

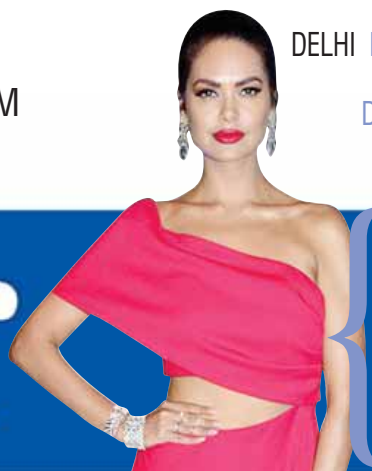
**OPINION 8**  
IN THE END, THE  
GAME IS THE WINNER**WORLD 11**  
ENCOURAGE AFGHANISTAN  
TO SHUN TERRORISM: XI**SPORT 14**  
HARMILAN KAUR SETS  
NATIONAL RECORD IN 1500M

LUCKNOW, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2021; PAGES 14 ₹3



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

## India's total Covid shots is 78.72 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

PTI

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

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

"On PM @Narendra Modi

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

The Government's tracker

## 90% people in Mumbai have anti-bodies

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

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

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

"Celebrating the relentless efforts of India's vaccination against Covid-19, we have added a ticker to show vaccinations happening in near real-time. We are currently clocking over 42,000 vaccinations a minute or 700/second," tweeted National Health Authority chief RS Sharma.

Continued on Page 11

# Must ensure radicalisation, extremism don't rise: Modi

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Modi said India is helping

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

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

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

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



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the SCO Summit virtually on Friday PTI

mon template for it".

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

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

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

"If we take a look at history, we will find that Central Asia has been a bastion of

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

Continued on Page 11

## Jaishankar: Early resolution must for LAC peace

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

## CAPSULE

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

**ULTRAS KILL NON-LOCAL LABOURER, COP IN J&K**  
**Srinagar:** Terrorists killed a policeman and a non-local labourer in separate incidents in Jammu & Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday, officials said.

**DELHI RECORDS 1 DEATH, 33 NEW COVID CASES**  
**New Delhi:** Delhi recorded one death due to Covid-19 and 33 fresh cases at a positivity rate of 0.04 per cent, according to data shared by the city health department on Friday.

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

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

VIRENDRA NATH BHATT ■ LUCKNOW

The Goods and Service tax council, comprising the Finance Ministers of all States and Union Territories and Union Finance Minister, which met here on Friday failed to arrive at a decision on the inclusion of petroleum products and diesel in the GST. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that it was not time for including petrol and diesel.

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



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

medicines for muscular atrophy.

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

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

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

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

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

Kerala Finance Minister vehemently opposed any move to bring petrol and diesel under the GST regime as that will further reduce revenue generation for the State and asserted that the Centre should reduce its levies on the two commodities to provide relief to the common people. Central excise and State VAT (Value Added Tax) make up for almost half of the retail selling price of petrol and diesel. Bringing them under the GST would impact revenue generation for the States.

Continued on Page 11

## New Zealand abandon tour of Pak over security threat

PTI ■ RAWALPINDI

The New Zealand cricket team on Friday abandoned its ongoing tour of Pakistan just before the start of the first ODI here, citing a security threat which the host board insisted did not exist while declaring the pullout a unilateral move.

This was New Zealand's first tour of Pakistan in 18 years and the series comprised three ODIs and five T20 Internationals. Spectators were also to be allowed at 25 per cent of the stadium capacity keeping in mind the Covid factor.

Pakistan Cricket Board chief Ramiz Raja said New Zealand will have to answer for the pullout at the ICC.

"Crazy day it has been! Feel so sorry for the fans and our players. Walking out of the tour by taking a unilateral approach on a security threat is very frustrating. Especially when it's not shared!! Which world is NZ living in?? NZ will hear us at ICC," he tweeted.

Detailed report on P14

## 2 arrested for extortion, threatening to post nude photos on social media

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested two men for allegedly extorting money from people by threatening to post their nude or morphed videos and pictures on social media platforms.

The duo, who was arrested from Rajasthan and identified as Jahul (25) and Minaj (23), hailing from Mewat area of Rajasthan's Bharatpur district, extorted money from more than 250 people till date, said the police.

According to Pranav Tayal, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Rohini district, the arrests were made on the basis of a complaint by a Delhi-based man at the Begampur Police Station in July this year.

"According to the FIR, the complainant had accepted the friend request of a woman on a social media platform. They exchanged their contact numbers and started chatting on WhatsApp. While chatting on WhatsApp, the woman pro-

voked the complainant to perform a sexual act which was recorded by her. She then began to threaten him and asked him to pay ₹15,000 to get the video deleted," he said.

"After the complainant paid the said amount, he got a phone call from another person who claimed to be a cyber cell officer from Durgapur. The person told him to get the obscene video deleted from YouTube and other social media sites," said the DCP.

"When the complainant contacted the YouTuber purported to have posted the video, he too demanded a sum from the complainant to delete the video from the video streaming platform," said the DCP.

"Using call detail record analysis and technical surveillance, a raid was conducted in Mewat and both the accused were arrested from there. Three mobile phones used to make extortion calls were seized from their possession," said the DCP.

## Mamata, not Rahul, can take on Modi: Trinamool Congress

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

About a month after West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress head Mamata Banerjee underscored the need of Opposition unity rather than focusing on a face for the Prime Ministership, her party on Friday projected her as the only Opposition face that could take on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The front page of the TMC mouthpiece *Jago Bangla* read, "It is not Rahul, but Mamata, who is the main face against Modi."

At a Trinamool workers' meeting too, senior leader and MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay summed up his party's mood saying, "We have great regards for Sonia... again the TMC has



nothing against Rahul Gandhi whom I have observed for so many years... but I can say he has not measured up to the expectations... he has not been able to bring himself as an alternative to Narendra Modi... In that case it is only Mamata Banerjee who is the main opposition face against Modi."

Continued on Page 11

## Rackets gifted to PM quote ₹10 cr bids

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

paintings among others.

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

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



ifying for the 2020 Summer Olympics.

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

The highest bids for the javelin which gave India its first



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

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

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

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

## Manipur's two chillis get GI tag

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



# GST Council approves changes in some tax rates

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Goods and Services Tax Council approved a major recommendation for the change in tax rate from November next.

The GST on fortified rice kernels for nutrition schemes like ICDS has been reduced from 18 per cent to 5 per cent. The tax rate on cancer treatment medicine Keytruda has reduced to 5 per cent from 12 per cent.

The GST on biodiesel supplied to oil marketing companies for blending with diesel has been reduced from 12 per cent to 5 per cent. The GST on ores and concentrate of metals such as iron, copper, aluminum, zinc and a few others has been reduced to 5 per cent from 18 per cent

The GST on specified renewable energy devices and parts has also been reduced to 5 per cent from 12 per cent. The GST on all kinds of pens was 12-18 per cent and has now been fixed at 18 per cent.

## Finance Minister praises UP govt's hospitality

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Union Finance and Corporate Minister Nirmala Sitharaman showered praise on the Uttar Pradesh government and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for providing excellent hospitality to the members of the GST Council in the 45th meeting held here on Friday.

"After two years the Council is holding the meeting physically and such warm reception by the UP government is appreciable. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath personally met the members and even hosted the lunch," she told the reporters here.

The GST on railway parts, locomotives and other goods has been increased to 18 per cent from 12 per cent. GST on miscellaneous goods of paper



"The meeting was well organised and all the members appreciated the hospitality of the UP government. It was a good experience for the mem-

bers to attend the meeting after coming out of the pandemic," she said. The finance minister said after experiencing such good hospitality, now several

states like Punjab and others had offered to hold the meeting. After attending the GST Council meeting on Friday, several council members,

mostly ministers of states, are likely to visit tourist places on Saturday. Several of them have planned to visit Ayodhya.

like cards, catalogue, and printed material has been increased to 18 per cent from 12 per cent.

IGST on import of medi-

cines for personal use namely, Zolgensma for spinal muscular atrophy, Vilepro for duchenne muscular dystrophy and other medicines recommended by

the Ministry of Health has been reduced to nil from earlier 12 per cent. The GST Council also decided for nil tax on goods supplied at India-

Bangladesh border haats.

Brick kilns would be brought under a special composition scheme with a threshold limit of Rs 20 lakh, with

effect from April 1, 2022. Bricks would attract GST at the rate of 6 per cent without ITC under the scheme. GST rate of 12 per cent with ITC would otherwise apply to bricks

Major GST changes in relation to rates and scope of exemption on services from November 1, 2021 are validity of GST exemption on transport of goods by vessel and air from India to outside India has been extended to September 2022.

Services by way of grant of national permit to goods carriages on payment of fee has been reduced to nil from 18 per cent.

Skill training for which the government bears 75 per cent or more of the expenditure (presently exemption applies only if government funds 100 per cent) has been reduced to nil from present 18 per cent.

GST will be nil from the present 18 per cent on licensing services/the right to broadcast and show original films,

sound recordings, radio and television programmes.

The GST Council also issued clarification in relation to the GST rate on goods. Pure henna powder and paste having no additives attract a 5 per cent GST rate. All laboratory reagents and other goods attract GST at the rate of 12 per cent. Scented sweet supari and flavored and coated elaichi attract GST at the rate of 18 per cent.

Carbonated fruit beverages of fruit drink and carbonated beverages with fruit juice attract a GST rate of 28 per cent and cess of 12 per cent.

Tamarind seeds hitherto attracted nil rates irrespective of use. However, henceforth they will attract a 5 per cent GST rate from October 1, 2021. External batteries sold along with UPS systems/inverters attract a GST rate applicable to batteries (28 per cent for batteries other than lithium-ion battery) while UPS/inverter would attract 18 per cent GST.

# BJP kicks off sewa and samarpan campaign on Modi's 71st birthday

## CM presents gifts to divyangs

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath celebrated the 71st birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by presenting gifts to divyangs and kicked-off Bharatiya Janata Party's 20-day sewa and samarpan campaign which will continue till October 7.

"Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has special attachment and sympathy for divyangjan. The word divyang is also the gift of the prime minister. Keeping in mind the



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath presenting gifts to divyangs in Lucknow on Friday

attachment of the prime minister to divyangjan, on the occasion of his 71st birthday, a 20-day service dedication programme is being started from today," the chief minister said after presenting gifts to mentally retarded and differently-abled children at the Nirvana Rehabilitation Centre here on Friday.

He also presented fruits to the children.

The chief minister said that the programme on the occasion of the prime minister's birthday was important because Narendra Modi had given a new direction to the country in various fields. He said the prime minister gave the message that there was talent in divyangjan too and to make that talent useful for society and the country, they

had to be given a proper platform.

"My aim of participating in this programme is to assure the disabled children about a bright future on behalf of the prime minister. They are special children and should be treated with compassion and sympathy," he said.

Meanwhile, Bharatiya Janata Party workers celebrated the prime minister's birthday through various service activities, including health check-up and blood donation camps, distribution of fruits in poor settlements, orphanages and old age homes, and cleanliness programmes across the state.

BJP state president Swatantra Dev Singh, national vice-president and state in-charge Radha Mohan Singh

and state general secretary (organisation) Sunil Bansal participated in the service and dedication campaign in various districts of the state.

Swatantra Dev Singh reached the Hanuman Setu temple in Lucknow and lit 71 lamps. Later he also participated in a programme in Prayagraj.

Singh appealed to every party worker to take inspiration from the life of the prime minister while discharging their role in nation building, remain ready for public welfare and service works.

The party's national vice president and state in-charge Shri Radha Mohan Singh honoured the farmers and jawans at a function in Mathura while Sunil Bansal attended a programme in Meerut.

## Incessant rains continue to play havoc in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With incessant rains continuing in many parts of the state, especially in eastern Uttar Pradesh, the death-toll increased to 38 with more deaths reported from different areas. Severe damage to crops has been also reported, mainly from central districts of the state due to torrential rains.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed senior officials to tour their areas and ensure that relief work is being done properly. He has also asked the officials to assess the damage in each area to fix compensation.

Reports coming from many parts of the state confirmed that normal life was again disturbed by the stormy rains. Since Thursday, 38 people have died and many have been injured in rain related mishaps during the rains across the state.

Due to heavy rain for two days in the entire Awadh region, the normal life has been completely paralysed. At the same time, 22 people lost their lives as trees were uprooted and houses collapsed in many areas. Four people died due to wall collapse in different areas of Barabanki. A wall collapsed on real sisters going to buy household articles in Sultanpur. A girl died after being buried under rubble in a house collapse while at another place a woman died when the wall of her house collapsed on her.

In Ayodhya too, four people, including man and his son, died after being buried under the rubble in house and wall collapse incidents. In Rae Bareilly-Amethi, three people lost their lives in accidents due to rain.

According to Pratapgarh police, during the incessant rain since Thursday, four-year-old Amit died when a house collapsed and he was buried under the rubble in Nevada ward of Antu, Nagar Panchayat under Antu police station. In a wall collapse incident in Tiwaripur village under the same police station, Om Prakash (50) lost his life.

## CM directive to take stock of damage caused by rains

**Lucknow (PNS):** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed all officers and employees of local bodies and Panchayati Raj department to visit the affected areas and take stock of the damage caused by the incessant rainfall in the last two days and provide relief to the marooned people.

Addressing a high-level meeting in Lucknow on Friday, the chief minister said that the Health department and civic bodies should initiate appropriate measures to ensure that no disease spreads because of water-logging. He also directed the officials to make necessary arrangements for the treatment of patients found infected with viral fever and other diseases arising out of seasonal vagaries in various parts of the state.

Besides, instructions were given to expedite relief and rescue operations in the flood-affected districts on an immediate basis.

Putting all its efforts to mitigate the impact of floods and alleviate the condition of

the affected residents across the state, the state government has established around 1,134 relief shelters in 506 villages of 13 districts. Besides, as many as 451 motorboats, 208 vehicles and 1,225 medical teams have also been engaged for search, rescue and relief operations.

Yogi also directed the authorities to keep a constant eye on the water level of rivers and make all necessary preparations for flood control.

Over 64 teams, including those of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) have been deployed in 40 districts of Uttar Pradesh to tackle the floods. Officials have also been directed to ensure that relief operations are not delayed in areas affected by floods or excessive rains.

Over 2,90,239 dry ration kits have been distributed so far while 17,730 dry ration kits were distributed in the last 24 hours.

Besides, Kalika (80) was buried under the rubble when a wall collapsed in Barendra village under Sagipur police station while a woman Kalavati (65) died in an incident of wall collapse in Lolipokhta village under Kohadur police station.

According to police, Chamela Devi (54) died in an incident of house collapse in Tardaha village in Kotwali Patti police station area and Kusum Maurya (25) died when a house collapsed on her in Srinathpur under the same police station. Amarjeet Singh (65) was also killed when a wall collapsed on him in Kumbhi Diha village of Thana Udaipur area.

A woman and her two children died after a kutcha house collapsed in Karahi village under Mau police station of Chitrakoot district on Friday evening. Inspector in-charge of Mau police station, Gulab

Tripathi, said that Ajay Singh's kutcha house, which was in a dilapidated condition, suddenly collapsed around 5 pm on Friday and his wife Yashoda (25), son Rishi (5) and daughter Riya (3) were buried and the rubble and all the three died.

In Kanpur, rain started with strong winds for two days, killing seven people. Of these, four people died in Fatehpur, one each in Chitrakoot, Auraiya and Unnao. At the same time, two soldiers were injured when the wall of a barrack collapsed in Indergarh police station area in Kannauj. Many goats and four cows also died in Kannauj.

