hirdaram Sahibji and Sant Siddh Bhauji in the field of health and women education. He told that the cataract surgeries of poor patients is done free of cost. Janiyani applauded the contribution of INGO Seva Foundation in opening of this new vision center in Khategaon. Patron of senior citizen forum J.P.S. Tomar said he was aware of the service activities of SSEH. He hoped that by the opening of vision center many patients of weak vision will be benefitted. At last programme manager Manoj Dhavadia proposed vote of thanks. SR

Podar International School observes 'Nutrition Week'

To observe National Nutrition Day on September 7

PNS ■ INDORE

Podar International School, a pioneer in the field of international education and consistently ranked as one of the top 10 International day schools in India, celebrated Nutrition week from September 7 to 14 to coincide with the National Nutrition Day which is observed in the country on September 7 every year. Podar International Schools in Indore had organised informative webinars, activities and educational programs in an effort to impart knowledge about nutrition & its importance to the students. The endeavor is to provide nutrition education to students throughout the year and the teachers strongly focus on students mental & physical health. As part of National Nutrition Week, students at

Podar International School Indore Khandwa Road created fruit and vegetable baskets and healthy food platters. The students also learned about the role of proper nutrition and its impact in their bodies. On the occasion of Nutrition week Podar International School Indore Khandwa Principal Yogendra Singh said, "The Nutrition week is observed to raise awareness about the importance of nutritional and adaptive eating habits in order to live a healthy lifestyle. At Podar International School, we focus strongly on our students' physical and mental health and proper nutritious diet plays an important role in the overall wellbeing. Since the pandemic wreaked havoc, awareness of healthy eating habits has begun to spread across the globe. We've all known for a long time that eating right, among other things, is the key to good health. Cereals, pulses, vegetables, fruits, nuts, seeds, dairy, and other foods from all food groups should be included in a well-rounded meal plan."

India asks China for early resolution of LAC row

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the objective of restoring peace at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar urged his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi to work for an early resolution and hold talks soon.

The two ministers met at the sidelines of the ongoing Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) summit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on Thursday and Jaishankar also asked the Chinese to avoid viewing its ties with India through the lens of a third country.

The two ministers reviewed the current situation at the LAC in eastern Ladakh and agreed that military and diplomatic officials of both sides should meet again and discuss resolving the remaining issues at the earliest.

The 12th round of Corps Commander level talks were held on July 30 to find mutually agreed process of withdraw troops from the flashpoints at the LAC. The next round is likely to take place soon, sources said here on Friday.

On the meeting between Jaishankar and Wang Yi, the former told the latter India had never subscribed to any “clash of civilisations theory” and that Asian solidarity would depend on the example set by India-China relations, the external affairs ministry (MEA) said here on Friday.

He also said the two sides need to establish a relationship based on “mutual respect” for which it was necessary that China avoid viewing the ties with India from the perspective of its relations with third coun-



tries, it said.

On Twitter, Jaishankar said: “It is also essential that China does not view its relations with India through the lens of a third country.” While Jaishankar mentioned “a third country”, the statement by the MEA talked about “third countries”. It is learnt that the two sides also exchanged views on developments in Afghanistan after the Taliban’s takeover of the country.

The MEA in its statement said the two ministers discussed the situation at the LAC and took stock of the global developments. Jaishankar underlined that it was necessary to ensure progress in the resolution of remaining issues so as to restore peace and tranquillity along the LAC. He also said such an atmosphere in the border areas has been an essential basis for progress in the bilateral relations.

“In this regard, the ministers agreed that military and diplomatic officials of the two sides should meet again and continue their discussions to resolve the remaining issues at the earliest,” the MEA said.

“In this context, the external affairs minister recalled that Foreign Minister Wang Yi had in their last meeting noted that the bilateral relations were

at low ebb,” it said.

The MEA said both sides in the previous meeting had agreed that a prolongation of the existing situation was not in the interest of either side as it was impacting the relationship in a negative manner.

Jaishankar noted that since their last meeting on July 14, the two sides had made some progress in the resolution of the remaining issues along the LAC in eastern Ladakh and had completed the disengagement in Gogra area. However, there were still some outstanding issues that needed to be resolved, the statement said.

Wang and Jaishankar had held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of another conclave of the SCO in Dushanbe on July 14. In the meeting, Jaishankar told Wang that any unilateral change in the status quo along the LAC was “not acceptable” to India and that the overall ties can only develop after full restoration of peace and tranquillity in eastern Ladakh.

Giving details about the latest meeting, the external affairs ministry said the two ministers also exchanged views on the recent global developments.

Jaishankar conveyed that India had never subscribed to any clash of civilisations theo-

Oz defends alliance with US, UK

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With China adopting an aggressive posture in the Indo-Pacific region, Australia on Friday defended its decision to forge an alliance with the US and UK known as AUKUS.

This alliance was unveiled on Thursday by Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and US President Joe Biden.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh were informed about this decision by their respective Australian counterparts before the formal announcement.

China criticised the security alliance saying it will gravely undermine regional stability and aggravate the arms race. Under the AUKUS, Australia will get nuclear powered submarines by other two countries.

France also took exception to the grouping and said its exclusion from the alliance reflected a lack of coherence when common challenges are being faced in the Indo-Pacific region. It was also cut up with Australia as a deal to build submarines for Australia was also cancelled.

Justifying his country joining the AUKUS, Australian High Commissioner to New Delhi Barry O’Farrell said here

China’s massive military modernisation programme, challenging strategic environment in the Indo-Pacific and intensification of great power competition in the region prompted Canberra to become part of the ambitious AUKUS partnership.

“The decision reflects a much more challenging strategic environment, an environment we share with India, where great power competition is intensifying, where territorial tensions in the South China Sea, Taiwan and elsewhere are becoming more challenging,” he said.

The partnership, seen as an effort to counter China in the Indo-Pacific, will allow the US and UK to provide Australia with the technology to develop nuclear-powered submarines for the first time.

The High Commissioner said AUKUS will not affect the Quad coalition of India, Australia, US and Japan. He said the Australian prime minister, the foreign minister and the defence minister spoke to their counterparts in India to inform them of the decision before the announcement on the AUKUS partnership was made.

The envoy said the investment in the Indo-Pacific in expanding military capability is proceeding at an “unprecedented rate” and it is being driven by China, which has the largest military modernisation programme underway in the world.

He said India and China had to deal with each other on merits and establish a relationship based on mutual respect.

“For this, it was necessary that China avoid viewing our

bilateral relations from the perspective of its relations with third countries. Asian solidarity would depend on the example set by India-China relations,” the statement said.

Taliban back in narco trade, dealing with US for release Al Qaeda man



RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELH

The Taliban is back in the business of narcotics ‘trade’ and has created a new route for global supply by shipping the contraband to Turkey through Pakistani military and commercial aircraft for onward distribution to Europe and elsewhere.

The Taliban is also negotiating with the US for release of notorious drug lord Haji Bashir Noorjai, lodged in the US prisons since 2009 in exchange for releasing the Americans and Afghans stranded in Afghanistan. For this, the Taliban is willing to exchange abducted American civil engineer and military contractor Mark Randall Frerichs who had disappeared in Afghanistan in January 2020 from the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, sources tracking the developments in Afghanistan said.

Noorjai is also well connected to Al Qaeda and its affiliates in South Africa like Al Shabab who could also be exploited for the arms trade in the continent besides expanding the spread of the contraband in the region.

While both the Taliban and the Pakistan Army-ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence) combine are on the same page for reinvigorating the drugs trafficking, the current regime in Kabul is also claiming seizure of drugs consignment at Kabul airport with the twin agenda of an image makeover and checking any trafficking of the contraband by individuals and entities who bypass the regular channels for such illicit business. Such fake seizures will also help Taliban build a new image in line with international laws and help it gain international recognition of its governance structure, they said.

The new modus operandi has been activated as Pakistan is using its leverage with Turkey for transshipment of the contraband through regular civilian airways as well as military planes, they further said.

Amid the ongoing bargain for release of Noorjai, the Taliban is aiming to revive the traditional drug routes via the Middle East to South Africa and scale up the entire illicit drugs business chain to augment the funds crunch that Kabul is facing post-takeover of

Afghanistan on August 15.

The development comes as the Taliban is facing dire financial crisis and the Afghan foreign minister had recently visited Islamabad to seek aid but Pakistan could not commit grants due to its bankrupt economy.

However, Islamabad agreed for active facilitation of the drugs trade.

Senior counter-terrorism expert of Afghan origin Ajmal Sohail said, “Drug trafficking has remained the mainstay of revenue generation for Taliban and the militia is back to its old tactic.

However, to keep the international community in good humour, Taliban is projecting itself as the good guy by showcasing the seizure of the contraband at Kabul airport as a measure of revamped Taliban.”

The Taliban also has begun taking payments for the supplies of drugs to Europe and countries in North as well as South America through African conduits in diamonds and generating revenue through white channels, added Sohail who is also founder of Afghanistan Republic Salvation Front.

NIA conducts searches in Tamil Nadu

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted searches in Tamil Nadu and arrested an accused in the Madurai Hizb-ut-Tahrir case.

The searches were conducted at two locations in Thiruvavur and Tanjore districts of Tamil Nadu after which an accused Bava Bahrudeen alias Mannai Bava, was arrested.

The case was initially registered at Thideer Nagar Police Station, Madurai City in which Mohammed Iqbal alias Senthil Kumar had used his Facebook account “Thoonga Vizhigal Rendu is in Kazimar Street” to upload posts that denigrated a particular community and fomented communal disharmony among different religions in a manner prejudicial to the maintenance of public order, the NIA said.



“Investigation has revealed that the accused person Mohammed Iqbal conspired with others including Mannai Bava, in the name of Hizb-ut-Tahrir to re-establish Islamic State and implement Sharia globally including in India,” the agency said in a statement.

In furtherance of this conspiracy, they had participated in closed door Bayans (meetings) and created multiple accounts on various social media applications to upload posts intended to disclaim and disrupt the sovereignty

and territorial integrity of India. The conspiracy meetings / closed door Bayans were helmed by the arrested accused person Mannai Bava and conducted in Madurai, Erode, Salem, Tanjore districts in Tamil Nadu.

During the searches conducted in Mannargudi of Thiruvavur district and in Mansur Ali Thaikal area of Tanjore district, 30 books, handwritten documents containing incriminating literature related to Hizb-ut-Tahrir and establishment of Islamic State / Khilafat and three digital devices were seized, it added.

NIA: Probed 37 ISIS-linked terror cases, 168 arrested

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday said it has investigated 37 cases of terror attacks, conspiracy and funding which have been inspired by the Islamic State ideology.

The most recent case was registered by NIA in June 2021. A total of 168 accused have been arrested in these cases and chargesheets have been filed in 31 cases. As many as 27 accused have been convicted after trial, it said.

“Investigation by NIA has revealed that IS (Islamic State) is trying to spread its tentacles in India through continuous propaganda online. Gullible youth are targeted on open social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Once a person shows interest, he or she is then enticed to communicate with online handlers based abroad using encrypted social media platforms,” it said in a statement.

An appeal is being made that any such activity noticed on the internet maybe brought to the notice of the authorities

Depending on the gullibility of the person, the handlers then use the person for uploading online content, translation of IS texts to local language, conspiracy, preparation of a module, collection of arms and ammunition, preparation of IEDs, terror funding and even attacks, it further said.

An appeal is being made that any such activity noticed on the internet maybe brought to the notice of the authorities. NIA may be contacted at telephone number- 011-24368800, it added.

SC recommends 8 names for CJs for a number of HCs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court collegium headed by CJI NV Ramana is learnt to have recommended eight names of judges, including acting chief justice of Calcutta High Court Justice Rajesh Bindal, for their elevation as chief justices of different high courts. The Collegium including the senior most four judges of the apex court also decided to transfer five Chief Justices of High Court and 28 High Court Judges to other States.

Tripura High Court Chief Justice Akil Kureshi has been transferred to Rajasthan. Justice Kureshi, one of the senior-most high court judges in the country, was originally elevated as a judge in the Gujarat High Court and has been in news due to his non-elevation as a judge of the apex court. His decision to give CBI custody of Amit Shah in 2010 invited controversies.

Justice Bindal of Calcutta

High Court has been in news recently due to his administrative and judicial decisions in matters related to political stand-off between the BJP and the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal. Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court Justice Arup Kumar Goswami has been transferred to Chhattisgarh High Court, Chief justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court Justice Mohd Rafiq to the Himachal Pradesh High Court. The Collegium also recommended transfer of Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court Justice Indrajit Mahanty to the Tripura High Court and Meghalaya High Court Chief Justice Biswanath Somadder to the Sikkim High Court.

Besides Justice Bindal, the Collegium has recommended names of Justices Prakash Srivastava, Prashant Kumar Mishra, Ritu Raj Awasthi, Satish Chandra Sharma, Ranjit V More, Aravind Kumar and R V

Malimath for appointing them as chief justices of different high courts across the country, the sources said. Sources said names of Justices Prakash Srivastava, Prashant Kumar Mishra and Ritu Raj Awasthi have been recommended for appointment as chief justices of high courts of Calcutta, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

After assuming charge as the CJI in April this year, Justice Ramana has recommended nearly 100 names for appointment to different high courts, sources said.

The 25 high courts of the country have a combined sanctioned strength of 1,080 judges and on May 1, 2021, the high courts were functioning with 420 judges only.

The series of recommendations have been made close on the heels of a historic decision to recommend 68 names in one go for judgeship in 12 high courts across the country.

Haryana Public Service Commission
Bays No. 1 - 10, Block- B, Sector- 4, Panchkula

Announcement

It is hereby announced for the general information of the candidates who have applied for the following post that the Commission has decided to conduct Recruitment Test, as per schedule given below:-

Sr. no.	Name of the Post & Department	Advt. No.	Date & Time
1	Dental Surgeon (Class-II) in the Health Department, Haryana.	2/2021	26.09.2021 02:00 PM to 05:00 PM

The Candidates are advised to download their Admit Cards from the Commission's website i.e. <http://hpsc.gov.in> with effect from **18.09.2021**. It is made clear that all the candidates who had applied for the above mentioned post are provisionally allowed to appear in the Recruitment Test subject to the fulfillment of all eligibility conditions as per advertisement. The eligibility of the candidates who will be declared qualified for interview will be checked later on.

Notes:
1. Candidates are directed that they may download the admit card and take black & white print of the same on A-4 size paper so that their photos & other particulars can easily be seen /verified. Candidates having small size Admit Cards with illegible photos /signatures will not be allowed to enter the Examination centre.
2. The candidates are advised to read all the instructions very carefully.

Deputy Secretary
Haryana Public Service Commission
Panchkula

Date: 17.09.2021
RO NO. 4809 Dt. 17-09-2021

Vitiligo patients finding succour in herbal remedies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Many patients with vitiligo which is an autoimmune disorder characterised by the loss of skin colour in parts of a body seem to be finding succor in herbal remedies like Lukoskin developed by government’s premier research agency Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO).

Consider this. Till now, more than one lakh patients suffering from the skin condition, also known as leucoderma, have been treated with Lukoskin with an average success rate of 70 per cent, said Dr Nitika Kohli from AIMIL Healthcare which is manufacturing and marketing the drug.

An ayurveda expert herself, Dr Kohli said, that after DRDO transferred the technology, clinical trials were conducted on the patients and then in 2011 it was launched in the market. “In these ten years, over one lakh patients have been treated with the drug. We found a 70 percent success rate,” she said.

An estimated four to five per cent of the Indian population suffers from leucoderma.



The condition is characterized by patches of the skin losing their pigment. The condition is noticeable in people with dark skin.

For better success rate and with an aim to reach out to more patients, the AIMIL is in the process of launching the advanced version of the drug. DRDO is already working in this direction.

Dr Kohli was speaking at a conference “Clinical management of tough skin diseases” held online to mark the ten years of launch of Lukoskin as well as of AIMIL Healthcare. Representatives and doctors from various medical streams including allopathy who had participated in the programmes

also highlighted the role of herbs in general and Lukoskin in particular in the treatment of leucoderma.

The ointment has seven herbal ingredients having properties such as anti-blister, anti-irritation, anti-septic, wound healing properties, while the oral formulation is designed to improve the auto immune system and supplement copper which checks the emergence of new spots, shared Dr Kohli.

Infact, in India, vitiligo has social stigma attached to it, as people confuse it with leprosy. However, experts made it clear that Vitiligo or leucoderma is neither contagious nor life-threatening.

Cong wishes Modi on b'day, says country paying prices for his failures

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress on Friday wished Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 71st birthday but said the country is paying the price for his “failures” on several fronts and so the day is being observed as “unemployment day”, “anti-farmer day” and “high prices day”.

