

WORLD 9
UN CHIEF TO HOLD
MEETING ON AF FUNDING

SPECIAL 11
YEAR-22, COVID-22?

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OSAKA, TSITSIPAS

LUCKNOW, SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 2021; PAGES 14+4 ₹3



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17 killed in Taliban's celebratory gunfire

Panjshir gains disputed by Resistance Force

AGENCIES/REUTERS ■ KABUL

Celebratory gunfire resounded in Kabul on Friday as reports spread of the Taliban's takeover of Panjshir, and news agencies said at least 17 people were killed and 41 hurt in the firing.

Sources in the Taliban told news agency Reuters on Saturday that its fighters had taken Panjshir Valley, the final holdout in its quest to seize Afghanistan. "By the grace of Allah Almighty, we are in control of the entire Afghanistan. The troublemakers have been defeated and Panjshir is now under our command," one Taliban commander was quoted as saying. Heavy fighting continues in the valley and has left hundreds dead till now.

However, resistance leaders denied the claim to Reuters. "News of Panjshir conquests is circulating on Pakistani media. This is a lie," said Ahmad Massoud, who is leading the rebels.

Meanwhile, former president Hamid Karzai in a statement has asked the Taliban and the "resistance front" in Panjshir to stop the fighting and resolve their issues through talks, TOLO news reported.

The Taliban source also

said the announcement of a new government would be pushed back to the next week.

Taliban co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, reported by some Taliban sources to be in line to lead the new government, said in remarks on Qatar's Al Jazeera channel that the new administration "will include all factions of the Afghan people."

"We are doing our utmost efforts to improve their living conditions. The Government will provide security, because it is necessary for economic development," he said.

Meanwhile, some signs of normality returned to Kabul.

Qatar's ambassador to Afghanistan said a technical team was able to reopen Kabul airport to receive aid, according to Al Jazeera, which also cited its correspondent as saying domestic flights had restarted.

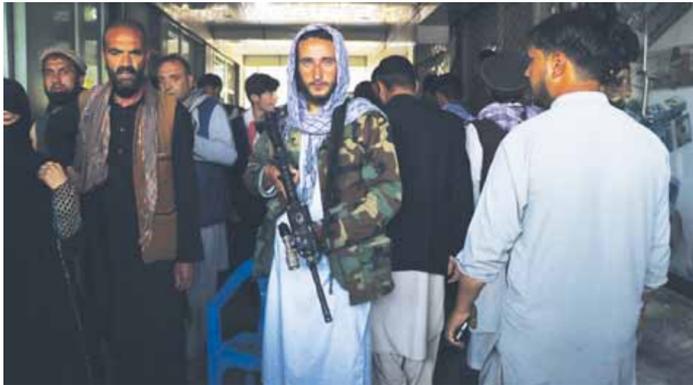
The airport has been closed since the United States on Aug. 30 completed the evacuations of more than 1,20,000 US citizens, other foreigners and Afghans deemed at risk from the Taliban, and withdrew the last of its troops.

The Taliban's main spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, also said one of the main foreign exchange dealers

in Kabul had reopened. Afghanistan's economy has been thrown into disarray by the Taliban's takeover. Many banks are closed and cash is scarce.

The United Nations said it will convene an international aid conference on Sept. 13 to help avert what UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres called a "looming humanitarian catastrophe".

Western powers say they are prepared to engage with the Taliban and send humanitarian aid, but that formal recognition of the government and broader economic assistance will depend on action — not just promises — to safeguard human rights.



Taliban fighters stand guard by a black market currency exchange at Sarai Shahzada market in Kabul on Saturday AP

ISI chief rushes to Kabul before Govt formation

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

In a surprise move, Pakistan's powerful intelligence chief Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed on Saturday dashed to Kabul, according to media reports here, amidst the Taliban struggling to finalise and install an inclusive Government in Afghanistan that would be acceptable to the international community.

A delegation of senior Pakistani officials led by Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Director General Hameed arrived in Kabul to conduct discussions with the incoming Taliban government, the Pakistan Observer newspaper reported.

The ISI chief is expected to meet top Taliban leaders and commanders.

"Issues relating to Pak-Afghan security, economy, and other matters will be taken up with the Taliban leadership," the report said, quoting sources.

According to the Express Tribune, Hameed will also meet Pakistan's envoy in Kabul to



discuss the matter of repatriation and transit through Pakistan of foreign nationals and Afghans fleeing Taliban rule.

"The issue of pending requests from countries and international organisations for the repatriation/transit through Pakistan and the need to determine the mechanism through which Pakistan could allow these, in coordination with the ground authorities in Afghanistan will be discussed during the meeting with the Taliban officials," it said, quoting sources.

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Modi to meet Biden this month, to discuss Afghanistan, Covid

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The situation in Afghanistan and the ongoing fight against the corona pandemic will figure prominently during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's talks with President Joe Biden during his visit to the USA at end of September. Modi is also likely to address the annual United Nations General Assembly session.

This will be Modi's first visit to the USA since Biden



became president earlier this year. Moreover, it will be the first face-to-face meeting between the two leaders,

sources said here on Saturday. Details and schedule of Modi's visit to New York and Washington were now being worked out, they added. He last visited the USA in 2019 when Donald Trump was at the helm.

Continued on Page 9

Taliban indicated they'd be reasonable in addressing Indian concerns: Shringla

Washington: India and the United States are closely watching Pakistan's actions in Afghanistan, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said on Friday. In the limited engagement that India has had with the Taliban, the new Afghan rulers have indicated that they would be reasonable in addressing New Delhi's concerns, the foreign secretary added.

Shooter Narwal, shuttler Bhagat scoop a Gold each

PTI ■ TOKYO

Shooter Manish Narwal smashed a Games record while shuttler Pramod Bhagat yet again asserted his supremacy with his Gold-winning performance as India's tally swelled to 17 after a four-medal show on a memorable penultimate day at the Tokyo Paralympics, here on Saturday.

The 19-year-old Narwal shot a total of 218.2, a Paralympic record, for Gold in P4 Mixed 50m Pistol SH1 event while Bhagat humbled Great Britain's Daniel Bethell in the men's singles SL3 class final for a historic yellow metal.

India now have four Gold, seven Silver and six Bronze medals to be placed 26th with one day left in the Games.

India had won just four medals in the last edition in Rio while the total count from the 1972 edition when the country competed for the first time till these Tokyo Games was 12.

More medals are in store for India on the final day on with shuttlers Suhas Yathiraj and Krishna Nagar sailing into the men's singles finals of SL4 class and SH6 class respectively. Tarun Dhillon too stayed in



Shuttler Pramod Bhagat wins Gold medal in the men's singles SL3 at Tokyo 2020 Paralympics in Tokyo PTI

contention for a Bronze after losing his semifinals while the duo of Bhagat and Palak Kohli will also feature in the third-

place play-off in the mixed SL3-SL5 class.

Narwal smashed the Paralympic record to clinch



Manish Narwal poses for photographs during the presentation ceremony of P4-Mixed 50m Pistol Shooting event in Tokyo on Saturday PTI

India's third gold of the current edition of the Games while compatriot Singhraj Adana bagged the Silver to make it a sensational one-two finish for the country.

Narwal, who holds the world record in the category, claimed the yellow metal in P4 Mixed 50m Pistol SH1 event in his debut Games.

"I'm very happy," said Narwal who hails from Ballabgarh in Haryana.

Lack of global standard barrier to Covid passport

UK researchers say countries must ensure data protection

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst the controversy over issuing of Covid-19 vaccine passports, a report has warned that lack of global standards for coronavirus certificate is a key barrier to their successful implementation around the world.

The UK's University of Exeter research in its report has asked policymakers to ensure coronavirus health status certificate providers to abide by basic data protection principles, including lawfulness, fairness and transparency, purpose limitation, data minimisation, accuracy, storage limitation, integrity and confidentiality, and accountability.

It has identified three key barriers to implementation - lack of trust, lack of global standards, and lack of a holistic approach.

The report recommends



that the certificates should be only used during the pandemic and their use is discontinued once the WHO declares that Covid-19 is no longer a public health emergency of international concern.

It also says policymakers should ensure that Covid-19 health status certificate providers build data protection into the design of these certificates by default, and that the confidentiality and security of the information collected and processed are maintained. Providers of these certificates should prevent any unauthorised access, accidental loss, damage, or destruction of the data.

The report presents independent research funded by the

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) as part of UK Research & Innovation (UKRI)'s rapid response to Covid-19.

The research was led by Dr Ana Beduschi, who carried out literature reviews and evaluations of primary and secondary sources of law. The research was also informed by twenty semi-structured interviews with technologists and experts in digital identity and certification conducted between December 2020 and March 2021.

Dr Beduschi said: "Focusing only on the technological solutions for Covid-19 health status certificates is not sufficient."

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CAPSULE

CONG AHEAD OF BJP IN RAJ RURAL POLLS

Jaipur: The ruling Congress was ahead of the BJP in the panchayat polls in six districts of Rajasthan, bagging 670 of the 1,564 panchayat samiti seats and 93 of the 200 zila parishad seats on Saturday. The Opposition BJP secured 551 panchayat samiti and 88 zila parishad seats.

PHILIPPINES LIFTS TRAVEL BAN ON INDIA

Manila: The Philippines on Saturday decided to welcome travellers from India and nine other countries from September 6, according to a Presidential Palace announcement.

GOVT SIGNS PEACE PACT WITH GROUPS IN ASSAM

New Delhi: A tripartite agreement among five insurgent groups of Assam, the Centre and the State Government was signed to end years of violence in the Karbi Anglong. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who was present on the occasion, said the accord will bring lasting peace in Karbi Anglong.

GEELANI'S BODY IN PAK FLAG, FIR REGISTERED

Srinagar: Police have registered an FIR against the draping of the body of headline separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani in a Pakistani flag after his death Wednesday, officials said. A general FIR has been registered by the Budgam police but no arrest made so far, they said.

To Didi's rejoyce, Bhabanipur bypoll on September 30

Mamata needs to win to remain CM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Saturday announced the by-poll in Bhabanipur Assembly constituency in West Bengal - the seat Mamata Banerjee must win to remain Chief Minister. The poll would be held on September 30 at the request of the State Government.

However, the EC has kept pending by-polls to three Lok Sabha and 31 other Assembly

seats. The EC also announced polls in Samsarganj, Jangipur constituencies in West Bengal and Pipli in Odisha where polls were earlier deferred.

As per the EC notification, the Bhabanipur Assembly constituency by-election will be held on September 30 and votes will be counted on October 3. Nominations will be filed from September 6 till September 13 while scrutiny of papers will take place on September 14. September 16 is the last date to withdraw from the electoral battle.

Continued on Page 9

Now, set off for Ramayana Yatra from Nov

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To promote religious tourism in the country, the Indian Railways on Saturday announced to start the run of "Shri Ramayana Yatra" by Deluxe AC Tourists train after the celebrations of Diwali in November this year.

The Indian Railway's catering and tourism arm shared the details, including fare structure and announced to launch the special tourist train to promote the Government of India initiative "Dekho Apna Desh".

The tour will start from Delhi Safdarjung Railway Station on November 7 and it will cover the visit of all prominent places linked with the life of Lord Shri Ram, said Ministry of RA, it says statement.

The whole journey of "Shri



Ramayana Yatra" will cost Rs 82,950 per person. It will cover Train Journey in AC classes, accommodation in AC hotels, all meals, all transfer and sight-seeing in AC vehicles, travel insurance and services of IRTC Tour Managers.

"Previously, the train was operated with sleeper class, but this time, the tour will be operated in Deluxe AC tourist train equipped with modern facilities," said a rail official.

As per IRTC, the train journey will be complete in 17



days, and Ayodhya will be the first stop. The tourists will visit Shri Ram Janmbhumi temple, Hanuman temple, and Bharat Mandir at Nandigram. The next destination will be

Sitamardi, the birthplace of Sita in Bihar and Nepal-Janki temple in Janakpur. Nepal will be covered by road. From there, the train will move to Varanasi where tourists will visit temples

at Varanasi, Prayag, Shringverpur and Chitrakoot by road. Night stay will be assigned at Varanasi, Prayag and Chitrakoot.

Continued on Page 9

No fresh positive case in 63 districts

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In yet another success in the fight against COVID-19, the number of active cases in Uttar Pradesh has come down to 250,



NOTICE

I have changed my name from Geeta Agarwal to Geeta Agrawal W/o Prabodh Agarwal R/o 15, Allahabad Road Sobha Singh Ka Purwa Karvi Mafi Chitrakoot

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Prabodh Agrawal to Prabodh Agrawal S/o Chedi Lal Agrawal R/o 15, Allahabad Road Sobha Singh Ka Purwa Karvi Mafi Chitrakoot

सूचना

मैं जय प्रकाश नारायण निवासी 56 मटियाय़ी चिनहट लखनऊ मेरी पुत्री के स्कूल वस्तावेजों में नाम "Vanni Bandaiya" गलत अंकित हो गया है सही नाम Vaani Bandaiya है एक व मेरा नाम Jai Prakash Narayan के स्थान पर Jay Prakash Narayan है।

NOTICE

It is informed to the general public that I am Archana Gupta wife Dinesh Kumar Gupta, resident of Chandrika Nagar Ward No. 9 Bachhrawan. My house registry date 27/8/2021 fell on Friday while going to Lucknow somewhere. If anyone gets the registry then contact on this number 914070817, it will be great grace.

NOTICE

Be it known to all that name of my Daughters Ananya Gupta and Anushka Gupta has been changed to Ananya Jaiswal and Anushka Jaiswal, and my wife Neelam Gupta to Neelam Jaiswal. In future they shall be known as Ananya Jaiswal, Anushka Jaiswal and Neelam Jaiswal for all purpose. Umes Kumar Gupta A-58, Indira Nagar, Lucknow.

NOTICE

It is for general information that I KAMLA TIWARI D/O SHIV KUMAR BAJPAI and W/o Rakesh Kumar Tiwari, residing at P-315, YASODHA NAGAR, KANPUR NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-208011 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SASHI in my Pan Card No. BBDPT6233M. The actual name of mine is KAMLA TIWARI, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public that Smt. Saima Idrees W/o Sh. Roshan Idrees is an owner of Residential House No.19162, area measuring 41.32 sq. mtr. Sector-19, Vardh Bahaj, Jagan Puri, Indira Nagar, Lucknow. U.P. By virtue of sale deed dated 05.02.2012, duly registered in the office of S.R.O., Lucknow as Document No. 520, Book No.1 Volume No.8979, Page No. 119 to 132, till date and has been transferred to Smt. Saima Idrees in favour of Smt. Saima Idrees and the same property is going to be transferred by Ujivan Small Finance Bank Ltd Branch Lucknow U.P. If any person has any objection or claims with respect to the right title or interest in the said property then contact us within 7 days from the date of this notice on the number mentioned herein below, failing which my client i.e. Ujivan Small Finance Bank Ltd Branch, Lucknow U.P. shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to intimate that M/S J. P. Enterprises registered office at 10A, J. P. Nagar, Naini, Prayagraj 211008 has introduced new partners from 1st April 2021, namely:- 1.Mrs. Anju Singh 2.Mrs. Sangeeta Singh 3.Mr. Harsh Singh 4.Mr. Manjeet Singh 5.Mr. Ravi Kant Singh all above new partners having same address as 10A, J.P. Nagar, Naini, Prayagraj-211008 Dileep Kumar Singh Authorised Partner

Govt to encourage organic farming in 11 districts

LUCKNOW (PNS):

Encouraging farmers to go organic, the Uttar Pradesh government has launched a special campaign in 11 districts where farmers will be encouraged to go for organic farming on both banks of the river Ganga. If the effort yields the desired results, not only will the cost of farming be reduced but agricultural production and income of farmers will also increase.

"Under this project, 21,142 farmers of 11 districts located along the river Ganga have formed 700 organic clusters in an area of 14,000 hectares. These farmers have grown various crops through organic farming methods in the Kharif 2020 and Rabi 2020-21 seasons. After processing the produce, they were packed and sold at higher prices. These products were displayed in the stalls of fairs, exhibitions and seminars organised on various occasions. Farmers have so far sold organic products worth Rs 2.76 crore under this project," a senior government official said. The official further said that along with increasing organic farming in UP, the government had initiated numerous steps for the welfare of farmers. Not only this, keeping the interests of the farmers of the state paramount, they were also given a big opportunity to grow profitable crops, he added.

"In view of the benefits being given to the farmers of the state, the government is going to start the second phase of this project soon. Of the total project cost of Rs 71.40 crore, an amount of Rs 21.05 crore has been spent," he said.

CM makes aerial survey of flood-affected areas

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Assuring the people that the government would always be by their side in times of crisis, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath conducted an aerial survey of flood-affected areas of Siddharthnagar and Maharajganj districts on Saturday.

"No one should feel neglected in the state as the government is with you in difficult times. We have full sympathy with you and this is the reason I have come here to provide you with immediate relief," the chief minister said while addressing media persons in Maharajganj where he surveyed the flood-hit villages of Sadar and Farendia tehsils.

The chief minister is on a three-day extensive tour of six flood-affected districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh to take stock of the situation and review the facilities and relief being provided to the affected people. On Friday, the chief minister had made an aerial survey of flood-hit villages in Bahraich, Gonda and Balrampur while on Saturday, he flew over villages of Maharajganj, Siddharthnagar and Gorakhpur districts.

Ensuring that adequate ration was being provided in the flood-affected areas in Siddharthnagar, Yogi said: "We have set up community kitchens to provide food in those areas where flood waters have entered the houses. Our public representatives are constantly in contact with the administration to carry out relief operations."

With eight rivers in Uttar Pradesh flowing above the danger mark, the chief minister has appointed nodal officers in all 75



districts and directed them to camp for four days to effectively execute the undergoing relief and rescue operations and monitor the situation. Currently, Ganga, Sharda, Ghaghara, Rapti, Budhi Rapti, Kunhara, Rohin and Kwano rivers are flowing above the danger mark. Officials have been instructed to be on high alert in flood-affected areas.

Around 1,187 villages of about 18 districts are flood-affected in Uttar Pradesh. The state government is actively working to provide food grains to the people, taking them to safer locations and providing them with healthcare facilities in the flood-hit districts of the state.

As many as 360 motorboats and 4,500 boats and 156 vehicles have been deployed. The government has deployed around 6,050 boats and 1,023 medical teams while 1,134 flood relief camps, 1,321 flood posts and 1,263 animal relief camps have been set up. Relief Commissioner Ranveer

Prasad said, "More than 1,29,349 dry ration kits have been distributed by the government so far, and 21,741 people have been distributed dry ration kits in the last 24 hours. The state government has distributed 4,39,257 lunch packets to the affected people till date. In the last 24 hours itself, 18,366 lunch packets were distributed. The state government has also distributed around 2,62,347 ORS sachets and more than 19,59,530 tablets of chlorine in the affected areas."

Over 66 teams, including those of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) have been deployed in 42 districts of the state to tackle the floods. These teams are working round the clock to mitigate the impact of floods in affected villages. The government is providing ample supply of drinking water, dry food packets and medicines, clothes, utensils and bedding among others while adhering to Covid protocol.

Meanwhile, the Rashtriya Lok Dal flayed the Uttar Pradesh government, alleging that it was not serious towards the state of flood and plight of those trapped in villages due to it. In a statement issued on Saturday, RLD national secretary Anil Dubey said that the condition of floods was alarming but the state government was not serious about the sufferings of the affected people in Uttar Pradesh.

Dubey said that over a dozen rivers were flowing above the danger marks and people trapped in the villages were crying for help to save themselves and their livestock.

Sidharth hits out at Priyanka, Akhilesh

LUCKNOW (PNS): Uttar Pradesh government spokesman and cabinet minister Sidharth Nath Singh has slammed the opposition leaders for targeting the government over the spread of viral fever in certain districts of the state.

"This is the time for 'so-called responsible' leaders like Akhilesh Yadav of Samajwadi Party and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra of Congress to show compassion for those suffering from viral fever instead of shedding crocodile tears on Twitter," Singh said here on Saturday.

He said it was a matter of regret that these leaders were still sitting in their cosy drawing rooms and tweeting against the government while the state government was taking all measures to provide relief to its people.

"Akhilesh and Priyanka did the same during the second wave of COVID-19 and indulged in the same tactics by trying to negate the efforts of the Yogi Adityanath government," Singh said.

He said these leaders could not see how the UP chief minister reached Firozabad promptly to oversee the health facilities and came on the ground to review the situation of the floods in eastern UP while leaders of both the opposition parties were seen doing only lip service and were absent during the hour of need.

Singh said the chief minister took some proactive measures by taking action against doctors including the chief medical officer for laxity in duty. He said senior officials of the government had been asked to camp in the district to keep an eye on the situation.

"There are clear instructions from the chief minister that there will be free treatment of dengue and other seasonal diseases, including viral fever, in government hospitals. For the prevention of these diseases, a massive campaign of cleaning and fogging is being run in the entire state," he said.

The minister's response came in the wake of tweets of Akhilesh Yadav and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who are constantly making attempts to put the state government in the dock for children suffering from the outbreak of viral fever in Firozabad and some other western districts of the state. He said the people of the state had seen such evil designs of the opposition and it was no surprise that they were dislodged from power.

Escrow accounts proving a boon for sugarcane farmers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The escrow account is proving a boon for sugarcane farmers in Uttar Pradesh. This payment has not only revived the battered sugar industry but has also changed the fortune of cane farmers by making a record payment to them.

Soon after the Yogi Adityanath government assumed office in Uttar Pradesh, it made it mandatory for mills to open escrow accounts which have proved to be a boon for farmers by protecting, securing, increasing their income and bringing in transparency into the system.

As per rules, 85 per cent money received in the account by the sugar mill is earmarked for the payment of the outstanding dues of farmers. This has resulted in arresting diversion of money for purposes other than payment to the farmers.

The new system brought transparency in getting the amount of sugarcane price paid by sugar mills to the farmers. Now the account of sugarcane price is being operated jointly by the mill representative and district cane officer. Earlier, mills used to divert funds for other purposes.

But after setting up an escrow account, the money deposited in it was used directly for payment of cane price to the farmers.

For instance, a purchaser of sugar from mills is required to deposit 85 per cent of the price of the commodity in the escrow accounts and the rest 15 per cent to the sellers, i.e. sugar mills. Later the money received by the sugar mills from the sale of molasses, bagasse, ethanol and sanitiser is also deposited in the escrow accounts.

Such sugar mills, which are making ethanol directly from sugarcane juice, have tagged 55 per cent of the value of ethanol produced in those mills for payment of cane price.

About 65 per cent of the selling price of ethanol used by the mills for the production of sanitisers has also been tagged for payment of sugarcane price, due to which the problem of payment of sugarcane price to the farmers has ended.

The state government has taken many steps to strengthen the sugarcane farmers in the state. To address the various problems of the sugarcane farmers, the government has issued a toll-free number 1800-121-3203.

Now the sugarcane farmers are getting their solution by registering their complaints on toll-free number 1800-103-5823 for the problem of survey, speculation, calendar, slip etc. With this initiative of the government, so far 1,17,926 complaints out of 1,22,125 received have been resolved.

SIT starts probe into Supertech towers issue

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up to investigate the role of complicit Noida Authority officials and employees in the Supertech twin tower issue has started its investigation. The first meeting of the SIT under the chairmanship of Infrastructure and Industrial Development Commissioner Sanjeev Mittal was held in Lucknow on Friday night. The Special Investigation Team will also go to Gautam Buddha Nagar on Monday for an on-site inspection.

Member of SIT and Additional Chief Secretary (Rural Development and Panchayati Raj) Manoj Kumar Singh and Chief Town and Village Planner Anoop Kumar Srivastava attended the meeting but another member, ADGP (Meerut Zone) Rajiv Sabharwal, could not come to Lucknow.

Sources said various important points of investigation were discussed in detail and its direction was decided in the meeting. The SIT will probe the case and submit a report naming the complicit officials and staff of Noida Authority in seven days.

Meanwhile, the Noida Authority has sent the names of eight officials to the state government, who were behind the wrongdoings in connection with the Supertech Emerald twin tower construction approvals.

During an internal audit, it surfaced that there was a change in the map of the buildings in 2009 and it was again changed in 2012.

Besides, it was found that no details of the maps and other approvals were given on a RTI (right to information) notice.

The Noida officials found guilty in the preliminary probe are Chief Architect Tribhuvan Singh, VA Devpuraj, Senior City Planner Rajpal Kaushik, City Planner Ashok Kumar Mishra, Joint City Planner Vimla Singh, Assistant Planner Mukesh Goel, Engineer Babu Ram and AGM of Group Housing, Shailendra. Mukesh Goel has already been suspended after the Supreme Court's order.

Taking a serious note of the Supreme Court's order to demolish the two illegally built 40-storey towers of Supertech Limited in connivance with Noida Authority, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had set up the SIT on Thursday.

The high-rise towers were erected for about eight years and Supertech spent around Rs 300 crore to build the towers in Emerald Court in Sector 93 of Noida.

Despite objections of the residents, the height of these towers continued to increase and now these towers will be demolished on the orders of the Supreme Court.

Mayawati questions findings of pre-poll survey by pvt channel

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati has questioned the findings of a pre-poll survey by a private TV channel, saying the survey was "sponsored, misleading, mischievous and lacks credibility".

She said even as the popularity of the Bharatiya Janata party had nosedived due to massive dislocation in economy due to pandemic, the survey had predicted over 40 per cent vote for the BJP in the 2022 UP assembly elections.

"The survey lacks credibility. In 2007 UP assembly elections, despite the wave in favour of the Bahujan Samaj Party, the pre poll surveys had predicted that BSP will emerge as the single largest party. The poll results proved them wrong and the Bahujan Samaj party got a clear majority," Mayawati said in a statement here on Saturday.

Mayawati said the BSP cadre was trained and ready to deal with conspiracies and people would not

be misled by a sponsored campaign by the media.

She said the sole purpose of the survey appeared to be to project the BJP as the strongest contender to win the 2022 assembly election. She said the BSP accepting the challenge and after the survey the BSP cadre was working for the assembly election with more devotion and determination.

"I trust my cadre and as the election draws close, such misleading campaigns and conspiracies will only grow loud and shrill. There is nothing new as this kind of malicious campaign is always launched by the media to break the morale of the BSP ahead of the elections," Mayawati said.

She said the first phase of the Prabuddh Varg Sammelan would end on September 7 and it would be followed by the next phase. Mayawati alleged that the success of the sammelan had unnerved the rivals of the BSP and they were busy in conspiracies against her party.

TEMPORARY RESCHEDULING / REGULATION OF TRAINS DUE TO MAINTENANCE WORK

In order to enhance the rail safety standards and to strengthen the infrastructure, Railway will undertake this work- two consecutive traffic and power block on 07.09.2021 & 09.09.2021 for replacement of girder by RCC Box and Prefabricated panels over Bridge No. 145/A under Danapur Division. Consequently, The following trains will temporarily be affected as under:-

RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Name	Scheduled Departure Time & Date	Rescheduled Departure Time & Date
05956 Delhi Jn. - Kamakhya Brahmaputra Special	23:40 hrs. on 06.09.2021	03:10 hrs. on 07.09.2021
09313 Indore Jn. - Patna Jn. Special	13:55 hrs. on 06.09.2021	17:00 hrs. on 06.09.2021

REGULATION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Name	Regulation Between Stations	Dates (From originating str.)
02370 Dehradun - Hawrah Jn. Special	25 Minutes between Buxar - Neora	on block day
02325 Kolkata - Nangal Dam Special	60 Minutes between Mokama - Phulwari Sharif	
02465 Madhupur Jn. - Anand Vihar (T) Superfast Special	25 Minutes between Mokama - Phulwari Sharif	

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

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

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Regional Office: Ganga Nagar Colony, Circular Road, Hardoi 241001

APPENDIX-IV-A [see proviso to rule 8(6)]
Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties

E- Auction Sale notice for sale of immovable Assets Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to rule of 8(6) of the security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002
Notice is hereby given to public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that is below Described immovable Property mortgaged/charged to the secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by The Authorised officer of Aryavart Bank secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on dates below Mentioned:

Name & Address of Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) & Branch	Total Liabilities Date of Demand Notice	Brief Description of Immovable Property Type of Possession	Reserve Price (Rs.) Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)
Borrower : Sri Vinay Kumar Verma S/o Govardhan Lal, R/o Village Hasnapur Post Subhan Khera, Gausganj, Hardoi, Distt. Hardoi. Branch: Gausganj	Rs. 8,74,270.00 + interest from 01.07.2012 & expenses thereon 06.01.2016	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of a Residential / Commercial Plot in the name of Vinay Kumar Verma S/o Govardhan Lal measuring 397.75 Sq.mtr. situated at Vill. Gausganj Pargana & Tehsil Sandila Distt. Hardoi having Boundaries : East : House of Shri Krishna & Mahaveer, West : House of Parasuram & Others, North : Plot of Surjit, South : Sandila - Mallawan Marg Symbolic Possession	Rs. 14.80 Lakhs Rs. 1.48 Lakhs Rs. 10,000

Date of E-Auction : 05.10.2021 Time : 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Last Date of Submission of Bid: 01.10.2021 Upto 4:00 PM

EMD Submission Detail: Account No:02990020000034 Account Name- MBB Transaction also put remarks in transaction "EMD Deposit" or by way of Demand Draft drawn in favour of Regional Manager, Aryavart Bank, Regional Office Hardoi, Drawn on any Nationalized or Scheduled Bank.

