IN MUST-WIN DOUBLES MATCH



Centre cautions

States on Covid

'Humiliated' Captain resigns

Cong's last-ditch effort to negate anti-incumbency; Amarinder to 'explore options'

AMITABH SHUKLA CHANDIGARH

Less than six months before the Assembly polls in the State, Congress changed Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh conceding that it was the best political alternative to dent the growing anti-incumbency against the two-time Chief Minister.

It was clear that the political script written by the Congress high command was unpalatable to the Punjab Chief Minister who submitted his resignation to Governor Banwarilal Purohit soon after 4pm before the meeting of Congress Legislature Party (CLP) to elect a new leader.

Citing continued humilia-tion by the Congress leadership over the past two months, Capt Amarinder made it clear that he would explore and exercise his future options when the time comes, "There is always an option, and I will use that option when the time comes. At the moment I am will in the Comes." I am still in the Congress," he said after submitting his resignation.

"I was humiliated three

times by the Congress leader-



Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amrinder Singh submits his resignation to Governor Banwarilal Purohit at the Raj Bhavan in Chandigarh on Saturday

ship in the past two month. They called the MLAs to Delhi twice and now convened CLP here," Amarinder said, adding that he had decided and informed Congress president Sonia Gandhi in the morning that he would resign.

"Apparently they (Congress

high command) do not have confidence in me and did not think I could handle my job. But I felt humiliated at the manner in which they handled the whole affair," he told reporters at the gate of the Rai Bhavan after giving his resignation letter to the Governor.

"Let them appoint who they trust," he remarked, taking a dig at the party leadership.

After the arrival of AICC general secretary incharge of the State Harish Rawat and

Central observer Ajay Maken in Chandigarh, it was clear that Capt Amarinder would be

Amarinder blasts Sidhu, Congress

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Out but not defeated, a visibly agitated Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday declared that he will stay in politics and had his options open, while making it clear that he would never accept an "incapable" Navjot Singh Sidhu as the Chief Minister.

Minutes after handing over his and his Council of Minister's resignation to the Governor, Capt Amarinder hit out at the party high command for humiliating him time and

Capt Amarinder claimed that he had fulfilled his duty given to him, serving Punjab as the Chief Minister for nine and half years, including five years of his previous term (2002-2007). "I worked as strongly as I can for my Punjab and the

that of my Council of Ministers."

Continued on Page 9 The political script in Punjab has an uncanny similarity with the one in BJP ruled removed if he did not tender his resignation. Sensing the cal mood, he rushed to the Raj Gujarat where not only the Chief Minister but the entire Bhavan and tendered the oneline resignation letter which Cabinet was replaced to give said, "I hereby tender my resignation as Chief Minister, and the Government a brand new

Keeping the cards close to his chest, Capt Amarinder

refused to disclose what he had

However, apart from a handful

Congress to a stunning victory in the 2017 Assembly polls,

following 10 years of Akali rule in the State. The Congress had

mustered a brute majority of 80

in the 117-member Assembly.

planned for his future. Earlier in the day, Amarinder had convened a

look ahead of the elections. Continued on Page 9

as schools open As schools reopen gradually in various States, the Centre on Saturday asked the respective authorities to monpeople and would continue to do so. I am not going to bog down. I have completed my this task. Now I will take over the next," he added.

itor any rising Covid infection trends among children and strengthen the public health response infrastructure, including medical oxygen plants, ICU, and hospital facilities and essential medicine stocking.

The suggestions come amid fear of a third Covid-19 wave as at least 70 districts in meeting of Ministers and MLAs supporting him at his official residence here at 2 pm. 15 States have become a cause of concern in terms of rising of his close allies in the cabinet and among MLAs, not many attended the meeting.

Amarinder had led the Covid-19 cases.

At a review meeting with States on Saturday, the Government noted that around 34 of these districts have a positivity rate exceeding 10 per cent, and in 36 districts the rate hovers between 5 and 10 percent. Cabinet Secretary Rajeev Gauba, who chaired the meeting, said there was no room for complacency and called for strict enforcement of Covid appropriate behaviour, especially in the wake of upcoming

festivities. He asked the States to implement intensive containment and active surveillance in clusters reporting high cases and not delay the imposition of restrictions, increase testing

As 3rd wave fear lurking, States told to monitor rise of **Covid among kids**



while maintaining RT-PCR ratio and promptly commission pressure swing adsorption plants, oxygen cylinders, concentrators and ventilators.

"States were also told to undertake regular reviews for priority implementation of emergency response package II to ensure preparedness with enough headroom, monitor infection spread in children considering that few States have opened schools, monitor breakthrough infections post-vaccination and analyse the emerging evidence, monitor mutations including sending sufficient samples for genome sequencing," the Government

said in a statement here. Continued on Page 9

Ram Lala jalabhishek: Water from 115 countries received

Water from remaining 77 nations would be procured before Ayodhya temple is constructed, **hopes Rajnath Singh** PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday received water from 115 countries of seven continents for offering in the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya. He termed it "innovative thinking" and underlined the message of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam".

He made these remarks at his residence here after receiving the water from rivers. streams, and oceans from these 115 countries. Shree Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra general secretary Champat Rai and Ambassadors and High Commissioners from several countries including Denmark, Fiji and Nigeria were present on the occasion.

The water was procured by

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

children.

 $T^{\text{he US military has admitted that a deadly drone}}$

strike days before its pullout

from Afghanistan was a "trag-

ic mistake" as it did not kill the

ISIS-K planners bent on attack-

ing the Kabul international

airport, and instead killed 10

innocent civilians, including an aid worker and seven

Briefing reporters on the results of the investigation of

the August 29 drone strike in

Kabul, General Kenneth Frank

McKenzie, the commander of

the US Central Command. also said it was "unlikely that

the vehicle and those who died

in the attack were associated

Kabul drone strike

killed 10 civilians,

admits **US** military



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh receives holy water from 115 nations for Ayodhya Ram Mandir, in New Delhi on Saturday

NGO Delhi Study Circle, which is led by BJP leader and former Delhi MLA Vijay Jolly. Lauding this effort, Rainath said, "Procuring water from all the countries of the world replicates the thinking of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam of India. Bringing water from 115 countries is an excellent

with Islamic State-Khorasan

or were a direct threat to

missile in Kabul on August 29,

which was launched in an

effort to kill ISIS-K planners, instead killed 10 civilians,

The strike by a Hellfire

US forces".

He hoped water from remaining 77 countries would also be procured by the time construction of the temple is completed. "We will do 'Jalabhishek' of our Ram Lala from that water." He further said construction of Ram Temple is a moment of pride for everybody adding

Continued on Page 9

Supriyo joins TMC months after vowing to quit politics

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

n a blow to the saffron clan. Asansol BJP MP and former Union Minister Babul Suprivo on Saturday quit the party and ioined the Trinamool Congress little more than two months after he was stripped of his ministerial status after which he had vowed to quit politics.

Supriyo joined the TMC in the presence of the party's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee and its Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien.

While the State BIP called it an "act of revenge", the Asansol MP said there is no vengeance in his mind and that he left his earlier party just because he was "feeling stag-nated" and the "space for work was increasingly getting narrower.... I thought my effort to serve people for several years got a full stop... why... or how... is irrelevant.

Supriyo's joining the TMC comes close on the heel of at



Abhishek Banerjee with former Union Minister and sitting MP Babul Supriyo after the latter joined the Trinamool Congress in Kolkata on Saturday PTI

least 5 MLAs, including former BJP national vice president

Mukul Roy, quitting that party. Soon after he joined the BIP, the Union Government on Saturday scaled down the armed security cover of Central paramilitary commandos given to the Asansol MP. His security cover was reduced from the second-highest level of Z to Y category, sources said.

Continued on Page 9

Boats anchored along the swollen Ganga river following heavy rain, in Varanasi on Saturday Whopping 80 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tndia has administered 80 Lcrore Covid-19 vaccine doses so far, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Saturday. A day ago, India administered the highest ever single-day vaccinations with 2.5 crore doses given in 24 hours, which Mandaviya had described as a golden chapter in world history.

In the meantime, India

reported 35,662 new Covid-19 cases and 281 deaths in the last 24 hours. 33,798 got recovered in the same duration.

the past 24 hours.

Covid cases and 131 deaths in

Congratulations to the nation on this momentous feat," Mandaviya tweeted using the hashtag "Worlds Largest Vaccination Drive". India took 85 days to touch

The countrywide vaccination drive against the coron-

avirus was rolled out on

January 16 with healthcare

workers getting inoculated in

"Standing tall against Covid-19. India administers

80 crore vaccine doses.

the first phase.

the 10-crore vaccination mark, 45 more days to cross the 20crore mark and 29 more days to reach the 30-crore mark. according to the Ministry. Continued on Page 9



A beneficiary receives a dose of Covid-19 vaccine in New Delhi on Saturday

Covid vaccines administered

Kerala recorded 23,260

CAPSULE

CONG: TMC'S ATTACK ON RAHUL UNWARRANTED New Delhi: The Congress on Saturday accused the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress of undermining the leadership of the grand old party and said its attack on Rahul Gandhi was "unwarranted and in poor taste". The remarks of the Congress came after the TMC's Bengali mouthpiece *'Jago Bangla*' ran a cover story, attacking Gandhi by saying he has failed to take on the BJP and Banerjee, who is the chief minister of West Bengal, should be the opposition's face now.

SEVEN GIRLS DROWN IN JHARKHAND POND Latehar: Seven girls aged

between 12 and 20 years drowned in a pond at a village in Jharkhand's Latehar district on Saturday during 'Karma Puja' festivities, a senior official said. The tragedy occurred at Bukru village under Shregada within Balumath police station limits when the girls had gone to the pond for immersion after Karma Puja, a major festival in Jharkhand, Deputy Commissioner Abu Imran said.

THAROOR CALLS FOR PERMANENT CONG CHIEF Kochi: Senior Congress leader and Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor on Saturday called for a party, which is 'now at an interim stage'. He said all the

permanent president to head the Congress leaders have sought a permanent president for the

RNI No. 2016/1957, REGD No. SSP/LW/NP-34/2019-21 *Late City Vol. 157 Issue 252 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

WORLD 9 YEMEN'S HOUTHIS EXECUTE 9 OVER OFFICIAL'S KILLING

SPECIAL 11 **MU-TATION WORRY**

 $B^{ ext{JP on Saturday announced}}$ two candidates for the Rajya Sabha bypolls — Cabinet Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Minister of State L Murugan from Assam and Madhya Pradesh respectively. The polls would take place on

Sonowal, Murugan

BJP's picks for RS

bypolls on Oct 4

October 4. Sonowal is the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, and Murugan is the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting.

Sonowal, who as Chief Minister led the BJP to the second successive victory in the Assam Assembly poll, was inducted into the Modi Cabinet Continued on Page 9

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

on July 7. He was compensated for leaving the Chief Minister's post for Himanta Biswa Sarma in May this year. Murugan was the BJP pres-

ident of the Tamil Nadu unit. Both the leaders needed to be elected to the Upper House before the period of six months that would end early next year. Total of six seats are vacant

in the Upper House — two from Tamil Nadu, one from Bengal, one from Assam, one from Madhya Pradesh and one from Maharashtra.

The ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) nominated Sushmita Dev, who in a surprise move recently quit the Congress and joined the TMC.

Sonu Sood, aides evaded ₹20 crore tax, flouted FCRA, alleges I-T dept

 $T^{ ext{he CBDT}}$ on Saturday alleged that actor Sonu Sood and his associates evaded tax of ₹20 crore and claimed that after the Income Tax Department raided him and a linked Lucknow-based infrastructure group, it was found that he routed his "unaccounted income in the form of bogus unsecured loans from many bogus entities".

It also accused Sood of violating the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) while raising donations from abroad.

It had launched searches against the 48-year-old actor and the Lucknow-based group of industries involved in the infrastructure sector on September 15 and the CBDT said the action was continuing.

Continued on Page 9





NOTICE

I, 14822284 M TS NK GYANENDRA SINGH C/o ASC Centre Bangalore, the name of my son ANIKET SINGH is written in my service record which is wrong. His correct name is ANSH SINGH for all future purpose

NOTICE

Be it known to all that my son Hasan Ghazali Khan whose High School Marksheet Roll No. 6928130 has been actually lost. Who has found inform at this address Aleemu Mullah Khan, Talat Apartment, Tataarpur, Sector E, New Aliganj, Lucknow Pin 226024.

NOTICE

My self Narendra Nath Tirkha S/o late Amar Nath Tirkha is owener of Bhawan H. 439, EWS, single storey Barra-2 Kanpur of Original allotment letter possession letter has lost on the way, which allotment letter to 188/D/Date 09.09.1982, which use in illegal

NOTICE

I. W/o IC-24105H Lt Col Darshan Kumar Sharma (Retd) R/o Flat No-12 D, Hestia apartments plot no 423, Vistaar Khand, Gomti Nagar Lucknow. UP-226010 Declare that my name Shankuntla Sharma in my Husband's army records in incorrect. My correct name is Shakuntla Sharma

NOTICE

In school records due to mistake my daughters name written as Aradhaya Duggal & D.O.B . 2.12.2012, whereas his correct name is Aradhya Duggal & D.O.B. is 1.12.2012. Please correct accordingly. Shweta Duggal W/o Raman Kumar Duggal 23 Gopal Nagar colony, Balaganj Lucknow.

NOTICE

Due to mistake my son's Anzar Anwer, Date of Birth writstatement of marks is 01.08.2005 whereas his correct D.O.B. is 08.01.2005. Please correct accordingly. Tamim Anwer R/o 309, Haji Bldg. Molviganj, Chikmandi Lucknow-UP.