The party reminded that birthdays of former prime ministers are celebrated as different days, with Jawaharlal Nehru’s birthday as “Children’s Day”, Indira Gandhi’s as “National Integration Day”, Rajiv Gandhi’s as “Sadbhavana Diwas” and Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s as “Good Governance Day” but Modi’s birthday is being observed as “unemployment day”.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi extended his wishes to the prime minister on Twitter. “Happy Birthday, Modi ji,” said Rahul.For the Indian Youth Congress and the NSUI, it was “national unemployment day”.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said she prays that God gives the prime minister the wisdom to realise what he has led the country to

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said she prays that God gives the prime minister the wisdom to realise what he has led the country to.

“It is the prime minister’s birthday and from this platform, we wish him a happy birthday. We pray for his well being, but we do believe that this day is being celebrated in many parts of the country as unemployment day, anti-farmer day, high prices day, crippled economy day, as winning over your crony capitalists friends day, as ED, IT, CBI raid day, and the corona mismanagement day,” Shrinete said at AICC Press conference.

Covid antibodies in 90.26% Mumbaikars: BMC

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As part of its latest sero-survey conducted in the country's commercial capital since the outbreak of the Covid-19 in March-April last year, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said on Friday that Covid-19 anti-bodies were found in a sizeable 90.26 per cent of Mumbaikars who were either fully or partially vaccinated.

In the fifth sero-surveillance study conducted by the BMC between August 12 and September 9, 2021, antibodies were found among the 79.86 per cent of unvaccinated citizens, while the prevalence of antibodies in people from slum as well as non-slum areas much higher compared to previous sero-surveys.

Disclosing the findings of the fifth sero survey, Mumbai Municipal Commissioner I S Chahal said here on Friday: "Even if antibodies are found, Mumbaikars will have to take precautions like use of masks, hand Hygiene and safe distancing norms".

The BMC released the fifth sero-surveillance findings on a day when Mumbai recorded 387 infections and three deaths. As many as 434 Covid-19 patients were discharged from various hospitals after full recovery, the BMC pegged the total "active cases" in the metropolits at 4,658.

While the BMC had earlier conducted three Sero surveillance Studies for Covid-19 for all people, while it carried out one Sero-surveillance study only for Paediatric population

SERO-SURVEY REPORT

previously. Anticipating the possible third wave of Covid-19, the fifth sero surveillance was conducted by the state public health department and LTMHC & GH, Sion Hospital with the support from A.T.E. Chandra Foundation and IDFC Institute.

The results of the previous three Sero-surveys conducted by M.C.G.M concluded that the recent trends in Sero-positivity corresponded with the Covid-19 cases in the second wave. The fifth Sero-survey could be instrumental in identifying trends of probable upcoming third wave and exposure of the population to the virus.

The study was cross-sectional in nature and included participants above 18 years of

age, from all 24 wards of the city of Greater Mumbai. In all, 8,674 were samples were collected and tested. Anti-SARS-CoV2 Ig G antibodies was detected using an ELISA based assay.

Study participants were selected by systematic random sampling and those visiting Municipal Dispensaries and General Practitioners' Clinics in slum and non-slum areas respectively. The participants were recruited with informed consent. Data collection was done by the means of a mobile software application.

According to the fifth sero-survey, overall Sero-prevalence in the city of Greater Mumbai was 86.64 period, while the study estimated around 87.02 per cent prevalenc

in slums, while 86.22 per cent prevalence in non-slums in the 24 wards.

The sero-prevalence among males is 85.07%, sero-prevalence among females is 88.29 per cent which is higher as compared to males. Almost 65 per cent of those who participated in the study had received Covid-19 vaccines and 35 per cent did not receive any vaccine.

"Sero-prevalence amongst partially and fully vaccinated participants is 90.26 per cent. Sero-prevalence amongst those who have not taken Covid-19 vaccine is 79.86 per cent," Chahal said.

Of total samples, 20% were health care workers. Sero-prevalence in health care workers is 87.14%. The age-wise sero-prevalence varies from 80 per cent to 91 per cent among the

study subjects.

"Overall sero-prevalence in slum and non-slum areas in the city of Greater Mumbai is much higher as compared to the last sero-survey. There is no statistically significant difference in sero-prevalence of Mumbai City and Suburbs. In this survey, sero-prevalence in slum population is 87.02 per cent, while in non-slum population it is 86.22 per cent which is a meagre difference," Chahal said.

There is marginal difference in the gender-wise sero-prevalence with females showing 88.29% sero-prevalence as compared to males i.e., 85.07 per cent sero-prevalence was significantly higher in study subjects who received either first or both doses of Covid-19 vaccine as compared to their unvaccinated counterparts.

Cop shot by ultras in J&K

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

In yet another targeted attack Ja Jammu & Kashmir police personnel was shot dead by 'unidentified' terrorists near Wanpoh in South Kashmir district of Kulgam late Friday evening.

The police cop,identified as Bantooji Sharma, was deployed with the Railway Police. Soon after hitting him from a close range the terrorists fled the area leaving behind police personnel in a pool of blood.

According to local police, a critically injured policeman was rushed to the GMC, Anantnag where doctors

declared him dead.

The entire area was cordoned off by the security personnel to track down the footprints of the terrorists behind the attack.

Searches were conducted in the nearby areas and special nakas were set up to regulate the movement of vehicles.

A young Sub Inspector on probation AA Meer was earlier shot dead from a close range in Khanyar area of Srinagar on September 12.

Several politicians including former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Peoples Conference Chairman Sajad Lone condemned the attack and offered their condolences to the bereaved family.

Cong forms screening committee for UP polls

New Delhi: Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Friday constituted the party's screening committee for the upcoming high-stakes Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh next year.

Senior party leader and a former Union Minister Jitendra Singh has been named as the chairman of the committee, while Rajya Sabha MP Deepender Singh Hooda and Maharashtra MLA Varsha Gaikwad have been chosen as its members.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, state unit president Ajay Kumar Lallu and legislature party leader in state Aradna Misra have been appointed as ex-officio members of the screening committee. The ex-officio members also comprise all AICC secretaries for Uttar

Pradesh.

The committee will be responsible for shortlisting candidates for the elections. The Congress is eyeing to make a comeback in Uttar Pradesh after over three decades and is gearing up to contest the next year's election without forming any alliance.

In the 2017 polls, the Congress secured only seven of the 403 Assembly seats having joined hands with the Samajwadi Party (SP).

Last week, the Congress had invited applications from prospective candidates and days later, the party's Uttar Pradesh unit asked those seeking tickets for next year's election to deposit ₹11,000 with their applications.

"All applicants should submit their applications with the

authorised persons at the district/state level along with a 'sahyog rashi (contribution amount)' of ₹11,000 by September 25, 2021," an order issued by UP Congress chief Ajay Singh Lallu said.

The party said this step was taken to keep away candidates who were not serious about the election.

The party has also started the second phase of its training programme, titled 'Prashikshan Se Parakram Mahaabhiyan', to train party workers. Abouy 100 camps will be organised to make 30,000 workers battle-ready ahead of the crucial election. The programme will continue till the end of September.

During the first phase of the campaign, continuing for 11 days, the party trained 25,000 of its workers. **PNS**

BSF DG reviews security situation along border

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

After taking stock of the prevailing security situation along the International Border across Jammu frontier the newly-appointed Director-General of Border Security Force, Pankaj Kumar Singh Friday wound up his maiden visit of Jammu frontier. During his stay, DG BSF toured the Ramgarh sector of Samba and RS Pura & Arnria Sectors of Jammu frontier.

Inspector General of BSF, Jammu Frontier NS Jamwal along with other senior officers visited several border posts where they briefed him on the spot.

According to the Public Relations Officer of BSF Jammu frontier, "DG BSF reviewed the overall deployment of BSF and also the domination plan with the senior officers of the Jammu frontier on ground zero"

DG BSF also visited the critical areas of Aik Nallah, Phalku Nallah and other areas of R S Pura and Arnria Border area and held discussions



with sector/unit commanders on the ground and reviewed the security situation.

During his stay, DG BSF also interacted with jawans through sainik sammelan and was full of praise for

BSF Jawans for their dedication towards safeguarding the frontiers of the Nation.

DG BSF was impressed with the commitment of the border guards despite facing tough conditions.



Workers put handloom fabrics for drying in a field at Shantipur in Nadia district on Friday

PTI

Ex-top cop of Kerala hails new TN Guv

CHENNAI: When R N Ravi, the Central Government's interlocutor to Nagaland will be sworn in as the Governor of Tamil Nadu on Saturday morning, it would be celebration time for T P Senkumar, former chief of Kerala Police.

Senkumar, a 1983 batch officer of the Indian Police Service, was appointed to the Kerala cadre, his joy knew no bound as he was thrilled at the prospect of training and working under Ravi, an iconic figure among IPS officers in Kerala. "I had great dreams of getting trained under Ravi who was a hero among the people of the State as well as the police officials. But the senior official in charge of taking decision on such things had other ideas and I lost the race," Senkumar wrote in his autobiography "My Police Life".

Senkumar told *The Pioneer* that Ravi left Kerala for central deputation within a few years. "Though he returned to the State after five years, he was again called back to the Centre and he was given very sensitive and significant assignments. I met him many times on an officer-to-officer basis and he was very cordial with me," said Senkumar who superannuated in 2017. Like his idol Ravi, Senkumar too had excelled in the field of Intelligence and is known as one of the best intelligence chiefs the State had seen.

The new Governor of Tamil Nadu would have many former Intelligence experts for company in Chennai city itself. M K Narayanan, former National Security Advisor who was also a former Governor of West Bengal, ESL Narasimhan, former chief of the Intelligence Bureau and Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, K V S Gopalakrishnan, former special director, IB are some of the leading lights of the intelligence community based in Chennai with whom Governor Ravi would be interacting regularly.

Railway-focused skill development programme launched

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Friday launched a skill development programme with a special focus on jobs that are relevant to the Railways. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana, a programme under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), aims to train 50,000 candidates over the next three years.

"The aim of this initiative is to impart training skills to the youth in various trades to bring qualitative improvement," Vaishnaw said.

"Initially, the training will be provided to 1,000 candidates. The training will be provided in four trades namely Electrician, Welder, Machinist and Fitter and will comprise of initial basic training of 100 hours. Training programmes in other trades will be added by zonal railways and Production units based on regional demands and needs assessment," a Railway Ministry statement said. "Training shall be provided free of cost and participants will be selected from applications received online, following a transparent mechanism on the basis of marks in matriculation. Candidates who are 10th passed and between 18-35 years shall be eligible to apply. Participants in the scheme shall however have no claim to seek employment in Railways on the basis of this training," the statement added.

Vaishaw also stressed that training in remote areas will be conducted under this programme.

The programme curriculum has been developed by Banaras Diesel Locomotive Works which will also standardize assessments and maintain centralized database of participants. The scheme will be launched for 1000 participants initially and will be over and above the training provided to apprentices under the Apprentice Act 1961. "Trainees shall be required to undergo a standardized assessment and will be awarded certificate in the allotted trade by the National Rail & Transportation Institute, upon conclusion of their programme. They will also be provided Toolkits relevant to their trade which would help these trainees utilize their learnings and enhance their capacity for self-employment as well as employability in various industries," a rail Ministry statement added.

Kerala HC junks plea against administrative reforms in Lakshadweep

KOCHI: The efforts of Save Lakshadweep Forum, an all-party initiative launched by the residents of the Union Territory to stop the anti-people policies pursued by the Administrator of Lakshadweep Praful Patel came to a naught on Friday as the Kerala High Court nixed the last of the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by the forum challenging various reforms launched by the administration.

A Division Bench consisting of Chief Justice S Manikumar and Judge Shaji P Chaly on Friday dismissed the PIL petition filed by a Lakshadweep based lawyer challenging the Administration's decision to shut down the dairy farms in the islands and to remove meat from the menu of the daily noon-meal served in the schools in Lakshadweep Islands. The judges said that they concurred with the argument by the standing counsel of Lakshadweep Islands that the court should not interfere in policy decisions taken by the administration.

The decision to shut down the dairy farms in the islands was because of the more than Re one crore loss incurred by the administration every year in its efforts to

maintain the same. The administration also told the Court that the move to take meat off from the mid-day meal served in school was to ensure that the nutritional value stipulated in the rules. The court also agreed with the contention that any menu that met the nutritional value could be served by the government.

Interestingly, the Kerala High Court in June 2021 had stayed the operations of these decisions and had sought explanation from the administration. The islands witnessed massive protests and demonstrations demanding that Patel be called back from Lakshadweep. The Save Lakshadweep Forum leaders had said that thousands of BJP workers in the archipelago had quit the party to join secular parties against the move by the administration to saffronize the islands.

The SLF had contended that the decision of the administration to change the mid-day meals menu and shut down dairy farms in the islands infringed upon the ethnic culture, heritage, food habits and rights of the residents under Articles 19 and 300A of the Constitution of India. **PNS**

Manipur's oranges, chillies get GI-Tag

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Terming it to be historic, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh took to Twitter saying, "What a great start to the day for Manipur! I'm really happy to share that 2 (two) products of Manipur viz Hathei Chilly & Tamenglong orange have been granted GI Tag.

This is a historic milestone in the history of Manipur which will increase the income of the farmers immensely." The GI status is an indication that identifies goods as produced from a particular area which has special quality attributable to its geographical origin.

Tamenglong orange is known to be the species of the mandarin group, which is a unique fruit crop found only in

Tamenglong district that contributes over 50 per cent of the state's annual production. It is famous especially for its well-blended sweetness and tart taste.

Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA) applied for GI tags for Tamenglong orange and Sirarakhong Hathei chilli in 2019. In Manipur's Ukhrul, Hathei chilli is considered to be God's gift and the pride of the region.

Hathei chilli flourishes only in the hills of Mahadev surrounding the remote Tangkhul Naga inhabited Sirarakhong village in the Ukhrul district. Manipur has been promoting these two produce by celebrating the Orange Festival every December and Sirarakhong Hathei festival every August for over a decade now.

KVIC launches SPIN scheme for potters' community in Varanasi

New Delhi: Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) on Friday launched a unique Scheme called SPIN (Strengthening the Potential of India) and set up a pottery cluster under SFURTI Scheme in Varanasi to empower over 1100 people of the marginalized potters' community on the occasion of 71th birth anniversary of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. On this occasion, 780 electric potter wheels were sanctioned to the participants of SPIN Scheme. Further, in Gujarat, KVIC distributed 50 charkha to women artisans at Kevadia to engage them with self-employment and sustainable livelihood. Chairman KVIC Vinai Kumar Saxena was present on the occasion. PM Modi's birth anniversary is being celebrated as "Sewa Diwas".

Union Minister of State for MSME, Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma launched the SPIN Scheme in which 780 potters from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Jharkhand have registered for financial assistance from the bank to begin their own business. Out of these, 110 artisans are from Varanasi. Unlike Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana, which is a subsidy-based program, SPIN Scheme enables the registered potters to get a direct loan from the banks under Pradhan Mantri Shishu Mudra Yojana. Under the SPIN Scheme, KVIC is acting as a facilitator for financial aid to potters through RBL bank and also providing training to the artisans, opting for this scheme.

Under this scheme, there will be no financial burden on the exchequer and the loan

will be repaid by the potter in easy instalments. The SPIN scheme, thus, aims at infusing self-sustainability in the Indian pottery sector.

Verma also inaugurated "Kashi Pottery Cluster" at Village Bhatti in Varanasi. This is the first pottery cluster in Varanasi district set up by KVIC under the SFURTI Scheme. The cluster, set up over an area of 7100 square feet at the cost of Rs 2.50 crore, has provided direct employment to 340 pottery artisans who have been trained by KVIC. The cluster is equipped with modern equipment like furnaces, electric potter wheels, blunger machines, pug mills and other modern equipment for higher production of clay pottery.

"SPIN is a specially designed program to make potters self-sustainable. Under the scheme, KVIC will facilitate potters to get easy loans from banks that will help the potters to diversify their activities and enhance their income. This will reduce their dependence on government subsidy and thus make our potters self-reliant," Verma said. He further said that the new Kashi pottery cluster will help traditional potters in increasing their skills with the help of modern equipment which will eventually help them occupy a bigger market space and get a better income.

Chairman KVIC, Saxena said sustainable development by creating local self-employment is the key objective of KVIC which is aligned with the Prime Minister's commitment of "Job to Every Hand" (Har Hath Me Kaam). **PNS**



Tourists during a camel safari in the desert of Pushkar on Friday

PTI



Unholy matrimony?