Terms and Condition of the E-auction are as under:
1. E-Auction will be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THREER IS BASIS" through approved service provider M/s e-procurement Technologies Limited (Auction Tiger).
2. The Complete E-Auction process documents containing details of the Assets, online e-auction Bid Form, Declaration and Undertaking Form, General Terms and Conditions of online auction sale are available on website <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net>. Contact Person: CHINTAN BHATT (M): 9978591888, Helpline no. 9265562821 -079-68136837/80/90- 9265562818 Email.support@auctiontiger.net, up@auctiontiger.net, chintan.bhatt@auctiontiger.net.
STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6)/ Rule 9(1) OF STATUTORY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002
This may also be treated as notice u/r 8(6)/Rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date.
Date : 05.09.2021 Place: Hardoi Authorized Officer

Covid resources to be used for prevention of dengue, malaria

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The district administration has geared up to contain the cases of dengue and malaria like it controlled the Covid spread. Presiding over a meeting at his Smart City office on Saturday, District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash formed a set of protocols for the prevention of these diseases.

The DM said 11 hot spots have been identified for dengue and a dedicated rapid response team would be made so that those suffering from dengue face no problems in getting the medicine kits. The team will also ensure that the patients face no problems in getting blood and platelets.

The DM said the fever clinic network set up at the healthcare centres would be used for collection of samples and timely detection of cases for quick treatment. "The four labs at KGMU, RMLIMS, SGPGI and Health Directorate will ensure that all the samples are collected with a unique ID. The report will be sent as a classified information to the CMO via a dedicated e-mail ID," he said. The district surveillance officer will then forward these



Water stagnation in an Old City area a breeding ground for mosquitoes

reports to the health centres after which monitoring of those infected will be carried and treatment ensured. Just like Covid, tests will also be conducted for detection of dengue at all the CHCs and PHCs for the convenience of people.

All the arrangements made for Covid will be utilised for dengue control and a helpline number (0522-452300) can be used by people of the city for queries related to both Covid and dengue. The LDA will carry out fogging in areas under its jurisdiction. The DM said that LDA should also

ensure that vacant plots are cleaned thoroughly. He directed the district malaria officer to coordinate with the municipal commissioner for fogging in all areas.

The DM directed the CMO to ensure availability of an ambulance round the clock to deal with any emergency situation. The 'Hello Doctor' service started for Covid will be resumed so that patients can seek consultations for cold, cough and fever from a panel of doctors. The helpline number for this will be 0522-3515700.

Most of fever cases in UP include dengue, scrub typhus, leptospirosis

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

Most of the viral fever cases detected in Uttar Pradesh are those of dengue, leptospirosis, scrub typhus and malaria, according to DG, Medical and Health, Dr Ved Vrat Singh. The fever cases have been contained in all other districts of UP except for Mathura and Firozabad where their numbers are high.

He said that the viral fever cases increased in almost all the districts due to the monsoon being the season of infections. Dr Singh said that deaths have occurred but it was yet to be confirmed whether the same were due to the fever.

There were 49 cases of dengue in Firozabad, three in Ghaziabad, two in Amethi and one in Barabanki this month.

Lucknow has witnessed 84 cases of dengue in August and two this month, Mathura saw 107 cases of dengue in August, Basti 11 and Kanpur 21 while in the remaining districts, the figure ranged between 2-3.

Dr Singh said that in Mathura, 48 cases of leptospirosis have been detected. Leptospirosis is caused through

rat urine. "It's a concern for us but only in Mathura, though it's a curable disease and we have antibiotics for it," he said.

The DG said they would shortly be distributing kits to all the medical colleges in the state for the testing of samples. "Till now, we were giving samples to KGMU and the medical college in Agra," he pointed out.

Dr Singh said every sample would also be tested for Covid. On if it's an unusual occurrence, he said it is not. "We have seen that there is an outbreak of such diseases after every 2-3 years, but we are proactive and taking necessary steps to contain the spread of infection," he added.

Dr Singh said the main reason has been the proliferation of mosquitoes in villages where waste management is not proper and there is filth and water stagnation everywhere. He added that in Lucknow, there have been only a handful of cases. The DG said they have given instructions for proper sanitation while efforts have to be made to reduce the source of infection, enhance anti-larval measures and replacement of stored water.

"Teams from headquar-

ters and adjoining districts are camping at places where there is a high number of cases, and we have also instructed the nagar panchayats and nagar nigam to carry out sanitisation," he said.

Meanwhile, Dr Piyali Bhattacharya from SGPGIMS said that these are monsoon infections and much prevalent in children too. "Sometimes, these cases are reported several days after the patients have tried all the over-the-counter medicines. With Covid taking the centre stage, the attention has shifted from these bacterial infections. These are high-grade fevers due to which children become moribund as they also suffer from dehydration, abdominal pain and respiratory problems. These are monsoon issues and they mimic the same disease symptoms every year. Two of them — scrub typhus and leptospirosis — are bacterial while the rest are viral infections. There are cases of malaria, dengue and typhoid as well," she explained.

Dr Bhattacharya said the scrub typhus is found in the mites and chiggers that settle in green and wet areas and jump on to human beings.

2-inch nail removed from 7-yr-old boy's intestine

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

KGMU doctors removed a 2-inch nail from the intestine of a 7-year-old boy who had swallowed it while brushing his teeth with it. The patients belong to Gonda.

KGMU spokesperson Dr Sudhir Singh said efforts were made to remove the nail through home-made remedies but to no avail. He said that the doctors in Gonda advised surgery, which was expensive and life-threatening. Subsequently, the boy was brought to KGMU. The head of the Gastro department removed the nail with the help of laparoscopic surgery through the opening of his mouth and saved the boy from

a complicated operation. Meanwhile, a liver transplant carried out at KGMU on August 21 last was a success and the patient was discharged from the hospital on Saturday. The patient is 44-year-old man, a resident of Khadra.

"The patient is employed as a typist in a private firm in Lucknow. He was suffering from advanced stage liver cirrhosis with complains of jaundice and gastrointestinal bleeding. His brother and wife were both ready for donation. His wife proved to be a successful match and donated half the liver. She was discharged a week after surgery while the patient was discharged today," KGMU spokesperson Dr Sudhir Singh said.

BEST WISHES ON TEACHER'S DAY

On the occasion of Teacher's Day, we extend our heartiest wishes to all the teachers and citizens of the State of UP.



Dr. S.P. SINGH
Former MLC
Founder Manager:
Lucknow Public Schools & Colleges



HARSHIT SINGH
DIRECTOR

Jhansi native duped of over ₹1 crore by firm

Lucknow (PNS): A Jhansi native lodged a case at Gomti Nagar police station against four officials and associates of a firm which duped him of Rs 1.23 crore.

In his complaint, Bhanu Pratap Singh said he had signed a contract with Suresh Kumar Verma (proprietor of RS Associates) of Gomti Nagar for setting up 1,250 solar units in Jhansi and paid Rs 33.74 lakh as security money. He said the money was deposited in the bank account of Verma's firm.

He said he was to get Rs 2.7 lakh per solar unit after completion of work and goods used in setting up solar tanks, plastic tanks (each of 5,000 litre capacity), solar panel, solar pump, PVC pipes and fitting items for which he had to pay Rs 1.1 lakh to Verma's firm. Singh said he set up 10 solar units and sent the bill to Verma's firm for payment. "As I was not given any money, I grew suspicious and asked Verma to show the permission letter issued by the Government of India for the setting up of solar tanks. I was shown fake letters by the Water Resource Ministry and was misguided. I set up 34 more solar units and sent the bill to the firm but did not get the payment again," he alleged. He said he went to Verma's office to meet him and was threatened by Verma's son Shyam Verma and their associates Balwant Singh and Arvind Kumar.

"I got only Rs 2 lakh only for the work I have done so far," he said. The police registered a case of fraud, criminal breach of trust, tampering with government documents and for issuing threats to the victim.

3 HELD FOR DUPING SOB-SEEKERS

Three accused, including the mastermind of a gang which duped job-seekers of crores of rupees by giving fake appointment letters, were arrested on Saturday by a joint team of STF and Hazratganj police.

The accused, identified as Shivam Mehrotra of Sitapur, Anand Kumar Singh of Barabanki and Parikshit Pandey of Ambedkar Nagar, were arrested from Indiranagar. The police recovered 11 ATM cards, five mobile phones, three Aadhaar cards, three PAN cards, 45 presence letters, five affidavits, 50 identity cards, 56 fake appointment letters, 77 envelopes bearing stamp of Forest department, other documents, a vehicle and Rs 2,535 in cash. Shivam Mehrotra was said to be the kingpin of the gang. He worked as computer operator on contract basis in the Forest department (Pallia range) in 2017 and was terminated from the services in 2018. During the service period, Shivam stole an appointment letter for the post of forest guard in Pallia range. He later shifted base to Lucknow in search of a job and met Arvind Yadav, who also was jobless, at a manpower consultancy in Qaiserbagh. They planned to mint money by publicising fake appointments in the Forest department and fleeing the job aspirants.

They used to charge Rs 3 lakh for van daroga and Rs 1.5 lakh for forest guard and vanpal. They later formed a gang consisting of Anand Singh, Parikshit Pandey, Devendra Pandey and Vijay Singh and minted over Rs 1 crore by issuing 35-40 fake appointment letters. The gang's last target was Ram Gopal Tiwari of Sitapur, who gave them Rs 36 lakh for his son and relatives. Shivam would pose as forest conservator while dealing with the job-seekers. Tiwari lodged a case with the Hazratganj police. Subsequently, a joint team of Hazratganj police and STF worked on the case and the accused were arrested.

DGP inspects Ganj Kotwali, asks CP to remove inspector

Lucknow (PNS): Expressing displeasure over poor upkeep of records and lack of cleanliness in the Hazratganj Kotwali on Saturday, DGP Mukul Goel directed Lucknow Commissioner of Police DK Thakur to remove the inspector and carry out a probe.

The DGP was on a surprise inspection of the Hazratganj Kotwali, accompanied by the CP and other senior officers. He also inspected the women helpdesk, cyber cell and Mahila police station. He also checked visitors' register and action taken in the cases, and took feedback from the visitors by talking to them over phone. He instructed the women cops to ensure speedy disposal of the visitors' complaints. The women cops deployed in the Mission Shakti (third phase) were asked to remain on patrol in their respective beats and take up cases sensitively. The Mahila police station incharge was asked to ensure investigation did not remain pending unnecessarily after mediation. In the cyber cell, the DGP talked to a complainant present there. The officials were asked to propagate the cyber helpline number (155260). He asked the DCP, ADCP and ACP to ensure qualitative disposal of the investigations, speedy disposal of people's complaints and monitoring of CCTVs in their areas.



‘भारत रत्न’ पूर्व राष्ट्रपति, दार्शनिक, विचारक एवं महान शिक्षाविद्
डॉ. सर्वपल्ली राधाकृष्णन
की जयन्ती पर शत-शत नमन

भारतीय संस्कृति में गुरु-शिष्य का संबंध अद्भुत है, अनुपम है। गुरु ही, गोविंद तक पहुंचने का माध्यम हैं।
शिक्षक दिवस के अवसर पर प्रदेश के सभी शिक्षकों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

-योगी आदित्यनाथ
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

5 सितम्बर, 1888 - 17 अप्रैल, 1975

शिक्षक दिवस के अवसर पर

प्रत्येक जनपद के 75 उत्कृष्ट शिक्षकों का सम्मान एवं

राजधानी में राज्य स्तरीय समारोह में ‘राज्य अध्यापक पुरस्कार’ एवं ‘मुख्यमंत्री अध्यापक पुरस्कार’ से पुरस्कृत

17 प्रधानाचार्य/शिक्षकों

का



सम्मान



डॉ. दिनेश शर्मा

उप मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा

गारिमामयी उपस्थिति

गुलाब देवी

राज्य मंत्री, माध्यमिक शिक्षा, उत्तर प्रदेश

दिनांक : 5 सितम्बर, 2021 | समय : अपराह्न 12:30 बजे

स्थान : सिटी मान्टेसरी स्कूल, विशाल खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ

माध्यमिक शिक्षा विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

SCHOOLSCAN

TEACHERS' DAY Teachers' Day was celebrated online at the City Montessori School on Saturday...

75 teachers to be feted for contribution to NEP implementation

Seventy-five teachers, including those who have contributed to higher education and those who have helped in the implementation of the New Education Policy...

Director of Sanjay Gandhi PG Institute of Medical Sciences Prof RK Dhiman has constituted a committee to take forward the heart transplantation process.

Panel formed at SGPGL to take forward heart transplantation process

Director of Sanjay Gandhi PG Institute of Medical Sciences Prof RK Dhiman has constituted a committee to take forward the heart transplantation process.

KGMU treated 8,227 patients since Covid outbreak

Lucknow(PNS): King George's Medical University has treated a total of 8,227 Covid patients so far since the outbreak of the disease last year.

Hard work pays off

Pramod Bhagat's leap into the arms of coach Gaurav Khanna with moist eyes signifies the hard work put in to win the first-ever gold medal by an Indian in a Paralympics or Olympics badminton event.

COURT NOTICE CITATION (BY ADVERTISEMENT) (Chapter XXX, Rule-21) IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD...

AAP: Brahmins unhappy with Yogi govt

Former state president of New Delhi unit of Aam Aadmi Party and AAP chief whip in the Delhi assembly, Dilip Pandey, chastised the Bharatiya Janata Party for convening an 'intellectual meet'...

Robbers storm house, attack woman

Lucknow (PNS): Four robbers belonging to some nomadic gang stormed a house and attacked a woman in Chinhat early Saturday morning.

The robbers were banging the doors with rods. They succeeded in opening the door for a moment and hit me with a stick, Mithilesh said.

We have made clusters of these schools and this is an intra-school competition where we are first sensitising the students of Classes 9, 10, 11 & 12 about what is organ donation...

Participants will participate in an inter-school competition and the best entries will be picked up and awarded.

40K plus daily Covid cases alarm Govt

The daily Covid-19 case count has remained above 40,000 for the past few days as on Saturday update till 8 am, taking India's total tally of infections to 3,29,45,907...

While 42,618 people tested positive for coronavirus, the death toll climbed to 4,40,225 with 330 fresh fatalities, according to the data updated at 8 am on Saturday.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice On behalf of the President of India, acting through Chief Administrator...

U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. E-TENDER NOTICE Following E-Tenders are invited from the experienced/reputed contractors...

Why the government sent slain mafia Amar Dubey's minor wife Khushi to jail even when she was married to Amar only two days back and the then superintendent of police had said that she was not a culprit in the Bikru case?

The attention of the States was brought to the fact that the administration of the first dose has progressively

14 days will need to undergo a negative report from a RT-PCR test taken within 72 hours before arrival.

बड़ौदा यू. पी. बैंक Baroda U.P. Bank

Table with 4 columns: क्रम सं, बकायेदार/जमानतदार का नाम, पता व खाता संख्या, सम्पत्ति का विवरण, मांग सूचना पर की तिथि व बकाया राशि, अधिग्रहण की तिथि व बकाया राशि

Indians flying to Turkey need to carry negative Covid-19 report

From Saturday, people travelling from India to Turkey will be required to submit a negative Covid-19 report from the RT-PCR test done not more than 72 hours before arrival.

Passengers who certify that they have had at least two doses (single dose for Johnson & Johnson) of the vaccines approved for emergency use by the World Health Organisation (WHO) or Turkey provided that at least 14 days have passed since the last dose will be exempted from mandatory quarantine.

Table with 4 columns: क्रम सं, बकायेदार/जमानतदार का नाम, पता व खाता संख्या, सम्पत्ति का विवरण, मांग सूचना पर की तिथि व बकाया राशि, अधिग्रहण की तिथि व बकाया राशि

कार्यालय : अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जोन-8, जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम, लखनऊ

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BJP will again come to power in name of development: Sharma

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Accusing the opposition parties for daydreaming to come to power in the state on the basis of caste-based politics, the Deputy Chief Minister Dr Dinesh Sharma on Saturday said, 'The BJP will again come to power in the state in the name of development what the government led by it has done during the last four-and-half years.' The government will honour as many as 75 teachers in each district of the state on the occasion of Teachers' Day on Sunday, Dr Sharma informed while having a formal interaction with mediapersons at Circuit House, here.

The opposition is in desperation and trying to come to power riding on the caste-based politics and now, the opposition parties are showing their love to Brahmins which they had betrayed earlier, Dr Sharma accused without naming the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Samajwadi Party (SP). The opposition does the politics of backward class but it could not show its respect to Kalyan Singh keeping itself away from the last rites of ex-CM, blamed Dr Sharma without naming the SP chief Akhilesh Yadav. The BJP will give reply the caste-based politics of the opposition with the development what the Yogi-led Government has done during the last four-and-half years and will come to power again in 2022, he claimed adding, all the attempts of the opposition to come to power in the state on the basis of caste-based politics will prove just day-dreaming.

The companies which left China invested in India and particularly in UP and out of 100, as many as 65 mobile companies are manufacturing mobiles in the state, Dr Sharma informed adding, various companies made investment of ₹56,000 crore in the state just during previous year. The UP has emerged as the biggest state in the country for the cap-



Deputy Chief Minister Dr Dinesh Sharma addressing a press conference in Varanasi on Saturday.

Pioneer

ital investment because of maintaining law and order situation and effective control on crime, he claimed.

With the implementation of the New Education Policy, the change in the educational system has opened a new avenue of progress, he said and added, the government re-established the old reputation of teachers as Guru. The government succeeded in conducting the fair examination using the technology and without taking action against anyone and also made the youths capable to give employment instead of seeking the jobs by bringing a change in the vocational courses, Dr Sharma said adding, the government generated 1.69 crore direct and indirect employment including 4.5 lakh jobs in the government departments during the last four-and-half years.

The government adopted an online teaching system during the corona period but it could not be an alternative of offline teaching, Dr Sharma said and informed, to maintain the quality in the research, the Sodh-Peeth has been made in each university of the state. The courses of NCERT have been

made applicable in the state and the digital library was enriched with uploading lectures and course materials of more than 90,000. In addition to 75 degree colleges and 120 universities, more than 250 government schools were opened till now, he informed and added, the proposal has been sought from the Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith to open the study centre for the women. The proposal has also been sought from the Sampurnanand Sanskrit University to preserve the manuscripts, he informed. The ministers Dr Neelkanth Tiwari, Anil Rajbhar & Ravindra Jaiswal, BJP regional president Mahesh Chandra Srivastava were also present on the occasion.

DIRECTIVE TO MGKV, SSU AUTHORITIES: Deputy Chief Minister Dr Dinesh Sharma on Saturday directed the authorities in the Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith (MGKV) and the Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) to complete the promotion process of the teachers and non-teaching staff in three-four months to come and adopt the governor process

to select the teachers.

Having a meeting with the authorities of the MGKV and the SSU and the officers of the Education department at Circuit House, here Dr Sharma asked that the process of promotion of teachers and non-teaching staff of the MGKV and the SSU should be completed in three-four months to come and added, the governor process should be adopted in the selection process of the teachers. Put the proposal of the Central of Excellent and send the research project for this holy city. The students promoted in High School and Intermediate board examination should not be deprived of the admission, he directed the officers of the Education department.

Dr Sharma sought the list of works from the both universities which are pending at government level and asked the authorities to send a report for the final assistance to the teachers and employees on contractual basis who died of COVID-19. The qualified teachers should be appointed in SSU, he directed and cautioned for the action in case the fake appointment is made.

Inner Ring Road project to be completed before Maha Kumbh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Inner Ring Road project of Prayagraj, first phase, is to be completed before Maha Kumbh 2025 with an investment of ₹7030 crore. The Divisional Commissioner Sanjay Goel convened a meeting of the officials of all the concerning departments to review the progress.

The first phase of the inner ring road will be 65.66 km long and its Detailed Project Report and Road Map have been completed. Maha Kumbh is less than three-and-a-half years away, and this project is to be completed by then. It is to be done on war footing to avail its benefits during Maha Kumbh, said the Divisional Commissioner.

The Inner Ring Road project include two new bridges on the Ganga, while one on the Yamuna, besides six railway over-bridges.

The commissioner instructed the official to do

quality work within time limit. He said that during the last Kumbh of 2019 the need of a ring road was felt badly, and this will certainly ease traffic pressure on the Sangam City during Maha Kumbh. It will also prove to be quite helpful in smoothening the traffic movement in normal days.

Land acquisition work is in progress, and as soon as it is completed, the road construction work will start. Goel instructed the officials to speed up the land acquisition work and establish better coordination with Railways, PWD and other concerning departments. If there comes any hurdle, it should be brought to his notice for a quick solution. The construction work is to be done by the National Highway Authority.

The work is to be completed in two phases--from Rewa Road to Sahson, and from Rewa Road to Kaudihar.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: A five

day faculty development programme (FDP) entitled 'Computer Aided Drug Design in Drug Discovery' will be organised in online mode by Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad from September 6 with support of AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy, New Delhi, India.

Dr Rakesh Mishra, Director TIGS Bangalore, former Director, CCMB will be the chief guest.

The programme will consist of a series of lectures to be delivered by reputed academicians, and scientists including Prof P Nagabhushan, Director, IIIT-A, Prof. Vijayshri Tewari, Registrar, IIIT-A, Prof Krishna Misra.

Dr Nidhi Mishra, Coordinator said that the drug discovery process is very complicated, and requires a multi-disciplinary team effort to create an effective and economically viable medication. A computer plays a vital part in phar-

maceutical, medical, and other scientific research, including the creation of novel compounds in the hunt for improved therapeutic agents. Computer aided drug design (CADD) is a cutting-edge computational approach used in drug development to identify and develop promising drugs to combat deadly diseases.

She said that various topics such as opening of new standards of surveillance diagnostic and future medicine, stress and well-being, some emerging prospective, protein structure prediction-a review of current practices along with practical sessions in docking, homology modeling and molecular dynamics will also be covered in this FDP.

This programme will be helpful for budding research aspirants and will inspire them to explore the field of computer aided drug design and discovery for the betterment of the human race.

Rise in sale of viral fever medicines

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Sale of antibiotics, anti-allergy drugs, cough syrups, paracetamol and other fever drugs has risen by 30 per cent in Sangam city.

Traders at the wholesale and retail medicine market observed that the sale of medicines has witnessed the rise after the month of May.

The fact was that the sale of COVID-19 medicines had fallen by 80% in the city with the big decline in new covid cases and high recovery rate.

However, after a steep rise in the cases of viral fever, traders in wholesale and retail medicine markets noticed an unprecedented rise in sale of fever medicines like

Paracetamol and other antibiotics like Azithromycin, Doxycycline and others.

Prayag Chemist & Druggist Association (Retail) organising secretary Nikhil Malang told the newspersons the sale of medicines has gone up about 30 per cent in the past 10 days. He added 'Medicine traders in retail business had to place new orders for fever related medicines, anti-allergic and antibiotics when demand for drugs is increasing by every day and more customers lined up to get medicines.'

Malang, however, said that there was adequate stock of medicines required for fever in the drug markets.

Earlier, the sale of medicines witnessed exponentially

between April 3 and April 26 when Covid cases were rising and hit peak, but started declining gradually after April 28 as infection spread was controlled and sale of covid related medicines declined up to 70 per cent.

Doctors at government hospitals and private nursing homes, meanwhile, asserted that such fever cases have increased with the monsoon. They claimed 'These are not COVID-19 cases, but the usual respiratory system that affects people during the monsoon and causes high fever, cold and cough'. In view of the increasing viral fever cases in the districts across state, the state health authorities have also come with a surveillance and

awareness programme in the majority of the districts of UP from September 7 to 16, in which health workers will go door-to-door and identify those with fever and COVID-19 symptoms.

ROUSING WELCOME: The state general secretary of BJP Mahila Morcha, Dr Kriti Agrawal was given a rousing reception here at Prayagraj by the newly nominated office-bearers of the district and city units of the Morcha.

Those offered garlands and Angvastram include district president Shikha Rastogi, Laxmi Bahuguna, Maya Dwivedi, Sudha Joshi, Anjali Goswami, Kalpana Sharma and Chandra Ahluwalia besides others.

100 honoured with 'Shakti Yoddha' Award

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

On the eve of Teacher's Day, 100 teachers associated with basic education were honoured with the 'Shakti Yoddha' Award at Varanasi Public School in Kerakatpur here on Saturday in which Rajya Sabha member Seema Dwivedi was chief guest. Under 'Mission Shakti' campaign various programmes are being organised these days under the auspices of Department of Women Welfare in which the women and children are being made aware to become self-reliant as well as learn the skills of self-protection. District Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA) Rakesh Singh said that for doing excellent work in this campaign, 100 teachers of Basic Education department were honoured and these teachers included 20 from Kashi Vidyapeeth block, while 10

each from Sewapuri, Arajiline, Harahua, Pindra, Baragaon, Cholapur and Chirraigaon besides 10 teachers from the city area. The teachers who were felicitated from the city areas were Anuradha Singh, Sunita Pandey, Madhuri Kumari, Sarojbala Manas, Aarti Singh, Meeta Upadhyay, Hem Prabha Upadhyay, Manisha Rani, Dr Alka and Jyoti Singh, while 20 from Kashi Vidyapeeth block were Sarita Rai, Aradhana Dubey, Amrita Singh, Anjulata Singh, Usha Singh, Kusumlatra Singh, Meena Yadav, Neelam Rai, Neelima Sinha, Mamta Mishra, Poorva, Aarti Gupta, Kavita Batas, Nidhi Kanwal, Anju Choubey, Tripti Agarwal, Pratibha Singh, Shraddha Shukla, Sanchita Pandey and Madhulika Pandey. Deepshikha Singh was among 10 honoured teachers from Harahua block and she is also

the member of District Taekwondo Association of Varanasi. Greeting her, association secretary Satya Vardhan Singh praised Deepshikha's contributions in teaching the girls in self-defence, especially in rural areas. The other teachers from Harahua block who were also honoured were Neetu Singh, Seema Yadav, Priyanka Singh, Padma Mishra, Ranjana Tomar, Sushma Singh, Swati Singh, Amita Singh while Pooja Kushwaha while 10 from Sewapuri block were Sunita Dixit, Mukul Maurya, Supriya Tiwari, Neelam Keshari, Khushboo Maheshwari, Rashmita Tripathi, Shashidevi, Renu Gupta, Smriti Srivastava and Dr Sudha and from Arajiline block were Shweta Rai, Yogmaya Laddha, Tuba Asim, Venu Agarwal, Smriti Prakash, Parma Vishwas, Shaibalika Mishra, Pratibha Singh, Sudha Rani and Geeta

Gupta. Besides, the teachers from Pindra block who were felicitated were Deepthi Singh, Renu Singh, Preeti Sonkar, Manju Maurya, Vandana Singh, Priyanka Sharma, Alka Malviya, Pratima Kumari Choubey, Sarita Sharma and Anita Jaiswal, while from Baragaon, Nitisha Pandey, Nisha Singh, Sushmita Bhartiya, Anjana Kumari, Pooja Singh, Jyoti Dwivedi, Ragini Pandey, Archana Singh, Seema Tiwari and Rachna Gupta. The honoured teachers from Cholapur were Aarti Sonkar, Sarita Kumari, Poonam Yadav, Sarita Devi, Lata Singh, Dr Suman Choubey, Soumya Singh, Kavita Dubey, Supriya Singh and Sandhya Singh while from Chirraigaon, Reena Gautam, Prati Bharti, Alka Bajpai, Archana Singh, Manisha Singh, Anita Shukla, Preeti Shukla, Archana, Namita Singh and Divya Rastogi.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

A big initiative has been taken for environmental protection in Sangam city. Here instead of cutting trees to build a 12-storey multi-storey building in the High Court premises, they will be shifted to the golf field of the Army area.

On the directions of the High Court, the Forest department has started work on it. The Forest department has issued a tender to shift 69 trees. On September 10, when the tender process is completed, the trees will be lifted from

the High Court and planted in the golf field of the Army.