Vegetables, including crops, have suffered a lot in Banda. The crop of moong, urad, sesame is ready in the field but due to rain, farmers are unable to gather the courage to harvest the crop.

Traffic was disrupted in Etawah due to water-logging and uprooted trees at many places. In Auraiya, city and rural areas are submerged in water. At many places, due to uprooted trees and electric poles, there was no power supply in 200 villages. At many places in Farrukhabad, there was power failure as uprooted trees snapped electric wires. There was water-logging in many areas of the city.

According to the Meteorological department of CSA, on September 16, Kanpur region received so much rain after 15 years.

In Varanasi, Azamgarh and Mirzapur divisions, it has rained intermittently throughout the day since Thursday. Five people died in incidents of house collapse. Rain in Prayagraj disrupted normal life throughout the day. A woman was killed and 13 people were injured in an accident during the rain in Prayagraj on Thursday.

Normal life was affected in Gorakhpur and Basti divisions due to the heavy rains which continued on Friday. There was water-logging in many areas while in many places the power supply was disrupted due to falling trees.

Basti's agricultural scientist Dr Saurabh Dixit said that the rains were very harmful for the mid-term paddy crops. Khalilabad District Agriculture Officer PC Vishwakarma said that 39 mm of rain had fallen. In Deoria and Kushinagar too, rains led to water-logging in many areas. In Jhansi too, due to rains for two days, the fields have been flooded. Due to this, the crop of urad and sesame has been damaged.

There has been heavy rain in Moradabad's Sambhal area since Wednesday night. In Mainpuri, many electric poles were uprooted by the strong wind and rain. Due to 55 mm rainfall across the district, the weather remained cool but water-logging became a big problem for the citizens. Due to strong wind and rain, the standing paddy crop has fallen in the fields and the production is likely to be affected.



### NOTICE

We inform I have been lost of allotment letter my Plot No- 1E/1060 Gomti Nagar Vistar Lucknow. Ayush Singh S/o Shivanand Singh, 1/92, Vivek Khand Gomti Nagar, Lucknow.

### NOTICE

I Kirti Srivastava w/o Sri Abhai Kumar Srivastava D/O Sri Jagdish Narain Srivastava have changed my name from Kirti Rani to Kirti Srivastava for all future purposes. Add- 133/102, O Block, Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur 208011

### NOTICE

I Seevi Singh daughter of late Krishan Bhan Singh resident of village & post Kuchail, Distt. Sitapur (U.P.) have changed my name from SIBI Singh to Seevi Singh vide affidavit dated 10/09/2021 before Notary of Tahseel Sidhauri, Distt. Sitapur (U.P.)

### सूचना

मैंने अपनी पुत्री का नाम आर्ना बाजपेई से बदलकर प्रिशा बाजपेई रख दिया है। भविष्य में इसे प्रिशा बाजपेई नाम से ही जाना व पहचाना जाय। सुनील कुमार बाजपेई मकान नं० 1- एक शान्ति नगर सरोजीनगर, लखनऊ, 9415195106

### सूचना

मैं मयंक सिंह पुत्र अशोक कुमार निवासी म०न० बी-22, हरदेव नगर, कानपुर। मेरे हार्डस्कूल (वर्ष 2018) व इन्टरमिडिएट (वर्ष 2020) के अंकपत्र व प्रमाण पत्र में मेरी माता का नाम मिथलेश सिंह व पिता का नाम अशोक सिंह त्रिवेदश अंकित हो गया है। जबकि सही नाम क्रमशः मिथलेश एवं अशोक कुमार है जो कि सत्य व सही है।

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

On the occasion of Vishwakarma Jayanti, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath declared that the state government had set a target to train 75,000 artisans and craftsmen in the state under the Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana (VSSY).

"The MSME department must set a target to train 75,000 new artisans and craftsmen in the next three months to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and prepare an action plan so that we can provide them with toolkits soon," the chief minister said while distributing toolkits to 21,000 beneficiaries of Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana (VSSY) and loans to 11,000 beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana in Lucknow on Friday.

Speaking at the event, Yogi said that Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana was launched on December 26, 2018, and since then, the govern-

ment had been working towards making the artisans and craftsmen self-reliant.

"Schemes like ODOP (One District One Product) and VSSY have created immense employment opportunities in the state. During the pandemic, people had to struggle for work as lockdown was imposed. More than 40 lakh migrant workers came to the state and it was a challenge to make them strong. Through the ODOP scheme, we have strengthened the labourers and both ODOP and Vishwakarma schemes have set an example and generated immense employment opportunities," he said.

"In order to provide the necessary impetus and momentum towards entrepreneurship and self-reliance, the state government has trained over 68,400 people and provided toolkits worth about Rs 100 crore to them under the VSSY since December 2018," the chief minister said.

Yogi further said that the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was to provide a platform to traditional craftsmen and train them.

"Working on this, toolkits are being distributed to more than 21,000 artisans and craftsmen of the state. The state government is making its traditional artisans and entrepreneurs self-reliant so that they can contribute to achieving the goal of a self-reliant India. Every skill should get a platform and be made strong whether it is the cobbler, barber, or carpenter of the village. They should be connected with technology by giving higher training. A training allowance of Rs 250 per day should also be given," he said.

Till date, one lakh craftsmen have been linked to this scheme and have been trained and provided toolkits.

"We have to give respect to the artisans as they were our heritage," he said.

Congratulating Prime Minister

Narendra Modi on his birthday, Yogi said that during his 20 years of public service as chief minister of Gujarat and prime minister of India, Modi Ji had given a new direction to society.

He said the state government was organising Vikas Utsav from Thursday and it would continue till October 7 to commemorate 20 years of public service of the prime minister.

"In 2017, we had to search the entire state to collect 51,000 lamps for the festival of lights in Ayodhya. This year we are going to light seven-and-half lakh diyas. This has become possible as we have connected the artisans with technology and provided them with the proper environment to showcase their talent. Our artisans had stopped making the idols of Lakshmi-Ganesh. Earlier, we used to depend on China for them. The previous governments did not pay attention to this issue. Today, the local artisans are a

## Govt to train 75,000 artisans, craftsmen under VSSY: CM

**"In order to provide the necessary impetus and momentum towards entrepreneurship and self-reliance, the state government has trained over 68,400 people and provided toolkits worth about Rs 100 crore to them under the VSSY since December 2018"**

happy lot," he pointed out. MSME Minister Sidharth Nath Singh said that the economic model of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had worked in taking the state towards self-reliance.

**केनरा बैंक Canara Bank**  
Regional Office 1 - HIG 1B, Chandra Vihar Lakhnau,  
Kanpur - 208002. Mob.: 8057340665, 7380350052  
**CORRIGENDUM**  
In the Vehicle E-Auction notice of Anuradha W/o Arun Kumar Singh (Vehicle No. UP 78 FW 7832) published in the Pioneer English in Kanpur on 27.08.2021, due to an oversight the Reserve Price was mentioned as Rs. 3,38,000.00 which may be read as 3,74,000.00. **Authorised Officer**

**NOTICE**  
My client visited Hinduja housing finance limited. Branch Govind Nagar Kanpur and presented house papers infront of bank for house No. 206 'B' Block Awas vikas Colony Unnao. Owner Mrs. Deepa Verma w/o Sri Dev Narayan Verma presented these papers for mortgage. The sale of said House was in Unnao with sr.no: 5201 date Posted on 15.07.1994 is registered, and Mrs. Keshikali verma Sister in Law of Mrs. Deepa Verma has done the gift deed with sr.no: 2974 dated 26-02-2016. Free Old Deed of the said above property Date mentioned 3.05.1994. Book. No. 1, volume No. 1218 to 1221, Page No. 1810 to 27-44. Sr. No. 2414 has been Registered in the office of deputy registrar, along with freehold deed of Owner Allotment letter and possession letter were also been lost. This right said if there is any claim, title or encumbrance in respect of the property please inform within 7 days OF THE PUBLICATION OF NOTICE and Submit the claim UNDER SIGNED duty documents within 7days if any claim. Otherwise Bank Will accept title and property papers and the above said property papers would be mortgage by the bank. Information - Ashish Gupta Advocate Civil Court Compound, Kanpur. MNO: 8299319052





# राष्ट्र सेवा के 20 वर्ष आओ मनाएं विकास उत्सव



17 सितम्बर से 7 अक्टूबर, 2021

## विकास की लहर, हर गांव-हर शहर



17 सितम्बर 2021

### विश्वकर्मा श्रम सम्मान योजना

- विश्वकर्मा श्रम सम्मान योजना के अंतर्गत 21 हजार लाभार्थियों को टूल किट वितरण एवं प्रधानमंत्री मुद्रा योजना के अंतर्गत 11 हजार लाभार्थियों को ऋण वितरित किया गया

बदलाव के  
4.5 वर्ष

19 सितम्बर 2021

### विकास उत्सव

- प्रदेश सरकार के 4.5 साल पूरे होने पर विकास उत्सव का आयोजन
- लोक कल्याणकारी योजनाओं पर आधारित कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन



22 सितम्बर 2021

### वाणिज्य सप्ताह

- वाणिज्य उत्सव का आयोजन
- 71 हजार निर्यातकों का सम्मेलन
- 71 निर्यातकों का सम्मान



25 सितम्बर 2021

### गरीब कल्याण दिवस

विकास खण्ड स्तर पर होने वाले कार्यक्रम

- जन आरोग्य मेलों का आयोजन
- 16 लाख पात्र लोगों को आयुष्मान कार्ड का वितरण
- कोविड टीकाकरण
- प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना/मुख्यमंत्री आवास योजना एवं स्वच्छ भारत मिशन के अंतर्गत लाभार्थियों का चयन एवं स्वीकृति पत्र वितरण
- गांवों में सफाई एवं सैनीटाईजेशन
- उचित मूल्य की दुकानों पर राशन वितरण
- वृद्धजन पेंशन एवं दिव्यांगजन पेंशन वितरण



26 सितम्बर 2021

### किसान कल्याण मिशन

- कृषि प्रदर्शनी एवं किसान भाइयों से संवाद
- कृषि यंत्रों / उपकरणों का वितरण
- किसान क्रेडिट कार्ड एवं स्वायत्त हेल्थ कार्ड का वितरण



27 सितम्बर 2021

### स्वच्छ भारत मिशन

- स्वयं सहायता समूहों को रखरखाव हेतु 58 हजार 758 सामुदायिक शौचालयों का हस्तांतरण
- स्वयं सहायता समूहों के सदस्यों से संवाद



28 सितम्बर 2021

### महिला एवं बाल विकास

- 1 लाख 23 हजार आंगनबाड़ी कार्यकर्त्रियों को स्मार्ट फोन का वितरण
- महिलाओं और बच्चों का स्वास्थ्य परीक्षण एवं पोषाहार वितरण
- निराश्रित महिलाओं को पेंशन वितरण



28 सितम्बर 2021

### जिला पंचायत अध्यक्षों का प्रशिक्षण

- जिला पंचायत अध्यक्षों का प्रशिक्षण व सम्मेलन



29 सितम्बर 2021

### महिला सशक्तिकरण

- 75 हजार महिलाओं को उद्यमिता विकास प्रशिक्षण
- महिला उद्यमी सशक्तिकरण हेल्पलाइन का शुभारम्भ
- उज्ज्वला 2.0 के अंतर्गत मातृशक्ति को निःशुल्क गैस कनेक्शन का वितरण



2 अक्टूबर 2021

### छात्रवृत्ति वितरण

- गांधी जयंती समारोह का आयोजन
- 1 लाख मेधावी छात्रों को छात्रवृत्ति वितरण



4 अक्टूबर 2021

### ग्राम्य विकास

- 35 हजार रोजगार सेवकों का सम्मेलन



5 अक्टूबर 2021

### स्वामित्व योजना

- स्वामित्व योजना के अंतर्गत 15 लाख घरानियों का वितरण



7 अक्टूबर 2021

### खादी महोत्सव

- सोलर चरखे का वितरण
- इलेक्ट्रिक चाक व पगमिल का वितरण
- खादी संस्थाओं को सहायता राशि का वितरण
- ग्रामोद्योग हेतु आवश्यक पॉपकॉर्न मशीन व दोना-पत्तल मशीन का वितरण

काम दमदार - योगी सरकार



# City falls short of 1.20L vax target CMO proposes 21 urban PHCs

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Lucknow administered only 85,418 vaccines on Friday as against a target of 1.20 lakh at the mega vaccination camp on Friday. District Immunisation Officer MK Singh said they vaccinated thrice as much people as compared to normal days but were still unable to reach the target because of waterlogging in rural parts of the district.

"In some rural areas of the districts, there was heavy water-logging and we had to change the sites. There were connectivity problems as well," he said.

Under the micro-planning, the number of workplace vaccination centres in urban areas and cluster vaccinations in the rural areas were increased. "The total workplace vaccinations were 153 in urban areas while in the rural areas, we covered villages under 11 community health centres. We had made a cluster of villages up to a population of 10,000 to 20,000, covering over 70 villages as a part of the preparations," he said. He added that the mega vaccination camp was held to cover as much people as possible. Dr

## 35 UP districts Covid-free

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

The Covid control mechanism in Uttar Pradesh got a further boost as 35 districts became free of coronavirus infection with active as well as fresh cases declining to zero and the state reported only 17 new positive cases in the last 24 hours.

"No fresh and active cases in Aligarh, Amethi, Amroha, Auraiya, Ayodhya, Azamgarh, Ballia, Bahrampur, Banda, Basti, Bahraich, Bhadohi, Bijnor, Bulandshahr, Chitrakoot, Etah, Farrukhabad, Fatehpur, Gonda, Hamirpur, Hardoi, Hathras, Jalaun, Kanpur Dehat, Kasganj, Mahoba, Moradabad, Pilibhit, Pratapgarh, Rampur,

Saharanpur, Shamli, Shravasti, Siddharth Nagar and Sultanpur indicates complete eradication of the deadly coronavirus from over 46 per cent of the state," said a senior government official on Friday.

"With highest testing, highest recovery rate, lowest test positivity rate and aggressive vaccination, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as a clear winner in combating the coronavirus as the state's Covid situation shows a healthier picture in comparison to all other states," he added. In what comes as a big relief, none of the 75 districts in Uttar Pradesh have reported fresh cases of coronavirus infection in double digits lately. As many as 64 districts reported no fresh case of COVID-19 in the last 24

hours.

Out of the 1.91 lakh odd samples tested in the last 24 hours, 17 tested positive for novel coronavirus infection and as a result the test positivity rate (TPR) slumped to 0.01 per cent in Uttar Pradesh. Fresh cases in the state have remained below 100 for nearly 68 consecutive days.

Meanwhile, another 16 COVID-19 patients recovered in the last 24 hours, adding to the recovery of over 16.86 lakh people so far. Also, the active caseload in the most populous state which was at a high of 3.10 lakh in April has come down to 191 now, whereas states like Kerala and Maharashtra account for heavy active caseload of 1,86,231 and 49,342 respectively.

with the vaccinations.

Meanwhile, St. Joseph Inter College organised a vaccination camp in association with Rotary Club Prime. Founder-chairperson of St Joseph Group of Institution

Pushplata Agarwal expressed her solidarity in the fight against Covid- 19 by organising more such camps in future. MLA Neeraj Bora and social worker Sudhir Halwasia were the guests of honour.

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

The CMO office has sent proposals for the opening of 21 urban primary health centres in those rural areas of Lucknow which have become a part of urban areas. Additional CMO AP Singh said the idea is to provide healthcare at the door steps in these areas.