NOTICE

I Army Service no. 15448179-W Sep/HK Bimal Kumar Yadav S/o Ramashankar Yadav residence village Dharam Makariyar, Post-Hasua, PS & Teh. Siwan, Dis. Siwan, State Bihar. Infrom that in my service record my brother's name is wrongly entered as Binay Kumar Yadav whereas his correct name is Vinay Kumar

NOTICE

No 15454482N, Sep/AA Ranjan Kumar Singh S/o Girishdev Singh, residential vill-Maripur (Kala), post Nandpur, PS-Manjhi, Distt- Chapra (Saran), (Bihar), PIN 841313 declare vide affidavit that in my service record my wife name mentioned as Anshu Devi which is wrong. In Adhar Card his name mentioned as Anshu Kumari which incorrect.

NOTICE

Army No-17004253 L MCEME Deployment Sikandrabad, the DOB 01.07.2001 of my Younger Brother AMARJEET PATEL is registered in service book and other documents like-Aadhar Card which is wrong. His Correct DOB is recorded as 27-09-2003 for all future purposes. Mahendra Pratap Patel S/o Ram Bahadur Patel, Vill-Sarai Harinarain, Post-Mandhata Sadar, Pratapgarh-UP

CM launches first prototype trains of Kanpur, Agra metro

fter the successful run of Ametro rails in Lucknow, Ghaziabad, Noida and Greater Noida cities of Uttar Pradesh, two more major cities of the state, Agra and Kanpur Nagar, are soon going to have their own metro rail services.

Making this announcement in Gorakhpur on Saturday, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for five more cities -- Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Jhansi and Meerut - were in the final stage.

Speaking at a function where he virtually unveiled the first prototype trains of Kanpur and Agra metro, the chief minister said, "I feel happy that Uttar Pradesh, the state with the largest population in the country, is operating this excellent facility of public transport in its four cities. The UP Metro Rail Corporation is working on a war footing to provide metro rail service in Kanpur Nagar and Agra."

The chief minister said metro rail was the need of the hour and it would prove a milestone in the development of Agra and Kanpur Nagar. "It is a matter of time when five more cities will also have this safe, convenient and affordable mode of public transportation," he added

It may be mentioned here that Kanpur and Agra metros will start operation from November 30, 2021. Efforts are being made to get these metro services launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

With the help of metro rail service, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a self-reliant India is also being realised," Yogi added.

During the virtual event, the chief minister congratulated all the officers and employees of UP Metro Rail Corporation including its managing director.

PDS in UP

PNS LUCKNOW

undergoes big

transformation

The public distribution system in Uttar

■ Pradesh has undergone complete

transformation as in the last six months

1,61,256 new ration cards have been made

by the state government under the

National Food Security Act (NFSA), tak-

ing the total number of ration card hold-

facilitated linking of almost 100 per cent

(99.79 per cent) of the ration cards with

Aadhaar card to bring transparency into

the public distribution system, which is a

Aadhaar card has stopped irregularities in

the distribution so only those entitled have

received the supply. Besides, the introduc-

tion of e-POS (Point of Sale) machines has

further checked corruption on the part of

leaving no stone unturned to ensure that

only the rightful persons receive the

the government to provide ration facili-

ty to even those people whose thumb

impression does not match. Such people will get the supply on the basis of OTP

received by them on their registered

ed free ration to 15 crore people in July

and August amid the ongoing coronavirus

pandemic. The monthly ration includes

three kilograms of wheat and two kilo-

department, providing ration to the poor

and needy is one of the priorities of the

the One Nation One Ration Card scheme

in May, 2020. Under the scheme, 87,239

card holders of the state have collected

ration from other states whereas 8,110

card holders of other states have taken

ration in Uttar Pradesh," the official said.

was also cancelling ration cards of those

who do not fulfill the criteria prescribed

than five acres of irrigated land, or whose

income is more than Rs 2 lakh per

annum, cannot avail the benefit of PDS

Furthermore, the state government

In rural areas, families who have more

According to the officials of the Food

The state government implemented

grams of rice to each card holder.

This year, the UP government provid-

mobile phone numbers.

Yogi government.

for it, officials said.

ration as per law.

The Yogi Adityanath government is

Arrangements have also been made by

ration dealers," an official said.

'The linking of the ration card with

Besides, the state government has

ers in the state to 3,60,12,758.

milestone in itself.

ration.



Adityanath virtually unveiling the first prototype trains of Kanpur and Agra metro on Saturday

Yogi's relentless pursuit roots out corruption

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's relentless pursuit to root out corruption in the state has started paying off as in the last four-and-a-half years of his tenure, the government departments have purchased items worth Rs 8,940 crore though Government e-Market (GeM) portal, ensuring total transparency in the dealings.

The Urban Development department has topped with purchase of items worth Rs 3,190 crore, followed by the Health and Family Welfare department which bought items worth Rs 2,720 crore through the GeM portal and the Basic Education department which made purchases worth Rs 830 crore.

The Urban Development department also hired manpower worth Rs 2,600 crore through

Besides, the Medical Education department, Home department, Information and Public Relations department, Skill Development Mission, Food and Logistics department, General Administration department and Rural Development department pur-

the corner, the work on the UP $\,$

Defence Industrial Corridor is

gathering steam and the UP

Development Authority (UPEI-

DA) has established large land

Modi visited Aligarh recently for

the foundation stone laying cer-

emony of Raja Mahendra Pratap

Singh State University. The ambi-

tious Uttar Pradesh Defence

Industrial Corridor project was

launched by the prime minister

in February 2018 and Aligarh is

one of the six nodes of the cor-

ridor, Agra, Kanpur Nagar,

Chitrakoot, Jhansi and Lucknow

agency for the defence industri-

al corridor project. The UPEIDA

has established large land banks

in the six nodes and in Aligarh

alone, 20 companies have sub-

mitted proposals for setting up

units and 19 have been allotted

able to cumulatively garner

The companies have been

55.40 hectares of land.

The UPEIDA is the nodal

being the other five nodes.

Prime Minister Narendra

banks in its six nodes.

Industrial

Expressway

chased items worth Rs 791 crore, 632 crore, 404 crore, Rs 352 crore, Rs 314 crore, Rs 294 crore and Rs 243 crore, respectively, through the GeM

It is worth mentioning here that there are 12,847 government buyers and 2,21,450 sellers on the portal, including 62,973 micro and small entrepreneurs. In the last four-and-a-half years, government departments have placed 5,86,651 orders worth Rs 13,597 crore through this portal.

The GeM portal was launched by the Central government in August, 2016, but the previous Samajwadi Party government shied away from implementing it. However, when Yogi Adityanath took over, he made GeM and Trade Receivables Discounting System (TRADES) portals mandatory in August, 2017 for sale of industrial goods in government

Uttar Pradesh has made the highest procurement through GeM portal for the third year in a row. The state was honoured earlier by the Central government with Best Buyer Award in 2018 and Super Buyer Award

investments worth Rs 1,500 crore hectares in Chitrakoot and about

thus creating employment poten- 250 hectares in Kanpur Nagar for

has shown a 200-acre piece of

land in Lucknow to BrahMos

Aerospace, which is planning to

set up a manufacturing unit

industrial corridor moving at

breakneck speed, many foreign

investors and companies are

showing interest. Recently, inter-

est in the corridor was shown by

the British High Commission

giving land and electricity at con-

cessional rates, constructing

boundary walls of the factory for

the corridor. The land allotment

has been done keeping in mind

the distance from the main high-

way and airports. For example,

land allocated in Aligarh is 20

minutes from the main highway.

land has been allocated to Delta

Combat Systems Limited. The

company is looking to set up a

manufacturing unit of cartridges

for assault, sniper and INSAS

rifles. The investment by Delta

Combat is Rs 150 crore.

In Ihansi, 15 hectares of

The government has been

too, the official added.

With work on the defence

Work on defence industrial

With the Uttar Pradesh tial for 20,000 people in the defence industrial corridor

UPEIDA said that interest in the

corridor was increasing and the

state government was looking at

allotting 30 acres more land in

the Aligarh node as more

investors had expressed a desire

Research Lab LLP and Allen and

Alvan Private Limited -- are

investing Rs 600 crore to make

drones. Ten hectares of land in

Aligarh has been allocated to

them. One investor in Aligarh

node said till date, the Aligarh

node had been able to garner Rs

1,500 crore investment and it

would shoot up to Rs 4,000

companies so far. These compa-

nies will manufacture drones,

guns, rifles, night vision goggles,

ballistic helmets along with other

equipment. As per sources, the

land will be allocated to 15 more

companies that have shown

"Land bank of 1,000 hectares has

been created in Jhansi, about 100

A UPEIDA official said:

Land has been allotted to 20

crore in days to come.

interest.

Two companies -- Encore

to set up their units there.

corridor gathering steam

Double-engine govt augurs well for development of UP

PNS LUCKNOW

What really the 'double engine' government in Uttar Pradesh means can well be understood by the quantum of Central assistance the state government has received over the last four-and-a-half years ensuring effective implementa-tion of the development

The Narendra Modi government at the Centre has given as much as over Rs 2,01,584 crore to the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh from 2017-18 till August 31 this year as compared to just Rs 1,36,832.63 crore received by the state during the previous regime from 2012-13 to 2016-17

In fact, during the previous regime, the Central government headed by Congress -led United Progressive Alliance released Rs 17,337.78 crore in 2012-13 and about Rs 22,405.16 crore in 2013-14. Ever since the Modi govern-

risen substantially to Rs 32,691.47 crore in 2014-15, Rs 31,861.33 crore in 2015-16 and Rs 32,536.86 in 2016-17 which also underlines the fact that no discrimination was made in this regard. The development of Uttar Pradesh gained momentum only when the 'double engine' government in UP was well supported by the Central government, which

paid rich dividends. The Centre sent funds for the development to the tune of Rs 40,648.44 crore in 2017-18, Rs 42,988.48 crore in 2018-19, Rs 44,043.96 crore, Rs 57,487.59 crore in 2020-21 and over Rs 16,415.61 crore in 2021-22 till August 31, 2021.

As a matter of fact, the benefits of 'double engine' government came to fore only after the Yogi government came into being in UP and received all support of the Central government for the first time in decades. The progress of UP went northwards largely because of the combined efforts Centre and in the state.

Time and again, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken about the benefits of 'double engine' government i.e. in the state and the Centre. Recently, he mentioned it during his visit to Aligarh last Tuesday.

No wonder, Uttar Pradesh reached the top position in effective implementation of about 90 per cent of the Central schemes which included PM Awas Yojana, PM Employment Generation Programme, highest jobs in MSME units, Ujjwala Scheme, Saubhagya Scheme, construction of personal toilets, Smart Cities Award 2020 etc.

This has been in sharp contrast to the previous regime as the Samajwadi Party government tried to impede the development and resisted implementation of several welfare schemes of the Centre. It denied the people of UP the benefits of Central welfare

Yogi govt has ruined UP, alleges Cong

PNS LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Congress alleged that the Yogi Adityanath led Bharatiya Janata Party government had ruined the state in four-anda-half years of its rule. The Yogi Adityanath government will complete 54 months or four-and-a-half years in office on Sunday.

The Congress claimed that UP was number one in the country in crime while all sections of society, including youth, teachers, state employees, and women were facing hardship.

Referring to the latest data of the National Crime Records Bureau, UP Congress media coordinator Ashok Singh said the government claimed that criminals were either in jails or outside the

state border but there was no let up in crime.

He said the latest report of the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) had brought to the fore the magnitude of unemployment in UP. He claimed that several thousand posts of doctors, technicians, and nurses were vacant, while one lakh posts in police force

the state. "The economy of the state is in a poor shape. The government makes a provision of Rs 200 crore for the farmers in the supplementary budget but allocates a budget of Rs 500 crore for the advertisement of false claims of development," he

and teachers were vacant in

Ashok Singh said that

ruption had deepened in the Yogi Adityanath government. He said the Yogi government's achievement was that he had played with the lives of the farmer youth in the last four-and-a-half years. He said the Yogi government was singularly responsible for the deaths due to COVID-19. He said as per the ICMR survey, the testing system in Uttar Pradesh was so poor that only one case per 100 active COVID-19 patients

was detected. He said the same was the case of dengue and other serious diseases, while the chief minister was vigorously promoting the establishment of PICU wards, 200 children died due to the deadly virus in Firozabad and Agra due to lack of med-

Three held for killing woman, her 3 kids

The Bahraich police on Saturday nabbed three killers who had murdered a Mumbai resident woman and her three children and had dumped their bodies in the thickets in Farakhpur police station area to hide the crime.

in Bahraich

The accused were identified as Nanku and his aides Salman Khan and Danish Khan, all of Farkhpur police station area of Bahraich district. The police team also recovered three mobile phones, the cell phone of the woman

The accused confessed their crime and disclosed that they slit the throats of the victims and then dumped their bodies in the thickets to hide their crime. The UP government announced a reward of Rs 1 lakh to the police team which worked out the case within one week. The team was also given a cash reward of Rs 50,000 by IG Range Deviatan and Rs 25,000 by the superintendent of police of Bahraich.

Nanku is the main culprit in the

case while Salman and Danish assisted him in the crime for money.

The woman along with her children was living separately from her husband at her parents' house in Thane district of Mumbai. She worked at a shop sell-

ing idli and dosa in Thane and came in in the shop.

Nanku, who was already married, lied to the victim that he was single and befriended her.

The woman, who had a plan to marry Nanku, had given money to Nanku after selling her small house (kholi) so that he could run his own business before marrying her. But Nanku ditched her and started distancing from her. The woman sensed foulness and pressed Nanku to marry her. To get rid of her, Nanku planned to kill the woman and her children to hide his

Nanku asked her to visit his house in Bahraich and they reached Bahraich on September 10. Ón the way, Nanku called his aides and later he killed the woman and her children, including her son, and dumped the bodies at two different places.