A 12-storey building is to be built in the High Court premises for parking of more than 9,000 vehicles and for the chamber of 4,500 advocates. ₹ 604 crore has been approved for this purpose and construction will start soon. President Ram Nath Kovind might lay the foundation stone of this multi-storey building. There are 149 trees of Mango, Neem, Gular, Peepal and Banyan where the construction is to be done. To save the greenery, the High Court directed the Forest

department to shift it instead of cutting it. When the Forest department surveyed it, it was found that 78 trees are not eligible for shifting, they will dry up while there are 69 trees which can be shifted. Talks have been held with the army officers to shift them. From here it will be uprooted through machines and planted in the army golf ground at New Cantt.

Since this work is being done here for the first time. The officers or personnel of the Forest department are unaware of this technique. Therefore,

the Forest department has issued a tender to shift these trees. Tenders have been invited till September 9. Its tender will open on September 10. After that the work of shifting these trees through machines will start. Ramesh Chandra, DFO said that in order to save greenery, the process of shifting trees is being done for the first time. An experienced agency will come and shift these trees, for this a tender has been floated. That agency will also preserve the trees for a year after shifting them so that they do not dry up.

Birth anniv of Radhakrishnan celebrated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

On the eve of Teacher's Day the birth anniversary of Sarvapalli Dr Radhakrishnan was celebrated under the joint aegis of Samdariya School of Special Education and Lok Sanskriti Vikas Sansthan located in Dandupur. On this occasion, Dr Kavita Mishra Principal of Sarveshwari Post Graduate College as the chief guest said that Dr Radhakrishnan was great philosopher, statesman and intellectual. But above all he was an exceptional teacher. President Rashtriya Shaiksha Mahasangh (Higher Education Cadre) unit Prayagraj Dr Mani Shankar Dwivedi in his presidential address said that Dr Radhakrishnan was a "Nishkam Karm Yogi" dedicated to Indian education and philosophy. His ideal life is source of inspiration not only for Indians but for the entire humanity. Special guest, Principal Indrakali PG College Dr Madhukaracharya Tripathi, while discussing the multidimensional personality of Dr Radhakrishnan, described him as the conductor of Indians culture. During this programme 21 teachers were honoured with flower bouquet and gifts. The guests were welcomed by P K Tiwari. The programme was conducted by Sharad Mishra and vote of thanks by MP Singh. The programme

started with the lightening of the ceremonial lamp by the chief guest and garlanding of Dr Radhakrishnan's picture. Dr Pradeep Sharma, Dr Akhilesh Dwivedi, Dr Vikram Shukla, Dr Suneeta Khare, JN Pandey, Sangeeta Upadhyay, Priyanka Jaiswal, RB Singh, Suman, Sarla, Neetu Singh, Shalini Jaiswal, Vinod Yadav, Brij Lal etc. dignitaries were present during the programme.

GIRL SHOT AT, INJURED BY FATHER: A father shot at and injured his daughter in Prayagraj. She has been admitted to the hospital in a serious condition. The reason for the shooting was her elopement with her lover. When the father came to know about this, he got angry and shot his daughter. She has been shot in the shoulder.

The accused father fled the house after committing the crime. The police are looking for him. The police raided many places, although they have not been able to catch him yet. The incident took place late Friday night in Bhagalpur locality under the Dhumanganj police station in Prayagraj city. According to the police, a person living in Bhagalpur is the driver of the DCM vehicle. Her 18-year-old daughter falls in love with a young man living in the neighbourhood. When their relationship developed, breaking all the restrictions, both of them ran away

from their house a few days ago. After this, they returned home on Friday. It is said that late on Friday night there was a dispute between the boy and the girl's side regarding the same thing. When the matter escalated, people from both sides came out of their respective homes and entered into an altercation. In the meantime, someone opened fire, due to which the girl was shot in the shoulder. There was chaos due to the incident. As soon as the information was received, the CO and SHO reached the spot along with the force. The injured girl was immediately admitted to a private hospital located in Dhumanganj. The family members first accused the boy's side of shooting. However, when the police later interrogated the injured girl, the reality turned out to be something else. She gave startling information to the police. The girl told the police that her own father had fired with a pistol, due to which she was shot. The firing did not happen from the boy's side. The accused father is at large.

PROTEST AGAINST INCREASE IN WATER TAX: Intensifying the movement under the aegis of all-party corporators and former corporator Sangharsh Samiti, a public awareness campaign was launched in Sobhatiya Bagh in protest against the rules and arbitrarily increase in water tax.

In a meeting with the traders, the corporators and former corporators strongly criticised the increase in water tax during the Corona period. The traders demanded the Mayor and Municipal Commissioner to withdraw the hike in water tax. They said that if the order is not withdrawn soon, then there will be a complaint against it even to the Chief Minister. Traders said that in the year 2014, the commercial house tax was implemented five times the residential rate, so they are not able to deposit it. Water tax hike up to five times will burn a hole in their pockets. Former corporator Shivsewak Singh, who was presiding the meeting, said that the Jalkal department has failed to supply water to the houses of the people without a tullu pump. Therefore, appealed to the building owners to install a separate sub meter for the Tullu pump.

He further said that the amount of electricity spent every month in running Tullu pump to get water and the amount of bill generated for it, should be demanded from the Jal department. It was said that in 2019, it was decided to take the same house tax as the house tax in the corona period. No increase was made. In such a situation, similar to the year 2019, water tax and water price should also be taken.

Paan shop owners stage demonstration

VARANASI (PNS): Paan Shop Owners Association, representing the collective voice of more than 30,000 traders, small retailers and paanwallas selling tobacco products in the city, staged a demonstration at Nagar Nigam (Municipal Corporation) building here on Saturday, in protest against the draft proposal issued by the Department of Urban Development, UP Government recently which mandates separate licenses for retailers selling tobacco products like paan, bidi, cigarette etc. The association has also sent an appeal and strong objection to the Mayor and Municipal Commissioner requesting them to withdraw the proposal as it would impact over 30,000 micro-retailers that represent the livelihood of over 2 lakh people including their families in the city. President of the association Siya Ram Varma said that the draft proposal would deal a death blow to marginal retailers by increasing their harassment manifold. 'At a time when retailers are already in a desperate situation due to a massive loss in

business on account of Covid, this is the time to provide relief to small and marginal retailers,' he said, requesting the Municipal Corporation not to implement this draft proposal and instead come up with policies that support the creation of livelihood opportunities for our members. According to him, small and micro retailers are the backbone of retailing in the city. They have ensured the reach of items of daily consumption to consumers amid pandemics. These retailers besides selling tobacco products also sell goods of daily needs which are demanded by the general public like biscuits, soft drinks, mineral water, cigarettes, bidi etc in the neighbourhood. As a result, any proposal to mandate compulsory licensing for shops selling tobacco products will have a far-reaching consequence for an exceptionally large and poor section of the city.

POWER JUNIOR ENGINEERS PROTEST: Annoyed with the indifferent attitude of the management towards their demands, the junior engineers

and promoted engineers on Saturday staged a token protest to draw the attention of the government to the demands being faced by them and threatened of continuing their protest on Wednesday too. The junior engineers and promoted engineers gathered at the office of the chief engineer of the Purvanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Limited (PVVNL) here and staged a protest under the banner of Rajya Vidyut Parishad Junior Engineer Sanghtan, UP and said that the management of Electricity department had held a talk with the representative of organisation on August 7 last and assured of sorting out the problems being faced by them and also meeting their demands. But the management failed in sticking to its stand and no problem was sorted out or no demand was met till date, they blamed. The government has intention to provide uninterrupted electricity to the people but the management of PVVNL is not making the sufficient resources available despite repeated requests, the agitator blamed

and threatened of intensifying the agitation. They also submitted a memorandum which was addressed to the Managing Director of PVVNL. Prominent among those who joined the satyagrah were Kedar Tiwari, Neeraj Bind, IP Singh, Ratnesh Seth and Sarvesh Shukla.

LEGAL LITERACY CAMP ORGANISED: A Legal Literacy Camp was organised at One Stop Centre here in view to make the women aware about their rights under the auspices of Department of Women Welfare, the officials of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) gave information about the laws related to women and children. Legal advisor Rekha Srivastava appealed to the women not to consider themselves as weak now but to exercise rights. 'If they are suffering from problems like domestic violence, foeticide, dowry etc, then they should take recourse to the law without any hesitation. Laws have been made to solve these problems and action will be taken under them,' she added.

Spike in dengue, viral diarrhoea cases sets alarm bells ringing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The death of two, including a minor, claimed to be due to dengue and viral diarrhoea, at LLR Hospital has set the alarm bells ringing. Due to a spike in dengue and viral diarrhoea cases, government and private hospitals have been flooded with critical patients. The condition of children is the worst hit.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Nepal Singh said to create awareness among people, special teams were being sent to houses to spread awareness on preventing dengue, especially in children. He said in view of the sudden crisis of beds in government hospitals it had been decided to add around 200 more beds to manage the

sharp rise in dengue and viral diarrhoea cases.

The doctors are divided over the diagnosis of the adult who died and was referred to LLR from Bindki, Fatehpur as he showed both symptoms of COVID-19 and dengue. There is still no official word on the death of two patients. The patient was first admitted to a private hospital where the condition became worse and the hospital referred the patient to LLR Hospital but on reaching LLRH, he was pronounced dead.

The sudden increase in cases of viral diarrhoea and dengue has stirred the hornet's nest. Most of the private hospitals are already full while some are admitting patients despite poor infrastructure. The CMO, on Saturday,

directed the people to observe the symptoms which usually begin four to six days after infection and last up to 10 days. He said the symptoms include sudden high fever, headache, pain behind eyes, severe joint pain, nausea and vomiting along with mild bleeding from gums and nose. He said often symptoms were mild and could be mistaken for those of flu or other viral infection.

He said younger children and people who had never had the infection before tended to have milder cases than older children and adults. He said there were chances of dengue hemorrhagic fever, a rare complication characterised by high fever, damage to lymph and blood vessels, enlargement of the liver, and failure of the

circulatory system.

He directed the doctors to diagnose dengue infection with a blood test to check for the virus or antibodies.

He said as there was no specific medicine to treat dengue only pain relievers could be given and one should rest and drink plenty of fluids and in case fever went down after 24 hours one must rush to the hospital.

He said the best way to prevent the disease was to prevent bites by infected mosquitoes, particularly if one was living in or traveling to a tropical area. He said parents need to ensure children wore full sleeve shirts and clothes with full trousers and socks and ensure water does not stagnate in any part of the house even if it was fresh water.

AIJGF chief asks jewellers not to panic

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

All India Jewellers and Goldsmiths' Federation president Pankaj Arora has advised the Kanpur jewellers not to panic or resort to strike as the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has officially announced that the onus of hallmarking now rests on the manufacturer and the seller has been allowed to sell the product.

He said the once the customer purchased an ornament it would be possible to track and trace the manufacturer to ensure if the product had been manufactured with purity and transparency. He said this was a great relief to the small jewellers of the city who were earlier caught on the horns of a dilemma over the hallmarking made compulsory by the BIS.

He said as August had ended, the penalty was now applicable. He said gold hallmarking was a purity certification of the precious metal and was voluntary and buyers of gold jewellery would now have the assurance of buying pure gold. He said the government had made it mandatory for the jewellers to sell only hallmarking jewellery. He said jewellers with annual turnover up to ₹ 40 lakh would be exempted from mandatory hallmarking.

He said hallmarking would enable consumers and jewellery buyers to make a right choice and save them from any unnecessary confusion while buying gold. He said hallmarking offered credibility of gold jewellery and customer satisfaction through third party assurance for the marked purity and fineness of gold leads to consumer protection.

Arora said gold hallmarking was mandatory for all 22-carat and 24-carat gold items but gold of additional carats such as 20, 23 and 24 would also be allowed for hallmarking. He said gold watches, fountain pens and special types of jewellery like kundan, polki and jadau were exempted. He said the BIS had removed the hallmarking transfer from its portal. He said with the new decision the retailers were given a big relief by the government. He said however it remained the duty of the consumers to protect their interests by ensuring they purchased hallmarking jewellery.

MAHILA MAHAVIDYALAYA NSS UNIT, NCC AND ROVERS RANGERS ADOPT VIL-LAGE: The NSS Unit, NCC and Rovers Rangers departments of Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kidwai Nagar, adopted Simran village near Rama Devi on Saturday.

NSS Unit incharge Dr Saba Yunus said they adopt one village every year and organise camps there to spread awareness on sanitation, digital literacy, health hygiene, education, COVID-19 etc. from time to time.

NCC incharge Lt Richa Chhibber played a key role in organising a camp in the village on Saturday. Incharge of Rovers Rangers Khushbu Dua along with volunteers Tehim, Kaveri, Shivangi, Sweetie, Dakshita and Richa were also present.

DM inspects oxygen plant

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAIUN

District Magistrate Priyanka Niranjan amidst the fear of the third wave of Covid-19 pandemic inspected the oxygen plant in the district hospital as well as Covid-19 level 1 ward and dengue ward. She directed the officials of the working agency that arrangements should be made to ensure direct delivery of oxygen to the wards from the oxygen plant. All arrangements for oxygen supply should be completed on time, she said.

The DM said four oxygen plants had become functional in the district. She added that there is no shortage of oxygen in the district and if required, more oxygen plants will be made functional. The DM expressed displeasure on seeing the broken window in the dengue ward and



DM Priyanka Niranjan inspecting the oxygen plant at the district hospital in Orai

issued instructions for its immediate repair. She directed the Chief Medical Officer that special care should be taken for painting and cleanliness in the wards.

She said all facilities besides medicines should be available in sufficient quantity for fighting dengue. CMS Ajay Saxena and other officials concerned were present.

Docs asked to go for CT scan in suspected cases to rule out Covid

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Dr Raj Shekhar directed the G SVM Medical College principal and head of paediatric department to ensure CT scan was done in all suspected cases so that COVID-19 was ruled out and quick and appropriate treatment could be started accordingly.

He directed additional director health to monitor and report information about treatment of wild viral fever in all six districts of Kanpur division. He said a detailed review of the progress would be made with the district magistrates and chief medical officers in the coming week.

He made a surprise visit to the LLR Hospital on Saturday and interacted with doctors and patients and took feedback on the spread of viral fever and dengue which have raised their heads menacingly in the division.

He said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had directed the district officials, including medical officials, to ensure best possible treatment and care to the patients. He said ensuring better care and treat-



Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Dr Raj Shekhar visits LLR Hospital on Saturday.

ment of the patients, especially children suffering from seasonal viral fever was a priority of the UP government. He said the major symptoms of the seasonal viral fever were fever, cough, cold and chest congestion.

Dr Shekhar said that earlier LLR Hospital had prepared 100 beds for the patients of seasonal viral fever but looking into the increasing number of cases in children, G SVM Medical College had now increased beds to 144. He said

as on date 120 children were admitted and undergoing treatment for viral fever.

He directed the G SVM Principal and head of paediatric department to increase the number of beds to 200 in next two weeks (to 170 in next one week and then 200 in next two weeks).

The head of the medicine department and vice principal informed the divisional commissioner that all necessary medicines, drugs, and diagnostic tools were available in

sufficient numbers to treat the patients.

Dr Shekhar then visited the emergency ward, general ward, ICU and the newly set up NICU and PICU wards for the expected third wave.

He said the principal had disclosed that a few children had symptoms very similar to COVID-19, but after testing they were found to be coronavirus negative.

He said food requirements of children were prepared and served as per their specific requirements.

The divisional commissioner was accompanied by additional director health, vice principal, CMO Kanpur.

He randomly interacted with a few families of the patients and enquired about the treatment and healthcare. He said a good step had been taken by the medical college by starting the e-Ambulance Service as these were electric vehicles converted to be used as ambulances within the G SVM campus to shift patients from one department to another, if required. He said a large number of patients were using the facility. He said plans were on to increase another three such ambulances.

Trader duped of ₹ 7.19 lakh by tricksters posing as cops

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

In a daylight incident, a power tools trader was duped of ₹ 7.19 lakh by unidentified tricksters posing as cops in Moolganj police station area on Saturday morning.

After a border dispute between cops of two police stations for some time, Moolganj police have started browsing through the CCTV footage installed in the locality.

According to victim Shambhu Nath Tewari of Patna, he was on a business tour for the past three days. After attending the market of Varanasi on Friday, he arrived at Kanpur Nagar on Saturday early morning. When he was passing through a lane to reach Maniram Bagia market, two youths posing as cops intercepted him and asked the reason for not wearing a mask. They said a checking drive was being carried out and started checking his bag. After checking the bag for 2-3 minutes, they took it with them and asked the trader to accompany them to the police station. On reaching the main Meston Road, one of them escaped with the bag towards Kotwali on a motorcycle and the other towards Moolganj on foot.

The victim said the bag contained clothes, ID proofs and ₹7.19 lakh in cash.

Initially, he kept running between Pheelkhana and Moolganj police stations due to a jurisdictional dispute between. Later, the Moolganj police started investigations.

Station House Officer Anjan Kumar said CCTV footage was being checked. One of the tricksters was spotted in the footage and efforts were on to trace him, he

added.

KILLED: A man was hacked to death with a sharp-edged weapon in Indalpur village in Bilhaur Kotwali police station area late Friday night.

At the time of attack, the victim was fast asleep on a cot in front of his garage about 300 metre from the village. His cousin informed the police about the incident on Saturday morning.

Akhilesh Katiyar of Majra Indalpur of Bawanjhala in Bilhaur police station area said his younger brother Pravin Chand Katiyar (46) was engaged in agriculture work and his wife Babita had died of illness five years ago and he has a daughter Rashi (8) and son Nishkarsh (6). His garage is situated about 300 metre away from the village where tractors are also parked. After the theft of a tractor's battery two years ago, Pravin had started sleeping there.

On Friday night also, after dinner, Pravin Chand had gone to sleep at the garage. On Saturday morning, when his cousin Dharmendra went towards the garage to answer the call of nature, he found Pravin lying in a pool of blood on the cot. Dharmendra informed the family members, villagers and police about the murder.

The mosquito net covering the cot was found open towards Pravin's head. There were marks of injuries caused by a sharp-edged weapon on his head and wrist. Inspector Anoop Kumar Nigam quizzed the villagers and kin of the deceased. He also summoned the forensic team for investigation. As the deceased was said to have consumed liquor, it is apprehended that he may

have been killed during a heated argument with someone late in the night.

NSI TO CELEBRATE TEACHERS' DAY ON A WIDER SCALE: Director of National Sugar Institute, Prof Narendra Mohan, while addressing media persons to inform them about the Teachers' Day programme of the institute, said the NSI would celebrate the day on a wider scale in the 75th year of Independence and thus under the auspices of 'Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' it had been planned to felicitate eminent former directors and professors of the institute, who contributed significantly in the academic uplift and thus enabled the institute to provide competent technical manpower to the sugar industry.

He said women teachers who pursued their PhDs at the NSI and later took up teaching at other institutions or colleges would also be felicitated. He said on this day, a conference on 'Indian Sugar Industry - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow' would also be organised. He said during the conference the growth of the Indian sugar industry with respect to capacity, sugar production, utilisation of by-products and technical efficiency would be highlighted.

He said the conference would be addressed by the institute's faculty and other eminent experts from the sugar industry and they would express their views on the future road map for the sugar industry for self-sustainability.

Prof Swain from the sugar engineering department, said that Minister of Sugarcane Development and Sugar Industries Minister Suresh

Rana and Minister of State for Higher Education, Science and Technology Neelima Katiyar would also grace the occasion. He said both would also inaugurate a model room at the institute where models of equipment used by the sugar industry in the 1930s and those being used at present would be kept to showcase the technological advancement over the years.



Senior Divisional Manager LIC MR Sharma planting a sapling on Saturday.

Two accused arrested

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAIUN

On the directive of Superintendent of Police (SP) Ravi Kumar and Superintendent of Police (ASP) Dr Rakesh Kumar Singh police apprehended two accused identified as Pradeep Kumar

Niranjan alias Munna and Rahul Tiwari. Police confiscated two illegal pistols of .32 bore and two illegal pistols of 315 bore from the possession of the accused. ASP Rakesh Kumar Singh said that a first information report (FIR) was filed against them under Arms Act

in this connection. On the occasion he appreciated inspector Shivgopal Verma and his team. The team which made the arrest comprised sub-inspectors (S-Is) Shiv Shankar Mishra and Mohit Kumar Yadav besides Sachin Kumar and Anand Umrao.

Seminar on Indian languages held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the Rajbhasha Pakhwada (fortnight) — 2021 at Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) here a seminar on Indian languages was organised through online medium on Friday. Senior Rajbhasha Officer Dr Sanjay Kumar Singh, while welcoming the officers and different language speaking BLW personnel participating in it highlighted the relevance of spiritual unity in spite of diversity in Indian languages. Dr Singh said by bringing of the Indian languages included in the Eighth Schedule on one platform, remembering their writers along with presenting the seriousness and depth of the contexts cited in the compositions of those lan-

guages in a simple way was incomparable and exemplary. Karuna Singh inaugurated the seminar with Vidyapati's



composition in Maithili language in praise of Maa Kali. On the occasion, Suresh P Nair presented some relevant excerpts in Malayalam lan-

guage from Kotambu Manikal by Dr ONV Kurup, Prashant Chakravarty from Rabindranath Tagore's composition in Bengali 'Prashana', Parija Ranjan from 'Chilika Darshana' by Gopabandhu Das in Oriya language besides Arvind Pratap Singh from 'Rashmirathi', the composition of Ramdhari Singh 'Dinkar' in Hindi language etc. On the other hand, Arvind Kumar Tiwari presented some contemporary excerpts from 'Shishupal Vadham', the composition of great poet Magha in Sanskrit language.

Senior translator, BLW, Vinod Kumar Srivastava, expressed gratitude to all visitors as well as participants. The seminar was successfully conducted by senior translator Amlesh Srivastava.

Centre signs peace pact in Karbi Anglong region

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday signed a tripartite agreement with five insurgent groups of Assam and the Assam Government to end years of violence in the Karbi Anglong region.



The Karbi-Anglong Agreement is another milestone in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'insurgency-free prosperous Northeast'.

"Over 1,000 armed cadres have abjured violence and joined the mainstream of society, which reflects their trust in Modi ji's leadership," he said.

Shah said that a ₹1,000 crore development package will be given to Karbi Anglong.

"I want to assure everyone that we will implement this accord in a time-bound manner," he said.

The Home Minister said the Central and State Governments are committed to all round development of Karbi Anglong and there will be peace in the region.

"We not only sign peace accords but implement them

within our time too," he said, citing the example of similar peace pacts earlier signed with other insurgent groups of the Northeast — the NDFB, NLFT and Bru groups.

Shah said ever since the Modi Government came to power, its focus in the Northeast is not only to ensure peace but also overall development.

"We have ensured that there is all round peace, no violence, no blast, no firing in the Northeast," he said.

The accord is significant as Karbi Anglong, which is the territory of ethnic Karbi tribals, has seen years of violence, killings and abduction in the rebels' fight for a separate homeland.

Union Minister and former Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who was present on the occasion, appreciated the efforts of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister in bringing peace in Assam and the Northeast.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said it was a historic day as the militants of these five insurgent groups will now join mainstream and work for the development of Karbi Anglong.

Jan Aashirwad Yatras highly successful: Nadda

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Describing the 'Jan Aashirwad Yatras' by the newly appointed 39 Union Ministers in the Narendra Modi Government across several States as 'highly successful', BJP President J P Nadda on Saturday claimed that the 'massive response' from the people has made the Opposition 'nervous' and hence, it has sought to put hurdles in the 'Yatras'.

The 'Jan Aashirwad Yatras', which began on the Independence Day and lasted till August 28, 2021, covered more than 24,000 kms in 14 days in which over 5,000 programmes were organised, said Nadda.

"All these programmes were highly successful which also ensured enthusiastic participation of people from all walks of life. Entire credit of the success of the 'Jan Aashirwad Yatra' goes to the people of India," he said.

These 'Yatras' were undertaken under the instructions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi after he in his first expansion of union cabinet in last two years inducted 39 new ministers in July 6, dropping many heavyweights including Ravishankar Prasad and Prakash Javadekar.

"The people of India across the states have heartily welcomed the new Ministers and lauded the Bharatiya Janata Party government led by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for doing the all-round development and progress of India, said BJP President in a statement.

He said since 2014, Prime Minister has "worked tirelessly and with full dedication and devotion" to serve the people of the country and to ensure welfare and wellbeing of every sections of our society.

He claimed that in the past 7 years "all the calamities and problems have been converted into opportunities by the Narendra Modi government. Be it the Covid-19 management, the execution of the world's largest and fastest Covid vaccination programme, evacuation of Indians stuck in any part of the world or the preservation and conservation of the great culture and traditions of our great country."

Nadda said 'Jan Aashirwad Yatras' across the country has left the "Opposition parties disturbed and nervous and they unsuccessfully tried to disturb and create hindrances in our Yatra and programmes."

"All ploys and disturbances have failed to shake the strong support and trust that the people have showered on the Narendra Modi Government.

Congress seeks SC-led probe into alleged manipulation of JEE (Mains)

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday demanded a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the alleged manipulation of JEE Mains examination after the CBI arrested seven persons in this connection.

The party also demanded answers from the Government, saying the Education Ministry and the National Testing Agency (NTA) are responsible for conducting examinations in a transparent manner and why they are not held accountable.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said that as a nation it's responsibility of all including the Government over the candidates or aspirants a fair exam. "JEE (Main) Exam has been breached. Students

appearing for such competitive exams prepare very hard, battling difficulties of various kinds. We, as a nation, owe them a fair exam," Rahul tweeted alleging the Modi government is now best providing cover-ups.

The party's students' wing, NSUI, also announced protests across the country on Monday on the issue.

Addressing a joint press conference, Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh, Delhi Congress leader Alka Lamba and NSUI national president Neeraj Kundan asked how can students be assured that such frauds have not happened in other exams conducted by the NTA.

If one of the most prestigious entrance examinations of the country (JEE) is not spared by these

frauds, then what is the quality of future professionals generated, they asked.

"We demand an inquiry into the entire fraud under the supervision of a sitting Supreme Court judge as this is an issue related to the future of our country," Vallabh said at AICC Press conference.

"Is it not the responsibility that the government should ensure that every student out of 22 lakh applicants who appeared for JEE Main exams 2021 to get a fair chance as their future is at stake," he said.

Citing the chronology of paper leaks, he mentioned Vyapam, SSC-2017, CBSE Class X and XII-2018, entrance exams in Haryana, JEE main 2020 and the latest case.

In a first, Indian Army engages in training with paramilitary forces

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ MEERUT

In a departure from the past, the Indian Army is engaged in training with the paramilitary forces. A batch of Indian Army is currently receiving training in "public order and crowd management" at the Rapid Action Force Academy for Public Order (RAPO) before moving on for the United Nations assignments.

The Army and the paramilitary don't mix their trainings. RAPO is the first and only of its kind training institute in the field of riot control, crowd management and public order management in the country and there is a pact with 138 countries for exchange training programs.

Ever since its inception, the RAPO, which is a unit of the elite RAF, has been imparting training to States and UT police force including Delhi Police

and other paramilitary forces, but never had Army personnel within its campus for training except for a brief program in 2019. Beginning last week, a batch of Indian Army has been getting lessons on public order by the highly trained and qualified instructors of RAPO drawn from CRPF and RAF. The unit is to be deputed at Sudan as part of the UN peace keeping mission.

"The academy is being developed as the center of excellence to enhance the capability of the different Police force personnel in Public Order management and also for training. Research and Development on the concept" said DIG RAPO Akhilesh Kumar Singh. Police personnel from across the world which includes Central armed police forces of India, police force of various states in India including Union Territories of Jammu

and Kashmir, are being trained at the academy in various subjects, with focus on public order. "Since inception, the RAF Academy has trained 14318 men in uniform on various subjects which include crowd management, media management, human rights, legal aspects concerning police personnel in India," said Akhilesh, who is also the recipient of President of India Medal for Distinguished Services in 2018. The faculty at RAPO is highly experienced personnel of RAF/CRPF and have been pooled in with varied educational backgrounds to match the requirements of RAPO to optimise competency as well as international standards.

Myanmar police was the first foreign police batch to be trained in the RAF Academy in December 2019 followed by Zimbabwe police in March, 2020.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL FORM No. - 5 SUMMONS FOR FILING REPLY & APPEARANCE BY PUBLICATION

BSF arrests Bangladeshi police inspector roaming inside border



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Border Security Force (BSF) has apprehended a Bangladeshi Inspector of Dhaka Metropolitan Police while he was moving suspiciously inside the Indian territory in the general area of Chhangrabandha in Coochbehar district of West Bengal. Later, he was identified as Md Seikh Sohail Rana, 46, of Gimadanga, Gopalganj district (Bangladesh). Four debit cards, USD 20, Euro 15, two high end mobile phones with Bangladeshi SIM and few medicines were recovered from his possession. He has been handed over to the local police for further action.

and reached Patgram in Lalmonirhat district and he crossed over the Indo-Bangladesh border the next day at about 12.30 PM with the help of one Bangladeshi tout named Babu of Patgram (Bangladesh) by paying him Taka 10,000. He was arrested on September 3.