The issue of interfaith marriages in certain States, especially in UP, is a simmering cauldron

As Uttar Pradesh slowly gears up for next year's Assembly elections, there is a concern that any communal polarisation adopted by political parties can draw undue attention to interfaith marriages, instilling a sense of fear and apprehension in young couples in love. "Love jihad" is the pejorative term the right-wing groups use to describe such marriages. The phrase has a negative resonance all over the State and interfaith couples either wanting to marry, or immediately after marriage, seek the protection of the courts to escape the anger of the parents and the fury of the vigilante groups. The Allahabad High Court on Thursday for the umpteenth time reiterated that two adults have the right to choose whom they wish to marry, irrespective of their religion. A Division Bench of Justices Manoj Kumar Gupta and Deepak Verma passed the order while granting protection to an interfaith couple worried about the anger of their parents over their relationship. The court also clarified that since the two individuals are major, "nobody, not even their parents, could object to their relationship". It is significant to note that the said court receives numerous petitions from young couples every week. A survey of orders the court passed showed that it had granted relief to over 100 couples of interfaith and inter-caste marriages in the month of November 2020. Many of these cases related to interfaith marriages, involving the conversion of one of the partners.



These included some cases where the court quashed criminal cases filed against the male partner alleging the girl had been kidnapped. As "love jihad" theories abounded in UP around that time, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated his Government's decision to bring a law against it. The statement came in the wake of a single Bench of the Allahabad High Court saying in a case that religious conversion for the sake of marriage was invalid. However, a higher Bench of the same court overruled the verdict a few days later, stating that "the right to live with a person of his/her choice, irrespective of religion professed by them, is intrinsic to right to life and personal liberty". This order quoted a 2006 Supreme Court ruling that upheld the couple's right to marry partners of choice and that the couple is "not harassed by anyone nor subjected to threats or acts of violence". The UP Government promulgated the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religious Ordinance, 2020, criminalising religious conversion by marriage, around the same time. With a few other States also bringing in such a law, the Supreme Court was moved to review it. With the election fever gripping UP, interfaith marriages have the potential to draw the attention of vigilante groups on the question of conversion. In the case related to Thursday's verdict, the woman had also applied for conversion from Islam to Hinduism. However, it is cases where the girl applies for conversion to Islam from Hinduism that become controversial.

PICTALK



Dense clouds form over the fields after a heavy rain spell, in New Delhi

Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

Love and hate

The influential Church is taking up cudgels against elements that seek to 'divide' people in Kerala

The virus of communal hatred has come out in the open in Kerala following the startling disclosure made by Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, the Bishop of Pala Diocese. Addressing thousands of Catholic devotees who had gathered for a religious congregation at the ancient Marth Mariam Church in Kuravilangadu, the Bishop warned the laity about the dangers of "love jihad" and "narcotics jihad" that have done irreparable damage to the community. Thousands of Christian girls, many of them conservative Catholics, have fallen prey to these jihads over the last few years, said the Bishop. Elaborating on the *modus operandi* of the aggressors, the spiritual leader said that some elements of a particular religion were out in the open to liquidate the non-believers as part of their mission to establish a Caliphate in India. This is not the first time a statement like this is being made. The Christian community has been on a warpath against the State administration because of the alleged callousness of the police and other law-enforcing agencies towards their complaints that girls belonging to their sect were being



targeted through the two "jihads" and are trafficked to west Asian nations.

There were many instances of Christians staging demonstrations across Kerala to highlight their plight which were ignored by the mainstream media and liberals, labelling these as part of the "Sangh Parivar agenda" to divide Christians and Muslims. While Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan feigned ignorance about "narcotics jihad", Opposition leader VD Satheesan warned the Bishop from issuing irresponsible statements. But Bishop Kallarangatt was joined by Bishops of the Changanassery and Irinjalakuda dioceses, who too expressed their fear over the phenomenon haunting the laity. The Bishops' statements come immediately after the Kerala Catholic Bishops Council announced anxiety over the depleting Christian population in the State due to factors like family planning and migration. The Church even announced incentives, including financial as well as educational allowances, to couples who raise more children. Kerala is known for communal amity and this should not be overturned as part of appeasement and vote bank politics. Most of the de-addiction centres in Kerala are under the Church's management and they keep track of the number of persons getting addicted. Hence, the Bishops are speaking from a position of strength and the administration should listen seriously to what they say.

In the end, the game is the winner

The controversy over the cancelled fifth Test in England notwithstanding, gentle nudges by well-meaning seniors mean that cricket is in happy hands



VIJAY LOKAPALLY

Cricket is a wonderful, Indian game and the point was driven home well by Virat Kohli and his ambitious team in an exciting summer season. The English came to admire the stuff that India produced during a phase that began with the World Test Championship in June and culminated at Old Trafford with the fifth and final Test being cancelled on account of COVID fears. India led the series 2-1.

When the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Sourav Ganguly revealed that the Indian team was reluctant to play, he was only confirming the backing the players had. Health and safety of the players is paramount but the decision did not go down with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) which insisted that the match be treated as forfeited by India and the result should go in their favour to tie the series. It hangs in balance as the matter rests with the International Cricket Council (ICC) following a claim by the ECB to grant them the match.

Overflowing audiences at the venues marked the fare. Test cricket was at its glorious best and it was just the advertisement to keep the administrators and the broadcasters happy. Cricket was entertaining. The royal battle between England's legendary James Anderson and the cream of Indian batting should rank as classic in the folklore of the game. It was breathtaking and evoked memories of some fascinating contests that India and England have been locked in, notably the 1971 thriller at The Oval in 1971 when India won on the strength of leg-spinner BS Chandrasekhar's striking blows to register their first ever win on English soil.

The 2021 series was projected as the most-awaited in a long time since it featured some of the modern greats of the game —Anderson and Virat Kohli — with charmers like Joe Root and Jasprit Bumrah bringing a touch of exciting personal rivalry. Root was exemplary and Bumrah unplayable at times, setting benchmarks to last ages. It was



hard to estimate the degree of excellence between Root and Bumrah.

Anderson won his personal battles with Kohli but the latter came out tops as he marshalled India to win two Tests in a remarkable show of temperament. Nothing was beyond India as the team once again established itself as an enviable combination. For India, the takeaways were rich.

There was much to celebrate in the rise of KL Rahul as an opener, who promises to make huge strides and the return to form of Rohit Sharma. The two hit a century each and importantly assured the selectors of their investment. With Cheteshwar Pujara coming to grips with his capabilities, India benefited at the opportune time to enjoy more dominating sessions than the home team.

True, England swept India off their feet at Headingley in an embarrassing innings defeat for the touring team but the match that stood out saw India win a regal contest at The Lord's. The home of cricket saw Rahul crack a majestic century and Mohammed Siraj produce



A REMINDER FROM FORMER CAPTAIN SUNIL GAVASKAR REKINDLED THE MEMORIES OF CRICKET FANS OF THE GESTURE BY ENGLAND WHEN THEY RETURNED TO COMPLETE THE TOUR HALTED BY THE MUMBAI TERRORIST ATTACK IN 2008

unforgettable spells of four wickets each in the two innings. India made a remarkable fightback through a last-wicket stand of 89 runs between Mohammed Shami and Bumrah. This pair highlighted the tenacity of the team on the final day of the match as England succumbed after having begun the day in a commanding position.

Two half centuries by Shardul Thakur at critical stages of the fourth Test at The Oval propelled the team into a position of strength to call the shots, courtesy the fast bowlers. Criticised for not playing off-spinner Ravinchandran Ashwin even once in a Test against England, Kohli stood tall for his decision to play four fast bowlers. They did not let him down and it was down to the final Test. Sadly, the circumstances played havoc and the match had to be called off.

It was an unprecedented development and reports emerged of the two Boards drifting away from their acclaimed healthy association to honour each other's commitments. A reminder from Sunil Gavaskar rekindled memories of the cricket fans

of the gesture by England when they returned to complete the tour halted by the Mumbai terrorist attack in 2008. The former India captain wants India to return the favour by travelling to England next year to play the cancelled Test.

In these difficult times, it is important to spare a thought for players' mental health, who were driven to take the decision of "refusing" to play the final Test. Their fears of getting infected were genuine and the Indians were not the only one to be compelled into taking such a stand. Australia postponing their tour to South Africa was among the prominent fixtures that failed to take off.

Spending long periods in quarantine has taken its toll on all sportspersons. The Indian Premier League 2021 has seen quite a few players withdrawing from the competition in Dubai. And Kohli deciding to quit T20 captaincy after the World Cup this year sums up the cricket in the pandemic — it is too exacting.

(The writer has been a sports journalist for 35 years with The Hindu and Sportstar. He has authored five books on cricket.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TAPPING THE RIGHT POTENTIAL

Sir — A bird sitting on a tree is never afraid of the branch breaking because her trust is not on the branch but on its wings. Likewise, every business today is at the mercy of its IT infrastructure. A rigid infrastructure can render some organisations incapable of tapping into new opportunities. Server Message Blocks (SMBs) today are challenged by the increasingly complex and demanding modern requirements put on their IT infrastructure. To overcome these hurdles, SMBs are implementing next-generation Hyper Converged Infrastructure (HCI) solutions that bring increased agility, flexibility and growth to meet demands such as sustainable IT costs, better application performance and better data storage scalability and efficiency.

This enables SMEs to combine agility and flexibility with the control, visibility, and performance of an agile environment. Thus, you can streamline IT operations with fast, efficient, resilient and intelligent hyper-converged platforms when you choose consistency and simplicity. Having faced lockdown and other hurdles, it is time to look for a win-win situation. We should be able to win over a tight situation.

MR Jayanthi | Coimbatore

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Sir — It is no doubt that Virat Kohli is India's most celebrated player in cricket. He, as a Captain, performs best in every format of the game, whether it be World Cup, ODI or T-20 series. But it is appreciative that he himself came forward to name Rohit Sharma, and decided to quit T-20 captaincy for the best of the team. Kohli made a good decision for the team by himself creating space for his comrade Rohit, who is also exceptionally successful in the T-20 format.

The trend of change in captaincy is the ultimate law of change. What earlier MS Dhoni and other captains did, needs to be done by Virat also. As a player, it is more important to ensure the victory of the team rather than personal records.

Humanity proves costly



The raids, euphemistically called 'search operations' and 'surveys' at the houses and offices of Sonu Sood and Harsh Mander by the Income Tax Department and the Enforcement Directorate respectively were politically motivated and typical of the Modi Government. These were just the latest in a series of raids conducted by central agencies as part of intimidatory tactics. Sonu Sood and Harsh Mander are patriotic men who serve their country well; they are much loved and highly respected for their service to the

society. Sonu Sood has been extolled as a 'real life hero' for arranging food and transportation to migrant workers during lockdowns and oxygen supply to hospitals treating Covid-19 patients amid the oxygen crisis.

It is unfortunate that the Government unleashes central agencies on those who do not side with it or toe its line as a matter of routine. It has not spared even a well-known public intellectual and a tireless campaigner for human rights as Harsh Mander. The Government seems to think that anyone who is not with it is against it and deserves to be proceeded against and painted in a bad light. The irony is that real economic offenders enjoy political patronage and get off scot-free. The raids of this kind smack of witch-hunt and do our democracy no proud. Sonu Sood and Harsh Mander deserve recognition for their good work; the Government can make amends to them for the raids by conferring them on them.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

After all, a player cannot place himself superior to his team. Placing Rohit Sharma as captain is a good decision. Rohit and Virat are almost equivalent in terms of talent and quality. Rohit Sharma is a calm and talent loaded player, no doubt that he will definitely lead the men in blue in a prominent way.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

AN ALARMING PHENOMENON

Sir — Since time, immemorial man and environment are intrinsically linked as the progress and development of the former hinges on the latter. However, human activities over the last few decades like rapid urbanisation, excessive mining, vehicular pollution, indiscriminate cutting of forests etc have altered the balance beyond recognition. In recent years, the increasing trend of forest fires engulfing many parts of the world, floods, droughts and frequency of cyclones becoming a routine affair can be attributed to climate change. This has a tendency to alter our

biodiversity, which is an alarming signal.

Climate change is a universal phenomenon which can be gauged from the recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). According to the report, global temperatures might rise by 1.5 per cent by 2030 due to excessive harnessing of nature. The global climate architecture is now governed by the Paris Agreement of 2015. The World Ozone Day is celebrated on September 16 every year to commemorate The Montreal Protocol signed in 1987 to limit and phase out man-made ozone-depleting chemicals like CFCs in a time-bound manner. The ozone layer lies in the stratosphere which prevents harmful ultraviolet rays from entering the earth's surface. The climate crisis can only be overcome by global cooperation and shifting to green and low carbon energy.

Vijay Adhikari | Nainital

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

The Indian Constitution has been amended as many as 127 times, so why can it not be amended once again to scrap the farm laws?



Punjab Chief Minister —Amarinder Singh



If a comprehensive Government is not formed in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran will suffer more than any other country.

Iranian President —Ebrahim Raisi

Success for me is offering listeners a song that transports them to the zone of the song. I think 'Kanta Laga' did just that.



Singer —Honey Singh



Virat has been a true asset for Indian cricket. He is one of the most successful captains in all the formats.

BCCI president —Sourav Ganguly

We can bring our start-ups and entrepreneurs together to create the innovative spirit towards making India a stakeholder in emerging technology.



Prime Minister —Narendra Modi

FIRST COLUMN AUTO-EUGENICS IN AMERICA

Most Americans dying of COVID are not vaccinated, and most of them are Republicans



GWYNNE DYER

Eugenics was a 20th-century pseudo-science that purported to improve the human breed by weeding out the 'least fit', often by measures like compulsory sterilisation or, in the case of the Nazis, death camps. But this is the 21st century, and now people can do it for themselves. 'Auto-eugenics' is the just-named phenomenon in which the excessively gullible and the intellectually challenged are weeding themselves out. It's most prominent in the United States, where 28 per cent of Americans say they do not plan to get vaccinated against coronavirus or are unsure whether they will do so. The only country in the developed world where vaccine refuseniks are more numerous is Russia, where they at least have the excuse that the state lies to them about everything all the time. Covid deaths in the United States last week were running around two thousand a day, whereas in Canada, right next-door, they were around thirty. President Joe Biden was on national television a few days ago urging unvaccinated Americans to



get the jabs, and declaring 'vaccine mandates' that oblige federal employees and companies that employ more than one hundred people to do so. He even allowed himself a little anger towards the more than 80 million Americans who are still refusing vaccination. But there's a puzzle here. Deep down, Biden must realise that the unvaccinated are doing him a favour by dying in large numbers. More than 97 per cent of those two thousand dead a day are not vaccinated, and it's a safe bet that at least 90 per cent of them are Republicans. The vast majority of anti-vaxxers who are still alive by next year's mid-term elections will vote Republican, and if they all make it that far then the present ultra-thin Democratic majorities in both houses of Congress could easily evaporate. In the circumstances, therefore, Biden's attempt to keep Republican voters alive borders on the quixotic. Or does it? A more cynical analysis suggests that he may be making a two-way bet. He is getting credit for doing his duty as president and trying to protect all Americans' lives, but at the same time the added pressure that his new measures put on anti-vaxxers is likely to drive them even deeper into their rejection of science and logic.

Republican governors from Georgia to Arizona are already planning to make legal challenges to his new vaccine mandates, and at the least they will probably manage to tie them up in the courts long enough to ensure that lots more Republican voters die. So in the end it comes down a kind of race. On the one hand, almost all Republican-controlled states are passing new voter-suppression measures to make voting harder for Democratic supporters, and especially for those who are poor and/or non-white. On the other hand, a significant proportion of Republican voters are striving to remove themselves from the gene pool by refusing to be vaccinated, and they can't vote Republican if they are dead. Losing an extra 50,000 guaranteed Republican voters to Covid-19 each month is bound to have an impact in at least some marginal elections next year. Which trend will shift the needle more strongly remains to be seen, but it is bound to a topic of furious in-house debate among Republican electoral strategists. You can safely assume that they have the relevant numbers at their fingertips, but that they are finding it almost impossible to shift the ideology. It's generally seen as insensitive to talk about this sort of thing in public, but admit it: wouldn't you like to be a fly on the wall when they debate this matter among themselves?

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

Using science for a self-reliant India

From agriculture to artificial intelligence, Indian science has seen a resurgence over the last one year and made notable contributions to several domains



BIJU DHARMAPALAN KAPIL K. TRIPATHI

The clarion call for Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan (self-reliant India campaign) by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought about a tremendous transformation in the nation's scientific landscape. The scientists from our public sector research institutions took up the call and initiated many projects in mission mode to nurture an ecosystem that promotes research and innovation.

From agriculture to artificial intelligence, Indian science has seen a resurgence during the past one year. The scientists have come out with great innovations that can compete with any in the western world. The quantum of research output produced during the Covid-19 pandemic is commendable. India became the first country to come out with a DNA-based coronavirus vaccine.

