

OPINION 8
PORNOGRAPHY IS THE
THEORY, RAPE PRACTICE**WORLD 11**
WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH MEMBER
STATES ON AF ISSUE: CHINA**SPORT 14**
INDIA'S ODI TOUR OF NZ
POSTPONED TO 2022

LUCKNOW, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2021; PAGES 14 ₹3



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VALID AT TIMES:
JACQUELINE
12 VIVACITY

Incessant rains cripple life in UP

Schools, colleges
shut for two days

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Incessant rainfall since Wednesday night threw life out of gear across UP as more than 20 people lost their lives while people faced water-logging, power cuts and traffic disruptions all through Thursday.

The Meteorological department issued an orange alert for the state and has predicted heavy rains throughout Friday and light to moderate rains in the next two-three days. Lucknow recorded 115 mm of rainfall between Wednesday morning and Thursday morning, with the weathermen predicting no early respite.

The IMD has also issued a heavy rain alert for 30 districts of UP for the next 48 hours, including Lucknow, Ghaziabad, Barabanki, Sultanpur, Mathura, Sitapur, Ayodhya, Moradabad, Shamli, Varanasi, Sambhal, Bulandshahr, Bijnor, Amroha, Gorakhpur, Muzaffarnagar, Saharanpur and Prayagraj, accompanied by strong winds



A man stands near a partially submerged vehicle due to waterlogging following heavy rain in Lucknow on Thursday

PTI

with speed up to 87 kilometres per hour. The untimely deluge has increased farmers' woes as paddy crops are falling due to the strong winds.

Such has been nature's fury over the last 24 hours that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had to put off his scheduled visit to Barabanki while trains and

trucks on national highways were stranded. Even flights scheduled to land in Lucknow were diverted to New Delhi due to the inclement weather.

Lucknow received 107.2 mm rainfall till 8:30 am on Thursday and 115 mm rainfall from 8:30 am till 5:30 pm, which was the highest this

season. Lucknow's total rainfall increased to over 800 mm since the start of the monsoon as against the normal of 792 mm.

MeT director JP Gupta said that a marked low pressure area over central parts of north Madhya Pradesh and neighbourhood with associated

cyclonic circulation extending up to 5.8 km caused the downpour.

A report from Etawah said that train services on the busy Delhi-Kanpur route were disrupted for two hours when a tree fell on the railway tracks, snapping overhead power lines. The rains also paralysed

normal life in Varanasi eastern UP. According to the Central Water Commission (CWC), Varanasi received 52 mm rainfall by 8 am on Thursday, Mirzapur 146.2 mm, Jaunpur 80.2 mm, Narayanpur 104.8 mm and Chunar 80 mm (both in Mirzapur) and Chopan (Sonbhadra) 61.2 mm, Pratapgarh 307.6 mm, Phaphamau (Prayagraj) 125.6 mm and Allahabad 104.4 mm.

In Varanasi, rains affected air services. A flight from Delhi was diverted due to bad weather while flights from Mumbai and Bengaluru were cancelled.

Due to the rains, the major rivers have started rising. The river Ganga started rising from upstream Phaphamau to Ghazipur, including Varanasi. The river Gomti also started rising both at upstream Sultanpur and downstream Jaunpur.

Meanwhile, heavy downpour also claimed several lives in the state. In Jaunpur, four people were killed after a wall collapsed due to rains. A sim-

ilar incident was reported from Ram Sanahi Ghat area in Barabanki where a man and his son died after the roof of their house collapsed in the night.

Elsewhere in Fatehpur, three people — including two children — were killed and two others injured in separate incidents of wall collapses during the last 24 hours. In Bareilly and adjoining areas, four people, including two children, were killed and five others injured in separate incidents of wall collapse in the last 24 hours.

In Nawabpur area of Sitapur, a child was buried alive after a wall collapsed on him late on Wednesday night. Similarly in Tikriya hamlet of Rae Bareilly, a woman died in a wall collapse. In Lungri hamlet of Amethi, a man died after the wall of his house collapsed over him in the wee hours of Thursday.

In Ballia district of eastern UP, a 55-year-old woman, Purshotam Devi, was killed

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Mega bid to bail out ailing banks

Govt clears ₹36,000 cr to solve bad loans, plans speedy disposal of stressed assets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after imitating a major reform in the telecom sector, the Government on Thursday came out with a ₹36,000 package for acquiring stressed loan assets, paving the way for operationalisation of the bad bank. This will help ailing banks such as Yes bank.

While shares of Yes bank spiked by 16 per cent in stock market, Vodafone idea surged by 26 per cent on the back of the Wednesday announcement of relief measures for the telecom sectors.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that ₹30,600 crore Government guarantee for the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) would be for a period of 5 years. The NARCL would have to pay a fee for this. The NARCL will purchase bad loans from banks under a 15:85 structure, where it will pay up to 15 per cent of the net asset value in cash and issue Security Receipts (SRs) for the rest. The Government guarantee would be invoked if there is loss against the threshold value.

The NARCL has been incorporated under the Companies Act and has applied to Reserve Bank of India for license as an Asset Reconstruction Company. PSBs will maintain 51 per cent ownership in the NARCL.

The decision to provide sovereign guarantee for secu-



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during a Press conference at NMC in New Delhi on Thursday

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reity receipts (SRs) issued by the NARCL was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday. The FM in Budget 2021-22 announced setting up of a bad bank as part of resolution of bad loans worth ₹2 lakh crore. The

NARCL will pay up to 15 per cent of the agreed value for the loans in cash and the remaining 85 per cent would be Government-guaranteed security receipts. The Government guarantee would be invoked if there is loss against the threshold value. "For the SRs to hold



on and to have their value intact, there is a need for the Government to give the backstop arrangement and that's why ₹30,600 crore has been cleared by the Cabinet yesterday," she said.

"The SRs are getting the backstop through the Government funding only in as much as to pay the gap between the realised value (resolution/liquidation) and face value of SRs and this will

hold good for five years," Sitharaman said. The fee for the guarantee would be initially 0.25 per cent, which would progressively increase to 0.5 per cent in case of delay in resolution of bad loans, Financial Services Secretary Debasish Panda said. This would enable speedy disposal of stressed assets and clean up banks' balance sheets for further lending, he explained.

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Madras HC stays IT rule clauses for media's freedom

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Thursday stayed the operation of certain sub-clauses of the recently introduced Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, holding there was prima facie substance in the petitioners' contention that a control mechanism would rob the media of its independence and democratic principles. Incidentally, the Bombay High Court had last month pronounced similar order on a related case.

The sub-clauses — (1) and (3) of Rule 9, which were stayed on Thursday, stipulated the adherence to the Code of Ethics. They were inserted to the original IT Rules in February this year.

The first bench of Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice PD Audikesavulu granted the stay while passing interim orders on a batch of PILs from carnatic musician TM Krishna and Digital News Publishers Association, consisting of 13 media outlets and another individual, challenging the constitutional validity of the new rules.

Prima facie, there is substance in the contention of the petitioners that the mechanism to control the media by



Government may rob the media, both print and electronic, of their independence and the democratic principles, the bench said. The court adjourned the matter to the last week of October, when it was informed that similar cases pending before the Supreme Court are scheduled to come up for hearing in the first week of next month.

The Bombay High Court, while granting the interim stay in August, had held that "dis-sent" was vital for democracy. Sub-clauses 1 and 3 of clause 9 of the new Rules were, on the face of it, "manifestly unreasonable", and "the indeterminate and wide terms of the Rules bring about a chilling effect qua (regarding) the right of freedom of speech and expression of writers/editors/publishers" as they can be hauled up for anything if the authorities so wish, it had then said.

HC lifts stay on
Char Dham Yatra
with conditions

PNS ■ NAINITAL

The Uttarakhand High Court has lifted the stay it had ordered earlier on the Char Dham Yatra in the State. It has allowed the Government to facilitate the pilgrimage while also putting a cap on the number of pilgrims allowed to visit the shrines on a daily basis in view of the Covid-19 situation.

Hearing on the petition while considering the affidavit submitted by the State Government, the division bench of Chief Justice RS Chauhan and Justice Alok Kumar Verma directed the State Government to consider specific aspects before facilitating the Char Dham Yatra.

The court has permitted 800 pilgrims to visit Kedarnath per day, 1,000 in Badrinath, 600 in Gangotri and 400 in Yamunotri per day. The pilgrims should either have an RT-PCR negative report or a double vaccination certificate.

Police force should be deployed as required in Chamoli, Rudrapur and Uttarkashi districts- where the shrines are located. The pilgrims will not be allowed to bathe in the Kunds (holy ponds). The court has further directed the Government to ensure proper medical facilities including staff and medical equipment in the Char Dhams.

The Government has also been directed to facilitate a medical helpline so that those

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PM inaugurates Def Ministry buildings under Vista project

Ease of living,
doing biz reasons
for Central Vista
project: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday inaugurated the new Defence Ministry buildings, which is a part of the Central Vista project, and slammed its critics saying ease of living and doing business is the main objective to undertake this initiative. Making this assertion after inaugurating the two new multi-storey swanky office complexes at Kasturba Gandhi Marg and Africa Avenue, he also said those opposing the project never bothered to find out about the working condition of the armed forces personnel and others in the old buildings and hutments.

"Today, in the 75th year of



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of the Defence Offices Complex in New Delhi on Thursday

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Independence, we are taking another step towards developing the national Capital according to the needs and aspirations of the new India," he said. The two buildings will house more than 7,000 employees of the Defence

Ministry and the armed forces. Modi said these new office complexes are going to "further strengthen our efforts to make the working of our forces more convenient and effective."

Continued on Page 11

All 24 new faces in Guj CM's Cabinet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A total of 24 "brand new" Ministers under Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel took oath at Raj Bhavan in Gandhinagar on Thursday. None of the Ministers from Vijay Rupani Cabinet got a berth in the Ministry. This is for the first time that such an experiment has taken place in the Indian politics in the Government formation. The induction of all-new Ministers under the new Chief Minister shows a new approach by the BJP top leadership to tackle the anti-incumbency burden in the home State of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had surprised many by suddenly hand-picking a new Gujarat Chief Minister a year before State Assembly polls, congratulated all those who have taken oath as Ministers in the Gujarat Government. Congratulations to all party col-



Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel with newly sworn-in Cabinet Ministers at their oath ceremony in Gandhinagar on Thursday

PTI

leagues who have taken oath as Ministers in the Gujarat Government," Modi said in a tweet.

Continued on Page 11

Gifts given to Modi to go under the hammer

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gifted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, memorabilia like sports gear and equipment of the medal winning Olympians and Paralympians, replica of the Ayodhya Ram Mandir, Chardham, Rudraksh Convention Centre, models, sculptures, paintings, angavastira, etc. will soon be e-auctioned by the Union Culture Ministry.

In an official statement on Thursday, the Ministry said interested parties can participate in the e-auction through the website: [pnmementos.gov.in](#) between September 17 and October 7, 2021. Any individual can also take part in the e-auction, said the Ministry.

It said proceeds from the e-auction shall go to the Namami Gange Mission aimed at conserving and rejuvenating the



Ganga. This is not the first time Modi has offered his gifts for auction. In January 2019, 1,900 such gifts were also put up for auction. A statue of Gautam Buddha, which had a base price of Rs 4,000 fetched Rs 7 lakh back in January.

Similarly in September 2019, from idols of Lord Hanuman and Lord Ganesha

to as much as 576 shawls were auctioned. A whopping 964 angavastira, 88 pagris that he was presented at various official events were put up for sale. National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi had been displaying these items. But now because of Covid-19, the items are being auctioned online, said a senior official from the Ministry.

Make arrangements for treatment of viral fever cases: CM to officials

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In view of heavy rains and flood-like situations in many regions of Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the officials to make all the necessary arrangements for the treatment of patients having viral fever and other diseases arising out of the seasonal vagaries. While addressing a high-level meeting on Thursday, Yogi said, “A team of eight doctors from the Health department and five experts from the Medical Education department has already been sent to Firozabad to check the outbreak of the water-borne diseases.”

All necessary efforts have been made by the state government to make the hospitals well-equipped against the situation. The Health department has been instructed to immediately deploy the medical experts wherever it is required.

Pre-emptive measures have been taken to reduce the impact of floods, especially in vulnerable districts. The National Disaster Response Force



(NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and disaster management teams have been kept on high alert 24x7.

Ensuring that people do not have to face the problem of water-logging, the work of cleaning drains is going on a war footing. In this sequence, the Uttar Pradesh government has also launched a special campaign for cleaning canals and drains across the state.

Urging people not to panic over the situation, the chief minister asked the medical administration to make

sure that the patients’ health updates were given to the family members at regular intervals. Sanitation and cleanliness drives have also been launched across the state earlier to curb the threat of water-borne diseases by the Panchayati Raj, Urban Development departments, nagar panchayats, gram vikas committees, municipalities and municipal corporations.

People have also been advised to take precautionary measures to check the breeding of mosquitoes in and around their houses.

Govt to digitise all land records, registries: Giriraj

Lucknow(PNS): Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh, said that the government had set a big target to digitise all the land records and their registries so as to bring transparency in land purchases.

Addressing reporters here on Thursday, Singh said that the poor faced many problems during the land deals. He said this was a common practice, particularly in villages, where the lower officials harassed the farmers. “So as to stop this harassment, the Union government has decided to digitise all the land records and subsequent registry,” he said.

“The beginning has been made but it needs to be further streamlined. The Government of India in collaboration with the state governments is working in this direction. This will bring transparency in the working,” he said.

He said that the government had worked tirelessly for the betterment of the poor.

“The job card of MGNREGA is being linked with Aadhaar cards. This has been done to ensure that bona



fide beneficiaries get the benefit of this scheme,” the Union minister said.

He said that houses were also being built for the poor and they had been distributed among the poor without any bias. Singh praised Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for his commitment for the uplift of the poor.

“Uttar Pradesh has done exceedingly well in providing houses to the poor,” he said.

Three killed in road accident

Lucknow (PNS): A man, his wife and their daughter died on Wednesday, while the couple’s five-year-old son was injured when the motorcycle they were riding on collided with an auto rickshaw near a village in Gorakhpur.

As per reports, Kushinagar resident Farukh Ansari (35), his wife Naghma (29), daughter Noorjahan (8) and son Faizal were on the two-wheeler when the crash took place on Pipraich-Gorakhpur road near Jungle Subhan Ali village.

While Ansari, Naghma and Noorjahan died on the spot,

Faizal suffered serious injuries and was hospitalised. The bodies were sent for post-mortem examination and police were searching for the auto driver.

Meanwhile in Etawah, two people died and 16 were injured when a bus carrying 65 passengers collided with a truck on Agra-Lucknow Expressway On Wednesday night.

The bus was on its way to Gonda from Delhi when it crashed into a truck while trying to overtake it near Timrui village in Saifai police station area.

 REMCL Limited <small>(formerly known as Railway Energy Management Company Limited) (A Joint Venture of Indian Railways and RITES Limited) RITES Bhawan, Plot No. 1, Sector-29, Gurugram 122001(Haryana)</small>	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
NIT No: REMCL/CO/Solar/DPR/2021 REMCL Ltd. formerly known as Railway Energy Management Company Limited, invites bids for "Enrolment of Agencies/Consultants for Survey, Preparation & Submission of Feasibility Report, Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Solar PV based Projects in various states of INDIA".	Dated 16.09.2021 Bid documents may be downloaded from website https://www.bharat-electronictender.com . Bids may be submitted as per bid guidelines through online mode on e-bidding portal and offline mode at office of CEO/ REMC Ltd. at Ground Floor, RITES Bhawan, Plot No.1, Sector- 29, Gurugram 122001; Phone No. - 0124-2818748 on or before bid due date.
Date of submission of bid: 06.10.2021 Empanelment Duration: 24 Months Cost of Tender Document: INR 2,500/- Empanelment Fees: INR 5,000/-	Amendment/Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the web site https://www.bharat-electronictender.com only. (CEO/REMC Ltd.)

‘Ram temple to be opened for public by Dec 2023’

KAMLESH SRIVASTAVA ■ AYODHYA

Shree Ramjanambhoomi Tirath Kshetra Trust officials announced in Lucknow on Thursday that the grand Ram Temple at Ayodhya would be opened for the public by December 2023. Trust’s general secretary Champat Rai said that the work of filling the foundation for construction of the Ram temple is in its final stage and till date, 46 of the 48 layers of foundation have been completed. The temple will be built in a six-and-a-half acres area. The Trust members took mediapersons around the site and apprised them of the progress in the construction of the temple.

“The temple will be three-storeyed which will have Ram Lalla in the sanctum sanctorum while Lord Ram’s court will be on the second floor. Three types of stones will be used for the construction of the temple. The stones will start arriving at the site from November as the blockade at the Bansi Paharpur in Rajasthan has been cleared. The construction schedule is being followed and work is being monitored at every stage,” Rai said.

Meanwhile, preparations are in full swing for Ramlila to be staged by Bollywood actors from October 6 to 15 despite the objection by seers. Ayodhya’s Ramlila Committee president Subhash Malik said in Lucknow that this time Ramlila would be telecast live in many countries in 26 languages.

Ramlila will be broadcast live daily from 7 pm to 10 pm from October 6 to 15 as this time too, audience will not be allowed to view it physically due to Covid restrictions. Malik said suggestions were also being sought from saints and religious leaders regarding the Ramlila of Ayodhya.



NOTICE

I Army No. 15347901 H Rank L/NK Sujit Singh. My army service records my wife name Anju Devi & her D.O.B. 10.07.1983 is wrongly entered. Correct name of my wife is Sadhna Gaur & her D.O.B. 09.05.1982

NOTICE

I, Mohd Salahuddin, R/o 62, Ghosi Purwa, Shahpur Ward 59, Geeta Vatika, Gorakhpur, U.P. father of Mohammad Siddique declare that my son's name in class X marksheet is spelt wrongly as Mohdammad Siddique. The right spelling is Mohammad Siddique.

NOTICE

In Class X (CBSC) Marksheet my name written Govindam whereas my correct name is Govindam Rastogi, Govindam & Govindam Rastogi is one person. Govindam Rastogi S/o Rajiv Rastogi 223/03 Rastogi Tola, Raja Bazar, Lucknow.

गुमशुदी

गुमशुदी

मेरे प्लॉट डी3 / 140 A विभव खंड लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण का अलॉटमेंट पत्र सः 114/U.S(N)dated 17.05.99 0 874/SOG/विभव/05/09/2000 की मूलप्रति कहीं गुम हो गयी है जिसका उपयोग अवैध होगा कमल शर्मा एवं रमा शर्मा





Government of Uttar Pradesh extends a hearty Welcome to Hon'ble Chairperson Esteemed Members and Delegates of 45th MEETING of THE GST COUNCIL

Date : 16th -17th September, 2021

Venue : Hotel Taj Mahal, Vipin Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow

Organised by : Department of Commercial Tax, Uttar Pradesh

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State capital deluged by heavy rains; more in store

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Heavy rains since late Wednesday night resulted in all kinds of problems for people in the state capital even as waterlogging added to their woes on Thursday. Commuters were the worst-hit as roads in most of the areas were heavily waterlogged while many areas witnessed prolonged power cuts. Trees also got uprooted in several areas. Lucknow received 107.2 mm rainfall till 8:30 am on Wednesday and 115 mm rainfall from 8:30 am till 5:30 pm, which was the highest this season. Lucknow's total rainfall increased to over 800 mm since the start of the monsoon as against the normal of 792 mm.

MeT director JP Gupta said that a marked low pressure area over central parts of north Madhya Pradesh and neighbourhood with associated cyclonic circulation extending up to 5.8 km caused the downpour. He also forecast light rains and cloudy skies on Friday too. The areas worst-affected by waterlogging were Gomtinagar, Indiranagar, Jankipuram, Amausi, Chinhat, Ramnagar, Aishbagh, Gauri Bazaar, old parts of the city and low-lying areas. Rainwater entered residential colonies in Faizullaganj,

Indiranagar, Dalibagh, Gomtinagar, Jankipuram, Muftiganj, Sarfarazganj, Maunika Purwa etc.

The Lucknow Municipal Corporations remained flooded with complaints from almost all the areas and teams were sent to flush out the water. Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia said that in the low-lying areas such as Faizullaganj where they had installed electric pumps, there was a problem in the absence of power. "We operated the older diesel pumps where there was no power. The rains were so heavy and continuous that the discharge of water remained slow," she said.

Municipal Commissioner Ajay Kumar Dwivedi said it was an overwhelming situation as waterlogging was reported in several areas of the city. All the 48 pumping stations were operational to and they also used movable pumps to flush out the water in some parts of the city, he said. About waterlogging in the residential colonies, he said the back flow started in Kukrail nullah because of the incessant rains, causing the problem in Indiranagar, Faizullaganj and Dalibagh. "The Jal Kal teams were pressed into service as were people responsible for sewerage management. The uproot-



(Clockwise from top) Lucknow Montessori Inter College in Mall Avenue flooded with rainwater; a bus stuck under an overbridge in Mawaiyya; and waterlogging near VIP Guest House and Signature Building (police headquarters)



ed electric poles and trees are being removed by the Nagar Nigam teams," he said.

Asked whether there were any lacunae in their preparations since almost the entire city was submerged in water, he said the rains were much more in comparison to the drainage capaci-

ty. Meanwhile, there were prolonged power cuts even in posh colonies even as several complaints remained unattended. The LESA (Trans-Gomti) chief engineer said that out of the 160 feeders which they have in their areas, 10 were affected because of breakdown and trees falling on

them. "Teams were sent for restoring those feeders but the work was affected because of the strong winds," he said.

UPSRTC Regional Manager PK Bose said their workshop in Amausi was completely waterlogged and there was no power supply. Meanwhile, Deputy

Commissioner, Traffic, Raees Akhtar said that traffic movement was affected because of waterlogging and uprooting of trees in many parts of the city, with Chinhat being the worst-hit area. "The old parts of the city witnessed heavy waterlogging and we had to work really hard.

Stay indoors, says DM

Lucknow (PNS): In view of the incessant rains since late Wednesday night, DM appealed to people to stay indoors and step out only when necessary. He asked people not to venture in the crowded areas or places where traffic snarls are usually witnessed. He also asked people to be beware of open sewers, electricity poles and dangling wires. The DM inspected Butler Palace, Narhi, Kalidas Marg, Hazratganj and surrounding areas and directed Nagar Nigam to resolve waterlogging issues. He also said that a team should be constituted for waterlogging, uprooted trees and power breakdowns. He said that the helpline numbers for waterlogging and uprooting of trees at the Nagar Nigam were 6389300137, 6389300138 and 6389139. For power breakdown complaints or any other problems, the Integrated Command and Control Centre number is 0522-4523000. The DM said that the district administration is available to help the residents in all times.

We also had to manage the traffic in areas where it was moving outside the city, such as Kamta tri-section, Barabirwa, Shaheed Path crossing etc," he said. He added that the traffic load was the same as on normal days and snarls were witnessed in front of Vidhan Sabha too.

"We managed with some reserve force because the personnel were also deployed for the important programmes in the city. We pressed into service additional manpower at the points where there was congestion due to waterlogging," he said. A resident of Omaxe Apartments the basement was totally submerged and there was

no way to take out the cars. There was also no electricity and people had no clue how to deal with the situation. Deepak Mishra from Jankipuram (II), whose wife is a local corporator, said there were several houses in sector G, H and J filled with rainwater. "These colonies have been developed by Lucknow Development Authority. In some houses, the basement is full of water. We have received calls from nearly all the houses but the water pump installed here is not proving to be useful in these heavy rains," he said. He added that when Jankipuram was developed, this aspect of waterlogging was not looked into.

Doc among 2 in STF net for smuggling of blood, adulteration

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the arrest of two accused on Thursday, a team of the Special Task Force (STF) claimed to have busted a gang which smuggled human blood from Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana and later supplied the same after adulterating the units with saline water to different hospitals and blood banks in Lucknow and neighbouring districts.

Those arrested were identified as Dr Abhay Pratap Singh (MBBS and MD) and his aide Abhishek Pathak, both of PGI police station area. Singh is presently working as an assistant professor at the UP University of Medical Sciences in Saifai, Etawah.

The STF team recovered 100 units of packed red blood cells, 21 fake letters of different blood banks, two banners of blood donation camps, a luxury car, the ID of Dr Singh, five mobile phones, five ATM cards, two PAN cards, a doctor membership card and Rs 23,830 in cash. While keeping a tab on people involved in smuggling of blood and sale, the STF team was tipped off that some of the suspects belong to Lucknow. The suspects were involved in smuggling of adulterated human blood and its sale through their agents at higher rates, using fake letters of different blood banks in Lucknow. On Thursday, the team was tipped off that the suspects were supposed to smuggle the human blood and supply it to blood banks and hospitals in the state capital.

The team, including a drug inspector worked, on the case and laid a trap at Lucknow-Agra Expressway toll plaza. A luxury car-borne man was nabbed and interrogated by the STF team. He identified himself as Dr Abhay Pratap Singh of PGI police station area. He was asked to open the boot of the car from which 45 units of blood with incomplete papers were recovered. He insisted that he got the blood units legally and said he could produce the papers. The STF team then reached his residence in Gangotri Apartment (B-3/105) where Dr Singh showed papers and tried to mislead the STF team. However, the papers were found to be invalid by the drug inspector. The STF team searched his house and Abhishek Pathak was found in a room. The STF team recovered 55 units of blood kept in the refrigerator.

Dr Singh confessed to his crime and disclosed that he was a part of the gang for a long time. He disclosed that they got the blood illegally through their agents in Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana and then they would sell the same to hospitals and blood banks. He also disclosed the names of the institutes and their agents. The gang used to purchase the blood for Rs 1,200 per unit and sell the same for Rs 4,000-6,000 per unit. They would also contaminate it with saline water to meet additional demand. For validation, they used to hold fake blood donation camps.

Dr Singh disclosed that he did MD in Transfusion Medicine from SGPGL. He later started working at a blood bank and also served as a consultant at a city hospital.

Two minor boys drown in dugout filled with rainwater

Lucknow (PNS): In a tragic incident, two minors drowned in a dugout filled with rainwater in Madaon police station area on Thursday. The deceased were identified as Anuj (14) and Sundaram Gupta (15) of Paltan Chhawni in the area. Anuj's father Phoolchand is a scrap dealer while Sundaram's father Sahdev a vegetable vendor.

As per reports, Anuj and Sundaram left for Mohibullapur railway station and later went to the dugout made for construction of the basement of a building in the area. Locals said the basement's dugout is close to the road near Mohibullapur railway station and it was filled with rainwater. The boys fell into the dugout while enjoying themselves and drowned. The incident came to light when some locals spotted the bodies and informed the police. The bodies were fished out and families of the deceased identified them. The bodies were later sent for autopsy. Locals held the building owner and contractor responsible for the mishap. They said the contractor should have put up some identification mark or signboard as the dugout was filled with water.

Meanwhile, a 45-year-old man was killed while his colleague sustained grievous injuries after their scooter was hit by a speeding car on a flyover under Naka police station area. The victim was identified as Dhruv Mathur of Aliganj (sector D). His colleague Ashraf was referred to KGMU Trauma Centre. They were going to Aishbagh for some work via the newly-constructed flyover between Husainganj and Naka.