Rana joined Dhaka Metropolitan Police as a Sub-Inspector in 2003. He was placed under suspension along with 21 other police personnel from 2003-2008 and his suspension was revoked in 2008.

Rana also revealed that his destination was Kathmandu, Nepal. The apprehended Bangladeshi Police Inspector along with seized items has been handed over to Police Station Mekhliganj for further legal action, it added.

ARYAVART BANK (A Joint Undertaking of Govt. of India, U.P. Govt. & Bank of India) Regional Office : Haridol Region, Ganga Nagar Colony, Circular Road, Hardoi

लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण (ISO 14001 : 2004, ISO 9001-2008 प्रमाणित संस्था) प्राधिकरण भवन, विपिन खड्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ (30प्र0) दूरभाष : 0522-2302586, वेबसाइट : http://www.ldaLucknow.in.in

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

कच्चा सूचना (अचल सम्पत्तियों हेतु) [Rule-B(1)] जैसा कि अधोहस्ताक्षरी वित्तीय आस्तियों एवं पुनर्गठन और प्रतिभूति हित प्रवर्तन अधिनियम 2002 के तहत यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया का प्राधिकृत अधिकारी होते हुए और उक्त अधिनियम की धारा-13 (12) सम्पत्ति प्रतिभूति हित (प्रवर्तन) नियम 2002 का नियम-3 में प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए मांग सूचना अन्तर्गत धारा 13 (2) निम्न खाता धारकों आदि को जारी किया गया था, जिसमें नोटिस प्राप्ति के 60 दिवस के भीतर देय राशि के अदायगी की अपेक्षा की जाती थी।

बकायेंदार/जमानतदार का नाम/पता व बंधक सम्पत्ति/सम्पत्ति मालिक एवं मांग सूचना तिथि/प्रलक्षित कच्चा तिथि/बकाया धनराशि

Centre misusing ED to harass opponents: Pawar

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday charged that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) was never misused in the past as much as it is being done now by the Narendra Modi Government to target its political opponents not just in Maharashtra but the entire country.

Talking to media persons in Pune, Pawar said: "The ED has been misused as it is being done now by the BJP-led NDA Government to bring its political opponents to their knees. This is not happening in just Maharashtra but is happening in the states like Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and various southern states". Pawar was responding to



questions relating to the investigations launched by the ED against Maharashtra's former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, former Minister and NCP leader Eknath Khadse, Shiv Sena leaders Pratap Sarnaik and Anil Parab. Pawar's comment came a day after the ED filed a charge-sheet against Khadse, his wife Mandakini and son-in-law Girish Chaudhary in the

alleged money laundering in the much-discussed Pune land deal.

It may be recalled that Chaudhary was arrested by the ED for offences allegedly committed by him under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

This is for the first time that the Pawar has slammed the Centre for "misusing" the CBI and ED to harass its political opponents.

Defending his party leader and former State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, Pawar had said in the past: "the raids are aimed at harassing Deshmukh. This is a new political pattern adopted by the Centre. The agencies will get nothing. We are not at all worried by this kind of investigation".

PDP chief attacks Centre, says basic human rights of dead or alive suspended in J&K

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday said the Centre's claim that people of Jammu & Kashmir now enjoy equal rights is a "barefaced lie" and the ease with which it imposes a "complete siege" in the valley every time it anticipates a reaction is distressing and deeply insensitive.

Her remarks come after authorities snapped mobile telephone services, except on BSNL's postpaid, and internet services, except on BSNL's Broadband and Fiber, on Wednesday night immediately after the death of hardline separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

"GOI's dubious claims that people of J&K now enjoy equal rights is a barefaced lie as

truth is that even their basic human rights dead or alive are suspended with pervasive impunity (sic)," Mehbooba said on Twitter.

The former Chief Minister of the erstwhile state said the ease with which the Government of India imposes a "complete siege", including communications blackout, in Kashmir every time it anticipates a reaction from people is distressing and deeply insensitive.

"Their misadventure of creating fear and suppression to eliminate a sentiment is counter productive since feelings and emotions don't dissipate or vanish into thin air.

These feelings of betrayal, subjugation and anger are absorbed and passed on from one generation to the next," she tweeted.



Teachers play a game during the Teachers' celebration, in a school, Patiala on Saturday

PTI

Kerala logs 29,682 new cases, 142 more die

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

There has been no let up in Kerala's face off with Covid-19 for the sixth day in succession. A release issued by Veena George, Health Minister said that out of the 1.69 lakh samples tested on Saturday, 29,682 were diagnosed with Covid-19.

The Test Positivity Rate too remained high at 17.54 per cent. The last 24 hours saw 142 patients succumbing to the pandemic and the death toll till sate reached 21,422.

The State also saw 132 health workers getting infected with the pandemic while the number of patients undergoing treatment across the State crossed 2.5 lakh.

Thirissur (3,474) topped the list of districts with high number of Covid-patients as on Saturday. Ernakulam (3,456), Malappuram (3,166) and Kozhikode (2,950) were

the other districts with high number of patients.

Students of Calicut University are a worried lot as their semester examinations begin on September 9. "Thirissur, Malappuram, Kozhikode and Palakkad, the districts coming under Calicut University's jurisdiction have an unusual number of Covid-19 patients. Though 150 LLB students in Government Law College are appearing for the semester examination, we are in the dark about how the examination would be held during this pandemic," said Vijaya Kumar, a first year LLB student in the college. He said commuting to Thirissur or staying in hotels or lodges during this pandemic are filled with risk.

At the time of going to Press, the students were seriously considering approaching the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor to postpone the examinations at least by a month.

State Govt has still not considered reopening classes 1-5: K'taka CM

Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday said the Government has still not considered reopening schools for classes 1 to 5, and guidelines will be issued once again to restrict organising large-scale events and rallies, in view of violation of Covid-19 protocols.

"No, we have not considered it yet. We will see how things will function with class 6,7 and 8, and based on that we will take further decisions," Bommai told reporters in response to a question on reopening school for classes 1-5.

The government has already allowed reopening of schools for students from class 9 to 12 since August 23, and class 6,7 and 8 will reopen from September 6.

To a question about large-scale events, rallies linked to political parties taking place despite restrictions, Bommai said, "we are taking all these things seriously, as few such events have taken place, we will once again announce guidelines for such events." Several incidents of events or meetings by political parties, including by the ruling BJP which organised "Jan Ashirwad Yatras" across the state, has witnessed a large-scale gathering of people, in violation of Covid-19 protocols, and they have come under intense criticism. PTI

AP sees 16 Covid deaths in a day

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh reported 1,502 fresh Covid-19 cases, 1,525 recoveries and 16 deaths in the 24 hours ending 9 AM on Saturday. The State's Covid-19 chart showed a total of 20,19,702 positives, 19,90,916 recoveries and 13,903 deaths so far. A health department bulletin said the number of active cases stood at 14,883.

SPS Nellore district reported the highest with 260 fresh cases, Chittoor 208, East Godavari 191, Prakasam 152, West Godavari 146, Guntur 143, Krishna 129 and Kadapa 113 in 24 hours.

The remaining five districts added less than 70 new cases each. Chittoor reported four fresh fatalities, Krishna and West Godavari three each, East Godavari and Guntur two each, Kurnool and Prakasam one each in a day. PTI

Tiruppur garment units seek Centre's aid to tide over crisis

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ THIRUPPUR

Knitwear units of Tiruppur, struggling because of a host of issues like Covid-19, non-availability of containers and ships to export the finished products and the economic slowdown have approached the Union Government with a request to hasten up the reimbursement of the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (ROSCTL) which would help them ease through the present crisis.

"The ROSCTL is popularly known as embedded taxes like cess on power, tariff on petro products and tax on transport which are offered back to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the form of scrips. We are free to

sell it in market or pawn it as surety in banks and mobilize some funds for meeting our urgent financial commitments," said S Sakthivel, executive secretary, Tiruppur Exporters Association, the umbrella organisation representing all knitwear units in Tiruppur.

Raja M Shanmugham, president, TEA, said that the knitwear exports sector in Thiruppur, comprising 95 per cent of the units in MSME category has been impacted by the second wave of Covid-19 and was struggling to meet their statutory financial commitments in every month.

"The total readymade garment (woven and knitwear) exports from India between January 1, 2021 and 31st August 2021 was ₹75,250 crore and the ROSCTL pending

claim to the garment sector was ₹3,750 crore. The Tiruppur units have to get ₹850 crore out of this amount," said Sghanmugham.

The TEA president disclosed that he has written to M Ajit Kumar, chairman, Central Board of Indirect taxes and Customs seeking help to the TEA units to tide over the difficulties being experienced by the knitwear garment exporting units in the challenging global business environment.

Though faced by a series of challenges, the TEA is working overtime to emerge as the fashion capital of India in manufacturing casual wears of global standards and had launched a massive skill development programme in association with union textile ministry.

Mayawati questions findings of pre-poll survey by pvt channel

Lucknow: Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati has questioned the findings of a pre-poll survey by a private TV channel, saying the survey was "sponsored, misleading, mischievous and lacks credibility".

She said even as the popularity of the Bharatiya Janata party had nosedived due to massive dislocation in economy due to pandemic, the survey had predicted over 40 per cent vote for the BJP in the 2022 UP assembly elections.

"The survey lacks credibility. In 2007 UP assembly elections, despite the wave in favour of the Bahujan Samaj Party, the pre poll surveys had predicted that BSP will emerge as the single largest party. The poll results proved them wrong and the Bahujan Samaj party got a clear majority," Mayawati said in a statement here on Saturday.

Mayawati said the BSP cadre was trained and ready to deal with conspiracies and people would not be misled by a sponsored campaign by the media.

She said the sole purpose of the survey appeared to be to project the BJP as the strongest contender to win the 2022 assembly election. She said the BSP accepted the challenge and after the survey the BSP cadre was working for the assembly election with more devotion and determination.

"I trust my cadre and as the election draws close, such misleading campaigns and conspiracies will only grow loud and shrill. There is nothing new as this kind of malicious campaign is always launched by the media to break the morale of the BSP ahead of the elections," Mayawati said. PNS

17-yr-old girl held captive, raped by 3

Mahoba (UP): A 17-year-old girl was allegedly gangraped by three men who kept her locked in a room for a day, police here said on Saturday.

The teen, who works in a private company, was sexually assaulted on Thursday and made her escape on Friday while she was being taken to another place, police said. Efforts are on to nab the accused who fled the area.

On Thursday, she was taken by a man, an employee at a nearby dak bungalow, to a room in a deserted area where she was raped by him and two of his friends, Station House Officer at Mahoba's Kotwali police station Balram Singh said.

The girl also alleged that they made a video of her, he said. The men locked her inside after raping her and went out, he said. PTI

Maha records 4,130 new cases

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The daily Covid-19 deaths dropped below three digits for the fourth day in a week in Maharashtra on Saturday, as the fatalities went down to 64 in the State.

On a day when the daily infections dipped to 4,130 as against 4,313 cases recorded on Friday, the daily deaths dropped from 92 on Friday to 64 on Saturday.

The somewhat consistent drop in the number of daily deaths during the current week has come as a relief to the health authorities.

After the daily deaths dropped to 52 on August 30 (Monday), the daily fatalities remained below 100 mark for three more days during the week - 55 deaths on September 2, 92 deaths on September 3 and 64 deaths on September 4.

However, in between on August 31 and September 1, there were 104 and 183 deaths respectively in the state.

With 64 fresh deaths reported on Monday, the total number of deaths in the state increased from 1,37,643 to 1,37,707, while the total infections -- with 4,130 new cases -- went up from 64,77,987 to 64,82,117.

As 2,506 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from



Candidates undergo thermal screening before appearing in Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) exams, in Karad, Maharashtra on Saturday

PTI

the hospitals since the second week of March last year increased from 62,86,345 to 62,88,851. The recovery rate in the state dropped from 97.04 per cent to 97.02 per cent.

The total "active cases" in the state increased from 50,466 to 52,025. The fatality rate in the State stood static at 2.12 per cent.

Pune with 15,469 active cases emerged as the first in the state in terms of maximum number of "active cases" in the State, while

Thane with 7,171 cases stood second in the state, followed by Satara (6,175), Ahmednagar (5,051), Mumbai (4,031), Sangli (3,537) and Solapur (2,689).

Of the 5,46,60,825 samples sent to various laboratories across the state so far, 64,82,117 have tested positive (11.86 per cent) for Covid-19 until Saturday.

Currently, 3,02,196 people are in home quarantine while 2,013 people are in institutional quarantine.

Punjab: Kapurthala's Rail Coach Factory held for taking bribe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Saturday arrested a Principal Chief Engineer of Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala for demanding and accepting a bribe of ₹1 lakh from the complainant.

A case was earlier registered by the CBI against Principal Chief Engineer, Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, Suresh Chand Meena on a complaint.

"It was alleged that the complainant (a contractor who undertakes works related to civil and horticulture of Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala) met the Principal Chief Engineer, RCF, Kapurthala in connection with tender/payment related work in his office. During the said meeting, the accused allegedly demanded bribe at the rate of 1% of gross payments received by the complainant's firm in lieu of completed tender work and also for further continuation of contract work," the CBI said in a statement.

The CBI laid a trap in Kapurthala and caught the accused red handed while demanding and accepting the bribe of ₹1 lakh.

Searches were conducted at the office and residential premises of the accused at Kapurthala and Jaipur which led to recovery of incriminating documents, it said.

The arrested accused was produced in the Court of Special Judge, CBI cases, Mohali (Punjab) and was remanded to 14 days judicial custody.

India for early outcome of TRIPS waiver for Covid vax, diagnostics

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India has pitched for an early outcome of the TRIPS waiver proposal for Covid-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), an official release said on Saturday.

Addressing a meeting, which was attended by trade and economic ministers of BRICS countries on Friday, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal also stressed on finding a permanent, adequate and equitable solution to the public stock holding programmes for food security purposes. He also

asked for adoption of emerging new technologies in a swiftly changing world while finding solutions to the challenges of data protection and cyber security; and ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns. The Minister "emphasised, amongst other things, on the need for a permanent, adequate and equitable solution to the Public Stock Holding programmes for food security purposes; early outcome of the TRIPS Waiver proposal for vaccines," the release said.

In October 2020, India and South Africa had submitted the first proposal, suggesting a waiver for all WTO

(World Trade Organisation) members on the implementation of certain provisions of the TRIPS Agreement in relation to the prevention, containment or treatment of Covid-19. In May this year, a revised proposal was submitted by 62 co-sponsors, including India, South Africa, and Indonesia.

The agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights or TRIPS came into effect in January 1995. It is a multilateral agreement on intellectual property (IP) rights such as copyright, industrial designs, patents and protection of undisclosed information or trade secrets.

Chipi Airport to put coastal Konkan on national air-map on Oct 7

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Come October 7, new Chipi Airport in Sindhudurg district of coastal Konkan region will go on the country's air-map. Chipi airport will be the 14th airport in Maharashtra.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray will formally throw open the Chipi airport for air traffic on Tuesday. Initially, intra-state flights will be operated from this airport. Later on, the Chipi airport will offer inter-state connectivity to Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and a couple of other states.

After meeting the chief minister, Shiv Sena MP Vinayak Raut made a formal announcement about the inauguration of Chipi Airport on social media.

Constructed at a cost of Rs 520 crore under Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Transfer (DBFOT) model, the Chipi Airport - first-ever airport constructed in the coastal



Konkan region - will initially offer flights to Mumbai, Pune, Nashik and Nagpur.

Incidentally, Sindhudurg where Chipi airport is located is the home district of BJP leader and current Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

More than two years ago, the then Chief Minister Devendra and the former Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu had inaugurated the new terminal building and other facilities at the Greenfield

Airport as flights under the UDAN scheme were expected to be launched from there. However, the launch of air traffic from the Chipi Airport was delayed afterwards.

The airport has a runway of 2500 metre length and 45 metre width, which can be extended by another 1,000 metres. The airport airport can handle up to 400 passengers or two flights per hour with an estimated annual capacity over a million passengers.

The airport can handle aircraft like A-320 and B-737 which would give a huge fillip to tourism in Konkan, known for its long and picturesque coastline, dazzling beaches, big and small rivers, creeks, abundant greenery and natural beauty, ancient temples, sea and land forts, a rich cultural heritage, unique lifestyle and major historical landmarks.

Developed by the IRB Sindhudurg Airport Pvt Ltd, a SPV, the Maharashtra

Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) is the nodal agency that facilitated and supervised the entire project.

The Chipi Airport is expected to create more job opportunities and give a boost to the regional economy, considering that the Maharashtra Government has announced plans to develop the coastal Konkan as a major tourist and business-cum-leisure travel hub.



Supertech to file review petition against SC order

New Delhi: Realty firm Supertech Ltd on Saturday said it will file a review petition against the Supreme Court order to demolish the company's twin 40-storey towers in Noida while asserting that the buildings were constructed as per the bye-laws with approval of the competent authority.

Last week, the apex court had ordered to demolish the twin 40-storey towers, which are

part of the Supertech's Emerald Court project in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. "While we respect the Hon'ble Supreme Court order, we have decided to re-present the matter before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in a review application as the towers were constructed as per the approval of the competent authority conforming to the Building bye-laws," Supertech Chairman R K Arora said.

Taliban postpone Af Govt formation

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

The Taliban have postponed the formation of a new Government in Afghanistan for next week, their spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said on Saturday, as the insurgent group struggles to give shape to a broad-based and inclusive administration acceptable to the international community.

The insurgent group was expected to announce on Saturday the formation of the new Government in Kabul, likely to be led by the outfit's co-founder Mulla Abdul Ghani Baradar. This is the second that the Taliban have delayed the formation of the new government in Kabul since they seized Kabul on August 15.

"The announcement about the new Government and Cabinet members will now be made next week," Mujahid said without giving further details.

Khalil Haqqani, a member of a committee constituted by the Taliban to negotiate talks with different groups over the formation of the government, said the Taliban's bid to form a broad-based government in Kabul acceptable to the world, in fact, is causing the delay.

"The Taliban can form a government of their own but they are now focussing to have an administration in which all parties, groups and sections of the society have proper representation," he said, acknowledging that "the Taliban alone



will not be acceptable to the world."

Former Afghan premier and head of Jamiat e Islami Afghanistan Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and brother of former Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, who have announced their support to the Taliban, will be given representation in the Taliban government, he said.

The Taliban are also in the process of negotiating with other stakeholders to seek their support for their government, he added.

Earlier, sources said that Baradar, the Chairman of the Taliban's Political Office in Doha, Qatar, is likely to be the head of the Taliban government in Kabul.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Friday said that America and the international community expect the Taliban in Afghanistan to form an inclusive government with representations from different communities and fulfil its commitments like countering terrorism, respecting the rights of women and minorities and

not engaging in reprisal.

"As we've said and as countries around the world have said, there is an expectation that any government that emerges now will have some real inclusivity, and that it will have non-Talibs in it who are representative of different communities and different interests in Afghanistan," Blinken told reporters ahead of his important visit to Doha where the political office of the Taliban is based.

"The expectation is to see inclusivity in government, but ultimately the expectation is to see a government that makes good on commitments that the Taliban have made, particularly in freedom of travel, not allowing Afghanistan to be used as a launching ground for terrorism directed at the US or any of the allies and partners, upholding the basic rights of the Afghan people, including women and minorities, and not engaging in reprisals," Blinken said.

UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, who was in Pakistan on Friday, said the

Taliban had made a series of undertakings, "some of them are positive at the level of words" but there was a need to test whether they translated into deeds.

In New Delhi, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India's immediate focus in Afghanistan was to ensure that Afghan soil is not used for terrorist activities against it and it was still "very early days" to talk about any possible recognition of the Taliban.

Earlier this week, the envoy to Qatar Deepak Mittal held talks with a senior Taliban leader in Doha.

"We used the opportunity to convey our concerns whether it is in getting people out (from Afghanistan) or on the issue of terrorism. We received a positive response," Bagchi said.

Responding to a question about the recent meeting that India's Ambassador in Qatar had with a senior Taliban leader in Doha, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, who was in Washington on Friday, said: "In our statement, we have said that we have told them that we want them to be cognizant of the fact that there should be no terrorism that emanates from their territory against us, or other countries; that we want them to be mindful of the status of women, minorities and so on so forth.

Afghan woman activist thrashed by Taliban during Kabul protest: Report

Kabul: A woman activist who participated in a protest in Kabul seeking political rights under Taliban rule was seen in a video with a head injury, blood streaming down her face.

Activist Nargis Suddat alleged that she was beaten by the Taliban during a protest on Saturday led by women's rights activists. Tolo News reported that the Taliban prevented the marchers from continuing towards the presidential palace and lobbed tear gas on them. Women activists and the protesters said they wanted to protest in front of the gate of the Presidential Palace (ARG), but members of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan did not allow them to, reported The Khaama Press News Agency.

According to video clips shared on social media by journalists and other people, the Taliban used tear gas to disperse the all-women protest after they failed to do so after gunshots. As per the eyewitnesses, the Taliban opened gunshots to disperse the women and asked the journalists to leave the scene, reported The Khaama Press News Agency. Saturday's protest was the fourth all-women protest held in Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover. Earlier protests were held in western Herat province and in the Afghan capital respectively. ANI



UN chief to hold meeting on Af funding

United Nations: The United Nations chief will convene a ministerial meeting in Geneva on September 13 to seek a swift scale-up in funding to address the growing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, where nearly half the country's 38 million people need assistance.

U.N. Spokesman Stephane Dujarric made the announcement Friday and said Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will also appeal "for full and unimpeded humanitarian access to make sure Afghans continue to get the essential services they need."

Dujarric said the U.N. Appeal for USD1.3 billion for 2021 to help more than 18 million people is just 40 per cent funded, leaving a USD766 million deficit.

"Afghanistan faces a looming humanitarian catastrophe," the U.N. Spokesman said.

"One in three Afghans do not know where their next meal will come from. Nearly half of all children under the age of 5 are predicted to be acutely malnourished in the next 12 months."

Earlier Friday, Dujarric said the secretary-general is "very grateful for the generosity" of Denmark, Kazakhstan, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the United States for making available facilities and transport for the temporary relocation of U.N. Staff in Afghanistan. AP

US building small cities at bases for Afghan evacuees

Washington: US military bases housing Afghanistan evacuees are building their own city-type leadership organisations to deal with sanitation, food and other challenges as the numbers of Afghans coming into the U.S. grows.

Air Force General Glen VanHerck, who heads U.S. Northern Command, said there were more than 25,000 Afghan evacuees being housed at the eight bases as of Friday.

He acknowledged there have been problems as the bases grapple with language, cultural and other issues. He told Pentagon reporters that he's "building eight small cities, we're going to have challenges."

He said the bases have designated a military officer as a "mayor" to be in charge of a couple dorms or housing units and an Afghan counterpart who can communicate about any ongoing issues.

He said Northern Command has asked the Defense Department for additional linguists who are fluent and can speak with the Afghans.

The U.S. Military will eventually be able to house as many as 50,000 Afghanistan evacuees at the eight bases around the country and won't likely need to tap additional facilities, said VanHerck, who is also the head of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD).

Afghans at the bases are divided, with single males and single females in separate housing, and families walled off in their own sections where possible to provide privacy. So far, he said, there have been few problems with evacuees testing positive for COVID-19, and he has heard of no serious security problems.

A defense official said the number of Afghans at each of the eight bases will fluctuate over time, but as of Friday the approximate totals were: Fort McCoy, Wisc., 8,800; Fort Bliss, Texas, 6,200; Fort Lee, Va., 1,700; Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., 3,700; Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., 650; Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., 800; Fort Pickett, Va., 3,650 and Camp Atterbury, Ind., 65. AP

US presses Pak to fight terror groups as Af crisis spirals

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

The Biden administration is quietly pressing Pakistan to cooperate on combating dreaded terrorist groups such as the ISIS-K and Al Qaeda following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, according to a set of leaked documents and diplomatic cables to a prominent US media outlet.

The Dawn newspaper on Saturday carried a report quoting a news report published on Friday by the Politico on a slew of diplomatic messages

exchanged between Washington and Islamabad recently after the Taliban insurgents seized power in neighbouring Afghanistan.

The messages show that "the Biden administration is quietly pressing Pakistan to cooperate on fighting terrorist groups such as ISIS-Khorasan and Al Qaeda in the wake of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan," the Politico, which obtained the sensitive but unclassified cables and other written materials, reported.

Over 24 hours in Kabul, brutality, trauma, moments of grace

AP ■ KABUL

One-tired like everyone else in Kabul, Taliban fighters spent the last moments of the 20-year Afghanistan war watching the night skies for the flares that would signal the United States was gone. From afar, US generals watched video screens with the same anticipation.

Relief washed over the war's winners and the losers when the final US plane took off. For those in between and left behind — possibly a majority of the allied Afghans who sought US clearance to escape

— fear spread about what comes next, given the Taliban's history of ruthlessness and repression of women. And for thousands of US officials and volunteers working around the world to place Afghan refugees, there is still no rest.

As witnessed by The Associated Press in Kabul and as told by people The AP interviewed from all sides, the war ended with episodes of brutality, enduring trauma, a massive if fraught humanitarian effort and moments of grace.

Enemies for two decades were thrust into a bizarre collaboration, joined in a common

goal — the Taliban and the United States were united in wanting the United States out. They wanted, too, to avoid another deadly terrorist attack. Both sides had a stake in making the last 24 hours work.

In that stretch, the Americans worried that extremists would take aim at the hulking, helicopter-swallowing transport planes as they lifted off with the last US troops and officials. Instead, in the green tint of night-vision goggles, the Americans looked down to goodbye waves from Taliban fighters on the tarmac. The Taliban had worried

that the Americans would rig the airport with mines. Instead the Americans left them with two useful fire trucks and functional front-end loaders along with a bleak panorama of self-sabotaged US military machinery.

After several sleepless nights from the unrelenting thunder of US evacuation flights overhead, Hemad Sherzad joined his fellow Taliban fighters in celebration from his post at the airport.

"We cried for almost an hour out of happiness," Sherzad told The AP. "We yelled a lot — even our throat was in pain."

MODI TO MEET BIDEN THIS MONTH, TO DISCUSS AFGHANISTAN, COVID

The Prime Minister called off his visit to Britain earlier this year to attend the G-7 summit due to the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic then raging in India. He could have met Biden there if the visit had gone as per schedule.

Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla is, at present, in the US holding talks with his counterparts there to firm up the Prime Minister's schedule, sources said. The top diplomat met Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Deputy Secretary Wendy Sherman. This was the first high-level discussion between the officials of the two countries after the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan on August 31.

Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi is in New York to attend a meeting of the United Nations Security Council on peacekeeping.

Besides fast-changing scenario in Afghanistan, Biden and Modi are also likely to review the situation in the Indo-Pacific where China is flexing its maritime muscle. Ways to further strengthen the Quad group may also figure in the summit between Modi and Biden, they said. The Quad nations, including India, the US, Japan, and Australia, recently held the Malabar series of naval exercises in Guam in the western Pacific.

On the Foreign Secretary's ongoing visit to the US, Shringla and Sherman discussed the Afghanistan situation, strengthening Indo-Pacific cooperation through the Quad, addressing the climate crisis and the pandemic, and preparations for upcoming dialogues, such as the 2+2 Ministerial, said US State Department spokesperson Ned Price.

Meanwhile, the 2+2 dialogue between India and the United States will be held in November, Shringla said. "We're looking at the 2+2 which will happen in November. The exact dates are not yet worked out," Shringla told a group of Indian reporters at the conclusion of his three-day visit to Washington.

The last meeting of the 2+2 dialogue was held in New Delhi and the next meeting is to be hosted by the US in Washington. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has also held a series of telephonic conversations with his counterpart Blinken

ISI CHIEF RUSHES TO KABUL BEFORE GOVT FORMATION

The intelligence chief will spend a day in the Afghan capital, the Geo News reported.

Border management is another important issue that will come under discussion during the visit of Hameed, it said.

Pakistan was often accused by the

LACK OF GLOBAL STANDARD BARRIER TO COVID PASSPORT

As these certificates have a direct impact on people's rights, there is a crucial need to consider the laws and regulations, including those on data privacy and human rights.

"If effectively implemented, Covid-19 health status certificates may contribute to managing the effects of the current pandemic. Yet, their introduction poses significant challenges to data privacy, equality and non-discrimination. The urgency surrounding the adoption of these measures should not lead to governments rolling out Covid-19 health status certificates in haste without the appropriate protection of data privacy and human rights."

"Policymakers must strike an adequate balance between protecting the rights and freedoms of all individuals and safeguarding public interests, while managing the effects of the pandemic."