"We are planning to open PHCs in these areas so that most of the bigger hospitals at the same location do not have to face patient overload. We want to set up the primary health services so that the patients who get primary healthcare do not feel the need to go to any other hospital. The PHCs have been proposed in Sarojininar, Chinhhat and Kakori," he said.

He said they are reviewing where these PHCs will be set up because a PHC is designated for every 50,000 people. Singh said there are 52

PHCs in Lucknow and they are carrying out a survey for the location of the PHCs and whether or not the same could be set up in rented buildings.

"The 52 PHCs currently operational have 30 buildings on rent. We will be having one MBBS doctor, one lab technician, two staff nurses and two ANMs at each PHC," he said. He added that they are getting a good response to the existing PHCs in the district.

"All the activities to contain Covid, such as house-to-house surveys, were handled by the PHCs to a large extent," he added.

Meanwhile Dr Sandeep Sahu from SGPGI said it is the right time to give the doctors, staff and others in the district hands-on training to deal with the Covid third wave.

"The system is ready in terms of logistics and manpower to fight the coronavirus and cases have reduced even as vaccination has increased and

now is the time to train the health workers. There is a need to increase knowledge skill by sending doctors, nurses and ward boys to various centres to get hands-on training.

"The previous trainings were largely online and hands-on training would help when or if the cases start rising. Practical hands-on training is a must for both government and private sectors," he said.

He said webinars and skill course trainings have been held from time to time by SGPGI to train other specialists who are not working routinely, and even general practitioners. He said SGPGI is already reaching out to the CHCs and district hospitals through tele-medicine and the institute carried out trainings of these hospitals from time to time and the process still continues and is happening every month," he pointed out.

"If the capacity building is

being carried out, it is necessary to train the entire team. Nearly all the doctors can be deployed on Covid duty and all should be trained because it would help in the time of crisis," he said.

He added that anaesthetists like him are still doing Covid duty even though the cases are less. "I am currently working in the Covid mucor ward where four patients are admitted. We are dealing with Covid patients even now, albeit less in numbers," he said.

Asked whether any special training is being given to the anaesthetists for treating child patients, he said it is not required because the anaesthetists deal with child surgeries on a routine basis.

"When you have to work in three shifts, there has to be adequate staff for four shifts for back up. It's a team work which includes anaesthetists, intensivists, paediatric specialists etc," he said.

## DGP sets up new SIT to conduct probe into mysterious death of girl in Mainpuri

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Facing heat from the Allahabad High Court over negligent investigation into the mysterious death of a 16-year-old girl student at Navodaya School campus in Mainpuri in 2019, DGP Mukul Goel on Friday set up a new Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the incident.

Earlier, the High Court had asked the UP Police brass to update the court after a month with the progress in investigation into the incident. The family members of the deceased girl had alleged that she was sexually assaulted and then murdered.

The High Court also issued a directive on Thursday that the state government must issue an order directing its officers to complete the investigation of rape cases within two months or within the time limit as per

amended provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). It further directed the UP Police brass to ensure that family members of the girl were not pressurised during investigation and to ensure their safety.

A division bench of the Allahabad High Court comprising Acting Chief Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari and Justice Anil Kumar Oja was hearing a public interest litigation filed by Mahendra Pratap Singh wherein the petitioner had alleged that the police were not fairly investigating the incident and instead had been protecting the actual perpetrators. The court suggested that the investigating officer must collect the call details of the phone numbers concerned which could be material evidence in the case.

During the course of hearing, Additional Advocate

General Manish Goyal, representing the state government, informed the court that the investigation officers, ASP and DSP, who were initially investigating the case, had been suspended. He said a new SIT had been formed to investigate the case afresh. Earlier too, the state government had formed a SIT and removed the then Superintendent of Police of Mainpuri, Ajay Shankar Rai, after his callous approach was highlighted. The mother of the deceased girl had stated in the FIR that her daughter used to complain that she knew some secrets of the school and that was why the principal was torturing her. The girl had called her mother just a day prior to her death and said that she was getting life threats, but when the family members tried to talk to the principal, she paid no heed.

After being pulled-up by the Allahabad High Court judges on Wednesday, the state government suspended two police officers — ASP Om Prakash Singh and Circle Officer Prayank Jain, who were posted in Mainpuri when the incident took place.

The case dates back to September 16, 2019, when a Class XII student of Navodaya Vidyalaya was found hanging under mysterious circumstances in her hostel room in Mainpuri. After protest and demonstrations, the police registered a case of murder and attempt to rape against three persons -- the woman principal, the hostel warden and a classmate of the girl. Nearly three months after the incident, the government removed the then SSP of Mainpuri, Ajay Shankar Rai, and formed a three-member SIT to investigate the case.

**PRESS NOTICE INVITING PERCENTAGE RATE e-TENDER**  
Executive Engineer (C), **Postal Civil Division Lucknow** invites on behalf of the President of India, **online** percentage rate (CPWD-7) e-tenders for the following work :  
N.I.T. No. : **37/EE/PCDL/2021-22.**  
Nature of Work: - **Maintenance of 28 nos. type- -III quarters at P&T colony Sec-K Aliganj Lucknow.**  
Estimated Cost: 60, 59, 686/-  
Earnest Money: Nil  
Period of completion -08 (Eight) Months.  
Last time and date of submission of bid: 18:00 Hrs. 27.09.2021  
The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website [www.dopcivil.enunizirade.com](http://www.dopcivil.enunizirade.com)

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA FISHERIES DEPARTMENT**  
O/o Commissioner of Fisheries, Matsya Bhavan, Street No.4, Shantinagar, Masab Tank, Hyd-28  
Bid Notice No.1000/C1/2021. Date:16-09-2021  
Commissioner of Fisheries Invites Bids on e-Procurement Platform For Supply of Fresh water Scampi Juveniles (Macrobrachium rosenbergii) for selected reservoirs and tanks in the state of Telangana during 2021-22. **Time schedule of various tender related events (1) Bid calling date: 18-09-2021 at 11:00 AM (2) Pre-bid: Queries regarding the bid will be accepted through online to the mail ID : [tsenders.prawnseeds@gmail.com](mailto:tsenders.prawnseeds@gmail.com) upto 10:00AM on 20-09-2021 (3) Last date/time for issuing clarification:20-09-2021, 05:00 PM (4) Bid submission starting date/time: 21-09-2021, 10:00 AM (5) Bid closing date/time: 27-09-2021, 2:00 PM (6) Bid opening date/time: 27-09-2021, 03:30 PM (7) Bid Document Fee : **Rs. 10,000/-**, Contact person name and phone number : Sri T. Srinivas, Deputy Director of Fisheries (Inland) Ph:849403752. If you are interested in participation, please visit website at [www.tenders.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tenders.telangana.gov.in) and bid document can be downloaded free of cost from the above website and also [www.fisheries.telangana.gov.in](http://www.fisheries.telangana.gov.in). Phone No.040-223376251, E-mail: [dtelanganag@gmail.com](mailto:dtelanganag@gmail.com). Sd/- **Lachiram Bhukya** Commissioner of Fisheries  
DPR No.588-OP/C1-Agency/NT/1/2021-22, Dt:17-09-2021**

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

**CENTRAL SILK BOARD**  
(Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India)  
CSB Complex, BTM Layout, Mediawala, Bengaluru - 560 068, Karnataka, INDIA  
Phone: +91 80 26282516, 26282517 Fax: +91 80 26681511  
Advt. No. CSB/3/2021 Date: **18.09.2021**  
**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**  
CSB invites EOI for hiring of a Recruitment Agency under the Government including Statutory Bodies/Autonomous Bodies, Public Sector Organizations thereunder for undertaking End-to-End recruitment process for filling direct recruitment posts in various cadres under Central Silk Board.  
The EOI has been published in E-procure Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app> (Tender ID 2021\_CSB\_623104\_1) and also on the website of Central Silk Board at [www.csb.gov.in](http://www.csb.gov.in)  
DAVP: 41109/11/0005/1222 Member Secretary

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (CIVIL) PLANT WW DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT.OF N.C.T.DELHI**  
CHANDRAWAL: WATER WORKS NO.II CIVIL LINES : DELHI-54  
Office Telephone No.:23815504 E-mail: [eeccplant.djb@nic.in](mailto:eeccplant.djb@nic.in)

**"STOP CORONA: WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"**  
PRESS INT NO. 17 (2021-22)(Re-invited)

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Estimated Earnest Money (EMO)	Tender Processing Fee (Fresh)	Publication date of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date & time for receipt of tender from e-procurement solution
1.	Construction of Porta Cabin, Toilet Block and boundary wall near type-I Staff Qtrs. at Hasanpur Reservoir. (Tender ID: 2021_DJB_208449_1)	2552539/-	Exempted vide Office Order/Enrment No. DUB/2020-21 ANSC- (WPT) 971 dated 23/12/2020 of Jt. Director (F&A), DJB	500/-	16.09.2021	04.10.2021

The more detail required above can be seen on website [www.delhi.govtprocurement.com](http://www.delhi.govtprocurement.com)

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 401(2021-22) Sd/-  
Ex. ENGINEER (C) PLANT, WW

**VISHWAKARMA JAYANTI**

On Lord Vishwakarma's birth anniversary, Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia and Municipal Commissioner Ajay Dwivedi paid obeisance to the deity and unveiled new vehicles for the residents at a function organised at the rubbish removal department on Friday. Incharge of the department DD Gupta, chief engineer (electrical) Ram Nagina Tripathi, Shashi Kumar

Mishra, Qaiser Raza and others were present on the occasion.

**BOOK FAIR**

A book fair organised by Repertwahr and supported by Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation kicked off at Hazratganj metro station on Friday. It will be underway till October 2. "All the COVID-19 protocols, including use of

### CITYBRIEFS

masks and physical distancing, are being strictly adhered to. The formal inauguration of the book fair was called off due to heavy rains on Thursday. The book fair, which has on display a variety of books in fiction, non-fiction, self-help and other categories, is receiving encouraging response from

bibliophiles and the timings are 10 am to 9 pm," an official said.

**ORATION**

The 'Dr OP Chaudhary Oration', organised by Sardar Patel PG Institute of Dental and Medical Science, will be held at its auditorium from 11:30 am to 1 pm on Saturday

## SP redefines Muslim-Yadav formula

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

"Nai hawa hai, Nai SaPa hai", is the new tagline of the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh. To match this, the party is also giving a new meaning to its M-Y (Muslim-Yadav) formula that has catapulted it to power in Uttar Pradesh more than once.

"In the new SP, M-Y stands for Mahila (women) and Youth. We are addressing issues in a larger perspective now and are not shackled by casteism," said SP president Akhilesh Yadav here on Friday. The Samajwadi Party, apparently, wants to rise above caste lines and address women and youth as a community.

Akhilesh Yadav said that farmers' issues had been totally ignored

by the Bharatiya Janata Party and the youth were deprived of jobs. "These issues will be the poll plank in the upcoming elections," he added.

Talking about women, he said that the cases of crime against women proved that they were not secure in this regime. "We had set up help lines for women but this government made them ineffective. All talk about women is on paper and not in reality," he said.

He claimed that the people were frustrated with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government and would vote the SP back to power.

"SP will form the government with the ideology of party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav and new strategies," he explained.

Akhilesh strongly refuted allega-

tions of nepotism against his party and said that SP always had place for every hard working, socialist and spirited worker.

"Instead, it is the BJP that has no respect for its workers. Those who have devoted their lives for the party have been sidelined while turncoats have been rewarded with ministerial posts," he said.

Speaking about his uncle and Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) chief Shivalp Singh Yadav, he said alliance with all parties with the same ideology was possible, but SP would not join hands with larger parties because the experience with them had not been very good. He further said that the BJP was taking credit for development works strategised during the SP regime.

## 3 killed in separate road mishaps

**Lucknow (PNS):** Three people were killed in separate road mishaps in the state capital in the past 24 hours. The first accident occurred near Bhata Tola village under Kakori police station on Friday morning. The victim was identified as Sonu Yadav, who was a resident of Bhata Tola. Police said Sonu was going to his workplace when his bike rammed into a dumper which was parked in the middle of the road. He was rushed to KGMU Trauma Center by police with the help of locals but he succumbed to injuries in the afternoon. Sonu is survived by wife and

a 5-year-old son.

Earlier, two youths were killed after being knocked down by a speeding three-wheeler at Durgapur under Kakori police station on Thursday night. They were identified as Shubham Tiwari (25) of Mohalla Katra Bazar in Kakori and Tilak Yadav (27) of Kakori. They were returning home on Tilak's motorcycle after finishing some work.

Tiwari ran a confectionary shop at Bhata Tola while Yadav owned a dairy. The police said they used to go to their establishments, close to each other, on a daily basis.

Around 10 pm on Thursday, the duo met with the accident in front of a petrol pump near Durgapuri area. The three-wheeler which was coming from the opposite direction had a head-on collision with their bike and both sustained injuries. The errant driver sped off the scene.

There were reports that Yadav was rushed to KGMU Trauma Centre where he died but Tiwari could not be located. On Friday morning, his body was spotted in a ditch. The body was identified as that Shubham by his brother Gaurav Tiwari.

### Couple shot dead for family ‘honour’

**Lucknow (PNS):** Shahjahanpur was rocked by a sensational case of honour killing. Ashish Singh (25) and Bunty (22) were shot dead by the latter's family members over the couple's affair which was not endorsed by the girl's parents and her refusal to marry a boy of her family's choice. While the bullet-riddled body of Ashish was recovered by the police in a field about 100 metre from the girl's home in Naugama Narottam village of Gadia Rangia police station area on Friday morning, Bunty's body was later found on

the second floor. Ashish's father Sukhpal accused the girl's family of planning and executing the double-murder. While Ashish was married and working in Punjab and became a father of a daughter two weeks ago, he had a liaison with Bunty. Meanwhile, Bunty's family members fixed her marriage but she refused to get married and also met Ashish on Thursday night. The girl's family members were agitated over her move and they gunned down Ashish and Bunty on Friday morning and fled after the incident.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PROVINCIAL DIVISION, PWD, LUCKNOW**

**Very Sort Term E-Tender Notice (In Anticipation of Sanction)**

No. : 4249 /E-tender / 2021-22 Dated : 17.09.2021

The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PROVINCIAL DIVISION , PWD, LUCKNOW, on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD for Road work , class 'A' , 'B' 'C' & 'D' The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

SL. No.	Dist- rict	Name of work	Estimated cost (Rs. In Lakhs)	Bid Security (Rs. In +) Lakhs)	Tender cost +Stationary Charges	Time of Completi on	Address of Executive Engineer or the Executing the work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	LUCKNOW	Repair of all Roads Adjoining/ Surrounding of Smriti Uppan at District Lucknow.	35.00	0.00	Rs. 300.00 + 500.00 (Stationary Charges) + GST @ 18% = Rs. 854.00	01 Day	PD,PWD Lucknow	Lucknow circle, P.W.D. Lucknow	C. E. Central Zone P.W.D., Lucknow.