हूनर को मिली नई पहचान

विश्वकर्मा दिवस के अवसर पर



के अन्तर्गत 21,000 लाभार्थियों को दूल-किट एवं 11,000 लाभार्थियों को प्रधानमंत्री मुद्रा लोन

प्रदेश के शहरी एवं ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के पारम्परिक कारीगर जैसे-बढ़ई, दर्जी, टोकरी-बुनकर, नाई, सुनार, लोहार, कुम्हार, हलवाई, मोची, राजमिस्त्री एवं हस्तशिल्पियों की आजीविका के साधनों का सुदृढीकरण

वितरण

योगी आदित्यनाथ

मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा

गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

सिद्धार्थ नाथ सिंह

मंत्री, खादी एवं ग्रामोद्योग, रेशम उद्योग, वस्त्र उद्योग

सूक्ष्म, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्यम, निर्यात प्रोत्साहन

एन.आर.आई. तथा निवेश प्रोत्साहन, उत्तर प्रदेश

चौधरी उदयभान सिंह

राज्य मंत्री, सूक्ष्म, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्यम, खादी एवं ग्रामोद्योग, रेशम उद्योग, वस्त्र उद्योग तथा निर्यात प्रोत्साहन, उत्तर प्रदेश

दिनांक : 17 सितम्बर, 2021 | समय : पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे | स्थान : लोक भवन सभागार, लखनऊ

सूक्ष्म, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्यम तथा निर्यात प्रोत्साहन विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

कार्यक्रम का लाइव प्रसारण

DD UP व

Youtube.com/DDNEWS

Youtube.com/dduttarpradesh

यूट्यूब एवं

UPGovtOfficial

CMOUttarpradesh

CMOfficeUP

सोशल मीडिया ऐपडल्स के माध्यम से देख सकते हैं।

JKCement
CIN:L17229UP1994PLC017199
Regd. Office: Kamla Tower,
Kanpur-208 001 (U.P.)
NOTICE
It is hereby notified that Share Certificate(s) No. 44320 bearing Distinctive Nos.43010784 to 43010802 for 19 Equity Shares standing in the name(s) of Seema Agarwal of Gurugram-122 009 issued by the Company is reported lost. Any objection for issuance of duplicate share certificate(s) must be filed with the Company within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice, failing which duplicate share certificate will be issued without incurring any liability for the said issue.
For J.K.Cement Ltd.
(Shambhu Singh)
Head (Legal)
Place: Kanpur & Company Secretary
Date : 16.09.2021 M.No:FC5 5836

Advertisement to be published in the Newspaper for change of registered office of the LLP from one State to another.
[Pursuant to rule 17 sub rule (4) of the Limited Liability Partnership Rules, 2009]
Before the Central Government
Registrar of Companies, Kanpur
In the matter of Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 Section 13(3) and rule 17 of the Limited Liability Partnership Rules, 2009
AND
In the matter of MINERALS VENTURES LLP (LLPIN : AAN-4130) having its registered office at 1/58, Vishal Khand Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, UP-226 010.
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the LLP proposes to make an application to Central Government under section 13 (3) of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 with the Registrar of Companies, Kanpur, seeking permission to change its Registered office from the state of "UTTAR PRADESH" to the state of "MADHYAPRADESH".
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the LLP may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by Registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition supported by an affidavit to the Registrar of Companies, Kanpur, within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant LLP at the registered office of LLP as mentioned above.
For and on behalf of
MINERALS VENTURES LLP
Sd/-
ANAND TAMRAKAR
(Designated Partner)
Place : Kanpur
Date : 17th September, 2021

मध्यमचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लिमिटेड प्रधान कार्यालय-4 ए. गोखले मार्ग लखनऊ अल्पकालिक निविदा सूचना (ई-निविदा) अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा निर्धारित समय में आपूर्ति में सक्षम प्रतिष्ठित निविदाकर्ताओं से निम्नलिखित सामग्री की आपूर्ति हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :- निविदा विशिष्ट सं० मेडको / 2594 / 2021 (परिवर्तनीय आधार तिथि 01.08.2021) निविदा शुल्क : ₹ 11,800.00 (जीएसटी सहित) होगा। सामग्री का विवरण 33 KV 3x300 Sq.mm, Aluminium XLPE Cable इकाई K.M. मात्रा 50 सामग्री का विवरण निविदा अपलोड करने की मात्रा तिथि एवं समय इकाई मात्रा 04.10.2021, 13:00 बजे सामग्री का विवरण निविदा के प्रथम भाग खोलने की तिथि एवं समय इकाई मात्रा 05.10.2021, 14:00 बजे धरोहर राशि (₹) 11,60,000.00 निविदाकर्ता द्वारा न्यूनतम 20 प्रतिशत मात्रा हेतु प्रस्ताव देना होगा एवं उसी के अनुरूप धरोहर धनराशि जमा करनी होगी। निविदा शुल्क आर०टी०जी०एस०/एन०ई०एफ०टी० के माध्यम से तथा धरोहर राशि आर०टी०जी०एस०/एन०ई०एफ०टी० या बैंक गारंटी के माध्यम से जमा किया जाना है जिसकी स्कैन्ड कापी निविदा प्रपत्रों के साथ ई-टेंडर वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर अपलोड करनी होगी। उक्त निविदाओं के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं निविदा प्रपत्र उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की ई-टेंडर वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> से देखे एवं डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं। निविदा में संशोधन अथवा निविदा खुलने की तिथि में परिवर्तन की सूचना ई-टेंडर वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध कराई जायेगी। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता (साओप्र-प्रथम) म०वि०वि, नि०लि०, 4-ए. गोखले मार्ग, लखनऊ पत्रांक 325 दिनांक 16.9.21 म०वि०वि०नि०लि०, हेल्पलाईन नं० - 18001800440 / 1912 राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाएँ, बल्व की जाग एल०ई०डी० लगायें

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number: U410PB2010SGC33813
Website: www.pspcl.in, (Mobile No. 96461-07205)
E- Tender Enq. No. 336/P-1/EMP-W-11858 dated 13-09-2021
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2021_POWER_72014_1 for Mtc. of railway track in GGSSTP railway yard (equated length 35.266 KM) and railway track from Ropar railway station to GGSSTP railway station (RTP Block Section) equated length 7.506 KM. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 17-09-2021/ 11:00 AM onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.
RO NO. 76155/12/442/2021/7926 RTP-31/21

MEMU PASSENGER SPECIAL TRAIN
For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to run the following MEMU Passenger Special Train as per the schedule given below:-
03289/03298 Varanasi Jn. - Patna Jn. - Varanasi Jn. MEMU Passenger Special (Daily)

TRAIN NO. 03289		STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 03298	
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.
—	15:00	Varanasi Jn.	13:10	—
00:05	—	Patna Jn.	—	05:45

Days of Run : 03289 Ex Varanasi Jn. (Daily) and 03298 Ex Patna Jn. (Daily) with immediate effect to till further advice.
Stoppages: Sachivalaya Halt, Phulwari Sharif, Danapur Jn., Neora, Gandhi Halt, Sadisapur, Patel Halt, Bihta, Koelwar, Kulharia, Jamira Halt, Ara Jn., Jagieewan Halt, Karisath, Kauriya, Bihya, Banah, Raghunathpur, Twining Ganj, V.V. Giri Halt, Dumraon, Kushalpur Hamah Halt, Baruna, Nadoon Halt, Buxar, Pawani Kumarpur Halt, Chausa, Barakalan, Gahmar, Karahia, Bhadaura, Usia Khas, Dildamagar Jn., Darauli, Zamania, Bahora Chandil, Dheena, Tuls Ashram, Sakalidia, Kuchman, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Vyasnagar and Kashi stations (in both directions).
For any kind of information such as detailed time-table of station enroute etc., passenger 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 may please be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.
RailMadad Helpline No. 139
Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in
Download RailMadad App
NORTHERN RAILWAY
Your Convenience - Our Concern
Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF N.C.T OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NORTH)-I
OVER HEAD TANK, MUKHERJI NAGAR, DELHI-110009
"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"
NIT No. 27 Item No. 1 to 3 (North-I) (2021-22)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Tender fee (Non refundable)	Last date of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
	PIL 150 mm and 100 mm dia Water Line in E-Block, Shashtri Park Extn. AC 02 under EE (N)-I Tender I.D. NO. 2021_DJB_208354_1	32,39,574/-	Exempted vide office Memorandum No: F/4/2020-PPD and DJB Endorsement No: DJB/2020-21/Misc-III(P)/971 Dated:23.12.2020	15-09-2021 05.00 PM. onward	500/-	Technical bid to be received on 05-10-2021, 3.00 PM & opening of Financial bid after completion of technic -all bid & confirmation of EMD from Bank.

However, the reimbursement of diesel consumption will be paid as per current market rates.
Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurementdelhi.gov.in>
Sd/-
(S. K. SINGHA)
Executive Engineer (N)-I
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Adv. No. J.S.V. 396 (2021-22)

DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH) IV
O.H.T O.I.A Ph-II: OPPOSITE GOVIND PURI: NEW DELHI -20,
e-mail: eesouth498@gmail.com/Tel. 011-26388976
"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"
Press N.I.T. NO: 33 CIV (2021-22)

S.No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Making outfall of JJC disposal going into drain and connected into DJB sewer line Janta Jeevan Rajeev Camp F-Block Okhla Ph-II, Janta Jeevan Camp at B-Block Okhla Ph-II, at D-Block at Tughlakabad Constituency under EE(South)-IV AC-52.	25,44,434/-	2021_DJB 208378_1 15.09.2021	11.10.2021 up to 3.00 pm

Further details in this regard may be seen at (<https://govtprocurementdelhi.gov.in>)
Sd/-
Rajeev Kumar Gupta
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(SOUTH)IV
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Adv. No. J.S.V. 397(2021-22)

E-TENDER NOTICE
GUJARAT MARITIME BOARD
"Sagar Bhavan", Sector 10/A, Chh Road, Opp. Air Force, Gandhinagar 382010 Phone 079-2323 8346/47/48/51
On behalf of Chairman, Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) invites E-tenders from the NABET accredited consultants for the following works.
Name of Work
"obtaining amendment in existing Coastal Regulation Zone Clearance for the Project of construction of administration building and staff quarters at Okha, District-Devbhumi Dwarka, Gujarat"
Details
Bids downloading commencement Date **18-09-2021** from 15:00 hrs
Last Date for On-line submission of Bids through www.nprocure.com **22-10-2021** up to 18:10 hrs
Detailed terms and conditions and other related information is given in Bid documents. For Bid documents and more details, please visit website www.nprocure.com or www.gmbports.org or contact Deputy General Manager (Env), Environment Cell, Gujarat Maritime Board, Gandhinagar.
NO/INF/VPN/2021/G/1084

Sisodia promises 300 units free electricity in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the contours of the battleground for the UP assembly election in 2022 becoming clearer, Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia and Aam Aadmi Party's Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh in a press conference made a big announcement, promising free electricity up to 300 units to the people in UP and round-the-clock free electricity to farmers if the party was voted to power. The AAP leaders were addressing a press conference at the party office in Gomti Nagar in Lucknow on Thursday. During the press conference they focused on power supply in UP, using it as a tool to attack the Bharatiya Janata Party government and making it a public issue. Sisodia said the AAP

would also waive the old electricity bills after it came to power in UP. "This is a guarantee of Arvind Kejriwal for UP," he said. The Delhi deputy chief minister said AAP leaders knew that people in UP were troubled with the electricity bills and the state government's ways of realising the bills from the public. "The people in UP are very much impressed with the Kejriwal model of governance under which people of Delhi are getting zero amount bill every month. I have come here to appeal to you that by your votes in the assembly election in 2022, the electricity bill will be zero in UP also," Sisodia said. Sosodia appealed to the people to elect the AAP government in UP, saying that his party's government would



announce within 24 hours free supply of 300 units of electricity in UP. The deputy chief minister said the farmers in UP were sad because their income was not doubled as promised by the

BJP. "The farmers instead are being served inflated electricity bills which they are unable to pay," he said and added that the farmers would get free supply of electricity within 24

hours of the AAP forming government in UP. Sisodia said Kejriwal had promised free electricity to farmers irrespective of their consumption if the AAP came to power in UP. He said people in UP were being haunted by inflated electricity bills. "The UP government is forcing them to foot the bills as delay or denial is being construed as a crime. People are committing suicide due to fear of facing criminal case for not paying electricity bills," he said. Sisodia said there were several such cases and he cited one case of Etah district. The AAP leader asked the consumers having hefty electricity bills to keep patience. "You support AAP in the election and tear the electricity bills soon after the AAP government is formed in UP," he

said. Sisodia presented data according to which 38 lakh families in UP got inflated electric bills and alleged that such consumers were being insulted by the Yogi Adityanath government. He said the present government was providing electricity at a higher rate to the people. He said electricity was not generated in Delhi but the AAP government was providing it round the clock and had ensured free supply of 300 units of electricity. "In UP, the electricity is generated and so the work to provide round-the-clock electricity and 300 free units is much easier in UP," he claimed. Speaking on the occasion, Sanjay Singh said Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was a man of words and he fulfilled whatever he promised.

Priyanka scheduled to visit Lucknow next week

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will visit Lucknow next week to give a final shape to the 'Pratiyaya Yatra' programme, to be launched by the party ahead of 2022 Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh. The top leader is scheduled to have deliberations with the manifesto and election committees to assess the party's poll preparedness in the state. The date of the yatra is yet to be decided, though party sources claimed that it is likely to begin on Gandhi Jayanti (October 2).

Besides, Priyanka is likely to participate in one of the training programmes being organised by Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee.

On Thursday, Priyanka targeted the Yogi Adityanath government, saying that the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh was enacting drama ahead of the assembly polls by withdrawing cases of stubble burning against farmers. The Congress will take out a 'Congress Pratiyaya Yatra' in the state with the tagline 'Hum Vachan Nibhayenge' ahead of the assembly elections due early next year. The yatra will cover a distance of 12,000 kilometres and pass through all major villages and towns. Addressing a meeting of Advisory and Political Affairs Committee of the UPCC on September 10, Priyanka had said that the yatra would mobilise party workers across the state and also establish a contact

with people. The Congress in Uttar Pradesh has asked ticket-seekers to deposit Rs 11,000 through pay order or DD or RTGS in the party account. A circular issued on September 14 by UP Congress chief Ajay Kumar Lallu said the party has authorised district and city presidents to collect the applications and in the state, two others have been given authorisation to deposit the applications along with a fee of Rs 11,000 for the upcoming assembly polls. The money, along with the application, has to be deposited by September 25. The Congress has already finalised candidates for about 90 seats for the assembly polls, including those who have been MLAs or prominent party leaders.

Lallu attacks UP govt over latest NCRB figures

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Launching a scathing attack on the Yogi Adityanath government over latest figures of the National Crime Records Bureau, Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee chief Ajay Kumar Lallu said that the latest NCRB statistics showed that UP was consistently ranked number one under the heads of murder and other sensational crimes. "Two days ago in Aligarh, the Yogi Adityanath government had claimed that the law and order situation in the state was good but the NCRB data has exposed his claims. After all, who is responsible for this?" asked Lallu on Thursday. In a direct attack on the chief minister, the Congress leader said that Yogi Adityanath did not have the courage to face the horrific picture of Uttar Pradesh that had emerged from the NCRB records. "The Yogi government, breaking all limits of shamelessness, is using the tax collected from the public in hiding the real data and in the record-breaking propaganda of advertisements based on lies," he said. Lallu alleged, "A parallel government of criminals is running in Uttar Pradesh. The NCRB data has confirmed this and the lies of the Yogi government have been exposed. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party had promised to make the state free of crime after coming to power. The chief minister has said several times that criminals are in jail or have left the state. In such a situation, he should clarify that if there are no criminals in UP, then who is committing crimes like murders and rapes in UP?" The Congress leader said that the BJP was responsible for pushing the state into jungle raj. "In UP, 114 BJP MLAs are tainted while

85 BJP MLAs have serious criminal backgrounds. This situation has to happen when criminals run the administration. The NCRB reports says that UP is witnessing seven criminal incidents per hour against women, eight rapes per day, 55 crimes against girls and sexual abuse as well as 32 criminal incidents against Dalits. In this jungle raj of BJP, about 20 sadhus and priests of temples have been killed, more than 500 people have also died due to the consumption of spurious liquor sold under the protection of the powers that be," he alleged. "Not only this, there have been 93 fatal attacks on personnel associated with journalism -- the fourth pillar of democracy. Several journalists have also been murdered. The shocking figures of NCRB show that despite lockdown and the coronavirus epidemic in 2020, there was no significant difference in rape cases. As per the data, 28,046 rape cases were registered in 2020 and among the victims, 25,498 were adults, while 2,655 were under 18 years of age. As per the NCRB, on an average, 80 people were murdered in the country every day during 2020 and UP had the dubious distinction of topping the chart. There has been an uptick of one per cent in murder cases in 2020 as compared to 2019, yet the Yogi government lies that UP is crime-free," he alleged. The Congress leader said that UP was number one in the country in terms of crime and murder and almost equal to BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh and in cases of rape of women it was second. "Yet the BJP falsely claims that criminals here are in jail or outside the borders of UP. The chief minister must wake up from his slumber and accept the reality of deteriorated law and order situation across the state," Lallu charged.

Half of UP's eligible population vaccinated

Lucknow (PNS): In a significant achievement, Uttar Pradesh on Thursday completed administering of at least one Covid vaccine dose to half of its eligible population and breached the 9.05 crore cumulative vaccinations mark across the state. As per official estimates based on census and electoral data, around 15 crore people in Uttar Pradesh are to be vaccinated and of them, 7.50 crore have received at least one dose of vaccine, thus achieving 50 per cent of the target. Besides, over 1.54 crore people have been fully vaccinated in the state with both doses. Despite being the most populous state, Uttar Pradesh is racing past other states in attempting to mitigate the anticipated third wave through vaccination. At least 50 per cent single dose coverage of the adult population has significant public health implications as it means a significant percentage of the population has a certain level of protection against the infection, a government spokesman said, adding that the government has asked the Health department to focus on enhancing second dose coverage. In line with the chief minister's directive, the Health department has been conducting vaccination on a war-footing and mega vaccination campaigns are being held in the state intermittently.

SGPGI to discuss patient safety

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Patient Safety Cell and Adverse Drug Monitoring Cell under the aegis of the department of Hospital Administration, SGPGI, is organising a webinar on patient safety. SGPGI director Dr RK Dhiman said patient safety is a healthcare discipline that emerged with the evolving complexity in health care systems and the resultant rise of patient harm in healthcare facilities. "It aims to prevent and reduce risks, errors and harms that occur to patients during health care. The World Health Assembly (WHA) adopted a resolution (WHA 72.6) 'Global Action on Patient Safety' which endorsed the establishment of World Patient Safety Day to be observed annually by the member states on September 17. The day is firmly rooted in the fundamental principle of medicine - the Greek dictum 'primum non nocere' which means, 'to do no harm,' he said. The webinar is based on the theme selected for World Patient Safety Day which is 'Safe maternal and newborn care', due to the significant burden of risks and harms women and newborns are exposed to when receiving unsafe care during childbirth.

RDSO observing cleanliness fortnight

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Swachhata Pakhwada (cleanliness fortnight) is being observed from September 16 to 30 in RDSO under the Swachh Bharat Mission of the Government of India. Director General, RDSO, Sanjay Bhutani administered swachhata pledge to officers and staff in the mini-conference on Thursday. In other directorates and field units of RDSO, the senior most officers administered pledge to officials. Bhutani asked the officials and family members to stop using plastic bags and urged everyone to shun single-use plastic. During the fortnight, special emphasis will be laid on the cleanliness of the RDSO premises, cleanliness drives, cleaning of water coolers and overhead tanks, regular clean-

ing of toilets and management of Swachh Neer. Director General (Special), Vendor Development, JP Pandey, Additional Director General Ramesh Pinjani and other senior officers were present on the occasion. Apart from various activities related to cleanliness awareness, the message of cleanliness will be given through posters and banners across the campus during the fortnight.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
This is notified for the information of rail passengers that the timings of the following Special Train will be revised due to operational reasons as under:-
Revised Timings of Train No. 02684 Lucknow - Yesvantpur Jn. Special at Hindupur and Yelahanka Jn. Railway Stations

STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 02684		With Effect From	
	Existing Time	Revised Time	ARR.	DEP.
Hindupur	11:08	11:10	11:05	11:06
Yelahanka Jn.	12:38	12:40	12:28	12:30

Note :- The timings of above train at other stations will remain same.
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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Incessant rains paralyses life for second day in Varanasi on Thursday.

Pioneer

Incessant rains paralyse life in Purvanchal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Incessant rains since Tuesday midnight have paralysed the normal life badly not only in Varanasi but almost all the areas in this belt of Purvanchal (eastern UP) on Thursday. It is expected that the same weather conditions would continue to hit life for a couple of more days as per the forecast of the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) as the deep pressure which was made over north Odisha has moved towards central and northwest parts of the country. The rains with frequent wind have affected air, train and road trans-

portation. It also disrupted ongoing construction works and repair of making the roads pothole-free. According to the report of the local office of Central Water Commission (CWC), though despite continuation of incessant rains, there were no heavy rains in the city as by 8 am Varanasi received just 52 mm rains but some parts of this region had received heavy rains. Mirzapur received 146.2 mm of rain, while Jaunpur 80.2 mm, Narayanpur 104.8 mm, Chunar (both in Mirzapur) 80 mm and Chopan (Sonbhadra) 61.2 mm. There was moderate to heavy rainfall

in almost all the parts of the region. In comparison to Varanasi region, the adjoining Allahabad areas witnessed heavy rainfall as Pratapgarh received 307.6 mm rains, while Phaphamau (Prayagraj) 125.6 mm and Allahabad 104.4 mm. Due to the rains, most of the major rivers which were either receding or remaining steady in the recent days, once again, started rising. The river Ganga started rising right from upstream Phaphamau to Ghazipur including Varanasi. However, it was steady at downstream Ballia. Besides, the river Gomti also started ris-

ing both at upstream Sultanpur and downstream Jaunpur. Both these rivers caused floods in the region recently. Besides, river Sone also recorded rising at Chopan. In Varanasi, rains also affected flight services a lot. A flight from Delhi (G8 404) was diverted due to bad weather conditions, while AI 695 from Mumbai and G8 403 from Bengaluru were cancelled. The flights SG 2772, AI 406, UL 3612 (all from Delhi), G8 349 and 6E 5378 (both from Mumbai) landed at Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Babatpur, behind their scheduled time.

Kashi to celebrate Modi's birthday in grand manner today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

This parliamentary constituency of the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi is all set to celebrate his 71st birthday here on Friday in a grand manner when the local Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers would light 71,000 lamps at Bharat Mata Mandir apart from offering 71 metres long chunari to Maa Ganga (river Ganga), performing of aarti at 71 temples and distributing of 71 kilograms of laddus (sweets) in each of eight legislative assemblies in the district. Besides, various programmes of social service will be organised from September 17 to October 7 and the BJP workers would also observe the day as 'Apko Hamari Umar Lag Jaye' and appeal to all the residents to light the lamp in their respective homes. Giving the information while addressing the meetings held at party's Gulab Bagh office and Circuit House, state BJP co-in-charge and in-charge of Kashi region Sunil Ojha said 'during his tenure of seven years, Modi has given a wonderful introduction of leadership ability and efficiency not only to the country but to the

whole world and when the whole world was plagued by the corona pandemic, the PM had taken decisions at right time in the interests of 135 crore people of the country'. He further said that at 10 am on Friday, 71 metres long chunari will be offered at river Ganga at Assi Ghat and district secretary Ronnie Verma would be the convener of this programme. Similarly, 'Vishwakarma Shram Samman Ceremony' will be organised at Asha College, Babatpur at 11 am under the leadership of MLA (Pindra) Dr Awadhesh Singh. Vishwakarma Jayanti celebrations will also be organised at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hastkala Sankul, Bada Lalpur at 3 pm, in which tools would be distributed to the needy people. Not only this, at 6 pm, 71,000 lamps will be lit at Bharat Mata Mandir and the programme convenors will be Shivanand Rai and Atma Vishweshwar. Then at 6.30 pm, the lamps will be lit at the houses in the entire district and the convenors would be Vinita Singh and Kusum Patel. Besides, Aarti and Deepotsav programmes will also be organised at 71 major temples at 6.30 pm under the joint leadership of Arvind Patel, Prem Shankar

Pathak, Ashok Yadav and Brijesh Chaurasia. Along with these programmes, 71 kg laddus will be distributed in each of the eight legislative assemblies of the district and Suresh Singh will be the convener. District president Hansraj Vishwakarma and district general secretary Praveen Singh Gautam will be the convenors of the whole programmes in which they would be supported by Mahila Morcha workers. Regional spokesman Navratan Rathi informed that various service programmes under 'Seva Samarpan Abhiyan' will be held between September 17 and October 7 under the leadership of regional general secretary Ashok Chaurasia. The meetings were also attended by UP ministers Anil Rajbhar, Dr Neelkanth Tiwari and Ravindra Jaiswal apart from state vice president Laxman Acharya, MLC Ashok Dhawan, MLA Surendra Narayan Singh, Mayor Mridula Jaiswal, city chief Vidya Sagar Rai and district president Hansraj Vishwakarma. HONOURED: On the eve of the 71th birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the backward cell of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday honoured the doctors and

nursing staff of Shiv Prasad Gupta Government Hospital, Kabirchaura who served the people by extending their cooperation in the vaccination of COVID-19. The activists gathered at the above mentioned hospital and celebrated the birthday of the PM by cutting cake as the symbol of Covaxin and Covishield vaccines. They honoured the doctors and nursing staff of the hospital by offering the cake to them. The country succeeded in administering the vaccines of COVID-19 to about 77 crores people because of the doctors and nursing staff, they said and extended their gratitude to them for their exemplary cooperation. Without caring for their lives the doctors and nursing staff discharged their jobs during the pandemic when each and every person had confined themselves into the boundaries of their homes, the activists said. Now, they are extending their cooperation in administering the vaccines of COVID-19 inspiring others to extend their services during the crisis, they said further. The vice president of the cell of BJP's Kashi Kshetra Anup Jaiswal and others were present on the occasion.

Effective implementation of plans emphasised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Chairman of Panchayati Raj Committee of Uttar Pradesh Legislature Sunil Kumar Sharma, while emphasising on the effective implementation of development plans in the villages, said that Panchayat buildings, multi-purpose roads, community toilets etc being made by the Zila Panchayat, Kshetra Panchayat and Rural Development department in the gram sabhas should be completed on time with quality. 'There should be no interference of middlemen in Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural)', he said, directing the departmental officers to keep a close watch. He was holding a review meeting with the officers at Circuit House

here on Thursday. Emphasising on the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, he said that the scheme was completely for the deprived people and no laxity would be tolerated in it. He asked the village secretaries to work as per the intention of the government and ensure completion of houses maintaining transparency. Expressing displeasure over the pendency of the backlog of previous years since 2017-18 to the current year in the construction of roads in the gram sabhas by the Zila Panchayat and Kshetra Panchayat, he directed the officers to complete the same on priority. Sharma also directed the Panchayati Raj officers to pay special attention to cleanliness in the rural

areas by launching a special campaign on the occasion of the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 17. 'Narendra Modi is the second person after Mahatma Gandhi who has taken the cleanliness programme in a big way on priority', he said, expressing displeasure over the officers not being able to provide the proper and desired reports in the meeting. He asked such officers that they should ensure to participate in such meetings in the future only with the desired information. He laid special emphasis on disposal of audit objections pending since 2011-12 and asked the district officers to sit with the audit officers at least once every

month to ensure the disposal of pending audit objection cases. Committee member and MLC Laxman Acharya directed the officials to conduct on-site physical verification of toilet construction and laid special emphasis on construction of toilets and ensuring their utility. He directed the District Panchayati Raj officer to ensure action against the concerned by fixing the responsibility on the irregularities in the construction of toilets. The committee members Bhupesh Choubey and Dr Mukesh Chandra Verma, Chief Development Officer (CDO) Abhishek Goyal and many other senior officers were also present.