The report emphasised that Covid-19 health status certificates should be available to all, not only to those with high levels of digital literacy, and highlighted the risks of fraud associated with paper-based certificates. The research also underlined the need for secure applications and embedded technologies such as QR codes.

Presently, individual nations have devel-

FROM PAGE 1

oped their own versions of a Covid passport which has allowed only those meeting the criteria to travel or participate in that country. But, with some countries lagging behind with vaccinations or using different vaccines, there are concerns that some could be left behind.

NOW, SET OFF FOR RAMAYANA YATRA FROM NOV

The last halt of the train tour will be Nasik, Hampi and Rameshwaram, after which the train will return to Delhi on the 17th day of its journey. During the entire journey, the guest will cover a distance of roughly 7500 km. The fully air-conditioned train will provide two types of accommodation— 1st AC and 2nd AC. The train has features including two fine dining restaurants, a modern kitchen, shower cubicles in coaches, sensor-based washroom functions, foot massager. Moreover, each coach will be equipped with CCTV cameras and security guards.

It will be mandatory for all the guests of age group 18 or above to get fully vaccinated for the journey, said IRTC. Moreover, the IRTC will provide a safety kit to all passengers with a face mask, sanitiser and hand gloves.

TO DIDI'S REJOICE, BHABANIPUR BYPOLL ON SEPTEMBER 30

The Bhabanipur by-poll will allow Mamata a chance to become a member of the State legislative assembly. Mamata, who lost from Nandigram in May and is currently not an MLA, has time until November to get elected in order to continue as Chief Minister. After the election results, Sovande Chattopadhyay, the TMC MLA from Bhabanipur constituency, vacated the seat to allow Banerjee to contest from there. Mamata had won from Bhabanipur twice since 2011. The Mamata Banerjee-led TMC registered a landslide victory in the April-May Assembly polls, winning 213 seats in the 294-member West Bengal Assembly. Despite aggressive campaigning, the BJP lost the polls but emerged as the second-largest party with 77 seats.

"... considering the constitutional exigency and special request from the state of West Bengal, it has (been) decided to hold by-poll for AC 159 - Bhabanipur. Much stricter norms have been kept by the Commission as an abundant caution to safeguard from COVID-19," the EC said.

"After taking into consideration the inputs and views of Chief Secretaries of the concerned states, and the respective Chief Electoral Officers, the Commission has decided not to hold by-polls in other 31 Assembly constituencies and 3 Parliamentary

constituencies," it added. Similarly, polling for three "deferred adjourned" elections -- in two Assembly seats of West Bengal and one of Odisha -- will also be held on September 30 and counting will be held on October 3.

Referring to its decision to hold Assembly polls in Samsarganj and Jangipur of West Bengal and Pipli of Odisha, the EC said since candidates and political parties for these three seats have already "availed" the campaign period from April 29 to May 3 this year, campaigning will only be allowed from September 20 in these seats.

Prohibition of pre- and post-nomination procession, 50 per cent capacity at outdoor venues for campaigning, a maximum 20 star campaigners for national and state recognised parties and a silence period of 72 hours before the end of polling are some of the COVID-19-related restrictions imposed by the Election Commission for the bypolls.

Based on inputs received from States where by-polls are due, the EC said it has decided not to hold by-elections in 31 other assembly constituencies and three parliamentary constituencies in view of the pandemic situation, floods and festival season.

During a virtual meet on Wednesday, the EC had sought to know from States where by-polls are due about the situation of coronavirus pandemic, floods, law and order scenario and upcoming festivals.

The EC said that the chief secretaries of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and the Adviser of UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu brought to its notice the constraints related to flood situations, festivals and the pandemic.

They suggested that it would be advisable to have by-elections after the end of the festival season.

"Besides these, some states have also brought to the notice of the Commission that Government of India, various research institutions, technical expert committees, and professionals have predicted the possibility of the third wave of Covid-19 October onwards," the poll panel said. The Odisha chief secretary told the EC that the Covid situation is under control and the poll can be held. The West Bengal chief secretary informed that the pandemic is fully under control. He also brought to the notice that the flood situation in the state has not affected the poll-bound assembly constituencies and the state is fully geared up to hold the elections.

"He also cited that under Article 164(4) of the Constitution of India, a Minister who is not a member of the Legislature of the State for a period of six consecutive months shall at the expiration of that period cease to be a Minister and there will be a constitutional crisis and vacuum in the top executive posts in the Government unless elections are held immediately," the Commission said.

Nepal President Bhandari summons parliament session from Sept 8

Kathmandu (PTI): Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari has summoned the new session of parliament on September 8, according to a notice issued by her office.

A Cabinet meeting held on Saturday has requested President Bhandari to call the next session of the House of Representatives at 4 PM on September 8.

The Cabinet decision follows discussions among Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, Speaker of House of Representatives Agni Sapkota, CPN (Maoist Center) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal, and CPN (Unified Socialist) Chairman Madhav Kumar Nepal to call the parliament session earlier on Saturday.

"Today's Cabinet decided to recommend to the President that both houses of the federal parliament be summoned at 4 pm on September 8," The Kathmandu Post quoted energy minister Pampha Bhusal as saying.

The last session was prorogued for August 17. A day after parliament was prorogued, the Deuba government had introduced an ordinance to amend the Political Parties Act, easing party splits and registration of new

parties.

Aided by the ordinance, the Madhav Kumar Nepal group had split from the CPN-UML and the Mahanth Thakur faction had broken away from the Janata Samajbadi Party.

Madhav Nepal has registered CPN (Unified Socialist) while Thakur has registered Loktantrik Samajbadi Party. The Election Commission has given until September 7 to those who were elected to provincial and local levels under the UML and the Janata Samajbadi to choose sides—whether they want to stay in the mother parties or the newly registered outfits, the report said.

Madhav Nepal, a former prime minister, had gone against the party and supported the then Opposition alliance in its bid to topple the government led by former prime minister K P Sharma Oli. His faction has already made a decision to join the Deuba-led coalition government.

The recognition of Madhav Nepal-led party brings to end a long-standing feud between him and former prime minister Oli in the UML.

New Zealand officials confirm identity of knife attacker

Wellington (AP) New Zealand authorities imprisoned a man inspired by the Islamic State group for three years after catching him with a hunting knife and extremist videos — but at a certain point, despite grave fears he would attack others, they say they could do nothing more to keep him behind bars.

So for 53 days from July, police tracked the man's every move, an operation that involved some 30 officers working around the clock. Their fears were borne out Friday when the man walked into an Auckland supermarket, grabbed a kitchen knife from a store shelf and stabbed five people, critically injuring three.

New Zealand officials confirmed Saturday that 32-year-old Ahamed Aathil Mohamed Samsudeen was the attacker. Two more shoppers were injured in the melee. On Saturday, three of the victims remained hospitalized in critical condition and three more were in stable or moderate conditions. The seventh person was recovering at home. The youngest victim was a 29-year-old woman, the old-

er was a 77-year-old man.

Undercover officers monitoring the Samsudeen from just outside the supermarket sprang into action when they saw shoppers running and heard shouting, police said, and shot him dead within a couple of minutes of him beginning his attack. A bystander's video records the sound of 10 shots being fired in rapid succession. The attack has highlighted deficiencies in New Zealand's anti-terror laws, which experts say are too focused on punishing actions and inadequate for dealing with plots before they are carried out. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said lawmakers were close to filling some of those legislative holes when the attack occurred. She vowed law changes by the end of the month.

Police Commissioner Andrew Coster said the law they were working under required the man to make the first move. "We might have an understanding of intent, and ideology, and we might have high levels of concern," Coster said. "But that is not sufficient for us to take any enforcement action."

HOME THEATRE

Made with good intentions



HELMET
Zee5
*ing: Aparshakti Khurana, Pranatan Bahl, Abhishek Banerjee and Ashish Verma
Rated: 5/10

It is no wonder that most of the people in our country live in a fantasy world. Look at the Bollywood films that are churned out on a yearly basis. They are enough to turn a person's head – usually in the wrong direction.

The latest movie to hit the OTT (ZEE5) directed by Satramm Ramani is a case in point. A young man, singing in a marriage band is in love with a girl – okay, so she is a flower decorator – but is from a rich family – falls in love! Look at how

incredulous that sounds! Where in India does a rich girl even look at the bandwallahs? Let alone fall in love with them?

But the good part is that it is not so much about her here played by Aparshakti Khurana being in a band but more about him wanting to start his band. But money is needed. So, he steals stuff from a truck thinking that he has hit the jackpot. Well, he did but of a different kind. Condoms worth many thousands. This is when all the trouble or should one say some fun comes into play.

We all know that to just use the word condom is looked at with horror let alone a film on it. Ramani's intentions are in the right place – if only we use this

more often our population would not be touching 1.37 billion and soon to overtake China's at 1.40 billion.

Sadly, that's all there is to this movie. Good intentions. The dialogues by Rohan Shankar are nothing to rave about. The almost lackluster manner in which they are delivered don't even bring a smile. Saanand Verma, who plays Saxena in Bhabiji Ghar Par Hain!, has nothing much to do here; he plays a pharmacist here with precisely four minutes of screen time.

Still, the makers should be lauded for their efforts to at least make a film on a subject that is so hush-hush. We just hope that next time, there is not so much drama.

Shalini Sakseena



NOT A PATCH ON THE ORIGINAL

CINDERELLA
Amazon Prime
*ing: Pierce Brosnan, Camila Cabello, Idina Menzel, Minnie Driver, Nicholas Galitzine, Billy Porter
Rated: 4.5/10

The latest Cinderella movie to get dropped on Amazon Prime written and directed by Kay Cannon is not the first time that this fairy-tale is being told. This fairy tale has been retold at least 10 times in the past. And each one has had its pluses.

Unfortunately, this one is the most disappointing. There are a few points that make this a movie that has no soul or the much needed fairy-tale

element to it that one would associate with the original movie. The whole reason why one loved this story was because – brace for it – the wicked stepisters and the stepmother. Well, the sisters are not so wicked though they are mean. At least the stepmother is somewhat true to the original story.

Then there is the Prince himself. He wants to be a prince but doesn't. He is more like a boy-man. The King, played by Pierce Brosnan, who did so many Bond movies, does his bit but falls short of being a good father until the movie reaches the climax.

Then there is Cinderella herself. Singer Camila Cabello who plays the part here, is unable to create the much-

needed magic. While the message of woman empowerment is clear and strong, the Moulin Rouge vibe thrown in for good measure, it doesn't do anything to uplift this.

Given that the story is set in the 18-19th Century, is it not odd for the makers to make Cinderella wear an above the knee dress? Given that she dreams to be a seamstress instead of a princess, it is still strange for only her to be wearing it while the rest of the town folk are wearing what people wore back then.

Still, it is a fairy-tale and all is well that ends well. However, one would have preferred if it would have been as close to the original as possible.

Shalini Sakseena

Plan Your Sunday

SCHOOL OF SHUFFLE

School Of Shuffle is a series of workshops where you get exclusive access to learn from hip-hop's biggest names! Hone your skills in various hip-hop art forms such as music, dance and art right here with BREEZER Vivid Shuffle.

Mekhola Bose is a trained dancer and choreographer, best known for her waacking. She is also a part of the Crafts of Kammotinn crew (C.K.N), from Kolkata. Bose comes with a diploma in Contemporary Arts, and is also a musician, fashion model and

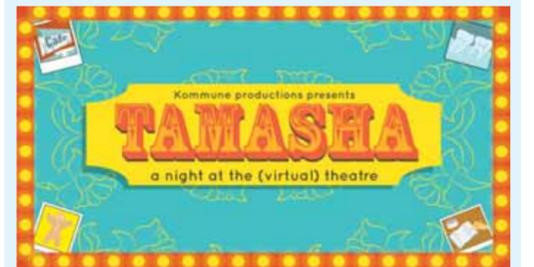


performer. Having competed on the TV show dance plus 3 with the House of Suraj team led by Kumari Suraj, you can count on her to bring in the big power-packed moves. You can also catch her waacking on Yeh Ballet, the film on Netflix. And her last waacking championship win was at Waackfest Mumbai! She is also the co-creator of jams like Don't Panic at The Disco, Retro Rally India, Crafts of Passion Jam and more!

In this masterclass, you will learn the core essentials of waacking and more.

What: Art Workshop
Where: Online
When: September 17, 2021
Time: 7 pm

TAMASHA - A DRAMATIC READINGS EVENT



Life amazes us everyday, so do people! Four strangers in a cab, what do they talk about? Same as four captives in a confined cell? And what about a husband and a wife fighting over tooth pain or a few friends fighting illness of another friend? Endless possibilities.

And there are multiple ways to explore these, but the easiest one is drama! Kommune presents 'Tamasha', an online dramatic readings show with a group of talented actors, performing live readings on some really interesting topics and with all the feels!

In a month-long process, performers were selected and trained by the likes of Sheena Khalid and Roshan Abbas. So grab your cup of chai or coffee and join us on Sunday, 5th September at 7 PM for an entertaining, soulful evening.

What: Theatre and Arts
Where: Online
When: September 05, 2021
Time: 7 pm to 9 pm

TELLYTALE

'HOSTING A CRIME SHOW WAS LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE'

The Q, India's Hindi general entertainment channel launches its first original crime fiction show 'Jurm Ka Chehra' for television. The show will air every Saturday and Sunday at 9PM exclusively on The Q. Hosted by actor Kinshuk Vaidya, the show is based on modern age crime stories plaguing our society. Crime has increased and changed its face with the changing times. It's not just murders and robbery that can scare the daylight out of people but also other unethical and rampant crimes like cybercrimes, online frauds amongst others. With an aim to create awareness, the show will bring to its viewers 'Naye Zamane Ki Nayi Crime



Stories,' inspired by modern crimes. Actor Kinshuk Vaidya who rose to fame with his massive popularity as a child actor in the early 2000's on being the host of the show shared, "I have grown up watching crime thrillers and investigative shows. So, hosting one was like a dream come true and

quite exhilarating. However, with changing times, the nature and face of crime and criminals has changed and hence what sets this show apart is that it will give the viewers insight into the modern age crimes. Honestly, shooting for it has also made me more aware as a person and also as a consumer of

various products, services and technologies. I really hope the audiences watch our show and benefit from it as well". Speaking on the launch of its first crime thriller, Krishna Menon, Chief Operating Officer, The Q added "With Jurm Ka Chehra we foray into the crime genre. The cast of the show has been chosen from virtual auditions and we have handpicked talented social media creators to feature as actors in it. This is our attempt of not just using the content of creators for our audience but also offering specially curated content with the creators for our audiences. Thus, truly living up to our brand philosophy of exploring, Zara Hatke initiatives."

KARAN SUCHAK AS A LEAD

COLORS' recently launched a show, 'Thoda Sa Baadal, Thoda Sa Paani', which highlights the journey of a strong, independent woman through the protagonist Kajol



(played by Ishita Dutta). While there has been much excitement about her character, the show will now introduce the lead character named, 'Anurag Basu'. Anurag will be played by heartthrob Karan Suchak, who shows strong potential in bringing the character to life. Anurag by profession is a cardiologist, but when it comes to matters of his heart, his relationship with his mother has strained his outlook towards women. While the character is yet to be unveiled on the show, Karan is quite confident that

'Anurag Basu' will be loved by everyone. While the character is yet to be unveiled on the show, Karan is quite confident that 'Anurag Basu' will be enjoyed by

MIKA SINGH FOR FARAH KHAN



Even as the pandemic continues to cast its shadow of stress, Zee TV is attempting to lighten up the country's collective mood by offering its viewers an escape from all the stress via the route of rib-tickling comedy through its reality show, Zee Comedy Show. The show has been successful in helping every Indian family unwind on their couch with some of India's top comedians making them LOL their stress away. The acts put up by all the comedians coupled with the witty reactions of our laughing buddha Farah Khan continue to leave everyone in splits. However, in an unfortunate turn of events, even after being double vaccinated and taking absolute precautions, Khan has tested positive for COVID-19. While the filmmaker is self-isolating and recuperating at home, Mika Singh has stepped in for Khan on Zee Comedy Show. He will be seen stepping in for her for two weeks starting from next weekend, which

is the 11th of September. The singer shot for two episodes with Raveena Tandon and Mallika Sherawat as well this week, but he was missing Khan beside him during the shoot. As Singh revealed, "It is unfortunate that Farah tested positive despite being double vaccinated and it clearly proves that you cannot predict anything in the current scenario. I have spoken to her, and it is great to know that she is doing fine, and I really hope she gets well soon. Last time around, I shot for Zee Comedy Show as a special guest, and I really had a gala time with Farah, so I do miss her beside me. But as you know, the show must go on and with an aim to spread cheer and joy amongst the audience in this gloomy time, we have shot for two episodes of Zee Comedy Show with Raveena Tandon and Mallika. I hope everyone enjoys my presence on the show for two weeks."

'It's exciting to play Ram'

NAKUUL MEHTA who plays Ram in SET's Bade Achhe Lagte Hain 2 talks to SUNDAY PIONEER about his experience of being a part of the show and working with Disha Parmar, among other things



The announcement date of Bade Achhe Lagte Hain is out and viewers can't keep calm. How excited are you? I'm delighted to be back on Television and headlining a show which has been so loved and revered by so many including myself. Also, very excited to collaborate with Ekta Kapoor. It has been long pending and it finally gives me a chance to get a peek into her creative genius and hopefully learn along the way.

What is new in store for Ram and Priya? How will this season be different from the previous season? I feel it's a different era now. We are doing this a decade after the first season came out. A lot has changed in terms of the world we live in and how relationships are made or lost in this digital era however a lot remains the same, which is human longing for love and companionship. I also feel with new actors, you will see a new flavour and at its core it will remain the same story but a lot of it will be served differently.

Ram Kapoor and Sakshi Tanwar had successfully struck a chord with the audience, how challenging will it be to step into their shoes? In my eyes, both of them are absolute

rockstars of Indian TV. Whilst it may seem daunting at the outside, personally for me it's a new character which I get to colour with my brush.

It's sheer luck and faith of my producers in my potential that I got this show. I hope I am able to do justice to the same

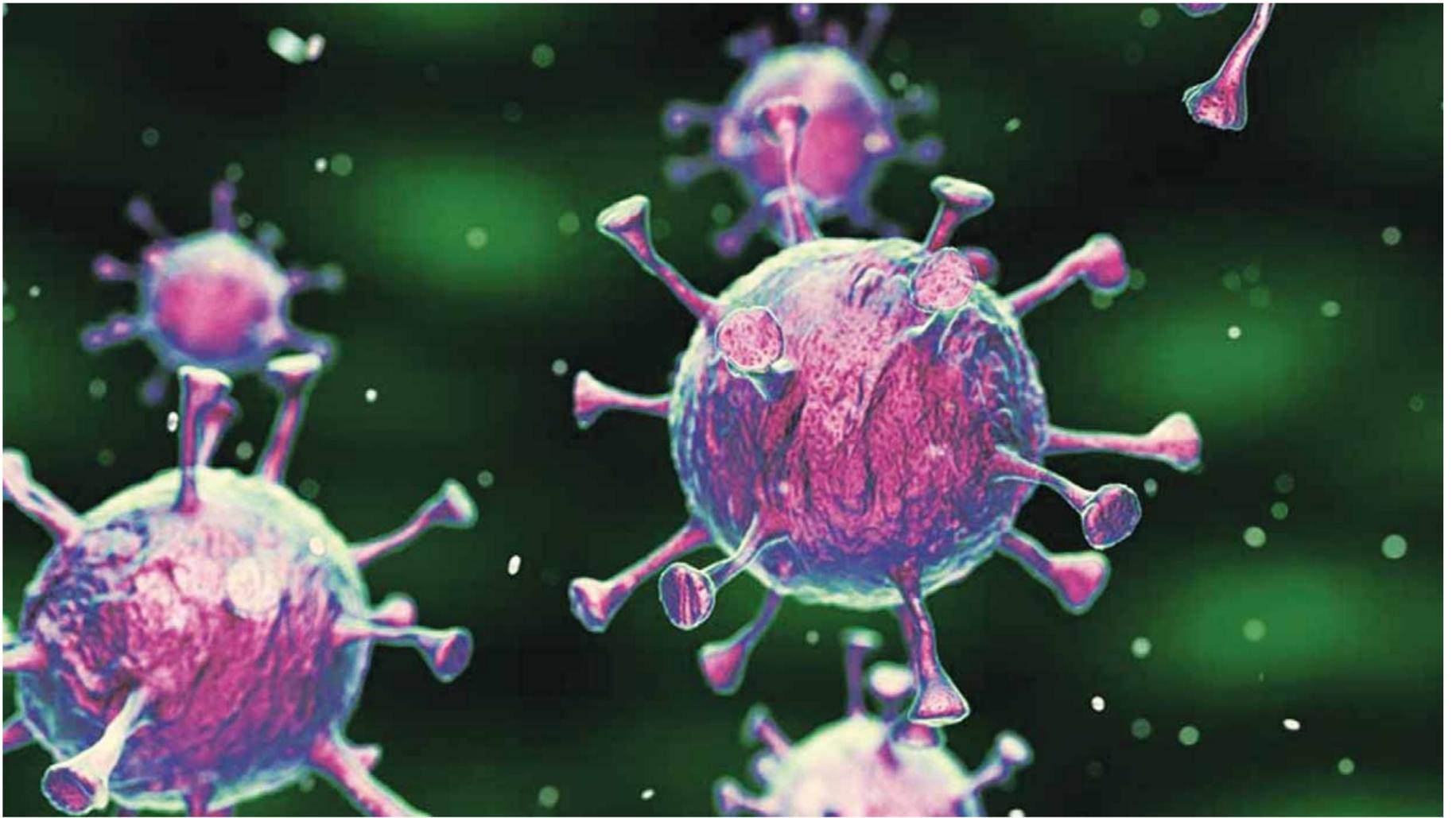
How has been your experience shooting for the show so far? To be honest, it's been brilliant and anxious at the same time. Brilliant because I'm very excited about playing this new character and see how it comes to life and anxious because I understand the expectations the audience have from us and I hope I am able to do justice to the same. Needless to say, being a part of this show is a big responsibility to shoulder on.

Any message for your fans and viewers? Just huge gratitude for all the love they have shared with me over the years and that they continue to share, I am who I am because of their love, admiration and support. Here's hoping that I can make another memorable show for them and make all my supporters proud. Hoping for the best!

You've worked with Disha Parmar before, how has your bonding with her evolved over the years? I feel having known her over nearly a decade now, there is an unsaid comfort, friendship and mutual respect. Whilst it

YEAR-22, COVID-22?

The world has yet to recover from the new variants of Delta, which is keeping the Governments and citizens across the globe on their toes and looking for ways to avoid the next wave. But now, there is talk of COVID-22. The new strain might be a combination of the variants Delta, Beta and Gamma. SUPRIYA RAMESH speaks with experts to know in-depth about the new strains and whether the existing vaccines will be helpful



New Year, new SARS CoV-2 variant. The 2022 year may come up with a super variant — COVID-22. This, experts say, could be even deadlier than the existing one. We need to gear up the vaccination game as unvaccinated people could be the potential super spreaders.

The term 'COVID-22' flared on Twitter after a Swedish immunologist mentioned it in an interview with a German newspaper, Blick last week. It is being said that the new strain would make up for a deadlier combination of Delta, Beta and Gamma variants and it is highly impossible to escape the new strain.

Dr Sandeep Nayar, Senior Director and HOD, Centre for Chest and Respiratory Disease, BLK Max Super Speciality Hospital, quoting the interview says, "COVID is such a notorious virus, by the time we come to know about one variant, another variant starts playing with us. Now we have got a highly infectious and scarier variant that is COVID-22. The virus is not going to stop mutating and there's also a report which says it has got combined features of all three variants -- delta, beta and gamma and it is going to be highly infectious."

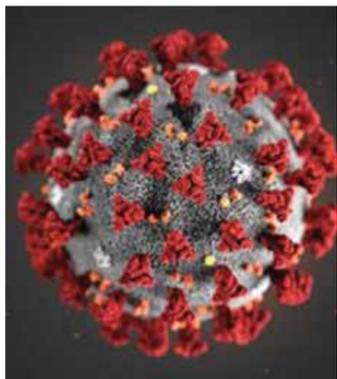
At the moment, most of the COVID patients in the world are affected by the delta variant and it is obvious that this strain will mutate very soon but there are chances it might not become severe. Emphasising that mutation is not always bad, it can be for good as well, Dr Arunesh Kumar, Chief of Pulmonology, Paras Hospitals, Gurugram says, "These viruses are going to mutate. There are a lot of variants that come under the category of variants of interest. There are variants of concern -- Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta -- which we are already dealing with. The variants of interest are something we are still researching upon but aren't sure if they are variants of concern and if they will cause harm."

***VACCINATION**

Vaccination and booster shots might become a need for the rest of our lives and relying on one vaccination would not suffice in the future as we only march into a deadlier variant. Early identification of the emerging variant is necessary and vaccine manufacturers would have to fasten the process of adapting vaccines as the COVID-22 variant could be a big risk.

"To protect ourselves from the emerging viruses, we have to update our vaccines also. We don't know when it might hit us but we have to gauge its severity. The vaccines might not be effective against it," says Nayar.

COVID-22 strain is a part of viruses that we would meet. Vaccines may not work and we have to consider this strain as harmful but we should also not get too paranoid. "As the time comes, as the viruses mutate, our vaccines will also have some observation in between," says Kumar, adding that after we have covered both the doses, we will be making booster doses for sure.



AS THE TIME COMES, AS THE VIRUSES MUTATE, OUR VACCINES WILL ALSO HAVE SOME OBSERVATION IN BETWEEN. AFTER WE HAVE COVERED BOTH THE DOSES, WE WILL BE NEEDING BOOSTER DOSES FOR SURE. VACCINE'S EFFECTIVENESS GOES DOWN VERY QUICKLY AS YOU GO FORWARD. IN TWO TO THREE MONTHS TIME, IT GOES DOWN BY 30 PER CENT. IT IS IMMINENT THAT THE THIRD WAVE WILL COME BUT IT WON'T BE AS BAD AS THE SECOND WAVE AS OUR VACCINATION COVERAGE HAS GONE UP FROM WHAT IT USED TO BE TWO OR THREE MONTHS BACK

— DR ARUNESH KUMAR, CHIEF OF PULMONOLOGY, PARAS HOSPITALS, GURUGRAM

To protect ourselves from the emerging viruses, we have to update our vaccines also. We don't know when it might hit us but we have to gauge its severity. The vaccines might not be effective against it

— DR SANDEEP NAYAR

Senior Director and HOD, Centre for Chest and Respiratory Disease, BLK Max Super Speciality Hospital



He states a fact that currently, Pfizer is the most effective vaccine, which gives you around 92 per cent protection against delta if you are fully vaccinated. Vaccine's effectiveness goes down very quickly as you go forward. In two to three months time it goes down by 30 per cent. As we are seeing a new variant that keeps coming, very soon everybody will need booster doses.

Talking about the third wave and its severity Kumar says, "Even if the third wave comes, it won't be as severe as the second wave and I am sure about it as our vaccination coverage has gone up from what it used to be two or

VARIANT C.1.2

The first case of the new variant called C.1.2 was detected in South Africa and is found in at least six countries now. There is not much known about the C.1.2 variant currently. However, the technical head of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, took to Twitter to give more insights on what the WHO knows about the new variant.

"The WHO has regularly been discussing with South African researchers their work on sequencing throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful for researchers in South Africa who first presented their findings on variant C.1.2 to the WHO Virus Evolution Working Group in July '21," Kerkhove tweeted.

According to WHO, 100 sequences of C.1.2 have been reported worldwide. The first case was detected in South Africa in May this year. Currently, Delta appears dominant from available sequences.

"Monitoring & assessment of variants is ongoing & critically important to understand the evolution of this virus, in fighting COVID-19 & adapting strategies as needed," she added.

three months back. There is a sizable population that has been vaccinated as well and as people are getting more aware after seeing the worse. People, hospitals and the Government have been working on it. But it is imminent that it will come but it won't be as bad as the second wave."

***INFECTION RATE**

Delta is currently the most transmissible Coronavirus strain and is called COVID-21 as it emerged earlier this year. It is still lin-

gering in many parts of the world. Viruses tend to develop into various variants with time and the major drawback would be when in the next phase of this pandemic, Beta or Gamma variant would become more contagious.

"Once the strain is anywhere in the world it spreads quite fast as we have seen with delta and delta plus, alpha strain, British strain, South African strain and Brazilian strain. They do not take much time to spread. We haven't yet started international flights but we are also not totally locked down and separated and people are sticking to short-time travel," Nayar tells you.

"Virus is not always mutating to cause more harm but it is mutating to protect itself. So, sometimes it becomes less harmful and sometimes more. For example, if we have some medication, the virus will have some mutation so that it has to protect itself from that particular medication. This is happening with all influenza viruses. What we have seen in the past is alpha was worse than the normal COVID, South Africa strain was even worse and now Delta," he adds.