➤ The Rate adopted in the BOQ are excluding GST.  
➤ All works shall be executed after adopting safety measures for infection of COVID-19.  
Bids can be downloaded online from date 18.09.2021 at 9:00 AM to 23.09.2021 at 12:00 Noon and bid can be submitted online on or before 23.09.2021 at 12:00 Noon. The technical bids will be opened online on date 23.09.2021 at 03:30 PM. According to the provisions of Government Order no. 1/2018/3070/78-2-2018/42 IT/2017(22) Date 03-01-2018 after opening of the technical and financial bids, the bidder has to submit original documents personally in the office of Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, PWD, Lucknow. In the event of non submission of original documents by the bidder, the legal action in the form of cancellation of registration and Black listing of the firm will be taken in accordance with the provisions of G.O.  
All terms & conditions can be seen on website <http://etender.up.nic.in>

UP- 167469 Date 17.9.2021 निदेशन नमब्राह्म (Er. Maneesh Verma)  
www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है। Executive Engineer Provincial Division PWD, Lucknow  
For on behalf of Governor of UP

**Office of the Superintending Engineer 2<sup>nd</sup> Circle, Public Works Department, Nainital-263002**  
Phone/Fax: 05942-235728/ 232030 Email: [sepwdntnl@rediffmail.com](mailto:sepwdntnl@rediffmail.com)

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

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

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



# Kashi celebrates Narendra Modi's birthday enthusiastically

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

This parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has celebrated his 71st birthday enthusiastically here on Friday when, despite frequent spells of rains, right from the morning hours to evening, a large number of programmes including lighting of 71,000 lamps at Bharat Mata Mandir, offering of 71 metres long chunari to Maa Ganga (river Ganga) at Assi Ghat, performing of aarti at 71 temples and distributing of 71 kilograms of laddus in each of eight legislative assemblies in the district were organised. As the state assembly elections are round-the-corner, this time the birthday of Modi was celebrated in a grand manner though he is representing the constituency for the last seven years.

Regional president of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Mahesh Chandra Srivastava offered dughdhabhishek and 71 metres long chunri to Maa Ganga at Assi Ghat. The function was attended by several senior BJP leaders. UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Neelkanth Tiwari offered milk at river Ganga at Dashashwamedh Ghat, along with city BJP chief Vidyasagar Rai and many others and later on, he also offered Rudrabhishek at Kashi Vishwanath temple praying blessing of the Almighty for the long life of the PM. At Dashasamedh Ghat, in the beginning, 71 Batuk Brahmins performed Shodashopachar worship under the leadership of



Regional BJP chief MC Srivastava offering dughdhabhishek at Assi Ghat on birthday of PM in Varanasi on Friday.

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Pandit Udit Narayan Mishra.

UP Cabinet Minister Anil Rajbhar also offered chunri in the river Ganga at Sarsaul under his parliamentary constituency Shivpur. Varanasi Cantonment MLA Saurav Srivastava inaugurated the oxygen plant installed under the PM Care Fund at Trauma Centre in Banaras Hindu University (BHU). The plant is of 960 litres per minute (LPM) capacity. Some senior BJP leaders were also present. Regional president of BJP Mahesh Chandra Srivastava also attended a programme at Dashashwamedh Ghat where sarod player Anshuman Maharaj presented his pro-

gramme. Anup Jaiswal conducted the programme, while Om Prakash Yadav proposed a vote of thanks. UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ram Chauhan, along with MLA (Rohania) Surendra Narayan Singh, planted saplings at Garhwa Ghat Ashram (Ramna). At the divisional headquarters of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), various programmes were held. The main function was attended by Union Minister of State Bhanu Pratap Singh, KVIC Chairman Vinay Kumar Saxena and many others.

Besides, the members of Muslim Mahila Foundation

(MMF) performed aarti wishing a long life for PM who had done a lot for Muslim women at Lamhi. Muslim women also made rangolis, and sang sohar to the beat of drums apart from lighting 71 lamps. MMF president Nazneen Ansari, Najma Parveen and others have decided that 5,000 Muslim daughters would write a letter to Modi thanking him for giving rights to them.

After offering a cleanliness drive by the activists of Namami Gange led by its convener Rajesh Shukla, they also celebrated the birthday and highlighted the contributions of Modi during the last seven years.

# Vaishnaw launches RKVY online in BLW

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw launched Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana (RKVY) online on Friday to empower youth by way of providing entry level training in industry relevant skills through Railway training institutes as part of 75 years of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The programme is under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), a scheme of the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) to achieve the vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

Chairman and CEO, Railway Board Suneet Sharma, Additional Member (Human Resource) Alka Arora Misra and all the general managers (GMs) of Indian Railways joined this online launching event. Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) has been entrusted as the nodal agency for RKVY.

Vaishnaw, while congratulating all the officers and trainees present at the 75 training centres on this launching event of RKVY, highlighted the significance of the day because of Vishwakarma Jayanti and birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Dedicating



Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launching RKVY online at BLW in Varanasi on Friday.

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the launching of RKVY as a birthday gift to the PM, he said that under the skill development vision given by the PM, 50,000 youth would be made skillful by 2024 across the nation in four trades viz fitter, welder, electrician and machinist which are evergreen trades in any industry. He further added that training should also be expanded in trades like instrumentation, signaling, concrete preparation and testing, rod bending for making concrete structures, replacement of electronic cards, soldering etc.

According to him, the youth can take full advantage of this training programme, giving an example of an Odisha

tribal boy who got gold medals under four skills in the Global Skills Olympiad. He also interacted with some of the youths of the first batch who joined during the launching programme and guided them how to take full advantage of this training programme for their career progression. He interacted with candidate Kiran Chauhan of BLW, who has opted for the welding trade and suggested useful tips for welding.

Suneet Sharma, in his address, informed how Railways has adapted to new technology in all the areas viz locomotive, wagons, signaling etc which made it possible to pace up with the increasing

requirement of carrying passengers and goods. He further mentioned the significance of enhancing the skill of employees and youth of the nation to pace with modernisation of Railways and role of RKVY in it. Alka Arora Misra gave a vote of thanks. Earlier, BLW GM Anjali Goyal, in her welcome speech, thanked the Railways saying that his presence is truly inspiring and motivating for hundreds of trainees who have joined this launching event through web link. She also thanked Chairman and CEO, Railway Board who has reposed his faith in BLW by making it the nodal unit for implementation of this programme.

# Minister distributes toolkits to 200

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In the sequence of the distribution programme of toolkits under Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana in Lucknow by Chief Minister (CM) Yogi Adityanath, at Deendayal Upadhyaya Hastkala Sankul, popularly known as Trade Facilitation Centre (TFC), at Bada Lalpur here on Friday, UP Minister of Backward Classes Welfare and Divyangjan Empowerment Anil Rajbhar distributed toolkits to the beneficiaries and certificates to those who got training on the occasion of Vishwakarma Jayanti.

Rajbhar presented sewing machines, carpentry, tailoring, confectionery and other toolkits to 200 beneficiaries under Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana apart from certificates to 30 people trained in Entrepreneurship Training Programme, 250 trained under Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana and 250 under One District One Product (ODOP) scheme. While congratulating all the



UP Minister Anil Rajbhar distributing a toolkit to a beneficiary on Vishwakarma Jayanti in Varanasi on Friday.

Pioneer

artisans and craftsmen on Vishwakarma Jayanti, the Minister said that the government was working to enhance the tradition and identity of Kashi further.

'As it is also the birthday of the world's popular and powerful leader, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the state government is working hard to follow his guidance,' he said, adding that the Yojana was enhancing traditional skills as it has a double benefit. 'On one hand, local art, identity and

traditional works are being promoted and on the other hand, employment opportunities are also being provided. Joint Commissioner (Industries) Umesh Singh welcomed all the participants, while Deputy Commissioner (Industries) Virendra Kumar proposed the vote of thanks.

Meanwhile, the activists of All India United Vishwakarma Shilpkar Mahasabha expressed their protest against the government by lifting balloons under the leadership of

national president Ashok Kumar Vishwakarma at Sunderpur. Vishwakarma flayed the Yogi government for its rigid attitude by not fulfilling the demands of Mahasabha to declare Vishwakarma Jayanti as a public holiday. He said that it had disappointed millions of people of Vishwakarma Samaj. District chief Nand Lal Vishwakarma, city president Bhairav Prasad Vishwakarma and many others were also present.

# PM Modi's birthday celebrated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

On the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 71st birthday, a 71-kg cake was cut in Vinayak City Center complex of Civil Lines. Earlier, BJP state president Swatantra Dev Singh inaugurated the first show of 'Modi', a film based on the life of the prime minister. The film will be shown in PVR theatres till September 26, bookings for which have been made by the party.

Singh recalled the struggles of Modi and also counted the works of public interest like removal of Article 370, houses to people, toilets, free food grains etc. Wishing the PM a long life, he said the country is changing and its identity is changing globally. The country is in strong hands to make it more powerful, he added. Local MLAs were present along with Cabinet minister Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi' and MPs Rita Bahuguna Joshi & Keshari Devi Patel.

BJP supported advocates of the Allahabad High Court also celebrated Modi's birthday. The cake was cut in a ceremony held at Ambedkar Crossing. Sweets were also distributed on the occasion. The advocates present on the occasion included Assistant Solicitor General, Government of India, Gyan Prakash, Law Cell state co-con-



BJP State President Swatantra Dev Singh cutting cake to celebrate 71st birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Prayagraj on Friday

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venor Arvind Singh, state executive member Mrityunjay Tiwari, Devendra Nath Mishra, co-convener Kashi Kshetra Pawan Srivastava, Rajesh Tripathi, Ashutosh Pandey, Jaivardhan, Saurabh Shukla, Sanjay Mishra, Arvind Goswami, Ram Prakash Singh, Amarendra Nath Singh, Praveen Shukla, Nandlal, Krishna Ji Shukla, Atma Prakash Tripathi, NK Chatterjee, Tej Prakash Mishra,

Manoj Srivastava, Pranesh Tripathi, Awadhesh Srivastava, Manish Pandey, Harishchandra Dwivedi, Gaurishankar Kesarwani, GP Singh, Gyan Prakash Asthana, Gyanendra etc.

Modi's birthday was also celebrated in the Central Government Advocate's Office under the chairmanship of senior panel advocate Agam Narayan Rai. Prayagraj Advocates' Association presi-

dent Narendra Kumar Chatterjee said the world would remember Modi as the successful 'Vikas Purush'. Adarsh Advocates' Association president Sharad Chandra Mishra said that Modi would be remembered for uniting the country. Ramesh Chandra Shukla, KD Malviya, Awadhesh Tiwari, VK Raghuvanshi, Pooja Mishra, Gaya Prasad Singh, Rajesh Tripathi, KJ Shukla etc were present in the ceremony.

# Rlys to provide training in skills

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Railways will provide entry level training in industry relevant skills through 75 railway training institutes across the country. Two training centres of NCR, BTC & STC Jhansi have been chosen under the scheme.

To empower youth by way of providing entry level training in industry relevant skills through railway training institutes as part of 75 years of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology launched Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana, a programme under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) at Rail Bhavan on Friday. On the occasion, Suneet Sharma, Chairman and CEO, Railway Board, and other senior officials of railways were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Ashwini Vaishnaw said, "It is an auspicious day as Vishwakarma Jayanti is being celebrated across the country." He also congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his birthday. He dedicated Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana as the gift of railways to the PM on his birthday. "The vision of skill development is an integral part of the

vision of PM Narendra Modi and 50,000 youths will be trained under Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

The aim of this initiative is to impart training skills to the youth in various trades to bring qualitative improvement," he said. He emphasised that training in remote areas should be conducted under Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana. He stressed that youth should enjoy the training process.

The training will be provided to 50,000 candidates over a period of three years. Initially, the training will be provided to 1,000 candidates. The training will be provided in four trades —Electrician, Welder, Machinist and Fitter — and will comprise initial basic training of 100 hours. Training programmes in other trades will be added by zonal railways and production units based on regional demands and needs assessment.

Trainees will be provided free of cost and participants will be selected from applications received online, following a transparent mechanism on the basis of marks in matriculation. Candidates who are class 10th passed and between 18-35 years will be eligible to apply. Participants in the scheme will, however, have no claim to seek

employment in railways on the basis of this training.

The programme curriculum has been developed by Banaras Locomotive Works, the nodal PU for this scheme, which will also standardise assessments and maintain centralised database of participants. The scheme is being launched for 1,000 participants initially and will be over and above the training provided to apprentices under the Apprentices Act 1961. A nodal website is being developed as the single source of information about programs offered, notification inviting application, lists of selected candidates, results of selection, final assessment, study material and other details. Currently, applicants may apply in response to the advertisements issued locally in the initial phase. Submission of online application shall be opened soon on a centralised website.

Trainees will be required to undergo a standardised assessment and will be awarded a certificate in the allotted trade by the National Rail & Transportation Institute upon conclusion of their programme. They will also be provided Toolkits relevant to their trade which would help these trainees utilize their learnings and enhance their capacity for

self-employment as well as employability in various industries.

75 railway training institutes spread across the country have been shortlisted to provide training in aforesaid trades, to cover youth from all over the country. The scheme will not only improve the employability of the youth but also upgrade the skills of self employed and those who are working with contractors through reskilling and up –skilling and contribute towards the Skill India Mission.

Two training centres from NCR, both located at Jhansi, have been chosen under the scheme. While Basic Training Centre (BTC) Jhansi will provide training in Electrician and Machinist trade, Supervisor Training Centre (STC) Jhansi will provide training in Welder and Fitter trade.

NCR issued a notification on August 25, asking for enrolment of participants. As a result, 302 applications were received.

During the first phase of 18 working days training, which commenced from September 13 and will continue till October 5, slots for 60 trainees were planned. Out of these, 51 have joined and are undertaking training. Next batch of 60 will start from November 8.

# Poshan Diwas organised at SHUATS on PM's birthday

ALLAHABAD (PNS): Krishi Vigyan Kendra of Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture Technology and Sciences (SHUATS) organised Poshan Diwas, a national campaign on nutri-cereals and tree plantation, to commemorate the birthday of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Modi had initiated the Poshan Abhiyan (under the Ministry of Child Welfare & Women) in the year 2018 to prevent malnutrition in children and reduce the prevalence of Anemia among women and adolescent girls.

The event started with a small prayer led by Dr Ajay Kumar (Scientist, Extension). Lighting of the ceremonial lamp was done by the chief guest, Anil Kr Patel, who was accompanied by Dr Vivek (Regional Manager, IFFCO), and Dr Samuel D McCarty (Head & Senior Scientist).

Thereafter, the programme was handed over to Nimisha S Natarajan (Scientist, Home

Science) who was the coordinator. She welcomed the officials from IFFCO, the guests, and the participants of the programme on behalf of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Allahabad. With the help of several visual aids and charts, she explained to the participants the importance of a balanced diet, including the amount of nutrients which should be consumed according to the daily allowances of individuals.

At the same time, a brief talk on how one can calculate the calories consumed on a daily basis by including foods from different food groups and the importance of millets in diet, how these improve digestion and protect the body against many diseases and ways to incorporate these millets in the diet was delivered.

Dr Samuel Deepak McCarty (Head & Senior Scientist of KVK) explained the importance of balanced diet, issues of malnutrition, the meaning of healthy diet, while emphasising on the role that

KVK plays. He pointed out that KVK has been playing a pivotal role in enlightening the people about how maintaining a healthy and balanced diet will not only improve the health condition of their family members but also secure the future of their family.

Dr Alok Milton Lal Joint Director Extension, Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, also spoke to the participants as to how healthy food habits improve the overall quality of life of the members of a family, by keeping them healthy and energetic, but also provides them with an additional financial benefit, by making them more productive and reducing costs related to healthcare inputs.

Dr Vivek (Regional Manager, IFFCO), the guest of honour, highlighted the role of IFFCO in Agriculture and how IFFCO ensures that quality agricultural inputs are provided to the farmers. Group discussion moderated by Nimisha

S Natarajan marked the post-lunch session. In these discussions, the women were given the opportunity to raise different queries regarding how they can maintain the diet of family members, assessing the dietary needs of various members of their families, and various steps to be taken when preparing the menu. The participants also took part in an 'impromptu' health meal planning competition on the spot.