At least 10 die in separate house collapse incidents

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

At least 10 people were killed in incidents of house collapse in Prayagraj and neighboring districts Prtapgarh and Kaushambi during the incessant rains. The rainfall which started on Wednesday morning continued till late night and then till Thursday afternoon. While the rain brought relief from the sultry weather, the problem of waterlogging in the localities increased the problems of people. According to the Meteorological department, there is a possibility of rains in the coming days too. Apart from the main roads of the city, the railway tracks were also waterlogged. Many houses collapsed due to which 10 people died till afternoon. A woman died while her son was injured when a two-storey house collapsed in Muthiganj. In Koraon, a woman and another person died in Mauaima due to house collapse. During heavy rains, a two-storey house collapsed in Kachari village in Shankargarh, Prayagraj. Two people lost their lives. In Pratapgarh, two women lost their lives after a house collapsed. In Kaushambi, a 55-year-old man died after his house collapsed in the Pinsa area. In Birner village of Sarai Akil, a woman died in a similar accident while her husband was injured. A house collapsed in Charva, killing a



Many kutchha houses caved in due to incessant rains in Prayagraj division

man. The continuous rains were a fallout of low air pressure in Odisha which intensified on Tuesday night. According to the Meteorological department, there were 18.2 mm rainfall from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm on Wednesday. There is a possibility of 25 mm rainfall in the next 24 hours. Meteorologist Dr Shailendra Rai of Allahabad University said there is a possibility of rains throughout the day on Friday as well. Traffic was disrupted at many places due to waterlogging. Besides, CHC Patti, Patti Kotwali, Women's Hospital, State Bank Branch, Registry

Office, Kunda Power Sub-Station, government and private schools, Lalganj Kotwali, Raniganj Tehsil Complex, GIC Complex, Headquarters RPF Barracks were flooded in Pratapgarh. Due to power cuts from Kunda sub-station, dozens of villages went powerless. In Prayagraj, five people died in separate incidents. On Thursday afternoon, Shiv Ghulam and Ram Kailash of Semri village of Lalapur, who were watchmen in a factory being built in Kachari village of Shankargarh, were sitting in the adjoining house during the rains when it collapsed. Both were trapped under

the debris and died. Earlier, the second floor of a two-storey house collapsed on Wednesday night in Bara Khambha locality of Muthiganj area. 53-year-old Sonia and her son were trapped under the debris. Both of them were sleeping when the house collapsed. On being taken to the hospital, Sonia was declared dead. In Koraon area, a couple got stuck under the debris after their house collapsed in Vitani Purva of Kukurhata village. 60-year-old Durghatiya Devi died in the mishap. 49-year-old Shivmurat Yadav lost his life after his house collapsed in Semra Virbhanpur, Mauaima. In Pratapgarh, Jagdev Prasad Yadav's wife Kalavati, 65, died when her house collapsed in Loli Pokhtakham village of Kohdaur area. She was pronounced dead at a hospital. Another woman died in a similar incident. In Kaushambi, there were reports of several such incidents in Chail, Saini, Pooramufti, Pinsa and Sarai Akil areas. 55-year-old Hirallal died on the way to the hospital. Premchand and his wife got trapped under the rubble while sleeping after their house collapsed in Birner village of Sarai Akil. Chhedilal lost his life in a similar incident in Charva. Old city areas including Allapur, Sobhatiyabagh, Daraganj, Salori, Om Gayatri Nagar, Shivkuti, Mehendori, Rajapur, Chak Meerapatti and Karailabagh faced waterlogging problems.

UP DGP appears before HC in Mainpuri rape, murder case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Uttar Pradesh DGP Mukul Goyal, who had been detained in Prayagraj for a day by the Allahabad High Court on Wednesday, was allowed to leave on Thursday with certain instructions regarding Mainpuri rape and murder case. The DGP, who could not answer the questions raised by the bench regarding action taken in this case, had been asked to re-appear before the court on Thursday with due preparations. The DGP submitted the report of the suspension of the ASP and the concerning CO on Thursday. The court asked him to submit the report of an impartial inquiry within two months. The court observed that the police needed an intensive training. Most of the cases are investigated by the constables here, and the inspector rarely visits the site, thus dropping the conviction percentage to 6.5 only while in western countries the conviction percentage is around 85. The court had taken the DGP to task on Wednesday and asked him to read out the FIR. The bench asked the DGP to initiate action against the SP

informed Acting Chief Justice MN Bhandari and Justice AK Ojha about action taken against the officials and said, the then ASP Om Prakash Singh, and CO of Bhadohi Priyank Jain have been placed under suspension. The ASP was posted at present in Etah. The court after hearing the DGP allowed him to leave Prayagraj after about 24 hours. The court has directed the police chief that the inquiry should be impartial and its report be submitted before the court within two months. The court observed that the police needed an intensive training. Most of the cases are investigated by the constables here, and the inspector rarely visits the site, thus dropping the conviction percentage to 6.5 only while in western countries the conviction percentage is around 85. The court had taken the DGP to task on Wednesday and asked him to read out the FIR. The bench asked the DGP to initiate action against the SP

Mainpuri or face the music. The court had directed the DGP on Wednesday to study the case in detail and appear before the bench on Thursday well prepared, and till then the police chief was directed to stay at Prayagraj while hearing a PIL filed by Mahendra Pratap Singh. Taking the court's strong view seriously, the ASP and the CO were placed under suspension with immediate effect, and the ACS Home Awanish Kumar Awasthi confirmed the action against them. The court viewed the video recording of the panchnama and asked the DGP as to what should be the action after registering FIR in such serious sections. When the DGP said arrest, the court asked, how many persons have so far been arrested? Did you go through the post mortem report? When the DGP said no, the court told him that semen was found on the clothes of the girl, and the PM report also suggests that she had been hit hard on her head. Even after that the police only recorded

statements of the accused. The DGP said that he would constitute a fresh an SIT in this case. The court asked him what did the SIT do in three years. On September 16, 2019 a 16-year-old girl was found hanging at Jawar Navodaya Vidyalay. The police tried to paint it as a case of suicide, while her mother told a totally different story and said that the girl was tortured and killed. When her father approached the CM, an SIT was constituted, and its report was placed before the court on August 24, 2021. The police had no explanation for this inordinate delay in taking statement in such a serious case. The court had termed it a serious lapse and summoned the DGP to explain but the officer had reached the court without any homework, so he was detained in Prayagraj for a day to appear well prepared on Thursday morning. The court directed the DGP to monitor the case.

Closure of 19 govt primary schools recommended

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Officials have recommended closure of 19 government-run primary schools of the city as they lack requisite basic amenities. The officials have also recommended construction of new buildings for four other government primary schools in the city. Located in city limits, these schools lack proper potable water facility, toilets and playgrounds. Schools are either not having their own buildings or the same are in a dilapidated and condition, the Basic Education department officials said. If closed, the students enrolled in these institutions will be shifted to nearby government primary schools. These actions follow a government order issued on December 24, 2020, say the officials. Acting on the government order, the then BSA Sanjay Kushwaha had on December 31, 2020 set up a three-member committee comprising block education officers of urban area, including Ramakant Singh, Suman Kesarwani and Jyoti Shukla, and sought a proposal from them based on spot inspec-

tions. On June 29 earlier this year, the committee members submitted their report to the BSA regarding 23 schools of Prayagraj in which most cases were of the owners who had pleaded financial inability to ensure the required facilities. The report had recommended that 19 of these schools be closed and the presently enrolled students (1,108) be adjusted in nearby schools. Construction or repair work of the buildings of the remaining four schools was also recommended, the officials said. BSA, Prayagraj, Praveen Tiwari said, "A report regarding schools running in rented buildings in urban area of the district has been received and the same is now being cross-checked. The issue will now be taken up with higher officials of the Basic Education department and the state government". The Sangam City government primary schools whose closure has been recommended by the three-member panel include Primary School of Nakhas Kohna, Karelalabagh village Girls' School, Karelalabagh Colony-I School, Rani Mandi Girls' School, Rani Mandi Boys'

School, Minto Park-Kydganj, Meerapur-I school, Kareli Girls' School, Munshi Ram Prasad Ki Bagiya School, Katghar, Malaviya Nagar, Old Lukerganj, Coloneelganj, Dariyabad, Gyasuddinpur, PD Tandon Marg, Mori-Daraganj, Bakshi Bazaar and Sarojini Naidu Marg School. The schools for which construction of new buildings has been recommended include the primary school of Kasari-Masari, which has 81 students and the upper primary school of Naini-2 where 146 students have just five rooms. Likewise, the primary school of Shivkuti has three rooms and 32 students while the primary school of CATC-Bamrauli also has five rooms and 91 students. NCR GM FELICITATES OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES: General Manager, North Central Railway, Pramod Kumar felicitated outstanding railway employees during a safety meeting. The GM held a meeting with the senior officers of the zone. DRMs of Agra, Prayagraj and Jhansi participated in the meeting through video conferencing. During the meeting, safety awards were given away by the GM to five employees of

Prayagraj, Jhansi and Agra divisions. The awardees include Shiv Prakash Tiwari, Purushottam Kumar, Mahendra Kumar Patel, Narendra Singh and Ranjit Singh. Ranjit Singh was honoured as the 'Man of the Month' for August. While on duty on August 22, Ranjit identified hot axle near Ghatampur in a coal-loaded goods LPGU. He immediately informed his in-charge, thus preventing a serious accident due to his alertness. The GM expressed gratitude to the entire family of Ranjit Singh. While encouraging the employees, the GM said they should work more diligently, keeping in mind the safety standards and safe operations. Issues affecting the safety of other zonal railways were also discussed in detail in the meeting. Speaking on the incident of derailment between Angul-Talcher, the GM said prima facie, the is track washout. Railway officials should remain in touch with the local civil officials so that proper preparations can be made if there is a plan to release water from the dams, he added. Future projects and plans to be executed were also discussed in the meeting.

PWD authorised to impose fines on illegally parked vehicles

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Additional District Magistrate Atul Kumar, while addressing the Udyog Bandhu meeting on Thursday, said that the two major hindrances to a Smart City concept were encroachments and vehicles parked haphazardly.

He said this not only retarded the pace of the traffic but also created traffic bottlenecks and thus it had been decided to give special powers to PWD to impose fines on illegally parked vehicles. He said the buses belonging to travel companies, software companies in Rania and Jainpur, and private duggamar

buses were the major reasons for the traffic chaos.

He said it had been decided that PWD would impose fines on the vehicles which were parked on roads, especially commercial vehicles like buses, vans carrying school-children and the illegally-run buses on suburban routes.

He said the officials of the PWD had also been directed to take up widening of roads, especially at traffic islands, so that the traffic could move smoothly.

He said it had been seen that commercial vehicles were being parked on sidewalks in prominent city areas which were also the residential area

causing great hardship to the residents.

He said ironically two huge parking lots in the heart of the city remained vacant as people did not prefer to park their vehicles in those parking lots. He said the Parade parking lot which had been constructed after spending a huge amount of money was rarely used. He said despite making strict rules, the shopkeepers refused to park their vehicles in the parking lots.

He said the same was the case at the parking lot on Canal Road and people preferred to park the vehicles on the roads.

It may be mentioned that

as schools are closed, the van owners have parked their vehicles in the residential areas threatening the residents of dire consequences. Majority of these vans are parked for the past over 18 months and hinder the smooth flow of traffic. Ironically, the police complaints have failed to deliver results.

Kumar said a special committee had been formed comprising officials of KNN, PWD, KESCo, police and industrial development department. He said often it was seen that the road had been widened but the electricity poles had not been removed by KESCo hindering the smooth flow of traffic.

KDA seals illegal constructions in Kanpur Dehat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) has now launched a drive to seal unauthorised/illegal constructions in Kanpur Dehat.

The KDA enforcement squad led by Executive Engineer (Mati) AK Singh sealed illegal constructions in five premises on Wednesday. These included Arazi No. 308, Raipur Kukhat, Rania of Ashok Agarwal; Mati Road of HN Singh; Fatehpur, Raipur National Highway of Pappu Seth; Arazi No.1086, Raipur of Lallu Singh and Barajod, Banar Ali of Pushpendra.

Assistant Engineer SD Tewari, Junior Engineer Rajesh Niranjn along with the team of KDA enforcement and engineering department and local police force were present during the drive.

It may be recalled that during the recent visit of KDA Vice Chairman Arvind Singh to Mati (Kanpur Dehat) area, he had noticed construction works being carried out without approved layout on both sides of the highway. As the then enforcement incharge (Mati) and junior engineer concerned failed to stop the illegal constructions and initiate quick action against the building owners, they were removed from their charge. Thereafter, the vice chairman had given the charge of Mati area to Executive Engineer AK Singh and directed him to initiate penal action against the guilty under the provisions of UP Urban Planning & Development Act, 1973 for carrying out constructions without the approved layout.

IRS officer Raghav Gupta selected for training in managing financial probes

KANPUR (PNS): Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer Raghav Gupta has been selected as the only Indian officer among 56 global civil servants for a 10-day training in Managing Financial Investigations, organised by the OECD International Tax Crime Academy.

He has also been nominated to give a presentation on 'Global Investigation Challenges' on the penultimate day of the training.

He is also the first IRS officer in the country to complete the globally recognised 6-month Advanced Professional Certificate in International Taxation (APCIT) offered by the International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation (IBFD), Amsterdam.

The programme was scheduled to be held in Guardia di Finanza (Italy), but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is being held virtually till September 24, 2021.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives. Together with governments, policymakers and citizens, they work on establishing evidence-based international standards and finding solutions to a range of social, economic and environmental challenges.

Gupta, who belongs to Kanpur, said in an interview: "This international organisation OECD looks for investigators from all around the world in all kinds of departments. To enter this Tax Crime Academy, we need to send them an application highlighting our work in the previous years and the specialisation we hold. Therefore, according to their criteria, they select people for their training programme." This year 56 candidates have been selected from countries like the United Kingdom, Italy, Kenya, Portugal, Singapore, India, etc. for the 10-day training programme. Speaking about his experience on the first day, Gupta said: "I participated actively and the course is nice. A group was formed and a case study was given which was to be discussed among the members to find a solution. The best part was to get ideas from other team members belonging to various other countries. It was an insightful session in which I got to know about how people in other countries tackle cases related to tax evasion."

Machine shop inaugurated

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

At plant-2 fabrication plant of Hindalco Industries Limited, Renukoot, on Wednesday, the inauguration of state-of-the-art machine shop was done by COO of Hindalco Cluster N Nagesh by offering prayers and cutting the ribbon. On the occasion Nagesh said with the starting of this machine shop at Hindalco's Renukoot plant now aluminum fabricated and finished aerospace and automotive components which are in high demand in the market can also be produced. Incharge of the machine shop Pankaj Barnwal said in this Aditya Birla Group in the first of its kind state-



of-the-art machine shop, ordered from Japan, Germany and Taiwan fully automatic Behring cutting shop, CNC Mazak turning centre and double ended chamfering machine has been installed which has a capacity of 5,000 components per day. With this machine shop, high precision machining work such as short length cutting, chamfering, boring, outer-inner dia turning etc can be done. On the occasion the head of the fabrication plant, BJ Alexander, finance head, Sanjib Rajderkar, project head, Vinod Thakur, and a large number of other officers and employees were present.

Running period of New Jalpaiguri-Udaipur weekly special extended till June 27

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

The railway administration for the convenience of the passengers has decided to extend the running period of 09601/09602 Udaipur-New Jalpaiguri-Udaipur weekly puja special train. All coaches in them will be of reserved class and passengers travelling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention guidelines, CPRO PK Singh said. The 09601 Udaipur-New Jalpaiguri weekly puja special train running till September 25 will be run till June 25, 2022, on every Saturday and 09602 New Jalpaiguri-Udaipur weekly puja special train running till September 27 will be run till June 27, 2022, on every Monday. This train will run as per its pre-determined route, timing and rake composition.

PANCHDEORI-SONPUR DEMU SPL FROM TODAY

For the convenience of the passengers the railway administration will run the 05241/05242 Sonpur-Panchdeori Halt-Sonpur unre-

served DEMU special train from September 16 from Sonpur and September 17 from Panchdeori Halt daily till further advice, CPRO PK Singh said. The 05241 Sonpur - Panchdeori Halt unreserved DEMU special train will from September 16 everyday depart leave Sonpur at 16.50 hrs, from Parmanandpur at 17.00 hrs, from Nayagaon at 17.10 hrs, from Sitalpur at 17.17 hrs, from Dighwara at 17.23 hrs, from Awatarnagar at 17.30 hrs, from Baragopal at 17.50 hrs, from Dumri Juara at 17.56 hrs, from Goldinganj at 18.35 hrs, from Chhapra Kacheri at 19.00 hrs, from Chhapra at 19.19 hrs, from Teknewas at 19.28 hrs, from Kopa Samhota at 19.36 hrs, from Daudpur at 19.44 hrs, from Ekma at 19.52 hrs, from Mahendranath at 19.58, from Chainwa at 20.03 hrs, from Duraundha at 20.11 hrs, from Pachrukhi at 20.21 hrs, from Siwan at 20.45 hrs, from Siwan Kachari at 20.52 hrs, from Amlori Sarsar at 21.03 hrs, from Hathua at 21.18 hrs, from Lain Bazar Halt at 21.39 hrs, from Salar Khurd at

21.45 hrs, from Phulwaria at 21.52 hrs, from Bathua Bazar Halt at 21.57 hrs and reach Panchdeori Halt at 22.10 hrs. In the return journey 05242 Panchdeori Halt – Sonpur unreserved DEMU special will from September 17 everyday leave Panchdeori Halt at 06.15 hrs, Bathua Bazar Halt at 06.32 hrs, Phulwaria at 06.40 hrs, Salar Khurd at 06.47 hrs, Lain Bazar Halt at 06.53 hrs, Hathua at 07.20 hrs, Amlori Sarsar at 07.33 hrs, Siwan Kachari at 07.42 hrs, Siwan at 08.00 hrs, Pachrukhi at 08.09 hrs, Duraundha at 08.18 hrs, Chainwa at 08.28 hrs, Mahendranath Halt at 08.33 hrs, Ekma at 08.40 hrs, Daudpur at 08.49 hrs, Kopa Samhota at 09.15 hrs, Teknewas at 09.25 hrs, Chhapra at 09.50 hrs, Chhapra Kacheri at 10.06 hrs, Goldinganj at 10.21 hrs, Dumri Juara at 10.27 hrs, Baragopal at 10.33 hrs, Awatarnagar at 10.42 hrs, Dighwara at 10.50 hrs, Sitalpur at 10.57 hrs, Nayagaon at 11.05 hrs, Parmanandpur at 11.12 hrs and reach Sonpur at 11.40 hrs. This train will be run on DEMU rake.

Workshop organised

CORRESPONDENT ■ JALAUJAN

A workshop was organised at Government Medical College (GMC) here which was inaugurated by DM Priyanka Niranjn by lighting the lamp. The main aim of the workshop, organised in collaboration with PATH and WHO, was to shed light on how to prevent filariasis, kala-azar and dengue in which doctors and scientists from various parts of the country took part. Principal GMC Dr Dwijendra

Nath said such workshops will always enhance our knowledge about these types of diseases. DM said all doctors must get knowledge about vector-borne diseases. Among those present were Dr Prem Singh, Dr Virendra Gupta, Dr Jeetendra Rajpoot, Dr Nityanand Thakur, Dr Deepak Singh, Dr Manas Mishra, Dr Gopal Kumar, Dr Pradeep Gupta, Dr Renu Singh, Dr ND Sharma, Dr RN Kushwaha, Dr RK Singh and Dr Shailendra Pratap Singh.

Nutrition kits given to pregnant women

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Under 'Poshan Maah' (nutrition month) poshan panchayat was organised on Wednesday at block headquarters, Lalganj, and in Bhatwari village under Halia block under the chairmanship of member, State Women Commission Aneeta Singh. Under the programme nutrition kits were given to pregnant women as the 'godh bharai' ritual, 'Annaprashan' of babies was conducted, stalls displaying recipe of nutritious food items were put up and plantation of nutritional vegetables was done on the occasion. Aneeta Singh said the government



Vani Verma and Probation Officer Shakti Tripathi.

ARRESTED: On the direction of DM PK Laxkar a joint team of Excise department and police led by DEO Neeraj Dwivedi while taking action against illegal manufacturing of liquor arrested six persons under Lalganj police station on Wednesday. The team raided Khajuri village and destroyed 3,500 kg of 'lahari', 15 breweries and recovered 60 litres of liquor.

DRM inspects stations

PNS ■ VARANASI

With the aim of increasing passenger facilities and speeding up passenger trains besides ensuring safe traffic Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Varanasi, Ramashray Pandey, along with divisional officers on Wednesday conducted window trailing of Chhapra-Chhapra Kacheri-Thawe-Kaptanganj-Siwan rail section of Varanasi division and inspected all the stations falling in this section, including Chhapra, Chhapra Kacheri and Thawe. He was accompanied by ADRM (Infra) Gyanesh Tripathi, SDE (Coordination) Rakesh Ranjan, SDOM, NK Joshi, SDCM Sanjeev Sharma and senior supervisors on the occasion. The DRM by his inspection special train along with divisional officers first reached Chhapra Jn railway station and did a thorough inspection of it. He inspected station master panel, platform, circulating area, passenger waiting room, retiring room etc and gave guidelines to the officials concerned. The DRM while doing window trailing inspection reached Chhapra Kacheri. Pandey along with window trailing while inspecting passenger amenities and operational arrangements at Tenuva-Dumaria, Khaira,



colour light signal, information/warning board, station section, block section, clearance of over head traction line, crossover etc. During the rear window inspection he inspected the minor and major bridges falling between Chhapra-Thawe besides curvature, bridges and culverts, points and crossings, over head line, electric pole, railway track line fittings, electrified colour light signals, RE area sighting board, high voltage warning board, road underpass and railway crossing etc. The DRM's inspection of the Thawe-Kaptanganj rail section and stations falling under it was continuing, last reports received here said.

KDA holds mutation disposal camp

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Long pending applications for mutation of as many as 92 allottees/ applicants were disposed of on the inaugural day of the Mutation Disposal Camp organised by the Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) at its premises on Thursday. Such a camp was organised by KDA for the first time during past five years.

The camp was inaugurated by the Vice Chairman Arvind Singh himself by distributing the mutation letter to allottees/applicants. Speaking on the occasion, he said, 'all the applicants visited the camp were members of KDA's extended family. You all are a part of KDA family. Any member of your family may have purchased a house or plot from KDA in the past or from any other person. The process of mutation was merely a testimony of relations. It is my effort that the process of mutation could be made simple and easier by maintaining the



KDA VC Arvind Singh handing over mutation approval letter to an applicant on Thursday.

Pioneer.

relationship between the buyer and seller.

All the senior officers, assistant zonal sales incharges, zonal sales incharges and additional secretary of all the sales zones were present at the camp. Despite heavy downpour since Thursday morning, large number of applicants visited the camp.

All the allottees/applicants were provided the facilities of preparation of mutation letters, their despatch and deposit of requisite amount at the bank's stalls were provided under one platform in the camp. The success of the camp was gauged from the fact that in the past, around 40-45 mutations relating to zones 1, 2 and world

bank were approved while in the special camp organised on Thursday, mutations of as many as 92 allottees/ applicants were approved in one day.

Lauding the efforts of KDA VC, Brijesh Singh of Candy Floss Education Society, who had applied for mutation of plot No.9C M Block, Kakadeo, one month ago and got the approval on Thursday, said 'such camps facilitate people a lot as their problems were resolved on the spot'.

Likewise Ritesh Kumar of Panki, Anil Kumar Agarwal of Maharshi Dayanand Vihar, Sunil Kumar Kanaujia of EWS Ratanpur and retired income-tax officer Raj Kishore Sachan also expressed their gratitude to KDA Vice Chairman Arvind Singh for organising such a camp.

The camp for disposing of the mutations relating to zones 3 and 4 and bulk sale department would be organised on Friday, said the press release issued by KDA PRO SB Rai.

GHSIMR organises orientation programme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Gaur Hari Singhania Institute of Management and Research organised an orientation programme for its 27th batch of PGDM students on Thursday.

The programme began with Saraswati Vandana and lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Director, Dr Rahul Goyal, in presence of the chief guest Alok Sanwal, COO, Dainik Jagran-Inext, guest of honour, Neeraj Wasan, Founder, Pulse Business Solution Inc, and Sumit Jhingan, general manager (HR), The India Thermit Corporation Limited, along with Dr Shekhar Trivedi, PGP chairperson.

Welcoming the new batch, Dr Goyal said that the journey of their PGDM would see them turning into managers who would be providing innovative



Orientation programme for 27th batch of PGDM students of Gaur Hari Singhania Institute of Management and Research being held on Thursday.

solutions to problems.

This was followed by the address of the chief guest and guests of honour.

Sumit Jhingan, in his address, said that the corporate world was becoming more and more challenging for man-

agers as the classical managerial jobs were evolving into technology-driven jobs and now the mandate was to be technically aware managers.

Neeraj Wasan advised the new batch not to study for specialisation but for general skills

and added that the students needed to hone the skills through on-job projects.

In the post-lunch session, the students were informed that Prof Devendra Jaiswal would be conducting management games like Dress My Mascot, Balloon Warfare, Human Balloon Train, Blow the Ball (PhooBall), Pull the Champaign, Human Chain, etc. while Dr Shekhar Trivedi would be taking a session on film making where the students would be making a short film on a socially relevant topic assigned to them, the entries would be evaluated and then suitably rewarded, while Dr Monika Srivastava would be conducting a session on storytelling -- Lessons from Indian Mythology and take another session on I Know my Plan(t) to be followed with an industrial visit.

Goldiee Masale felicitates Jai Ho lucky draw winners

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Shubham Goldiee Masale Pvt Ltd, Kanpur held the lucky draw of 'Jai Ho' introduced for its distributors and retailers in a grand manner.

The function was organised by regional sales manager Kapil Dev and declared it open by performing Ganesh poojan and lighting the ceremonial lamp. He said in the changing times the mantra of success of Goldiee was its initiative to adopt new technology, production expansion and marketing of all the new products the company had launched.

He said the company kept customer satisfaction as its top priority and the result of this was that Goldiee had established itself as a quality product not only in state but the entire India as well.

Explaining the company's marketing strategy, he said just because of the top class marketing system, the product had been able to carve a niche for itself. He said apart from this the company's progress was its packaging, production, and network. He also spoke



Shubham Goldiee Masale Pvt Ltd, Kanpur held the lucky draw function "Jai Ho".

Pioneer

about the future plans of the company and said focus was also being laid on spreading the aroma of the Goldiee spices in foreign countries as well.

He said Goldiee had been felicitated by the Central and state governments and the Union industry ministry had awarded 'Self Entrepreneurship Award' while the UP government had

awarded it 'Lab Test Award' and 'Udyogratna Award'.

He said the small industry ministry and agriculture and rural industry ministry had awarded it 'National Excellence Award' and thus it had reached the top-most rungs of the success ladder.

He later felicitated the Jai Ho lucky draw winners, Scooty Seller Tarun Agarwal, Ankur Agarwal and Subhash

Chandra Agarwal of Bansal Traders.

Goldiee is a popular name in Indian kitchens for its pure taste and aroma and today it is a brand of quality. The company has expanded in states like Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa and Jammu and Kashmir. The company has also stepped out to foreign countries like Australia, Japan, America, and Arab countries.

Dev said ISO Certification 22000:2005 had pushed the Goldiee products to the first position. He said the company was established as a small industry 40 years ago and now in the current times it had grown into a big business house and had thousands of distributors and retail sellers.

The welcome address was delivered by Atul Agarwal (Atul General Store). Others present included Ruchin Garg, Amit Sharma and several others.

Dhoni, Mahindra, Rathore part of NCC review panel



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former India cricket captain MS Dhoni, industrialist Anand Mahindra and Olympic medal winner and Member of Parliament Colonel (retired)Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore are part of a committee to suggest way to improve the functioning of the National Cadet Corps(NCC), which has more than 12 lakh cadets.

The Defence Ministry has constituted a High Level Expert Committee, under the chairmanship of former Member of Parliament Baijayant Panda, for a comprehensive review of the NCC to make it more relevant in changed times, officials said here on Thursday.

The Committee also includes Rajya Sabha member Vinay Sahasrabudhe,

Principal Economic Advisor in the Finance Ministry Sanjeev Sanyal and Jamia Millia Islamia Vice Chancellor Najma Akhtar, former SNTD Women's University vice-chancellor Vasudha Kamat, Maj Gen (retd) Alok Raj, National Organising Secretary, Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal, Mukul Kanitkar, Managing Director, SIS India Ltd, Rituraj Sinha and CEO of Databook Anand Shah.

Incidentally, Dhoni is an honorary Colonel in the Territorial Army and successfully completed parachute jumping course some years back. The terms of reference of the Committee broadly provide for suggesting measures which can empower the NCC cadets to contribute more effectively towards nation building and national develop-

mental efforts in various sectors and propose measures for gainful engagement of its alumni for betterment of the organisation as a whole.

The panel will study and recommend best practices of similar international youth organisations for inclusion in the NCC curriculum.

The NCC is the largest uniformed organisation which aims at developing character, discipline, a secular outlook and ideals of selfless service amongst young citizens. It also aims to create a pool of organised, trained and motivated youth with leadership qualities in all walks of life.

Dhoni's inclusion in the high-level panel came days after he was appointed mentor for India's T20 cricket world cup team.

8-lane Delhi-Mumbai expressway to cut travel time by 12 hrs: Gadkari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said the 1380-km eight-lane Delhi-Mumbai Expressway — passing through Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat — will reduce travel time between the cities to 12-12.5 hours. Gadkari also announced a six-hour drive on the Delhi-Katra expressway in two years.