Science will gather acceptance only if it reaches the masses. In order to disseminate these research outputs to public, the India Science Channel, the national Science channel of our country, is producing a series of short movies under the category 'Science for a Self-Reliant India' since January 2021, through OTT platform.

The programmes are telecast both in Hindi and English so that they reach the maximum viewers. During the pandemic, the channel has produced several programmes to disseminate information regarding the covid research coming out from our research laboratories. Programmes like Tackling Covid-19: Masks, Diagnostic kits, Ventilator, An indigenous Covid-19 vaccine, India's Battle for Oxygen Supply, Vaccine: India Fights Back, The Mystery of SARS-CoV-2 Mutations, Battling Covid-19: Dynamic Interventions, Covid-19 Vaccines and Road Ahead, highlighted the our efforts in tackling the deadly disease.

India has also developed an impressive track record in genomic research and biotechnology. The Department of Bio-Technology has been working on mission mode to provide a roadmap and an added impetus towards the growing field of genomics research in areas like cancer, hereditary diseases like diabetes to the sequencing of viruses like Covid-19.

The episode 'India's Genomics Mission' highlights the contributions of National Centre for Microbial Resource (NCMR), which is a part of the National Centre for Cell Science, Pune, Centre for Brain Research at the Indian Institute of Science and Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad.

The episode highlights some of the flagship programmes towards making India a leader in genomic research programmes like the Genome India Project, the Human Microbiome Initiative and the National Genomic Core.

Tremendous developments have



AS INDIA'S URBAN POPULATION RAPIDLY GROWS — THE COUNTRY FACES MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH THE QUANTUM AND KIND OF WASTE GENERATED EACH DAY. THE WASTE NOT ONLY HAS A DIRECT IMPACT ON OUR HEALTH AND THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY, BUT ON THE ENTIRE ECOSYSTEM

(Biju Dharmapalan is a popular science writer. Kapil K. Tripathi is a scientist at Vigyan Prasara, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)



made in the field of alternative energy sources like Solar Energy.

The episode on 'Solar Energy' tracks the science that propelled the indigenous photovoltaic cell and solar panel. In order to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels government has initiated e-mobility project. The 'Going Electric' focus on the movement to transition to electric vehicles in India, a critical move that will help both the environment and the economy.

The Government of India has a multipronged strategy to reduce imports by increasing indigenous production of biofuels in the Indian energy basket-like blending ethanol to petroleum by 20 per cent and biodiesel to diesel by five per cent. Multiple initiatives to increase indigenous production of biofuels have been taken up. The movie 'India's Push for Greener and Cleaner Fuel' highlights the contributions made by CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum in the field of biodiesel production.

Agriculture, including the animal husbandry sector, which is the back bone of our rural economy, also made tremendous developments to improve productivity. The programmes like 'Improving oilseed production', 'Transforming Lives Through Temperate Horticulture', 'The Fragrance Economy', 'The Cattle factor', High Altitude Animal Husbandry, 'Cold Water Fishery in Kashmir', 'India's Milk Story', etc., telecast on the channel highlighted how science is transforming rural economy.

The country has been at the fore front of developing assistive

devices for the disabled. The episode 'Assistive Devices for the Disabled' explores how technology can power assistive devices that help people with disability overcome some of the barriers they face in life.

As India's urban population rapidly grows - the country faces major environmental challenges associated with the quantum and kind of waste generated each day. The waste not only has a direct impact on our health and the country's economy, but on the entire ecosystem. The movie, 'India's Solid Waste Management Strategy', showcases few innovative techniques and technologies for Solid Waste Management (SWM) implemented by various municipal corporations as part of Swachh Bharat Mission.

Mobile usage in India is on the rise. By 2023, over 55 per cent of our population will be using not just any phone, but a smartphone.

The problem is that people are buying imported phones and accessories, not Indian ones, to meet our smartphone needs. The episode 'The Indian Mobile Phone Sector' track how India is upping her manufacturing capacity in the mobile phone sector.

Indian has made notable contributions in infrastructure developments especially in high altitude Roads, bridges and tunnels. They are of vital importance for a nation to grow, develop, protect and indeed become Atmanirbhar. The episode 'Sela Tunnel Project — Making the Impossible Possible' takes viewers to the Balipara-Chardwar Tawang Road

or BCT, which connects the hinterland to the border areas of Tibet and China. The episode also covers the Sela Tunnel Project being excavated and built at over 13,000 feet and highlights the contributions of Border Road Organization in nation building.

Science should be propagated among the children if we need to develop scientific temper in our society. Toys can be used as a perfect teaching model to promote science education among children, unfortunately most of scientific toys are imported. In the episode 'Science Through Play', the indigenous toy-making industries like Stemrobo and Smartivity are highlighted.

The future of science belongs to AI technology as it is going to transform our society. The episode 'Robotics in India' highlights the advancements made by India in this sector. The contributions of start-up companies like Gridbots from Ahmedabad, Asimov Tech from Kerala, are showcased in this episode.

The country has indeed made commendable achievements in every field of science and technology.

The India Science channel has been at the forefront in disseminating the scientific information and acts as a bridge between scientists and society. The channel within a short span of time has emerged as the most wanted source of reliable scientific content for the academic community as well as the common man. The channel also uses social media platforms effectively in its effort to make science more popular.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

BENGAL WILL PROTECT HINDUSTAN AND WILL NOT ALLOW IT TO BECOME PAKISTAN OR TALIBAN.
—WEST BENGAL CM
MAMATA BANERJEE



SHE SHOULD SAY THIS 'PAKISTAN THING' TO HER MINISTER FIRHAD HAKIM, WHO TALKS ABOUT 'MINI PAKISTAN'.
—BJP LEADER
PRIYANKA TIBREWAL

India and Australia: Emerging global leaders

In the post-COVID order, the US alone may be unable to guarantee international peace and security, and India and Australia have to step in

The inaugural Australia India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue between the Australian Defence Minister Peter Dutton, Foreign Minister Marise Payne and their Indian counterparts Rajnath Singh and S Jaishankar was held when the constellation of bilateral and strategic determinants could not have been more favourably placed. Bilateral ties, elevated to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in June 2020, have reached a historical high, emerged as an important cog in the rapidly evolving world hierarchy, as Jaishankar once argued.

New Delhi and Canberra have hitched on to the tide that propels bilateral, trilateral and quadrilateral engagements.



ASHUTOSH MISRA

(The writer is the CEO, Institute for Australia India Engagement and Editor-in-Chief, India News Australia. The views expressed are personal.)

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has initiated a timely and well-advised review of the Peter Varghese's report, 2018, An India Economic Strategy to 2035, in the context of altered international diplomatic and economic settings. There was a need to recalibrate bilateral trade strategies and diplomatic engagements. On the other hand, India's Australia Economic Strategy authored by Anil Wadhwa has been launched at the right time.

The two reports together are critical for realigning business and trade strategies amid rising bilateral tensions with China and in sync with Australian Senator Simon Birmingham who said, "Australia must look into



alternative markets in the European Union and India'.

There is no denying that bilateral bonhomie has been driven by COVID-19's impact and Australia's growing tensions with China over the treatment of Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang, Hong Kong crackdown, alleged foreign interference in Australia's internal political functioning, tariff wars and impact of the pandemic on the one hand, and India's

troubled ties with China, especially military conflict in Doklam and Ladakh, on the other. Senator Marise Payne has been a vociferous critic of China, and Member of Parliament Peter Dutton unsparing in accusing China for cyber-attacks on Australia. Jaishankar has reiterated that ties are independent of their respective relationships with China, and both sides have dismissed Quad as a future "Asian NATO".

Both the US-India and India-Australia ties are seen as "natural" partnerships, for upholding democracy, respect for territorial sovereignty and unrestrained access to global common goods.

Quad's evolution as a rising "concert of democracies", which Australia has described

as an "anchor of peace and stability in the region" has bolstered bilateral understanding. The 2+2 joint press statement reaffirms this realization, while anchoring the defence ties on three Cs - comfort (of the bilateral relationship in strategic and security spheres), convergence (over security matters) and commitment (to free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific). The re-entry of Australia in the Malabar exercise and the Mutual Logistical Support Agreement are two key developments denoting fresh thinking in not only New Delhi and Canberra, but also in Washington and Tokyo on the Indo-Pacific.

At a trilateral front, India's 'Act East' policy, Australia's 'Pacific Step-up'

and Indonesia's 'Global Maritime Fulcrum' (GMF) complement one another. India employs to elevate its Act East policy based on commerce, culture and connectivity, in sync with the seven-point Indo-Pacific Vision that PM Modi articulated at the Shangri-La Dialogue in 2018, and vision SAGAR (Security and Growth for all in the Region). Act East policy complements Australia's 2018 Pacific-Step Up too in addressing challenges related to states' sovereignty and regional stability, security and prosperity. Similarly, Indonesia's 2014 GMF affirms Indonesia's vital interests as an archipelagic state at the crossroads of contending major power interests. The GMF prioritized the strength-

ening of the regional architecture to prevent the hegemony of major powers and promote comprehensive maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean, including the Indian Ocean Rim Association. Similarly, the Australia-Japan-India and the India-France-Australia trilateral also adhere to the Quad-based commitments.

In sum, while Australia and India ties turned a new leaf in the early 2000s, what has changed in 20 years is a growing convergence of bilateral and strategic interests and a realisation that in the evolving post-Covid-19 order, the US alone may not be able to guarantee international peace and security, for which they will have to step-up their desired roles.

Encourage Af to shun terrorism: Xi

Chinese President says SCO nations should guide Afghanistan to develop an inclusive political structure

PTI ■ BEIJING

21ST SUMMIT OF SCO

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday said that the SCO countries should step-up coordination and encourage Afghanistan to put in place an inclusive political framework wedded to moderate policies and resolutely fight all forms of terrorism after the Taliban takeover of Kabul.

Addressing the 21st summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) at Dushanbe via video link, Xi said, "Afghanistan has undergone drastic changes".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the summit via video link and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar attended the meeting of the eight-member bloc comprising China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.

Xi, in his address without naming the Taliban, said: "the

withdrawal of foreign troops has opened a new page in its history. But Afghanistan still faces many daunting challenges, and it needs the support and assistance of the international community, particularly countries in our region."

"We, the SCO member states, need to step up coordination, make full use of platforms such as the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group and facilitate a smooth transition in Afghanistan.

"We need to encourage Afghanistan to put in place a broad-based and inclusive political framework, adopt prudent and moderate domestic and foreign policies, resolutely fight all forms of terrorism, live in amity with its neighbours and truly embark on a path of peace, stability and development," he said.

China, which has main-



tained contacts with the Taliban before and after it took over power in Kabul in mid-August, has announced a \$31 million aid for food and vaccines for Afghanistan.

Though it has not yet formally announced its recognition to the interim Government of the Taliban, China along with Pakistan and Russia has kept its embassy open in Kabul. Its envoy formally met the officials of the interim Government.

Xi also said that the SCO countries "need to follow the journey of upholding our com-

mon security". "Faced with complex and fluid security dynamics in the region, we need to pursue common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, and take tough actions against terrorism, separatism and extremism," he said.

He particularly named the Uyghur militant organisation, the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM), which is fighting for the independence of the volatile Xinjiang province where the US and the EU countries accuse China of committing human rights violations against the native Uyghur Muslims.

China has asked the Taliban not to permit the ETIM in Afghanistan to stage attacks on Xinjiang which shares borders with the war-ravaged country.

Later, addressing the joint summit of the leaders of the SCO and the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) member states on the Afghanistan issue via video link, Xi called for efforts to promote a steady transition of Afghan situation, engage Afghanistan in dialogues and

help the Afghan people tide over difficulties.

Founded in 1992, the CSTO groups six former Soviet republics of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan, with the aim of safeguarding peace and stability in Eurasia.

Member states of the SCO and the CSTO should join hands to safeguard peace and stability, which are "more precious than gold," Xi said.

Relevant parties in Afghanistan should be urged to resolutely crack down on and eradicate terrorist organisations and prevent terrorist forces in Afghanistan from wreaking havoc, the Chinese President said.

China will provide the Afghan people with timely humanitarian and medical support in fighting Covid-19, Xi said.

Xi, in his speech, said that the SCO countries need to strengthen cooperation on counter-narcotics, border control and security for major events, and speedily improve the SCO's security cooperation mechanism.

Taliban orders male students, teachers to school



Afghans play cricket at the Chaman-e-Hozari Park in Kabul on Friday

AP

AP ■ ISTANBUL

The Taliban's Education Ministry says all male students grades 6 to 12 and male teachers should resume classes starting on Saturday.

The statement on Friday published on Facebook did not include girls of that age, and the lack of guidance highlighted ongoing concerns that the Taliban might impose restrictions on girls and women. The

Taliban previously allowed girls in grades one to six to resume their classes. In the past, the hardliner group that took over Afghanistan last month had forbidden girls and women from attending school and work.

In some of the provinces, women still are not allowed to continue their work, with exceptions for women who have worked in health departments, hospitals and education.

'New reality' established in Afghanistan: Pak PM

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday said that a "new reality" has been established in Afghanistan after the Taliban seized power in Kabul and it is now in the international community's "collective interest" to ensure that there is no renewed conflict in the war-torn country and it will never again become a safe haven for terrorists.

Addressing the 21st Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council of Heads of State (SCO-CHS) Summit in Tajikistan's capital, Dushanbe, Khan said it should be a matter of relief for the world that the takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban and the full withdrawal of foreign forces from the country happened "without bloodshed, without civil war, and without mass exodus of refugees".

Pakistan, which had suffered due to the spillover of conflict and instability in Afghanistan, had an interest in a peaceful and stable Afghanistan, he said.

"The sudden change of the previous government which surprised everyone, the takeover by the Taliban, and the full withdrawal of foreign forces, has established a new reality in Afghanistan.

"That all this happened without bloodshed, without



civil war, and without mass exodus of refugees, should be a matter of relief," Khan said, adding that it is now in the international community's collective interest to ensure that there is no renewed conflict in Afghanistan and the security situation is stabilised.

Equally urgent priorities are to prevent a humanitarian crisis and an economic meltdown, he said.

"We must remember that the previous government depended heavily on foreign aid and its removal could lead to economic collapse. This is a moment to stand by the Afghan people, firmly and unequivocally," he said.

He said that the Taliban rulers should make good on their commitments.

"The Taliban must fulfil the pledges made above all for inclusive political structure where all ethnic groups are represented. This is vital for Afghanistan's stability," he said.

Armenia takes Azerbaijan to UN court alleging discrimination

AP ■ THE HAGUE

Armenia is taking its decades long territorial dispute with neighbouring Azerbaijan — that erupted into armed conflict again last year — to the United Nations' highest court.

Armenia filed a case at the International Court of Justice alleging breaches by Azerbaijan of an international convention that aims to eliminate racial discrimination, the court announced late on Thursday.

Armenia alleges that as a result of what it calls a "State-sponsored policy of Armenian hatred, Armenians have been subjected to systemic discrimination, mass killings, torture and other abuse," the court said.

The case centers of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan that has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by the Armenian government for more than a quarter of a century.

During the Soviet era, the predominantly Armenian-populated region had an autonomous status within Azerbaijan. Long-simmering tensions between Christian Armenians and mostly Muslim Azeris boiled over as the Soviet Union collapsed. Conflict broke out in 1988 when the

region tried to join Armenia, and escalated into war after the 1991 collapse of the USSR, leaving an estimated 30,000 dead and displacing about 1 million.

Fighting that erupted again a year ago killed hundreds, making it the biggest flare-up in the conflict since 1994.

Armenia alleges that Azerbaijani committed "grave violations of the racial discrimination convention" during last year's fighting.

The Armenian case says that even after a Russia-brokered ceasefire came into force on Nov. 10, "Azerbaijan has continued to engage in the murder, torture and other abuse of Armenian prisoners of war, hostages and other detained persons," according to the court. Azerbaijan is expected to file a similar case against Armenia next week at the world court.

"In the coming days, we will hold #Armenia to account for breaches of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination," Azerbaijan's deputy Foreign Minister Elnur Mammadov said in a tweet. "30 years of human rights abuses against Azerbaijanis during occupation will not be tolerated."

UN Security Council extends mandate of UNAMA for 6 months

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

The UN Security Council on Friday extended for six months the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), unanimously voting on a resolution that emphasises the importance of the establishment of an inclusive and representative government.

The 15-nation Council voted on the draft resolution that extended the mandate of

UNAMA until March 17, 2022.

The resolution, stressing the important role that the United Nations will continue to play in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan, recognises the need for strengthened efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and the important coordination role of the United Nations, and reaffirming that the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance requires all parties to allow full, safe and unhin-

dered humanitarian access, for United Nations humanitarian agencies and other humanitarian actors.