The police had recovered bodies on September 11 and September 12 respectively. The police team succeeded in ascertaining the identities of the deceased and worked on the case. The CCTV footage showed Nanku and his aides' presence at a bus station in Bahraich, at a hotel in Lucknow and they were rounded up.

Akhilesh underlines importance of UP polls

PNS LUCKNOW

Camajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, underlining the importance of the 2022 Uttar Pradesh assembly elections, said the passage to Delhi goes via Uttar

He said the upcoming state assembly elections were crucial for restoring democracy, secularism and brotherhood. He also said the challenge before the media was to maintain objectivity and transparency as strong journalism led to a strong democracy.

"The way to Delhi goes via Uttar Pradesh, hence, the upcoming elections in the politically significant state hold importance for

restoring democracy, secularism and brotherhood, the hallmarks of our Constitution," the SP chief said. Yadav reiterated that his party would win 400 of the 403 UP assembly seats in the 2022 polls.

He also alleged that a section of the media was creating perceptions and setting narratives to earn handsome revenue. Print media, in particular, is

facing a big challenge in maintaining fair news dissemination without bothering about revenue in the present scenario," he said. Yadav said, "Today, like politi-

cal parties, the media also face a "big challenge" to maintain objectivity and transparency without any "bias" during the upcoming UP assembly

polls so that people know the Dalit Samwad (Dalit discourse

"When journalism is strong, democracy becomes strong," he added while addressing the annual general body meeting of the All-India Federation of PTI Employees' Unions here on Saturday. Meanwhile, the Samajwadi

Party has announced a special Dalit outreach programme from Sunday across villages in Uttar Pradesh as it widens its campaign for the next year's assembly polls.

The party's Brahmin outreach

programme with 'Prabuddh Varg Sammelan' and 'Shiv Sewak Sammelan' are already underway. Now, the Samaiwadi Lohia Vahini will start organising "Gaon-Gaon

across villages)" from September 19. "The Samajwadi Lohia Vahini

is starting this programme to expose the Bharatiya Janata Party government's anti-people, anti-farmer, anti-Dalit, anti-backward, antireservation policies and to take the socialist ideology, actions and policies among the people," SP spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said.

Lohia Vahini state president Ram Karan Nirmal would take part in the programmes in Kanpur Nagar, Auraiya, Kannauj, Farrukhabad, Mainpuri, Etawah, Firozabad, Agra and Mathura, he

According to Chaudhary, the

seven-phase programme will start from Prayagraj and its last phase will be in Lucknow on December 5.

The Samajwadi Shikshak Sabha was also holding dialogues to reach out to teachers at booth level, he

The SP had started its Brahmin outreach programme from Ballia on August 23 from the village of former Union Minister Janeshwar Mishra. Its Shiv Sewak Sammelan also started from Ballia to attract Goswamis, a sub-caste among Brahmins.

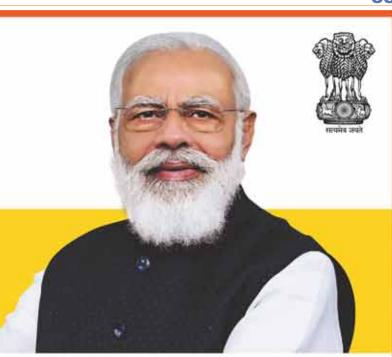
The ruling BJP is also holding series of conferences of intellectuals. The SP had started its Brahmin outreach programme from Ballia on August 23.

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Sunday pioneer | LUCKNOW | SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 19, 2021









19 सितम्बर, 2021

आओ मनाएं <mark>17 सितम्बर - 7 अक्टूबर, 202</mark>1



























- देश की सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था बनने की ओर अब्रसर
- प्रति व्यक्ति आय लगभग दोगुनी हुई
- ईज ऑफ डूइंग बिजनेस रैंकिंग में देश में दूसरा स्थान
- ₹ 3 लाख करोड़ से अधिक की निवेश परियोजनाएं प्रारम्भ 5 लाख नए रोजगार के अवसर
- वर्ष 2017 में बेरोजगारी दर 17.5% थी, जो अब घटकर 4.1% रह गई

विकास की लहर हर गांव-हर शहर

किसान हित सर्वोपरि

 ₹1.44 लाख करोड़ गन्ना मूल्य का रिकॉर्ड भुगतान
 ₹36,000 करोड़ से किसानों का कर्ज माफ • एम.एस.पी. पर खाद्यान्न की रिकॉर्ड खरीद, किसानों को ₹79,000 करोड़ का भुगतान • पी.एम. किसान सम्मान निधि से किसानों को ₹37,521 करोड़ हस्तांतरित • प्रधानमंत्री फसल बीमा योजना में किसानों को ₹2,376 करोड़ की क्षांतिपूर्ति किसानों को ₹4 लाख 72 हजार करोड़ फसली ऋण का भुगतान
 कृषि निवेशों पर देय अनुदान राशि ₹२,151.30 करोड़ हस्तांतरित • 13 सिंचाई परियोजनाएं पूर्ण, 3.77 लाख हेक्टेयर अतिरिक्त सिंचन क्षमता में वृद्धि

निष्पक्ष एवं पारदर्शी प्रक्रिया से रिकॉर्ड रोजगार

- 4.50 लाख से अधिक युवाओं को सरकारी नौकरी 3.50 लाख युवाओं की संविदा पर नियुक्ति • 82 लाख एमएसएमई इकाइयों में 2 करोड़ से अधिक लोगों को रोजगार
- एक जनपद एक उत्पाद (ओ.डी.ओ.पी.) योजना से 25 लाख लोगों को रोजगार
- 1.50 करोड़ से अधिक श्रमिकों को मनरेगा में रोजगार

भय एवं भ्रष्टाचार मुक्त प्रदेश

• जीरो टॉलरेन्स नीति से अपराधों में रिकॉर्ड कमी • माफियाओं द्वारा अवैध ढंग से अर्जित ₹1866 करोड़ से अधिक की सम्पत्तियां जब्त/ध्वस्त • बेहतर पुलिसिंग के लिए लखनऊ, नोएडा, कानपुर नगर व वाराणसी में पुलिस कमिश्नरेट प्रणाली लागू

हर बेघर को घर, हर घर बिजली, हर घर नल और मुफ़्त रसोई गैस कनेक्शन

• प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना में 42 लाख से अधिक आवासों का निर्माण • मुख्यमंत्री आवास योजना (ग्रामीण) में 1,08,495 आवासों का निर्माण • 1.41 करोड़ घरों तक पहुंची बिजली • 30,000 ब्राम पंचायतों में शुद्ध पेयजल की योजना • 2.61 करोड़ शौचालयों का निर्माण, 10 करोड़ लोग लाभान्वित • 1.67 करोड़ परिवारों को उज्ज्वला योजना में नि:शुल्क गैस कनेक्शन

मुफ़्त टेस्टिंग-मुफ़्त टीका-मुफ़्त इलाज-मुफ़्त राशन

• 7.61 करोड़ से अधिक कोरोना टेस्टिंग, देश में सर्वाधिक • 9.50 करोड़ से अधिक टीकाकरण, देश में प्रथम • चिकित्सालयों में कोरोना का मुफ्त इलाज • प्रधानमंत्री जन आरोग्य योजना एवं मुख्यमंत्री जन आरोग्य योजना में कुल 6.90 करोड़ से अधिक लोगों का 5 लाख रूपए का बीमा कवर 🔸 15 करोड़ जरूरतमंदों को मुफ्त राशन

एक जनपद-एक मेडिकल कॉलेज की ओर मेडिकल शिक्षा और रोजगार के बढ़े अवसर

• 59 जनपदों में न्यूनतम एक मेडिकल कॉलेज क्रियाशील • 16 जनपदों में पी.पी.पी. मॉडल पर मेडिकल कॉलेज की स्थापना प्रक्रिया प्रारंभ • गोरखपुर और रायबरेली में एम्स का संचालन 🍨 लखनऊ में अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी चिकित्सा विश्वविद्यालय का निर्माण प्रारम्भ • गोरखपुर में महायोगी गुरु गोरखनाथ आयुष विश्वविद्यालय का निर्माण प्रारम्भ

शिक्षा से प्रगति, देश की उन्नति

• 'मुख्यमंत्री अभ्युदय योजना' के अंतर्गत प्रतियोगी परीक्षाओं के छात्रों को नि:शुल्क कोचिंग सुविधा • 1.38 लाख सरकारी स्कूलों का कायाकल्प • 7 नए राज्य विश्वविद्यालय की स्थापना • 16 नए निजी विश्वविद्यालय • 1 लाख 50 हजार से अधिक शिक्षकों/ शिक्षणेत्तर कर्मियों की नियुक्ति

महिलाएं बनीं विकास में भागीदार

• 1.50 लाख महिलाओं को सरकारी नौकरी 🔹 बालिकाओं को स्नातक तक नि:शुल्क शिक्षा • मुख्यमंत्री कन्या सुमंगला योजना से 10.01 लाख बेटियां लाभान्वित • मुख्यमंत्री सामूहिक विवाह योजना के अंतर्गत 1.52 लाख से अधिक कन्याओं का विवाह • 55,964 महिलाएं बैंकिंग सरवी के रूप में नियुक्त • ग्रामीण आवासीय अभिलेख (घरौनी) परिवार की महिला सदस्य के नाम • 10 लाख स्वयं सहायता समूहों के माध्यम से 1 करोड़ महिलाओं को रोजगार • 29 लाख 68 हजार निराश्रित महिलाओं को पेंशन

देश में सर्वाधिक एक्सप्रेस-वे, एयरपोर्ट्स एवं मेट्रो

 4 नए एक्सप्रेस-वे
 14,471 किमी. सड़कों का चौड़ीकरण/सुदृद़ीकरण 3,49,274 किमी. सङ्कों का गङ्ढामुक्तिकरण तथा 15,246 किमी. नई सङ्कों का निर्माण • 5 इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट • 8 एयरपोर्ट संचालित, 13 अन्य एयरपोर्ट व 7 हवाई पट्टी का विकास • 10 शहरों में मेट्रो परियोजना • डिफेंस कॉरिडोर का कार्य गतिमान

63% people aged above 45 years vaccinated in UP

SHARMILA KRISHNA

Sixty-three per cent people above 45 years of age in the state have received at least one vaccine dose while 20 per cent in the same age category have been fully vaccinated so far, according to a senior official from the Health department.

Besides, 51.39 per cent people in the 19.44 recept actions.

ple in the 18-44 years category have been given at least one vaccine dose. However, he pointed out that they were unable to achieve the target of 40 lakh vaccinations on September 17 due to delay in the arrival of vaccines and inclement weather.

'Vaccine arrival was delayed to a large extent. We had made planned vaccination drives in all districts of the state as per the availability assured by the Central government and the target was 25 lakh on September 17. On September 15, we were informed by the Central government that we would be getting 13 lakh more vaccines, so we chalked out the final plan on September 15 night, according to which 40 lakh vaccines jabs were to be given on September 17. Twenty lakh vaccines had to arrive on September 16 afternoon. The stock arrived but

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, N.E. Railway, Lucknow for and on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tender for the following work.
Sl. No.-1, Tender No.:- SR-DEE-TRD LJN-OT-80, Description of work Modification/Upgradation of SP/SSP in Sitapur-Budhval section of Lucknov Division in North Eastern Railway. Date & Time of closing of E-Tender: 11-10-2021 & 15:00 Hrs., Date & Time of opening of E-Tender: 11-10-2021 & 15:30 Hrs., Approximate Value (in Rs.): ₹ 66,93,373.88, Earnest Money: (Rs.): ₹ 00.00, Tender Cost: ₹ 00.00, Work Completion Period: 09 Months., SI. No.-2, Tender No.:- SR-DEE-TRD-LJN-0T-81, Description of work: Provision of isolator and section insulator in Lucknow and Gorakhpur yard of Lucknow Division in North Eastern Railway. Date & Time of closing of E-Tender: 11-10-2021 & 15:00 Hrs., Date & Time of opening of E-Tender: 11-10-2021 & 15:30 Hrs., Approximate Value (in Rs.): ₹ 25,26,657.55, Earnest Money: (Rs.): ₹ 00.00, Tender Cost: ₹ 00.00, Work

Completion Period: 06 Months.

Note:- (1) Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received, shall be ignored. (2) For full details and submission of oid, Kindly visit the official website of Indian Railways i.e. http://www.ireps. gov.in (3) As per Railway Board Letter No.-2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/ Policy Dt. 30-12-2020, tenderers shall mandatorily submit bid security declaration in lie of Bid security/ arnest money deposit. Its details are

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD

flight returned to Delhi. When the stock arrived later that night, it took time to reach the districts. In some of the districts, the vaccines reached on September 17 afternoon. If the vaccines had reached us in time, we would have adminis-

tered at least 35 lakh jabs as against 28 lakh," he explained. Meanwhile, Organised Medicine Academic Guild (OMAG) secretary Dr Ishwar Gilada said challenges in terms of gender disparity need to be addressed through womenfriendly clinics and vaccination

"The elderly population and others who find it difficult to reach the vaccination centres need to be jabbed at their doorsteps. At no stage we can afford to be complacent with regard to vaccinations, addressing vaccine hesitancy, continued Covid- appropriate behaviour and looking for new variants of concerns through genomic studies," he said.

"Another other major concern is that of the six Covid vaccines licenced in India, we majorly bank on Covishield and Covaxin while a miniscule population has been given Sputnik V. Moderna mRAN vaccine, Johnson & Johnson and ZyKov have yet to make their debut. These three and six more vaccines are awaiting the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) nod probably from the next month, giving a major boost to the requisite quantity for the drive," he said.