The minister was addressing the Press in Lohatki, Sohna on Thursday after he reviewed the progress of a section of the Delhi-Mumbai expressway in Sohna. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh were also present at the occasion.

Calling it a matter of pride, Gadkari said the expressway will be the longest in India and connect urban centres of Delhi through Delhi-Faridabad-Sohna section of the corridor with a spur to Jewar Airport and Jawaharlal Nehru Port to Mumbai through a spur in Mumbai.

“The expressway will have wayside amenities – resorts, restaurants, food courts, fuel stations, facilities for trucks, logistics parks – at six points in Haryana. We have also envisaged a helicopter ambulance service for accident victims and there will be a heliport, which will use drone services for business as well. I also

want to build electric highways along the expressway,” said Gadkari.

Developed at ₹98,000 crore, the expressway is expected to be completed by March 2023. The eight-lane access-controlled expressway can be expanded to a 12-lane expressway depending on the volume of traffic in the future.

The first phase from Delhi-Jaipur (Dausa)-Lalsot and Vadodara-Ankleshwar is expected to be open to traffic by March 2022. More than 160 km stretch of the expressway which passes through Haryana is being built at ₹ 10,400 crore, the minister said.

“This corridor will improve connectivity in Nuh and Palwal through multiple interchanges to connect the expressway with major highways like KMP and DND Sohna. To address the serious problem of air pollution and traffic congestion in Delhi-NCR, the ministry is undertaking 15 projects worth Rs 53,000 crore, of which 14 projects have been initiated. This expressway will lead to a reduction of 27 per cent in vehicular pollution in Delhi,” he said.

He said that the soon to be opened Delhi-Meerut Expressway will reduce commute time between Delhi and Meerut to 40 minutes. “There was an issue with an overbridge, which has now been resolved. I will inaugurate it next month,” he said.

On the occasion the Minister said another ambi-

tious expressway is to connect the national Capital to Jammu and to reduce the distance from 727 to 572 kilometres to make you will reach Katra from Delhi in six hours. “We are also working on new roads from Delhi-Chandigarh, Delhi-Dehradun and Delhi-Haridwar, to take you there in two hours.”

Gadkari said that the ministry had paid 1.5 times more than the market price to farmers for land acquisition, in a liberal approach. “I appeal to farmers to not sell their land to builders and developers, who usually profit when prices increase after road construction. They (farmers) will get more money if they develop the land,” he said.

Responding to a question about toll taxes making travel costly on national highways, Gadkari said, “If you want good services, you have to pay for it. If one wants to conduct a programme in an air-conditioned hall, one will have to pay the rent (kiraya). Otherwise, a wedding can be conducted in a field (maidan) for free as well.”

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, said, “With these road stretches being built, there will be economic prosperity in the region (Palwal, Nuh and Gurgaon) and bring employment opportunities, services and give a fillip to industry and growth. At least 73 villages in this region will benefit from this stretch.”

‘PLI scheme to create ₹900 cr turnover from drones manufacturing’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The production-linked incentives (PLI) scheme will help create a turnover of ₹900 crores from drones manufacturing in the next three years, which would help in creating employment for 10,000 people in this sector. Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Thursday expects that the drone industry will have a total turnover of up to ₹15,000 crore by 2026.

Addressing a press conference, Scindia said that the current size of the drone manufacturing segment in India is around ₹ 80 crores and the Government will work towards making India a drone manufacturing hub by 2030. Scindia said that the drone sector will see investment worth Rs 5,000 crores in India in the next three years.

“Over a period of three years, Estimated investment worth ₹ 5,000 crore for manufacturing sector drones will be done which in turn will bring a turnover of ₹900 crore, and 10,000 job opportunities will be created,” Scindia said.

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a PLI



scheme for drones and drone components with an allocation of Rs 120 crore spread over three financial years. The PLI scheme comes as a follow-through of the liberalised Drone Rules, 2021, released by the Centre on August 25.

Experts say Drones offer tremendous benefits to almost all sectors of the economy. These include– agriculture, mining, infrastructure, surveillance, emergency response, transportation, geo-spatial mapping, defence, and law enforcement to name a few. Drones can be significant creators of employment and economic growth due to their reach, versatility, and ease of use, especially in India's remote and inaccessible areas.

Kerala gold smuggling case: ED attaches 30.24 kg gold

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate has provisionally attached 30.24 kg gold valued at `14.82 crore in connection with a money laundering probe linked to Kerala gold smuggling case.

The seized gold belonged to accused in the gold smuggling case Aboobacker Pazhedath, Abdul Hameed P. M., Jalal A. M., Rabins K Hameed, Abdu P. T, Mohammed Shafi, Hamjad Ali K., P. T.

Ahmedkutty, Hamjad Abdul Salam, Shaijal, Muhammed Shameer, Razal and Ansil. Cash amounting to `14.98 lakh belonging to Sarith PS and Swapna Prabha Suresh has also been attached.

The ED had initiated money laundering investigation, on the basis of an FIR registered by the NIA under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act against Sarith PS, Swapna Prabha Suresh,

Faisal Fareed, Sandeep and others.

The customs department had registered a case relating to the seizure of 30.24 kg of 24 carat gold worth `14.82 crore at Trivandrum International Airport. The said gold was camouflaged as diplomatic baggage to UAE Consulate, which has immunity from checking at airport as per Vienna Convention.

The consignment was to be received by the accused Sarith PS,

who had worked in UAE Consulate earlier as Public Relations Officer in complicity with Swapna Prabha Suresh, Sandeep Nair and others.

In the NIA case, accused Sarith PS, Swapna Prabha Suresh and Sandeep Nair were arrested by the ED on July 22 last year and the PMLA Court had remanded them to ED custody from August 5 to 17, 2020.

They were subsequently remanded to judicial custody.

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3,631 oxygen PSA plants being installed in country: Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Learning lessons from the second Covid-19 wave when the country faced severe shortage of Oxygen resulting in several deaths and serious illness across the country, the Centre on Thursday said that 3,631 oxygen PSA plants are being installed in the country—nearly half of which will be installed through central resources, a move planned amid a looming threat of the third Covid wave in India.

These plants will have the capacity to generate about 4,800 MT of medical oxygen. “Of the planned oxygen plants to be installed in hospitals, 1,595 or about 47% have already been commissioned,” Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan said in a press briefing on Thursday. As per the details shared, of the total 3,651 PSA plants sanctioned with 4,751 MT capacity generation when commissioned, 1,491 plants with 2,281 MT have been commissioned with central support.

Nearly 2,140 with 2,289 MT capacity on the other hand are planned with the states and other sources such as states, urban local bodies, MPLAD, and through CSR activities.

Of the 1,595 PSA plants commissioned so far with a capacity of 2,088 MT medical oxygen generation, 731 (with



1024 MT) PSA plants have been set up with central resources.

These plants are of utmost importance given that the second wave of the pandemic had triggered a massive shortage of the crucial oxygen supply in most parts of the country during April-May this year.

The official, while noting that situation in Mizoram with Covid cases surging, also urged states to prepare ahead for any potential spike highlighting that as the situation is stable with cases reducing even in Kerala, the months of October and November would be critical given the festive season.

“The next quarter will be critical. We advise states and municipal corporations to prepare ahead to ensure best models of home care and also to prepare infrastructure,” V K Paul, Niti Aayog member said.

62% Indian adults have got at least 1 Covid shot

PNS ■ NEW DELHI


The Government on Thursday said that at least three in five Indian adults—or 62 % — have now been covered with at least one Covid vaccine dose and while one in every five—or 20 % of the adult population is now fully immunised.

The latest data provided by the Union Health Ministry showed Chandigarh entering the coveted league of states and UTs to have ensured inoculation of their entire adult population with at least the first shot against coronavirus.

Further, as the festival season nears, ICMR DG Balram Bhargava at a press conference here said the need of the hour is vaccine acceptance, maintenance of Covid-appropriate behaviour, responsible travel and maintainable festivities. He also ruled out the introduction of booster doses of the vaccine saying that “these were not a priority for the government at this moment.”

The country, by Thursday evening, had seen a total of 77.1 crore Covid jabs administered in India of which 58.26 lakh were administered in a day. Commenting on the scale of inoculation, the Centre said that in the first 15 days of September over 11 crore doses—or about 76 lakh vaccinations in a day on an average— have been administered which is double of the doses given through the entire month of May.

		E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SECTION SARFAESI ACT 2002	
Bank of India		Zonal Office 128/24 Om Laxmi Tower, H-Block, Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur-208011, Tel: 0512-2985004	
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 rule proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of India, Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on below mentioned date recovery of mentioned amount in demand notice issued due to the Bank of India, secured creditor from below mentioned borrowers / guarantors. The details of the property as given below, reserve price and advance amount are marked against all the properties.			
Name of Borrower /Guarantors, Demand Notice date, Amount & Possession Date/Type of Possession		Description of Mortgage Properties & Owner of Property	
Branch Meston Road, 38/101, Kanpur UP, Phone: 0512-2352664		Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit	
Borrower- Mr. Paramhans Ramkrishna Singh Guarantor- Mrs. Sunita Singh Demand Notice Date/Amt.: 16.09.2019 - Rs. 8,21,346.52/- + Interest @13.40% W.E.F. 30.06.2019 date of NPA + other charges Possession Notice: 03.12.2019/Symbolic		All Land & Building situated at 117/M/298, Kakadeo, Kanpur, Area: 213.20 sqmt., Owned by- Mrs. Sunita Singh Boundaries- East: Remaining Part, West: 117/M/299, North: 60 Ft. Road, South: Basti Ambedkar Nagar	
Borrower- Mr. Shyam Bihari Verma Guarantor- Mrs. Sunita Singh Demand Notice Date/Amt.: 16.09.2019 - Rs. 8,24,235.53/- + Interest @13.40% W.E.F. 30.06.2019 date of NPA + other charges Possession Notice: 03.12.2019/Symbolic		All Land & Building situated at 117/M/299A, Kakadeo, Kanpur, Area: 260.10 sqmt., Owned by- Mrs. Sunita Singh Boundaries- East: 117/M/299, West: 9.14 Mtr. Wide Road, North: 60 Ft. Road, South: 117/M/300	
Branch - Dahichauki, Dixit Building, Bypass Chauraha, Unnao, (UP), Ph: 0515-2831307		Rs. 164.29 Lacs Rs. 16.43 Lacs	
Borrower- M/s Sakshi Mini Aata Mill Proprietor- Mrs. Ranjana Singh W/o Pradeep Singh Demand Notice Date/Amt.: 30.09.2020 - Rs. 24,33,635.05/- + Interest W.E.F. 30.06.2018 date of NPA + other charges Possession Notice: 23.03.2021/Symbolic		All Land & building/ House situated at Arazi No. of 3099 (Part), Vill & Post Gauraiya Kalan, Block Bangaramu, Tehsil Safipur, District Unnao UP. Area: 700.00 Sqmt., Owned by- Mrs. Ranjana Singh wife of Pradeep Singh Boundaries- East: Gauraiya Kalan Road, West: Agricultural Land of Bachcha Singh, North: Agricultural Land of Shiv Murti, South: Rest Agricultural Land of Ram Prakash	
Borrower- M/s Aditya Mini Oil Udhogy Proprietor- Mrs. Geeta Singh W/o Mr. Sandeep Singh Demand Notice Date/Amt.: 27.08.2018 - Rs. 30,66,615.82/- + Interest W.E.F. 30.06.2018 date of NPA + other charges Possession Notice: 02.11.2018/Symbolic		All Land & building situated at Arazi No. 3097 (Part), Vill- Gauraiya Kalan Distt- Unnao, Area: 1650 Sq.mt., Owned by- Mrs. Geeta Singh Boundaries- East: Field of Mrs. Rajnana Singh, West: Field of Mr. Jangali, North: Field of Vijay Laxmi, South: Field of Ram Dayal	
Borrower- Mr. Jageshwar S/o Late Parm eshwar Demand Notice Date/Amt.: 20.07.2015 - Rs. 3,43,122.00 + Interest W.E.F. 21.07.2015 date of NPA + other charges Possession Notice: 02.11.2015/Symbolic		All part and parcel of the property consisting of immovable property situated at Plot (Rakha 126.39 sqmtr.) No. 171, Wajidpur urf Rajepur, Pargana and Tehsil Unnao, District Unnao, Owned by: Jageshwar Boundaries- East: Empty plot, West: 20' Road, North: Empty Plot, South: 15' Road	
Branch - Ratan Lal Nagar, 122, Main Road, Ratan Lal Nagar, Kanpur (UP), Ph: 0512-2203052/2203082		Rs. 17.01 Lacs Rs. 1.71 Lacs	
Borrower- Mr. Deepak Kumar S/o Chhajju Ram, Co-Borrower- Mrs. Reenu Gaur W/o Deepak Kumar Guarantor- Mr. Rajesh Kumar Gaur S/o Chaju Ram Gaur Demand Notice Date/Amt.: 04.06.2019 - Rs. 31,89,588.58 + Interest W.E.F. 01.06.2019 date of NPA + other charges Possession Notice: 20.09.2019/Symbolic		All that part & parcel of Land situated at Flat No. 403, situated on 4th floor of Shri Ram Vatika, Plot No. 3, Block RN, Scheme 40, Indraprastha, Ratan Lal Nagar, Kanpur. Name of Mortgage- 1. Mr. Deepak, 2. Mrs. Reenu Gaur, Area: Covered Area 122.95 sqcm (undivided proportionate share in land 21.80 Sq. Mt.), Boundaries of Entire Premises "Sri Ram Vatika"- East: Nala, West: 6.09 Mt. Wide Road, North: 4.57 Mt. Wide Road, South: 12 Mtr. wide Road Boundaries of Flat no. 403:- East: Open to Sky, West: Flat No. 404, North: Open To Sky, South: Open to Sky	
Borrower- Mr. Anmol Sharma S/o Mr. Indra Kumar Sharma Guarantor- Mrs. Suman Sharma W/o Mr. Indra Kumar Sharma Demand Notice Date/Amt.: 04.03.2020 - Rs. 8,88,989.33 + Interest W.E.F. 01.03.2020 date of NPA + other charges Possession Notice: 07.10.2019/Symbolic		All that Part & Parcel of Land and Buildings situated at E-2/500, Ratanpur, Vistar Part-2, Mohalla Ratanpur Vistar, Part-2, Kanpur Nagar, Name of Owner- Mr. Anmol Sharma S/o Indra Kumar Sharma, Area: 27.00 sqmt. Boundaries :- East: Plot No. E-2/501, West: Plot No. E-2/499, North: 6.00 Mtr. Wide Road, South: Plot No. B-71	
Branch- Orai, Gurjar Complex Raj Marg, Orai, Jalaun, Ph. No. 05162-2533043		Rs. 15.19 Lacs Rs. 1.52 Lacs	
Borrower- M/s Shivhare Utsav Grah, Proprietor- Mr. Siddha Gopal Shivhare Demand Notice Date/Amt.: 12.12.2018 - Rs. 13,25,067.00/- + Interest @11.10% W.E.F. 30.09.2017 date of NPA + other charges Possession Notice: 13.03.2019/Symbolic		All Land & Building situated at House No. 2226 (old 1861), Mohalla - Patel Nagar, Jalaun Road, Orai, Dist- Jalaun, Area: 334.52 sqmt., Owned by- Mr. Siddha Gopal Shivhare Boundaries- East: Plot of Akeel Ahmad, West: Plot of Pushplata Pandey, North: Orai Jalaun Road, South: Plot of Pushplata Pandey	
Branch - Kanpur Main, LIC Building, The Mall Road, Kanpur Ph 0512-2333777		Rs. 38.05 Lacs Rs. 3.81 Lacs	
Borrower- M/s Universal Earth Movers & Infra Developers Partner- 1- Mohammad Asif Siddiqui 2- Mohd. Sharif Siddiqui Guarantor- Shazia Fatima Demand Notice Date/Amt.: 24.02.2020 - Rs. 32,66,134.12+ Interest W.E.F. 04.02.2020+ other charges Possession Notice: 02.07.2020/Symbolic		Land & building/House property situated at Flat No. 3, Ground Floor, Bajpai Apartment, 41/228, Ram Tirath Nathi, Lucknow, Area: 102.23 Sq.mt., Tenure: Free Hold, Name of owner: Mohd. Sharif Siddiqui & Shazia Fatima Boundaries :- East: staircase, Entrance & Lobby, West: Open to sky, North: Open to sky, South: Flat No. 2	
Borrower- M/s Naushad Leather Finishers Partner- 1- Mr. Irshad Alam s/o Mr. Abdul Hameed 2- Mr. Naushad Alam S/o Mr. Abdul Hameed 3- Mrs. Sayeeda Begum W/o Mr. Abdul Hameed Guarantor- 1- Mr. Abdul Hameed S/o Mr. Abdullah 2- Mrs. Isma Alam W/o Mr. Irshad Alam Demand Notice Date/Amt.: 28.07.2008 - Rs. 3,39,72,602+ Interest W.E.F. date of NPA + other charges Possession Notice: 28.05.2008/Physical		Property No.-1- Flat No. 703 situated at Concord Apartment Premises No. 7/190, 190-A, 190-B, Swaroop Nagar, Kanpur, Owned by Mr. Irshad Alam and Mrs. Isma Alam, Builtup Area: 1081.60 Sq.ft., Undivided share of land : 46.16 sqft., Boundaries of Flat No. 703:- East: Corridor and Open to sky, West: 20 Ft. wide Drive way, North: Open to sky, South: Open to sky and Flat No. 704 Boundaries of Entire Premises :- East: 60 Ft. wide Road, West: Farm of Agri land of CSA University, North: House of Halim, South: Other properties	
Branch - Nawabganj, Shiv Sadan, Nawabganj, Unnao, (UP)		Property No.-2- Flat No. 806 situated at Concord Apartment Premises No. 7/190, 190-A, 190-B, Swaroop Nagar, Kanpur, Owned by Mr. Irshad Alam S/o Abdul Hameed, Builtup Area: 1069.44 Sq.ft., Undivided share of land : 45.62 sqft., Boundaries of Flat No. 806:- East: Open to sky, West: Open to Sky then corridor, North: Open to sky and Flat No. 801, South: Corridor then Flat No. 805 Boundaries of Entire Premises :- East: 60 Ft. wide Road, West: Farm of Agri land of CSA University, North: House of Halim, South: Other properties	
Borrower- Mr. Raghvendra Singh S/o Mr. Haripal Singh Co-Borrower- Mrs. Deepika Singh W/o Mr. Haripal Singh Demand Notice Date/Amt.: 29.07.2018 - Rs. 29,07,331.23+ Interest W.E.F. 30.09.2017 date of NPA + other charges Possession Notice: 12.10.2018/Physical		Factory Land & building situated at Vill & Post - Aigain Pargana- Tehsil - Hasanganj, Dist. Unnao, Area: 192.75 sqmt., in the name of Mr. Raghvendra Singh Boundaries :- East: Temple of Hanuman Ji, West: 8 Ft wide road then house of Durgesh Srivastava, North: House of Chandra Prakash Srivastava, South: Plot of Subhash & 10 Ft. wide Brick Pavement Road	
Last date for submission of tender for all the above properties is 05.10.2021 E-Auction of above mentioned properties will be held on Date 05.10.2021 Time at Morning 11 AM to 5 PM (with unlimited extension of 10 min. interval)			
Terms and Conditions of Sale :- 1. This e-Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "Whatever" basis. 2. The property being auctioned by the Authorized Officer is free of charge till the maximum information and belief, yet the intending tenderer should independently all the encumbrances, title claim statutory dues (Customs and Excise Tax / Income Tax) before participating in the e-auction and or any other government agency etc. All assets are being sold with all current and future encumbrances known or unknown. The Authorized Officer will not be liable for any claim rights and liabilities of any third / third party. 3. It is the responsibility of the tenderers to inspect the property and satisfy itself completely before participating in the e-auction. You can contact the concerned branch of Bank of India for property inspection. 4. Interested tenderers will be able to get their User ID and Password free of cost by registering on the web portal https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auCTIONhome/ibapi/ and EMD can be deposited through this portal. 5. After registration in the web portal, the interested bidders should upload the following documents in the web portal before submitting the tender. 1. Copy of PAN Card 2. ID Proof (KYC) like Self Attested Aadhar Card / Voter ID - Card / Driving License / Passport etc. 6. Only tenderers having valid User ID, Password will be able to participate in the e-auction process. 7. Only those interested bidders who have made EMD payment by 05.10.2021 within the stipulated time will be able to participate in the e-auction process. 8. If the reserve price of the property is up to Rs. 50 lakh the incremental value bid will be in multiple of 25000 and if reserve price is above 50 lakh it will be Rs. 50000. 9. The highest bidder shall be declared the successful bidder with the permission of the authorized officer. The information of which will be given - to him by electric mode on his email address. 10. The Authorized Officer will not be bound to accept the highest bid and the Authorized Officer will have the right to accept/reject any bid. 11. EMD amount of successful bidder will remain in MSTC Wallet and all unsuccessful bidder's amount can be withdrawn from MSTC. No interest will be payable by MSTC on the EMD amount. 12. The successful bidder will have to deposit 25% (including EMD amount) of the selling price (i.e. maximum bid amount) immediately. He has to deposit the remaining balance amount within 15 days. In case successful bidder failed to deposit bid amount in prescribe time the amount deposited will be forfeited without any prior notice. 13. Bidders are advised to go through the detailed terms and condition at https://www.bankofindia.co.in , https://ibapi.in before submitting the tender. 14. TDS tax will be payable by the successful bidder on the maximum sale price under Income Tax Act 1941 (A), if the selling price exceeds Rs. 50 lakhs or more and additional GST will be payable (wherever applicable) on the sale price as per Government rules. 15. The intending tenderer should have proper resources related to the bid, no objection will be accepted in this regard.			
15 days sale notice to borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors			
The above mentioned borrower / depositor / mortgagor is informed to pay the amount mentioned in section 13(2) before the date of auction. In case of failure to deposit the amount, the property will be auctioned and the balance amount along with interest and cost will be recovered from you or the borrower can also participate in the auction organized by the bank on the above date to recover the amount due in his account.			
Date: 16-09-2021		Place : Kanpur/Unnao/Orai	
		Authorised Officer: Bank of India	

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SECTION SARFAESI ACT 2002		
	Zonal Office 128/24 Om Laxmi Tower, H-Block, Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur-208011, Tel: 0512-2985004	
	Bank of India	
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 rule provision to Rule 8 (6) of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of India, Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on below mentioned date recovery of mentioned amount in demand notice issued due to the Bank of India, secured creditor from below mentioned borrowers / guarantors. The details of the property as given below, reserve price and advance amount are marked against all the properties.		
Name of Borrower /Guarantors, Demand Notice date, Amount & Possession Date/Type of Possession	Description of Mortgage Properties & Owner of Property	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit
Branch Meston Road, 38/101, Kanpur UP, Phone: 0512-2352664		
Borrower- Mr. Paramhans Ramkrishna Singh Guarantor- Mrs. Sunita Singh Demand Notice Date/Amt.: 16.09.2019 - Rs. 8,21,346.52/- + Interest @13.40% W.E.F. 30.06.2019 date of NPA+ other charges Possession Notice: 03.12.2019/Symbolic	All Land & Building situated at 117/M/298, Kakadeo, Kanpur, Area: 213.20 sqmt., Owned by- Mrs. Sunita Singh Boundaries- East: Remaining Part, West: 117/M/299, North: 60 Ft. Road, South: Basti Ambedkar Nagar	Rs. 164.29 Lacs Rs. 16.43 Lacs
Borrower- Mr. Shyam Bihari Verma Guarantor- Mrs. Sunita Singh Demand Notice Date/Amt.: 16.09.2019 - Rs. 8,24,235.53/- + Interest @13.40% W.E.F. 30.06.2019 date of NPA+ other charges Possession Notice: 03.12.2019/Symbolic	All Land & Building situated at 117/M/299A, Kakadeo, Kanpur, Area: 260.10 sqmt., Owned by- Mrs. Sunita Singh Boundaries- East: 117/M/299, West: 9.14 Mtr. Wide Road, North: 60 Ft. Road, South: 117/M/300	Rs. 215.71 Lacs Rs. 21.58 Lacs
Branch - Dahichauki, Dixit Building, Bypass Chauraha, Unnao, (UP), Ph: 0515-2831307		
Borrower- M/s Sakshi Mini Alta Mill Proprietor- Mrs. Ranjana Singh W/o Pradeep Singh Demand Notice Date/Amt.: 30.09.2020 - Rs. 24,33,635.05/- + Interest W.E.F. 30.06.2018 date of NPA+ other charges Possession Notice: 23.03.2021/Symbolic	Land & building / House situated at Arazi No. of 3099 (Part), Vill & Post Gauraiya Kalan, Block Bangarmau, Tehsil Safipur, District Unnao UP, Area: 700.00 Sqmt., Owned by- Mrs. Ranjana Singh wife of Pradeep Singh Boundaries- East: Gauraiya Kalan Road, West: Agricultural Land of Bachcha Singh, North: Agricultural Land of Shiv Murti, South: Rest Agricultural Land of Ram Prakash	Rs. 17.01 Lacs Rs. 1.71 Lacs
Borrower- M/s Aditya Mini Oil Udhog Proprietor- Mrs. Geeta Singh W/o Mr. Sandeep Singh Demand Notice Date/Amt.: 27.08.2018 - Rs. 30,66,615.82/- + Interest W.E.F. 30.06.2018 date of NPA+ other charges Possession Notice: 02.11.2018/Symbolic	Land & building situated at Arazi No. 3097 (Part), Vill- Gauraiya Kalan Distt- Unnao, Area: 1650 Sq.mt., Owned by- Mrs. Geeta Singh Boundaries- East: Field of Mrs. Rajnana Singh, West: Field of Mr. Jangail, North: Field of Vijay Laxmi, South: Field of Ram Dayal	Rs. 30.50 Lacs Rs. 3.05 Lacs
Borrower- Mr. Jageshwar S/o Late Parm eshwar Demand Notice Date/Amt.: 20.07.2015 - Rs. 3,43,122.00 + Interest W.E.F. 21.07.2015 date of NPA+ other charges Possession Notice: 02.11.2015/Symbolic	All part and parcel of the property consisting of immovable property situated at plot (Rakha 126.39 sqmtr.) No. 171, Wajidpur urf Rajepur, Pargana and Tehsil Unnao, District Unnao, Owned by: Jageshwar Boundaries- East: Empty plot, West: 20' Road, North: Empty Plot, South: 15' Road	Rs. 15.19 Lacs Rs. 1.52 Lacs
Branch - Ratan Lal Nagar, 122, Main Road, Ratan Lal Nagar, Kanpur (UP), Ph: 0512-2203052/2203082		
Borrower- Mr. Deepak Kumar S/o Chhaju Ram, Co-Borrower- Mrs. Reenu Gaur W/o Deepak Kumar Guarantor- Mr. Rajesh Kumar Gaur S/o Chaju Ram Gaur Demand Notice Date/Amt.: 04.06.2019 - Rs. 31,89,588.58+ Interest W.E.F. 01.06.2019 date of NPA+ other charges Possession Notice: 20.09.2019/Symbolic	All that part & Parcel of Flat situated at Flat No. 403, situated on 4th floor of Shri Ram Vatika, Plot No. 3, Block RN, Scheme 40, Indraprasth, Ratan Lal Nagar, Kanpur. Name of Mortgage- 1. Mr. Deepak. 2. Mrs. Reenu Gaur. Area: Covered Area 122.95 sqcm (undivided proportionate share in land 21.80 Sq. Mt.), Boundaries of Entire Premises "Sri Ram Vatika": East: Nala, West: 6.09 Mt. Wide Road, North: 4.57 Mt. Wide Road, South: 12 Mtr. wide Road Boundaries of Flat no. 403:- East: Open to Sky, West: Flat No. 404, North: Open To Sky, South: Open to Sky	Rs. 38.05 Lacs Rs. 3.81 Lacs
Borrower- Mr. Anmol Sharma S/o Mr. Indra Kumar Sharma Guarantor- Mrs. Suman Sharma W/o Mr. Indra Kumar Sharma Demand Notice Date/Amt.: 04.03.2020 - Rs. 8,88,993.33+ Interest W.E.F. 01.03.2020 date of NPA+ other charges Possession Notice: 07.10.2020/Symbolic	All that part & Parcel of Land and Building situated at E-2/500, Ratanpur, Vistar Part-2, Mohalla Ratanpur Vistar, Part-2, Kanpur Nagar, Name of Owner- Mr. Anmol Sharma S/o Indra Kumar Sharma, Area: 27.00 sqmt. Boundaries :- East: Plot No. E-2/501, West: Plot No. E-2/499, North: 6.00 Mtr. Wide Road, South: Plot No. B-71	Rs. 10.86 Lacs Rs. 1.09 Lacs
Branch- Orai, Gurjar Complex Raj Marg, Orai, Jalaun, Ph. No. 05162-253043		
Borrower- M/s Shivhare Utsav Grah, Proprietor- Mr. Siddha Gopal Shivhare Demand Notice Date/Amt.: 12.12.2018 - Rs. 13,25,067.00/- + Interest @ 11.10% W.E.F. 30.09.2017 date of NPA + other charges Possession Notice: 13.03.2019/Symbolic	All Land & Building situated at House No. 2226 (old 1861), Mohalla - Patel Nagar, Jalaun Road, Orai, Dist- Jalaun, Area: 334.52 sqmt., Owned by- Mr. Siddha Gopal Shivhare Boundaries- East: Plot of Akeel Ahmad, West: Plot of Pushplata Pandey, North: Orai Jalaun Road, South: Plot of Pushplata Pandey	Rs. 47.81 Lacs Rs. 4.79 Lacs



Terror and hunger

Apart from the dread, hunger and lack of nutrition are gnawing at the Afghan people

It is time to strike a balance between terror and hunger in Afghanistan. Millions of lives are at stake as the UN organisations involved in relief activities say food stocks may last not more than a month in the vast rural stretches. Hunger and lack of nutrition are the bywords as the country's economy is in a downward spiral. Essential commodities are already out of stock in urban stores. Scarce vegetables are selling at double the prices. Panic buying in the aftermath of the Taliban takeover on August 15 cleaned up shelves in stores with no replenishing. Flour and oil are already out of limits for the poor. In the villages, the situation is worse as families are falling back on grain and wheat stored for future crops. Drought and famine have anyway hit the country for the umpteenth time. The risk of displacement adds to the pangs of hunger for a large section of the population. The fighting before August had made over 600,000 Afghans flee homes.