At the end of the programme, vegetable seeds and fruit plants (600 drumstick plants, 400 teak plants and 100 mango plants) that had been provided by Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative and KVK, Allahabad, were distributed by the chief guest and IFFCO officials to 148 participants, including adolescent girls, along with inputs as to how to sow them, the kind of soil needed, the precaution to be taken etc. Few saplings were also planted by Anil Kr Patel in the KVK premises.

# Vishwakarma Puja held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Vishwakarma Puja was organised in its establishment by Swapnakar Architectural and Interior Design Solution L-3/3 Tashkent Marg, Architect Vishal Khare, Dr Jaya Khare, Sanjeev Mishra, architect Satyam Tripathi, Deepchand Prajapati, Nadeem,



Manoj Kumar Gautam, Commandant Rapid Action Force offering prayers to the Lord Vishwakarma

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Saif, Vikas Khare, Shobha Khare, Shatakshi, Sonakshi, Vansh and all family members and friends attended the function. Meanwhile, 101 Rapid Action Force Commandant Manoj Kumar Gautam and his officers performed Vishwakarma Puja and weapon worship.





KDA VC Arvind Singh garlanding the picture of Lord Vishwakarma on the occasion of Vishwakarma Jayanti on Friday.

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# Stress on completing work of Atal residential schools

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Dr Raj Shekhar, who holds the additional charge of labour commissioner, said all efforts would be made to achieve the target of ‘individual beneficiary based schemes’ by December 2021 and asked officials to carefully monitor its progress.

Holding a meeting with the officials of the labour commissionerate, he reviewed various government schemes and stressed on their effective implementation.

He said the top priorities of the government for the next few months would be Atal Awasiya Vidyalaya Yojana for opening residential schools in all 18 divisions of UP. He said these residential schools were in various stages of completion and were funded by the Labour department.

He said the PWD was the construction agency and these schools were based on Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya scheme of the Government of India. He also stressed on effective implementation of important schemes like Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan Dhan Yojana ( PM SYM) and Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan



Divisional and Labour Commissioner, Dr Raj Shekhar addressing the meeting at the Labour Commissionerate on Friday.

Dhan Pension Yojana (PM LVMY).

Dr Shekhar said it was important to cover around 4.8 crore labourers, workers and vendors in this financial year for the schemes. He said daily targets would be fixed district-wise and monitoring would be done accordingly. He asked the officials to effectively implement 13 programmes of the BOC Welfare Board (Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board) and also ensure that the benefits reached the maximum number of registered workers.

He said the Labour department was one of the important departments of the UP government and it handled dozens of schemes of the Union and state governments and also managed the welfare of millions of labourers across UP. He said thus it had been decided in principle that more information technology (IT) based solutions like video conferencing facilities, online data monitoring dashboard, mobile app based solutions, e-Courts etc would be implemented for better results.

Dr Shekhar said an easy to

use, effective and result-oriented helpline number and a call centre would be set up in the labour commissionerate headquarters in the next three months for handling grievances, complaints, suggestions from labourers and workers. He said review of the schemes would be done sector-wise and department-wise, and of work progress and issues of the labour commissioner's office one by one daily for the next seven to 10 days. He stressed on streamlining the projects and boosting up their implementation on the ground.

# Goldiee lucky draw function for distributors, retailers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Shubham Goldiee Masale Pvt Ltd, held the lucky draw function introduced for its distributors and retailers in a grand manner at Gorakhpur. The function was presided over by sales manager Rakesh Khanna who declared the function open by performing Ganesh pujaan 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 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



Shubham Goldiee Masale Pvt Ltd, held the lucky draw function for its distributors and retailers in a grand manner.

Pioneer

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 said Goldiee was a popular name in Indian kitchens for its pure taste and aroma and today it was a brand of quality. He said the company had 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. He said the company had also stepped out to foreign countries like Australia, Japan, America, and Arab countries.

He 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 vote of thanks was proposed by Taukir Ahmed, others present were Nihit Srivastava, Pawan and Imran and several others.

**‘DIFFUSERS IN CANE SUGAR INDUSTRY BOOST PRODUCTION’:** National Sugar Institute Director Prof Narendra Mohan, while addressing a webinar on the topic ‘Diffusers in cane sugar industry’ on Friday explained that in sugar factory, diffusion was the phenomenon by which the cells of beet or cane, immersed in water or a solution of lower concentration than the juice which they contained, gave up to that water or to that solution a part or all of the sugar forming the excess of concentration of their juices.

He highlighted the advantages of diffusers over the conventional milling technology which was adopted by 98 per

## Woman killed, 7 of a family injured as dumper hits van

**KANPUR (PNS):** A woman was killed while seven members of a family, including a pregnant lady, were injured when their van overturned after being hit by a speeding dumper near Tejipurwa village under Bidhnu police station late Thursday night.

According to reports, Manju (24), the pregnant wife of Mithun of Khadepur village, suddenly started having labour pains on Thursday night. Due to heavy rains, a van was arranged to take Manju to the community health centre. Besides Manju, her family members and a neighbouring woman Laxmi (25) also accompanied her in the van.

Near Tejipurwa village, due to heavy downpour, a speeding dumper hit the van from behind. Due to the powerful collision, the van driver lost control over the vehicle and it overturned. Manju, her husband Mithun, mother-in-law Vimla, father-in-law Baburam, brother-in-law Sunil, a relative Pramod, Shivam and Laxmi were injured and trapped in the van. The dumper driver escaped with the vehicle after the accident. The local police reached the spot and rushed all the injured to the community health centre where Laxmi was pronounced dead by the doctor. Due to serious injury in Manju's leg and serious injuries to others, they all were referred for the LLR Hospital.

The Bidhnu station house officer said an FIR would be registered on the basis of complaint.

**ELECTROCUTED** : During incessant rains, a youth was electrocuted to death after a low tension wire suddenly fell on him in Sharda Nagar late Thursday evening.

The local residents said that after seeing a spark in the LT low tension cable, they had informed the KESCO several times to shut down the power supply but no one from the electricity supply company came to the spot. They said after sparks in the wires of the LT line, a wire suddenly fell on Tahir (26) who had a tailoring shop near Noori Masjid, killing him on the spot.

After the incident, a massive demonstration was staged by the local residents to protest the negligence of KESCO. Kalyanpur Station House Officer Veer Singh said the protesters were pacified by assuring compensation to the kin of the victim and action against the guilty. He said on receipt of a complaint, FIR would be registered against the guilty.

The police later sent the body for autopsy.

## In all 206 mutation applications disposed of in KDA camp

**KANPUR (PNS):** As many as 114 mutation applications were approved on the second day of the Mutation Disposal Camp organised by the Kanpur Development Authority on Friday. These included 57 of zone 3, 56 of zone 4 and 01 of the bulk sale department. A total 206 mutation applications were disposed of during the two-day camp. KDA Vice Chairman Arvind Singh inaugurated the camp by handing over the mutation disposal letters to allottees/applicants. Despite incessant rains, a large number of people were present at the camp. Applicant Dinesh Chandra said he had applied for mutation of a plot in Gulmohar Vihar, sales (zone 3) in January 2020 which was approved in the camp on Friday. Expressing thanks to the KDA vice chairman, he said such camps greatly facilitated people in quick disposal of their grievances. Poonam Arora had submitted her application for mutation of plot No.315, Block-D, Sujatganj, on the basis of bainama on Friday itself which was also approved within a few hours of its submission. She was accordingly delivered the mutation approval letter by the KDA vice chairman. Among other applicants, Abhishek Saxena, Mohd Musheer Ahmad, Ranjit Singh Bharti and Manish Kumar Sahu also praised the efforts of the KDA vice chairman for quick disposal of their mutation applications at the camp.

# 210.5 tonne potatoes sent through Kisan Express

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

North Eastern Railway (NER) has achieved a special distinction of entering a new area of loading of goods. Now the run of Kisan Express has been started by the North Eastern Railway (NER) administration through which the edible produce and vegetables of farmers will be transported to different parts of the country. The first Kisan Express of NER was run from Izzatnagar division's Farrukhabad railway station to Bihara railway station of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) from September 15 at 22.20 hrs. Through this Kisan Express, 210.5 tonnes of potatoes have been sent in 4,210 sacks, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said. With this new freight transport, NER received ₹5.64 lakh revenue and on this loading a discount of ₹5.05 lakh will also be given by Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries to the Railways. The Mechanical Workshop,



Gorakhpur, for loading potatoes and other vegetables is preparing separate coaches. The old general class coaches are being made ready for this type of loading. The specialty of these coaches is that the produce of farmers will not be spoiled in them. With the running of Kisan Express trains along with increase in the income of the Railways from the loading of

goods the farmers will get a new market for their produce and they will get a good price. It may be pointed out here that the sequence of continuous better performance in the field of loading of

goods by the NER is going on. This achievement is a result of better marketing strategy being adopted by the Business Development Units (BDUs) at various levels, availability of advanced facilities being provided for loading of goods and continuous increase in the speed of goods trains etc. The run of Kisan Express is an important step in this link.

# 4 arrested with stolen motorcycle

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

City Kotwali police on Thursday arrested four accused along with stolen motorcycle and jewellery. Under the guidance of SHO City Kotwali Arun Kumar Dwivedi the police during routine patrolling was tipped off by an informer about the presence of some criminals in Bariaghat under City Kotwali police station. On the information, the police swung into the action and arrested four suspicious persons from the spot. They could not show the documents of the motorcycle. The police recovered two gold chains, two countrymade guns and one stolen motorcycle. The police said that a case of chain snatching was registered at Mirzamurad police station in Varanasi district. The arrested accused were identified as Sirajuddin, a resident of Changawar, Salman, a resident of Islampur, Rohit Gupta, a resident of Benipur and Basant Lal Patel, a resident of Benipur, all under Mirzamurad police station. The SHO said that they were notorious criminals and had committed several crimes.

**CONCLAVE:** Divisional Commissioner Yogeshwar Ram Mishra while addressing ‘Jan Jan Ke Ram Ramayan Conclave’ organised under the aegis of Tourism and Culture department Uttar Pradesh at Vindhyachal on Wednesday as the chief guest said Ramgaya Ghat located adjacent to Vindhyachal was the place where Ram performed the rituals of ‘tarpan’ of his father and the ancestors. He said because the place was associated with Ram so it was considered as most preferred place for ‘pindadan’ during Pitruvisarjan. He said that Ram who was most the popular king among the subjects. The inaugural function started with the lighting of

ceremonial lamp by Dr Usha Shukla who had come from South Africa. The inaugural function was followed by group discussion in which director, Ayodhya Shodh Sansthan, Dr Lavkush Dwivedi, Mahant Gireeshpati Tripathi, Dr Dev Prasad Dubey, Dr Sabhapati Mishra, Janardan Mishra and Neelam Shastri took part. On the occasion a cultural evening based on different aspects of life of Maryada Purushottam Ram was also organised. The cultural programme presented by the artistes depicting Ram as an ideal friend, an obedient son etc mesmerised the audience.

**REVIEWED:** SP Ajay Kumar Singh during the review of crime of city circle area on Wednesday directed the cops to be more sensitive regarding crime against women and complete the investigations on merit without inordinate delay. He directed the SHOs to strengthen the network of policing. The SHOs were asked to remain updated with the activities of the area. Regarding the Mission Shakti drive the SP said strict action should be in cases related to women so that a message could be given to in the society and they could feel that police was with them. The cops were directed for regular patrolling in the area not only with the aim of controlling the crime but also with the purpose too that no one could dare to harass anyone. The beat personnel were asked to settle the petty disputes on the spot on merit. The SHOs were directed to dispose of all the complaints and applications timely, ensure delivery of court summons positively and give the priority to send the reports without delay in the cases related to character certificate, passport, arm's license etc. The meeting was attended by CO (City) Prabhat Rai, SHO Katra Kotwali Swaminath, SHO city kotwali Arun Kumar Dwivedi and SHO Vindhyachal Kotwali.

**DIRECTIVE:** Taking the absence of the officers seriously District Magistrate Praveen Kumar Laxkar ordered to withhold the one-day salary of SDM and tehsildar on Thursday.

# Hindi fortnight concludes

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

At Rihand station of NTPC the closing ceremony of Hindi fortnight being celebrated from September 1 concluded with the prize distribution in a simple atmosphere at the Samanyavay Prekshagrah in the administrative building on Wednesday following social distancing due to Covid-19 pandemic. Chief General Manager (Rihand) Debabrata Paul, who was present as the chief guest, along with other co-guests started the programme by jointly lighting the lamp. The chief guest and co-guests were welcomed by being presented bouquets. NTPC song was sung in the auditorium. Paul in his address said by using more and more Hindi in



presenting them prizes. The function was jointly conducted by Senior Manager (HR) Sundari Pappu and Executive (Corporate Communication) Shiksha Gupta. Chief General Manager

(O&M) KN Reddy, General Managers S Krishna, AK Chattopadhyay, M Ramesh and AK Papneja besides Additional General Manager (HR) SVD Ravi Kumar, other employees and all the participants were present in the function.

# Cleanliness pledge administered

PNS ■ VARANASI

Along with the entire Indian Railways in Varanasi Division special cleanliness drive is being run from September 16 to October 2. Under this fortnight September 16 was celebrated as Swachhta Awareness Day in Varanasi division. On the occasion a cleanliness pledge was administered to the officers and employees by the Divisional Railway Ma8nager (DRM) Ramashray Pandey at the entrance gate of the divisional office. Along with it cleanliness pledge was administered to the employees working at various units, offices and major stations of Varanasi division by their heads. On the occasion, all the branch officers and employees working in Varanasi division took the cleanliness pledge. Addressing the employees and officers on the occasion, DRM said that the India that Mahatma Gandhi had dreamed of not only had political freedom, but had also imagined a clean and developed country. ‘Mahatma Gandhi by breaking the chains of slavery had got Ma Bharati liberated. Now it is our duty to serve Mother India by removing the squalor,’ he said.

**RAJBHASHA WEEK**

Under the direction of DRM Ramashray Pandey and under the leadership of Additional Chief Rajbhasha Officer/Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Infra) Gyanesh Tripathi, Rajbhasha Week-2021 is being celebrated in



Varanasi Division from September 14 to 21. On Thursday in the Bhartendu Sabha Hall of the divisional office a Hindi speech competition was organised on the utility/importance of the 75th anniversary of independence ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ and on ‘The possibility of the third wave of Covid-19 and how ready the nation is’ in which a total of 25 employees of the division participated. On September 21 the award distribution closing programme and the lecture of the divisional doctor on corona will be organised. Prizes will be given to the employees successful in all the above competitions besides consolation prizes by the DRM.

**SEMINAR INAUGURATED**

A three-day seminar organised at the Scout Den located in the auditorium of Varanasi division to make the NER Bharat Scouts and Guides District Association efficient and the residents of Railway residential colony aware about Covid-19 and cleanliness was inaugurated by DRM Ramashray Pandey by lighting the lamp. Along with it the DRM administered the oath of cleanliness to the members of NER Bharat Scouts and Guides District Association and Scouts and Guides. The members of NER Bharat Scouts and Guides District Association present were Vijay Kumar Sharan, Naseem Ahmed, Ajay Singh, Khurshid Ahmed, Sandeep Mishra, Amit Kumar, Babita and others.



# Covid antibodies in 90.26% Mumbaikars: BMC

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

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

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

The BMC released the fifth serosurveillance findings on a day when Mumbai recorded 387 infections and three deaths. As many as 434 Covid-19

patients were discharged from various hospitals after full recovery, the BMC pegged the total “active cases” in the metropolis at 4,658.