Deputy Commissioner-Cum-Chairman, Micro & Small Enterprises Facilitation Council. Jalandhar, Punjab, Office of Deputy Commissioner, DAC Complex, Ladowali Road, Jalandhar Claim Case No. 386 of 2020

Palta Rubbers Pvt. Ltd., S-135-138 Ind Area, Jalandhar

-versus-Co. 7-Aalam Naga

To, M's Shiv Trading Co. 7-Aalam Nagar Lucknow (UP) Through its Prop. Mr. Rakesh Mehandisatla Alternate Address F-331-Rajajipuram Lucknow (U.P) Whereas the above named

claimant filed the above noted claim case under MSMED Act, 2006. But in spite sending notices by registered post spire sending incides by registered pos-as well as through your registered email address, you have failed to appear before this council to answer the claim of claimant.

You are hereby directed to appear

pefore the council on 29.9.2021 at 10:00 Am personally to answer the claim of which the case will be heard and decid ed in your absence in accordance with

Given under my hand and seal of the Council on this the 26 day of Aug 2021 at Jalandhar.

Member Secretary MSE Facilitation Council Jalandhar, Punjab.

About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955 Do not smoke Bidi/Cigaratte in train.

कार्यालय वरिष्ठ् प्रबन्धक विद्युत खण्ड–प्रथम उ०प्र० राज्य औद्योगिक विकॉस प्राधिकरण, ए-1/4 लखनपुर, कानपुर

ई–निविदा सूचना एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के विभिन्न जनपदों में स्थित औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में वेद्युत विकास और अनुरक्षण एवं रख–रखाव कार्यों हेतु सरकारी विभागों/ सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों निगमों) प्राधिकरणों/ परिपदों/ नगर निकायों में अहं 'ए' श्रेणी में विद्युत लाईसेन्सी फर्मों/ डीलरों/ अनुमवी निर्माता/ लाईसेन्सी ठेकेदारों से ई–निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। जो दिनांक 23.09 2021 को पूर्वान्ह 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 08.10.2021 को अपरान्ह 5:00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती हैं। जिन्हें दिनांक 11.10.2021 को पूर्वान्ह 11:00 बजे खोला जायेगा। निविदादाताओं द्वारा शपथ पत्रों की मूल प्रतियां दिनांक 14.10.2021 को सायं 5:00 बजे तक कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती हैं। ई–निविदा के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाने वाली निविदा सम्बन्धी विवरण निम्नवत् है:–

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत रु० (लाख में)	
1	Annual Maintenance Contract at Industrial Area Lakhimpur, Sandila and G.C. Shahjahanpur	33.94	
2	Annual Maintenance Contract at Industrial Area Orai, Bijauli, G.C. Jhansi & Sumerpur	34.73	
3	Annual Maintenance Contract at I.A. Faizabad Site I & II	13.29	
4	Annual Maintenance Contract at Industrial Area Basti, Deoria & Mau	20.51	

नोट:– १. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर एवं जी.एस.टी सहित दरें अंकित करें। अलग से कोई कर देय नहीं होगा।

2. विद्युत कार्यों हेतु निविदादाताओं को निविदा अपलोड करते समय ''विद्युत सुरक्षा विभाग'' उ.प्र गासन, लखनऊ में श्रेणी 'क' अनुमोदित लाइसेन्स अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होंगा, अन्यथा निविदा

को Consider नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी निगम की website:www.upsidc.com पर स्थित ई–लिंक एवं

वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक विद्युत खण्ड-प्रथम उ.प्र.रा.औ.वि.प्रा., कानपुर

Prime witness in Maaz murder 3 fraudsters held case of 2013 found murdered

PNS LUCKNOW

The prime witness in the infamous Maaz murder case of 2013 was found murdered in Indiranagar on September 13. The deceased was identified as Adeeb Ahmad of Indiranagar. In the 2013 case, the then inspector Sanjay Rai was terminated from his services and jailed for hatching the murder

conspiracy.
After the autopsy confirmed Adeeb's death due to strangulation, the Indiranagar police worked on the case and nabbed two accused, identified as Akmal and his brother Alim, both of Faridinagar in Indiranagar. Akmal's name had surfaced in the Maaz murder case for being close to Maaz's cousin sister for whom Rai had developed a fancy.

Both Akmal and Alim confessed to their crime and said they strangled Adeeb to

demanding the money they had taken from him. Adeeb's mother Husna lodged a case, alleging that Akmal and Alim made him an addict of liquor

and drugs.
Adeeb had stolen Rs 25,000 from his own house and given it to Akmal and Alim. After it came to light, Adeeb was quizzed by his mother and he confessed to have stolen the money. He had promised not to consume alcohol or do drugs in future and would dissociate himself from Akmal and Alim.

In the Maaz murder case, the shooters hired by the then Ghazipur police inspector Sanjay Rai to kill Adeeb, had mistaken Maaz for Adeeb and shot him in the night on May

In a probe by the then SSP Ravindra Gaud, the needle of suspicion had pointed towards Rai. Several raids were conducted and Rai, his aides and the shooters were nabbed. All of the accused were sentenced to jail on February 26, 2020.

Inspector Dr Ramphal Prajapati said Rai is lodged in jail at present.

Meanwhile, a 25-year-old

stone chiseler from Rajasthan was fatally knocked down by a speeding SUV in Gomtinagar police station area about a week back. However, a case in this connection was registered only on Saturday. The victim was identified as Rohitas of Alawar in Rajasthan. He visited the city two months back after being hired by a contractor at a mall. On September 10, Rohitas was going walking towards Lohia crossing around 8:30 am when he was run over by a speeding SUV. He was rushed to RMLIMS where he was declared brought dead.

The police said they were tracing the errant SUV driver. "A delay in registering the case

the disease. Covid-induced

fungal pneumonia, as the

name implies, is induced by

Covid the immunity of the

body goes down and then the

medicines, including the

steroids, further reduce the

immunity of the patient

because of co-morbidities," he

disease, the study has suggest-

ed bronchial secretion along

with blood samples to be taken

from the patient. "These diag-

nostic markers were existing

earlier but not in use. We

have highlighted that it can

help and made a criteria so that

looking at the clinical condi-

tion of a patient, the doctor can

make use of it," he said.

For the diagnosis of the

added.

chances are high that Rohitas won't get justice," a family member said.

MAN HELD FOR SHARING OBSCENE PIX OF PM

A man was arrested on Saturday for sharing obscene photos of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a WhatsApp group made by Aminabad police. The group was created recently to promote participa-tion of residents in crime prevention. The accused was identified as Mohammed Afaq Qureshi of Kasaibada locality.

ADCP CN Sinha said people of elite class are members of the group and they suggest ways for better policing and valuable information. "On September 17, an objectionable photo of PM on his birthday was shared in the WhatsApp group. A complaint was made to the police and a team immediately tracked the accused and arrested him," he said.

Construction of ABVMU begins

Lucknow (PNS): The construction work of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University (ABVMU) has started at Chak Ganjaria. Vice-Chancellor AK Singh said they have completed all the formalities of land acquisition and nod was received from various agencies after which the construction work started. The total area of the land where the university is being constructed is about 49.1 acres, of which 17 acres will be used for construction.

"The basement is being constructed for the administrative block, which includes the ground floor and eight floors. There will be a separate standalone building of the auditorium and a few residential houses," he said. He added that in the second phase, they will come up with the academic block with lecture halls.

The VC said that the state government has released Rs 206 crore for the first phase of construction which will be completed by October-November next year. "We have different targets

for different blocks. The auditorium is being constructed in the first phase for the conduct us programmes of the university. It has also been constructed earlier so that other scientific organisations can use it for their programmes," he said.

He added that their priority is to ensure that the work is completed for the first phase. The university was being constructed by the PWD.

ABVMU is a state collegiate university in Lucknow and will give affiliation to all government and private medical, dental, paramedical and nursing colleges in Uttar Pradesh. It was established by Uttar Pradesh Act No. 42 of

for selling fake marksheets

PNS LUCKNOW

Three fraudsters were arrest-Ted for selling fake mark-sheets/certificates to people in Chinhat. The operation was carried out by a joint team of the DCP (East) and Chinhat police. The accused had a lavish lifestyle, thanks to the illgotten money.

Those arrested were iden-

tified as Manish Pratap Singh (54), Amit Sisodia (both of Purana Qila area in Husainganj) and Govind Agarwal of Noida. Their aides Nakul of Ghaziabad, Samreen Khan of Aminabad and Halim Khan of Husainganj managed to evade arrest. The police recovered 180 fake marksheets, 17 stamps & inkpads, three mobile phones and Rs 28,000 in cash besides other docu-

The academic certificates vere issued in the name of State Madarsa Education Board (Munshi certificate), National Nursing Midwifery Counseling, Central Open Schools Educational Institute, Maha Kaushal Ayurvedic Board (Jabalpur), State Open School Educational Institute, (UP), Bhartiya Vaidik Vidhaypeeth (Lucknow) and Board of Higher Secondary Education (New Delhi).

The police said the accused were running the racket from a house in Husainganj.

Meanwhile, an unidentified miscreant blackmailed a jail official for money after making a video call and then creating an obscene video through morphing. As per reports, Neeraj Sahu of Dr Sampoornanand Jail Training Institute in Alambagh got a video call at 11:26 pm on September 16. The caller recorded a video of 10 seconds and then prepared a morphed obscene video. "He then called me and asked me to cough up Rs 11,000 or the video would go viral on social media," Sahu told the police.

CHAIN-SNATCHING

Two chain-snatchers deprived the wife of a retired Subedar Major of her gold chain in Ashiyana on Wednesday. A case in this connection was registered on Saturday. As per reports, Gyanti Devi of Ashiyana was on a morning walk when the accused snatched her gold

She told the police that she was on her way back home when two bike-borne miscreants reached near her. The pillion-rider snatched her gold chain and the duo sped off in a jiffy. She said the incident must have been recorded by a CCTV camera installed at the crime scene. Her husband Raj Kumar Singh lodged a case in this regard.

Bid to enhance global understanding of patient safety

Lucknow (PNS): Globally, as many as 4 in 10 patients are harmed in primary and outpatient healthcare even though it has been ascertained that 80% of the harm is preventable. In India, nearly 5.2 million people die due to inadvertent patient safety incidents, highlighting glaring deficiencies in healthcare services in respect to patient safety.

This was highlighted on World Patient Safety Day which was observed at SGPGI in order to scale up efforts and ensure progress toward increasing patient safety in the counto enhance global understanding of patient safety, increase public engagement in healthcare safety and promote global action to prevent and reduce avoidable harm in healthcare.

Chief medical superintendent, SGPGI, Prof Gaurav Agarwal deliberated on what lies ahead for patient safety in India and ways of developing a positive safety culture in hospitals. Follow protocols and checklists to eliminate errors in patient care, he said. SGPGI director Prof RK

Dhiman discussed how hospitals can play a key role in making healthcare safer, factors to consider while providing treatment to prevent unavoidable harm to patients by healthcare professionals and enhancing the quality of care. He also stressed on the importance of 'Global action on patient safety' the resolution passed by World Health Assembly in 2019.

Head of the department of Hospital Administration Dr R Harshvardhan explained the concept of patient safety, stating how the Pareto Principle must be followed in trying to minimise the harm to patients.

Further, he elaborated on the National Patient Safety Implementation Framewo (NPSIF) which aims to improve patient safety at all levels of healthcare across all modalities of healthcare provision, including prevention, diagnosis, treatment and follow up within the overall context of improving quality of care and progressing towards UHC (Universal Health Coverage) in

the coming decade in India. Head of the Maternal and Reproductive Health department Dr Mandakini Pradhan highlighted the significant burden of risks and harm women and newborns are exposed to when receiving unsafe care during childbirth.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ CORRIGENDUM No- 7 & 8 Tender Notice No. NCR-Sand7 EPC-TCAS-1 & NCR-SandT-EPC-TCAS-2 Dated 12.05.2021 for the

work of "Provision of Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), along with 48 fibre OFC as a backbone or Chipayana Buzurg (Excl)-Kanpur (Excl) and Kanpur Central-Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Nagar (Excl) Section on North Central Railway".

Due to some administrative reason the EPC tender no. NCR-SandT-EPC-TCAS-1 & NCR-SandT-EPC-TCAS-2 Dated 12.05.2021 is

er for Covid-induced fungal

pneumonia which is very com-

said that five per cent of the

patients in the ICU were

found affected by this disease.

He said they have suggested

in the study that both blood

and secretions from lung

should be subjected to test,

results of which are available

the detection of fungus earli-

er and we can begin the treat-

'This marker will help in

in 24 hours.

Dr Zia Hashim of SGPGI

mon and leads to mortality.

ment immediately. In the tra-Dr Hashim said the treatditional methods, we used to ment is not difficult but it is wait for the culture of samples important to know who has 'Need to increase expenses towards healthcare'

BJYM workers donated blood to celebrate the 71st birthday of PM Narendra Modi in Lucknow

n SGPGI study has pro- of the disease, the

Study proposes diagnosis marker for

Covid-induced fungal pneumonia

study nas

suggested

with blood

taken from

the patient

secretion along

samples to be

and it would take not less than

15 days for the results to

arrive, helping the fungus to spread further," he said.

bronchial

For the diagnosis

The Confederation of Indian Industry organised the third edition of the CII UP Health Summit in Lucknow on Saturday. Speaking at the summit, Health Minister JP Singh said there is a need to increase the expenses towards healthcare for putting in place a strong infrastructure and mass coverage. The minister said that owing to the pandemic,

the department has been able to

accelerate the geo-tagging and geo-

mapping of the state's hospital networks and monitor the performance medical college per district with a mandatory rural posting for the stuof health professionals through an application. To support the healthcare requirements of the state's population, there is a further requirement of nearly 6,000 medical professionals, he

He added that the state has also started giving counselling to young boys and girls regarding safe sex practices as well as incidents of pregnancies. The minister further said that the state is targeting establishment of one dents for the next three to five years to meet the shortage of doctors in rural areas CEO of Ayushman Bharat UP &

State Agency for Comprehensive Health and Integrated Services Sangeeta Singh pitched the idea of value extension by private players of the healthcare sector to promote the Ayushmaan Bharat scheme to prospective beneficiaries so that it becomes more lucrative.