It also reaffirms the importance of combating terrorism in Afghanistan, including those designated by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015), and ensuring that the territory of Afghanistan should not be used to threaten or attack any country.

Pelosi warns UK not to imperil N Ireland peace with Brexit

AP ■ LONDON

House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi warned Britain on Friday that there will be no US-UK trade deal unless the British government solves post-Brexit disagreements with the European Union that risk destabilizing Northern Ireland's peace.

Britain and the EU are at odds over trade arrangements that have imposed checks on goods coming to Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK.

They were agreed by both sides in their divorce deal, to keep an open land border between the north and EU member Ireland — a key pillar of Northern Ireland's peace process.

Britain says the new checks are onerous and wants to rewrite the agreement, but the EU says it will not renegotiate.

The United States, which played a key role in securing Northern Ireland's 1998 Good Friday peace accord, has cautioned Britain against doing anything to undermine the peace settlement.

Myanmar court sets Oct 1 for Suu Kyi corruption trial

AP ■ BANGKOK

A trial of Myanmar's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi on corruption charges is set to begin on October 1, a member of her legal team said on Friday.

Lawyer Khin Maung Zaw said a judge declared the trial would be held at the Special Court in the capital Naypyitaw on every other Friday. He announced the decision after presentations in the court by Suu Kyi's lawyers and prosecutors from the central city of Mandalay, where the charges were originally lodged.

Suu Kyi, whose elected government was overthrown by an army takeover in February, is currently being tried on other charges by the Special Court. In the ongoing trial, she faces charges of sedition, two counts of flouting Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, illegally importing walkie-talkies that were for her bodyguards' use and the unlicensed use of the radios.

She also is due to be tried for breaching the official secrets



law in a case that was transferred earlier this week to Naypyitaw from Yangon, Myanmar's biggest city.

Suu Kyi's supporters as well as independent analysts say all the charges against her are politically motivated and an attempt to discredit her and legitimize the military's seizure of power while keeping her from returning to politics. Her lawyers deny any wrongdoing.

The army takeover was met with massive popular resistance, which is continuing despite harsh measures by security forces to quash it.

Suu Kyi, 76, has been charged in five cases under the anti-corruption law, four by the Mandalay Region High Court that will now be tried in Naypyitaw, and one by the Yangon Region High Court.

Dutch Foreign Min quits over Afghanistan evacuations

AP ■ THE HAGUE

The Dutch Foreign Minister, Sigrid Kaag, resigned on Thursday after the Lower House of Parliament passed a motion of censure against the Government over its handling of evacuations from Afghanistan amid the Taliban takeover.

In a parliamentary debate on Wednesday night, Kaag acknowledged that the government's slow or muddled response to warnings about the situation in Afghanistan meant some local staff and people who had worked as translators for Dutch troops in the country had not been evacuated.

After the motion was passed on Thursday, Kaag immediately said she would tender her resignation, saying that parliament had decided "that the Cabinet has acted irresponsibly."



OPP UNSEATS PM IN BAHAMAS ELECTIONS

San Juan: A new Prime Minister will soon lead the Bahamas as the archipelago struggles with a spike in Covid-19 cases, a crumbling economy and the devastation of Hurricane Dorian. Philip Davis of the Progressive Liberal Party beat current Prime Minister Hubert Minnis, who conceded defeated late on Thursday. Minnis, of the Free National Movement Party, had been seeking a second five-year term.

9 KILLED IN FIRING OVER LAND DISPUTE IN PAK

Peshawar: At least nine persons were killed and 10 critically injured in a firing between two rival groups over a land dispute in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pukhtunkhwa province, police said. The firing between two groups occurred on Thursday at a funeral site in the Tormang area of the Dir Lower district of the province, killing nine persons.

WOMAN SUES FOR RIGHT TO FREEZE HER EGGS

Beijing: After almost two years, an unmarried woman suing for the right to freeze her eggs in Beijing is getting her case heard in court on Friday in a rare legal challenge against the country's restrictions on unmarried women in reproductive health. Teresa Xu has been waiting since December 2019 for her second hearing at the Chaoyang People's Court in Beijing.

PAK COURT SENTENCES 5 ULTRAS TO 5 YRS EACH

Lahore: An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan's Punjab province on Friday handed down five-year imprisonment each to five terrorists, including those belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). An official of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) said the convicted terrorists — Muhammad Aslam, Basharat Khan, Muhammad Ali, Niaz Abbas and Adil Abbas — were arrested by the CTD early this year from Sargodha and Khushab districts of Punjab.

Office of the Superintending Engineer
2nd Circle, Public Works Department, Nainital-263002
Phone/Fax: 05942-235728/ 232030 Email: sepwdrnt@rediffmail.com

Letter No. : 4219 / 41 M-2/2020-21 **Dated : 16/09/2021**

National Competitive Bidding (E-Tendering)

Superintending Engineer, 2nd Circle, Public Works Department Nainital on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites e-tender (Two bid system). For further details please log on to <http://www.ukttenders.gov.in> from **23.09.2021**.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (₹ (in Lacs)	Cost of Tender	Validity of Tender	Period of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration
1	Extension work of Ramnagar Transportnagar to Chhikhiya Motor Road in District Nainital Constituency Ramnagar Under Honourable C.M. Announcement No. 641/2019	5.00	5000.00 + 18% GST	120 Days	12 Month	Class A and above Class in any State Govt./ Central Govt. or any Govt. Undertaking in Road Works.
2	Reconstruction and Improvement work of Haldwara Thari Kandla Motor Road on Ramnagar Kashipur Road District Nainital Constituency Ramnagar Under Honourable C.M. Announcement No. 640/2019	3.60	5000.00 + 18% GST	120 Days	12 Month	Class A and above Class in any State Govt./ Central Govt. or any Govt. Undertaking in Road Works.

South Africa's top court rejects ex-Prez Zuma's application to rescind his jail sentence

Johannesburg: South Africa's top court on Friday rejected former President Jacob Zuma's application to rescind his 15-month-jail sentence for contempt of court. Zuma handed himself over in July after the Constitutional Court found him to be in contempt of court for repeatedly refusing to return to the Commission of Inquiry into State Capture, where several witnesses have given details of his alleged role in a number of issues relating to the looting of state departments and parastatal organisations.

In a majority judgment of the Constitutional Court, Judge Sisi Khampepe dismissed 79-year-old Zuma's application of rescission with costs. Commenting on Zuma's conduct, Khampepe said that he had wilfully refused to participate in litigation and then reopened the case when it suited him.

"The majority emphatically reject any suggestion that litigants can be allowed to butcher of their own will judicial process which in all respects has been carried out," Khampepe said. **PTI**

Expansion of Nepal Cabinet within a week: Senior leader

Kathmandu: The Nepal Government led by Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba will take "full shape" within a week with the expansion of the Cabinet, a senior leader of the ruling coalition said on Friday.

Even two months after coming to power, Prime Minister Deuba has not been able to expand his Cabinet due to prolonged power sharing negotiations among the five-party ruling alliance. At present, Deuba is running the Government with five ministers, with himself heading 17 Ministries.

Speaking at the inauguration of the newly-formed party's central office in Aloknagar-Baneshwor area in the outskirts of Kathmandu, Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Socialist) Chairman Madhav Kumar Nepal said, "The Cabinet would get full shape within a week." **PTI**

After fires, Europe's Med leaders pledge climate cooperation

Athens: The leaders of Europe's Mediterranean countries pledged on Friday to expand cooperation against climate change, at a meeting in Athens held in the aftermath of massive wildfires that ravaged parts of southern Europe.

They expressed their "strong conviction that urgent and ambitious global action (is needed) at national, regional and local levels", according to a joint statement issued after the talks got underway.

"It is absolutely the right move at the right time because we all see that climate change is heavily affecting the Mediterranean region," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said. Attending the talks were President Emmanuel Macron of France, Italian PM Mario Draghi, Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez and leaders and senior representatives from Malta, Greece, Cyprus, Slovenia, Croatia and Portugal. **AP**

Chinese astronauts safely return to earth after 90 days

Mission to build space station successful

Beijing: China on Friday announced that the manned mission to construct its first space station was a complete success after three Chinese astronauts returned to Earth after 90 days, concluding the country's longest crewed mission.

The Shenzhou-12 manned spaceship carrying astronauts Nie Haisheng, Liu Boming and Tang Hongbo touched down at the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region at around 13:35 local time, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) said. The mission to construct the space station was a complete success, it said.

The three astronauts from the Shenzhou-12 manned spaceflight mission are in good

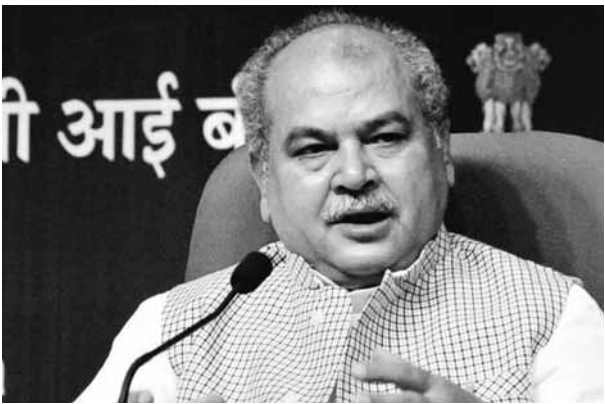
condition after landing on Earth, official media reported. They spent 90 days at the Tianhe module on China's space station, some 380km above Earth.

Earlier, the main parachute of the re-entry capsule of Shenzhou-12 was deployed successfully ahead of the spacecraft's landing in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

The three astronauts entered the space station module in June this year on a three-month mission to build many of its components.

Billed as the most prestigious and strategically important space project for China after the country's recent Mars and previous Moon missions, the low orbit space station would be the country's eye from the sky, providing round the clock bird's-eye view for its astronauts on the rest of the world. **PTI**

Centre taking steps to achieve nutritional security: Agri Min Tomar



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said the Government is taking necessary steps to achieve nutrition security along with food security.

Inaugurating a two-day conference at Hyderabad, the minister said it was upon India's initiative that the United Nations declared year 2023 as the International Year of Millets. Tomar urged the present generation to understand the importance of nutritious foodgrains like millets and make it a part of their daily diet, according to an official statement. The Minister highlighted that the Centre has announced the Agriculture

Infrastructure Fund worth ₹1.5 lakh crore to fill the gaps in the farm sector.

He said the Centre has launched special mission for oilseeds and oil palm cultivation from which the farmers in Telangana would greatly benefit as land here is suitable for cultivation of these crops.

To encourage the next generation to invest in agriculture and to ensure profitable yields for the crops, Tomar said the Centre has enacted three new farm laws. The Government will spend ₹6,850 crore to set up 10,000 new farmer-producer organisations (FPOs) and as a result lives of about 86 percent of farmers would be transformed, he added.

Markets pull back from record highs on profit-booking

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks surged to fresh lifetime peaks on Friday but finished with modest losses, snapping their three-session winning streak, as investors rotated out of RIL, metal and IT stocks at higher levels.

After gyrating 866 points during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 125.27 points or 0.21 per cent lower at 59,015.89. It had surged to a lifetime high of 59,737.32 in the morning session. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty slipped 44.35 points or 0.25 per cent to close at 17,585.15, after touching an intra-day record of 17,792.95.

Govt working on setting up backstop facility for corporate bond market: Finmin official

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to deepen the corporate bond market, the Government is working on setting up a 'backstop facility' as announced in the Budget, a senior government official said on Friday. Speaking at an event organised by CII, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Anand Mohan Bajaj said the government in consultation

with RBI has increased foreign investor participation ceiling in corporate bonds from 9 per cent to 15 per cent.

On the corporate bond market, he said a lot has been done over the years and a lot needs to be done. "We are working on a very comprehensive facility. It will certainly instil confidence among the participants in the corporate bond market," he said.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA FISHERIES DEPARTMENT
O/o Commissioner of Fisheries, Matsya Bhavan, Street No-4, Shamlnagar, Masab Tank, Hyd-28
Date:16-09-2021
Commissioner of Fisheries invites Bid on e-Procurement Platform For Supply of Fresh water Scampi Juveniles (Macrobrachium rosenbergii) for selected reservoirs and tanks in the state of Telangana during 2021-22. Time schedule of various tender related events (1) Bid calling date:- 18-09-2021 at 11.00 AM (2) Pre-bid : Queries regarding the bid to be accepted through online to the mail ID : lstenders.prawnseed@gmail.com upto 10.00AM on 20-09-2021 (3) Last date/time for issuing clarification:20-09-2021, 05:00 PM (4) Bid submission starting date/time : 21-09-2021, 10.00 AM (5) Bid closing date/time: 27-09-2021 2:00 PM (6) Bid opening date/time : 27-09-2021, 03:30 PM (7) Bid Document Fee : Rs.10,000/-, Contact person name and phone number : Sri. T. Srinivas, Deputy Director of Fisheries (Inland) Ph:9849403752. If you are interested in participation, please visit website at www.tender.telangana.gov.in and bid document can be downloaded free of cost from the above website and also www.fisheries.telangana.gov.in. Phone No.040-223376261, E-mail: dftelangana@gmail.com.
Sd/- Lachiram Bhukya
Commissioner of Fisheries

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग
हसिदर
फ़ोन कॉड - 249404
संख्या : 141 / 06 / डी03आर0 / प-04 / एफ03आर0ओ / 2021-22
दिनांक: 17, सितम्बर, 2021
लघु विज्ञापित
वन क्षेत्राधिकारी परीक्षा-2021
एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि वन विभाग में वन क्षेत्राधिकारी के रिक्त पदों पर सीधी भर्ती द्वारा चयन हेतु पूर्व में उत्तराखण्ड शासन द्वारा उपलब्ध कराये गये अध्याचन पत्र संख्या-1029 /X-1-2021-04(28) / 2001, दिनांक 26 जुलाई 2021 में उल्लिखित श्रेणीवार/उपश्रेणीवार रिक्तियों के अनुसार ही आयोग कार्यालय द्वारा विज्ञापन संख्या: A-1/E-4/2021-22 दिनांक 11 अगस्त, 2021 प्रकाशित किया गया है। शासन ने प्रसन्नगत पद पर चयन हेतु आयोग कार्यालय को उपलब्ध कराये गये संशोधित अध्याचन पत्र संख्या-1567 /X-1-2021-04(28) / 2001, दिनांक 10 सितम्बर, 2021 में श्रेणीवार/उपश्रेणीवार रिक्तियों की संख्या को संशोधित/परिवर्तित कर दिया है। शासन द्वारा उपलब्ध कराये गये संशोधित अध्याचन के आलोक में ऑनलाइन आवेदन पत्र स्वीकार किये जाने की अंतिम तिथि को विस्तारित करते हुए 08 अक्टूबर, 2021 (रात्रि 11:59:59 बजे तक) निर्धारित किया गया है। संशोधित अध्याचन में श्रेणीवार/उपश्रेणीवार संशोधित/परिवर्तित रिक्तियों की संख्या संबंधी विस्तृत विज्ञापित आयोग की वेबसाइट www.ukpsc.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है। विज्ञापन की अन्य शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
(कर्मन्ध सिंह) सचिव

Fuel prices maintain stability

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

Auto fuel prices in the country have maintained stability amidst volatility in global oil prices with crude on the boil again rising sharply for past few days.

The oil marketing companies (OMCs) on Friday kept pump prices of auto fuels petrol and diesel unchanged, the 12th consecutive day of no revision, as they preferred to watch the global oil situation before making any revision in prices.

Accordingly, the price of petrol and diesel remained unchanged at ₹101.19 and ₹ 88.62 per litre in Delhi, as per Indian Oil Corporation, the country's largest fuel retailer.

In Mumbai, the petrol price is stable at Rs 107.26 per litre on Friday, while diesel rates also remained unchanged at ₹96.19 a litre.

Across the country as well, petrol and diesel prices remained static on Friday but their retail rates varied depending on the level of local taxes in a particular state.

Fuel prices have been hovering at record levels on account of 41 increases in its retail rates since April this year. Under the pricing formula adopted by oil companies, rates of petrol and diesel are to be reviewed and revised by them on a daily basis.

Edible oil prices showing decline in wholesale price but retail are high

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs on Friday claimed that prices of eight types of edible oils in the wholesale markets across the country are showing a declining trend over the last week after it took several measures to boost domestic supply and curb hoarding. As per the data shared by the ministry, the wholesale price of palm oil fell 2.50 per cent to ₹12,349 per tonne as on September 14 from ₹12,666 per tonne a week ago. Similarly, wholesale rate of sunflower oil fell 1.30 per cent to ₹15,965 per tonne as on September 14 from ₹16,176 per tonne a week ago. Wholesale rate of groundnut oil dropped 1.38 per cent to ₹16,839 per tonne, while that of mustard oil and vanaspathi declined by less than 1 per cent to ₹16,573 per tonne and ₹12,508 per tonne.