While the BMC had earlier conducted three Sero surveillance Studies for Covid-19 for all people, while it carried out one Sero-surveillance study only for Paediatric population previously. Anticipating the possible third wave of Covid-19, the fifth sero surveillance was conducted by the state public health department and LTMMC & GH, Sion Hospital with the support from A.T.E. Chandra Foundation and IDFC Institute.

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

The study was cross-sectional in nature and included participants above 18 years of age, from all 24 wards

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

assay.

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

According to the fifth sero-sero survey, overall Sero-prevalence in the city of Greater Mumbai was 86.64 per cent, while the study estimated around 87.02 per cent prevalence in slums, while 86.22 per cent prevalence in non-slums in the 24 wards.

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

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

Of total samples, 20% were health care workers. Sero-prevalence in

health care workers is 87.14%. The age-wise sero-prevalence varies from 80 per cent to 91 per cent among the study subjects.

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

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

"The overall sero-positivity to the extent of 86% is based on qualitative test results and does not indicate protective levels of IgG antibodies. The study has recommended that people should continue to strictly follow the COVID Appropriate Behaviour (CAB)," Chahal said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*PNS*

Terming it to be historic, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh took to Twitter saying, "What a great start to the day for Manipur! I'm really happy to share that 2 (two) products of Manipur viz Hathei Chilly & Tamenglong orange have been granted GI Tag. This is a historic milestone in the history of Manipur which will increase the income of the farmers immensely?" The GI status is an indication that identifies goods as produced from a particular area which has special quality attributable to its geographical origin.

known to be the species of the mandarin group, which is a unique fruit crop found only in Tamenglong district that contributes over 50 per cent of the state's annual production. It is famous especially for its well-blended sweetness and tart taste. Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA) applied for GI tags for Tamenglong orange and Sirarakhong Hathei chilli in 2019. In Manipur's Ukhrul, Hathei chilli is considered to be God's gift and the pride of the region. Hathei chilli flourishes only in the hills of Mahadev surrounding the remote Tangkhul Naga inhabited Sirarakhong village in the Ukhrul district.

 <b>केनरा बैंक</b> <b>Canara Bank</b> सिंडिकेटेड बैंक Syndicate Bank Together We can	<b>POSSESSION NOTICE</b>		
<b>Regional Office - HIG 1B, Chandra Vihar Lakhnapur, Kanpur - 208002, Ph.: 0512-2583225</b>			
<p>Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the <b>CANARA BANK</b> under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice on the dates mentioned against each account (details of which have been mentioned hereinafter) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.</p> <p>The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general, that the authorised officer has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 of the said Rule. The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the <b>CANARA BANK</b> for an amount and interest thereon.</p>			
Sl. No.	<b>Name &amp; Address of the Borrowers/Guarantor &amp; Outstanding Amount</b>	<b>Date of Demand Notice</b>  <b>Date of Possession Notice</b>	<b>Description of Immovable Property</b>
<b>Branch : Sharda Nagar, Kanpur</b>			
1	<b>M/s Sky Leather, Prop. Shoab Ansari</b>  <b>Outstanding Amount:</b> Rs. 3,21,84,176.31/- + Interest + Other Expenses	<b>07.04.2021</b>  <b>14.09.2021</b>	<b>Property 1:</b> All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Premises No. 991 Paibandi Jajmou Kanpur, in the name of Shoiab Ansari S/o Mohd. Amirullah, <b>Area:</b> 150.50 Sq.Mtr., <b>Bounded:</b> <b>North:</b> Part of Arazi, <b>South:</b> Plot of Arazi, <b>East:</b> 9.14 Meter Road, <b>West:</b> Nala  <b>Property 2:</b> All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Premises No. 991/1A Paibandi Jajmou Kanpur, in the name of Shoiab Ansari S/o Mohd. Amirullah, <b>Area:</b> 537.72 Sq.Mtr., <b>Bounded:</b> <b>North:</b> Part of Nazira Begum, <b>South:</b> Part of Sumit Kumar, <b>East:</b> 9.14 Meter Road, <b>West:</b> Nala
2	<b>M/s AIS Trendz, Prop. Mohd. Ashfaq Ansari</b>  <b>Outstanding Amount:</b> Rs. 2,98,76,733.15/- + Interest + Other Expenses	<b>05.04.2021</b>  <b>14.09.2021</b>	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Premises No. Plot No. 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12, In the name of Mr. Mohd. Ashfaq Ansari S/o Mohd. Amirullah, <b>Area:</b> 1000.00 Sq. Yards at Arazi No. 287 Ka & 290 at Paibandi, Jajmou Kanpur, <b>Bounded:</b> <b>North:</b> Land of Seller, <b>South:</b> 6.09 Meter Wide Road, <b>East:</b> Private Plot No. 7, <b>West:</b> Plot No. 13
3	<b>M/s BJD Print System, Prop. Awadhes Narain Tripathi</b>  <b>Outstanding Amount:</b> Rs. 3,82,82,318.84/- + Interest + Other Expenses	<b>05.04.2021</b>  <b>14.09.2021</b>	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Premises No. 60 B Dada Nagar, Industrial Area, Carved Out of Plot No. 1, in Block A & B, Scheme No. 1, Govind Nagar Kanpur, UP, In the name of Awadhes Narain Tripathi S/o Mr. JP Tripathi, <b>Area:</b> 1923.10 Sq.Mtr., <b>Bounded:</b> <b>North:</b> 60 Feet wide Road (Road No. 6), <b>South:</b> Plot No. 61 B, <b>East:</b> 60 Feet wide Road (Road No. 8), <b>West:</b> Premises No. 66 B and Portion of Plot No. 65 B
4	<b>M/s Metro Leather, Prop. Saqib Ansari</b>  <b>Outstanding Amount:</b> Rs. 67,97,964.51/- + Interest + Other Expenses	<b>05.05.2021</b>  <b>14.09.2021</b>	<b>Property 1:</b> All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Premises No. 991 Paibandi Jajmou Kanpur, in the name of Shoiab Ansari S/o Mohd. Amirullah, <b>Area:</b> 150.50 Sq.Mtr., <b>Bounded:</b> <b>North:</b> Part of Arazi, <b>South:</b> Plot of Arazi, <b>East:</b> 9.14 Meter Road, <b>West:</b> Nala  <b>Property 2:</b> All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Premises No. 991/1A Paibandi Jajmou Kanpur, in the name of Shoiab Ansari S/o Mohd. Amirullah, <b>Area:</b> 537.72 Sq.Mtr., <b>Bounded:</b> <b>North:</b> Part of Nazira Begum, <b>South:</b> Part of Sumit Kumar, <b>East:</b> 9.14 Meter Road, <b>West:</b> Nala
<b>Branch : Sharda Nagar, Kanpur</b>			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span><b>Date: 18-09-2021</b></span> <span><b>Place: Kanpur</b></span> <span><b>Authorised Officer, Canara Bank</b></span> </div>			

spot.

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

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

on ground zero"

DG BSF also visited the critical areas of Aik Nallah, Phalku Nallah and other areas of R S Pura and Arnia Border area and held discussions with sector/unit commanders on the ground and reviewed the security situation.

During his stay, DG BSF also interacted with jawans through sainik sammelan and was full of praise for BSF Jawans for their dedication towards safeguarding the frontiers of the Nation.

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

 <b>National Office:</b> HDIL Towers, B-wing, 8th Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Station Road, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400051. <b>Branch Office:</b> Dhiraj Bawle, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niswas Circle, Napauda, Thane (West) 400602.	<b>DEMAND NOTICE</b> Under Section 13(2) of the securitization And Reconstruction Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL) Under Securitization And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) the "said Borrower(s)", to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, that in the event the said Borrower(s) fail to pay to DHFL, the undersigned, the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.																																																																													
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) Loan Code</th><th>Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA date</th><th>PROPERTY ADDRESS</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>(LC No. 00000479 of Noida 1 Rajendra Place Branch) Javed Malik (Borrower) Shaheela Begam (Co Borrower)</td><td>14-06-2021 / ₹ 186640 / ₹ (Eighteen lakh Sixty Six Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Five) NPA (11-04-2021)</td><td>Plot No-410, Flat No- B-2, Hig First Floor (Rhs Front Portion), Block-4 Sector-2, Rajinder Nagar Sector-2, Rajinder Nagar Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 202001</td></tr> <tr> <td>(LC No. 00001882 of Meerut Branch) Kapil Sharma (Borrower) Kavita Sharma (Co Borrower)</td><td>14-06-2021 / ₹ 1818886 / ₹ (Eighteen lakh Sixty One Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Six) NPA (11-04-2021)</td><td>Ground Floor Flat On Plot No. A-45 Kh. 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(LC No. 00000251 of Moradabad Branch) Rajendra Singh (Borrower) Kusum (Co Borrower)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1606028 / ₹ (Sixteen lakh Six Thousand Twenty Eight) NPA (11-04-2021)	Moh-Ambekdar Nagar, Near Water Tank Moradabad Uttar Pradesh - 244001																																																																												
(LC No. 00001220 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Shipra (Borrower) Dipak Kumar Chaudhari (Co Borrower)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1601708 / ₹ (Sixteen lakh One Thousand Seven Hundred Eight) NPA (11-04-2021)	Kh-No-577, Kaishap Puram Raispur, Pargana Dasna Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201013																																																																												
(LC No. 00003486 of Lucknow - Lalbagh Branch) Mohammad Ishaq M (Borrower) Sajida S (Co Borrower)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1587394 / ₹ (Fifteen lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Nine) NPA (11-04-2021)	Plot No. 1, Khasra No 286 Minj, Village Amral, Ward - Shaheed Bhagat Sing Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226020																																																																												
(LC No. 00000167 of Bareilly Branch) Vinik Kumar (Borrower) Munesh Kumar Sharma (Co Borrower)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1577332 / ₹ (Fifteen lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Two) NPA (11-04-2021)	Nekpur Linepar Bareilly Uttar Pradesh - 243001																																																																												
(LC No. 00005951 of Lucknow Branch) Usha Mishra (Borrower) Shashank Shekhar Mishra (Co Borrower)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1570410 / ₹ (Fifteen lakh Seventy Thousand Four Hundred Ten) NPA (11-04-2021)	Flat No. 301, Constructed On Plot No-45 Blossom Apt, Pragati Vihar, Bharendu Harsh Chandra Ward, Sp Road Khasra Chandra Ward, Sp Road Lucknow Lucknow Pradesh - 226020																																																																												
(LC No. 00002353 of Agra Branch) Sageer Ahmed (Borrower) Alital Ahmed (Co Borrower)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1547051 / ₹ (Fifteen lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Fifty One) NPA (11-04-2021)	Avas Vikas Colony Sikandra, Nr Dr Pal Public School, Agra Uttar Pradesh - 282002																																																																												
(LC No. 00002067 of Kanpur Branch) Dinesh Kumar (Borrower) Reena Dinesh (Co Borrower)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1536879 / ₹ (Fifteen lakh Thirty Six Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Nine) NPA (11-04-2021)	Part Of Arazi No. 400/2 Tatila Jhanaku Kanpur Urban Uttar Pradesh - 208001																																																																												
(LC No. 00002264 of Agra Branch) Anil (Borrower) Rajvati Devi (Co Borrower)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1523942 / ₹ (Fifteen lakh Twenty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Two) NPA (11-04-2021)	New Radhika City Phase - 1 Colony Mauza - Maholi Mathura Uttar Pradesh - 281003																																																																												
(LC No. 00005056 of Lucknow Branch) Sikander Khan (Borrower) Kaishari Kh (CoBorrower)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1517402 / ₹ (Fifteen lakh Seventeen Thousand Four Hundred Two) NPA (11-04-2021)	House No 8 Khasra No 65938 Madiyoun Pargana Mahona Teh Bkt Bhi Ten Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226020																																																																												
(LC No. 00000653 of Meerut Branch) Vivek Kumar Malik (Borrower) Geeta Devi (Co Borrower)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1476178 / ₹ (Fourteen lakh Seventy Six Thousand One Hundred Seventy Eight) NPA (11-04-2021)	House On Part Of Khasra No750/3 Shree Ram Vihar Colony Rohla Road Village Shobha Pur Meerut Uttar Pradesh - 250001																																																																												
(LC No. 00002549 of Varanasi Branch) Mukesh Sharma (Borrower) Shaili Sharma (CoBorrower)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1449755 / ₹ (Fourteen lakh Four Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Five) NPA (11-04-2021)	Plot No 20 Khasra No 841 Vill Ward Alam Nagar Khasra No 841, Sai Public School Near Sai Public School Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226017																																																																												
(LC No. 00002822 of Noida Branch) Roopa Devi (Borrower) Lata Singh (CoBorrower)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1441989 / ₹ (Fourteen lakh Forty One Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Nine) NPA (11-04-2021)	Khasra No 40-02, Indergaon, Near Lal Sank Kumar Farm House Adhyank Nagar, Up Distt., Ghaziabad, Up Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201010																																																																												
(LC No. 00001647 of Meerut Branch) Vikas Kapoor (Borrower) Pravin Kapoor (CoBorrower)	16-06-2021 / ₹ 1403735 / ₹ (Fourteen lakh Three Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Five) NPA (11-04-2021)	Flat No. B-1, At GI On Part Of Plot No. 727/4, Sec 4 Madhavpuram Awasiya Vijaya Scheme No. 10 226020 Luck																																																																												



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PAPER WITH PASSION

# Unholy matrimony?

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

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



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



Dense clouds form over the fields after a heavy rain spell, in New Delhi Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

# Love and hate

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

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

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



# In the end, the game is the winner

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



VIJAY LOKAPALLY

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TAPPING THE RIGHT POTENTIAL

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

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

MR Jayanthi | Coimbatore

### THE BIGGER PICTURE

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

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

## Humanity proves costly



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

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

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

G David Milton | Maruthancode

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

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

### AN ALARMING PHENOMENON

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

biodiversity, which is an alarming signal.

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

Vijay Adhikari | Nainital

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

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



Punjab Chief Minister

—Amarinder Singh

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

Iranian President

—Ebrahim Raisi

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



Singer

—Honey Singh

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

BCCI president

—Sourav Ganguly

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



Prime Minister

—Narendra Modi



## FIRST COLUMN

### AUTO-EUGENICS IN AMERICA

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



GWYNNE DYER

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



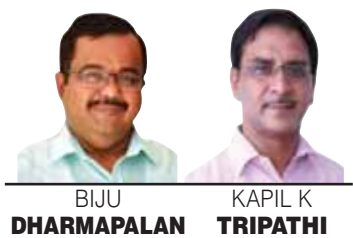
get the jabs, and declaring 'vaccine mandates' that oblige federal employees and companies that employ more than one hundred people to do so. He even allowed himself a little anger towards the more than 80 million Americans who are still refusing vaccination. But there's a puzzle here. Deep down, Biden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

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

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

# Using science for a self-reliant India

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



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

KAPIL K. TRIPATHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tremendous developments have



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

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



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

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

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

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

The country has been at the fore front of developing assistive

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

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



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

# India and Australia: Emerging global leaders

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

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

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



ASHUTOSH MISRA

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

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

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



alternative markets in the European Union and India".

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# India asks China for early resolution of LAC row

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

The 12th round of Corps Commander level talks were held on July 30 to find mutually agreed process of withdrawal troops from the flashpoints at the LAC. The next round is likely to take place soon, sources said here on Friday. On the meeting between Jaishankar and Wang Yi, the former told the latter India had never subscribed to any "clash of civilisations theory" and that Asian solidarity would depend on the example set by India-China relations, the external affairs ministry (MEA) said here on Friday.

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



tries, it said.

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

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

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

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

at low ebb," it said.

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

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

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

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

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

## Oz defends alliance with US, UK

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELH

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

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

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

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

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

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

Afghanistan on August 15.