Managing director of UP Medical Supplies Corporation Ltd Kanchan Verma said that various preparations for countering a potential Covid third wave in the state have been done factoring a 1.5 times magnitude of the peak during the second wave, including two lakh tests per day, high-end Covid drugs made available by Central government to the state, blood separator units at district level, 450 oxygen generation plants, 28,000 oxygen concentrators and giving 4 crore vaccine doses every month.

कार्यालय नगर निगम, देहरादून

पत्रांकः— ४१४ / भूमि—२०२१,

(सार्वजनिक निविदा सूचना)

नगर निगम क्षेत्रान्तर्गत निम्नलिखित मार्गो पर लगे विद्युत पोलों पर पोल क्योरक के माध्यम से विज्ञापन प्रदर्शित करने हेतु दिनांक 01.11.2021 से दिनांक 31.10.2023 तक कुल 2 वर्ष हेतु सार्वजनिक निविदा सूचना प्रकाशन की तिथि से दिनांक 12.10.2021 की अपरान्ह 2.00 बजे तक पोल क्योरक विज्ञापन की ई0 निवदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

पोल क्योस्क स्थल का विवरण	कुल पोल	निगम द्वारा आरक्षित धन
निविदा प्रपत्र के अनुसार	15477	1,05,00,000

निविदा के साथ निविदा सूचना प्रपत्र में अंकित निविदा धनराशि की 03 प्रतिशत धनराशि रू0-3,15,000 / -की सी0डी0आर0 / एफ0डी0आर0 हेत् सम्बन्धित बैंक का डिक्लेयरेशन पत्र मूल में एवं निर्धारित निविदा फार्म का शुल्क क्त0-11800 / - का डिमांड ड्राफ्ट जो नगर निगम देहरादून के नाम प्लेज होगी एवं निविदा फार्म में अंकित अन्य तकनीकी दस्तावेजों को दिनांक 11.10.2021 की सांय 4.00 बजे तक मूल में निगम कार्यालय में जमा कराना अनिवार्य होगा। दिनांक 11.10.2021 तक दस्तावेज मूल में निगम कार्यालय में जमा न किये जाने पर निविदादाता को असफल माना जायेगा। निविदादाता दिनांक 12.10.2021 को अपरान्ह 2.00 बजे तक ई0निविदा हेतु उत्तराखण्ड शासन की ई0 टैन्डर वेबसाईट www.uktenders.gov.in पर अपलोड करना सुनिश्चित करें। तकनीकी निविदा दिनांक 12.10.2021 सायः 4.00 बजे गठित निविदा समिति के समक्ष खोली जायेगी, तकनीकी निविदा में सफल व्यक्तियों / फर्मों की वित्तीय निविदा अग्रिम तिथि में खोली जायेंगी। निविदा प्रपत्र एवं शर्ते विज्ञप्ति प्रकाशन की तिथि से किसी भी कार्यदिवस में दिनांक 08.10.2021 की सांय 04.00 बजे तक नगर निगम कार्यालय में निर्धारित शुल्क जमा कराकर भी प्राप्त की जा सकती है। अधिक जानकारी के लिये निम्नलिखित मोबाईल नं0-7017981898 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है। नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम, देहरादून

CITYBRIEFS

PNS LUCKNOW

RAJBHASHA KIRTI PURASKAR



Bank of Maharashtra received 'Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar' for better implementation of Hindi. Managing Director & CEO of the bank AS Rajeev received the award from Ministers of State for Home Affairs Nisith Pramanik in a function at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on September 14. The chief guest on the occasion was Home Minister

NATIONAL WINNER

pointed out.

Bhanu Prakash Verma, a class VIII student of City Montessori School, Aliganj Campus I, earned the title of 'National Winner' in the

environment-based 'Saevus Eco Achievers Olympiad-2021'. Bhanu was presented a cash prize of Rs 5,000 along with a gold medal and citation for this achievement. A large number of students from various schools took part in the competition in which Bhanu excelled.

ENTRANCE EXAM

The entrance examination was conducted on Saturday for admission to the first phase of the PhD course of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University. AKTU Dean, PGSR, Prof MK Dutta Asha Singh, Neha Singh, Harshit Singh,

said the entrance examination was conducted for admission to PhD course Phase-1. He said about 373 candidates had applied for it. Two examination centres were fixed, one in Lucknow and another in Noida. BIET was the centre in Lucknow and JSS in Noida. As many as 232 candidates appeared for the exam in Lucknow centre while 76 candidates in Noida. The attendance at both the centres was around 82.58 per cent. The answer kevs have been made available on the AKTU website.

FOUNDER'S DAY

All the branches of Lucknow Public Schools & Colleges celebrated Founder's Day and a plantation drive was organised on the occasion. Founder-manager SP Singh, Kanti Singh, Sushil Kumar,



Garima Singh, Shikhar Pal Singh and principals of all the branches assembled in the Rajajipuram (A-Block) premises where they planted saplings. An oath was administered to the all those associated with the institution to uphold its name with respect and integrity and work unitedly to the best of their

Union Minister visits AIC BHU

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Tnion Minister of State for MSME Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma visited the Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) located on the fifth floor of the Central Discovery Centre Building (CDC) of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) here on Saturday. The AIC is an incubation centre established by the Institute of Management Studies (IM), BHU under the Atal Innovation Mission Scheme of NITI Aayog, whose main purpose is to support entrepreneurs in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship. Three years ago, on this day, the centre was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

interacted with the innovative entrepreneurs present there and discussed their start-ups. He also encouraged entrepreneurs. In the beginning, the programme started with garlanding the statue of Mahamana Malaviya and lighting the lamp. Then Director of IM and AIC Prof Sujit Kumar Dubey welcomed the guests, while professor-in-charge, AIC-BHU, Prof PV Rajeev provided the information about the centre and its activities. Young entrepreneur Kshitij Pandey apprised Verma of his developed device, which can be used very easily to measure the purity of liquids and fuels. In



Union Minister BPS Verma being welcomed at AIC BHU in Varanasi on Saturday

During his stay, Verma reply, Verma called it a very

revolutionary step Besides, Director of Acupace Technologies Sumit Kumar informed about his equipment Acu-Clean which can be used to sanitise any type of items. Sumit developed this device during the Covid pandemic and with very few resources, which is highly effective in fighting viruses and bacteria. The minister greatly appreciated his efforts. Sagar Anand informed about the self-service kiosk based postal machine equipment developed by his company Cleverso Skills India keeping in view the delays and inconveniences in the postal entry process in the impressed by his work.

Department of Posts. Alok Patel from Truetical informed about the technology of his cyber lock, which can prevent fraud in ATM cards and banks, while Director of NexriseSales Zubair Ahmad gave information about the online e-commerce platform developed by his company for upliftment of Banarasi saree weavers through which the artisans can be directly connected with the consumers. In the end, Satya Prakash Malviya, who is visually impaired himself, provided information about the work being done by him for the upliftment of disabled people.

On the occasion, joint directors of MSME development institutes of Allahabad Varanasi and Kanpur IB Singh LBS Yadav and VK Verma respectively were also present. In the beginning, the IM-BHU Director felicitated the minister by presenting the stole, while dean Prof Himendu Prakash Mathur presented a memento. The vote of thanks was proposed by Paritosh Tripathi who is also Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of AIC-BHU. Vishwakarma and AIC man-

ager Prashant Ranjan conducted the function and it was also attended by Karan Pal Chauhan and others.

surrounding areas to get vac-

Jayanti was celebrated at BLW

following Covid guidelines.

On the occasion, workshops

and workplaces were decorat-

ed with flowers, leaves and col-

orful flags in an attractive way

apart from a beautiful picture

of Lord Vishwakarma. Ĝeneral

Manager (GM) Anjali Goyal

performed aarti and offered

PCMM AK Rathore, PCPO

The function was also

Earlier, Vishwakarma

cinated easily.



Water level of Ganga rises due to heavy rainfall in Prayagraj

Pioneer

No talks of seat share yet: Anupriya Patel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Apna Dal (S) has also geared up with BJP for the 'Mission 2022' and alliance dharma will be followed with complete integrity and honesty. Both the parties will make collective efforts irrespective of personal gains. We will also get more seats than before in the upcoming assembly elections. Cadre voters are also being

made active for this. This was said by national president of Apna Dal (S) and Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel said here on Saturday.

On arrival at Prayagraj, Patel said that no talks have started regarding seats as yet. "Whether we get less seats or

till September 30. This

Swachhta Pakhwada is divided

into days for specific sanitation

related activities.

Apna Dal (S) and BJP have only one goal, that is to form a strong government. We will not let the alliance suffer," she added. For this, the party is activating a total of 16 ancillary units of the organisation.

In the context of family dispute, she said: "I go to Kanpur every month and definitely meet my mother. It is my effort and the party's effort that she joins us in the role of a mentor. We await her decision. Efforts are being made to organise the family and take the party forward".

Giving victory mantra to the party workers, she asked them to make the booths strong. "It's only then that the 'Mission 2022' will be successful. Teams of 15 workers should

Under the Cleanliness

Awareness Day on September

16, a nodal officer from all the

departments was nominated

launched through social media,

Swachh Neer Diwas, water

tanks will be cleaned and water

purifiers will be duly checked.

On September 20, as

posters and banners etc.

be formed at each booth," she said. She also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is doing a commendable job in terms of social justice. She asked the party workers to take the schemes of the government to the people as well.

CAS VISITS CAC

HEADQUARTERS: Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria visited Central Air Command (CAC) Headquarters in Prayagraj for its Annual Commanders' Conference.

The CAS was received by Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C), CAC, Air Marshal RJ Duckworth. A ceremonial guard of honour was presented to the CAS on his arrival at the Command Headquarters.

On September 23, a clean-

liness campaign will be con-

ducted by all the officers and

employees in all residential

colonies of Central Railway

On September 29, a clean-

liness campaign will be

launched by marking the toilets

installed inside the Railway

Electrification Officers Club,

Railway Colony.

In his address to the Commanders, the CAS stressed on the need for critical analysis to enhance operational preparedness, focus on maintenance practices and ensure robust physical and cyber security. He directed the Commanders to ensure that the readiness of all platforms, weapon systems and assets are kept at the highest level. The CAS appreciated the role of CAC in the recent flood relief efforts and aid to civil administration.

The CAS urged the Commanders to continue their efforts in ensuring a safe operational flying environment and stressed on the need to augment the combat capability of IAF through innovation, selfreliance and indigenisation.

Officers Rest House and office

premises as Swachh Toilet Dav.

and by marking the arrange-

ment of water drainage. All

such places where water stag-

Electrification Organisation

has always been striving for a

clean environment which is the main objective of this fortnight.

mosquitoes.

Central

Corona Warriors honoured in BL

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

 $P^{\text{rincipal Chief Personnel}}_{\text{Officer (PCPO) of Banaras}}$ Locomotive Works (BLW) Pradeep Kumar Singh felicitated frontline workers with Corona Warrior Gaurav Samman here on Saturday by giving them a letter of appreciation for their excellent work during the coronavirus pandemic period. On the occasion, the PCPO honoured the Public Relations Officer (PRO), Staff Council, SC /ST, OBC Association, St John's Ambulance Brigade, Civil Defense Organisation, Bharat and Guides, Scouts Administrative General Manager, staff working in Personnel Office and chief staff and welfare inspectors of Welfare Section.

work done by them during the during the second wave by



PCPO PK Singh felicitating PRO Rajesh Kumar at BLW in Varanasi on Saturday.

ing the first and second waves of COVID-19, BLW has prepared such a team of about 500 officers and employees, who were able to handle any such situation and ready to deal with the all the odds and they Appreciating the excellent had shown their promptness teams, they had pro maki

vided medicines, essential items of daily use to the corona affected railway employees and their families in the entire

BLW campus. Besides, with their help, 100 per cent vaccination to the employees and their families were done apart from sup-

attended by PCEE Rajesh Kumar Rai, PCME Amitabh,

> CORE takes up massive cleanliness drive Pradeep Kumar Singh, PCE Santosh Shukla, PCSC RS Chauhan, CVO Pramod Kumar Choudhary, CEE (Service & Progress) MK PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD Gupta, CME (Production) Neeraj Jain, CEE (Loco) Anant Central Organisation for Railway Electrification Sadashiv, CME (SE) Sunil Kumar, DGM Vijay, PRO (CORE), Prayagraj, as an for the cleanliness of the office important unit of Indian premises. Along with this, an Electrification Organisation, nates shall be specially cleaned Railways and all its projects awareness campaign was duly GPO, Rajapur and Rambagh to prevent the breeding of Rajesh Kumar and many othundertook a massive cleanliness drive which will continue

Indian Bank holds Exporters' Meet

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

▼ndian Bank (Zonal Office) **L**organised an Exporters' Meet in its premises here on Saturday in which the exporters from Bhadohi, Khamaria, Mirzapur and Varanasi were present. The Indian Bank's Foreign Exchange and Treasury departments at Mumbai and Chennai were also associated with this meeting through the web. Area General Manager Vinay Kumar Singh, who was present in the meeting, said that financing the exporters is a special priority of the bank.