While wholesale price of sesame oil slipped 2.08 per cent to ₹23,500 per tonne, coconut oil eased by 1.72 per cent to ₹17,100 per tonne.

The price monitoring division's data of the ministry showed that the highest price of groundnut was reported of ₹247 a kg in Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh while the minimum rate was ₹120 a kg in Rampurhat.

Gadkari gets ₹4 lakh royalty per month from YouTube for lecture videos

PTI ■ BHARUCH

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday said he gets ₹ 4 lakh every month as royalty from YouTube, as viewership of his lecture videos posted on the platform has increased during the pandemic period.

While reviewing the progress of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway (DME) in Bharuch, Gadkari further said his ministry has started rating road construction contractors and consultants.

During Covid-19 times, the road transport and highways minister said, he did two things. "I became a chef and started cooking at home and giving lectures through video conference. I delivered more than 950 lectures online, including lectures to foreign universities students, which were uploaded on YouTube. "Viewership of my YouTube channel increased and YouTube now pays me ₹ 4 lakh per month as royalty," he said. Gadkari, who is known for his frank views, said that in India, those who do good work, don't get appreciation. The minister also emphasised on the importance of network of modern and high-quality roads for economic development and creating employment opportunities.

EXTENSION OF PERIODICITY OF SPECIAL TRAIN
This is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have decided to extend the periodicity of the run of Train No. 02871/02872 Islampur-New Delhi-Islampur Magadh Superfast festival Special Train as under:-

Train No. & Train Name	Days of Run	Extended Up to (JCO)
02871 Islampur - New Delhi Magadh Superfast Special	Daily	Upto 01.01.2022
02872 New Delhi - Islampur Magadh Superfast Special	Daily	Upto 02.01.2022

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 may please be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139
Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in
Download RailMadad App

NORTHERN RAILWAY
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Please join us on   

"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known that my clients Smt. Shakuntla W/o Shri Jagbir and Shri Jagbir @ Jagbir Singh S/o Late Shri. Budhu R/o H.No. 57, Jalalabad Jalalpur, Inholi, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh-250001, has debarred and disinherited his son Shri Gopal aged 44 yrs & daughter in law Smt. Asha aged 41 yrs, from all his properties, both movable and immovable , my client has no control over his said son & daughter in law who have no respect and regard for my client & his family members. my client will not be responsible for any act & deeds of above named person in manner.
Sanjay Kumar (Advocate) 112, Lawyer Chamber Block, Saket Court Complex, New Delhi-110017

PARADIP PORT TRUST
PARADIP -754142, ODISHA (INDIA) 
(An autonomous body under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India)
No. AD/RSC-1-21/16/2013(Pt.I)/2225 Date: 15.09.2021
ADVERTISEMENT
Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for engagement of 05 (Five) **General Duty Medical Officers** on contractual basis in Paradip Port Trust.
For further details, visit our website: www.paradiport.gov.in
PPT/PR/109/21-22, Dt.16/09/2021 **Dy. Secretary**

Revised Extension of Periodicity of Special Train
In continuation to the notice "Extension of Periodicity of Special Trains" which was published in various newspapers on 15.09.2021. The following amendments are being issued:-




Train No. & Train Name	Days of Run	Earlier Published	Revised Extended Period
02584 Anand Vihar (T) - Hatia Special Express	Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	05.10.2021 to 03.01.2022	05.10.2021 to 31.12.2021

Note:- Above train will run fully reserved.


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Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in
Please join us on   

"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE
 Branch office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) R/w Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the borrower, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Number (Loan Account Number (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN)	Description of Property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Subodh Choudhary/ Sumita Devi A/c No- 25250001227, A/c No- QZPTU00005064384	House No- E-1304 (old No. WZ-480-C), LHS 1st Floor Without Roof, Kharsa No- 659 & 660, Vill. Basai Darapur, Sudershan Park Delhi/ 15-Sep-2021	December 11, 2019 Rs. 21,59,468/-	Delhi

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : September 18, 2021 Place: Delhi/ Ncr
Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

64th annual general meeting of NAFED held

The 64th Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) was held at New Delhi today.

Welcoming the participants, Bijender Singh, Chairman NAFED thanked to the Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, MoS for Agriculture, Shri Kailash Choudhary, Shri Rupala ji, Secretary (A&C), Additional Secretary (A&C) and other senior officers in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution for their constant



guidance and support to NAFED from time to time and reposing confidence in NAFED by entrusting various tasks. He assured the Government that NAFED would strive hard to accomplish the tasks assigned by the Government to the best of its

ability. Hon'ble Chairman also extended his gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for creating a separate "Ministry of Cooperation" and giving it under the able and dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Shri Amit Shah Ji.

DHFL National Office: HDIL Towers, B-wing, 6th Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Station Road, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400051. Branch Office: Dhiraj Bhai Building "A" Ground & 1st floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naurpada, Thane (West) 400602.

DEMAND NOTICE
Under Section 13(2) of the securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL) Under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) the "said Borrower(s)", to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s), As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) Loan Code	Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA date	PROPERTY ADDRESS
(LC No. 00001858 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Mit Isiyak (Borrower) Firuz Khan (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1462484 /- (₹ Fourteen lakh Sixty Two Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Four) NPA (11-04-2021)	Gali No. 01, Phase-2, Vill-Meerpur Hindu Pargana & Teshil-Noi, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh- 201012
(LC No. 00004743 of Delhi - Safdurjung Branch) Ram Sanikh (Borrower) Rahul Kamnolja (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1420438 /- (₹ Fourteen lakh Twenty Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Eight) NPA (11-04-2021)	Flat No-19, Fourth Floor, Pocket-3, Block-C8, Sector-G8, Narela Dda Flat, Delhi New Delhi - 110040
(LC No. 000044529 of Delhi - Safdurjung Branch) Chhotu Lal (Borrower) Geesla Devi (Co Borrower 2)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1402943 /- (₹ Fourteen lakh Two Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Three) NPA (11-04-2021)	Prop.No. T-92, Flat.No. 1 / Ugf Front Side Comer Lhs Pkzon Kh No.1151/3 Chaudhary Dayanagar Apt. Ward-6 Mehrauli New Delhi-110030
(LC No. 00000923 of Cannanaga Branch) Sunil Lohani (Borrower) Manju Lohani (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1326943 /- (Thirteen lakh Twenty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Three) NPA (11-04-2021)	231 Third Floor Front Side With Roof T-Block Extension Uttam Nagar New Delhi-110059
(LC No. 00000416 of Dwarka Branch) Praveen Chandran (Borrower) Sudha Chandran (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1256878 /- (₹ Twelve lakh Ninety Five Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Eight) NPA (11-04-2021)	Kh No.55/16 And 54/21/1 Village Palam,Raj Nagar-2 Delhi New Delhi- 110045
(LC No. 00002365 of Delhi - Safdurjung Branch) Sanjeet Kumar (Borrower) Soni Devi (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1257038 /- (₹ Twelve lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Thirty Eight) NPA (11-04-2021)	Flat No 419, Second Floor Block C Pkt 11 Jasola Delhi New Delhi- 110025
(LC No. 00001046 of Rohtak Branch) Gobind Narayan Jha (Borrower) Sudha Jha (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1185765 /- (₹ Eleven lakh Eighty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Five) NPA (11-04-2021)	Without Roof Rights, Gali No-8, Kh No.58/23/2 Vill-Palam Raj Nagar-2 New Delhi Raj Nagar-2 New Delhi North West Delhi- 110077
(LC No. 00011227 of Ahmedabad Branch) Vinaykumar Radhamohan Singh (Borrower) Ranjana Singh (Co Borrower 1) Shantilal Dabhi (Co Borrower 2)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1170359 /- (₹ Eleven lakh Seventy Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Nine) NPA (11-04-2021)	Flat No-A4/06, Shalin Heights-4, Nr-Orshanahar, Lambha - Vatva Road, Narol Narol Ahmedabad Gujarat- 382405
(LC No. 00001104 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Lekhtraj (Borrower) Asha Rani (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1160221 /- (₹ Eleven lakh Sixty Thousand Two Hundred Twenty One) NPA (11-04-2021)	Portion With Roof Rights, Block A Gali No. 19 Kh No. 109/14 Vill Palam, Uttam Nagar, Delhi Palam, Uttam Nagar, Delhi New Delhi - 110045
(LC No. 00001106 of New Delhi-west Branch) Ramesh Chand Boyat (Borrower) Sheshank Boyat (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 116180 /- (₹ Eleven lakh Sixteen Thousand One Hundred Eighty) NPA (11-04-2021)	Flat No. 3 1St Floor Tower 15 Zara Aavaas Sector 104 Sector 104 Gurgaon Haryana - 122001
(LC No. 00002454 of Noida Branch) Alam Parkash (Borrower) Chirag Kathuria (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1053397 /- (₹ Ten lakh Fifty Three Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Seven) NPA (11-03-2021)	Dda Lig Flat No-1684 Ground Floor Block-Qu Near Dda Market Pitampura Delhi Pitampura Delhi New Delhi- 110034
(LC No. 00041742 of Delhi - Pilampura Branch) Tarun Kumar (Borrower) Mayra Rani (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1043143 /- (₹ Ten lakh Forty Three Thousand One Hundred Forty Three) NPA (11-04-2021)	Plot No-86 Upper Ground Floor Rear Side Kharsa No-380, Gali No. 2 Vill. Bindapur, Subhash Park Extension Block-B, New Delhi-110059
(LC No. 00001258 of Delhi Rajpuri Garden Branch) Uma Kant Tiwari (Borrower) Preeti (Co Borrower 2)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 997608 /- (₹ Nine lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Six Hundred Eight) NPA (11-04-2021)	Nr-B-Block Park, Dif Ankur Vihar, Loni, Ghaziabad Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh- 201301
(LC No. 00001167 of Bhubaneswar Branch) Biswaji Rout (Borrower) Kumar Nayak (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 994634 /- (₹ Nine lakh Ninety Four Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Four) NPA (11-04-2021)	Flat-No-210, 2Nd Floor, Block A Tulsi Garden, Manguli, Md-Badakeshapur Pht-No-69/373, 69/374, 67, 68 Pht No-69, 69/373, 69/374, 67, 68 Cuttack Orissa - 753001
(LC No. 00042774 of Gurgaon - Sohna Road Branch) Ashish Kumar (Borrower) Khushboo Singh (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 9938309 /- (₹ Nine lakh Ashish Kumar (Borrower) Khushboo Singh (Co Borrower 1)) NPA (11-04-2021)	Unit No -1208 Tower No-4 Pyramid Urban Homes Sector-70A, Sohna Gurgaon Haryana - 122001
(LC No. 00000801 of Cannanaga Place Branch) Prem Kumar (Borrower) Kandanchi (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 912465 /- (₹ Nine lakh Twelve Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Five) NPA (09-01-2021)	Property Mod No. 34-C,Unit No.1, Upper Ground Floor Rear Side Kh No.491/421 Arjun Nagar Kh No.491/421 Arjun Nagar-Vill. Humayunpur Delhi New Delhi-110029
(LC No. 00000199 of Gurgaon Branch) Rajesh Kumar (Borrower) Dimple D (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 892784 /- (₹ Eight lakh Ninety Two Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Four) NPA (11-04-2021)	Flat No-25, Second Floor, Dda Janta Flat, Pocket-6, Sunrise Apartment, Nasir Pur, Dwarka Nasir Pur, Dwarka Delhi New Delhi- 110075
(LC No. 00001699 of Noida Branch) Ravinder (Borrower) Krishan Choudhary (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 852304 /- (₹ Eight lakh Fifty Two Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Four) NPA (11-04-2021)	H No A41 Ground Floor Block A Pocket 11 Jasola Jasola New Delhi- 110001
(LC No. 00000776 of Ghaziabad Branch) Maya (Borrower) Balbir (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 795723 /- (₹ Seven lakh Ninety Five Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Three) NPA (11-04-2021)	Property No. C-137, Block- C-1 Ground Floor, Front Side Flat (G-1) Dif Ankur Vihar, Loni Dif Ankur Vihar, Loni Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh- 201202
(LC No. 00000932 of Hardwar Branch) Kuldeep Singh Bhandari (Borrower) Vinod Singh Bhandari (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 738410 /- (₹ Seven lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Ten) NPA (11-04-2021)	Gram Suman Nagar, Pargana Roorkee Haridwar Uttarakhand- 249402
(LC No. 00000969 of Rohini Branch) Rajesh Kumar (Borrower) Dimple (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 661147 /- (₹ Six lakh Sixty One Thousand One Hundred Forty Seven) NPA (11-04-2021)	Flat No 25 2Nd Floor D D A Janta Flat Pocket 6 Nasir Pur Nasir Pur Dwarka New Delhi - 110075
(LC No. 00000594 of Faridabad Branch) Sachin Bajaj (Borrower) Ankur Bajaj (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 533181 /- (₹ Five lakh Thirty Three Thousand One Hundred Eighty One) NPA (11-03-2021)	Flat No 902 8Th Floor Tower A2 Type B Srms Palam Badli Rapsana 7 Srs Palm Homes Sector 7 Palwal Faridabad Haryana - 121102
(LC No. 00044454 of Gurgaon - Sohna Road Branch) Mohit Taneja (Borrower) Uma Taneja (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 484271 /- (₹ Four lakh Eighty Four Thousand Two Hundred Seventy One) NPA (11-04-2021)	Plot No.11 1St Floor (L S) Kh No. 80/5 Roop Vihar On Vihar Phase V Village Hasolal Uttam Nagar New Delhi- 110059
(LC No. 00001582 of Rohini Branch) Jaspreet Singh (Borrower) Manpreet Singh (Co Borrower 1) Jaswant Kaur (Co Borrower 2)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 446360 /- (₹ Four lakh Forty Six Thousand Three Hundred Sixty) NPA (11-04-2021)	Plot No.R-142, 2Nd Floor Western Side Portion, Kh No. 75,76,85To 89,92 To 97, 106,120 Block R Vill Bindapur 106,120 Block R Vill Bindapur Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059
(LC No. 00000723 of Gurgaon Branch) Puneet Goswami (Borrower) Ramesh Giri (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 100752 /- (₹ One lakh Seven Hundred Fifty Two) NPA (11-04-2021)	Property No. B-110, C-3 Tronica City Loni Ghaziabad Loni Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh- 201001
(LC No. 00000707 of Rohini Branch) Surender Kumar Sharma (Borrower) Gaurav Sharma (Co Borrower 1) Meena Sharma (Co Borrower 2)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1732456 /- (₹ Seventeen lakh Thirty Two Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Six) NPA (11-04-2021)	Plot No-A-61, Ground Flr, New No-C-13 Kharsa No-82/82, Village Mandawali Fazal Gali No-6, West Vinod Nagar, Gali No-6, West Vinod Nagar, Delhi New Delhi- 110092
(LC No. 00001234 of Rohini Branch) Suneel Sharma (Borrower) Gaurav Kumar (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1646295 /- (₹ Sixteen lakh Forty Six Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Five) NPA (11-04-2021)	Flat No-L6/05, Sixth Floor, Block L, Aarogyan, Village Badli Rapsana 7 Srs Palm Homes Sector 7 Palwal Faridabad Haryana- 121102
(LC No. 00043583 of Delhi - Safdurjung Branch) Vandana (Borrower) Jeevan Singh (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1555774 /- (₹ Fifteen lakh Fifty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Four) NPA (11-04-2021)	P.No.Rza-10, 3Rd Floor Rear Side (With Roof), Kh.No.16/6/2, Vill Asalapur,Mahindra Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi- 110059
(LC No. 00000246 of Noida Branch) Tahir Noor (Borrower) Sabista (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1373312 /- (₹ Thirteen lakh Seventy Three Thousand Three Hundred Twelve) NPA (11-04-2021)	Prop. S-221/169, Flr Without Roof, Block-S, Galino, 4, Kh. 20/5, Village Khyala, Vishnu Garden Khyala, Vishnu Garden New Delhi- 110018
(LC No. 00042786 of Noida-sector 2 Branch) Neera Verma (Borrower) Alka Verma (Co Borrower 1) Subhash Chand Gupta (Co Borrower 2)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 980564 /- (₹ Nine lakh Fifty Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Four) NPA (11-04-2021)	1/6405, Second Floor, Without Roof, Plot No-30, Kharsa No-156/158 & 159, Gali No-14A,Balbir Nagar Extn Shahdara New Delhi- 110032
(LC No. 00000482 of Bahadurgarh Branch) Sohan Singh (Borrower) Pushpindra Kaur (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 560953 /- (₹ Five lakh Sixty Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Three) NPA (11-04-2021)	Wz 9/1, 2nd Floor, Without Roof Right, Kharsa No 23/5, Village Keshpur, Bhupinder Nagar Delhi New Delhi- 110001

Prashant Tripathi, also popularly called Acharya Prashant, is an Advaita teacher and author. His recent book *Karma: Why Everything You Know About It Is Wrong* has hit the Amazon bestsellers' list and there's only infinite definitions of the concept of 'karma' that Acharya unveils. The IIT-IIM alumni teaches 17 forms of *Gita* and 60 forms of *Upanishads*. The intellectual and deeply philosophical leanings of the author have attracted a wide audience of readers.