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

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

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

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

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

# NIA conducts searches in Tamil Nadu

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The searches were conducted at two locations in Thiruvavur and Tanjore districts of Tamil Nadu after which an accused Bava Bahrudeen alias Mannai Bava, was arrested. The case was initially registered at Thideer Nagar Police Station, Madurai City in which Mohammed Iqbal alias Senthil Kumar had used his Facebook account "Thoonga Vizhigal Rendu" in Kazimar Street" to upload posts that denigrated a particular community and fomented communal disharmony among different religions in a manner prejudicial to the maintenance of public order, the NIA said.

"Investigation has revealed that the accused person Mohammed Iqbal conspired with others including



Mannai Bava, in the name of Hizb-ut-Tahrir to re-establish Islamic State and implement Sharia globally including in India," the agency said in a statement.

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

were helmed by the arrested accused person Mannai Bava and conducted in Madurai, Erode, Salem, Tanjore districts in Tamil Nadu.

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Centre taking steps to achieve nutritional security: Agri Min Tomar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

Inaugurating a two-day conference at Hyderabad, the minister said it was upon India's initiative that the United Nations declared year 2023 as the International Year of Millets. Tomar urged the present generation to understand the importance of nutritious foodgrains like millets and make it a part of their daily diet, according to an official statement. The Minister highlighted that the Centre has announced the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund worth ₹1.5 lakh crore to fill the gaps in the farm sector.

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



cultivation of these crops.

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

## Vitiligo patients finding succour in herbal remedies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Others who spoke on the occasion included reputed ayurveda experts such as Dr Surendra Chaudhary, Dr Bhagwan Sahay and Dr Prabhakar Rao among others who were of the opinion that dermatologists should identify this condition carefully, especially humanistic factors in social life, and perform individualized "non-drug" treatment.

In fact, Dr Hemant Pande, senior scientist from DRDO's Pithoragarh lab Defence Institute of Bio-energy Research (DIBER) who last year won prestigious 'Science Award' on National Technology Day for developing the herbal drug had said that though remedies of vitiligo viz., allopathic, surgical and adjunctive were available, none of them were very effective or without side effects.

"Moreover, these are either costly or single molecule based, with very low level of efficacy and develop side-effects like blister, edema, irritation in the skin with the result most of the patients discontinue the treatment," Pandey, a recipient of several prestigious awards for his contribution in herbal medicine field had said.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Encourage Af to shun terrorism: Xi

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

PTI ■ BEIJING

**21ST SUMMIT OF SCO**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

China, which has main-



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

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

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

mon security".

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

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

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

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

help the Afghan people tide over difficulties.

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

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

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

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

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

# Taliban orders male students, teachers to school



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

AP

AP ■ ISTANBUL

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

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

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

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

# Dutch Foreign Min quits over Afghanistan evacuations

AP ■ THE HAGUE

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

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

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

"I can only accept the consequences of this judgment as the minister with ultimate responsibility," she added.

Don Ceder, a member of the faith-based Christian Union, said in a statement earlier Thursday that the party supported the motion against Kaag and a similar one against Defense Minister Ank Bijleveld — a move that secured majority backing for the censures.

# Pelosi warns UK not to imperil N Ireland peace with Brexit

AP ■ LONDON

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

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

They were agreed by both sides in their divorce deal, to keep an open land border between the north and EU member Ireland — a key pillar of Northern Ireland's peace process. Britain says the new checks are onerous and wants to rewrite the agreement, but the EU says it will not renegotiate. The United States has cautioned Britain against doing anything to undermine the peace settlement.

# 'New reality' established in Afghanistan: Pak PM

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

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

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

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

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

"That all this happened without bloodshed, without



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

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

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

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

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

# Armenia takes Azerbaijan to UN court alleging discrimination

AP ■ THE HAGUE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# UN Security Council extends mandate of UNAMA for 6 months

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

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

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

UNAMA until March 17, 2022.

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

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

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

# Myanmar court sets Oct 1 for Suu Kyi corruption trial

AP ■ BANGKOK

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

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

Suu Kyi, whose elected

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

She also is due to be tried for breaching the official secrets law in a case that was transferred earlier this week to Naypyitaw from Yangon, Myanmar's biggest city.

Suu Kyi's supporters as



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

## FROM PAGE 1

# RECORD 2 CRORE GET JABS ON PM'S B'DAY

"In the beginning, we were administering 40 lakh doses in a day. We then brought it up to 1 crore daily doses and today we had already touched 1.35 crore doses by 3 pm," Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri tweeted.

Similarly, BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis tweeted at around 7 pm, "historic 17th September ! India's wonderful gift to Hon PM @narendramodi ji on his birthday & new record of single day vaccination ! Crossed Europe vaccination too! 1 Day; 9 hours; 2 Crore+ Vaccine doses administered and counting."

The Health Ministry said that on Friday as part of the "Vaccine Seva" campaign, the Health Minister visited Safdarjung Hospital to take stock of the ongoing vaccination and congratulated the healthcare workers for helping the country cross the two crore benchmark.

The cumulative doses administered in the country reached 2,03,68,343 at 5.27 pm, according to data on the Co-WIN portal.

Mandaviya said this is the fastest pace at which one crore doses have been administered.

With this, the total number of doses administered in the country has crossed 78.72 crore. The Ministry has also maintained that India will get about 20 crore doses of Covishield and 3.5 crore doses of Covaxin which will be supplied to stakeholders in this month.

Meanwhile, sources in the Health Ministry on Friday said that for India "vaccinating its citizens is a priority and export of vaccines will be discussed only after the country's requirement is over."

# IT ISN'T TIME TO BRING FUEL UNDER GST REGIME: FM

Kerala Finance Minister K N Balagopal said the fuel prices skyrocketed due to the huge increase of its cess by the Centre and if the Union Government reduces the cess that will help in bringing down the prices of petrol and diesel. According to him, if petrol and diesel are brought under the GST regime, the State will lose Rs 8,000 crore annually.

UP Finance Minister Suresh Khanna also opposed the move. He tweeted "the State is opposed to petroleum products bring under GST as the State will lose a big source of revenue and ultimately it won't be in people's interest". Khanna also claimed the issue of bringing petroleum products was not in the agenda of the GST council meeting.

The GST Council granted exemptions to certain life-saving drugs and the drugs suggested by health ministry for treating muscular atrophy. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, "We have seen in the last one year and probably earlier that some life-saving drugs, which are not connected with Corona and are very expensive. Exemptions have been given for such drugs."

She further added, "I am giving the names of two because those two are very expensive drugs - Zolgensma and Viltproso. These two are very important drugs which cost something like Rs 16 crores. So the council has decided to grant exemption from GST for these 2."

The Finance Minister further added, "Drugs that are suggested by the Ministry of Health for treating muscular atrophy, on the recommendation of Health Ministry and Dept of Pharmaceuticals, are also exempted for IGBT on import for personal use."

To check the tax evasion by the restaurants, the GST Council has fixed levy level for Food-delivery apps like Swiggy and Zomato. The Council stated that the place of the delivery will be the point where the tax will be collected by the food delivery apps. They will pay GST on it. The Finance Minister said there is no new tax. The tax was earlier payable by the restaurants, now the tax will be paid by the food delivery aggregators.

The Centre has declined to extend the period of compensation to states beyond five years or July 2022. The GST council has however set up a Group of Ministers (GOM) to chalk out the crucial issue of compensation for States beyond June 2022. GOM has been tasked with discussing all issues involved in compensations and compensation cess and has been asked to submit the report to the council in two months.

The Centre in June 2017 had guaranteed annual hike in tax collections to all the States

after the implementation of the GST. The Centre had also promised to compensate the States for the shortfall in revenue. The Centre has said the period of cess collection under GST will be extended till March 2026 and the proceeds will be utilised for the repayment of the loans obtained by the states in 2020-21 and 2021-22 on account of shortfall in revenue due to Covid.

The council discussed how long will it take for states to repay the amount borrowed last year. During the current fiscal the Centre has already paid Rs 75,000 crore to the States for the compensation shortfall.

# MAMATA, NOT RAHUL, CAN TAKE ON MODI: TRINAMOL CONGRESS

He further said his statements should not be taken as anti-Rahul. "We have nothing against Rahul... we also do not say that the anti-BJP alliance would come up with the Congress ... we only want to say the TMC will go about campaigning with Mamata as the face of the anti-Modi and anti-BJP campaign."

Bengal Minister Firhad Hakim said, "Mamata is the only deserving candidate for the purpose because there is great regard for her among the people of the country ... they consider only Mamata Didi as the true Opposition leader ... one has to remember that when Modi unleashed State terror with agencies all the leaders went in hiding and it is only Mamata who continued to take him on like a tigress ... the people will take this into account."

Curiously the Chief Minister during his stay in Delhi had told journalists that she is more interested in throwing out the BJP than anything else. "It is the time to forge unity and not look for faces ... I am a common political worker and will try to contribute towards forging and Opposition alliance ... that is my job... not thinking about who will lead such alliance," she had said.

Even as other TMC leaders like Kunal Ghosh immediately engaged in neutralising the alleged "damage" done to the "cordiality" developed between the two sides since Mamata went to Delhi and met Sonia post-Bengal polls, Bengal

Congress president Adhir Chowdhury hit hard at the "TMC's ballooning ambitions" saying, "If Jago Bangla will not promote Mamata then who will ... 2024 is still far away and there is no need to start jumping from now ... we will see who becomes what before the elections."

On Bandopadhyay's comments, he said, "It is like counting the chickens well before the eggs have been laid."

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury too sounded skeptical about Mamata's acceptability nationally. "Such a big claim is too premature ... we have seen through our experience how coalitions are made and broken ... wait and see how 3rd Front or 4th Front is made before the elections."

# ENSURE RADICALISATION, EXTREMISM DON'T RISE...

"Based on this historical heritage of Central Asia, SCO should make a common template of fighting radicalisation and extremism. In India, and in almost all the countries of the SCO, there are moderate, tolerant and inclusive institutions and traditions associated with Islam," he further said.

India is quite anxious about Pakistan using Afghan soil to help infiltrate terror groups Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed in Jammu and Kashmir and create another front for India to battle-out along with China and Pakistan.

The Prime Minister clearly maintained that "fighting radicalization is not only necessary for regional security and mutual trust, but it is also necessary for the bright future of our younger generations."

"The vast economic potential of this region has also remained untapped due to radicalization and insecurity, be it mineral wealth or intra-SCO trade, to take full advantage of them, we have to emphasize on mutual connectivity. The role of Central Asia in history has been that of a connectivity bridge between major regional markets."

"This was also the basis of the prosperity of this region. India is committed to increasing its connectivity with Central Asia", announced the Prime Minister.

# Chinese astronauts safely return to earth after 90 days

## Mission to build space station successful

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

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

The three astronauts from the Shenzhou-12 manned spaceflight mission are in good condition after landing on Earth, official media reported. They spent 90 days at the Tianhe module on China's space station, some 380km above Earth.

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

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

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

The space station is expected to be ready by next year.

This is China's longest crewed space mission to date and the first in nearly five years.

China previously sent the space station's Tianhe core cabin module on April 29, and a cargo spacecraft with supplies on May 29.

Once ready, the station is expected to be opened for China's close allies like Pakistan and other international space cooperation partners.


Ji Qiming, an assistant to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) director, told the media on Wednesday that besides close cooperation with Russia, China is also having bilateral cooperation exchanges with countries including France, Italy, Pakistan and others focussing on space experiments in fundamental physics, space medicine and space autonomy on the space station.

Separately, China and Russia also unveiled a roadmap to build a lunar space station, official media reported. **PTI**







**BADSHAH**  
'Bad Boy X Bad Girl is a groovy, playful tease that makes you want to let your guard down, break those boundaries and have some fun! All of us have an unexplored wild side and sometimes it is great to leave all your worries behind and enjoy the every single moment.'




**ESHA GUPTA**  
'Playing the role of a cop is an honour. I have always been fascinated by women in uniform. It's a challenging yet an exciting character to portray in *Nakaab*. Women have made great strides in all fields. I am glad that actors now finding their way in web series and films in the Indian entertainment industry.'



**WAMIQA GABBI**  
'My father is a writer and he always made sure that I watch all the plays that were happening in the Tagore Theatre in Chandigarh. He has always encouraged me. He is my pillar and it is because of him that I am an artiste today.'



**VIVEK OBEROI**  
'It (*PM Narendra Modi*) traces journey from his modest origins to his historic victory as the Chief Minister of Gujarat and eventually his nomination as the Prime Minister of India. I feel immense pleasure that this inspirational story will now have a wider reach.'



**HELEN MIRREN**  
'I knew someday I would get a role in the Harry Potter universe, and I'm so pleased to take part in the 20-year film celebration by hosting the forthcoming quiz show *Harry Potter: Hogwarts Tournament Of Houses*. The film has inspired such enchantment, it will be amazing reignite that magic for the fans.'

VOGUE

# Rising to the occasion

NATASHA BHARADWAJ confesses that she took workshops with her mother's help to get into the skin of Dr Diya. By KHUSHBU KIRTI

The newly released OTT *Mumbai Diaries 26/11* is up and running on Amazon Prime TV and has garnered a lot of praise in its bank. Soaring high on all ratings, the web series brings on the screen a portrayal of the terrorist attacks that occurred on the fateful night of November 26, 2008, in Mumbai. The show, however, highlights a unique angle — the point of view of the medical fraternity that treated the victims of the attacks, under mammoth pressure and amidst back-breaking circumstances. One of the resident doctors, Diya Parekh, is played by the model-turned-actress Natasha Bharadwaj.

In an exclusive heart-to-heart with Bharadwaj, she opened up about her experience playing Dr Diya. Below are certain excerpts from the interview:

**On talking with Shreya Dhanwanthary, we gathered that the series, Mumbai Diaries 26/11, explores an angle that hasn't been discussed before - what went through the front-line workers that calamitous night.**

**On that note, tell us a bit about your character.**

This is the first time we've had a medical drama as a show and how the doctors are under constant pressure, and how they work round the clock, is what we had to witness and understand, even live the experience, in a way. No matter what is happening in their personal lives, they put themselves out there and treat as many patients as possible, saving each and every breath. This was extremely important for us to know.

Talking about my character, I play Dr Diya Parekh and she is this girl who comes from a sense of privilege. Her *Dada ji* owns the hospital but she is someone who wants to create a mark and is good at her job, too. But at the same time, she is suffering from anxiety and depression and how these problems kick in at a time when you just don't want them to and how she needs to cope with every situation is the focus. This is her time to shine and to prove her mettle. That is when Dr Diya puts



everything aside, focusses at the humongous task at hand and really pulls through.

**I read somewhere that your mother is a doctor. Did that help you engulf the essence of the role?**

Yes, my mother is a doctor and she has always been my inspiration. She has really helped me groom into the character. I was blessed to have her beside me, who could talk me through this because her experiences were something that I actually fed off. She has treated so many patients and there are innumerable stories that are unbelievably inspiring and heart wrenching. I cannot define the take-away really but this has helped me tremendously in creating Dr Diya, undoubtedly. I remember I used to visit the hospital with her, as a kid. She would go to operate and I used to sit around in her cabin. I enjoyed looking at the slides placed under the microscope and for the longest time that I can remember, I've always been in a hospital envi-

ronment. However, this show needed something completely different. It's a government hospital. There are entirely different kinds of obstacles that occur at a government hospital and when everything breaks loose, how these hospitals really get affected was what we needed to portray in the show.