He assured the exporters that there would be no delay in meeting their credit require- inar. The entrepreneurs comed everyone and threw



Indian Bank organising Exporters' Meet in Varanasi on Saturday.

ments and redressal of inconveniences. Interest relief, customer friendly schemes, ECGC cover available to exporters and MSME borrowers were also discussed during the semexpressed their thanks to the bank for organising this meet-

In the beginning, Deputy Zonal Manager of the bank Vijay Kumar Dwivedi wel-

light on the purpose of the meeting. Anand Kumar, Assistant General Manager (International Division), Indian Bank, Corporate Office, who took part in the programme through virtual medium, listened to the practical problems of the exporters and resolved them apart from suggesting ways to solve them. At the end of the programme, Zonal Manager (Varanasi) Rajesh said that export is a sector for which Indian Bank is committed for its expansion and promotion and today's meeting is a step forward in that direction. Selected branch managers and officers were also present in the

Over 70,000 jabbed in Prayagraj PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD Over 70,000 people were jabbed in Prayagraj on Saturday itself, health officials said. The vaccination drive was underway even at the time

> The Health department had set a target of administering Covid shots to 1.24 lakh recipients across all age groups during a mega drive on Saturday. For this, over 400

the officials said.

duty at 364 vaccination sites in

the district. At Moti Lal Nehru Medical College, as many as 1,802 people of all age groups were given the jabs on Saturday.

of filing of this report, and was Nodal officer (vaccination), MLN Medical College, Dr likely to cross the 1 lakh-mark, Utsav Singh said the 1,802 people were vaccinated on Friday, including three international passengers, 316 women at the pink booth and 95 people at guardian special

were crowded since morning. There were long queues of people in both rural and urban areas. At Beli Hospital, police had to be called to manage the

Nodal officer and ACMO Dr Teerath Lal informed mediapersons that the Saturday mega drive received an overwhelming response, and the portal showed that over 58,900

people were jabbed till 5 pm. We expect the tally to cross the one lakh mark as made on the portal. Apart from the mega drive, the Health department is also making sincere efforts to vaccinate

sible," he added. So far, over 23 lakh jabs have been administered to beneficiaries of all age groups in the district.

as many people per day as pos-

About 10 per cent of the target population is now fully vaccinated while 38 per cent of the people have been given the

True education brings freedom from all boundaries: Dipra

VARANASI (PNS): True education is the one that brings freedom from all boundaries. It is the wisdom of knowledge. It develops creative thinking, analytical ability and decision making ability in different circumstances. It opens up all our senses and organs to new knowledge in real perspective. Education has its root since Vedic period, even much ear-

In Vedic period, the students achieved education by staying in the Gurukul with their renowned gurus and learn the etiquettes & manners and different life skills simultaneously with their education, viewed Dipra Bharati, a JRF Research Fellow in Department of Education, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith (MGKV), Varanasi while talking to The Pioneer on the change in the educational system time to time.

Gradually the different systems of education came into existence like Buddhist and

Jainism and all these focus on achieving true and practical education through senses and tanmatras. Though the Vedic and Buddhist education has a feeling of spirituality, the Jainism system of education criticised the ideal worship, Bharati opined. Education cannot be per-

formed in isolation. It needs serious co-ordination and interference from both ends. In ancient times, the state had no control over Gurukul; rather they recognised and appreciated their work for social welfare. This Guru Shisya relation flourished and nurtured in such a nice way that pupils achieved the real goal of their life. She views, 'Gradually the system of education became liberal and the main motive of education was to draw all round development of children. The method of education was lecture generally with co-ordination of meditation and prac-

tices of moral values in life.' But the scientific perspec-

tive was missing somewhere in those kinds of education as a result of superstition and exploitation of rights. The women's education and education of the deprived was deeply vulnerable. Education was accessible to higher and richer classes only. Time progressed and scientific approaches merged with education, it became transparent, accessible and affordable to other sections of society.

When National Education Policy 1986 was introduced the three lingual formulas were adopted as recommended by Kotĥari Commission 1964-66. During the 80s and 90s, different distance and open universities were established to cater the learners diversified need regime. TV and radio were also used to impart education. Nowadays satellites are used to explore the field of education. Satellite facilitates education in several ways like visual classroom, distance education in two way communications. Access to education increases economic wellness, widens the opportunities for social mobility and contributes to women strengthening and empowering young girls. India has launched its first educational Satellite EDUSAT completely devoted to education by ISRO in 2004. It revolutionised the field of education as it provides two way communications. It brings the concept of virtual classroom into reality. Since the inception of the

coronavirus virtual classroom system of education through satellite has flourished and reached to a glorifying level. The satellite based education serves the purpose and need of teachers and learners to a much extent. It provides opportunities to learn as per need, pace and interest of learners. The online class has become possible due to the two- way interactive satellite network. 'We know that when there is a will there's a way', she viewed fur-

Cleanliness pledge administered to NCR officers, staff members

ALLAHABAD (PNS): General Manager of North Central Railway Pramod Kumar administered cleanliness oath to the officers and staff in a programme organised at the NCR headquarters office. North Central Railway is organising Swachhta Pakhwada from September16 to October

Everyone pledged to be committed towards cleanliness and devoting time to it. Railway employees took an oath that they would dedicate two hours per week to the cleaning work voluntarily. It was also resolved that single-use plastic items would not be used as much as possible. They also expressed confidence that every step taken towards cleanliness would make the nation clean.

Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer of North Central

with Principal Heads of Departments, was present in the programme while other staff and officers were connected through virtual medium. Meanwhile, in a significant step against the ongoing battle against COVID-19, NCR administered record 1,909 vaccine doses at different health centres. This is the highest number of doses administered on a single day as NCR is close to achieving 100 per cent vac-cination of its staff. An intensive vaccination drive was launched on Saturday and 386 doses were administered at Jhansi Divisional Hospital, 122 doses at Banda health unit, 621 doses at Prayagraj Central Hospital, 150 doses at Subedarganj health unit, 281 doses at Sub Divisional hospital, Kanpur, 88 doses at

Railway Kundan Kumar, along

Mathura health unit and 261 doses were administered at Agra Divisional Hospital. NCR has already vacci-

nated its 98 per cent of the employees with at least one

IPS DISCONTINUES FOUR VOCATIONAL COURSES: With the authorities of Allahabad University (AU) starting the admission process for the academic session 2021-22, the university's Institute of Professional Studies (IPS) has decided to make changes in the courses it offers. including discontinuing four vocational courses due to lack

of students' interest. No new admissions will be made to these courses in this academic session. However, the institute has decided to start two new five-year integrated courses from this session. Last

year, IPS had taken admission to 13 courses run by it. However, this year, applications have been invited for admission to 11 courses only. The main reason for the closure of the courses is that the interest of the students in the old courses has decreased or the course has been started under a new name. "Keeping in view the new education policy, the work of academic audit is going on at AU and under this, it was identified that there were some courses in IPS in which the interest of the students was almost negligible and there was a need to start some new and topically relevant courses. Due to this, four old courses have been done away with and two new courses will be launched," AU PRO Jaya Kapoor told newspersons here on Saturday.

LIC launches PRAGATI app for its development officers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

 $T_{\text{Corporation of India has}}^{\text{he Life Insurance}}$ Life Insurance PRAGATI launched (Performance Review Application, Growth And Trend Indicator) mobile app for development officers. This app was launched by LIC Chairperson MR Kumar in the presence of managing directors Mukesh Gupta, Raj Kumar, Siddhartha Mohanty and Mini Ipe and other senior officials of the Corporation.

'PRAGATI' is a comprehensive mobile application which gives various information which are updated in near real-time about the performance of the LIC agency force in critical areas of business performance like premium collection, agency activation, prospective MDRT/centurion agents etc, besides, monitoring the LIC team on activities such as usage of agents' mobile app and NACH validations. There is also a calculator to measure their cost ratio.

In these days of digital explosion, gathering informa-



LIC Chairperson, MR Kumar, Managing Directors, Mukesh Gupta, Raj Kumar, Siddhartha Mohanty and other senior officials at the launch of Performance Review Application, Growth And Trend Indicator ((PRAGATI).

tion is crucial for the officials to effectively discharge their duties. The scenario becomes more important when it is related to the marketing verticals of any organisation where real time data and information is the utmost necessity for decision-making and preparing market enhancement strate-

LIC has been taking a lot of customer-centric and digital initiatives for ease of operations for its customers and field force. Recently LIC launched the ANANDA mobile app which is a digital paperless solution and it received overwhelming response from its agents. The LIC has also come out with an artificial intelligence technology based app Jeevan Saakshaya, which enables the annuitants and retired employees to submit life certificates from the comfort of their homes instead of visiting LIC office for submitting life certificates. With a growing portfolio of annuities it is believed that this app is a winwin for both LIC and the cus-

The chatbot LIC Mitra ,which is available in English, Hindi and Marathi, has a daily enquiry of over 50,000 with response success of over 95 per

The customer portal has over 1.8 crore registered policy holders with over 1.5 lakh customers logging in every day for availing various ser-

The LIC believes that the PRAGATI mobile app will be a major asset in the arsenal of the development officers and will empower them to plan their business strategies and monitor the performance of

'Ozone layer conservation essential for life on earth'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Head of department of Gorakhpur University, Prof SS Verma, while addressing a webinar on 'ozone layer conservation essential for life on earth' at Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur on Saturday, said ozone protected the earth from harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun.

Prof Verma said that without the ozone layer in the atmosphere, life on Earth would be very difficult as neither plants can live and grow in heavy ultraviolet radiation, nor can the planktons that serve as food for most of the ocean life. He said if the ozone layer depleted, human beings would be susceptible to skin cancer, cataracts and impaired immune systems. He said the ozone layer, or ozone shield, was a region of earth's stratossun's ultraviolet radiation and the stratosphere, it was com-

tions of ozone (O3) in relation to other parts of the atmosphere. He said the ozone layer absorbed 97-99 per cent of the sun's medium-frequency ultraviolet light, which otherwise would potentially damage exposed life forms near the surface. He said chemicals containing chlorine and bromine atoms were released in the atmosphere through human activities and these chemicals combined with certain weather conditions to cause reactions in the ozone layer, leading to ozone molecules getting destroyed. He said depletion of the ozone layer occurred globally, but the severe depletion over the Antarctic was often referred to as the 'Ozone Hole'.

Prof Verma said ozone was being produced and destroyed all the time as well as UV-B, the sun also emitted another form of ultraviolet light, UV-C. He it contained high concentra- pletely absorbed by oxygen He said most of the computers,

molecules and never reached the Earth's surface. He said the UV-C split oxygen molecules into oxygen atoms and these single atoms then react with other oxygen molecules to produce ozone. He said ozone was not the only gas in the stratosphere as other gases containing nitrogen and hydrogen were also in the stratosphere and participated in reaction cycles that destroyed ozone, converting it back into oxygen and thus these reactions decreased the amount of ozone in the stratosphere.

He said the most important Ozone depleting substances were chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which at one time were widely used in air-conditioners, refrigerators, aerosol cans, and in inhalers used by asthma patients. He said other chemicals, such as hydro chlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), halons and methyl bromide also depleted the ozone layer. electronics and parts of appliances were cleaned with ozonedepleting solvents. He said the car dashboards, insulation foams in houses and office buildings, water boilers and even shoe soles were made using CFCs or HCFCs.

Prof Verma said that since ozone was a greenhouse gas, the breakdown and anticipated recovery of the ozone layer affected Earth's climate. He said scientific analyses showed that the decrease in stratospheric ozone had produced a cooling effect—or, more accurately, that it had counteracted a small part of the warming that had resulted from rising concentrations of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. He said as the ozone layer slowly recovered this cooling effect was expected to recede.

Others who took part in the webinar were Dr RK Dwivedi, Dr GL Srivastava, Dr Anil Sahu and several oth-

Social, emotional habits crucial for mental well-being'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

 $A^{\text{dolescence is a crucial period}}_{\text{od for developing and maintaining social and emo-}}$ tional habits important for mental well-being. It is estimated that between 10 per cent and 20 per cent of adolescents globally experience mental health conditions, yet these remain under-diagnosed and undertreated. Every hour one a student commits suicide in India, with about 28 such suicides reported every day, according to data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). Several factors determine mental health outcomes and the more risk factors adolescents are exposed to, the greater the potential impact on

their mental health. This was stated by Dr Ritu Mathur, psychiatrist at the mental health department of LLR Hospital while virtually addressing the closing function of the week-long 'World Suicide Prevention Day'. She said adolescents of current times wanted greater autonomy, pressure to conform to peers, exploration of sexual identity and increased access to and use of technology. She said violence (including harsh parenting and bullying) and socio-economic problems were recognised risks to mental health. She said adolescents with mental health conditions were in turn particularly vulnerable to social exclusion, discrimination, stigma, educational difficulties, risk-taking behaviours, physical ill-health and human rights violations.

Dr Mathur said emotional disorders commonly emerged

addition to depression or anxiety, adolescents with emotional disorders could also experience excessive irritability, and frustration or anger. She said the symptoms could overlap across more than one emotional disorder with rapid and unexpected changes in mood and emotional outbursts.

She said depression had long been linked to suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts. She said at one time depression was seen as something people just had to "get over" but in recent years, that erroneous attitude had been replaced with much more understanding.

The psychiatrist advised parents to keep an eye on their adolescent children and said as depression was quite common and in fact 30-70 per cent of suicide victims suffered from major depression or a related disorder. She said signs of depression included a feeling of helplessness, no longer finding joy in activities one used to enjoy, sleep changes, loss of energy, anger or irritability, reckless behaviour, selfloathing, and more. She said often depression indicated something else like one might feel extremely depressed at one point but suddenly the mood would lift, and one was happier than one had ever been and this could be termed as bipolar disorder, or manic-depressive disorder.