Here are certain excerpts from the interview:

□Your book *Karma: Why Everything You Know About It Is Wrong* is supposed to shatter the prejudiced notions of 'karma'. Could you summarise your definition of the same?

The definition I propose of 'karma' does not place the action or the thing being acted upon at the centre, as is the case with the popular definitions of the concept. It, on the contrary, places the actor, the self at the centre, and then studies the action in light of the actor itself.

□This generation is still so much influenced by the ideals of Western philosophy, how do you propose to bring them back to the roots? And, is that your aim?

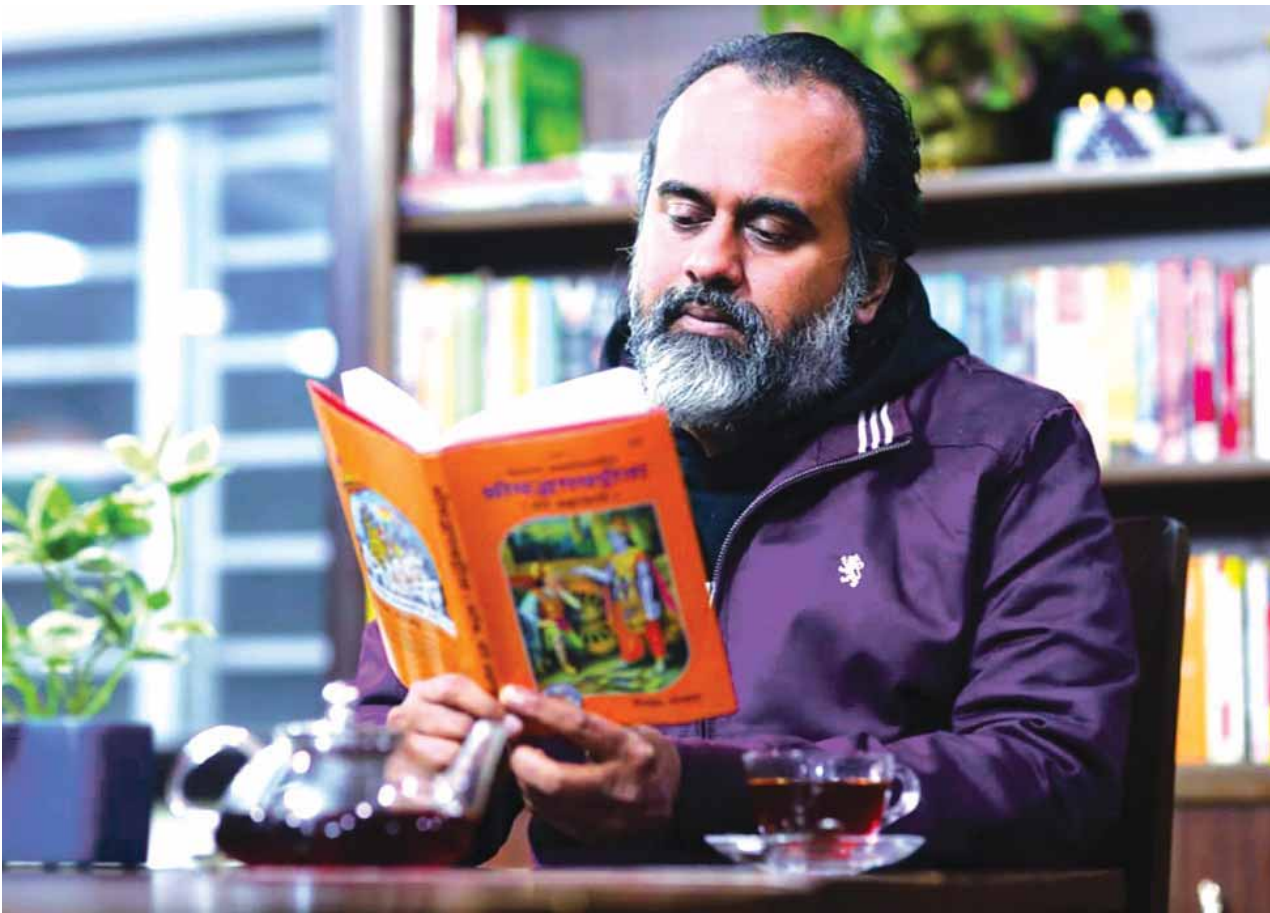
The bias is not towards the East or the West, but towards the Truth. In this context, I clearly see that Indian philosophy has a lot to offer. Whereas the Western view preoccupies itself with the world as an objective fact, the Indian approach is to explore into the consciousness that perceives the world. The Indian approach is, thus, inward looking and more intimate.

□The concept of binaries, so prevalent in the West, stands opposite to the Eastern idea of '*aham Brahmasmi*'. Care to weigh in?

In the common normal world of the ego, binaries do exist. The first dualistic binary is me and the world - 'I am not the world and the world is not me', and that becomes a binary.

'I feel the world exists and I feel I exist'. In general, my notion of myself, as well as my notion of the world both are false. I am conditioned and the world that I perceive is, therefore, an illusion. Just as a person, with misty and cloudy eyes, perceives nothing but illusions.

So, the beginning is *aham* and the *sansaar*, and both are false. The spiritual process brings the self to a point where it is cleansed of conditioning. So this pure self, cleansed of conditioning, then perceives the world



EXPLORING THE TRUTH

ACHARYA PRASHANT decentres action in the totality of karma, in a heart-to-heart with KHUSHBU KIRTI

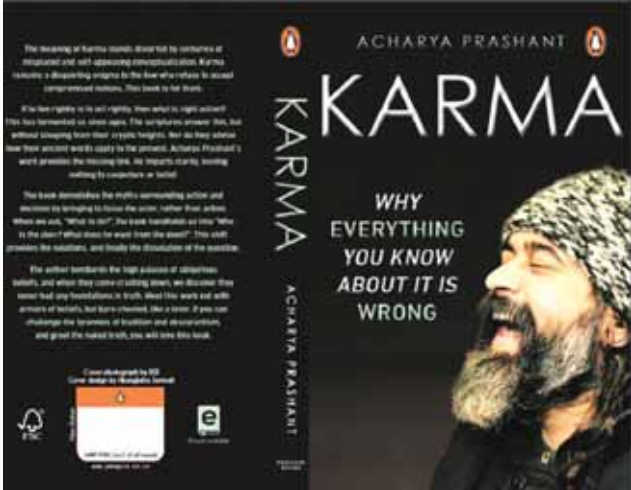
in a dimensionally different way.

Now it is the Truth within shining as the Truth outside. Only now, can one say '*aham Brahmasmi*'. So, the notion is not something that is rightfully available to the common ego state to utter. In the common state, *aham* is just *aham*, not *Brahma*; and when *aham* is just *aham*, obviously *aham* and *sansaar* are two ends of duality, together but never in union.

A deeply spiritual person alone has the right to say, '*aham Brahmasmi*'.

□As an Advait philosopher/practitioner, you are known to propagate the teachings of Upanishads and the Gita, what challenges have you faced in teaching the modern audience?

Popular modernity is a lot about belief in the self and a blanket repudiation of the past. Together these two form a lethal, self-destructive combination. Firstly, the belief in the self as a genuine, original or authentic entity is misplaced; secondly, a



lot that can dispel that belief is stationed in the past. So, when you have a strong, even if false, belief coupled with an aversion to that which can probe and dispel this belief, then you are in a situation that is not only false but also designed to keep the false secure, and that is the challenge that I face with the so-called

modern mind and that is the problem that modern mind faces with itself. One of the problems with popular misinterpretations of modernity is that they accord the self and its desires a very high, actually the highest value, without ever bothering to enquire where the self comes from and whether it

deserves such a high value. So, the ego's nature is such that it is extremely self-protective and the notion that convinces it of its infallibility becomes very valuable and indispensable to itself. So when it is faced with the oriental scriptures whose central idea is the falseness of the ego self, the first reaction of the ego is to resist them, find faults with them and declare them outdated.

□Who are the seminal philosophers you follow and why?

Philosophy is authentic only when it makes one come to the self. Therefore, philosophy has to be spirituality; and philosophy has to be a way of life, not merely a structure of thought. The philosophers who appeal to me would include the Rishis of the Upanishads, Sage Ashvatkara, Adi Shankaracharya, Plato, Socrates, Gautama Buddha, Kabir Saheb, Krishna, Lao Tzu, and Nagarjuna from the Buddhist tradition.

A style statement

In a tête-à-tête with TANMAYA DAS, ace fashion designer ANJU MODI shares her thoughts on the evolution of the Indian fashion industry

In the year-2020, the fashion industry was trying to hold back its position, as the concept of work from home (WFH) became inevitable. Most of the people started working from home. Retail shops were shut down due to the pandemic and online shopping increased to encourage social distancing. Due to cost-cutting and new responsibilities, expensive purchases were curtailed, which subsequently affected the fashion industry.

Now that the world is slowly returning to normalcy, we have all started to regain and reshape ourselves in the new economic sphere. Renowned designer Anju Modi speaks of the challenges that the Indian fashion industry is facing currently.

She says, "The designers have to come forward in terms of competitive clothing. You use Indian handloom fabric to make it an anti-fit loose dress or a simple shift dress. It is more comfortable as it absorbs sweat. So, I make dresses that can be worn at home all day long. However, for now, designing competitive clothing is a challenge."

Also, it is undeniable that clothes shape our personality, bringing out the best version of ourselves. Our clothes and jewellery have always been inspired by our cultures and traditions. On this note, she says, "As humans started to get civilised, presenting oneself was always a prime psychological and emotional point within a human being. Even our kings and royal families were all extremely conscious of how they should be wearing their clothes, the jewellery, turbans, attire, shoes, and/or makeup." Moreover, she adds that the psychology of presenting oneself lies at the core of human existence.

On being asked about her fascination with historical characters, she points out that everything has been shaped by history. She expresses, "We get inspired by classical music, 500-year-old Amir Khusrow's poetry, and Mughal influences in our craft. So, I feel that in today's generation, our lifestyle is a reference to previous cultural influences. However, we need to reinvent and make garments that are wearable and relevant in today's time. So, as a designer, I am interpreting our Indian designer traditions and culture."

During the 90s, people were clueless about fashion. Since childhood, Anju used to be surrounded by several art forms, and music. Such an atmosphere created a natural inclination towards arts and designs. Afterwards, she went on to understand the culture as well as the lifestyle of weavers and their philosophy. Of all young designers, Rahul Mishra and Pero are some of her favourite brands. She shares, "My son and daughter-in-law made a promising mark in the fashion industry with their label, AMPM. They will take the craft much further."

To her, the fashion industry in India has explored many avenues, but the real challenge is to make clothing more relevant to the modern lifestyle. "I cannot say that something is not unexplored. Everybody has



worked in each region, including lehengas, cholis, anarkali, Hyderabad and Pakistani shararas, and farshi. So, a lot of areas have already been explored. The question here is how do we take out the traditional attire and make it relevant in today's lifestyle. Since the younger generation is fast-paced, they don't want so much fabric and weight on themselves. One needs to select the best textile and make it into a stylish garment. So, I sincerely believe that styling garments for today's generation is one area which needs more exploration," she elaborates.

Our workspaces influence our productivity levels so we need to choose the elements in our workspaces wisely. On being asked about redefining home spaces during the pandemic, she observes, "Everyone has become a home-conscious person. In this endeavour, I collaborated with an interior designer, Rajiv Goel who is providing workspaces at home. People have created their own WFH spaces. They have all the required gadgets, a library, and books. WFH has become a part of our lifestyle in these uncertain times."

Currently, she is engaged with Sanjay Leela Bansal for his first-ever web series, Heera Mandi. Simultaneously, there are several projects lined up that have been experiencing some hiccups due to the Covid. "The pandemic has taught us a huge lesson. It has given us time to rethink and reinvent ourselves. Our perspectives on life, relationships, and emotions have changed. So, my only message is that one should not lose one's equilibrium again. Relax! Enjoy the music, dance, and all the classical textiles. Be an art lover!" she concludes with a wide smile.

Devotion as she knows best

ANKITA LOKHANDE talks about the significance of the festival in her life as she is all set to perform a mesmerising Ashtavinayak act during *Ganesh Utsav With Zee TV*. By TEAM VIVA

With festivities around the corner and the restrictions limiting the celebrations across India, Zee TV has a surprise coming your way! The channel is all set to give you the look, feel, and flavour of Ganesh Chaturthi from the comfort of your homes as it presents an extravagant celebration through a special episode of *Ganesh Utsav with Zee TV*. This unique celebration will see lots of fun, dance, *masti* and conversations with top telly stars celebrating Ganesh Chaturthi with all of you.

Viewers are in for some amazing performances. While *Kumkum Bhagya* and *Kundali Bhagya*'s iconic duos — Abhi (Shabir Ahluwalia)-Pragya (Sriti Jha) and Karan (Dheeraj Dhoopar)-Preeta (Shraddha Arya) — will make you fall in love with them all over again as they showcase their adorable chemistry, actor Ankita Lokhande will ensure that this Ganesh Utsav is memorable for one and all, as she performs a breathtaking Ashtavinayak dance act. The actress left no stone unturned when it came to her performance for Bappa.

Talking about Ganesh Utsav with Zee TV, Ankita shared, "I have come for Zee TV's Ganesh Utsav after a long time, and there are so many memories that I have of this annual event, which came rushing back to me as soon as I came on the set. To be honest, being a dancer, I am always excited about my performance, especially when I am going to perform for Ganpati Bappa. It's truly a different feeling altogether. I remember when *Pavitra Rishta* was on air, the Ganesh Chaturthi event used to start with our show, but this time around, I've joined the Zee Kutumb for my special act. I am excited as well as nervous about my performance because I am doing a solo act for Lord Ganesha and can't wait to see everyone's reaction towards my act."

Ankita, who is known for her dancing skills, will surely take your breath away with not just her mesmerising act, but also her angelic



avatar. Talking about her plans for this Ganesh Utsav, she added, "I have always had Bappa at my house since my childhood and this year as well, I have welcomed him home for 11 days. There is so much preparation that we do, from decorating the

house to making Bappa's favorite *modaks*, *ladoos*, *puran poli* and I am very excited for it this year."

(To watch the grand celebration, tune in to Ganesh Utsav With Zee TV on September 19 2021 at 12 pm, only on Zee TV)

Season two of *The Morning Show*, starring Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon, had filmed just 13 days when the COVID-19 pandemic shut down production in March 2020.

The writers for the show, which revolves around the behind-the-scenes drama of a morning news program, soon decided that the scripts should reflect what was happening in the world. Instead of diving right into the chaos of the early days — lockdowns and quarantines — the new season, which debuted yesterday, unfolds in the first months of 2020 leading up to the declaration of a pandemic. Before that, the Coronavirus had been looming but seemed like a problem far removed.

"Everything that you're doing while you don't know what's about to hit you is exactly what we were trying to capture," said Witherspoon.

These script changes were a sense of déjà vu for the writers. The planned plot of season one had also changed course. That revision incorporated the Time's Up and #MeToo movements that exposed misconduct by men in media and entertainment, most notably disgraced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein.

The first season saw Aniston and Witherspoon's characters often pitted against one another. In season two, there's less time to spar because everybody's got their own problems. Each character confronts questions of identity, in both how they're seen by the world at large and how they view themselves.

Desean Terry plays disenfranchised news anchor Daniel, who is told outright that he's as big as he's ever going to get so he should be satisfied. As a black man, he feels a responsibility to represent people of color and share their stories, and he's not getting the opportunity to do so.

"I hope people see those nuances that can happen," said Terry. "The system wears on you and it starts to actually really impact you in this very deep and personal way and you take on the cost. We see him call out the system but also an insecurity creeps in."

Mark Duplass' character, Chip, who could have been a walking

Keeping up with times

Cancel culture dominates the latest season of *The Morning Show*



advertisement for Pepto-Bismol in season one as the executive producer of the programme, now isn't sure where he fits in when he's not the boss.