***TREATMENT**

As of now, the treatment is, giving supportive care till our own immunity kills the virus. "I wish there was a treatment for COVID but even one and a half years down the line, the treatment of covid is with supportive care, we have been treating the symptoms of the patient.

If a patient has low oxygen, we need oxygen. There are some antivirals available but the concern is they cannot be used for every patient. So, the treatment would more or less remain the same that is giving symptomatic care," Kumar says.

***SYMPTOMS**

Nayar says that we can't predict what the symptoms of the new variant would be as the first virus had symptoms like loss of taste, loss of smell and as it started mutating and delta, delta plus virus came, they have different symptoms like heart problems, muscle pain and extrapulmonary symptoms.

On the contrary, Kumar tells you that signs and symptoms would be more or less the same. He suggests that we keep checking our oxygen levels, monitor our fever, keep ourselves hydrated and seek early help if one thinks he is becoming breathless.

***PRECAUTIONS**

Precautions would be more or less the same. "Regardless of the mutation of the virus, all the SARS CoV-2 Virus spread through the air so, if we use the covid appropriate behaviour, if we wear masks, maintain social distance we are safe. Although, it will be different only in terms of its wavelength, severity rate," Kumar tells you. "And as far as these new variants are concerned, it is too early to be scared about it. We just need to be careful and abide by the existing safety measures," he adds.

Pramod Bhagat wins historic badminton Gold in Paralympics, Manoj Sarkar claims Bronze

INDIA'S SEASON OF FIRSTS

PTI ■ TOKYO

Reigning world champion Pramod Bhagat claimed a historic Gold medal in the men's singles SL3 class while Manoj Sarkar bagged a Bronze as Indian badminton players dished out an impressive performance to continue country's medal rush at the Tokyo Paralympics, here on Saturday.

World number one Bhagat, who is also an Asian champion, humbled Great Britain's Daniel Bethell in the summit clash while Sarkar defeated Japan's Daisuke Fujihara in the third place play-off.

In SL3 classification, athletes with lower limb impairment compete.

With badminton making its debut at the Paralympics this year, Bhagat, became the first Indian to win a Gold medal in the sport.

The top seed showed great mental fortitude as he prevailed 21-14, 21-17 over second seeded Bethell in a thrilling final that lasted 45 minutes at the Yoyogi National Stadium.

"This is very special to me, it's my dream come true. Bethell really pushed me but I



Pramod Bhagat in action during his final match in the Tokyo Paralympics on Saturday

just kept my calm and played to my strengths," said Bhagat after winning India's fourth Gold medal in the ongoing Tokyo Games.

"I would like to dedicate this to my parents and to everyone who has supported me throughout. I'm glad I could make India proud."

Bhagat said he had a strategy in place for his rival.

"I played the same opponent in Japan two years ago and I lost. That was a learning opportunity for me. Today it was the same stadium and the same environment, and I devised a strategy to win. I was very determined."

The 33-year-old from Bhubaneswar also remains in contention for a Bronze medal in mixed doubles SL3-SU5 class.

Bhagat and his partner Palak Kohli will meet Japanese pair of Daisuke Fujihara and Akiko Sugino in the Bronze medal play off on Sunday.

They had lost the semifinals 3-21, 15-21 to Indonesian

"This is a very proud moment for me. I'm representing the Indian badminton community and India as a whole. This is the first time that para badminton is appearing in the Paralympics and winning the first Gold medal for India is a moment to cherish for me."

—PRAMOD BHAGAT

combination of Hary Susanto and Leani Ratri Oktika.

Bhagat, who had contracted polio when he was four years old, picked up the sports after watching his neighbours play. Initially, he competed against able-bodied players before getting into competitive para badminton in 2006.

He eventually emerged as one of the best para shuttlers in

the country with 45 international medals under his belt, including four world championship Gold medals and a Gold and a Bronze in 2018 Asian Para Games.

The 31-year-old Sarkar, whose right leg was affected after he contracted polio at age one, displayed great resilience during his 22-20, 21-13 win over Fujihara.

Sarkar had lost his semifinals against second seeded Bethell, going down 8-21, 10-21 in SL3 class. But he recovered quickly from the defeat to produce a superb show to claim the Bronze.

Sarkar had taken up badminton at age five but it was the passion to win against his elder brother's which led him to play the sport seriously. He played inter-school competition against able-bodied players till the 11th grade before starting to compete in para badminton in 2011.

He won a Gold medal in the SL3 singles at the 2016 Asian Championships in

Beijing.

More medals are in store for India as Suhas Yathiraj and Krishna Nagar also sailed into the men's singles finals of SL4 class and SH6 class respectively.

Tarun Dhillon too stayed in contention for a Bronze after losing his semifinals earlier in the day.

In SL4 class, Suhas outwitted Indonesia's Fredy Setiawan 21-9, 21-15 in the first semifinal.

The 38-year-old, who has an impairment in one of his ankles, will face top seed Lucas Mazur of France in the final on Sunday.

Krishna, seeded second, outplayed Great Britain's Krysten Coombs 21-10, 21-11 in the SH6 class semifinals. He will cross swords with Hong Kong's Chu Man Kai in the final on Sunday.

In SL4 class semifinal, Tarun went down narrowly 16-21, 21-16, 18-21 to Mazur. He will face Setiawan in the Bronze medal play off.

1-2 finish in shooting

Manish Narwal smashes Paralympic record to win Gold, Adana takes Silver

PTI ■ TOKYO

Shooter Manish Narwal smashed the Paralympic record to clinch India's third Gold in the ongoing Tokyo Games, while compatriot Singhraj Adana bagged the Silver to make it a sensational one-two finish for the country here on Saturday.

The Gold and Silver from the Faridabad duo took India's medal tally to 17 — 4 Gold, 7 Silver and 6 Bronze.

The 19-year-old Narwal, who holds the world record in the category, shot a total of 218.2, a Paralympic record, to claim the yellow metal in P4 Mixed 50m Pistol SH1 event in his debut Games.

"I'm very happy," said Narwal who hails from Ballabgarh in Haryana.

Narwal had a keen interest in sports from childhood and grew up wanting to become a football player. Unfortunately, he could not fulfil his footballing dreams due to a congenital ailment in his right hand.

His wrestler father Dilbagh tried doing anything to make sure that his son's deformity did not hold him back.

In 2016, on the suggestion of a family friend, Dilbagh took Narwal to a nearby shooting range at Ballabgarh run by coach Rakesh Thakur. That changed Narwal's life and he instantly developed a keen interest in the sport and started doing practice regularly.

But at that time he did not know about Paralympic Games and he was practising and competing with other athletes for fun.

His talent was spotted by coach Jai Prakash Nautiyal and Narwal won an individual Gold in P1 Air Pistol SH1 event in the 2017 Bangkok World Cup. Before that, he won Gold medal in P1 and Silver in P4 in 2018 Asian Para Games in Jakarta.

The 39-year-old Adana,



who had won the Bronze in the P1 men's 10m air pistol SH1 event on Tuesday, added a Silver to his kitty with an effort of 216.7 as India continued its medal rush in the sport.

With his feat, Adana, who competes with polio-impaired lower limbs, joins the elite list of Indians who have won multiple medals in the same edition of the Games.

"Every shot is very difficult. One shot is very important, so my coach every time says 'Singhraj, Manish, only one shot, one shot fired'" Adana said of the final shoot-off between he and Narwal.

"The final was very difficult. I decided (when I was) in third position, Singhraj, good, please, stop, breathe, stop, OK. And one shot, only one shot, please. No other thought, my mind is slow. And go again."

On the tribly hat he wore during the final, Adana said, "My hat is a gift from my wife, so my very lucky hat."

Adana belongs to a humble family at Faridabad. His grandfather took part in the country's freedom movement and served in the British Indian Army during the second world war. Adana's father Prem Singh is a farmer and social worker.

Dream to see Indian flag flying high fulfilled: Singhraj

Tokyo: Shooter Singhraj Adana, who wrapped up his debut Paralympics campaign with two medals, on Saturday said his dream of seeing the Indian flag flying the highest in his event has been fulfilled.

The 39-year-old Adana, who had won a Bronze in the men's 10m air pistol SH1, added a mixed 50m pistol SH1 Silver to his haul, making him only the second athlete in the ongoing Paralympics who has won two medals, Avani Lekhara being the other.

"I was delighted when I saw our flag being raised with the national anthem. I will always remember the Tokyo Paralympics with my Bronze and Silver," Adana said after his Silver-winning performance.

"I always dreamt about seeing the Indian flag flying the highest, that dream has been fulfilled today. I will also remember also everyone's blessings and love. A huge thanks to my coaches and staff," added Adana. PTI

History beckons IAS officer Suhas

PTI ■ NOIDA

History beckons Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Suhas Lalnakere Yathiraj when he steps into the court for the badminton finals at the Paralympics in Tokyo on Sunday with a shot at the Gold medal.

Even if he loses and wins a Silver, the 38-year-old district magistrate of Gautam Buddh Nagar (Noida) will have scripted history as the first-ever IAS officer to win a medal at the Paralympics.

Suhas, currently world No 3 in SL4 category, has played three matches, including the semifinals on Saturday, in the ongoing Games. He has been at his dominating best against his rivals.

While it took him less than 20 minutes to sail through the first two matches, Suhas outwit-



ted Indonesia's Fredy Setiawan 21-9, 21-15 in 31 minutes in the first semifinal.

The 2007-batch IAS officer, with a leg impairment, will face top seed Lucas Mazur of France in the final on Sunday.

"History under making! Suhas L Y, IAS, DM GB Nagar (Noida), UP, India in Men's singles para-badminton SL4 finals. He beats Indonesia's S Freddy 2-0 in semifinals. Now will be playing for Gold on September 5," the IAS Association, a group of serving and retired administrative officers, tweeted.

With the Karnataka-born engineer graduate making it to the final at the showpiece, internet users have been rallying support for him by trending the hashtag #Cheer4Suhas on social media platforms.

Sports Minister felicitates Mariyappan



New Delhi: Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Saturday felicitated Tokyo Paralympics Silver medalist high jumper Mariyappan Thangavelu, who was disappointed at not winning a Gold.

Mariyappan, who won a Gold in 2016 Rio Paralympics, bagged a Silver this time around in T42 category with

a best jump of 1.86m.

"Mariyappan has made the country proud with his performance in Rio and now in Tokyo. I congratulate him and take this occasion to congratulate all our para athletes for their fantastic performance," Thakur said in a statement.

Mariyappan, on his part,

Avani to be India's flag-bearer at closing ceremony

Tokyo: Shooter Avani Lekhara will be the flag bearer of country's contingent during the closing ceremony of the Tokyo Paralympics on Sunday.

The 19-year-old trailblazer Lekhara had won a Gold in R-2 women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1 event on Monday before claiming the 50m Rifle 3 Position SH1 Bronze on Friday.

"Avani will be the flag bearer and there will be 11 participants from the Indian contingent during the closing ceremony," an official of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) said. PTI

said: "I had expected to win a Gold for India but due to the weather conditions on the day of the event, I could not fulfil that dream. I am confident that in Paris I will win a gold for the country again."



Amit Shah felicitates Mirabai Chanu on Saturday

@AmitShah

Don't be content with Silver medal, aim for Gold next time: Shah to Mirabai

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday felicitated Olympic medalist Mirabai Chanu for bringing laurels to the country in weightlifting and exhorted her not to be content with the Silver medal and to aim for Gold next time.

The 27-year-old sportsperson, appointed as an additional superintendent of police in her home state Manipur after the recent win at the summer games, was honoured during the 51st Raising Day celebrations of the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), a central Government think tank.

Shah presented the athlete with a shawl and memento.

He said Chanu brought honour for the country by winning a medal at the Tokyo Olympic games and is now a proud member of the police force.

"I thank her for her hard work and dedication," the home minister added.

"When I met her on the stage to honour her, I wished her success. Everyone, from the Prime Minister of the country to the common man, has applauded her and rejoiced in her victory."

"I want to tell her that she

should not be content with a Silver medal but should now aim for a Gold. The entire country is waiting for it," Shah said.

He acknowledged the "struggles" undertaken by Chanu mentioning that she used to take "lift" in trucks to reach the place where she trained.

Shah said much more needed to be done for athletes in terms of providing them facilities.

The BPR&D had earlier said that this honour for the Olympic winner was "a small gesture to welcome her to the fraternity on behalf of the Indian police."

Chanu had clinched a silver medal in the 49kg category weightlifting that opened India's account at the recently-concluded Tokyo Olympics. India won a total of seven medals at these games.

The home minister also gave away trophies and medals for excellence in training to winner states/union territories and central police organisations and forces, and seven authors who wrote on policing subjects in Hindi.

The BPR&D, an organisation under the Ministry of Home Affairs, was founded in August 1970.

Teens shock Osaka, Tsitsipas at US Open

AFP ■ NEW YORK

Defending champion Naomi Osaka and Greek third seed Stefanos Tsitsipas were both ousted from the US Open by 18-year-olds in epic stunners on Friday at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Four-time Grand Slam champion Osaka was shocked by Canadian left-hander Leylah Fernandez 5-7, 7-6 (7/2), 6-4 after Spain's Carlos Alcaraz upset French Open runner-up Tsitsipas 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (7/2), 0-6, 7-6 (7/5).

"Honestly the Alcaraz match gave me motivation and gave me the energy to do the same," Fernandez said. "I saw his match and I saw the way he won and I'm like 'I'm going to do that next now'."

Shock followed shock as defending champion Osaka, in a tearful news conference after the loss, announced she was taking a break from playing tennis.

"I honestly don't know when I'm going to play my next tennis match," Osaka said, wiping away tears. "I think I'm going to take a break from playing for a while."

Osaka, who had won her prior 16



Grand Slam matches, was foiled in a bid for her third US Open crown in four years and the first back-to-back titles since Serena Williams in 2014.

Alcaraz is the youngest man in the US Open fourth round since 17-year-old American Michael Chang in 1989 and at any Slam since Ukraine's Andrei Medvedev in the 1992 French Open.

"Incredible. Incredible feeling for me," Alcaraz said. "This victory means a lot to me. It's the best match of my career, the best win."

"To beat Stefanos Tsitsipas is a dream come true and to win here is even more special for me."

Osaka had a major meltdown on court during the final moments of the second set after she was unable to hold



serve for the victory.

"From the very beginning, right before the match, I knew I was able to win," Fernandez said. "Thanks to New York fans. They helped me get the win."

Osaka, who hadn't played since Monday thanks to a second-round walkover, took the first set in 37 minutes on her sixth ace.

But Osaka was broken in the 12th game of the second set, an errant forehand sending her to a tie-breaker.

That began a sequence of repeated racquet smashing by Osaka as she was humbled in the tie-break to force a third set.

Fernandez, who turns 19 on Monday, hit a forehand winner to break Osaka to start the third set. Osaka saved two break points to

hold in the third game and from there both held to the finish, which came after two hours and four minutes, sending Fernandez against German 16th seed Angelique Kerber in her first Grand Slam fourth round appearance.

Fernandez, who won her first WTA title in March at Monterrey, had never beaten so high-ranked a rival as third-rated Osaka and the same was true for Alcaraz when he sent home the men's world number three.

'IT'S KIND OF BITTER'

Alcaraz became the youngest man to beat a top-3 player at the US Open since the rankings began in 1973.

World number 55 Alcaraz next faces 141st-ranked German qualifier Peter Gojowczyk, who ousted Swiss Henri Laaksonen 3-6, 6-3, 6-1, 6-4.

Alcaraz won his first ATP title at Umag in July, becoming the tour's youngest champion since 18-year-old Kei Nishikori in 2008 at Delray Beach.

Russian second seed Daniil Medvedev, the 2019 US Open and 2021 Australian Open runner-up, beat Spain's 74th-ranked Pablo Andujar 6-0, 6-4, 6-3. He's next face British 24th seed Daniel Evans.

INDIA'S DAY OF BATTING DOMINANCE

Rohit scores first overseas ton to set up an engrossing fourth day

PTI ■ LONDON

A determined Rohit Sharma showed exceptionally steely temperament to score the eighth and most significant century of his Test career that propelled India to a fighting position with an overall lead of 171 runs after third day's play in the fourth Test against England here at the Oval on Saturday.

Having displayed incredibly gorgeous defensive technique throughout the series with unflinching determination, the innings of 127 (256 balls) in India's day-end score of 270 for 3 was the culmination of all the hardwork put in over the past two years.

The 153-run second wicket stand with a confident Cheteshwar Pujara (61 off 127 balls) had put India in a position of command at 236 for 1 before Ollie Robinson (21-4-67-2) got quick breakthroughs with the second new ball saw to sent packing two set batsmen.

While Rohit misjudged a slower delivery as he couldn't keep his pull shot down, Robinson bowled an in-cutter that took the inside edge off Pujara's bat into the pads and flew towards slip for an easy catch.

At stumps, Indian captain Virat Kohli (22 batting) looked in good nick in the company of Ravindra Jadeja (9 batting), who was once again promoted ahead of Ajinkya Rahane.

The Test may not go the distance but what one can surely guarantee is an engrossing fourth day, thanks to Rohit's superlative knock. Any target in excess of 225 and closer to 250 will be challenging on this track and especially with a batting line-up where Joe Root is the only consistent performer.

One of the more elegant among modern day batsmen, Rohit during the series curbed all his ego to present a solid defence but brought his 'Hit-



BEST OPENING PARTNERS IN ENG SINCE 1999

Partners	Year	I	Runs	AVG	HS	Balls
Herschelle Gibbs/Graeme Smith (S.A)	2003	9	677	75.22	338	1013
Lokesh Rahul/Rohit Sharma (India)	2021	8	421	52.62	126	985
Neil McKenzie/Graeme Smith (S.A)	2008	8	415	59.28	204	894
Andrew Strauss/M Trescothick (Eng) v Aus	2005	10	538	53.80	112	824
Matthew Hayden/Justin Langer (Aus)	2005	10	442	49.11	185	783

Faisal Features

4th Test, Day 4
Live from 3:30pm IST
SONY SIX NETWORK

Man's instincts to the fore with a straight six off Moeen Ali that hit the second tier of the Oval stands en route his hundred.

An ecstatic captain Virat Kohli punching his fists and serene smile that refused to leave head coach Ravi Shastri's lips said it all.

He is one of the most loved men in that Indian dressing room and this hundred which belonged more to the team than Rohit himself will remain a popular milestone in terms of importance quotient.

It took eight years and 43 Test matches to get an overseas hundred and that too in England in tough conditions, and there won't be any second guess about where this knock of Rohit will rank among his eight tons.

There was a lot of restraint at the start when KL Rahul (46) was attacking the bowlers but in between a straight drive at the onset and the first cover drive was brought out of the closet only at the end of second hour when James Anderson (23-8-49-1) over-pitched one.

Rohit did offer a couple of streaky chances that Rory Burns at slip failed to capitalise on that uppish on-drive that caught Chris Woakes stationed at mid-on went on the wrong foot.

However, Pujara should not be denied his share of credit as his counter-attacking batting did help Rohit to play his shots.

The square cut that had gone extinct from his game of late was back on the day as he looked the vintage Pujara, who would rock back and play those regal shots including a late cut and a ramp shot which brought thunderous applause from the majority of spectators.

In all, he hit nine fours and the pull-shot off Moeen Ali that got India the lead was a statement for one and all.

Rohit also played some cracking sweep shots after getting into his 80s after leaving the balls admirably during that first session and defending dourly with the bat kept close to his body.

Earlier, Rahul, for good measure, cover drove Robinson for a boundary and then hooked him for a six. But there was some anxious moments as Robinson got one to angle in and the on-field umpire ruled him leg before only to be successfully reviewed by the batsman.

Once Rahul was out, Anderson provided Rohit with an over-pitched delivery that was dispatched through the cover region and also pulled Craig Overton for another four.

On either side of that boundary, Pujara hit an off-drive and square cut off Robinson and Overton respectively. In the second session which went wicket-less for England, Rohit and Pujara added insult to the injury with their critically acclaimed performances.

'When I was asked to open in 2019, I knew it was my last opportunity in Tests'

PTI ■ LONDON

Rohit Sharma on Saturday admitted that deciding to open in Test matches back in 2019 was one of his biggest decisions he took as a cricketer because he knew that it was going to be his "last chance" in red ball cricket.

Rohit on Saturday scored a near chanceless 127, his first overseas hundred that put India in a good position against England in the fourth Test.

Asked if giving the green light to the team management about batting at the top of the order was the biggest risk that he took, the elegant Mumbaiaiker nodded in approval.

"You could say so in the hindsight," Rohit said at the end of the third day's play.

"In the back of my mind, I knew this was my last chance as well trying another position in the batting order," he said after scoring his eighth Test hundred and fifth as an opener.

"When the offer came to me, I was very much aware of it as there were talks within the management about opening the innings at some stage. Mentally, I was ready to take up the challenge and see how I can do well up the order," he said.

He was aware that there won't be too many chances as his stint as a middle-order batter didn't go exactly well.

"I know I batted in middle order and things didn't go as per the way I wanted it to and I knew this was my last opportunity to try out and you know management is thinking whatever I want to try," he stated.

However sport is about taking chances that comes one's way.

"When you are playing the sport, you always have to take those chances and you always have to take those risks and so you could say I was ready for it and didn't come to me as a surprise. You can say it would have been my last opportunity if I

wouldn't have succeeded. Anything could have happened," said Rohit, who was very straight forward in his admission.

He did say that the team management had told him that he will get a long rope.

"That (about it being his last opportunity) was my feeling. I don't know about others because the team management told me that I will have a long run. But I wanted to think in a way that this is it. I have to make good use of the opportunity and for that I have to do whatever it takes," he said.

For Rohit, it is all about ticking the small boxes in pursuit of the bigger picture.

"I don't mind looking ugly at times as long as I can get the job done for the team. That is very crucial."

LACK OF SWING

"Lack of swing from the duke ball surprised us," said England assistant coach Paul Collingwood as India put themselves in the driver's seat after day three of the fourth and penultimate Test here on Saturday.

The match saw 13 wickets falling on day one with India getting all out for 191, but the conditions seemed to have improved for batting thereafter as England bowlers capped a frustrating day, managing just three wickets on Saturday.

"I thought we were very disciplined and stuck to task all day. But one thing that surprised us was the lack of swing from the duke ball," the former England captain told reporters in a virtual interaction after the day's proceedings.

"We all know once there's some movement in the air, and the wicket with some carry it would trouble the Indian batsmen. So we were pretty surprised and could not get the swing. We tried everything with it, changing the shining side but could not get movement," he rued.

Max takes pole for Netherlands GP

AP ■ ZANDVOORT

Dutch driver Max Verstappen sent his Orange Army of fans into raptures after taking a brilliant pole position for the Netherlands Grand Prix on Sunday.

The Red Bull driver's final lap was just good enough to beat Mercedes star Lewis Hamilton by .04 seconds and his teammate Valtteri Bottas by .034.

Verstappen's orange-clad fans stood and roared on Saturday when he went past the main grandstand area and sealed his season-leading seventh pole of the season — four more than F1 record holder Hamilton.

"Unbelievable, we were just flying today," Verstappen said. "It's an amazing feeling to get pole position here. The crowd is incredible."

Verstappen led Bottas by .3 seconds and Hamilton

by .35 after their first runs. They all improved on their second stints and Verstappen did enough for his 10th career pole.

"Pole position, home Grand Prix," Red Bull team principal Christian Horner said after Verstappen's sixth pole in the past seven races.



Covid +ve Raikkonen out

Zandvoort: Finnish driver Kimi Raikkonen has tested positive for Covid-19 and will miss this weekend's Dutch Grand Prix, his Alfa Romeo team and the race organisers announced on Saturday.

The 2007 world champion, 41, who is retiring from Formula One at the end of the

season, will be replaced in Zandvoort by Alfa Romeo's reserve driver Robert Kubica.

Polish driver Kubica, 36, won the Canadian Grand Prix in 2008 but his career was severely hampered following a crash during the Andorra Rally in 2011 in which his right forearm was partially severed.

high-banking corners.

Having jeered Hamilton at the previous three races after he sent Verstappen crashing out of the British GP with a risky overtaking move, the Dutch fans seemed to finally have gotten over it and clapped him after he spoke.

The race returned to the Netherlands for the first time since 1985, when Zandvoort last hosted the race.

About 65,000 fans packed into stands that were at 67% capacity because of coronavirus restrictions. All had to show a corona pass to get in.

Puducherry ropes in Tait as bowling coach

PTI ■ PUDUCHERRY

Former Australia pacer Shaun Tait has been roped in as the bowling coach of the Puducherry cricket team, sources in the Cricket Association of Pondicherry (CAP) said on Saturday.

Tait joins a coaching team that includes head coach Dhanraj Yagnik and manager and strength and conditioning coach Kalpendra Jha, the sources said.

The former Australia player had recently been appointed bowling coach of the Afghanistan team for a period of five months.

However, the uncertainty in Afghanistan following the takeover of the country by Taliban has raised doubts over his stint there.

CAP sources said Tait could join the Puducherry team later this month.

Tait is also expected to mentor the pace bowlers at the CAP academy in Puducherry, the sources added.

Southgate hails 'mature' Eng duo over racism reaction

AFP ■ LONDON

Gareth Southgate has saluted England duo Raheem Sterling and Jude Bellingham for the "incredibly mature" way they handled racist abuse from Hungary fans.

Sterling and Bellingham were subjected to vile monkey chants during England's 4-0 victory in a World Cup qualifier in Budapest on Thursday.

England players were also pelted with cups thrown from the hostile Puskas Arena crowd, with many Hungary fans also booing Southgate's team when they took the knee before kick-off to show support for equality. Southgate was impressed with the cool response from Sterling, who scored England's opening goal against the Hungarians, and midfielder Bellingham.

"Unfortunately, I don't know how many camps in the last four years but I seem to have been talking about this subject almost



every time we have been together," Southgate told reporters on Saturday.

"I can only reiterate that our players are incredibly mature in the way they deal with it. I think they feel supported by their team-mates, which is very important to them."

"I think their team-mates recognise how challenging it must be for our black players and how disappointing it is in the modern world that we con-

tinue to have to answer these questions because of the incidents that happen."

"But we can only keep taking the stance that we have done and hope that we continue to send the right messages, not only to people in football but across society, and that everybody keeps progressing."

"We know it's going to take time and we know that feels very slow for everybody, but we have to keep fighting that battle."

India look to raise level vs Nepal



PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Held by a lowly Nepal in their last match, the Indian men's football team would settle for nothing less than a victory in the second international friendly against the Himalayan nation here on Sunday.

Worse, Indian football team is not at all happy with the training facilities provided by the host country.

At 105, India are ranked much above the 171st placed Nepal in the FIFA rankings, but still then the Sunil Chhetri-led side produced a below-par show in the first match to be held to a 1-1 draw on Thursday.

In the last match, substitute Anirudh Thapa came in as saviour for the visitors as found the equaliser in the 60th minute after Nepal grabbed the lead through Anjan Bista in the 36th minute.

But come Sunday, India will have to raise their game by leaps and bounds to outwit a determined Nepal, who will be brimming with confidence following the last match result.

The friendlies are being organised as part of preparations for next month's SAFF Championships in Maldives.

The five-team SAFF Championships will be held from October 3 to October 13 at the National Stadium in Male. India head coach Igor Stimac was not happy with the performance but hoped for a better show from his wards on Sunday.

"The mood is positive and our boys are aware that they can do much better. Of course, we are still short with the energy level because we are just at the end of the second week of preparation, and the legs are still heavy. But, they are looking forward to put in a better performance," he said.

"We are going to change a few things, and see if that can help us in terms of passing with more confidence, and getting forward easier."

Hassan runs 5th-fastest mile ever

AP ■ BRUSSELS

Two-time Olympic champion Sifan Hassan ran the fifth-fastest women's mile ever, clocking 4 minutes, 14.74 seconds at the Memorial Van Damme meeting.

Hassan set off on pace to beat her own world record but could not maintain it at the end of a grueling season where she took Gold in Tokyo over 5,000 and 10,000 meters and Bronze in the 1,500.

"It is a beautiful time," the Dutch track star said.

"After Tokyo I was so tired so I just wanted to run the short distance."

Hassan now has three of the five fastest mile times in history, including the 4:12.33 world record she set two years ago in Monaco.

In yet another tilt at his own pole vault world record, Olympic champion Armand Duplantis came up just short in three attempts to clear 6.19 meters.

Duplantis was still in action fully 30 minutes after the rest of the track and field program had finished in the next-to-last Diamond League meeting in Europe.

The 21-year-old United States-born Swede took the win in a meet



record of 6.05, three centimeters higher than his winning clearance in Tokyo.

Fred Kerley, the Olympic Silver medalist in the men's 100, led an American 1-2-3 to win in 9.94 seconds, ahead of Trayvon Bromell and Michael Norman.