She said if one was facing severe depression, there were a few things one could do to ensure one's health and wellbeing. She advised parents to get in touch with a counselor and added that only a qualified mental health professional during adolescence and in could give the advice and diag-

nosis one needed to figure out. She said bullying by peers could add stress to a teenager's life and affect their self-esteem and this could, in turn, trigger feelings of intense helplessness and hopelessness.

She added that some studies drew a connection between teenage depression and social media use as teenagers spent more time on social media and thus tended to report higher rates of depression than their peers. She said depression was very damaging when left untreated. She advised parents to have a healthy dialogue

with their adolescent children.
PATIENT SAFETY FUN-DAMENTAL TO DELIVER-ING QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES: World Patient Safety Day this year the theme was 'Safe Maternity and Newborn Care'. The Uttar Pradesh government has introduced umpteen schemes for the welfare of patients, especially pregnant women and newborns. In the times of modern technology and diagnostic tools and the evolving complexity in health care systems, there is a rise in patient harm in health care facilities. This day aims to prevent and reduce risks, errors and harm that occur to patients during provision of health-

care.

This was stated by the Director of University Institute of Health Sciences, Dr Pravin Katiyar, while speaking about the state government plans virtually on Friday. He said patient safety was fundamental to delivering quality essential health services. He said to ensure successful implementation of patient safety strategies there was a need for clear policies, leadership capacity, data to drive safety improvements, skilled healthcare professionals and effective involvement of patients in their care. He said in the current health system there was a sharp rise in complexity in healthcare settings that made humans more prone to mistakes.

He said to err was human

and expecting flawless performance from human beings working in complex, highstress environments was unrealistic. He said assuming that individual perfection was possible would not improve safety. He said humans were guarded from making mistakes when placed in an error-proof environment where the systems tasks and processes they worked in were well designed He said thus there was an imperative need to focus on the system that allowed harm to occur, was the beginning of improvement, and this could only occur in an open and transparent environment where a safety culture prevailed.

Dr Katiyar said every year millions of patients suffered injuries or died because of unsafe and poor-quality healthcare and several medical practices and risks associated with healthcare were emerging as major challenges for patient safety and they contributed significantly to the burden of harm due to unsafe care. He said unsafe surgical care procedures caused complications in up to 25 per cent of patients and almost seven million surgical patients suffered significant complications annually, one million of whom died during or immediately following

KDA organising camp today for registry of PMAY(U) flats

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) will organise a camp for registry of flats allotted in the Ram Ganga Enclave Scheme under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) on September 19 from

This is the first camp being organised under the PMAY(U).

The salient features of the camp include the execution of registered agreement to lease. Under the Ram Ganga Enclave Scheme, as many as 576 flats have been allotted. This camp is meant for the allottees who have deposited the full amount of their share to avail of all the facilities under one roof.

According to directives of the KDA Vice Chairman Arvind Singh, officers and employees of the registrar office have been invited to be present at the camp to ensure quick disposal of the registry. The KDA has also made arrangements for online registration in the camp

The main objective of the camp is to provide housing to people belonging to the weak-er sections of society to fulfill their dreams. Senior officers of KDA, including incharge (bulk sale) and accountant, would be present at the camp. The agreement to lease would be executed on a non-judicial stamp paper of Rs.500 only. Thereafter, the allottees can secure the possession of their flats and start living in them.

Allottees who have deposited the entire amount and non-judicial stamp paper of Rs.500 can avail of the facility of executing agreement to

lease in the camp. Meanwhile, under the ongoing drive to seal unauthorised/illegal constructions, KDA's enforcement squad led by OSD (Enforcement, Zone 4) Sat Shukla sealed the construction carried out by Shamshad Hasan and Suleman sons of Shamsher on Arazi No.1115, Part (Ceiling Land), Rajiv Nagar, near Raja Ke Boodhpur, Gáddha, Machhariya, on Saturday.

Junior Engineer Rajiv

Lochan Tewari, Vipin Behari Rai, the team of enforcement/engineering department and local police force were present during the drive.

Oath administered to new office-bearers of ESIHCWU

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

State general secretary of INTUC, HN Tewari, while administering oath to the newly-elected office-bearers of the ESI Hospitals Contract Workers Union (Uttar Pradesh) on Saturday, assured to always remain at the disposal of the ESI hospital contract workers.

Union president PS Bajpai said efforts would be made to arrive at a decision on fixation of minimum wages of the contract workers. Union's vicepresident Raiesh Kumar Shukla said he would always be with the contract workers in resolution of their grievances like in the past.

General secretary Chandan Singh said as some contractors terminated the job of workers without any prior notice, the issue would be taken up by the union's senior leaders. He also demanded direct admission of contract workers to hospitals.

Conducting the proceedings, organisation secretary and district general secretary of the union Umesh Kumar Shukla spoke about the exploitation of contract workers all over the country.

According to the Supreme Court decision, contract workers should be paid at par with other workers for similar work but 99 per cent employers were not following it, he said and added that most exploitation of contract workers was in nursing homes where against duty for 12 hours, they were paid wages for four hours only. He announced to launch an agitation after the COVID-19 pan-

Union leaders Vijay Yadav, Lallan Awasthi, Raj Kumar Shukla, Rajat, Neeraj Kashyap, Rahul Kumar Shukla, Rajesh Singh, Mohd Shakil, Lalit Jha and Awadhesh were

NER GM administers cleanliness pledge

 $U^{nder\ the\ Swachh\ Bharat\ Mission\ in\ North}_{Eastern\ Railway\ (NER)\ the\ 'Swachhta}$ Pakhwada' (cleanliness fortnight) has been organised from September 16 to 30. Under it on on

Friday General Manager, NER, Vinay Kumar Tripathi administered the cleanliness pledge to the railway officers and employees at a function organised in the auditorium of Syed Modi Railway Stadium here. In his address Tripathi

while underlining the importance of cleanliness said it enhances the quality of life. He emphasised on keeping the trains, platforms and railway premises completely clean. On the occasion Additional General Manager (AGM) Amit Kumar Agrawal, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer (PCME) Arvind Kumar Pandey, Senior Deputy General Manager DK Singh, Principal Chief Operating Manager (PCOM) Anil Kumar Singh, Principal Chief Personnel Officer (PCPO) Rita P

Hemrajani, Principal Finance Adviser (PFE) Preeti Jha, Principal Chief Medical Director (PCMD) Dr V Nagaprasumamba besides principal heads of department, senior railway officers and a large number of employees took the cleanliness pledge. During the function the Scouts

of NER in order to create awareness about cleanli-ness a presented a nukkad natak (street play). In the street play the diseases caused by filth, pollution hazards and the importance of cleanliness to avoid them was depicted.

Meanwhile under the presidentship of GM the quarterly meeting of Zonal Railway Rajbhasha Implementation Committee was organised on in the GM meeting room on Friday in which Senior Deputy GM DK Singh, principal heads of department, chief workshop manager, Lucknow and Izzatnagar divisions' additional chief rajbhasha officer of various departments, senior officials, rajbhasha liaison officers, employees and other railway personnel were present.

NCL CMD visits Nigahi substation

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) Prabhat Kumar Sinha on the auspicious occasion of Vishwakarma Puja on Friday visited 3x40 MVA 132/33 kv main substation located in Nigahi area. On the occasion the company's Director

(Technical/Operations) Dr Anindya Sinha, Director (Finance & Personnel) Ram Narayan Dubey, Director (Technical/Project & Planning) SS Sinha were present. Besides, Kriti Mahila Mandal chairperson Sangeeta Sinha, vice-chairperson Suchandra Sinha and Laxmi Dubey were also present. The General Managers from the

NCL Nighai Area and headquarters also witnessed the programme. On the occasion every one offered prayers and took the blessings of Lord Vishwakarma. CMD Sinha congratulated the team for excellent maintenance of Nigahi substation and optimum utilisation of its potential. He said with the establishment of the substation NCL is getting

multi-faceted benefits and for many years to come the company will continue to get its benefits. It may be pointed out here that the 3x40 MVA 132/33 kv capacity substation at Nigahi is ensuring uninterrupted power supply for mining activities of NCL's four mega projects — Nigahi, Jayant, Dudhichua and Amlohri.

DM's directive to officials

Narendra Modi

Mirzapur

Manoj Jaiswal

said we have a

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

 $D^{\text{M Praveen Kumar Laxkar while chairing the}}_{\text{task force meeting for reviewing the activ-}}$ ities of basic education at the Collectorate on Friday warned the officials related to Operation Kayakalp to maintain the parameters otherwise remain prepared to face the music. Referring to the report in which 19 schools of Narainpur, Seekhar, Chhanbey and city blockswere found below parameter, the DM directed the officials concerned to coordinate with the ADO panchayats and fulfil them within 15 days and inform him. EE PWD was directed to identify decrepit school buildings and evaluate its cost so that materials could be auctioned to pave the way for new ones. He directed the Basic Education department officials to inform the SDMs concerned in advance about the demolished school buildings.

DISTRIBUTED: MLA (City) Ratnakar Mishra while addressing a programme on Friday as the chief guest said it was a matter of pride that we were celebrating only Vishwakarma Jayanti but birthday of PM

too. Chairman Nagar Palika

visionary PM who had initiated schemes for the uplift of each section of society now it was our duty to avail their benefits and earn not only for self but create jobs for others too. Deputy Commissioner (Industries) VK Chaudhary gave details about

the schemes. On the occasion under Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana toolkits were distributed to 207 trainees trained in nine trades along with the loan of ₹34 lakh. A loan of ₹62 lakh was given to five persons through Khadi Gramodyog under Pradhan Mantri Job Creation Scheme. Under Pradhanamntri Mudra Loan Scheme, 30 were benefitted with a loan of ₹125 lakh by different banks. The programme started with the garlanding of portrait of Lord Vishwakarma and was conducted by manager (Industries) KK Amar.

MEETING: CDO SriLaxmi VS while chairing the meeting of Zila Yuva Karyakram Salahkar Samiti on Friday emphasised on associating the youth with drives for preventing communicable diseases and voter awareness for the coming assembly election. Discussing the work plan for 2021-2022 for the youth she made it clear it should achieve the goal under spirit of Atma Nirbhar Bharat to utilise their talent for self employment. She directed Nehru Yuva Kendra to involve maximum vouth in year-long activities. PD DRDA Anay Kumar Mishra said to achieve the goal expansion and strengthening of Navyuvak Mangal Dal was the best way. The meeting was also attended by DFO, CMO, Jila Yuva Kalyan Adhikari, LDM, district sports officer and others.

ACTION TAKEN: A team led by ADM(F&R) Shiv Pratap Shukla took action against owners of seven trucks on Friday. DM has formed a three member team to check overloading. The team comprising ADM, ARTO and mines inspector checked loaded trucks near Natwaan police outpost and handed over the seven overloaded trucks to the Mandi Samiti police outpost.

'Bal Gokulam' programme organised

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONEBHADRA

Like every year, Sanskar Bharati, Renukoot, this year too while maintaining social and cultural activities organised the 30th Shri Krishna Roopasajja 'Bal Gokulam' programme online. In it 63 children

in the age group of nine months to two and a half years and two and a half years to four years after getting online registeration participated in the competition. Parents of all the participants following the guidelines of Covid-19 pandemic with great enthusiasm decorated the children in various forms of Shri Krishna from the materials available in their respective homes and sent two photos and one minute video to the organisers. The jury evaluated the decoration, costumes and expressions of the children by looking at the photos and videos sent. In the junior section of the competition, Krishiv Singh secure the first place, Chitranshi Sharma second while Raghav and Siddhant jointly secured the third position. In the senior category, Vani got the first place,

Anshuman Rathi second and Aarohi and Savi Kumari jointly got third place. Hindalco Cluster's Head of Human Resources congratulated the organisers in the prize distribution programme organised online and announced prizes for all the participating children. In successful online organising of the programme Amresh Singh, Vipul Kumar Agarwal, Naval Kishore Sinha, Harishankar Dubey, Anand Singh, Swapan Bhandari, Jitendra Upadhyay, Ajay Jha, Geeta Singh, Kshipra Upadhyay, Geeta Maurya extended their active cooperation.

Clean Station Day observed

made

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Along with the entire Indian Railways special cleanliness drive is being run in Varanasi division from September 16 to October 2. In this sequence under this fortnight September 17 was observed as Clean Station Day in Varanasi division. During the Clean Station Day observed on Friday extensive cleaning of A1 and A category stations - Banaras, Ghazipur City, Ballia, Azamgarh,



aware to keep the station and station premises clean during the journey. After thorough inspection by nominated officers and senior supervisors, availability of separate dustbins for wet and dry waste, suitable uniforms of sanitation workers, cleanliness of water booths and drinking water places etc was ensured. A feedback was also taken from the passengers from the perspective of maintaining

cleanliness at the stations. During this campaign, awareness about cleanliness is being spread in the station premises through posters, banners, 'nukkad natak' (street play) etc, Public Relations Officer (PRO) Ashok Kumar said.

INSPECTION: The Passenger Service Committee (PSC) conducted an extensive inspection at Sarnath station of Varanasi division for taking cognizance of facilities available for tourists and in the context of increasing passenger amenities and development of the station with Buddha theme. Its chairman Ramesh Chandra Ratna reached Sarnath station in the afternoon along with members of committee, Surendra Bhagat, Yatindra Singh and Ram Kishan. Chairman administered the cleanliness pledge to the employees working at Sarnath station and the daily rail passengers on the occasion of Cleanliness Fortnight being observed in Indian Railways. ADRM (Infra) Gyanesh Tripathi, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Sanjeev Sharma and senior supervisors were present with him on the occasion. Ratna along with members of the committee, first inspected the station's circulating area, premises and directed the officials concerned to beautify the station premises and main entrance with Buddhist architecture and wall painting of Gautam Buddha.