The UN agencies estimate that around 3.5 million people are internally displaced. At least 10 million children, a sizeable section of them malnourished, depend on humanitarian assistance just to survive. The UN's World Food Programme has said many Afghans did not have access to cash to afford sufficient food. That is because banks had closed down after August 15. The Taliban are now negotiating with banks for re-opening branches. However, they have set a cap on weekly withdrawal of \$200 to avoid a run on banks.

Afghanistan's economic experts, now in exile, insist that the situation will lead to a weaker currency, faster inflation and capital controls. Most civil servants have not been receiving salaries for months. Many more claim they have suffered pay cuts as high as 75 per cent since the Taliban took over. There is no indication that the Taliban are bothered about the dire straits. No proactive economic decisions have been forthcoming. Their contribution has been limited to appointing an obscure official to head the central bank to address the crisis. Little is known about his actions. The Taliban cadres though appear unfazed as it is rumoured that there is enough drug and opium money in their coffers. They are currently embroiled in internal squabbles that appear to have worsened after the interim set-up was announced. The Taliban are preoccupied with settling an existential debate — their Achilles' heel, actually — between their urban political face and orthodox armed command represented by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and Khalil-ur-Rahman Haqqani, respectively. The question is whether the Taliban are playing a blinking game with the rest of the world, holding the latter responsible for restoring economic order. Do they await the international community to pour money into rehabilitation works? Or expect it to recognise their interim governance apparatus? That is linked to lifting the freeze on Afghan assets worth billions of dollars; only a recognised government can take control of the funds.

PICTALK



Haitian migrants walk towards boats that will take them from Necocli to Acandí, Colombia

PTI

AAP eyeing UP

Can it alter the script and make a mark in the upcoming Assembly elections?

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is seriously trying its luck in the forthcoming Assembly election due next year. The party recently kicked off its campaign with a 'Tiranga Yatra' in Ayodhya. Enthused by the response, the party is likely to hold more such yatras in the coming months in other districts of Uttar Pradesh. Though the elections in Uttar Pradesh are a little away, most parties have already started activities to woo voters. And it makes sense as the stakes are high. Uttar Pradesh has 80 parliamentary seats. It is generally the Congress, BJP, Samajwadi Party and the BSP that fight the elections. But now the AAP is making inroads into the State. It has been consistently trying to make its presence felt in several States, including Punjab, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Goa. The party seems to be filling up the vacuum created by the missing Congress. The BJP and the BSP have their cadre on the ground in 'Jan Sammelan Yatras'. The SP is holding a 'Shiv Sevak Sammelan'. The Congress is conspicuous by its absence. Most of the parties are trying to woo the Brahmin voters who are disgruntled with the incumbent Government, which is seen favouring the Thakurs.



Brahmins, who make up 12 per cent of UP's population, are significant from the poll point of view. The AAP is also planning 'Chanakya Sammelans' to engage Brahmins. The 'Tiranga Yatra' in Ayodhya was led by Manish Sisodia along with the party's UP in-charge, Sanjay Singh. So far, the AAP has not had a very good response in Uttar Pradesh. Arvind Kejriwal fought against Narendra Modi and lost. During the 2014 Lok Sabha election, the AAP contested 77 seats and lost the deposit on 76. The party then contested the 2017 local body elections. It had 3,400 candidates in the fray but only 44 won. It was at number five. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the party failed to open its account and all its candidates lost their deposit. For the 2022 Assembly polls, it has decided to contest all the seats on its own. But the situation could change as the AAP is trying a tie-up with OP Rajbhar's Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha. Sanjay Singh is in talks with SP chief Akhilesh Yadav. He is also trying to build the party at the grassroots and strengthen the organisation. It might not win as yet but it can be a spoilsport for the ruling party.

Pornography is the theory, rape practice



HASAN KHURSHID

The easy access to online obscene content is making an increasing number of people getting hooked on to the extent of perversion

Online pornography has literally created a 'porn pandemic' as deadly as 'COVID-19'. Experts trace a marked correlation between watching pornography and sexual crimes. Pornography is a Greek word, which originally meant "writing about prostitutes".

Today, according to modified version of Kuhn *et al*-2007, "Pornography is a communication material provided for the purpose of arousing or gratifying a user in isolation from others or in company of others." Pornography is "perversion". It provides a field for deviant and violent fantasies to be developed eventually leading to some viewers acting out those fantasies in practice. Before the advent of online pornography, the compulsive voyeur used to haunt public places, parks and bedroom windows from where he could surreptitiously watch courting couples. Now the voyeur is privileged to watch couples on screen. After getting constantly aroused, he would prowl around in search of a soft target, mainly the tender-aged child, as many a time the voyeur has low level of sexuality and finds himself partially impotent with a grown up woman.

Alfred C Kinsey considered voyeurism to be limited solely to men, but in the US, the 1971 Commission of Pornography and Obscenity revealed that women responded to visual stimulation, pictures of nudes, in the same way as men do. According to a recent survey, a large number of users of these porn sites is not adults but adolescents.

Does online pornography have the destructive power to turn a simple normal, everyday man into rapist or murderer? Why this alarming question does not surface every time a rape with murder, especially of children and infants, hits the headlines. Ironically, there is no stringent law in India on full viewing of sexual acts online; whereas, on the contrary, the law of the land showed its utter sensitivity on obscenity under the provisions of Section 292 and 293 of IPC.

This is evident from the fact that Kamlesh Vaswani, Advocate,



filed in the Supreme Court a petition seeking to ban pornography in India and praying for direction to the Government to treat watching of porn videos and sharing as non-bailable and cognisable offence, but the Government supported pornography in the court.

The Attorney General submitted that if someone wished to watch porn within their bedroom, how can the State interfere with such an activity? He asserted that the Government did not want to do moral policing and that we (India) cannot become a totalitarian State by banning all pornographic websites because clampdown would infringe the "Right to freedom". The State's action may raise issues regarding privacy rights.

Chief Justice HL Dattu, who had used a similar line during the previous hearing, interrupted and said: "Mr Attorney, why are you using our lines?" The Attorney General further contended: "Simply viewing an obscene object is not an offence. It becomes an offence only when someone has in possession such objects for the purpose of sale, hire, distribution, public exhibition or putting it into circulation."

Petitioner's counsel Vijay Panjwani argued that "criminal



THE ACCUSED OF THE DELHI GANG RAPE CASE OF DECEMBER 2012 HAD ADMITTED THAT BEFORE COMMITTING THE GHASTLY CRIME, THEY HAD CONSUMED LIQUOR, WATCHED PORNOGRAPHY, AND THEN DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

activity is a criminal activity", whether carried out in private or public. Moreover, when the obscene object has come on the internet, it has already been circulated and automatically becomes "public". Subsequently, on February 26, 2016, Additional Solicitor General Pinky Anand told Justice Dipak Misra: "It is difficult to ban pornographic websites as they do not fall under any country's jurisdiction."

Differing, the Bench said: "When obscenity is an offence under the criminal law, then why can't you define it accordingly? It has already been decided that freedom of speech and expression is not absolute." The petitioner's counsel contended: "There is technology available to block such sites. In India, there are 11 towers which receive signals from under water cables of foreign countries. A technologist from Banaras Hindu University has undertaken to block all those 11 points that receive porn contents. It is a very low-budget technology, provided the Government agrees to it." A committee under the leadership of then Communications Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had been constituted to review this matter but he gave the statement: "We are not a control freak Government and

strongly object to the word 'Talibanisation'."

In fact, there is enough evidence available about the link between serial killers/rapists and their addiction to pornography. The accused of the Delhi gang rape case of December 2012, in their 164 Criminal Penal Code statement, had admitted that before committing the ghastly crime, they had consumed liquor, watched pornography, and then decided to have a party (they meant committing rape).

In his interview to Games C Dobson, notorious American serial killer Ted Bundy seven hours before his execution in the electric chair documented: "I was a normal person. I led a common life except for this one segment. Pornography can reach in and snatch a kid out of any house today. It snatched me out of my home 30 years ago. I deserve, certainly, the most extreme punishment society has. And I think society deserves to be protected from me and from others like me." According to Government's figures in December 2017, a child is sexually abused every 15 minutes, still the authorities are more concerned on 'naked capitalism'.

(The writer is a legal journalist and author. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SANSAD TV GOES ON AIR

Sir — The start of Sansad TV will mark another lesson in India's democratic history. Inaugurated on the day of International day of Democracy, the new media channel will voice out the truth of India's democratic system. We all know that Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV have been dedicatedly telecasting relevant issues of our democracy with quality information and facts. In fact, both the LS and the RS TV are especially watched by UPSC aspirants for quality preparations. Both these channels have telecasted the functioning of the two houses of the Parliament individually.

Now with Sansad TV in the picture, we can expect more quality content and information on a single platform. Sansad TV will merge the quality and technology of India's two state of the art media channels, so as to deliver the best information to its viewers. We hope that with Sansad TV, every Indian is empowered to get faithful news and right information at the right time so that citizens do not get misled by false information. Right information will empower citizens to make better decisions over the issues of national, social, economical and political importance.

Dimple | Kanpur

RAHUL'S 'FAKE HINDU' JIBE

Sir — There is substance in Rahul Gandhi's statement that the RSS and its political arm the BJP are 'fake Hindus' and 'brokers of religion'. The Congress leader has shown the courage to call a spade a spade. BJP's role in Indian politics validates Rahul Gandhi's charge of 'Dharam ki dalali'. The way he saw it, BJP is 'disrespecting and insulting goddesses Lakshmi and Durga'. He elaborated that the ruling party was busy transferring wealth from people to a few corporate houses and it did not believe in *nari shakti* (women's power). Rahul Gandhi's metaphorical speech provoked the BJP to call him the 'son of a Catholic mother and a Parsi father' and ask him 'to stop lecturing on Hinduism and hurting Hindu sentiment'.

The use of religion, a centre of devo-

Telcos get a respite



The Union Cabinet has cleared a set of structural and procedural reforms for the telecom sector in hope of rejuvenating its cash-strapped companies. The key measures announced by the Cabinet include a four-year moratorium on payment of statutory dues by telecom companies and a change in the definition of adjusted gross revenue (AGR) to exclude non-telecom revenue. The change in the definition of AGR

is momentous as it was at the centre of a long and arduous legal battle between the telecom companies and the Centre. The companies had disputed the Department of Telecommunication's definition of AGR as including revenue from non-telecom sources as well.

Since the licence fees and spectrum usage charges that the telcos have to pay the department are calculated based on AGR, there was much at stake. After nearly 15 years of legal battles, the Supreme Court upheld the DoT's definition, leading to a Rs.1.6 lakh crore payment backlog for the telcos. The change in definition does not wipe out these past dues as it does not have retrospective effect. The relief on this front is from the four-year moratorium on payments, though the companies still have to pay interest. It is a right step in the right direction. These fresh reforms will further boost efforts to invest in the digital future.

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

tion for the multitudes, by the BJP to achieve its political ends has become the salient and striking feature of politics in today's India. The encroachment of religion into politics has been so normalized with the nomenclature 'Hindu nationalism' over the decades that anyone who is against defining nationhood on the basis of religion is branded 'anti-national'. The retreat from secularism diminishes our identity as a pluralist democracy and our capacity to prosper.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

PLANET EARTH IS HEATING UP

Sir — A new survey by the BBC has found that the number of days when the temperature reached 50 degrees centigrade has doubled over the last 40 years. The study found that between 2010 and 2019, the temperature reached 50 degrees for 26 days on average. Between 1980 and 1990, that figure was just 14 days. The analysis shows that the frequency of exceptionally hot days is increasing every year. Every 10 years, the

overall number of days with temperature hitting the 50 degrees centigrade mark has risen. Urgent action must be taken by world leaders to control global temperature rises.

It must be understood that even below 50 degrees, high temperature and humidity could create severe health risks. As a consequence of extreme heat, disasters such as droughts and wildfires have become more frequent. Global warming, depletion of the natural sunscreen — the Ozone layer, and melting glaciers are more common than ever. Unless the countries wake up to the severity of the situation and adopt measures to mitigate global warming, our existence on this planet will be in peril. Reversing the already caused damage might be a lost cause but doing our bit can delay the onset of tragedies we're not prepared for.

Venu GS | Kollam

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

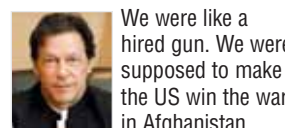
SOUND BITE

Within 24 hours of coming to power, the AAP will provide 300 units of free electricity for residential use to every single person in UP.



Delhi Deputy CM

—Manish Sisodia

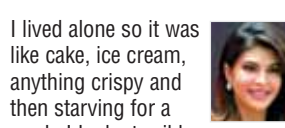


We were like a hired gun. We were supposed to make the US win the war in Afghanistan,

which we never could.

Pakistan Prime Minister

—Imran Khan



I lived alone so it was like cake, ice cream, anything crispy and then starving for a week. I had a terrible relationship with food.

Actor

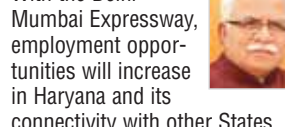
—Jacqueline Fernandez



We are excited to have fans back at the IPL. It's been too long to hear that roar of KKR fans at Eden Gardens.

KKR captain

—Eoin Morgan



With the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, employment opportunities will increase in Haryana and its connectivity with other States will improve.

Haryana Chief Minister

—Manohar Lal Khattar

FIRST COLUMN

BUILDING BLOCKS OF DEVELOPMENT

India has its task cut out to make itself heard in global affairs concerning its interests



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

A bunch of regional and multilateral dialogues are coming India's way between September and the last quarter of 2021. As a follow up to the BRICS summit, India participated in the Shanghai Cooperation organization (SCO) meeting in Dushanbe this week. External affairs minister S Jaishankar travelled there and Prime minister Narendra Modi addressed the meeting virtually.

In the wake of the developments in Afghanistan, any opportunity for India to spread its diplomatic clout on the events unfolding in Central Asia is crucial. The SCO has a formidable bunch of representation from nearly all countries that have a say in Central and South Asia. However, therein lies its biggest failure to develop as a regional dialogue platform for Central Asia.

The SCO has a whole laundry list of ambitious goals such as promoting mutual trust and neighbourliness among members, ensuring peace, stability and security in the region based on principles of non-



alignment and "non-targeting any third country and openness". The events in India's eastern border with direct military interventions by China in 2020 and the on-going tensions may seem contradictory to any of the goals. The SCO, like another regional platform BRICS, was primarily a body sponsored by China and Russia to challenge the US in a "unipolar" world and establish the centrality of these powers. When it was conceived, India was still aligning itself to the suddenly new unipolar world having been indecisive about the path it ought to choose for a prosperous future. However, in the last decade or so, a strategic shift has been made to migrate to a US-India strategic relationship based on mutual economic interests and security specially in the Indo-Pacific region. There is growing confidence among the two largest democracies to deal with the new challenges of the global order based on shared targets and economic prosperity.

Coming back to SCO, India focussed on the Afghanistan crisis during its dialogue with SCO leaders. It is significant since this is the second time a fortnight that top leaders of Russia, China and India spoke to one another on Afghanistan and the overall security situation in the region. The External Affairs minister held bilaterals with his counterparts of Russia and Iran on the situation prevailing in the region. Earlier, India had reiterated its position on providing non-discriminatory and direct distribution of humanitarian assistance to all groups in Afghanistan under the UN banner.


It may be recalled India held the presidency of the security council in August and managed to get a resolution passed on Afghanistan with Russia and China abstaining. The pressure from China and some other SCO members to formally recognize the Taliban government exists. India needs to watch its step. The SCO in its current avatar also needs to bring in democratic reforms and work towards mutual trust of its member-states and dialogue partners before it can challenge alliances like Nato.

Next up in September is the high-level personal dialogue of Modi with President Biden during the Quad summit. In the wake of an aggressive China emerging as a threat for the four large economies of the US, Australia, Japan and India, the Quad grouping has significant potential. The agenda of the summit consists of dialogue on critical and emerging technologies, connectivity and infrastructure, cyber security, maritime security, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, climate change, and the Indo-Pacific region. Any five of these strategic goals, if followed through, have a huge potential to create significant economic opportunities for Quad members. Its leadership needs to start publicizing its targets in their respective media for more broad-based participation.

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

As NaMo turns 71, the world turns to him

The universal farsightedness of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his ability to foresee challenges places him well above others



JASIM MOHAMMAD

On September 17 this year, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi turns 71, his fans cutting across political lines remind themselves how he has proved to be a visionary and charismatic statesman, a role model for others to follow.

Even his detractors have to acknowledge that his public image shines, as evidenced by a recent Morning Consult survey judging him the most popular among 13 world leaders.

With an acceptance rating of as high as 70 per cent, he was crowned as the tallest leader, followed by Mexican president Andres Manuel López Obrador with a score of 64 per cent. They were followed by Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi (63 per cent), German

Chancellor Angela Merkel (52 per cent), US President Joe Biden (48 per cent), Australian PM Scott Morrison (48 per cent), Canadian PM Justin Trudeau (45 per cent), UK PM Boris Johnson (41 per cent), Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro (39 per cent), South Korean President Moon Jae-In (38 per cent), Spanish PM Pedro Sánchez (35 per cent) and French President Emmanuel Macron (34).

No doubt, on September 24 when Modi visits the United States for a Quad summit, he is likely to meet President Biden for bilateral talks on subjects including Afghanistan for the first time after Biden rose to presidency.

There are many reasons why Modi has achieved globally what many other Indian



PMs failed to. One of them is universal farsightedness that he is credited with. He can foresee the challenges lying ahead and has solutions ready for them. This quality not only made him different from his predecessors but put him ahead of other top world leaders.

Take the case of the Covid-19 pandemic that brought the world to a standstill last year. Braving the criticism of the opposition parties at home,

Modi emerged as a global messiah by reaching out to other countries with vaccines while ensuring that the vaccine supply to Indians was not adversely affected. If this was not enough, he turned health into a key global agenda at the BRICS summit that he chaired on September 9.

He "stressed the need for accelerating 'buildback' by enhancing speed and accessibility of vaccination, creating 'resilience' by diversifying pharma and vaccine production capacities beyond the developed world".

Another major success of Modi as the host of the BRICS Summit was his affirmation in the presence of Chinese President Xi Jinping about the global stand against terrorism and the unprecedented situa-

tion that has dramatically unfolded in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of troops by the US.

In the wake of the stand of Communist China, which has decided to hobnob with the Taliban in league with Pakistan to expand its presence in Afghanistan not only for commercial interests but also for secret strategic purposes, a development that can pose a serious threat to India, Modi has been able to tie smartly four other countries to the New Delhi Declaration.

The joint resolution underlined: "We follow with concern the latest developments in Afghanistan. We call for refraining from violence and settling the situation by peaceful means. We stress the need to contribute to fostering an inclusive intra-Afghan dialogue so as to ensure stability, civil peace, law and order in the country. We condemn in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks near the Hamid Karzai Kabul International Airport that resulted in a large number of deaths and injuries. We underscore the priority of fighting terrorism, including preventing attempts by terrorist organizations to use Afghanistan as a terrorist sanctuary and to carry out attacks against other countries, as well as drug trade within Afghanistan. We emphasise the need to address the humanitarian situation and to uphold human rights, including those of women, children and minorities."

Significantly it also came a day after Russia and India discussed coordinating among themselves on Afghanistan during NSA-level talks in New Delhi. The New Delhi declaration also carries a veiled yet strong warning from Modi to Pakistan, which is not part of BRICS but is aligned with China and has been chiefly responsible for overthrowing a democratically elected and India-friendly government in Afghanistan by supporting a terrorist outfit like the Taliban militarily.

If China, at the behest of Pakistan, dares to play any mischief from Afghanistan targeting India in future, Modi and leaders of the three other nations would have every right to confront Jinping for violation of the agreement. And that would certainly not be a good experience for the leaders either Beijing or Islamabad.

Mighty challenges in Indian agriculture

India has all the means to become an agricultural power in the world but we are currently tapping only a fraction of our strength and letting the rest slide

Current focus of public discourse in agriculture is on marketing system in the backdrop of the three contentious farm laws enacted last year. Early this year, the Supreme Court ordered a temporary stay on their implementation and appointed an expert committee whose report is lying unactioned since March. The Government's offer to seek suggestions on specific changes in the law have fallen on deaf ears and the protests seeking outright scrapping of laws have now turned distinctly political.

This focus on marketing has eclipsed attention on important issues of growing water deficit, soil erosion and environmental degradation - particularly nitrogen pollution or air and water - caused by current farming practices. Here is a brief explainer of issues and concerns.

In a pandemic-stricken world, time-bound eradication of hunger and malnutrition by 2030 in an environmentally sustainable manner is an international priority and commitment under United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Food Systems Summit is due to be convened soon to review global preparedness. Action is required to ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all; shift to sustainable consumption patterns; boost nature-positive production; advance equitable livelihoods; and build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress.

India has offered to use its over-flowing granaries to tackle extreme hunger but India can do much more and be an agricultural power but we are presently tapping only a fraction of our strength. Here are some suggestions to achieve this mission.

By the mid-1960s, hit by back-to-back droughts, India was a "ship to mouth" economy waiting for PL480 wheat imports from USA. Today, India is the largest exporter of rice and the second-largest producer of both wheat and rice, after China. Except for oilseeds and pulses, the country is now self-sufficient in foodgrain production.

This feat has been achieved by ushering 'Green Revolution' in the 1960s. One of the important fallouts of Green Revolution was increased use of chemical fertilisers, mainly urea for nitrogen and others to provide potassium and phosphorus.

Textbook science tells us that bacteria in the roots of leguminous plants (pulses) help in 'nitrogen fixation', conversion of atmospheric nitrogen into nitrogenous compounds that serve as fertilisers. These plants therefore naturally increase the nitrogen content of soil. Traditional agriculture practice of 'crop rotation' was to sow the legumes in between other crops to restore depleted nitrogen content of soil.

Green Revolution changed many of these practices. It boosted production with three major failings. First, its impact was confined to a few cereal crops - mainly wheat and rice - and to water surplus regions of Punjab, Haryana and parts of UP. These are no more water surplus and the water table has gone very deep. Further, the



THEN THERE IS THE ISSUE OF POLLUTION CAUSED BY CHEMICAL FERTILISERS AND PESTICIDES. SCIENTISTS FOUND THAT CROPS GENERALLY USE UP ONLY 30 PER CENT OF NITROGEN FERTILISERS SPRINKLED IN THE FIELDS; THE REST SEEPS INTO THE ENVIRONMENT, HARMING HEALTH AND ADDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

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



new varieties require chemical fertilisers and pesticides and there is a risk of the chemicals seeping into air and water.

Three crops (rice, wheat and sugarcane) corner 75 to 80 per cent of irrigated water. Diversification of cropping patterns towards millets, pulses, oilseeds, horticulture is needed for more equitable distribution of water, improving sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture and most important of all, addressing the problem of nutrition deficit. Too much of cereals and sugarcane at the cost of pulses, fruits and vegetables is not good for health.

At a time when some misguided environmentalists have aligned with misguided farmers in perpetuating over-production of cereals in an environmentally unsustainable manner, it is apt to recall the report released by UN agencies (FAO, IFAD, WHO, UNICEF, WFP) on State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World on July 13, 2020.

The UN Report has estimated that if last five years' trends persist, the number of undernourished people will exceed 84 crore by 2030 whereas the goal is to reduce it to zero under SDGs.

Then there is the issue of pollution caused by chemical fertilisers and pesticides. Nitrogen pollution has implications for global warming as well.

The farmers were initially impressed by four-to-ten-fold increase in productivity of wheat and rice. They kept on increasing fertiliser use, particularly of cheaper urea. The soil kept losing its natural health and became 'addicted' to urea. With the fertiliser use efficiency on the decline, farmers used more fertiliser (than minimum

required) in the hope of raising yield. Scientists found that crops generally use up only 30 per cent of nitrogen fertilisers sprinkled in the fields; the rest seeps into the environment, harming health and adding to climate change.

The "nitrogen use efficiency" of the global food system integrating crop and livestock production systems is very low, just about 15 per cent. This means that 85 per cent of nitrogenous chemicals used are lost to air, groundwater or surface runoff, threatening the quality of air, soils, and fresh waters, driving climate change, and thereby endangering ecosystems and human health (2013 Study).

Nitrous oxide is a particularly potent greenhouse gas as it is over 300 times more effective at trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. Agriculture leads to about 70 per cent of nitrous oxide emissions in India. Of this, 77 per cent is contributed by fertilisers, mostly urea, according to the Indian Nitrogen Assessment published in 2017.

Cereals consume over 69 per cent of nitrogen fertilisers in India and fertilizer consumption shows a continuously growing trend, with a yearly increase of about six per cent since 1970.

Concerned about excessive use of urea and its adverse effect on environment, a major policy intervention has been introduction of neem-coated urea - coating of *Neem* on urea granules means the urea does not readily dissolve in water and the soil gets additional natural insecticide.

This should help but eventually we need to gradually return to chemical-free agriculture.

Obviously, we cannot proceed like Sri Lanka which banned import of chemical fertilisers in the face of a serious shortage of dollars with them. It has affected food production and supply leading to imposition of emergency.

Chemical-free farming or organic farming or zero budget natural farming is yet to pick up in a big way. Currently, 38 lakh hectares of cultivable area is organically farmed by 30 lakh farmers with an export and domestic demand of Rs.7,000 crore and Rs.4,400 crore, respectively. The domestic market is growing at 17 per cent and the projected demand of organic food market is likely to cross Rs. 87.1 crore by 2021 from Rs. 53.3 crore in 2016. The export market size of organic products has increased by 42 per cent during 2021 compared to last year and the volume of organic products exported from April 2020 to February 2021 was 819,250 MT with value of \$948 million.

'Sresta Natural Bioproducts' is a sustainable livelihood venture that has enabled 45,000 farmers turn to practicing organic farming across the country. The company has converted two lakh acres of land across 15 states. Over 200 products are sold in 10,000 stores and exported to 50 countries under the brand name 24 Mantra. A 'jaivik kheti' web portal in fact connects farmers to consumers for better prices. These are encouraging but still baby steps. Organic farming, perceived as a fad of the rich and expensive, cannot become a mass movement unless organic products are verifiable and affordable.