"He's being pulled back to the power that he used to have that he no longer has," said Duplass. "I think white men are struggling a lot right now with the loss of that, and they get real fussy when they lose it. They don't know how to deal with it."

The complexities of cancel culture are examined as well. *The Morning Show* looks at what can happen next for someone who has been publicly outed for their behavior, the paranoia over being guilty by association to a canceled person, and how it's easier said than done to erase someone from your life.

"My question always was, 'What happens to these (cancelled) people?'" says Aniston. "The beauty of the writing is just the head-on honesty. Saying what people say behind closed doors."

Aniston's portrayal of Alex Levy, a beloved, trusted TV personality who runs hot and cold off screen, earned her an Emmy and

Golden Globe nomination and a SAG award win.

"She's a labyrinth of a human being," said Aniston of her character, adding that she's met people like Alex "along the way."

"I've worked with them, where you just don't know what you're gonna get. They always scare me," Aniston said.

Some of the best moments of season two are Aniston's scenes with Duplass. Their characters have a long, shared work history and in seconds can go from friends without filters to spewing deep, cutting vitriol.

"I think part of the reason why people respond to Chip and Alex and their relationship like they do is because of the way that Jen and I really like each other," said Duplass. "We imbue that relationship with a playfulness and a love that also layers into the darkness and the toxicity that's on the page. So as hard as some of those scenes are, I look forward to them."

There's one scene with the two in a car that is hilarious and horrifying to watch.

Aniston says she told director

Mimi Leder, "I think I've got about two (takes) in me" but calls the end result "fantastic" and "a purging."

Billy Crudup, who plays enigmatic TV executive Cory Ellison, says his Emmy-winning role on *The Morning Show* has afforded him a delicious opportunity he thought was long gone.

"When you get into your 50s, there's a notion that you might have one or two more of these (roles) in your career," said Crudup. "To get to do something that's as extravagant as this character is otherworldly."

Season two adds Hasan Minaj (from *The Daily Show* and *Patriot Act With Hasan Minaj*) and Julianna Margulies, of *The Good Wife* fame, to the cast.

"We had the best time," said Witherspoon of Margulies. "I've always been a fan of hers. I've known her a little bit socially, but just getting to spend that time with her is so meaningful to me. And can I say I loved working with Hassan because he made me laugh so hard."

NZ put off Pak tour over security



IAN S ■ RAWALPINDI

New Zealand have called off their white-ball tour of Pakistan because of security concerns ahead of the first of three ODIs at Pindi Cricket Ground in Rawalpindi on Friday. New Zealand were visiting Pakistan for the first time after 18 years for a white-ball tour featuring three ODIs which were to be followed by five T20Is in Lahore.

Players and support staff members from both sides did not come out of the hotel and were asked to stay in their rooms. Spectators were not allowed to enter the stadium. After a period of uncertainty and chaos caused by the delay apart from rumours of COVID-19 outbreak in either camp, a statement from New Zealand Cricket (NZC) was issued.

"However, following an escalation in the New Zealand Government threat levels for Pakistan, and advice from NZC

security advisors on the ground, it has been decided the BLACK-CAPS will not continue with the tour. Arrangements are now being made for the team's departure," read the NZC statement.

The chief executive of NZC David White said it was simply not possible to continue with the tour given the advice he was receiving. "I understand this will be a blow for the PCB (Pakistan Cricket Board), who have been wonderful hosts, but player safety is paramount and we believe this is the only responsible option."

New Zealand Cricket Players Association chief executive Heath Mills echoed White's sentiments. "We've been across this process throughout and are fully supportive of the decision. The players are in good hands; they're safe -- and everyone's acting in their best interests."

NZC also said it will not comment on the details of the security threat nor the updated

arrangements for the departing squad. New Zealand, led by Tom Latham, had arrived in Islamabad on September 11 after losing a five-match T20I series to Bangladesh 3-2. Since the start of this century, New Zealand first came to Pakistan in 2002 under Stephen Fleming. They had to abandon the tour on the morning of the second Test in Karachi after a bomb exploded outside their team hotel. The last time New Zealand toured Pakistan was in 2003 for a five-match ODI series, which they lost 5-0.

The PCB issued a statement shortly after NZC released one, saying that no security threat of any kind existed for the visitors. "Earlier today, New Zealand Cricket informed us they had been alerted to some security alert and have unilaterally decided to postpone the series."

"Pakistan Cricket Board and Pakistan Government made foolproof security arrangements for all visiting teams. We have

Pak Minister links New Zealand tour cancellation to Afghanistan

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after the New Zealand cricket team called off its tour of Pakistan just before the start of the first ODI in Rawalpindi, Pakistan Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad said on Friday that the tour was cancelled under an international 'conspiracy', Express Tribune reported.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Ahmad said that he will not name the conspirators. However, he added that some forces want to make Pakistan a scapegoat



after what has been happening in Afghanistan.

The New Zealand authorities do not have substantive proof of a threat in Pakistan, the minister said, hours after the Kiwis cancelled their tour of Pakistan, Geo TV reported.

'Which world is NZ living in?' PCB chief

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

The newly-appointed Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman, Ramiz Raja on Friday lashed out at the New Zealand Cricket for abandoning their international series at the last minute after claiming to have received a security alert from their government back home.

New Zealand have called off their white-ball tour of Pakistan because of security concerns ahead of the first of three ODIs at Pindi Cricket Ground in Rawalpindi. Raja warned NZC that the matter will be taken up before the International Cricket Council (ICC). He took to Twitter to express his anguish.



National Open Athletics: Harmilan Kaur sets national record in 1500m

AP ■ WARANGAL

Punjab's Harmilan Kaur Bains stole the thunder from the sprinters by breaking Sunita Rani's long-standing national record in the 1500 metres on the second day of the 60th National Open Athletics Championships in the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Hanamkonda on Thursday.

The 23-year-old start-to-finish specialist cruised home in 4:05.39 to erase the mark set by Sunita Rani at 4:06.03 in the Asian Games in Busan in 2002. She also shattered OP Jais's meet record of 4:11.83 set in Delhi in 2006. Delhi's KM Chanda gamely shadowed Harmilan until the Punjab runner sped away at the bell to win by a sizable margin. Harmilan, undefeated in eight national-level 1500m races since January 2020, has shown rapid progress, improving from 4:14.68 in the Khelo India University Games in Bhubaneswar last year to 4:08.70 and 4:08.27 in the Federation Cup (March 16) and Indian Grand Prix 4 (June 21)

respectively in Patiala. On Thursday, she capped it with a National mark, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) said in a release on Thursday.

It needed such a strong effort to push a couple of good sprint events to the shade. Naresh Kumar (Andhra Pradesh) and Delhi's Tarandeep Kaur took the honours as the fastest male and female athlete of the meet by winning the 100m dash Naresh Kumar's 10.30 seconds win came with the second-fastest time by an Indian in 100m this year behind Gurindervir Singh's 10.27 seconds in Patiala on June 26. It also gave the 23-year-old from Guntur a place among the five fastest sprinters in Indian history. Quite inevitably, it gave him the meet record, improving on Anil Kumar's 10.37 seconds set in 2001.

The race produced personal bests for Assam's Amlan Borgohain and Harjit Singh (Services) with times of 10.34 seconds for both, a photo finish separating them by six-thousandths of a second to secure the silver medal for the former.

Sharath named chairman of BCCI junior selection committee

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian cricket board (BCCI) on Friday appointed the national junior selection committee with former Tamil Nadu batsman Sridharan Sharath as its chairman.

While S. Sharath is the representative selector from South Zone, former Gujarat wicket-keeper-batsman Pathik Patel is the selector from West Zone and former Bengal medium-pacer Ranadeb Bose is from East Zone. Former Punjab batsman Krishan Mohan, who is now with Himachal Pradesh in coaching capacity, is the North Zone selector while ex-Madhya Pradesh pacer Harvinder Singh Sodhi is the selector from Central Zone.

"Former Tamil Nadu captain Mr Sharath Sridharan will head the committee," said a statement from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The first cricketer to play 100 Ranji Trophy matches for Tamil Nadu, Sharath scored 8700 runs, including 27 centuries and 42 half-centuries in 139 first-class matches with an impressive average of 51.17, during his 15-year-long domestic career.

Not getting selected for T20 World Cup not the end of it all: Pacer Siraj



IAN S ■ MUMBAI

Indian pace bowler Mohammed Siraj has said that the recently-concluded Test tour of England was a "great experience" and that he was happy that he could repose the faith of his captain Virat Kohli during the series.

Siraj played a key role in India taking a 1-0 lead in the series, notching eight wickets in the Lord's Test, which led to the visitors winning the tie by 151 runs.

"The England tour was a great experience by any stretch of imagination. I am glad that I could repose the faith of my captain Virat bhai, head coach Ravi Shastri, the support staff and the entire team," the 27-year-old, who has so far amassed 30 wickets in the nine Tests, told Sportstar on Thursday.

Siraj though said that he was a bit disappointed at not being selected in the side for the ICC T20 World Cup in the UAE and Oman in October-November this year.

"Well, selection is not in our hands. It was certainly a dream to play in the T20 World Cup. But, again, that is not the end of it all. I have many more goals -- the biggest being to play a lead role in helping the team to win matches," said Siraj.

"I will take things as they come for I believe in destiny and be content in whatever opportunities I get even as the pursuit for excellence at the highest level continues," he added.

Siraj said that sharing the ball with the likes of pace stalwarts Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Shami was a great experience.

England's tour of Pakistan next month in doubt now: Reports



IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

England's tour of Pakistan next month was thrown into doubt on Friday after New Zealand abandoned their international series there on security grounds.

According to a Daily Mail report, the Black Caps did not leave their hotel for the first one-day international and no spectators were admitted to the stadium in Rawalpindi after the country's cricket board received security advice. Before the scheduled time of the toss for the day-nighter, confirmation came that the tourists would be returning home before a ball

had been bowled.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) then said that they will decide on whether next month's tour of Pakistan can go ahead in the next 48 hours.

"We're aware of New Zealand's decision to pull out of the Pakistan tour due to a security alert," a spokesperson was quoted as saying by standard.co.uk. "We are liaising with our security team who are on the ground in Pakistan to fully understand the situation. The ECB Board will then decide in the next 24-48 hours whether our planned tour should proceed."

Shiva sails into last-16, Gaurav Bidhuri bows out of National Championships

PTI ■ BELLARY

Five-time Asian medallist Shiva Thapa (63.5kg) stormed into the pre-quarter-finals with a knockout victory but former world championship bronze-winner Gaurav Bidhuri (57kg) exited after an opening loss in the men's National Boxing Championships here on Friday.

Representing Assam, Thapa knocked out Shubham Mamta of Steel Plant Sports Board (SPSB) in the opening round of his bout. Shubham was attended to by the medical team after the body shot threw him off balance in the ring.

"There is pain but he should be alright. He will be assessed again tomorrow," a top official at the tournament told PTI. However, Bidhuri (Railways Sports Promotion Board) was upstaged by Haryana's Sachin, who prevailed 4-1 in the bout. Sachin is the reigning youth world champion. Another Haryana pugilist and South Asian Games champion Ankit Khatana made his way into the 75kg quarter-finals after he



out-punched Himachal Pradesh's Dharm Pal in unanimous victory.

Telangana's Savio Dominic Michael (54kg) and Goa's Ashok Patil (67kg) too progressed to the last-eight stage with identical 4-1 victories.

While Savio defeated Jharkhand's Krishna Jora, Ashok Patil got the better of

Himachal Pradesh's Mohan Chander.

Chandigarh's Kuldeep Kumar (48kg) and Sachin were among the other boxers to make progress on the third day of the Championships.

Kuldeep booked a berth in the quarter-finals after an easy 4-0 win over Rajasthan's Sushil Sahran.



Elyse Perry set to return to new-ball role against India women

IAN S ■ MACKAY

Australian women's team pace bowler Elyse Perry, who is set to return to her role as new-ball bowler after her career over the past 18 months was hampered by hamstring injury, has termed the forthcoming ODI series against India as an opportunity.

"With Megan Schutt missing for this series, there might be more opportunity there with the new ball, especially initially," said Perry ahead of the ODI series against Indian women's team that begins on Tuesday (September 21).

Perry, who has picked 298 international wickets across 246 Tests, ODIs and T20s, is just one of seven bowlers to have taken 150 wickets in women's ODIs.

She barely bowled during the one-day series against New Zealand in March-April, sending down just six overs in the first two matches as first change. She didn't bowl in the third ODI.

F1 drivers Vettel, Stroll to remain with Aston Martin for next season

IAN S ■ LONDON

Formula 1 team Aston Martin have confirmed an unchanged pairing of Sebastian Vettel and Lance Stroll for next year.

Vettel had joined Aston Martin from Ferrari at the start of this season, netting the team's first podium at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix. The four-time champion will continue his journey with the British team next year alongside Canadian driver Stroll, as Formula 1 moves into its new era of regulations.

"I am really looking forward to racing the new generation of Formula 1 cars," said Vettel. "Their look is very different and the new technical regulations should give us cars that can race much more closely than recently," the German told formula1.com on Thursday.

"More exciting racing will be great for the drivers as well as for the fans. The changes are so big that every team will be starting from a new beginning, so it will be a great opportunity for us at Aston Martin? I believe in the strength of our new growing team, so I am already looking forward to 2022."

Stroll, meanwhile, added, "Next season I will be embarking on my sixth year in Formula 1, alongside my teammate Sebastian? and I greatly look forward to continuing the journey with him



next year. We have not achieved what we set out to do this year, but that has only amplified our hunger and drive for success next season."

Vettel was signed to Aston Martin on a 'one plus one' contract, giving the team an option on his services for 2022, which they decided to take up. Speaking of his driver line-up for 2022, Team Principal Otmar Szafnauer said, "Lance is one of the most gifted drivers in modern Formula 1, and to that raw talent he is now adding serious racecraft."

"A four-time world champion, having driven 271 Grands Prix, of which he has won 53, Sebastian is also a massive asset to our team, and next year we expect both of them to race well in what will be a very different formula from the current one."

Academic & sporting excellence achievable: Paralympic medallist & IAS officer Suhas

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Suhas Yathiraj lives by the philosophy of 'sports helps you conquer your own self'. And he lived by his own words by clinching a silver medal in badminton at the Tokyo Paralympics. Significantly, his achievement also helped break a common stereotype in India that does not equate sporting excellence with academics.

Yathiraj is an officer in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), having achieved success in one of the toughest examinations in the country at the very first attempt.

It was only in 2015/16 that he turned into a professional para-badminton player and has since then been managing his duty as the District Magistrate of Gautam Buddha Nagar and his training as a sportsperson to good effect.

"I think this (Tokyo Paralympics) medal was celebrated by everyone in the country. The amount of reception that we got in New Delhi airport (shows that)," Yathiraj told Olympics.com. "I think the myth that studies and sports can't be pursued together has



been broken. Many are surprised that a person can be good in both studies and sports.

"Parents also want their children to be good in studies and sports. They look at studies as the more stable option. I think many of the youth can at least get the confidence to pursue both," he added.

The celebration at home around his achievement at the Paralympics medal also makes him believe that the Tokyo Olympics

and Paralympics was a watershed moment for India as it helped to develop a sporting culture.

"The amount of support, love that everyone is showing is great. There was a time when celebrities in the country used to be film stars and only cricketers," Yathiraj said.

"But I think now, the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics would be a watershed moment in the history of India, because of the amount of adulation and recognition the Olympians and Paralympians are getting. I think it's definitely heart-warming," he added.

And badminton remains a spiritual experience for him. He, however, is extremely methodical in his approach towards the sport and likes to work on its crucial details.

"Badminton is meditation for me. I am extremely methodical. I develop my attack skills, defense skills, my reach. I work minutely on that part and also how I would cope up in the match. I visualize matches in my head. So yeah, I do have methods that give me comfort while playing," Yathiraj explained.

Moreover, he is not active on

social media and stays away from it, in part because of his professional role and because he believes that it doesn't add value to his life. "I am not at all a reserved person. Because of the administrative job that I hold, I have intentionally kept myself away from social media because I don't see any value addition through it. I have always believed that we should not go behind fame or money or anything," Yathiraj said.

Yathiraj, 38, also considers the silver medal at Tokyo Paralympics will motivate him to go one better at Paris Paralympics in 2024.

Yathiraj, who has an impairment to his ankle, overcame the challenges thrown at him to excel in badminton. And he has several international achievements to his name.

He became the first-ever serving Indian bureaucrat to represent and win a medal for India at the global level when he won gold at the 2016 Asian Para Badminton Championship. That journey has now taken him to the Paralympics where he was just beaten in the final of the SL4 category men's singles by Lucas Mazur of France.