Olympic Silver medallist Christine Mboma won the women's 200 in 21.84 seconds, just 0.03 outside the world junior record the 18-

year-old from Namibia set in the final in Tokyo.

With Hassan skipping the 5,000, victory went to Francine Niyonsaba in a personal best time of 14:25.34 that was also a Burundi national record.

The three-way rivalry in women's high jump saw Olympic Bronze medallist Yaroslava Mahuchikh win this time at 2.02 meters.

Mandzukic retires from football

AFP ■ ZAGREB

Iconic Croatian striker Mario Mandzukic, who scored the winning goal against England in the semi-finals of the World Cup in 2018, has retired from the game, three years after playing his last international.

The 35-year-old announced his decision in a post on Instagram, which included a photo of a pair of boots, on Friday night.

"While you put on these boots for the first time, you can't even imagine what you will get to experience in football," he wrote in a message in English addressed to his young self, "Dear little Mario," and signed "Your big Mario."

"You'll recognize the moment to retire, to put these boots in a cabinet and you'll have no regrets."

Mandzukic appeared 89 times for Croatia scoring 33 goals, he also played Bayern Munich, Atletico Madrid and Juventus and appeared 11 times this year for AC Milan. Plagued by injury he was used mostly as a substitute and did not score a goal.

He won the Croatian league three times with Dinamo Zagreb, the Bundesliga, twice, and the Champions League at Bayern, and Serie A four times at Juventus.



talktime

KUSHAL SRIVASTAVA

Air Force officer-turned-bollywood filmmaker, KUSHAL SRIVASTAVA best known for his debut directorial film *Vodka Diaries* talks to Shalini Saksena about his directorial short film *Speed Dial* and upcoming feature film *Golden Arrows*, a biopic on Wing Commander Birender Singh Dhanoa



‘NOTHING IS DIFFICULT IF YOU ARE PREPARED’

What is Speed Dial about?

It is a comedy short film featuring Shreyas Talpade and Aksha Pardasany. It is a 20-minute-long film released and presented by 8 PM Premium Black Music CDs' official youtube channel. During these tough times, especially since COVID hit us, one can only hope to look around and find that glimmer of magic. That is how I came up with this concept of a magical mobile phone and each call made from this phone would be an answer to all your prayers. The story revolves around Kabir (Shreyas) who chanced upon one such magical phone.

What made you do this film?

I was approached by 8 PM Premium Black to make a series of short films. I was excited about it as it will give me opportunities to try different genres too. My two previous short films were nominated for Filmfare Short Films, which encouraged me to do this one and I am looking forward to more in future.

What inspired you to direct a film on the life of Wing Commander Dhanoa?

I am an Ex-AirForce myself. I joined right after the Kargil War in 1999 and served there for seven years. The Kargil War had affected me very deeply and I was following it through Doordarshan back then. Dhanoa sir flew at such a high mountainous terrain, where no air force in the world had ever flown at that time. He initiated so many things in that war, portrayed strong brotherhood with his squadron members like Ajay Ahuja, his right hand. To me, Dhanoa sir is a true hero whose journey inspired me to choose this subject.

How tough is it to direct a war film?

One thing I learnt from the Indian Air Force is that nothing is difficult if you are well prepared. I have learnt the craft of filmmaking from Jyoti Prakash Dutta, he is my guru. He is considered as a master of war films in India. So, I have done my homework and am well prepared for it.

I WANT TO TELL THE AUDIENCE THAT NOTHING IS UNACHIEVABLE. ONE OF MY DIALOGUES IN THE FILM IS 'THERE IS NOTHING YOU CANNOT DO IN LIFE.' SO, I THINK THIS FILM WILL MOTIVATE THEM AND WILL GIVE THEM GOOSEBUMPS WHEN THEY SEE THOSE MACHINES ON THE BIG SCREEN



Is there a message for the audience here?

I want to tell the audience that nothing is unachievable. One of my dialogues in the film is 'There is nothing you cannot do in life.' So, I think this film will motivate them and will give them goosebumps when they see those machines on the big screen.

You will direct a war film for the first time. What challenges do you foresee?

You do everything for the first time in life. The Air Force has been a small part of war films, fighter jets were just merely used as showpieces or in a very small role, I don't like that. We don't have any video or sound library for this, it's a challenge. You cannot use anything from the library. We have to set a benchmark so that in future, people can follow that benchmark.

Do you think there would be a difference in the work environment?

Everyone on my set is focused on their work and they know what they are doing. The only difference this time would be that we cannot afford even a slight error because you can't ask for a retake when six fighter jets are flying for you in a single shot. What you can do is that you can put more cameras, maybe use four or five cameras to make sure that you get the best and get what you want. In other films, we don't need to worry about retakes.

Having served in the Air Force, how did producing happen?

I was always interested and a part of cultural activities. I used to direct plays in my squadron in the air force and wanted to create my own stories. While I was posted in Hyderabad, my uncle, comedian Raju Srivastava used to shoot his films there and I got very attracted. I got inspired by the medium of filmmaking post which I left the Indian Air Force and came to Mumbai and joined Dutta.

Advice for budding directors?

I will just say that be honest to your job. Follow your instinct and don't listen to anyone, don't get influenced by others. Write stories about what you want to say and whatever appeals to you. Be genuine and honest to your craft and you will excel one day for sure.

Bolly World

Shehnaaz Gill breaks down

One of the lasting images of the last rites of Sidharth Shukla at the Oshiwara crematorium here on Friday was the late TV star's 'special friend' Shehnaaz Gill breaking down inconsolably as she arrived with her brother Shehzaad to pay her last respects to the man with whom she shared incredible chemistry. Famous among their fans as 'SidNaaz' (the hashtag had been trending much before the actor's untimely death), the two visibly shared a cordial bond, and when she was on 'Big Boss 13', Shehnaaz would off and on verbalise her feelings for Sidharth.



Madhab dons producer's hat

Producer-director Nila Madhab Panda, who is a multiple National Award winner and a Padma Shri awardee, is now donning the producer's hat for his next venture *Bishwa*, with his long-time associate and debutant director Anuj Tyagi. The film features Vinay Pathak, Yagya Bhasin, Sharib Hashmi, and National Award-winning actress Usha Jadhav in pivotal roles. Nila started his celluloid journey with the acclaimed *I Am Kalam* that won him 34 international awards and a national award. His subsequent work focused equally on environmental as well as children's issues. He is excited to steer another project that has a child as a central character.



Bishwa is based on the life of a blind boy and how he emerges as a hero in a village near the mesmerising Chilika lake. It was shot entirely in Odisha, right before the lockdown started. Nila, who is born and brought up in Odisha has always shown his love for Odisha through his films.

With restrictions easing and films now releasing in theatres, the newly revamped PVR Priya in its new avatar — first P[XL] format, the state-of-the-art premium giant-screen format, — is all set to wow movie buffs, says SUPRIYA RAMESH



TIME FOR XL VIEWING

The present pandemic has taken its toll on the entertainment industry and with cinema halls shut for the last one-and-a-half years, the theatres in the country were losing out. But now, with dwindling COVID-19 cases, films are now releasing in theatres. The good news is that Bell Bottom that released in cinema halls on August 19, 2021 has garnered over ₹40 crore. This is good news for theatre owners.

It is perhaps this reason that PVR Priya that needed a redo timed this perfectly. The complex has been brought to life once again by enhancing public safety, building edges with adequate lighting infrastructure, upgradation of flooring and paving to improve accessibility in the focus zones, augmentation and activation of the public realms like parks and plaza, piped music installation of appropriate street furniture — benches, waste bins, signage and organisation of informal retail and vendors on-site to achieve an inclusive growth ecosystem for all.

The transformation of Vasant

Vihar's Basant Lok Complex has been done under the Urban Placemaking initiative to enhance public safety, create multiple activity spaces and achieve a clean, green and healthy urban environment. It is a hangout spot for youngsters, one of the most visited destinations in Delhi and is used for a premium shopping experience. A hub, which gives food and fashion bloggers ample stories as it is home to some of the most liked cafes and restaurants.

Regular visitors to the complex will tell you that the new look was not what the complex was seven years. Back then, there were no proper pavements, CCTV cameras and lights. The absence of basic public amenities and collapsing infrastructure had turned into an unsafe zone for pedestrians, especially women and children to access, even during broad daylight. And due to insufficient lighting, this zone became a safe space for many anti-social activities.

Going for movies aren't just confined to theatres. People enjoy discussing, laughing and crying while they recollect their favourite or hated scenes,



BEFORE



AFTER

dialogues, songs and stars from the movie even outside the hall. One agrees with the other while another disagrees, lovers recall all the lovely moments as they take a walk together sipping tea, friends argue over what could have been the perfect climax while chilling at cafes and lounges and shopaholics go on to find that ditto dress the star wore.

"When people go out, they want to spend some time discussing the movie or getting into the mood of the movie. Keeping that in mind, there are lounges

being made, cafes are being planned and that's one of the reasons why we looked at so much around spaces of Priya because there's no point just making a great cinema when in and around it is just a bad experience," Gautam Dutta, PVR CEO, says.

The giant screen alone does not make up for a great movie, it is the great content and technology that boosts the viewer's experience. By redefining Priya, New Delhi has got its first P[XL] format and India's first state-of-the-art premium giant-screen format.

"Multiplex is an embodiment of many things coming together. If I say technology, it further gets divided into projection, sound, seating and comfort," Dutta tells you.

Hospitality has no boundaries and cheering up is no more restricted to just birthdays and events. "We worked a lot on learning hospitality. Staff members have been trained to talk to consumers. Earlier, they used to just serve quietly. Now, it's all about having conversations. Our cinema manager introduces a film now, it's a new thing that we've started to do. Before the film starts, he comes and introduces himself and talks about it," he explains.

Unlike IMAX, which supports its own content and not every film can be played on its screen, P[XL] can play all the content by amplifying the film in the greatest format. "The IMAX is a very niche, very focused and fantastic technology, but needs its own content. In the whole year, you may just get about 20 to 30 movies that are IMAX coded. We really love IMAX and we support it. On the other hand, in the new format, we get the width of playing everything. It supports all regional content, all Hindi content. When you watch a *Bell Bottom* or a *Chehre*, it looks grand," Dutta claims. He shares an interesting anecdote.

"Did you know why cinema halls are always put on the higher floor in a mall, he asks? "Cinemas are the foot-fall drivers, not only do people come but while they are moving up, they shop. They are called anchor tenants and we are the anchor tenant for Basant Lok community centre. In one show, we can get as many as 300 people and every time 300 people come, they will buy something, they will eat something," Dutta says.

To ensure consumer's safety, PVR Priya has gone beyond the Government-laid COVID protocols. By blocking every alternate seat with a not-to-be-occupied tape, they have also put in a negative ion technology that purifies the air. Making sure that people consume the right and fresh food, it will be sterilised before it is given to the consumer. "These are not protocols laid down by the Government but we've done it because we want consumers to be safe. Our staff is all 100 per cent vaccinated," Dutta says.

Masterstroke

Prepping your skin well before a party will make your skin look healthier regardless. One can start with exfoliation and then using a few ice cubes on the face which helps in tightening the pores. Using a toner is a must after this step followed by a face oil/cream and a lip balm.



Always remember — less is more! Avoid layering your face with heavy concealers and foundations. Go for sheer coverage which will brighten your face, and let your natural skin texture show. It's possible to pull off a strong eye and lip at the same time, but to keep the look balanced and easy to carry. Fake a glow by applying a powder highlighter.. Use waterproof makeup. Use a long-lasting lipcolour. Ensure to set your makeup with a setting spray.

— Courtesy Damini Chaturvedi, make-up artist

NatureTalk

English Ivy looks pretty with its triangular leaves and if they are variegated its even prettier. The best part about this plant is that it is easy to take care of. It does require to be fertilised every month in spring, summer and fall. If you have the variegated variety low sunlight will reduce the variegation.



Most cultivars of ivy grow best in bright light, but not direct sun. They tolerate low to medium light.

The plant needs somewhat dry soil so check before you water. But in Indian climate it may need more watering three-four days instead of six-seven. Ensure that the pot is well-drained.

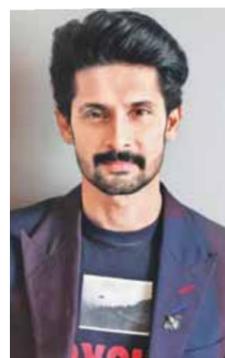
RAVI DUBEY, who has completed 16 years in the industry, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about how and why he turned a producer among other things

'I had one desire, to be in front of camera'

You are the first TV artist to get invited by A UN backed Institute. How was the experience of meeting Shashi Tharoor and Suresh Prabhu? It was absolutely phenomenal. We were engaged in a panel discussion and there was nothing more enlightening than being in the company of people like Shashi ji and Suresh Prabhuj. Another very beautiful experience of that day was that I got a chance to meet General VP Malik, who was the Chief of Army Staff during Operation Vijay, Chief Air Marshal PV Naik and Admiral RK Dhowan, who joined virtually. These are some dignitaries and luminaries from the facets of our country. You can very well imagine the responsibility on their shoulders and the experiences that I may have got out of them. I will cherish that morning forever.

How has the journey been so far? It has been fantastic. I am fortunate to have been in the industry for 16 years and that number is only going to go higher and higher in the subsequent years. This industry has given me everything, it has given me a great audience and hundreds and thousands of fans. The industry has supported me at all times, has given me an opportunity to come in front of the camera and to stay behind the camera, to be an actor, to be a storyteller and be a producer now. I owe everything to this industry and I am full of gratitude.

What made you become a producer? For me and Sargun, it was an organic diversification. We have spent a huge amount of time in the industry and we always intended to produce content. The fact that Udaariyaan is doing so well is



a real pat on the back for us and it encourages us to move forward with all that we have got.

Is the transition tough — from an actor to a producer? What is not tough in that sense? Everything has its challenges but those challenges, they only give you a fantastic

skill set to counter other challenges that might come in the future with greater efficiency. So, it's a beautiful transition and as the challenges are also beautiful, we have embraced every aspect of it, we have embraced the challenges and we are embracing the victory as well.

How did you get into acting? I always wanted to be an actor, that's the one solitary desire that I've had — to be in front of the camera and to enjoy and be known as an actor. This intention somehow found its way through and got me literally in front of the camera.

What are your upcoming projects? There are many as producers and as an actor, but unfortunately, I'm not at liberty to talk about it at present. By next fortnight we will be talking about one of the projects.

Sound of music



Music is the best medicine. Here are the top 10 songs of the week that will lift up your weekend mood

BOLLYWOOD VIBES

- Har Funn Maula (Vishal Dadlani, Zara Khan)
- Barood Wargi (Simiran Kaur Dhadli)
- Tera Suit (Tony Kakkar)
- Saiyan Ji (Honey Singh)
- Is Qadar (Tulsi Kumar, Darshan Raval)

ENGLISH VINGLISH

- I Don't (Johnny Orlando, DVBBS)
- How I Came (Li 9)
- Closer (The Keymakers)
- Bikes (Josefine)
- Sacrifice (Bebe Rexha)

I think that an actor is more likely to be forgiven in the public's eye than an actress
— Mila Kunis



FROM THE INSIDE

Shelter for all?

Regressive policies & an over-inflated real estate market have made residential rentals an unviable proposition for businesses in India

2



4

Astrology helps decode traits

Identify, acknowledge and address your limitations of mind, through fresh educative inputs

THE AMERICAN EXIT FROM AFGHANISTAN & THE INDIAN CONUNDRUM

While bilateral exigencies demand diplomatic attention, it is essential for India to support Afghanistan as its strategic & developmental partner, writes CHAYANIKA SAXENA

"Afghanistan finds itself at the crossroads once again".

In the last twenty years that the US has waged its war on terror in Afghanistan, this statement was written at least a hundred times over. However, the sheer frequency of its utterance did not necessarily signal that swift changes were occurring on the Afghan landscape. Contrarily, it demonstrated how little things had changed on the ground, so much so that this rhetoric became a stubborn editorial refrain. Today, the situation in Afghanistan reminds us more of the same. In fact, with the complete takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban, life has come a full circle for millions of Afghans.

On the 15th of August 2021, as India marked its 75th Independence Day, a quiet Sunday became extraordinarily eventful courtesy of Kabul's easy and swift capitulation to the Taliban. Sitting in New Delhi, it was both shocking and tragic for me to witness the "imminent and inevitable" takeover of Afghanistan become a reality for this nebulous nation-state, expelling lakhs of people into spontaneous camps scattered across Kabul. But for all the safety they thought they might find in the national capital, it soon disappeared without a trace. The dissolution of defence and the infamous flight of Afghanistan's political class, allegedly with a chopper full of cash, allowed the Taliban to walk into Kabul without firing a shot.

In what has been described as a "bloodless" takeover, the supposed victory of the Taliban revealed just about how shambolic the Afghan institutions were. Having spent trillions of dollars in trying to build a nation out of Afghanistan, most of the international stakeholders, including the United States, picked up their bags and left as if they had never marched into this country in the first place. While some departed onboard chinooks, others negotiated to stay back only to force Afghanistan into another chaos that resembles its unenviable past.

THE AMERICAN MISADVENTURE IN AFGHANISTAN

In a misplaced, misdirected war that lasted twenty years, the American invasion of Afghanistan did little to create robust institutions that could have sustained the momentum of nation and state-building in this war-torn country. Instead, the once-blue-eyed boy of the West, and the (co) author of what could have been a prophetic book called *Fixing Failed States*, Ashraf Ghani, left behind a legacy of debilitation, destruction and depletion of morale that would affect generations of Afghans to come. In a cruel twist of fate, much of which was manufactured by Western nonchalance, the situation in Afghanistan is back to square one. Or, perhaps even worse. The gun-toting members of the Taliban are roaming the streets of major Afghan cities, breaking into jails and even go-karting while 98 nations, including many Western countries, negotiate with them to allow their citizens and "Afghans with authorised travel documents" a safe exit out of Afghanistan. But where it is one thing to negotiate for a harmless exit, it is another to reconcile with an emergent reality in which the Taliban will get to call the shots.

The so-called military victory of the Taliban was metamorphosed into a political victory for it owing to the tone-deafness of the international stakeholders who just wanted out of an imbroglia they birthed. Right from the



time of the so-called Afghan Jihad against the USSR in the 1980s to the present-day situation in which the writ of the Taliban runs large, the international powers have been complicit in manufacturing the 'mess' we are witnessing in Afghanistan. The bloody mess outside of the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul where as many as 170 Afghans and 13 American soldiers were killed in a suicide attack executed by the Islamic State of Khorasan (IS-K). The mess of deprivation and humiliation we see spilling out in the streets of Afghanistan in the shape of famished human bodies of more than 3.5 million internally displaced Afghans.

But while the world exits from Afghanistan, India has not exited the world. On the world's political map, it continues to be there as a South Asian country, even though it might be in the wrong hands. Moreover, its location on the periphery of a region of which India is a part makes it even more critical for New Delhi to assess, analyse and act on the evolving Afghan situation to prevent further implosion. It is not only crucial for India to do so from the perspective of its massive investments in Afghanistan or the country's strategic relevance to India's extra-regional aspirations. It is equally a humanitarian cause for New Delhi to extend a helping hand to a nation of people it has often described as its 'friend'. Yet, the room and time for manoeuvre available to India are only shrinking as another day goes by in sheer uncertainty that seems to have become the by-name of our "contiguous" neighbour. So then, the objective for us must be to evolve and articulate our position on Afghanistan as swiftly and decisively as possible lest we miss the bus again.

THE INDIAN CONUNDRUM

My intention is not to suggest that we show haste in deciding on our stance on Afghanistan. We cannot pull an America on this war-torn nation, especially in the South Asian neighbourhood where each country is tied to the other at the hip for good and bad reasons. Instead, given the irresponsibility

“THE RECENT SPATE OF EVENTS, WHICH AMONGST OTHER THINGS, HAS WITNESSED AN OPENNESS ON INDIA'S PART TO TALK TO THE TALIBAN, HAS DEMONSTRATED NEW DELHI'S KEENNESS ON ADAPTING ITS AFGHAN-CENTRIC POLICIES IN VIEW OF THE EVOLVING SITUATION. HOWEVER, INSTEAD OF BEING (MIS)READ AS A DIPLOMATIC VOLTE-FACE, INDIA'S OUTREACH TO THE TALIBAN IS, IN FACT, AN EXTENSION OF ITS LARGER BILATERAL TEMPLATE IN WHICH INDIA HAS REPEATEDLY MAINTAINED THAT IT SHALL SUPPORT ANY PEACE PROCESS THAT IS "OWNED, CONTROLLED, CONTROLLED AND LED" BY THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN



ble and reckless exit of the US, it has become essential for India to weigh its bilateral and regional concerns vis-a-vis Afghanistan on their merit instead of simply aligning itself with the 'democratic bloc' as some might have suggested. After all, if geography is destiny, we must learn to play by its rules instead of picking up on cues decided elsewhere.

Thus, while it is true that New Delhi has a tricky balancing act ahead of it, particularly as it seeks to establish an equilibrium between its regional aspirations, its responsibilities as a rising power and the geopolitical calculus in the Indo-Pacific, India needs to think and (re)act on Afghanistan in a manner that is not entirely beholden to an extraneous discourse. Instead, its policies and actions must chart an indigenous course, mindful of India's unique spatial, strategic and security concerns vis-a-vis Afghanistan.

As the largest South Asian donor to Afghanistan, India has invested USD 3 billion in developmental projects, ranging from infrastructural offerings (e.g. Salma Dam in Herat province) to human capacity building. Focusing on assisting Afghanistan to transition into a robust nation-state, the Indian investments were primarily concerned with aspects like the rule of law and strengthening of democracy. In fact, as the world's largest democracy, it was only apparent for India to lead by example and offer instructive lessons on democratic governance, federalism, and the like. However, unlike its democratic compatriots in the Western world, India did not export or impose its model of democracy on Afghanistan. It comes as no surprise then that India, according to one Gallup poll conducted in Afghanistan, was described as a country that played the "most positive role" in the rehabilitation of this nebulous nation-state.

However, today, the political landscape of Afghanistan stands in stark contrast to the one that Afghans, and Indians, had once imagined it to be. Despite its apparent pitfalls, the semblance of democracy, republicanism and other ideal political traits have been consigned to the dustbin of histo-

ry. Literally speaking, the Afghanistan of 2021 finds itself in the same position in which it was 'found' in 2001 — under the *de-facto* rule of the Taliban.

While much has been written about the (unfounded) claims of change in the Taliban's outlook vis-a-vis women's rights, inclusive government and so on, it is not hard to see that the so-called Taliban 2.0 and the Taliban of the 1990s are not two different species. It has just become better at image management and PR blitz. That said, it is also unfortunately true that the Taliban is currently the political reality of Afghanistan, which would not disappear even if the world chooses to shut its eyes close to it once again. *Prima facie*, regional powers such as China and Russia appear to have reconciled to the new political arrangement in Afghanistan, wherein dealing with the Taliban is no longer just a strategic necessity but a diplomatic *fait accompli*. India, too is alive to this possibility.

WAYS FORWARD

The recent spate of events, which amongst other things, has witnessed an openness on India's part to talk to the Taliban, has demonstrated New Delhi's keenness on adapting its Afghan-centric policies in view of the evolving situation. However, instead of being (mis)read as a diplomatic volte-face, India's outreach to the Taliban is, in fact, an extension of its larger bilateral template in which India has repeatedly maintained that it shall support any peace process that is "owned, controlled, controlled and led" by the people of Afghanistan. As such, it is critical not to read a riot act against India's attempt to talk to the Taliban for two reasons. One, engagement in and of itself does not amount to recognising the Taliban. Two, this engagement might throw more weight behind the different non-Taliban Afghan constituencies as they deal with this militant organisation. Thus, while it is wise for India not to reveal all its cards yet, it is equally crucial for India to not entirely dismiss the possibility of establishing a direct line of communication with the Taliban for its own sake and

that of Afghans.

The so-called military victory and political takeover of Afghanistan by an insurgent Islamist group are enough to send India's security concerns into a tizzy. The end of the longest and most expensive American expedition in the dead of night, after all, only reinforces the epithet attached to Afghanistan as the 'graveyard of empires'. Moreover, it would not be too misplaced to believe that extremist and insurgent groups worldwide, particularly in South Asia, are celebrating what they believe is a strategic win against an imperial superpower. The Taliban's return to Kabul will likely provide ideological fodder to other radical outfits, including transnational terrorist entities like the Al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS). For that matter, AQIS has since renewed its agenda to debilitate India, demonstrating the same through a conscious renaming of its online mouthpiece to *Nawai Ghazwa-e-Hind* or the new holy war against India.

As things stand today, the immutable presence of the Taliban in Afghanistan is bound to deflect the course of India's policies and actions vis-a-vis this war-torn nation. While these bilateral exigencies demand diplomatic attention, it is equally essential for India to support Afghanistan as its strategic and developmental partner. Its foremost priority must be to ensure the safety and well-being of Afghans who are currently staring at an uncertain future. Moreover, a new generation of Afghans born during the American stint has witnessed freedom, mobility, and a semblance of security to which India had also contributed. As such, it is only incumbent upon us to use a collective moral preference for democracy and development to create a conducive environment in Afghanistan that can anchor the Taliban down to political civility while giving Afghans a reason to repose their faith in us once again.

The writer is a President Graduate Fellow and Final Year PhD Candidate at the Department of Geography, National University of Singapore. Her doctoral research is on Afghan refugees and migrants in New Delhi and Kolkata



CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE EVEREST OF ALL PROBLEMS, THE THORNIEST CHALLENGE FACING HUMANKIND
—LEWIS GORDON PUGH

SHELTER SOLUTIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION MIGRANT LABOUR

Regressive policies and an over-inflated real estate market have made residential rentals an unviable proposition for businesses in India, write DHAVAL MONANI & PRASANNA SRIRAMAN, as they discuss the challenges in the affordable rental housing complex scheme in the first of four part series

SHELTER FOR ALL?

Rental housing is an integral part of a robust housing market. Making rental housing accessible and affordable can facilitate migration-led development and movement of talent across the rural-urban spectrum. Europe sees a healthy inter-country and cross border migration with some of the largest percentages of rental housing with Switzerland leading the way at about 59%.

India has always struggled with providing rental housing solutions to low-income families. Regressive policies and an over-inflated real estate market have made residential rentals an unviable proposition for businesses. A high risk-free rate and high real estate prices reduce the net yield on residential rental to as low as 2-3% across the country as brought out in the Knight Frank-Khaitan & CO report circa 2019. The market relies largely on capital appreciation for returns. The problem is further magnified for the low-income segment as the capital appreciation of such assets is much lower. This leads to higher rental costs making it unaffordable for the urban poor, especially migrants, to find decent homes. As a result, informal settlements and overcrowded accommodation proliferate in cities across the country with millions living in inadequate dwellings.

While the situation has long been dire, the Covid-19 crisis brought these housing inadequacies into focus, with decent shelter coming to the fore in both public health and families' livelihoods. When lockdowns upended the informal economy, workers' need for stable housing, along with job and income loss contributed to the largest reverse migration in decades. Cognisant of the unfolding humanitarian crisis, the Government of India put forward the Affordable Rental Housing Complex (ARHC) scheme.

The scheme aims to increase the supply of affordable rental accommodation in urban and peri-urban areas. It intends to achieve this by focusing on Public-Private-Partnership models, thereby minimising the impact on government finances.

There are two models under the scheme. In the first model, the Urban Local Body provides existing government owned vacant houses to private entities through a concession agreement for 25 years. The



concessionaire is to upgrade, operate and maintain the building during the period while collecting rent.

In the second model, the concessionaire is given incentives to construct and operate ARHCs on its own vacant land as greenfield developments. Greenfield ARHCs are incentivised through 50% higher Floor Space Index and financed at lower interest rates through priority sector lending. Additionally, the concessionaire is allowed to commercially rent a certain portion of the complex to cross-subsidise development.

The scheme marks an important shift in the governments housing policy to rental housing models. However, the adequacy of incentives proposed in the scheme is yet unproven to make ARHCs attractive to investors, developers and businesses.

Let us consider the cost per unit for both models. We consider 150 sq. ft of built-up area per person including common areas, and assume ₹500 per sq. ft as the cost for refurbishment. In the first model, the total cost per person is ₹75,000.

IN ITS CURRENT FORM, THE ARHC SCHEME FAILS TO ACCOUNT FOR THE COST OF IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPLICATIONS ON REQUISITE RETURNS FOR PRIVATE ENTITIES

Assuming ₹60,000 as debt at 10% for a tenure of 10 years, the cost would be ₹1,000 per person per month. We estimate monthly housekeeping at a minimum of ₹1,000 per person. Considering varied occupancy levels and access issues, a private entity would most likely set rental prices at ₹2,500 to ₹3,000 per person. With most migrant workers earning an average monthly income ranging from ₹7,000 to ₹9,000, the expected rent structure would be unaffordable.