When shall we see a 'mahapanchayat' discussing these challenges before Indian agriculture?



SUBHASH CHANDRA PANDEY

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THEY (THE BJP) ARE FAKE HINDUS. THEY USE RELIGION, THEY ARE BROKERS OF RELIGION, BUT THEY ARE NOT HINDUS. —CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI



RAHUL GANDHI SHOULD NOT MAKE THESE STATEMENTS. HE IS TOTALLY DISCONNECTED FROM THE GROUND AND HAS NO INFORMATION. —BJP NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY ARUN SINGH

Markets maintain record run

SENSEX BREACHES 59K FOR FIRST TIME

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Market benchmark Sensex scaled the 59,000-mark for the first time on Thursday as investors remained in risk-on mode following the government's policy support measures for various sectors.

Advancing for the third consecutive session, the 30-share BSE index climbed 417.96 points or 0.71 per cent to its new closing peak of 59,141.16. It touched an intraday record of 59,204.29.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty surged 110.05 points or 0.63 per cent to finish at its fresh lifetime high of 17,629.50. During the session, it scaled an

all-time peak of 17,644.60.

IndusInd Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, spurting 7.34 per cent, followed by ITC, SBI, Reliance Industries, Kotak Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank.

In contrast, TCS, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, HCL Tech and Dr Reddy's were among the laggards, slipping up to 1.32 per cent.

"Driven by reforms, the Indian market kept raising its bar and traded to new record highs. Today's market rally was driven by strong buying in Banking stocks especially in PSBs.

The banking sector is expected to perform well in the coming days as the sector which failed to fairly participate in the ongoing rally due to fear over asset quality is gaining traction.

"Asian markets traded with cuts as the fall in Chinese

property stocks pushed Asian stocks down while European markets traded with positive sentiments," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities, said, "Ahead of the operationalisation of the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL), banks provided the much needed ammunition to the bulls to notch up record highs of 59K on the Sensex. The charge of the energised bulls took India's market capitalisation ahead of France as PSU banks lent the firepower."

BSE bankex was the biggest sectoral gainer, jumping 2.12 per cent, followed by energy, finance, FMCG and oil & gas indices. Metal, teck, IT and basic materials were among the losers.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap and smallcap

gauges rose up to 0.48 per cent.

Asian equities sank after liquidity crisis at Chinese real estate major Evergrande Group fanned fears of a broader contagion.

Bourses in Shanghai, Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong ended with significant losses.

However, equities in Europe were trading with robust gains in mid-session deals.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude rose 0.16 per cent to USD 75.58 per barrel.

The rupee slipped 2 paise to close at 73.52 against the US currency on Thursday, tracking a strengthening greenback in the overseas markets.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets as they purchased shares worth Rs 232.84 crore on Wednesday, as per provisional exchange data.

GST Council to meet today

Rate review, tax concession to 11 Covid drugs on cards

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, will meet on Friday, which among other things may review tax rate of over four-dozen items and extend till December 31, tax concessions on 11 Covid drugs.

Also, taxing petrol and diesel under the single national GST tax and a proposal to treat food delivery apps such as Zomato and Swiggy as restaurants and

central and state finance ministers, will deliberate on the proposal of extending the existing concessional tax rate structure on Amphotericin B, Tocilizumab, Remdesivir and anti-coagulants like Heparin, till December 31, 2021, from the present September 30.

Tax rate on Amphotericin B, Tocilizumab was cut to 'Nil', while Remdesivir and Heparin was reduced to 5 per cent in June 2021.

The Council on Friday may also discuss the proposal of reducing GST from 12

per cent to 5 per cent to seven more drugs till December 31, 2021. These are Itolizumab, Posaconazole, Infliximab, Bamlanivimab & Etesevimab, Casirivimab & Imdevimab, 2-Deoxy-D-Glucose and Favipiravir.

To curb tax evasion, the proposal to make the food delivery platforms like Swiggy and Zomato liable to pay the Goods and Services Tax on restaurant services supplied through them would also be considered by the Council.

PLI scheme for auto sector to build self-sustaining framework for e-mobility industry: SMEV

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Electric vehicle manufacturers' body SMEV on Thursday said the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for auto and auto-components will build a self-sustaining framework for the e-mobility industry.

The Union Cabinet has on Wednesday approved a ₹ 26,058 crore PLI scheme for auto, auto-components and drone industries to enhance India's manufacturing capabilities.

The scheme will incentivise the emergence of advanced automotive technologies' global supply chain in India, with incentives worth around ₹26,000 crore to be provided to the industry over the next five years.

The scheme is especially beneficial for existing large players engaged in the automotive business and new entrants, as it will renew the interest of traditional players and motivate them to invest in

the sector, Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (SMEV) Director-General Sohinder Gill said in a statement.

It is estimated that over the five years, the PLI scheme for the automobile and auto components industry will lead to a fresh investment of over ₹ 42,500 crore, incremental production of over ₹2.3 lakh crore and will create additional employment opportunities of over 7.5 lakh jobs. The move will strengthen the manufacturing ecosystem and build a self-sustaining framework for the e-mobility industry, Gill noted. However, he said, most of the existing small and medium OEMs engaged in the EV automotive business and new startups may not be able to qualify for the scheme and will have to operate under the existing norms. Policies supported by fiscal and non-fiscal incentives are the pillars that drive consumer sentiment and accelerate the adoption of new products in the market, he said.

Prospects brightening for economy as second Covid wave wanes: RBI bulletin

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Prospects are brightening for the Indian economy achieving "escape velocity" from the pandemic as the second wave of Covid-19 wanes and preparedness for future remains on war-alert status, according to an RBI

bulletin published on Thursday. An article on the state of the economy, published in the September bulletin, said aggregate demand is gaining firmer ground, while on the supply side, IIP and core industries mirror improvement in industrial activity and services sector indi-

cators point towards sustained recovery. "In August, we believe that India passed a turning point which consolidates and thrives come September," said the article authored by a team lead by RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra.

It further said the trajectory of inflation is shifting down more favourably than anticipated. "As pandemic scars heal and supply conditions are restored with productivity gains, a sustained easing of core inflation can be expected, which will reinforce the growth-supportive stance of monetary policy," it said.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	17539.20	17644.60	17510.45	17629.50	110.05
INDUSNDRBK	1071.00	1186.50	1071.00	1131.00	77.05
ITC	216.95	233.65	216.30	230.30	14.30
SBN	444.85	466.10	442.75	465.00	21.15
RELIANCE	2381.55	2436.75	2367.00	2424.00	45.70
IOC	116.70	119.00	116.15	118.55	2.15
KOTAKBANK	1877.00	1910.00	1868.00	1906.00	34.30
ICICIBANK	720.00	729.40	712.85	726.90	12.55
HEROMOTOCO	2899.00	2926.00	2881.90	2924.95	50.00
BPCL	437.50	442.05	435.55	438.95	7.00
AXISBANK	792.50	798.45	789.10	803.60	12.20
HDCLIFE	747.00	756.20	743.50	749.40	8.60
SBIIFE	1174.20	1187.00	1168.00	1183.20	10.75
HDPCBANK	1537.75	1564.30	1536.30	1561.00	14.20
BAJAJ-AUTO	3798.00	3834.00	3780.05	3810.80	31.70
COALINDIA	162.15	163.00	157.55	162.20	1.15
POWERGRID	178.95	181.65	178.30	179.10	1.20
EICHERMOT	2868.00	2883.40	2843.55	2861.00	19.05
TATACONSUM	873.50	883.00	871.35	879.95	3.40
ONGC	129.65	131.25	127.40	128.90	0.45
MARUTI	6913.30	6949.00	6870.00	6930.00	21.00
ADANPORTS	769.00	772.75	760.30	768.10	2.15
M&M	759.85	761.70	751.35	758.00	1.70
IT	178.00	1728.50	1709.25	1721.00	4.00
HDFC	200.60	2023.90	2008.50	2019.80	4.35
DIVISLAB	5157.00	5174.05	5125.10	5165.00	6.10
CIPLA	954.50	964.80	920.20	950.00	1.05
SUNPHARMA	780.00	784.55	778.30	780.90	0.25
BAJFINANCE	745.00	745.00	738.50	741.00	0.85
NTPC	124.50	125.70	123.00	123.90	-0.30
BRITANNIA	4086.35	4120.00	4039.80	4075.95	-10.40
TATAMOTORS	3134.00	3150.00	307.65	311.00	-0.95
ASIANPANT	3350.00	3371.00	3330.00	3339.90	-12.80
HINDUNILVR	2752.00	2797.30	2752.00	2762.95	-12.50
NESTLEIND	2010.65	2024.10	1997.00	2020.35	-95.25
INFY	1715.20	1719.25	1691.45	1702.95	-9.40
ULTRACEMCO	7858.70	7869.65	7730.00	7774.00	-46.85
TITAN	2132.95	2132.95	2095.05	2107.00	-12.85
BAJFINTECH	16890.00	16950.40	16625.00	16712.30	-116.60
ICHLIFE	1287.20	129.35	125.20	126.40	-9.25
HINDALCO	483.00	488.00	480.45	483.35	-3.25
WIPRO	679.75	685.75	665.00	668.50	-5.55
DRREDDY	4981.00	4996.50	4916.55	4919.10	-43.50
JSWSTEEL	700.05	709.55	688.00	689.30	-7.35
UPL	763.00	769.75	753.10	753.80	-4.30
TECHM	1464.85	1469.00	1440.00	1447.70	-17.15
TATASTEEL	1460.00	1471.90	1431.25	1436.90	-18.20
SHREECEM	31043.50	31246.25	30935.35	30601.15	-390.30
TCS	3930.00	3981.75	3802.50	3905.05	-51.50
BHARTIARTL	735.00	737.00	715.40	715.75	-9.75
GRASIM	1615.00	1618.00	1574.00	1578.60	-28.20

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	43406.00	43562.60	43307.35	43514.60	302.50
YESBANK	12.95	15.05	12.90	14.30	1.60
INDUSTOWER	256.00	279.55	251.90	267.00	22.45
PNB	38.80	41.95	38.50	41.70	2.95
BIOCON	357.50	379.00	355.85	378.40	20.90
BOSCHLTD	14661.30	15599.00	14661.30	15297.70	717.50
ADANIGREEN	1137.00	1180.25	1110.45	1165.00	38.00
HINDPENTRO	277.40	284.40	275.35	284.00	8.30
NAUKRI	6725.00	6985.00	6711.00	6860.00	192.80
DMART	3982.60	4010.00	3981.05	4005.00	102.40
BANKBAROD	293.90	288.20	289.00	297.50	6.35
BANKBAROD	4819.00	4890.00	4792.05	4875.00	82.95
SRICARD	1075.00	1084.85	1067.90	1082.05	18.25
HDCLIFE	3259.00	3300.00	3201.75	3294.00	38.20
PGHL	14032.90	14131.00	13991.50	14099.05	149.80
VEDL	310.05	311.90	304.35	309.20	2.00
AIKEM	3860.10	3884.00	3817.10	3877.00	24.85
ICICIPRULI	698.00	707.40	691.40	699.30	3.80
GLAND	4036.90	4119.80	3958.00	4039.80	21.50
UBL	1603.00	1618.95	1590.20	1599.90	7.70
MUTHOOTFIN	1542.45	1555.00	1528.05	1549.80	7.45
BAJAJHIND	4308.00	4445.30	4298.95	4322.90	19.00
DABUR	642.20	645.65	630.05	639.00	1.80
ICICI	1624.00	1628.75	1605.30	1615.55	4.00
ITI	5687.00	5710.05	5607.95	5655.45	15.15
HAVELLS	1456.40	1477.00	1448.05	1455.00	3.80
MARICO	566.00	571.45	561.85	563.10	0.95
PIDILITIND	2654.70	2672.95	2635.00	2645.90	-4.05
PEL	2422.00	2422.00	2396.00	2396.65	-4.10
GAIL	157.00	158.20	156.00	156.75	-0.40
DLF	344.00	344.00	339.60	341.50	-0.95
PETRONET	233.15	233.50	231.10	232.50	-0.65
CADILAC	567.00	568.00	561.10	564.50	-1.65
INDIGO	1988.00	1999.00	1957.00	1971.80	-5.65
MRF	8060.00	8060.00	7980.10	7990.00	-310.15
SIEMENS	2209.10	2214.25	2193.55	2199.40	-9.35
TRONPHARM	3125.00	3165.00	3102.55	3145.35	-17.90
BERGEANT	837.45	842.10	830.80	832.65	-4.80
ABBOTINDIA	21264.00	21420.70	20900.00	20995.00	-129.30
COLPAL	1732.00	1748.00	1715.00	1716.80	-13.50
ADANIPHARMA	762.70	762.70	750.65	752.95	-6.05
ADANIANT	1523.00	1535.00	1499.75	1501.70	-15.10
ADANITRANS	1940.00	1981.05	1868.90	1923.20	-20.15
MCDOWELL-N	754.95	760.40	741.15	742.70	-9.85
NMDC	154.00	154.70	151.70	152.15	-2.10
AMBUJACEM	437.05	439.70	427.80	430.90	-6.15
ACC	2476.60	2479.40	2416.25	2430.00	-37.40
JBURFLO	4184.60	4190.00	4090.00	4099.00	-65.25
GODREJCP	1125.95	1130.35	1100.30	1105.45	-21.45
IGL	585.60	588.60	569.40	570.10	-11.30
LUPIN	980.00	985.00	957.45	960.00	-29.35

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	AUBANK	1147.00	1160.90	1134.00	1151.00	RAIN	240.50	242.70	236.15	237.80	KPRMILL	2208.35	2209.00	2142.30	2186.00	SANOFI	8147.90	8162.60	7983.10	8016.05
IDEA	9.82	11.47	9.66	11.25	GUJGAS	679.90	686.30	674.50	682.30	ROSSARI	1550.00	1584.55	1504.00	1518.70	PNCINFRA	358.00	373.50	352.45	370.00	ADVENZYMES	395.00	396.55	385.60	389.90
INDUSINDBK	1074.90	1186.35	1070.00	1131.25	RBLBANK	181.00	185.00	179.30	183.35	NESTLEIND	20259.35	20259.35	19975.85	20025.00	PIFIZER	5988.00	6036.60	5940.40	5961.05	ABB	1906.50	1941.00	1882.35	1900.15
IIFL	317.00	318.00	293.55	294.50	MAHABANK	18.55	20.10	18.25	19.95	BURGERKING	161.60	162.65	159.75	160.30	VENKYS	2901.10	2932.90	2877.70	2890.00	GUJALKALI	489.95	500.85	485.00	485.00
BHARTIARTL	743.90	743.90	715.15	718.15	BSOFT	435.00	437.90	420.80	424.00	ASTRAL	2135.00	2155.00	2112.10	2127.70	ACC	2468.80	2479.45	2417.00	2431.95	ASTRAZEN	3150.00	3167.00	3129.60	3145.00
ITC	216.40	233.50	216.40	230.75	ALKYLAMINE	4125.00	4129.00	4040.00	4049.60	SUNTUV	512.00	515.75	498.00	502.55	CHOLAHLDNG	674.15	757.50	670.60	711.80	SJVN	27.65	27.75	27.35	27.50
LTTS	4614.45	4616.40	4522.15	4556.00	INTELLECT	634.40	673.55	634.40	662.30	ALOKTEXT	24.30	24.70	23.85	24.10	UFLEX	560.00	562.20	542.55	547.50	KAJARIACER	1156.80	1186.60	1143.40	1178.30
MARICO	564.95	571.50	562.10	563.30	TATACOFFEE	210.00	214.90	207.85	212.30	SONATOSFTW	852.90	865.00	850.95	861.60	FLUOROCHEM	1724.00	1732.00	1670.95	1724.35	GODREJAGRO	670.95	670.95	665.00	655.25
LUPIN	980.10	985.00	958.10	967.70	TRIDENT	24.55	25.50	24.50	24.60	NHPC	27.50	28.25	27.50	28.05	NIACL	172.50	177.75	166.40	176.20	HUDCO	43.80	44.15	43.65	43.80
IRCTC	3749.00	3798.25	3682.00	3769.55	KEI	818.55	856.00	812.20	836.35	ALLCARGO	242.30	248.45	235.30	245.25	KRBL	269.50	275.05	269.45	271.35	ASHOKA	102.10	102.30	100.75	100.75
SYNGENE	668.00	673.20	652.50	659.75	ULTRACEMCO	7836.00	7869.95	7731.75	7782.90	BHARATFORG	794.90	794.90	776.85	779.95	MPSL	1132.00	1136.20	1100.25	1105.00	GOLFOILLUB	612.45	622.55	605.80	609.90
MAHLOG	703.10	730.50	703.10	717.80	DISHTV	20.75	21.00	18.77	19.86	JUBLFLO	4170.00	4190.35	4090.35	4104.45	TANLA	850.00	859.00	830.00	837.10	HFWM	1645.00	1688.00	1630.25	1663.75
RELIANCE	2379.00	2436.00	2367.00	2428.10	PVR	1418.00	1426.00	1402.80	1406.60	ADANIGREEN	1130.10	1179.90	1111.00	1170.10	JKLAKSHMI	735.00	735.00	705.15	710.45	NETWORK18	52.00	52.90	51.65	52.00
ZEEL	256.95	262.60	245.00	247.05	CYIENT	1119.00	1127.70	1085.55	1100.00	ASTERDM	231.00	232.30	223.50	227.05	RCF	75.00	77.20	75.00	75.65	TCIEXP	1519.60	1540.00	1513.40	1530.00
SBN	445.10	465.90	442.80	463.65	IDFC	54.50	58.40	54.50	57.80	PFC	137.35	138.40	135.25	136.35	BAJAJCON	262.00	262.00	254.50	255.75	BAYERCROP	5534.95	5548.80	5462.30	5481.15
TATAMOTORS	314.00	314.95	307.80	311.65	HINDCOPPER	118.80	119.10	116.65	117.05	QUESS	910.45	958.75	910.45	951.00	IRCON	44.10	44.95	44.10	44.85	FRETAIL	48.00	48.45	46.00	48.15
BANKBARODA	81.50	86.50	80.40	85.95	ITI	5696.80	5708.10	5602.90	5662.90	ICICIPRULI	702.50	707.45	691.70	699.45	JSLSHISAR	309.95	308.95	294.35	296.85	VRLOG	345.25			

AHEAD OF SCO SUMMIT

China says will work closely with member States on Af issues

Beijing: Ahead of the SCO summit, China on Thursday said it is ready to have close communication and coordination with the bloc's member states and jointly work on Afghanistan to build an open and inclusive political structure in the war-torn country controlled by the Taliban.

The eight-member Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) grouping of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan will hold its 21st summit on Friday at Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe.

Afghanistan is an observer in the SCO.

The SCO and the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) comprising Russia and Central Asian States will hold a joint summit meeting on Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with Chinese

President Xi Jinping would address the summit via video link.

Asked about the SCO and CSTO summit on Afghanistan, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here that "the Afghan situation bears on regional security and stability".

"Members of the SCO and CSTO are all close neighbours of Afghanistan and they all actively support the peace and reconstruction and reconciliation process in Afghanistan," he said.

"China is a member of the SCO which is ready to have close communication and coordination with relevant countries, jointly work on Afghanistan to build an open and inclusive political structure, adopt moderate and prudent domestic and foreign policies, make a clean break with all forms of terrorist groups and live on friendly terms with other countries."

"We are ready to continue to have good neighbourliness and friendly cooperation with Afghanistan, and play a constructive role in its peace and reconstruction," he said.

China, which has kept its embassy open in Kabul along with Pakistan and Russia, has maintained close communication with the Taliban's interim government though it has not formally recognised it.

Beijing has announced a USD 31-million aid for the war-torn country.

The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan on August 15, two weeks before the US' complete troop withdrawal on August 31 after a costly two-decade war. This forced Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to flee the country to the UAE. **PTI**

Taliban hand over seized cash, gold to Af central bank

■ KABUL

The Taliban have handed over about \$12.3 million cash and some gold to Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB), the country's central bank, a state-

The cash and gold bars found from the houses of former administration's officials and local offices of former government's intelligence agency have been returned to Da Afghanistan Bank's treasury, Xinhua news agency quoted the statement as saying.

"The officials of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan by handing over the assets to national treasury proved their commitment to transparency," it added.

Afghans long for better life as Taliban manage to run country

■ KABUL

While the security situation in Afghanistan has remained stable since the Taliban takeover in August, the country is now facing economic and humanitarian challenges, with its people longing for a better life and the new Government calling for international assistance.

There has been no major security incident or armed clashes since August 15 when Taliban took over 33 of the country's 34 provinces, except a deadly suicide bomb blast and shooting outside the Kabul International Airport, which killed over 170 Afghan civilians and 13 US soldiers, while injuring nearly 200 others, Xinhua

news agency reported.

On September 6, the Taliban announced that its fighters had captured Panjshir, the only province that had remained out of the group's control, days after sporadic clashes were reported in the mountainous province.

There were no civilian casualties during the fighting in Panjshir, Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said, adding that electricity and internet service would resume in the province soon.

No major clashes have been reported in Panjshir since then, although the so-called National Resistance Front of Afghanistan led by Ahmad Massoud, the son of former anti-Taliban leader Ahmad

Shah Massoud, has denied the Taliban's claim of capturing Panjshir.

"The war is over, and insecurity and fighting are not a concern among the Afghans anymore," Mujahid said.

Afghanistan would soon have a regular army to defend the country, Taliban's army chief of staff Qari Fasihuddin said Wednesday.

"Afghanistan would have a regular, disciplined and strong army in near future to defend and protect the country and consultations in this field continue," Fasihuddin said at a gathering in Kabul, adding members of the proposed army would be well-trained and disciplined to defend and protect Afghanistan.

Over 634,000 Afghans displaced this yr: UN agency

Kabul: More than 634,000 Afghans have been internally displaced by conflicts in 2021, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the war-torn nation said on Thursday.

A total of 634,800 people had been verified as having been displaced by conflicts as of September 12, 2021, out of which 282,246 displaced people had received assistance, Xinhua news agency quoted the OCHA as saying in a report.

The report came as the security situation in Afghanistan has remained stable since the Taliban's takeover of the country in mid-August.

Afghan officials and humanitarian agencies have expressed concern over the living condition of the displaced families in the country since the it affected the life of women and children as they do not have access to health facilities and schooling.

More than 28,000 Afghans have been also affected by natural disasters across Afghanistan starting this year, according to the figures provided by OCHA.

On Monday, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the possibility of a complete economic collapse in Afghanistan was "serious" and highlighted an urgent need for funding support at a high-level ministerial meeting on Afghanistan's humanitarian situation in Geneva.

On Tuesday, the UN appealed to the countries pledging \$1.2 billion in relief for Afghanistan to take action quickly. **IANs**

'New AI tool can help treat Covid patients globally'

■ LONDON

A team of international researchers has developed an artificial intelligence (AI) tool that can predict how much extra oxygen a Covid-19 patient might need during hospital care. To check the accuracy of the AI tool, it was tested out in a number of hospitals across five continents.

The results showed it predicted the oxygen needed within 24 hours of a patient's arrival in the emergency department, with a sensitivity of 95 per cent and a specificity of over 88 per cent.

The outcomes of around 10,000 Covid-19 patients from across the world were analysed in the study published in the jour-

nal Nature Medicine on Thursday. The technique, known as federated learning, used an algorithm to analyse chest X-rays and electronic health data from hospital patients with Coronavirus symptoms. To maintain strict patient confidentiality, the patient data was fully anonymised and an algorithm was sent to each hospital so no data was shared or left its location. Once the algorithm had 'learned' from the data, the analysis was brought together to build the AI tool.

"Federated learning has transformative power to bring AI innovation to the clinical workflow," said Professor Fiona Gilbert, from the University of Cambridge in the UK, who led the study.

Imran Khan: Pak had to endure 'terrible' relationship with US

New Delhi: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said that his country had to endure a "terrible" relationship with the US which turned out to be disastrous for Islamabad.

In an interview with CNN, Khan also called out the US for repeatedly accusing Pakistan of harbouring terrorists, Dawn news reported.

"What are these safe havens? The area of Pakistan along the border of Afghanistan had the heaviest surveillance by the US drones, surely they would have known if there were any safe havens?"

The premier said that Pakistan was unable to take military action against the Afghan Taliban because they were not attacking Pakistan.

"Pakistan had its own internal matters to look at, such as attacks from the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)." **IANs**

Killing of Islamic State leader big victory: France

Paris: France killed the leader of Islamic State in the Greater Sahara because the group attacked French aid workers, African civilians and US troops, French officials said Thursday, calling him "enemy No. 1" in protracted anti-terrorism efforts in the Sahel.

French President Emmanuel Macron announced the death of Adnan Abu Walid al-Sahravi overnight. According to Macron's office, al-Sahravi personally ordered the killing of six French aid workers and their Nigerian colleagues last year, and his group was behind a 2017 attack that killed US and Niger military personnel.

He was killed in a strike by France's Barkhane military operation "a few weeks ago,

but authorities waited to be sure of his identity before making the announcement, French Defense Minister Florence Parly told RFI radio Thursday.

She did not disclose details of the operation or where al-Sahravi was killed, though the Islamic State group is active along the border between Mali and Niger.

"He was at the origin of massacres and terror," French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said Thursday on France-Info radio. He urged African governments to fill the void and seize back ground taken by the Islamic State extremists.

Rumors of the militant leader's death had circulated for weeks in Mali, though authorities in the region had

not confirmed it. It was not immediately possible to independently verify the claim or to know how the remains had been identified.

Al-Sahravi had claimed responsibility for a 2017 attack in Niger that killed four U.S. military personnel and four people with Niger's military. His group also has abducted foreigners in the Sahel and is believed to still be holding American Jeffrey Woodke, who was abducted from his home in Niger in 2016.

The extremist leader was born in the disputed territory of Western Sahara and later joined the Polisario Front. After spending time in Algeria, he made his way to northern Mali where he became an important figure in the group

known as MUJAO that controlled the major northern town of Gao in 2012.

A French-led military operation the following year ousted Islamic extremists from power in Gao and other northern cities, though those elements later regrouped and again carried out attacks.

The Malian group MUJAO was loyal to the regional al-Qaida affiliate. But in 2015, al-Sahravi released an audio message pledging allegiance to the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

France, the region's former colonial power, recently announced that it would be reducing its military presence in the region, with plans to withdraw 2,000 troops by early next year. **AP**

FROM PAGE 1

INCESSANT RAINS CRIPPLE LIFE IN UP

while her husband and two grandsons were injured when a wall of their semi-pucca house in Savrupur village of Rasra police station collapsed on Wednesday morning.

In another such incident in Chitrakoot district of the Bundelkhand region, Kunti (68) died after a kutcha wall collapsed in Shankar Bazaar area of Karvi Sadar police station area on Wednesday night. Similar incidents of house collapse were also reported from Ayodhya and Kaushambi.

The UP State Disaster Relief Force (SDR) personnel have initiated rescue operations and have been providing relief to the distressed people.

MEGA BID TO BAIL OUT AILING BANKS

The Finance Minister said, "The guarantee helps in keeping the face value intact and also gives credibility to the entire exercise so the valuation will be better when it's realised, actually when it's sold off."

The gap may not be there or very small, so it will not be invoked in every instance, she said, adding there is no immediate liability on the Government so there is no fiscal outgo at the moment.

There will be co-ordination with IBC and other debt recovery processes as well, she said.

She further said public sector banks (PSBs) will hold 51 per cent stake in NARCL and 49 per cent in the proposed debt management company -- India Debt Resolution Company Ltd.

There would be 16 shareholders for NARCL, including PSBs, private sector banks and NBFCs.

The structure will assist in consolidation of debt, currently fragmented across various lenders, thus leading to faster, single point decision making, including through Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) processes, where applicable, she said.

"It will incentivise quicker action on resolving stressed assets thereby helping in better value realization. India Debt Resolution Company Limited (IDRCL) will engage market expertise for value enhancement. This approach will also permit freeing up of personnel in banks to focus on increasing business and credit growth," she said.

As the holders of these stressed assets and SRs, banks will receive the gains and the guarantee will also enhance liquidity of SRs as such these instruments are tradable, she added.