**'I went to one of the government hospitals and was there for a couple of days to witness what trauma is like and what emergencies looked like and that helped me step into the shoes of the character'**

**Acting is something inspired from reality... how much and what kind of research did you do? How did you prepare for the finer details which were reflected on screen while playing a resident doctor?**

Getting into the skin of the character was extremely (elongates on the word, emphasising on it) important. Mr Nikhil Advani, our director, and the co-director, Mr Nikhil Gonsalves, both had such a clear vision of what they wanted and the way they wanted it. Before our medical workshop started for the web series, I began my own workshops. I discussed with my mother her experiences, and the manner doctors function in reality. I tried to soak the medical jargon. Thereafter, I went for a first-



aid workshop at the American Heart Association and I also went to one of my mother's colleague's government hospitals. I was there for a couple of days to witness what trauma is like, what emergencies looked like and that helped me step into the shoes of the character. At the same time, I had to learn and unlearn a lot. I believe this is what aided me in preparing for the finer details which were reflected on screen while playing Dr Diya.

**From modelling, dancing, karate, to films, you have had a successful career as a dancer and model. How did the shift to Bollywood take place? How are the two lives different for you? And, which one do you like more?**

I'm extremely grateful for everything that I've had the opportunity to do. I don't think there has been any kind of shift. I've aspired to become an actor since the very beginning. I am glad and thankful that, at the moment, I received the opportunity to work with such brilliant people who create lovely cinema that touches people's hearts. One thing has led to the other so I'm just happy for all the good experiences and bad, but everything that took place has made me who I am today and I am nothing but grateful for it all.



## Prepping to shine

RAKUL PREET SINGH enrolled for medical classes for her new comedy film *Doctor G*

Actress Rakul Preet Singh, whose look from the forthcoming Ayushmann Khurrana-starrer *Doctor G* was unveiled recently, had to enroll for medical classes to get into the skin of her character in the film.

To essay Dr Fatima, Rakul had to learn medical terminology and also nuances of some important surgical procedures for this family entertainer directed by Anubhuti Kashyap.

In order to make everything related to the medical world appear authentic on screen, the makers had arranged for experts to conduct special sessions with the cast — Rakul, Khurrana and actress Shefali Shah and train them as part of their characters' prep.

"Shooting for *Doctor G* has turned out to be an interesting experience. Since I play a doctor, the mannerisms and actions needed to be precise. It was mandatory to learn important things related to the medical world to make it look real on screen," expressed Rakul.

"The journey of becoming Dr Fatima was an amazing process which I will cherish forever," she added.

Rakul said that she and the makers wanted her character to seem genuine and reliable.

"We did multiple look tests to get her look right. The idea was for her to look as close to real as possible and bring out the endearing quality of her character. By just wearing the doctor's coat, you suddenly get a sense of responsibility even though I was only playing a character," Rakul continued.

The actress admitted, "While treating patients for scenes, one truly understands how much responsibility doctors have on their shoulders and how difficult their life is."

The film *Doctor G* is a campus comedy drama, co-written by Kashyap, Sumit Saxena, Vishal Wagh and Saurabh Bharat.

Think Bhangra and the first name that comes to everyone's mind is Daler Mehndi. The voice behind popular hits, from *Bolo Ta Ra Ra Ra*, *Tunak Tunak Ho* to *Jayegi Balle Balle*, is not just restricted to the upbeat genre, though. Someone who is popular for his exuberant energy in all his music videos, he has also lent his voice to some iconic songs that were featured in Bollywood such as *Jyio Re Bahubali*, *Zor Ka Thakka* and the title track for *Dangal*.

On the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi, Mehndi recently released *Chintamani Ganesha*, a song which is underlined by his trademark energy and the devotional song provided us with an opportunity to speak with the living legend himself.

It took some time, and lots of coordination, but Mehndi managed to make enough time for a quick chat with us, in between shows. After performing for two hours, he says he has to drive for another hour before he reaches the next venue in time for an hour-long show. That surprises us, someone of his stature, would he not have a retinue of chauffeur-driven cars at his disposal?

When we express our surprise, Mehndi laughs before sharing, "I like driving myself. I think driving keeps my mind sharp, one can't really drive if they are lazy. Sure, whenever I am on the road, a few drivers always accompany me and there is at least one other car behind me, but I like driving myself, humming some ghazals."

Energetic. That is probably the most appropriate word in the dictionary if you have to describe Mehndi with one word. All his videos feature him having the time of his life, with a wide smile plastered on his face.

We thought it would be prudent

# Paying homage

On the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi, singer, songwriter, author and record producer DALER MEHNDI released a new song. CHRISTY VARGHESE uses the opportunity to talk about his devotion and more

to ask him from where does he obtain his signature energy and whether he is always like that, full of life? "You know, you are not the first person to ask this," he says with a smile, "Right before my last performance the organisers asked me what's my poison, and when I told them I would like a cup of hot tea, they were surprised. I am used to that reaction, when people see me, they might think that I drink. To them that is the source of unrestrained energy; however, for me, music is the substance of choice. I would say that at least 99 per cent of my life is spent being energetic. And the remaining one per cent? It might be more than one per cent, I think, but whenever I turn away from music, I see the troubles and strives of our fellow people. Otherwise, I believe I have a lot to be thankful for, and that alone is enough to keep me happy."

Speaking about *Chintamani Ganesha* and Ganesh Chaturthi, he went on to reveal, "*Bolo Ta Ra Ra Ra*, my first album, released in 1995 during Ganesh Chaturthi. It broke all records back then and I have never looked back, since. My own sentimental connection with the festival aside, I think this 10-day festival Ganesh Chaturthi offers respite from monotony to people. Against the backdrop of the pandemic my own sentimental connection aside, it is one of the



festivals which bring happiness, and respite from the monotony of life, something we all could use in these pandemic times, which is why I released the song *Chintamani Ganesha* — *wo sab ki chinta door karte hai*..."

Mehndi is someone who is openly religious and can be seen periodically celebrating occasions with songs of worship across the country. Earlier this year, he penned and performed an exclusive bhajan at the Vaishno Devi shrine, to signify the commencement of Navratri. He expresses his belief that all religions promote the same message of love and harmony, and if he receives the opportunity to celebrate a god with his god-

given gift, he won't shy away from doing so.

"I was born to a conventional family in Patna, Bihar and grew up listening to the melodies of the *Guru Granth Sahib Ji*, which is composed in and divided into a total of 60 ragas which combine the hymns of many saints. The teachings of Guru Granth happen to be something I hold dear. It taught me to respect all the faiths across the globe. We all are one, ultimately. I have never felt that 'oh, this is a God that I don't worship, hence I should not sing their praises'. If I can lend my voice to celebrate a god, I will happily do so without any qualms," he shares.

As our conversation deviated

from the script, like most good conversations do, he went on to reminisce about the distant past, grateful for everything, including the people he met and had a hand in Daler Singh becoming Daler Mehndi. "I ran away from home in 1982 to learn music from Rahat Ali Khan from Gorakhpur, who was kind enough to teach me the finer nuances of the Patiala *Gharana* style of Indian classical music. Another teacher was ghazal maestro Parvez Mehdi, from whose name, the celebrated suffix Mehndi got added to my name. Back then I wanted everything that one would have wanted in those times. My name and photograph on hoardings, and the likes, I am sure you know what I mean. I am glad fame came knocking on my door much later, in 1995, after *Bolo Ta Ra Ra Ra*, because then I did not let it get to my head," he ruminates thoughtfully, before adding, "Now my only dream is to share different types of music with the world. I am not one to brag but when big names of the west, like Deadmau5 or Marshmello, come to India they seek me out, all by the grace of God. And if God wills, I will go a long way, yet. I am still hungry to showcase my energy with a lot more music."

One thing that was on our script, and that we did not forget to ask about was a little story concerning *Tunak Tunak*, which is arguably Mehndi's biggest hit. The song's video, which was made on a then unprecedented budget of \$610,000, features hundreds of CGI versions of the singer dancing to the catchy beat of the song. We found a lot of anecdotes on the internet, but no original quotes by the singer behind the hit. Well, the story is as follows, in the words of the living legend himself, "Certain popular journalists had said that I became

popular only since women are dancing with me in my videos. And I don't remember what happened, I suppose I was just extremely angry with them and took it personally. I challenged them that I will release a song which will feature only my voice and only me in the video. And all credit goes to the supreme power above us all, that song was a hit. The very first day witnessed the sale of over 10 lakh units of cassettes being and two lakh CDs."

Well, it is clear who won that challenge. The beats of *Tunak Tunak* happen to be a cult hit in South Korea, with just about every kid having heard that tune at least once since it is played in the background of advertisement of food items in the country.

Since he had to prepare for his next performance, we had to cut our conversation short with one last question — as a record producer, what does he expect from emerging talent? "Well, kids these days are versatile. The current young generation is extremely lucky, everything is just the swipe on a smartphone away. Whatever information you seek, is available through multiple reliable sources. The talent that is emerging is extremely talented. My only advise to someone who wants to make something of themselves in the music industry, is that they should stay away from drugs and liquor. And another factor I don't compromise on is that the person should be down to earth, and be willing to learn," Mehndi concludes with a warm smile.





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

Here are certain excerpts from the interview:

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

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

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

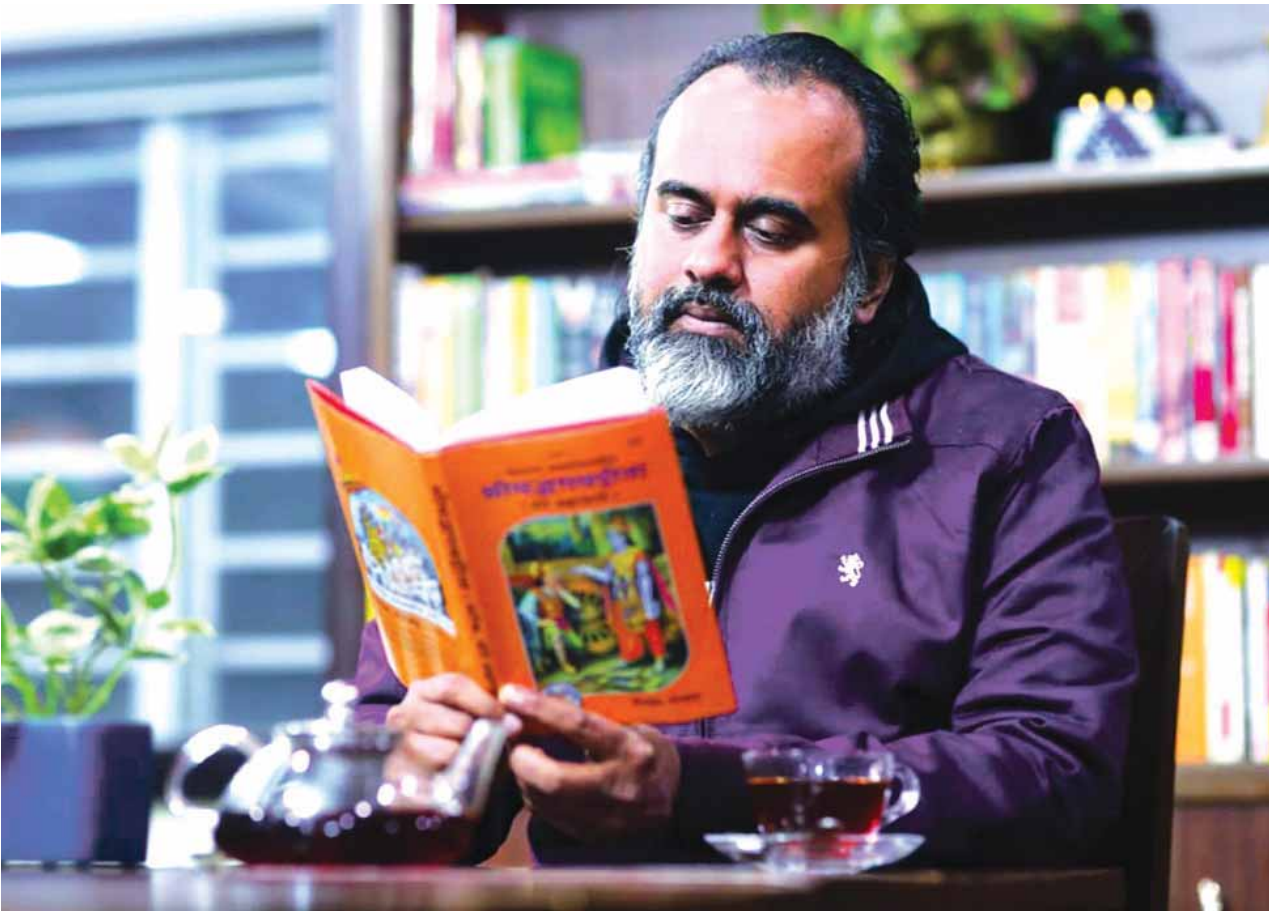
The bias is not towards the East or the West, but towards the Truth. In this context, I clearly see that Indian philosophy has a lot to offer. Whereas the Western view preoccupies itself with the world as an objective fact, the Indian approach is to explore into the consciousness that perceives the world.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

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

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

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

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



# EXPLORING THE TRUTH

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

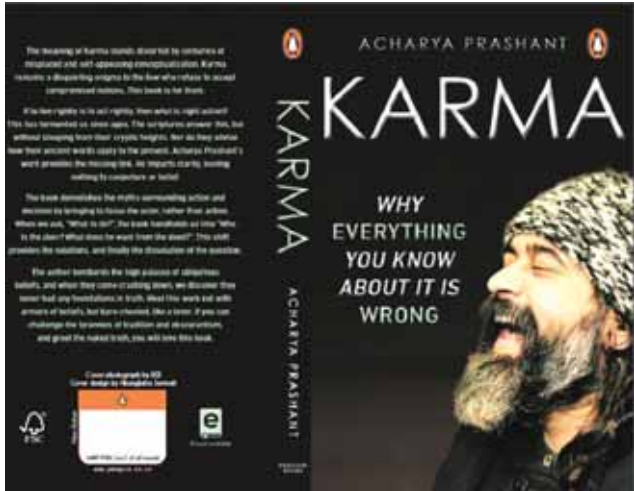
in a dimensionally different way.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

**□Who are the seminal philosophers you follow and why?**

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

# A style statement

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

# Devotion as she knows best

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Keeping up with times

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



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

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

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

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

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

Golden Globe nomination and a SAG award win.

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

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

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

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

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

Aniston says she told director

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

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

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

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

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

—AP



# NZ put off Pak tour over security



IAN S ■ RAWALPINDI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Pak Minister links New Zealand tour cancellation to Afghanistan

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



after what has been happening in Afghanistan.

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

## 'Which world is NZ living in?' PCB chief

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

AP ■ WARANGAL

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

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

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

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

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

## Sharath named chairman of BCCI junior selection committee

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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



IAN S ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ BELLARY

Five-time Asian medallist Shiva Thapa (63.5kg) stormed into the pre-quarter-finals with a knockout victory but former world championship bronze-winner Gaurav Bidhuri (57kg) exited after an opening loss in the men's National Boxing Championships here on Friday. Representing Assam, Thapa knocked out Shubham Mamta of Steel Plant Sports Board (SPSB) in the opening round of his bout. Shubham was attended to by the medical team after the body shot threw him off balance in the ring.

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



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

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

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

Himachal Pradesh's Mohan Chander.

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

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

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

IAN S ■ MACKAY

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

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

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

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

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

IAN S ■ LONDON

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Badminton is meditation for me. I am extremely methodical, I develop my attack skills, defense skills, my reach. I work minutely on that part and also how I would cope up in my head. I visualize matches in my head. So yeah, I do have methods that give me comfort while playing," Yathiraj explained. Moreover, he is not active on

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

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

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

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