In the greenfield model, the concessionaire contributes land in addition to undertaking construction and management of the property. Assuming an FSI cost of ₹500 per sq. ft and construction cost of ₹1,500 per sq. ft - 150 sq. ft of built-up area per person would cost ₹3,00,000. Assuming 80% debt at 10% and 20% equity at 20%, the cost per person would be ₹3,000 per month. Adding maintenance costs of ₹1,000 and a 20% margin, the rental per person works out to ₹5,000 per month. Here we consider 100% occupancy.

If the ULB were to stipulate a rent of ₹1,500 per month and we consider ₹500

per month as a cross-subsidy from the commercial portion, the concessionaire will still incur a loss of ₹3,000 per month or ₹36,000 per person annually. To bridge this gap, a Viability Gap Funding ₹36,000/per year would be needed. This will amount to a VGF funding of ₹36,000 crore annually if the scheme aims to reach 1 crore target beneficiaries. These are important challenges in ARHC as the operator faces poor financial returns and the government faces an enormous subsidy requirement.

In conclusion, the ARHC scheme is an important milestone in India's housing policy that acknowledges the significance of increasing the availability of affordable rental housing for the urban poor and migrants. However, in its current form, it fails to account for the cost of implementation and implications on requisite returns for private entities. The scheme is pragmatic in mandating the local governments to provide the necessary infrastructure, and putting existing property resources — housing stock and land — to greater use, but in allowing local bodies to decide the

rental rates, the scheme falls short of being a more market-based intervention. It also falls short of recognising and fully accounting for the high cost of business in the real estate development sector, variable occupancy levels, location constraints and low cost-to-benefit returns for private entities in an already low rental yield market. When millions of urban poor and migrant labour rely on rental property to fulfil their housing needs, albeit, with fewer choices, it is critical to continue developing comprehensive and effective measures ensuring that they have a decent place to live. The government's increased commitment to supporting and strengthening the housing sector brings significant promise, and we urge the reconsideration of the financial model behind the ARHC scheme to address viability concerns and to achieve intended outcomes.

Monani is Director of Affordable Housing at Anant National University and Sriraman is a Senior Specialist — Market Systems at the Habitat for Humanity's Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter

Update policies to build infrastructure

Climate resilient development requires climate considerations to be mainstreamed into planning. Strategies must be integrated into building bye-laws & national construction codes to ensure large scale adoption, writes RUCHIE KOTHARI

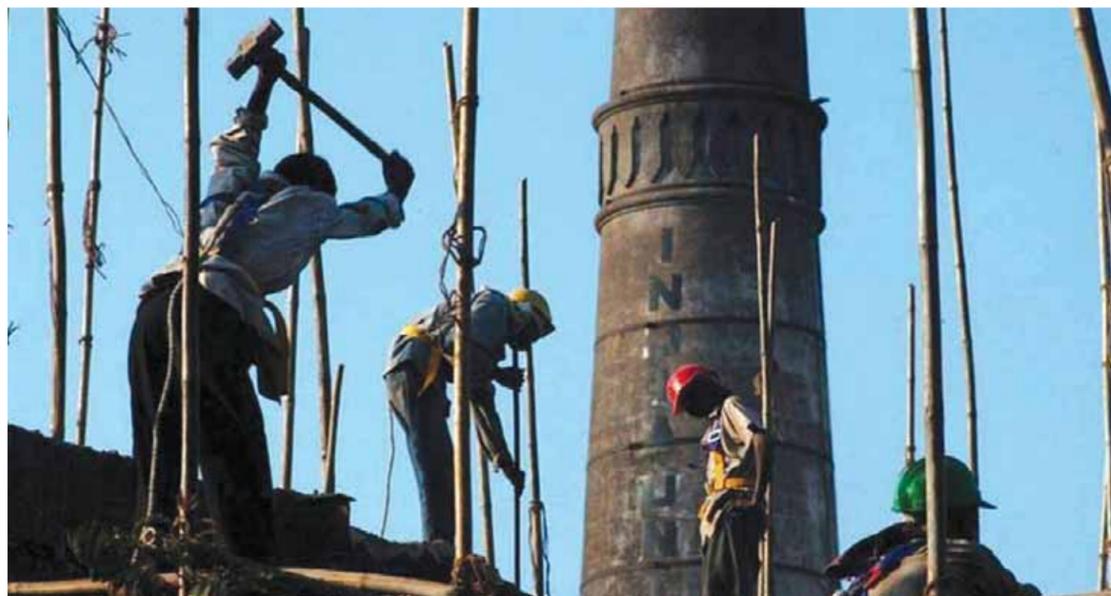
The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate (IPCC) recently released the first part of its sixth assessment report, Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. The IPCC report warns that the global average air temperature may rise by more than 1.5C over pre-industrial levels within the next 20 years. The IPCC report also predicts that India will see a rise in extreme weather events such as floods, cyclones and heatwaves over the years.

Each extreme weather event heavily impacts the infrastructure (public and private) of the country creating stresses for developers and owners alike. Natural disasters cause a loss of 2% of GDP every year in India. An increasing number of extreme events over the last decade has resulted in improvements in disaster response and recovery systems within the country. However, it is equally important to take steps to minimise the effects of disasters before the event occurs. This will reduce our vulnerability to the impact of disasters on property, livelihoods and lives. Introducing climate resilience plans at a local, state and central level is one way of doing this.

Climate resilience is the ability to prepare for, recover from, and adapt to the impacts of climate change events. Climate resilience actions integrate mitigation, disaster risk reduction and management along with climate change adaptation approaches.

Majority of the efforts to address climate change through green buildings is focused on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Measures to reduce GHG emissions associated with energy, transportation, water, waste and construction materials are incorporated in green building rating systems as well as national building codes. These mitigation measures need to be supported with sufficient adaptation measures to ensure that all new construction is resilient to future extreme weather events.

Within the construction industry, designing for resilience will mean that citizens are safer, business operations remain uninterrupted, workplace productivity is maintained, and supply chains are protected. Several frameworks have been established to help practitioners design and build climate resilient infrastructure and buildings. Frameworks such as Envision Sustainable Infrastructure Rating System, the RELi Rating System, Strategies for Multifamily Building Resilience — Enterprise Green Communities etc provide strategies for short-term hazard preparedness, monitoring and maintenance, community engagement, mitigation and long-term adaptability. Similar to green building rating systems, these frameworks include strategies addressing transportation, energy, water, waste, food production, health and diversity. Building rating systems and frameworks have proven to be an



effective way of making a market shift in the way buildings are designed, constructed, operated and maintained. They can be easily adopted by different stakeholders globally and provide policy makers with a collection of actions that can be integrated into building byelaws.

The impacts of climate change must be addressed at a hyper local

level through appropriate actions. For example, Enhancing Resilience in Boston, is a guide to help commercial buildings in Boston adapt to climate risks related to extreme floods. The guide provides 32 strategies to address vulnerabilities unique to Boston including actions to protect against and reduce damage from floods — an extreme weather event that Boston is vul-

nerable to. Similar guides have been prepared for different cities globally based on risk assessment studies.

In India, the 100 Resilient Cities (100R) initiative supported four cities — Surat, Chennai, Pune and Jaipur — to develop a resiliency strategy to help the cities survive, adapt and grow irrespective of the stresses they experience.

Different city level interventions in areas such as institutional development, land use planning, drainage and flood management, emergency response systems, ecosystem strengthening, citizens awareness building and disease surveillance have been initiated that demonstrate practical ways to build resilience of systems, sectors and communities to the effects of cli-

mate change. While vulnerability profiles were prepared for 20 cities across India, it is necessary to prepare similar resiliency plans for all cities across India to help reduce India's vulnerability to climate change events.

Climate resilient development requires climate considerations to be mainstreamed into development planning. Climate resilient strategies must be integrated into building bye-laws and national construction codes to ensure large scale adoption. As India is still building a lot of its basic infrastructure, we have the opportunity to make the infrastructure climate resilient from the out-set.

Interventions in early design and construction phases will reduce additional costs and help us avoid expensive retrofitting later. It will also be necessary to include strategies to re-design and reconstruct existing infrastructure in climate resilience plans to reduce damages in vulnerable regions.

These rating systems, policies and development plans will help provide the necessary know-how to building resilient cities, and need to be supported with appropriate institutional mechanisms. This includes necessary capacity building and training, improving engagement and coordination between all stakeholders, market mobilisation and providing financial support to build climate-proof infrastructure and buildings.

The writer is Anant Fellow for Climate Action

We don't stifle original ideas: Dr Mitra

September 2, 2021, gave me an awful shock that will linger forever. After finishing the editions last night, I had woken up around 9.30 am only to get a vague SMS "My deepest condolences" from an old journalist friend. I thought I would call up the person to know who he was talking about during my morning walk for which I was getting ready. Suddenly the phone rang. It was our photographer, Ranjan Dimri, who asked me "When you are reaching the cremation ground." I was speechless when I enquired who he was speaking about.

A distressing scene conjured up in my mind. My 17-year-long association with my editor, Dr Chandan Mitra, would end so suddenly seemed a nightmare. It was too early for him to leave us forever at just 66. But then death is the only eternal truth. I rushed to the cremation ground to have the last glimpse of the great editor who helped me greatly to groom me. He was the only reason I didn't accept the offer of job from a top national daily on the last day of joining about a decade back. September 2 was filled with vivid memories I kept hugging all the day.

Would an editor-owner of a media organisation ever allow a subordinate journalist to even think of taking a stand (wittingly or unwittingly) contrary to his/her and place it on the record on the same space? It is next to impossible for two basic reasons: First, it is an utter disrespect to the editor and the editorial position to go off at a tangent, and second, it is fraught with the danger of losing your job. However, it was very much possible under the editorship of Dr Chandan Mitra, an editor par excellence.

I vividly remember the day he called me to his chamber to discuss/explain why I had written the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi was a national shame on the opinion page. "Didn't you read *The Pioneer*? Don't you know the editorial position? I myself have written that the CWG is a 'national pride,'" he enquired in his calm but deep baritone voice, accentuating the phrase "national pride", with eyes penetrating mine for the answers.

I was only six years into journalism then and was replete with lofty idealism of journalism. "Sir, organising a global sporting event is indeed a pride for any country. But I think the huge public money splurged on organising the Commonwealth Games is not worth its salt for a poor country like India. I have tried to substantiate my opinion with National Sample Survey data. But, I am sorry, if I have offended you. I wrote it in the anticipation that *The Pioneer* under your leadership respects all shades of opinions," I explained with tinge of fear of repercussions.

He flashed me a disarming smile. "Yes, we do respect all shades of opinions. But you are an in-house journalist and your article appeared within a couple of days of my writing. But it was a well researched piece."

I was startled. I didn't know whether to take it as a compliment or a warning. But he hastily added, "Keep on writing good stuff. We don't stifle original ideas. You have freedom to write in the paper if you have compelling reasons to put your point across logically."

It was his fearlessness and magnanimity which gave a rare opportunity to the journalists in *The Pioneer* to nail their colours to the mast.

During the animated news meetings, he ensured that every willing member got the floor to express their opinions no matter how much those were at odds with his political-social associations and ideologies. Though he respected cogent arguments, he would hit the roof at imputations which were completely off base. Despite his personal political prejudice or constraints, as an editor he did not dictate terms when it came to selection of copies or treatment of them. He would go with the majority opinion in



the news meeting and it did earn him immense respect.

Therefore the evening news meeting has been the liveliest event in our life in *The Pioneer*. Besides the selection of copies and planning for the future, this was our public sphere where a variety of topics were on the table, ranging from literature, music, cinema to personal life stories. That he loved music, books, and good food and wine were reflected in his usual non-news subjects of discussion. In our many leisure talks, he always enriched my knowledge about the deeds and (mostly unwitting) misdeeds of many famous individuals some of whom were his friends or close acquaintances. But those stories were never for public consumption.

As for stories, my generation had grown up reading about his expertise in his craft. He was a well-bred and highly learned editor with mastery over language and story telling. When he launched *Pioneer Hindi* editions, we witnessed his command over Hindi language was equally excellent.

While he embodied the most ideal possibility of journalism, he kept his ear to the ground and his projections were based on primary sources which proved prophetic. At the same time, he was an intrepid fighter who took on the powerful people, seen in *The Pioneer* coverage of the 2G scam.

He would always look for exclusive in-house stories and would desire that each desk pitches their stories during the evening news meetings. He would not go for what was running on TV or news websites. What tormented him the most was being forced to pick lead copies from websites or agencies.

It seemed he had symbiotic relationship with *The Pioneer*. And his official chamber was his best retreat. Despite his hectic schedule, some due to his political affairs, he never ignored the journalist in him. Even during his heyday as a Member of Parliament for 12 years, his heart lay in journalism. He would always find out time to attend the *Pioneer* office, especially for the news meeting. Also he would never miss to have a look at page one headlines that I used to send him, earlier via SMS, then email and in later years via WhatsApp. During my early

years as News Editor, I would call him even after 11.30pm if I wanted his approval to include a piece of breaking news on page one. Next day, he would invariably tell me that it was not necessary to wake him up for his approval (just to keep my morale high), but I always knew he wanted at least to be kept posted about any change on page one.

Although he would say that he trusted my abilities and judgment, he would still like to know page one headlines unless he had to turn in early for some reasons. During those days, then he would ask me to tell him tentative headlines much before the copies were filed and would sometimes suggest what he wanted the headlines to convey.

However, in the last five-six years, he had left it to my judgment to make any change on page one, making me account-

able for the error of judgment as well.

On several occasions, when I would alert him that the suggested headline does not match with the copy he would shoot through the roof questioning the writer's judgment and would ask me to add those things in the copy to substantiate the headline. No matter whether he was outstation within India or abroad, he would call me up to keep abreast of what copies have been selected for page one and what headlines I have drafted.

My close day-to-day interactions with Dr Mitra began in 2011 when I started attending news meetings. In December 2012, when he offered me the post of News Editor, stressing on the fact that I would be the youngest to hold the position, he was a little surprised when I asked him to offer me the rank of Associate Editor to

head the news desk, besides ensuring no interference from any other department. He teased me: "I understand, an Associate Editor rank will help you easily fly to the greener pasture."

However, he gave a patient audience when I explained to him how my demand for an Associate Editor rank would assign the required dignity to the chair of News Editor, steering the massive news desk: Delhi and six outstation editions. He took no time to approve both the requests, but quipped, "Only your work gives you dignity."

His ability to assess the strength of his staff was unparalleled. While he gave full freedom to the department heads to run their show as they deem fit, he did not compromise on the quality of their work reflected in the newspaper. At the same time, he spared no efforts

to retain talents.

At one point of time, when I explored non-monetary ways to recognise accomplished staffers on the desk and also to infuse more energy in my team by way of giving them freedom to work lesser hours but with more responsibilities, besides two offs a week to retain the talents, he readily accepted the first one with the only condition that their productivity will not suffer at any cost. I think he gave due consideration for two offs a week for all the editorial staff, but it could not ensue into implementation probably because of financial constraints as it would have meant hiring more manpower.

However, he was adept in utilising the existing human resource and respected good exclusive reports. In January 2019, when Sheila Dikshit returned to active politics in Delhi after her gubernatorial

stint, there was common understanding that the AAP and the Congress will stitch pre-poll ties to take on the likely Modi wave in the Delhi Assembly elections. The then Congress chief had vehemently favoured an alliance with the AAP and it had stoked speculation about the AAP-Congress pre-poll tie-up. But I had information to the contrary from a close confidant of Sheila Dikshit's. I informed Dr Mitra about it but he said he will believe only if it comes from Sheila Dikshit. I hurriedly managed an exclusive interview with Sheila Dikshit and got confirmation about her firm stand against any tie-up with the AAP even if that meant the Congress won no seats. When I sent my copy to the editor for a look, he readily commissioned it as the page one anchor.

Later, on several occasions during the news meeting, he would cite the interview piece to reiterate that speculation must be confirmed or scotched from the horses' mouth. Our day-to-day interactions were badly affected during the Covid-19 pandemic, which has been devastating in our social and professional life. The physical meetings became infrequent. But he kept on attending office despite not keeping the robust health.

Dr Mitra was superb in writing obituaries and his craft was greatly supported by his memory like an elephant. Of late, he felt bad for not being able to write regularly because of his ill health. However, when President Pranab Mukherjee breathed his last on August 31, 2020, I gave him a ring during the edition time in the evening to request to pen an obituary. As he was not keeping well enough to devote time to write, he asked me keep a stopgap arrangement handy in case he was unable to finish his writing well before the edition time. Although it alarmed me a little, I prodded him to give it a try. And he did produce an excellent obituary in an hour before our early editions. Later on, he thanked me for "forcing" (sic requesting) him to write.

Now I feel fortunate, I could extract a brilliant piece that proved to be his last writing in *The Pioneer*.

(The writer is Associate Editor & News Editor, *The Pioneer*)

During the animated news meetings, he ensured that every willing member got the floor to express their opinions no matter how much those were at odds with his political-social associations and ideologies. Though he respected cogent arguments, he would hit the roof at imputations which were completely off base



SWARN KUMAR ANAND





REMEMBER UPON THE CONDUCT OF EACH DEPENDS THE FATE OF ALL —ALEXANDER THE GREAT



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

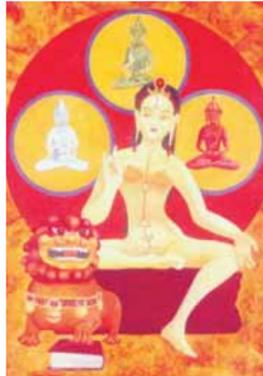
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week your health needs immediate attention and you need to check your bizarre imagination. It could damage your health. Live in the moment and listen to your body to be in a state of good health. You are overwhelmed and this energy carries the warning that you may be spending too much time with your head in the clouds and need to refocus. On the work front, you have the knowledge, strength, and inspiration needed to meet your challenges. In general, this is a very positive time for you. There will be an improvement in your career life. This is an excellent time to find new work or promotion. Relationship wise, you are enthusiastic and very romantic; this is a good thing to refresh your relationships.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week you will enjoy good health. The balance of five elements — Air, water, fire, earth, and ether — will make life worth living. You are a motivator and inspire many. After much hard work, you are in need of some well-deserved relaxation. On the career front, a sudden hike in salary or reputation is seen. Your innovation, sustenance and simplicity in working are the apt ways of driving it. On the personal front, some arguments, conflicts may cause bitterness in your existing relationship. Your aggression or your partner is in an off mood, is creating a bad vibe. You need to relax and think with a cool mind as this is a temporary phase. Soon you find a loving message from your partner.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Monday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week you live life on your conditions and don't compromise on health issues. You can take time out from your hectic schedule, by carefully categorising your thoughts and mapping out what needs to be done to improve your health. Try to be flexible, sensitive and soft in your approach. You are caring, nurturing yet dominating at times. On the professional front, you are sparkling with new ideas. You will try to improve your social life and spend time socialising and making friends, which shall be refreshing. Joy and celebrations are on the cards. Your productive level will be very high and being efficient will pay off. Your love life and romance are back on track make the move now. Anxiety and worry over relations come to an end.

Lucky number 31
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week there will be increased work pressure and challenges that come with it could take a toll on your health. You need to bring about a balance in your professional and personal life. Digestive & intestinal problems need your attention. Professionally, anxiety, fear and stress could bring your efficiency down. There is a fear of office politics. You may need to make a decision on educational future, the purchase or selling of real estate or taking up particular job. You are thinking from the heart and not the mind. Therefore, your decisions may not be rewarding. In the matters of heart, you need to analyse your existing relations. Take some time out, and spend quality time with your loved ones.

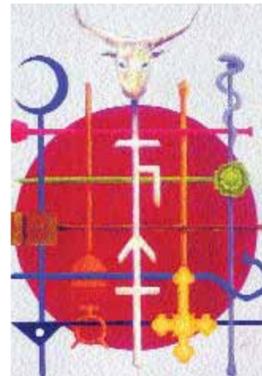
Lucky number 30
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Thursday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This is a good week for your emotional and physical well-being. Your positive approach to things will be of great help. You will be charged and ready for action. You are getting ready to enter new realms in your spiritual exploration. Professionally, this is the time when many projects are realised especially big ones that will be profitable to you. Business dealings may be most fruitful now and if you are in a self-made business or job, people will evaluate your work and accept your views and products. On the personal front, you may be involved in a serious conflict of some kind. Feelings of helplessness, defeat and despair, lack of understanding and inability to find material and emotional security are indicated.

Lucky number 28
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Tuesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You are on the path to self-improvement. You may follow a new belief system this week in search of the meaning of life to you. Perhaps you are volunteering for attending religious services regularly after years of not doing so. The loss of some individuality in your life may be offset by the great feeling of being a part of something much bigger than yourself. Career-wise, you may be moving to a new position or a new set of responsibilities. You are likely to be feeling optimistic, upbeat, and hopeful about your future. Fortune shall favour you. Don't hold back when you have so much to gain. However, plan for a rainy day. On the personal front, a change of heart is an apparent push for what you want. You can reach a good understanding of others.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Saturday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Your strong determination and willpower give you the strength to face the health challenges and live a disciplined life. Routine exercises, morning walks and a planned diet work wonders for you. Work-wise, you could establish your strength. This is a rewarding week in terms of your profession and job. You are the leader and other follow. People will listen to you and respect your views. Those who are in a job may have the reason to feel pride after the accomplishment of an important project. This will mark a stepping stone in your career. On the personal front, you feel blessed, looked after and share cherishable moments with loved ones. The time flies with a happy note leaving you rejuvenated and rejoiced.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Caramel Brown
Lucky day Sunday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

If you are having physical problems, remember that things do not always have to be the way they are right now, health-wise. Pay attention to diet, exercise, and making time to rest and eat healthily. Stay constant and grounded in the present moment. Rest and entertaining yourself are rejuvenating giving you better health. On the career front, this is a great time to take some time off from work if you can. You need a break and some perspective. Things are not likely to be going as you would like them to do — don't take this personally or try to push harder. Perhaps the time has come to start looking for another position. On the personal front, you will find stability in existing relationships. You may find yourself falling for someone older than you are now.

Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Friday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You are aware of your bad habits and will work towards putting an end to them and finally start something good for you. Expect some frayed nerves as you're making this transition. Take good care of yourself, only then will you truly be able to care adequately for others. Physical exercise is particularly important now, but don't overdo it. You will find some spiritual truths that hold more promise, and which are beneficial for you. On the career front, you will need to guard against a feeling of anxiety. Worrying about your job is not going to help matters. Focus on what you can control and try to leave your anxiety by the wayside. On the personal front, feel blessed and happy as you get the support of your loved ones. Stand up for your own beliefs.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

When you have a positive self-image, you value and respect your body. You will live a healthy and balanced lifestyle. Pamper yourself with beauty treatments, and grooming. On the career front, you feel stagnation whether in business or job. This period could be a wake-up call for you. There is a change in your job, in your working environment; and there is a need to bring changes in your attitude and behaviour. You may hate your job and because of the steady income, you are being forced to quit. The plus point is you may benefit most from a complete change of field. On the relationship front, there is a need to conclude a bond than living a life in uncertainty. Accusation and fault finding in each other is likely.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Wednesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

The week brings a lot of enjoyment. You will be in a cheerful mood. You are aware and conscious of your health and devote good time to looking after your wellbeing. From good nutrition to exercise and relaxation to keep yourself away from stress, you know how to work on your health. On the career front, there is a spirit of cooperation that works wonderfully well this week. You share cordial relations with colleagues and friends this week. Those in business could bring desirable changes if they want at this time. Be a good listener, trust your instincts and connect with your innermost desires. Things will speed up in the relationship. Those in a committed relationship, play an active role in getting the ball rolling instead of holding it back.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week you need some speedy changes in your schedule as the situation has changed and you have to fulfil the current needs. You are at a crossroad, it is time to lift yourself and transform your lives. You must be honest with yourselves, judge what best action should be taken and rise to the challenges to embrace the best life. On the career front, a new connection at the workplace could prove in your favour this week. You are helpful and have a concern for others. Money matters should be looked after well in this week. You find freshness in the relationships area. You are passionate and energetic and have a charming persona. Love is in the air. Your exploratory nature keeps you moving and settling down may be difficult for you.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Monday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331



ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

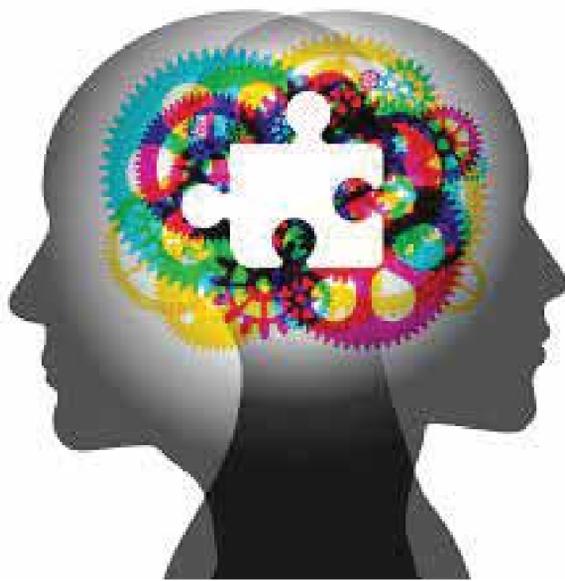
Astrology helps decode traits

A qualified engineer working for a reputable concern, lost interest in her job and then resigned last April in a huff. Not able to secure a job suited to her expectations thereafter, she came asking: "I got fed up with my job profile and schedule. So, I resigned. I have been looking for another job, but in vain. Why? Should I continue my search for another job, and if so, by when a job suited to my wish is expected to materialise? If there is delay in getting a job, should I meanwhile try clearing qualifying examination for entry into a business school to earn MBA degree?"

Whether you keep trying for another job or endeavour to join MBA course, is your choice. But rest assured, if you keep looking for a job, you may get it sooner than later. It, however, needs to be appreciated that the world won't move to your asking. You need to adjust to the callings of your job requirement. You won't get a job exclusively on your terms. The basic problem with you is that you don't wish to face challenges in stride. Instead, you try to escape looking for something easier to handle. Remember, nothing is available without

challenges entailed in it. Another problem with you is that you don't acknowledge problem on its first appearance, and rather continue pursuing your dream perception on hope against hope till pushed to the wall. On top of that, with Rahu in the lagna, and that too in a dual sign, you will never get satisfied with what you already have in hand. Soon after, you will get fed up, and then take a decision in a huff, without applying proper forethought. So you did.

"Sir, what is wrong in having a dream perception? Why should I not expect a job, suited to my educational profile and wish? And then, what made you point out my fault lines so easily?" The girl countered. There is nothing wrong in having a dream perception, I answered. But then you need to be realistic. Instead of giving up in a hurry, you need to exercise patience till a suitable alternative becomes available, which comes with time. In today's time, with job opportunities substantially shrinking in view of the ongoing pandemic, it is simply fool hardy to quit without having an opportunity in hand. No matter, you get a job or join MBA course, your attitudes and habit tendencies will keep



chasing you even in future, and evidently to your detriment. Till you get a job, or join a course to raise your skill sets, better utilise the idle time in addressing your mental limitations. About your fault lines, let me tell you that your horoscope presents a picture of your personality profile, and with a fair amount of precision.

Let me explain, how I read your mind-traits. The lagna lord Sun, signifying your identity is in a dual sign and placed adverse to Uranus and Neptune. That makes you eccentric and erratic. Also, you remain struck to your dream perceptions, often distanced from ground realities. Mind signifying Moon is in a dual sign, implying that you have a vacillating tendency, not able to remain focused to the priority preferences. Moon conjunct Saturn brings in a negative mindset, who would be self-pitying, and having a nagging tendency. Mars placed adverse to Jupiter accounts for your inflated ego, which binds you to your self beliefs and perceptions, and not open to look beyond for a reality check. You are not open to listening or counsel either, if they are not befitting your own perception. If things don't

happen on expected lines, it becomes difficult for you to digest, whence you become temperamental. Mercury placed adverse to Uranus and Neptune holds the key to your insensible reasoning and judgment, and hasty decisions. Venus in debilitation, opposite Saturn, implies that the work spirit is low. Saturn conjunct Ketu makes you an escapist, who doesn't like taking challenges and want things easy way. A sense of disgust develops soon after taking up something, when you will begin sulking.

The potential within you is no less. But your mental infirmities play spoil sport with your potential. Therefore, identify, acknowledge and address your limitations of mind, through fresh educative inputs. Your potential will then bloom out in full, to your advantage. "Sir, suggest me a way forward." The girl asked. Well, relax your mind, detoxify it, and then redefine your thought process, pursuing the process I have suggested and tomorrow will be yours.

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-981803723/987103722 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com