Indian Banks' Association (IBA) was entrusted with the task of setting up the bad bank. Last month, the IBA moved an application before the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a licence to set up the Rs 6,000-crore NARCL.

Asked about the timeframe for getting the licence, she said it is in the process of being approved and "should happen sooner than later."

In the first phase, Panda said, banks have identified stress loans of about Rs 90,000 crore to be resolved. NARCL is intended to resolve stressed loan assets above Rs 500 crore each amounting to about Rs 2 lakh crore.

In phase I, fully provisioned assets of about Rs 90,000 crore are expected to be transferred to NARCL, while the remaining assets with lower provisions would be transferred in phase II.

The bad bank will take over identified stressed loans of lenders. The lead bank with an offer in hand of NARCL will go for a "Swiss Challenge" auction wherein other asset reconstruction players will be invited to better the offer made by a chosen bidder

for finding higher valuation of a non-performing asset on sale. The company will pick up those assets that are 100 per cent provided for by the lenders.

Sitharaman said the Government's "4 R" strategy of recognition, resolution, recapitalisation and reform has led to a turnaround in the performance of PSBs. High levels of provisioning of legacy NPAs have presented an opportunity for additional measures for faster resolution.

The Union Budget 2021-22 had accordingly announced the Government's intention to set up an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) along with an Asset Management Company (AMC) to consolidate and take over existing stressed debt and thereafter manage and dispose of it off to buyers for value realisation.

HC LIFTS STAY ON CHAR DHAM YATRA WITH CONDITIONS

with health issues can easily avail of medical facilities.

Check posts for checking RT-PCR test reports and vaccination certificates should be set up at all the four locations, for example five in Badrinath and three in Kedarnath. The HC has further stated that if there is a spike in Covid cases in the future, the State Government can suspend the pilgrimage. The division bench also directed the Government to strictly enforce the legal provisions against spitting in public at all the Char Dham locations.

The district legal services authority in all the three districts concerned have also been directed to monitor the pilgrimage and submit a weekly report to the court.

ALL 24 NEW FACES IN GUJ CM'S CABINET

"These are outstanding Karyakartas who have devoted their lives to public service and spreading our party's development agenda. Best wishes for a fruitful tenure ahead," Modi said in a tweet.

Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat administered Ministers oath of their office in the presence of former Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, Nitin Patel, State BJP president CR Patil, State BJP in-charge Bhupendra Yadav and Central observer and the BJP General Secretary (Organization) BL Santosh.

The Ministry has 10 Cabinet Ministers, including Rajendra Trivedi, Jitu Vaghani, Rushikesh Patel, Raghavji Patel, Purnesh Modi, Kanubhai Desai, Kirtisinh Rana, Naresh Patel, Pradipsinh Parmar, and Arjunsinh Chauhan.

Five Ministers of State (MoS) or junior Ministers would have independent charges. These Ministers include Harsh Sanghvi, Jagdish Panchal, Brijesh Merja, Jitu Chaudhari, and Manisha Vakil.

The Ministers of State in the Cabinet include Mukesh Patel, Nimisha Suthar, Arvind Raiyani, Kuber Dindor, Kirtisinh Vaghela, Rajendrasinh Parmar, Raghavji Makwana, Vinod Moradiya, and Devabhavi Malam.

PM INAUGURATES DEF MINISTRY BUILDINGS UNDER VISTA PROJECT

His remarks were in apparent response to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi who described the Central Vista project a "criminal wastage" of resources and urged the Government to divert

money to battling the pandemic.

The Congress had also urged the Government to halt the project and prioritise upgrading medical infrastructure.

The officers and other staffers of the Defence Ministry and the armed forces are moving into the new office complexes from their existing workplaces in hutments in and around the South Block at the Raisina Hills.

"When we talk about the Capital, it is not just a city. The Capital of any country is a symbol of the thinking, determination, strength and culture of that country," Modi said. He also said India is the mother of democracy and the Capital should be such that its Central focus should be people.

The two buildings, constructed by the Housing and Urban Affairs with resources allocated by the Defence Ministry, have an office space of 9.60 lakh sq feet.

"Today, when we are focusing on ease of living and ease of doing business, modern infrastructure plays an equally important role in this. This is the spirit at the core of the work being done today related to the Central Vista," the Prime Minister said.

The Central Vista project, including the revamp of Parliament Complex, is likely to cost around Rs 20,000 crore. Modi said the critics of the project cared more about their "personal agendas" than the condition of key Government offices and Ministries.

"We all saw how some people tried to sabotage the important Central Vista project... how they ran personal agendas to spread misinformation. But not once did they speak about the condition of these hutments... from where our Ministries work. Not once did they mention the new Defence Ministry complexes and how crucial they are," the Prime Minister said.

Hundreds of workers got employment in this project during the Corona period, he noted. The Prime Minister credited this to a new thinking and approach in the Government's functioning.

The Prime Minister said that these defence office complexes are the manifestation of the changing work culture and priorities of the Government. Optimal and proper use of available land with various departments of the Government is one such priority, he said.

The old offices -- around 700 hutments spread over 50 acres -- will be redeveloped to house a new "Executive Enclave", which will include a new residence for the Prime Minister.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the defence office complexes were in line with the Prime Minister's vision for "New India" and his commitment to the Central Vista project.

Meanwhile, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri said the redevelopment work of the Central Vista Avenue, stretching from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate will be completed within two-and-a-half months.

According to the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, the project will be ready in time to host the Republic Day parade in 2022.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the Defence Ministry complex, Puri asserted that the Winter session of Parliament next year will take place in the new Parliament building.

The Minister said the construction work of these two new buildings was completed in just 12 months. The project generated over 6.4 lakh person days of employment. He said light gauge steel framing (LGSF) technology has been used in constructing these two new office buildings. He also said 8,782 metric tonnes of steel and 7,920 metric tonnes of cement have been used in the construction work.

'Menstrual changes after Covid vax plausible, must be investigated'

London: A link between changes in the menstrual cycle and Covid-19 vaccination is plausible, and must be investigated, according to an editorial published in the peer-reviewed British Medical Journal today. In the editorial, Victoria Male, a reproductive specialist at Imperial College London, UK noted that periods or unexpected vaginal bleeding are not listed as common side effects of Covid-19 vaccination.

Over 30,000 such reports had been made to the UK Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) surveillance scheme for adverse drug reactions by September 2, she said.

The expert, however, noted most people find that their

period returns to normal the following cycle and, importantly, there is no evidence that Covid-19 vaccination adversely affects fertility.

"One important lesson is that the effects of medical interventions on menstruation should not be an afterthought in future research," Ms Male said. MHRA states that its surveillance data does not support a link between changes to menstrual periods and Covid-19 vaccines, since the number of reports is low in relation to both the number of people vaccinated and the prevalence of menstrual disorders generally.

However, Ms Male said the way in which data is collected makes firm conclusions difficult. She argues in the edi-

torial that approaches better equipped to compare rates of menstrual changes in vaccinated versus unvaccinated populations are needed.

Reports of menstrual changes after Covid-19 vaccination have been made for both mRNA and adenovirus-vectored vaccines, she said.

This suggests that, if there is a connection, it is likely to be a result of the immune response to vaccination, rather than to a specific vaccine component, Ms Male said.

The editorial also noted that the menstrual cycle may be affected by the body's immune response to the virus itself, with one study showing menstrual disruption in around a quarter of women infected with S-CoV-2. **IANs**

3 dead in 6.0-magnitude China earthquake

Beijing: Three people were killed and 60 others injured on Thursday after a powerful 6.0-magnitude earthquake jolted Luxian county in China's Sichuan province, authorities said. China Earthquake Administration has dispatched a work team to guide on-site disaster relief work, reports xinhua news agency.

A total of 890 commanders and fighters from nearby fire-fighting and rescue brigades have been mobilised, while another 4,600 rescue workers are on standby.

There were a total of 737 collapsed houses, 72 houses with serious damage, while 7,290 with damage to some extent.

Collapsed walls and hous-

es were seen on the way to rain-battered Jiaming township in the epicentre area.

Electricity in most of the houses in the town has been suspended.

Amid heavy rain in Fuji township, rescue workers were going door to door searching for people in the damaged houses and moving them to temporary shelters.

More than 6,900 affected residents have been relocated, and over 10,000 people were shifted to temporary shelters as of early Thursday morning, according to the local government.

According to the China Earthquake Networks Centre, the earthquake occurred at 4.33 a.m.

The epicentre was monitored at 29.2 degrees north latitude and 105.34 degrees east longitude. The quake struck at a depth of 10 km.

Approved by the provincial government, the earthquake relief headquarters of Sichuan has activated a level-II response, the second highest in China's four-tier earthquake emergency response system.

Some telecommunication base stations and cables were damaged.

The Luzhou high-speed railway station has been closed, according to railway authorities.

All coal mines have been ordered to halt underground operations and evacuate miners in shafts. **IANs**

Countries in South Asia should make efforts for peace: China

■ BEIJING

China said on Thursday that all countries in South Asia should make efforts to maintain peace, security and stability in the region as it reacted to media reports on India's plan to test nuclear-capable ICBM Agni-V ballistic missile, which has a range of 5,000 kms.

"Maintaining peace, security and stability in South Asia meets the common interests of all, where China hopes that all parties would make constructive efforts," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here, replying to a question about reports that India plans to test Agni-V missile.

The missile, with a strike

range of 5,000 kms, could reach several Chinese cities and was expected to significantly bolster India's military prowess.

The missile, which is capable of carrying nuclear warhead, has been successfully tested five times and is in the process of induction into the Army. All the five trials were successful.



Bollywood
 'Social media educated the mother in me. There are so many things we might not be aware of...'
 —Sameera Reddy

HAVE YOUR BACK

MEENAKSHI MOHANTY suggests nine easy stretches to relieve your backache

We all experience back pain and now it has become one of the most common issues especially due to the increased work-from-home situation. Also, continuously sitting in front of our laptops can further make your back feel sore. While many of us continue to live with back pain, the consequences cannot be good. It not only disrupts our daily lives but also holds us back from doing the things we love. The good news is there are some simple stretches that you can incorporate in your daily routine to help ease your back pain—

Child's pose/ prayer stretch

Rejuvenating both the body and mind. Its great for relieving tension in the lower back and lengthening the entire spine.

How to do – Start on all fours. Ensure your knees are hip width apart and toes together. Now with palms facing towards the floor, extend your hands in front of you while pushing your hips back toward your heels until you feel a mild stretch in the back. Hold this position for 30 seconds.



Cobra stretch

This stretch is beneficial if you are looking to decrease the stiffness in your lower back.

How to do – Lie down flat on the floor on your belly. Place your palms flat on the ground directly under your shoulders and press your elbows against your ribs. Now inhale and slowly stretch your arms while lifting your chest from the floor. Ensure your lower back is relaxed.



Hold for 10 seconds and release.

Lower back rotational stretch

This increases flexibility in your lower back.

How to do – Begin by lying on the floor with your knees bent. Now keeping your shoulders firmly on the ground, take both your knees are roll it over to the right side. Hold for a few seconds and return to the starting position. Repeat on the other side.



Cat/ cow stretch

This pose is ideal for those dealing with back pain and helps to improve posture and balance.

How to do – Start on all fours with your hands in line with your shoulders and your knees beneath your hips. Now exhale and gently arch your back like a cat. Hold for 10 seconds and move back to normal position. Repeat 20 times and remember to move slowly in between movements.

Knee-to-chest stretch

Ideal for lower back muscles and helps relieve pressure on the spinal nerves.

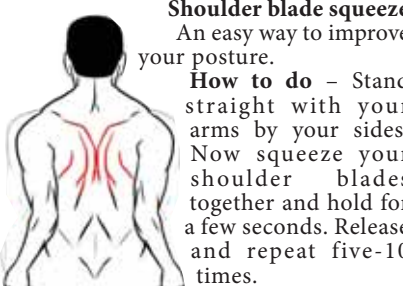
How to do – Start by lying on your back with your knees bent and feet flat on the floor. Keeping your core tight and back pressed against the floor, lift your right knee and press it towards your chest using both hands. Hold for a few seconds and return to the starting position. Now repeat with the other leg.



Pelvis stretch

A simple way to improve flexibility and release tight muscles.

How to do – Lie on your back with knees bent and hands by your sides. While tightening your abdominal and buttock muscles, push your pelvis upwards. Hold for a few seconds and relax.



Shoulder blade squeeze

An easy way to improve your posture.

How to do – Stand straight with your arms by your sides. Now squeeze your shoulder blades together and hold for a few seconds. Release and repeat five-10 times.



Bridge

Benefits your hamstrings, lower back and abs. It is also great for people suffering from back, hip, or knee pain.

How to do – Start by lying on the floor with your knees bent. Now raise your hips till your knees to your shoulders are in line. Hold this position for five seconds and return to the starting position. Repeat three-four times.

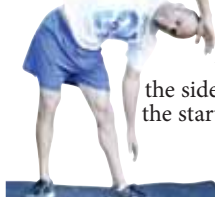


Side bend stretch

Helps to strengthen the intercostal muscles which supports the ribs.

How to do – Stand upright with your feet, hip-width apart and hands down your side. Now raise your right arm overhead and bend your upper body to the left. You should feel the stretch along the side. Hold for 10-15 seconds and return to the starting position. Repeat on the other side.

(The author is a fitness expert at Meenakshi, an eclectic Delhi-based fitness platform.)



Wait and watch

The Indian workforce is rebooting to find a work-life balance, says SUJIT PATIL

From an office built to bring people closer to collaborate and have an in-person engagement, the pandemic, by bringing work from home (WFH) in vogue, has apparently pushed organisations to rejig their working styles to meet social distancing norms. Virtual working has become the de-facto model. As the industry struggles to find a balance and experiments with hybrid models, on the brighter side, the Indian workforce has slowly started to adapt itself to strike a work-life balance with the new conditions.

A Godrej group's research, named 'The little things we do', revealed how professionals across all age-groups have balanced working from home with their personal lives. During the first nationwide lockdown, working professionals struggled to manage their work deadlines and household chores. For some, it was challenging, while others chose to adapt and adjust to it.

The study found that nationally on the personal front, working from home has helped more than one in three persons to spend more time with family due to the removal of the long commute time to their workplace. This trend wasn't far off from the expected lines in metros and tier one cities like Mumbai, Bengaluru, Pune, and Kolkata. However, tier two cities such as Lucknow and Kanpur (56 per cent), Kochi (46 per cent) reported better figures than the national average.

Connect this insight with the MoveInSync study of 2018-19 which found that, on an average, Indians spend seven per cent of their day commuting to the office, and the picture becomes clearer. Similarly, Uber's Movement data in 2020 pointed out that an average *Mumbaikar* wastes about 11 days stuck in traffic each year. With working from home, these are the precious hours earned back by people. The choice, therefore, is between utilising this time for enhancing productivity, spending time with family and friends, or exploring creative pursuits.

It was also found that more than one in five have explored their creative side and nurtured it to become home-cooks, painters, sketchers and pursue other hobbies. But one of the most delightful insights was the movement towards freshly cooked food. Over 45 per cent of people said that now they loved indulging in little pleasures like freshly cooked breakfast every day. For mental health and stress management, 29 per cent of respondents took regular breaks throughout the day to de-stress themselves.

As we are at the crossroads of deciding whether work from home would continue or there

would be a hybrid model as the impact of the pandemic wanes, we must take a pause and evaluate the benefits.

As many as there are benefits of adopting a work from home model, there are also numerous impediments that it causes. For instance, circadian rhythms of co-workers is an inherent lacuna of the WFH model. People are susceptible to household distractions and it puts the onus on employees to create a conducive environment that helps them focus on their work goals.

With work from home becoming a day to day affair for the working force, only 19 per cent of people who participated in the research reported that they have improved at work efficiency and end tasks within the stipulated working hours. Additionally, only 16 per cent consider that working from home has assisted them in increasing their time-management skills.

For Asian countries, and especially India, perhaps WFH may not be a very conducive model. The Indian workforce, traditionally and culturally, has always valued social interactions. However, they were thrust involuntarily towards the model with little time to adjust to the changed environment, triggering a feeling of social isolation due to the touch-less and faceless work environment.

An independent study, authored by Michael Gibbs from Chicago Booth, Friederike Mengel and Christoph Siemroth from University of Essex have validated this phenomenon. The team surveyed 10,000 employees of an unnamed major IT company based in Asia over 17 months before and during work from home trend set in. The primary finding was that total work hours by an employee surged by about 30 per cent in order to achieve the same goals set in pre-WFH period.

Responsible organisations, therefore, are exploring a hybrid model or adopting a wait-and-watch policy towards resuming entry to offices. Meanwhile, they have stepped in with the necessary support for mental and physical health of their employees through various programmes and initiatives. Similarly, employees, too, are slowly adjusting to the changing environment by doing little things which can help them attain a work-life balance.

But only time will tell whether the hybrid model will prove to be successful in India or will we revert to the traditional model of offline office environment.

(The author is the vice president of Godrej Industries Limited and Associate Companies.)

Culture sees no borders

KAJAL NAINA discusses the social and cultural cross-border relationship between India and Nepal

Countries in South Asia, while having their own peculiarities, share common cultures and ways of life. The norms and values of Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism and Sikhism are deeply rooted in South Asian societies. Although the number of followers of these religious and cultural mainstays vary from country to country, their presence and influence in local arts, cultures and traditions, are distinctly visible in every country and society in the region. Nepal, too, has its unique geography, history and cultural heritage, and still is an integral part of the broader cultural history and tradition of the Indian sub-continent.

While being parts of broader South Asian culture, Nepal and India share a special bond and similarity in cultural tradition. They are so closely knit by social life and cultural tradition that nobody can imagine them apart. Both have made great contributions in enriching religious and cultural heritage in this region, and beyond.

Lord Buddha for instance, born in Nepal, has left his footprints not only in South Asia but all over the world. Another example is Sita, the daughter of Nepal, who was married to Ram, the crown prince of Ayodhya in India, has made a special place in the hearts of Hindus living anywhere in the world. The contributions made by Indian philosophers and

saints need no further elaboration. It is these great personalities of this region that have helped evolve, develop and spread the cultural heritage that is proudly known today as South Asian culture.

The cultural links between Nepal and India have many facets. Religion is, perhaps, the most important factor, and plays a predominant role in shaping the cultural relations between these two countries. This is manifested in the large number of people from both countries visiting each other's countries for pilgrimage. Thousands of Nepalese nationals visit pilgrimage sites in India every year. The *char dham* yatra (visit of four dhams in India, viz. Badrinath/Kedarnath in Uttarakhand, Jagannath (Puri) in Orissa, Rameshwaram in Tamilnadu, and Dwarka in Gujarat) is a life-time aspiration of almost all Hindus. There are many other places in India which are considered sacred sites by Nepalese people. They include Haridwar, Rishikesh, Varanasi, Gaya, Vaishnodevi, and many more. Similarly, there are a number of religious sites in Nepal which are con-



sidered very sacred and important, and are attractions as 'must visit' religious destinations for Indian nationals. Such sites include Pashupatinath in Kathmandu, Lumbini (the birth-place of Buddha) in Rupandehi district, Ram-Janaki temple in Janakpur (the

birth place of Janak and Sita), and many more. As the people of both countries share common religious faiths and philosophies, and revere and worship the same gods and incarnations, their cultural ties are very strong and inseparable.

Except for the seamless exposure to the cultures, these countries also share a lot of traditions and ways of doing things. Following Indian traditions, Nepal is catching up quickly on the use of ornaments that are given religious and symbolic importance like *rudraksha*, *mangalsutra*, et al. *Mangalsutras* are getting a lot of attention and being used in marriages across Nepal. The trend was started by a Nepali actress with a special piece designed for her wedding day to give a meaningful, unique and relevant touch to modern day brides that has changed the game for this piece of jewellery amongst Nepalese women and abroad. This tradition is riding a big wave in Nepal and will give rise for many more to come.

Another component of Nepal-India cultural relations is cinemas and music. Indian movies are popular in Nepal; and so is Indian music. Similarly, Nepali cinemas and music are popular in India, especially in places with concentration of the people of Nepalese origin, mainly in Northern and North-eastern India.

Between Nepal and India,

there have been frequent exchanges of ideas, personalities and groups of people representing the areas of art, culture, music, literature and sports. These kinds of events are not limited to government entities alone, but are taking place even more at the grass-root level. Nepal's diverse cultural heritage of dance and music (both classical and folk), theatre, fine arts, and sports have been interacting with their counterparts in India, and have been contributing to foster friendly ties and generate a better understanding and appreciation of each other's traditions. Every facet of art and culture has become a way of life, and is expressed in carvings, paintings, architecture, sculptures and performing arts like music, cinema and dance. Every form of art in these countries is heavily influenced by the respective religious traditions and mythologies, and has helped shape religious norms and values in Nepal and India.

Having a seamless exposure to both the countries' traditions, cultures and ways of life; these two will have better mutual understanding. These waves, including religion, traditions, clothing and jewellery, will surely promote the existing ties and enhance the Indian touch reaching Nepal.

(The author is the founder and CEO of Kajal Naina Fine Jewellery, a Hong Kong-based jewellery store.)

TRENDBLAZER



'A SIMPLE YET MAGICAL STORY'

As his short film, *Shimmy*, releases today, actor **PRATIK GANDHI** expressed how deeply he connected with the story wherein he plays the father of a teenaged daughter.

"It is the story of an aloof father and a daughter with a secret and how they embark on a journey to some uncomfortable destinations. Disha Noyonika Rindani, the director, knows how to lend a magical touch to the simplest of moments," expressed Gandhi.

You can watch *Shimmy* on Amazon Mini TV.

fairtalk

ZOYA HUSSAIN



'I think the toughest thing is to stay patient and motivated between projects, however, that is a choice you have to make as an actor. Thankfully, after my debut in *Mukkabaaz*, I have been working constantly. As a professional actor, it is important to keep on working, because which film will get what amount of visibility is not really in our hands.'

dailytalk

JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ



'I have come across numerous instances on social media where someone is saying something mean about me. It's ok we all get it. I have read accounts of how terrible I sound, how terrible my accent is and the way I speak Hindi, and some criticism on my appearance. I try to take it positively, at times I think that some of the criticism is valid.'

PAVING HER OWN PATH: BERRY

Oscar-winning actor **HALLE BERRY** has debunked the notion that she has had an easy life, suggesting people are quick to judge her on the basis of her good looks.

She shared, "This is another battle that I have had to fight my entire life. That because I look a certain way that I've been spared any hardship. I've experience abuse, loss and a lot of pain in my life."

"Despite winning the Oscar for *Monster's Ball*, I still had to fight to make my way in life," Berry further revealed.



A friend and I, over the weekend, decided to venture into DLF Saket and had the toughest time choosing what to eat — millennials, huh? We either didn't like the cuisine, or the air conditioner was not good enough, or it was too crowded. We went from one restaurant to another and couldn't pick one, until our eyes landed on a cute *lil* corner, right across Om bookshop. A cafe with a panoramic view of books? My nerdy friend and I saw all our doubts vanish into thin air. We learnt that Cafe Tesu had been newly inaugurated and saw our decision being made for us — none of us had any reservations since we had no opinion, whatsoever, about the same.

The moment we entered the area, the aroma of coffee beans engrossed our attention and tickled our taste-buds. So, an order for *Cold coffee frappe* was placed immediately, which went without saying. The frappe, which was fundamentally espresso muddled with ice-cream and milk, provided a calming buzz I was anxiously awaiting. Once I had coffee and was soothed, I was able to pay attention to my surroundings. There were hardly eight-nine tables, with a visible kitchen-counter laden with pink tiles. The cushions of the sofas were flowery, the place embellished by pink flowers in the corners. The plants, although artificial, suited the aesthetics well. The coffee and eatery flaunted a well-set combination of beige pink and turquoise, something that suits the Instagram aesthetics of the modern audience?

Since we had spent so much time roaming around, wondering what to eat, we were starving already. The first dishes presented to us were *Chicken and chives dimsums*, along with *Asian vegetable dimsums*. The former encompassed well-cooked chicken mingled satisfactorily with slight vegetables. Though watery



A COSY CORNER

KHUSHBU KIRTI is tempted by the balance of flavours awaiting her at Cafe Tesu at DLF, Saket

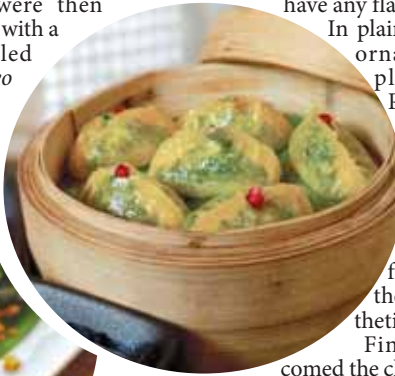


and soggy, it tasted good and was garnished with micro-leaves and beans. The *Asian vegetable dimsums* was an absolute treat for veggie lovers. The outer layer was super thin, intrinsically engulfing steamed vegetables that tasted rich and mild on the palate. Coupled with the sauce, it tasted even better. The blend was subtle. The stuffing was just the

right amount, as reiterated by Chef Madhav, "If we went too crazy with the filling, the dumpling wouldn't have married with the sauce." My friend and I laughed heartily at this, going on doing what all food-lovers do — talk about and consume food (inserts innocent face emoji). I do want to, however, highlight the sauce specifically, for it was that good. It basically was a mouthful of all spices in a tiny dip. The chef filled us in on the information about its preparation that took two weeks. Like my friend said, perhaps, it tasted like a sophisticated version of home-



made *aam ka achar*. My friend, Neeraj, had an *Apple and cinnamon ice tea*, that he described as, "A little sweet and mildly tangy drink, refreshing and flavourful. It tastes like an apple squash mixed in soda and makes for a good beverage for hot weather." We were then provided with a dish called *Sunny avo*



(short for *avocado*), which was an open-faced sandwich made of multigrain bread that would turn solid if left aside for long. It was enriched with guacamole spread topped over the sunny side up. The sandwich was ornamented with eggs that came with runny yolk. The eggs, however, were cooked satisfactorily, the stuff on top of it included chopped vegetables and

sauces that were not exactly my cup of tea.

While the food was adequate, the wait felt unpleasant. Probably owing to the nature of the size of the cafe and only the limited number of chefs the space could allow, the customers had to wait around for their orders to come. It had been two hours since we were at the eatery, and we realised it was a rather slow process.

Our penultimate dishes were *Asparagus tempura roll*, and the *Las Vegas roll*. The former incorporated salmon tuna and lettuce cream cheese. Outside, the orange and green *tobiko* provided a sophisticated and elegant touch. The sushi had a succulent sour flavour that lasted on the tongue. The *Asparagus tempura roll* was made of fried green chilli and plain *kew* pie mayo, topped with black sesame seeds. This vegetarian Japanese sushi did not have any flavour of its own.

In plain words, it was ornamented with plain rice. Perhaps, sushi was not our thing. Nevertheless, merely tasting the dish could make one feel fancy, thanks to the exquisite aesthetics around it.

Finally, we welcomed the chocolate dessert with open arms. The *Belgian chocolate tiramisu*, although so sweet that it could render sugar-rush, was chocolaty enough to stick in the mouth. It took time to melt and so the taste lasted for a while. Having said that, the cake could have been softer.

Even though we spent quite a lot of time at Cafe Tesu, my friend and I were full and content. Overall, it was a pleasant evening and I'd rate the cafe a 6.5 on 10.



WHAT GOES IN, SHOWS OUTSIDE

RUBAINA ADHIKARI elaborates on some eating habits that can impart a healthy glow to your face

Deep down, every one of us yearns for healthy and glowing skin. To achieve this goal, we undertake various skin treatments and practise numerous home remedies, as well as other intensive skincare routines.

But what often goes unnoticed is that our internal health has a significant impact on some aspects of our body which are externally visible, especially our skin. This implies that what we eat eventually shows on our faces. Consuming junk, oily or spicy foods, irregular eating patterns, and not staying hydrated damage our skin. This is the reason why a healthy diet is extremely important if blemish-free, glowing and soft skin is what you wish to achieve.

Have a glimpse at some easy and effective tips that you can incorporate in your daily lives to reach one step closer to the best, possible skin you could attain:

The magic potion

Staying hydrated is one of the most basic rules for having radiant skin. Drinking at least three litres of water daily is the key to healthy skin. Acting as a natural detoxifier, it flushes out the toxins and cleanses the skin naturally. Additionally, including water content rich foods such as citrus fruits, cucumbers, watermelon, coconut water and lemonade, among others, can also help fulfill the body's water requirements.

Eat those seasonal fruits and veggies

Consuming fruits and veggies, especially the seasonal ones, help reap various benefits for the skin. Rich in antioxidants, along with essential vitamins and vital minerals, they prevent ageing while imparting a healthy glow to the skin.

Consuming a balanced diet

This is one of the most common, yet essential, tips for maintaining your skin health. Intake of a balanced diet packed with all the essential nutrients will help keep your skin gleaming.

When your body obtains fiber, carbohydrates, fats, proteins, vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and other immunity-boosting foods in sufficient quantities, your vital statistics and overall health will be elevated. Be it fruits, veggies, nuts, seeds, grains, legumes, etc. include everything in the right quantities to your food and see how the diet works its magic on your skin!

Choose wisely

If you want to have a radiant face and skin, then you will have to bid goodbye to the salty, sugary and spicy foods! They do not offer nutritional benefits and eventually damage our skin's health. Instead, try including healthy fats in your diet that would add to the glow and enhance your skin quality as well as complexion. Incorporate nuts, seeds, olive oil, avocado, eggs in your food that will prevent early ageing and wrinkling by rejuvenating your skin.

Probiotics and prebiotics

Did you know that consuming probiotics and prebiotic-rich foods not only maintains gut health but also helps in having flawless skin? Probably not, right?

While consuming such foods, like yoghurt, our gut stays healthy and this eventually paves the way for a glowing complexion and radiant skin. You can consume it as it is or transform it into fruit parfaits and smoothies to slowly, but surely, witness the change in your skin.

Green and herbal teas

As much as reducing caffeine intake is important, substituting these with green tea and herbal tea is also essential. They protect our skin from harmful radicals, while preventing dark spots and acne as well as premature ageing and wrinkling.

Make a schedule and stick to it

Amid our fast-paced lives, our eating patterns are usually erratic. If this sounds familiar, it's high time this needs to stop. Eating too little or in excess, at irregular intervals or simply skipping meals, consuming unhealthy food items -- all of these are bad eating habits. They don't just affect our health but also rob our skin of its glow!

It would be ideal to formulate an eating schedule wherein you take five-six small meals that are balanced with the right food combinations. And don't forget, there should be adequate water breaks in between.

Summing up

We need to understand that our diet is a critical element of our skincare regime. If you don't, all the efforts you put in to ensure your skin remains healthy and supple will go down the drain.

(The author is a dietician and a wellness coach.)

India has been associated with good 'chai' for centuries. It is a tale of timeless romance. From a roadside '*kulhad* chai' to a luxurious sip in a plush café — it is consumed by all. Today, consumers, including millennials, are looking for something fresh and interesting. Their tastes have evolved, and the exposure to different cultures has intrigued them to try different types of beverages. That's how infused flavoured tea has evolved as one of the latest trends. This is because people across all age groups can have it, based on their preferred taste and mood. They render a rich aroma and have a wide range of tastes along with abundant health benefits. It can be consumed either hot or cold, with or without honey, and can be consumed without milk. Irrespective of the way it's made, there's no compromise on the taste buds.

The rejuvenating and therapeutic wonders of tea are well known. But there is much more to tea. When infused with other ingredients, the functional benefits are heightened to a different level. Tea does not have an 'ego' — it is a versatile beverage and there aren't a lot of off-notes to mask, which makes it an attractive ingredient to work with. This concept slowly got incorporated into people's lives when they realised that it can be infused with a huge variety of ingredients like spices, fruits, flowers, botanicals or herbs and can

Not just another novelty

ADITYA AGARWAL explains why infused flavoured teas are trending

be hot or cold brewed. On top of it, more and more people are now choosing healthier options that are full of taste and flavor. No compromises, on that count. Age-old natural remedies like tulsi, moringa, cinnamon and turmeric can now be easily incorporated into our lifestyle, thanks to infused teas.

Keeping health and wellness in mind, infused flavored tea check all the right boxes. It is healthy, 100 per cent natural to consume, delicious and can be had all day in all seasons.

Kahwa in winters is the perfect drink to keep you warm and a fruity iced tea in summers is needed to keep one cool. There are many varieties of flavours one can enjoy, as per their preference. From dessert teas post-dinner, like *Crème brûlée* and *Lavender vanilla* flavour, to the classics before breakfast like *Pure Darjeeling* and *Himalayan green tea* and not to forget wellness teas like *Mellow hibiscus* and *Magical cinnamon*. Infused teas offer endless options for everyone to explore.

Over the last year, against the back-



drop of the pandemic, many people have become more concerned about their physical health, and it pleases them to know that they don't need to consume unhealthy amounts of sugar and trans fats

to satiate their sweet tooth. They looked for alternatives which turned out to be plenty, one of them being dessert teas like *Sweet lavender vanilla*, *Toasty crème brûlée*, *Midnight mint* flavours. With high antioxidants and zero calories, these sweet teas won't leave you guilty as each cup contains zero calories.

The times we live in have given consumers the opportunity to cook their own meals, take control of their intake and make the process enjoyable. This includes experimenting, adding new flavors and infusions to try something new each day.

With new formats of tea like ready-to-drink, sparkling teas, dessert teas, and cold brews, it was about time infused tea became popular among the general populace. With its fascinating flavours, combined with various health benefits, infused teas' stock is on an upwards trend, and this may just be the beginning.

(The author is the founder of CHAYAM, a brand which seeks to redefine the experience of tea.)

R E C I P E S

ENERGY BALLS

WHAT YOU NEED

- Rolled oats: 1 ½ cups
- Dates (de-seeded): 7-8
- Cashews: 20 gm
- Flaxseed/ pumpkin seeds/ hemp seeds/ sesame seeds (ground): 1 tbsp
- Coconut (shredded): 2 tbsp

METHOD

For cashew butter:

- Soak cashews for two hours and grind it into fine paste.
- Place the cashew paste in non stick pan.
- Cook on a low flame till the oil tends to move on the sides.

Final assembly:

- Roast the oats on a low flame until it gets light-brown in colour.
- Mix all the ingredients together except the shredded coconut.
- Place the dough in the freezer for



about 15 minutes.

- Remove from the freezer and roll into small bites with the palms of your hands.
- Roll each energy bite in the shredded coconut.
- Serve and enjoy or refrigerate for up to two weeks.

Courtesy: Lakshita Jain, clinical dietician and diabetes educator

SPAGHETTI WITH BLUE TRIBE PLANT-BASED CHICKEN BOLOGNAISE

WHAT YOU NEED

- Blue tribe plant-based chicken keema (BTPB): 1 packet
- Spaghetti (dry): 1 packet
- Onion (minced): ½ cup
- Carrot (minced): ¼ cup
- Celery stick: 1
- Cloves garlic (minced): 3
- Tomato puree: 400 gm
- Mushrooms (sliced): ½ cup
- Oregano (dried): 1 tbsp
- Fresh basil (chopped): 2 tbsp
- Salt
- Black pepper
- Olive oil: 1 tbsp

METHOD

- Defrost the BTPB chicken keema.



- Cook the spaghetti as per instructions on the box (put aside a cup of the pasta water for cooking).
- Heat the oil in a frying pan and cook the vegetables until soft and translucent.
- Add the tomato puree and cook for five minutes.
- Add the pasta water,

mushrooms, oregano, basil, salt, pepper and chicken keema. Bring to a simmer and cook for 30 minutes on a low flame.

- Serve the sauce tossed with the spaghetti and sprinkle some vegan parmesan cheese and fresh basil at the time of serving.

Courtesy: Blue Tribe

DAHI KE ROTI KEBABS

WHAT YOU NEED

- Hung yoghurt: 200 gm
- Paneer: 50 gm
- Onion (small): 1
- Capsicum (small): 1
- Carrot (small): 1
- Coriander: 2 tbsp
- Salt to taste
- Black pepper powder: 1 tsp

- Green chili (chopped): 2
- Bread: 6 to 7 slices
- Corn flour: 2 tsp
- Water: 4 tsp
- Cooking oil

METHOD

- Take a thick and creamy curd (hung curd) and add one cup crumbled paneer.
- Then, add onion, ginger, chili and coriander



powder along with salt and crushed pepper.

- Then, add breadcrumbs to remove excess moisture.

- Mix it well making sure the paneer and hung curd are combined well. Do not over-knead as the curd will start to release moisture.
- Prepare small-sized

kebabs and coat them with corn flour to remove excess moisture.

- Deep fry the patties in oil on medium flame while stirring occasionally till they turn golden brown.
- Serve with pudina chutney or ketchup.

Courtesy: Executive chef Salvir Singh at Anuraga Palace, Ranthambore

KESARI GUJIYA

WHAT YOU NEED

- Plain flour (*maida*): 2 cups
 - Semolina (*suji*): ¼ cup
 - Ghee: 5 tbsp
 - Milk: ¼ cup
 - Saffron: 1 gm
- #### For the stuffing:
- Ghee: 2 tbsp
 - Sugar: 1 ¼ cup
 - *Khoya* (grated): ½ cup
 - Coconut (desiccated): ½ cup
 - Pistachio (chopped): ¼ cup
 - Almond (chopped): ¼ cup
 - Cardamom powder: 1 tsp

METHOD

For the dough:

- In a mixing bowl, add *maida*, *suji*, ghee and mix well.
- Add milk with saffron and knead the dough till it gets

hard. Keep aside covered for five to 10 minutes.

For the stuffing:

- Heat the ghee in a pan, add *mawa* and all nuts and mix well.
- Add the sugar and cook for six to seven minutes, add the cardamom, coconut and mix well.
- Stir for another three to four minutes and turn off the flame.
- Transfer this mixture to the bowl and keep aside.

For final assembly:

- Make round size dough sheet with the help of a round cutter.
- Place the stuffing as shape of the round dough sheet.
- Make a half moon shape and turn the edges of sheet to lock on both the sides.
- Deep fry the *gujiya* in oil.

Courtesy: Chef Chetan at Godrej Veg Oils' Sahi Shuruat initiative of Godrej Vikhroli Cucina





PTI ■ DUBAI

Virat Kohli on Thursday announced he will step down as India's T20 skipper after the T20 World Cup in UAE but will continue to lead the side in ODIs and Test cricket, a decision that paves the way for Rohit Sharma to captain in the shortest format.

"I've decided to step down as the T20 captain after this T20 World Cup in Dubai in October," the 32-year-old Kohli, who is here to compete in the IPL that resumes on Sunday, said in a statement posted on his Twitter page.

"Understanding workload is a very

important thing and considering my immense workload over the last 8-9 years playing all three formats and captaining regularly for last five to six years, I feel I need to give myself space to be fully ready to lead Indian team in Test and ODI cricket," Kohli explained.

For some time, there has been speculation surrounding Kohli's future as white-ball captain especially in the backdrop of Rohit's brilliant track record of winning five IPL titles for Mumbai Indians.

The 34-year-old Rohit is Kohli's deputy in the white-ball formats and is most likely to take up the leadership role when India clashes with New Zealand in a home series in November that will feature three T20 Internationals along with two Test matches.

BCCI Secretary Jay Shah, in a statement issued by the Board after Kohli's announcement, said the body has been in discussion with Kohli for a while now.

"We have a clear roadmap for

HIGHLIGHTS OF KOHLI'S T20 CAPTAINCY: SERIES WIN IN SENA COUNTIES

India's winning percentage under Kohli is better than Mahendra Singh Dhoni's tenure during which the side won the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007. India have won 27 out of 45 matches under Kohli with two tied games and as many abandoned, making it a healthy winning percentage of 65.11. India are yet to win an ICC trophy under Kohli but the team's series win under him in South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, England and West Indies will remain the highlights of his leadership tenure starting 2017.

India's first T20 bilateral series win came under Kohli in 2017 when the team won the one-off game in Sri Lanka.

The first series win in SENA countries came in South Africa in 2018 when India won 2-1.

In the same year, India managed to beat a formidable England team in its own backyard with the series result being 2-1.

By far the biggest overseas triumph came in New Zealand in 2019-20 season with Kohli's team trouncing the Black Caps 5-0 before going on to lose the subsequent ODI and Test series.

In 2020, India bounced back after losing the ODI series in Australia to win the T20 rubber 2-1.

Most recently, India beat mighty England at home 3-2 and Kohli was named the player of the series.

Kohli remains the leading-run scorer in T20s with 3159 runs at an impressive average of 52.65 and highest score of 94 not out.

SOURCE: PTI

Team India. Considering the workloads and ensuring that we have smooth transition, Mr Virat Kohli has decided to step down as T20 Captain after the upcoming World Cup," Shah said. "I have been in discussions with Virat and the leadership team for the last six months and the decision has been thought through. "Virat will continue to contribute as a player and as a senior member of the side in shaping the future course of Indian cricket," he added.

Kohli took over India's limited-overs captaincy in 2017, succeeding Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

"I have given my everything to the Team during my time as T20 captain and I will continue to do so for the T20 captain and will continue to do so for the T20 team as a batsman moving forward," he further added.

The decision, Kohli said, was taken after consulting head coach Ravi Shastri, his heir apparent Rohit, BCCI President Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah. The T20 World Cup starts on October 17 and Kohli will be

under intense pressure to deliver the trophy. "Of course, arriving at this decision took a lot of time. After

a lot of contemplation and discussions with my close people, Ravi bhai and also Rohit, who have been an essential part of the leadership group..." Kohli stated.

"I have also spoken to the secretary Mr Jay Shah and president of BCCI Mr Sourav Ganguly along with the selectors about the same.

I will continue to serve Indian cricket and Indian cricket team to the best of my ability," Kohli said.

Kohli has played 90 T20 Internationals scoring 3159 runs with 28 fifties and captained India in 45 of those games winning 27 and losing 14.

He has a winning percentage of 65.11. "I have been fortunate enough to not only represent India but also lead the Indian cricket team to my utmost capability," the flamboyant star batsman said. "I thank everyone who has supported me in my journey as the captain of the Indian cricket team.

I have no idea about change in leadership: Babar



PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan captain Babar Azam has brushed aside the talk on impending changes in the team's leadership and said the focus is to win the ODI and T20 series against New Zealand. Babar told a virtual media conference on Thursday that he was completely backing the selected squad.

Asked about his alleged dissatisfaction over the selected team, Babar said that he had given his input as captain as usual and insisted this was not any individual's team.

"I think the board officials and chief selector have also clarified the position on team selection so for me I am completely backing the side and expect it to do well against New Zealand."

Babar also made it clear he had been told nothing or heard anything about captaincy changes. He pointed out that it was a normal thing in the cricket world that a captain had to meet desired goals and live up to expectations. PCB Chairman, Ramiz Raja, in his first press conference had made it clear that his expectations for Babar as captain were the same as he had with Imran Khan.

India's ODI tour of NZ postponed to 2022

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

India will not be touring New Zealand later in the year due to a packed calendar and COVID-19 related restrictions. India would have had to quarantine for 14 days to play three ODIs as part of the World Cup Super League.

A New Zealand Cricket (NZC) spokesperson confirmed to Stuff that the India games will be played after the T20 World Cup in Australia

next year. New Zealand anyway are scheduled to tour India in November for two Tests and three T20s.

New Zealand will be hosting Bangladesh, The Netherlands and South Africa in the summer besides the seven teams in Women's World Cup in March-April.

The Tests against Bangladesh and South Africa are part of the World Test Championship. "We've got to be mindful of

players coming back from a long winter and we've got to give them time at home as well," NZC chief executive David White said.

The Black Caps will undergo 14 days of managed isolation and quarantine (MIQ) after returning from India just before Christmas. That won't allow NZC to host the Boxing Day Test on December 26 and the opener against Bangladesh could begin on December 28 or later.

Davis Cup: Indian players need to give their all against Finland



PTI ■ ESPOO (FINLAND)

India's singles players will need to back their talent with some killer instinct for the team to emerge victorious against a reasonably strong Finland in the Davis Cup World Group I tie, starting here on Friday.

Prajnesh Guneswaran and Ramkumar Ramanathan have the experience of playing the big matches. They have rubbed shoulders with better players but it's time for them to move forward from playing mere close matches. They need to deliver that knockout punch that will take India to the next year's Qualifiers.

It will be Prajnesh (ranked 165) who will open the tie for India with a match against Otto Virtanen (ranked 419). It is a splendid opportunity for India to draw first blood as Prajnesh is a superior player. Prajnesh gets close to wins with his talent but

has the tendency of giving up advantageous positions, like the one against Borna Coric in the last tie against Croatia. Maybe it's the pressure of playing for the flag but the left-hander from Chennai insists it is not the case. "Matches against good players are always close if I'm playing well."

I have won matches against good players being in the lead and I have also lost matches being in the lead. That's just the way they go," Prajnesh told PTI. "Matches which are closely fought can go either way. There is no pressure of playing for India that influences me... Sometimes there's more pressure, other times that's less."

"Again, just depends on how well I cope on that particular day," he added. But now is the opportunity for him to put India ahead.

If Ramkumar can play the same way he competed against 2014 US Open champion Marin Cilic in the previous tie against Croatia and does not miss the chances he gets, India will have a very good chance in the tie.

As the second-best ranked player from India, Ramkumar is up against Finland's number one player Emil Ruusuvuori, who is placed 74 in the world, on the opening day of the tie.

Ramkumar is taking the court for the second singles and will have a pretty good idea how he should approach the match against Ruusuvuori after Prajnesh's game.

Shastri, Arun, Sridhar awaiting 'fit to fly' certificate

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's head coach Ravi Shastri, along with bowling and fielding coaches Bharath Arun and R Sridhar, respectively, would need to undergo a "fit to fly" test post recovery from COVID-19, which led to the cancellation of the fifth Test against England in Manchester last week. The trio have completed a 10-day isolation as per

the UK Health Protocols but, to return home, they also need to pass a "fit to fly" test, apart from negative RT-PCR reports.

"Shastri, Arun and Sridhar are all doing well physically having recovered from COVID-19. They are out of isolation."

"However, as per health protocols they need to have a CT score of 38 plus which will ensure a fit to fly certificate for them. We expect them to fly out

in next two days if all goes well with CT score," a senior BCCI official told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

The CT (CT scan) score tells about the presence of viral load in a COVID-19 affected person and how much his lungs have been infected.

A higher CT score indicates recovery and it is believed that to take long flights, one needs to have a CT score of 40.

None of the three Indian coaches currently have any symptoms and are completely fit but can only avail the return flight once they get the certificate. Shastri tested positive on the third day of the fourth Test at Oval and Arun and Sridhar, deemed as close contacts, had to be isolated. The duo also later tested positive and all of them finished their 10-day isolation on Wednesday.

FIFA intensifies push to stage men's World Cup every 2 years

AP ■ GENEVA

FIFA intensified its push for hosting the men's World Cup every two years on Thursday by garnering support from soccer fans around the world to help combat resistance from Europe and South America. The latest public relations tactic came in the form of an online survey commissioned by FIFA.

The Associated Press does not routinely report the claims of opinion polls conducted over the internet. The FIFA statement did not provide data, details of the polling methodology or questions asked, but claimed its findings showed "considerable differences between the so-called traditional markets and the developing football markets."

European soccer body UEFA and South American counterpart CONMEBOL oppose FIFA's plan and have threatened to boycott

additional World Cups. Europe and South America combine for 65 of the 211 FIFA members — fewer than the one-third total likely needed to block any proposal. The governing bodies of the six continental soccer federations all stage their own championships, with Europe hosting its tournament every four years halfway between the World Cups.

Adding an extra World Cup in every four-year cycle would likely cut into the European event's revenue stream. The women already have two major

world tournaments in every four-year cycle because the top teams and best players compete at the Olympics as well as the Women's World Cup.

FIFA's latest survey follows one week after it hosted about 80 former international players, including several World Cup winners, for a two-day meeting in Qatar — the 2022 World Cup host country.

Messi and PSG held by Brugge

AP ■ GENEVA

Lionel Messi, Kylian Mbappé and Neymar lined up together in the near-perfect attack for Paris Saint-Germain and still could not score or deliver a win in the Champions League.

Instead, it was low-key midfielder Ander Herrera who got PSG's goal in a 1-1 draw at underrated Belgian champion Club Brugge.

Though Messi saw a first-half shot strike the crossbar, he was later shown a yellow card for a foul and Mbappé went off because of an injured left ankle.

French forwards flourished elsewhere with Sébastien Haller scoring four for Ajax in a 5-1 rout at Sporting Lisbon and Christopher Nkunku netting all of Leipzig's goals in a 6-3 loss to Manchester City.

The English clubs in action combined for two wins in matches involving 14 goals as Liverpool beat AC Milan 3-2 in the Italians' return to the competition after a seven-season gap.

There was just one goal in the games involving the Madrid clubs, and Rodrygo's 89th-minute strike won it for Real Madrid at Inter Milan. Atlético Madrid was held 0-0 at home to Porto.

Debutant Sheriff Tiraspol from the Moldovan league won 2-0 against Shakhtar Donetsk from neighboring Ukraine.

Three-time

European champion Messi was added to PSG's already stellar squad last month to drive the Qatar-owned club's quest to win soccer's most coveted club prize.

The Jan Breydel Stadium in Belgium was a modest venue for the Messi-Mbappé-Neymar forward line to be unveiled for the first time. They lasted just 50 minutes together, though Mbappé did create Herrera's opening goal from a sharp first-time shot in the 15th minute.

PSG hosts City on Sept. 28 in a rematch of last season's semifinals.

The English champion advanced after winning the first leg 2-1 in Paris.

Liverpool and AC Milan traded titles facing each other in the 2005 and 2007 Champions League finals yet had never met at any other stage of the competition.

Their first match at Anfield was a typically rousing affair in the storied venue that thrives on European nights.

Liverpool's early surge yielded only a Trent Alexander-Arnold-inspired opening goal and a penalty for Mohamed Salah saved by Milan goalkeeper Milan. Atlético Madrid stunned its hosts with two quick goals just before halftime, but the lead lasted just a few minutes into the second half before Salah leveled.

AIFF president Patel meets Sports Minister Thakur

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Praful Patel on Thursday called on Sports Minister Anurag Thakur and briefed him about the upcoming international tournaments the country is hosting.

The AIFF president updated the honourable minister on the forthcoming major international events which are to be held in India in 2022 viz. The AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 scheduled to kick off in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Pune from January 20 onwards and the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 to be held from October 11, 2022, the AIFF said in a release.

Sports secretary Ravi Mittal and Sports Authority of India's director general Sandip Pradhan were also present during the meeting alongside AIFF general secretary Kushal Das and his deputy Abhishek Yadav.

Golden sweep for Indian girls in Tunis



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's Swastika Ghosh defeated compatriot Yashaswini Ghorphade 3-2 in what turned out to be a gripping Under-19 girls final of the WTT (World Table Tennis) Contender event in Tunis, Tunisia.

However, a little while before, the silver medalist Yashaswini won gold in the Under-17 girls final, beating Egyptian Farida Badawy 11-6 14-12 11-7.

In the Under-19 final, Swastika defeated Yashaswini 6-11 11-6 6-11 11-6 11-8.

These were not the only successes in Tunis as the Indian paddlers collected all

the gold on offer, besides some silver and bronze medals.

Suhana Saini accounted for Pritha Vartakar in the Under-15 girls final for her second international gold. She had earlier won the title during her Slovenia sojourn.

M Hansini was another Indian who excelled, winning gold in Under-13 girls event, beating Prisha Goel 11-5 11-8 11-8. In Under-11 girls category, Dhaani Jain emerged champion when she downed Ananya Muralidharan 11-4 11-6 9-11 10-12 11-7 in a tough final.

Playing her second final soon after a brief break from her gold-winning Under-17 event, the Bengaluru girl took on Mumbai's Swastika in the Under-17 section. Nicely warmed up, Yashaswini won the first game before Swastika recovered to take the second. But the fight continued unabated, as

the two shared the next two games and, in the decider, Swastika proved a notch better than Yashaswini.

Deepak eases into second round as SSCB boxers dominate at Nationals

PTI ■ BELLART

International-medallist Deepak Kumar (51kg) led the show as Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) boxers produced an impressive all-win performance on the second day of the men's National Championships at the Inspire Institute of Sports here on Thursday.

Deepak, who had upstaged the world and Olympic Games champion Shakhobidin Zoirov of Uzbekistan during his silver medal show at the Strandja Memorial earlier this year,



started the domination for SSCB with a flawless 5-0 win against Bihar's Aman Kumar in the 51kg opening round match.

Barun Singh (48kg) and Akash (54kg) further extended SSCB's winning momentum as they managed unanimous victories against Telangana's Donald Janumala and Rocky of All India Police respectively.

Dalveer Singh Tomar (64kg) and Naveen Boora (71) were the other two boxers to progress into the second round as all the five SSCB boxers in action emerged victorious on the second day of the event.

Indian Premier League 2021

Remaining part of the tournament, which was postponed in May due to COVID-19 situation in India, will be played in the UAE from September 19

CSK
Chennai
Super Kings

DC
Delhi
Capitals

KKR
Kolkata
Knight Riders

MI
Mumbai
Indians

PBKS
Punjab
Kings

RR
Rajasthan
Royals

RCB
Royal Challengers
Bangalore

SRH
Sunrisers
Hyderabad

Points Table

As on May 2, 2021

	Played	Won	Lost	Net Run Rate	Points
Delhi Capitals	8	6	2	0.547	12
Chennai Super Kings	7	5	2	1.263	10
Royal Challengers Bangalore	7	5	2	-0.171	10
Mumbai Indians	7	4	3	0.062	8
Rajasthan Royals	7	3	4	-0.190	6
Punjab Kings	8	3	5	-0.368	6
Kolkata Knight Riders	7	2	5	-0.494	4
Sunrisers Hyderabad	7	1	6	-0.623	2

Schedule

Date	Match	Venue	Date	Match	Venue
Sept 19	CSK vs MI	Dubai	Sept 29	RR vs RCB	Dubai
Sept 20	KKR vs RCB	Abu Dhabi	Sept 30	SRH vs CSK	Sharjah
Sept 21	PBKS vs RR	Dubai	Oct 1	KKR vs PBKS	Dubai
Sept 22	DC vs KKR	Dubai	Oct 2	MI vs DC	Sharjah
Sept 23	MI vs SRH	Abu Dhabi	Oct 3	RR vs CSK	Abu Dhabi
Sept 24	RCB vs CSK	Sharjah	Oct 3	RCB vs PBKS	Sharjah
Sept 25	DC vs RR	Abu Dhabi	Oct 4	DC vs CSK	Dubai
Sept 26	SRH vs PBKS	Sharjah	Oct 5	RR vs MI	Sharjah
Sept 27	CSK vs KKR	Abu Dhabi	Oct 6	RCB vs SRH	Abu Dhabi
Sept 28	RR vs MI	Dubai	Oct 7	CSK vs PBKS	Dubai
			Oct 8	KKR vs RR	Sharjah
			Oct 8	SRH vs MI	Abu Dhabi
				RCB vs DC	Dubai

Qualifier 1
(1st placed team vs 2nd placed team)
Dubai

Qualifier 2
(Loser of Qualifier 1 vs winner of Eliminator)
Sharjah

Eliminator
(3rd placed team vs 4th placed team)
Sharjah

Final
(Winner of Qualifier 1 vs winner of Qualifier 2)
Dubai

Timings: 7:30 pm IST on single match days;
8:30 pm and 7:30 pm IST on days having two matches

KKK SportsGraphic

Delhi Capitals retain Rishabh Pant as captain



PTI ■ DUBAI

Delhi Capitals on Thursday announced that flamboyant wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant will continue to lead the side in the remainder

of the IPL beginning September 19.

It was one of the most predictable decisions considering that Delhi Capitals did well under Pant despite the fact that Shreyas Iyer led them to their first final last year.

Delhi Capitals are currently leading the IPL points table with 12 points having won six games under Pant's captaincy earlier this year after he was assigned the role in absence of injured Iyer, who had to undergo a shoulder surgery.

"JSW-GMR co-owned Delhi Capitals today announced that Rishabh Pant will continue as captain for the remainder of the IPL 2021 season," franchise's official handle tweeted.

Advani manages to defend Asian title

PTI ■ DOHA

India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani on Thursday defended his Asian Snooker Championship title defeating Amir Sarkhosh of Iran here.

The Indian great was competing in his first assignment in almost two years due to COVID-19.

Advani had won the title in 2019 before the 2020 edition