'Ultras looking for soft targets'

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Militants are looking for Lsoft targets in order to create disturbance, Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Dilbag Singh said on Saturday as he asserted that every attempt of anti-national elements to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere in the union territory would be dealt firmly.

The DGP's comments came a day after a civilian and a policeman were shot dead in separate incidents in Kulgam

Singh visited Kulgam in south Kashmir and Handwara area of Kupwara in north Kashmir where he led officers and relatives in paying floral tributes to Bantu Sharma and sub-inspector Arshid Ahmad While Sharma was killed on Friday, Mir was shot dead in Khanyar area of the city on September 12.

The DGP also chaired officers' meetings to review the security situation in these districts and directed the officers to keep a strict watch on the suspicious elements and over-

ground workers (OGWs) of militant outfits who are providing any kind of support to terrorist activities, a police spokesman said.

Senior officers of police, Army and CRPF were present in the meetings. He said Singh directed the officers to revisit the security plans as terrorists in order to create disturbance are looking for soft targets and stressed on counter strategies and preventive measures.

The DGP emphasised the officers to remain extra alert and ordered a series of counter measures to prevent incidents like the killings of a civilian and a cop in Kulgam.

Singh said protecting the lives of people is prime concern and every attempt of antinational elements to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere in the UT would be dealt with firm-

The police chief directed the officers to intensify the operations against terrorists and terror support networks and stressed that terrorists involved in Friday's killings should be brought to justice

The DGP directed the officers to augment the security of vulnerable targets and places and emphasised on putting in use the latest technology in monitoring the movement of suspicious elements.

Reiterating the importance of maintaining close synergy between the J&K Police and other agencies to meet the security challenges in the UT, Singh said the killing of infiltrators in the recent past at various border areas are the indicators that Pakistan and its agencies are making continuous attempts to disturb peace by pushing terrorists here.

He stressed upon the officers to maintain alertness on the borders and the hinterland to check the movement of anti-peace elements.

During the meetings, the officers briefed the DGP regarding the counter measures in response to the present security scenario and strategies to track down the terrorists in their respective districts, the

Earlier, accompanied by IGP of Kashmir Vijay Kumar, the DGP paid rich tributes to Bantu Sharma in Kulgam. He said in the afternoon, the DGP visited the family of sub-inspector Arshad Ahmad Mir and expressed solidarity

with the bereaved family. Singh assured that every support would be provided to the family. A large number of people from the village who had come to condole the death of Ahmad interacted with the DGP, the spokesman said.

TERRORISTS ATTACK SECURITY FORCES IN SRINAGAR

Militants fired at a securi-ty forces' party in Noorbagh locality here on Saturday but there was no loss of life, police

"A small team of Police while laying cordon came under fire from #terrorists in Noorbagh #Srinagar," the Kashmir Zone Police said on its official Twitter handle.

Police said while the militants managed to escape, they left behind some arms.

"Seems terrorists managed to escape after dropping their #weapons 01 pistol & 01 AK 47," they said.

Security guard held for sexually harassing 11-year-old girl

Mumbai: A security guard has been arrested for allegedly sexually harassing a 11-year-old girl of the housing society where he worked for over a month in the eastern suburb of Kanjurmarg here, police said on Śaturday.

The matter came to light when the victim's father lodged a complaint with the police on Friday after she confided in her parents about the harassment, an official said.
The 29-year-old accused,

a resident of Hanuman Gully in Kanjurmarg, had allegedly been harassing the girl since August 15, he said.

A case has been registered under section 354(A) (assault or criminal force to a woman intending to outrage her modesty) and relevant provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the official said.

The accused was produced before a court, which remanded him to police custody till September 22, he added. PTI

इंडियन बैंक

🛕 इलाहाबाद

Name of

Account

M/s Rajesh

Brothers

Prop.Smt

Vimla Devi

Branch:

Varanasi

Daffi

M/s

Nageshwar

Prasad

Telecom

Prop.Mr

Madhusuda

n keshari

Branch:

Kachnar

Date: 19.09.2021

Mumbai Police on high alert ahead of last day of Ganesh festival Mumbai: Mumbai Police is on

high alert and security has been beefed up across the city for the 10th and last day of immersion of Ganesh idols on Sunday, especially in the wake of recent arrests of terror suspects, an official said.

The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad on Friday nabbed one person from Mumbai in connection with an alleged terror plot unearthed by Delhi Police.

The ten-day Ganesh festival will come to an end on Sunday. The celebrations have been subdued this year due to the restrictions imposed in view of the coronavirus pandemic. Processions, the hallmark of immersion days, are banned.

Anti-sabotage measures are being taken and security around vital installations has been increased, said deputy commissioner of police S Chaitanya, the Mumbai police's spokesperson, on Saturday.

Apart from intensified patrolling in sensitive areas, there will be heavy deployment of security personnel at immer-

nterest and other charges and expenses thereon are given below.

Borrowers/Guarantors

Varanasi.U.P.-221011.

(Borrower)

Vimla Devi R/o Bachhaon, Distt.

Maurya R/o Bachhaon, Distt.

3. Shri Raju Maurya S/o Badri Prasad

1.M/s Nageshwar Prasad Telecom

Prop.Mr Madhusudan Keshari R/o

Mr. Madhusudan Keshari S/o Shri

Ram Keshari R/o Nagar Panchayat,Gangapur,Varanasi,Uttar

Pradesh-221302. (Proprietor)
3. Mrs. Rekha Keshari W/o Mr.

Madhusudan Keshari R/o Nagar

Panchayat,Gangapur,Ward No

8.Pargana-Kaswar Raja.Tehsil

Rajatalab, Distt-Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

221302. (Guarantor/Mortgagor)

Kachnar Rajatalah Varanasi-221311.

Maurya R/o Bachhaon, Distt. Varanasi, U.P.-221011. (Guarantor)

(Proprietor/Mortgagor/Guarantor)

Varanasi, U.P.-221011. (Borrower)

Indian Bank

This demand Notice id hereby given under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcemer

(Security) Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) read with rule 3, of the security interest (Enforcement) rules 2002 hereinafter calling upon the

under mentioned borrowers/guarantors to repay the amount outstanding for the credit facilities granted to them / on their guarantee within 60 days from the date of this notice if you fall to repay to the bank the below mentioned amount , with further interest and

ncidental expenses, costs etc. in terms of the notice u/s 13(2) of the act, the bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-

section (4)of the section 13 and under other applicable provisions of the said act. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub-

section (13) of section (13) you shall not transfer by sale. lease or other wise the said secured assets detailed below of this notice

without obtaining written consent of the bank . the details of the accounts and secured assets along with amount outstanding with

1.M/s Rajesh Brothers Prop. Smt All that Part and Parcel of the property at Arazi No.

2. Smt. Vimla Devi W/o Badri Prasad Varanasi,in the name of Smt Vimla Devi W/o Late

Boundaries

Badri Prasad Maurya.

Madhusudan Keshari

Boundaries

Boundaries

South - Part of land Smt. Devi

W/o Mr. Madhusudan Keshari.

ALLAHABAD



Municipal council workers carry an idol of Lord Ganesha on a boat to immerse in the Krishna-Koyna river during Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations in Karad district on

sion points, he said.

Ēxtra lights, cranes, swimmers/life guards, ambulances and fire brigade teams would be arranged to handle any eventuality, he added.

As many as 100 additional officers and 1,500 personnel from the Local Arms and other branches will be deployed, the DCP said. Besides, at least

Details of Mortgage Property

205, Area 2720 sq. ft. or 252.78 sq.mtr. Mauza-

Bachhao Pargana-Kaswar Raja, Tehsil & Distt-

East - Kachcha rasta 10 kadi, West - Part of land

Smt. Devi., North - Arazi No. 199 Naveen Parati,

1. All that Part and Parcel of the property at Arazi

No. 403/1, Area 2402.8675 sq. ft. i.e. 223.31

sq.mtr. Mauza- Zamin Hikmat Shahpur, Pargana-

Kaswar Raja, Tehsil-Rajatalab, Distt- Varanasi in

the name of Mrs. Rekha Keshari W/o Mr

East - Akelwa to Mohansarai link marg, West

Land of Sanjay Singh S/o Kamla Singh and others , North - Land of others, South - Land of Seller.

2. All that Part and Parcel of the property at Arazi

No. 932, Area 0.025 Hectare i.e. 252.78 sq. mtr.

Vill. - Kachnar, Pargana-Kaswar Sarkari, Tehsil &

Distt-Varanasi, in the name of Mrs. Rekha Keshari

ast - Kachcha Chakroad 10 kadi thereafter land

of others, West - Khet of Lalta, North - Bhawan of Harinath, South - Khet of Kallu and others

three companies of the State Reserve Police Force (SRPF), one company of CRPF, 500 home guards and 275 constables from outside units will be stationed in the city.

The police are also keeping tabs on known criminals and have increased surveillance at hotels, lodges, vital installations and sensitive locations. PTI

Demand Notice

Date & Amount

28.06.2021

1397304.00

Intt. and other

legal and

banking

expenses at

21.08.2021

Rs 2959689.56

Intt. and other

banking

expenses at

plicable rate

Authorized Officer

Indian Bank

Zonal Office: S 19/33, Ekram Khan Building,

Nadesar, Varanasi. Ph.: 0542-2505443,

Email: zovaranasi@indianbank.co.in

Demand Notice

PORNOGRAPHY CONTENT CASE

Raj Kundra seeks bail, court to hear plea tomorrow

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Three days after the Crime Branch sleuths of the Mumbai Police filed a comprehensive supplementary chargesheet against him in the in the alleged pornography content case, Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty's husband and businessman Raj Kundra on Saturday moved a bail application before a city court.

Kundra's bail application filed through his lawyer Prashant Patil – is expected to come up for hearing on Monday.

Kundra, whose earlier bail applications have been rejected, has told the court that after the first charge-sheet was filed against nine other accused in the case, eight were released on bail. He went on to seek bail on grounds of parity with the other accused already released

bail. Kundra has made a case for his bail by saying in his application that since the Mumbai Police had already filed a charge-sheet, it was clear that the investigations the crime. he was now entitled for bail.

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Less than a month ahead of the launch of the flight

operations at newly developed

Chipi Airport in coastal

Konkan region, Messrs IRB

Sindhudurg Airport Pvt. Ltd., a Special Purpose Vehicle

(SPV) of IRB Infrastructure

Developers Ltd. has received an

Aerodrome License from the

Director General of Civil

Aerodrome License, the

Company can now go ahead

and launch flight operations

from newly developed Chipi

Airport in Sindhudurg district

of coastal Konkan region, from

October 7, 2021 as planned ear-

lier. There was an informal

announcement earlier that

Chief Minister Uddhav

Thackeray would formally

throw open the Chipi airport

for air traffic on October 7.

Initially, intra-state flights

would be operated from this

airport. Later on, the Chipi air-

connectivity to Goa, Karnataka,

Kerala, Tamil Nadu and a cou-

an Aerodrome License to Messrs IRB Sindhudurg

Airport Pvt. Ltd by the DGCA,

a company spokesperson said:

The licence authorises the

Announcing the grant of

ple of other states.

with

Aviation (DGCA).

Armed

associated with a company which owns the apps, HotShot and Bollyfame for only 10 months.

Kundra, who was arrested on the night of July 19 in connection with a complaint registered by the Crime Branch in 2021, has been booked under Sections 292, 293 (sale of obscene material) under the Indian Penal Code, Sections 66E, 67, 67A (transmission of sexually explicit material) under the Information Technology Act and provisions of the Indecent Representation of Women

(Prohibition) Act. Kundra, who lives in Mumbai with his wife Shilpa Shetty and two children, had earlier told the court that there was no evidence to link him against the HotShot App and was being made a 'scapegoat'. He had submitted to the court that he had been falsely implicated in the case while the Cyber Cell was making an attempt to connect him with

Viaan Industries Ltd, and his year-old Kundra has denied

DGCA grants aerodrome

departure to all persons on

equal terms and conditions by

aircraft requiring specifica-

tions of runway and associat-

ed facilities including granted

exemptions equal to or less

than those indicated in the

occasion, Chairman &

Managing Director of the

Company Virendra D.

Mhaiskar said: "We are very happy to achieve yet another

milestone in the current year

and see the airport receive

licence to operate after success-

ful completion. With a conces-

sion period of over 90 years and

a compelling regional proposi-

tion, it offers meaningful

gratitude to all Authorities and

Stakeholders for extending their

valuable cooperation and sup-

port in bringing up this

new facility. We now look for-

ward to opening the facility

for airline operators and the

the cost outlay of approx. Rs.800

Crores and concession period of

above 90 years is the first of its

kind in the South Konkan

Region, which is aimed at estab-

lishing and enhancing air con-

nectivity of the region with

Sindhudurg Airport with

"We express our sincere

avenues of growth."

port would offer inter-state general public soon," Mhaiskar

While commenting on the

Aerodrome Manual."

ular place of landing and southern States Mumbai and

licence to Chipi Airport

Among other things, he has told the court that he was er-in-law Pradeep Bakshi, the er-in-law Pradeep Bakshi, the Chairman of Kenrin Group, London, have been named masterminds of the porn content racket.

> In April this year, the police had filed its first charge-sheet in the case against nine persons originally accused. After subsequent investigations, the police arrested two more ccused, including Kundra

> Earlier, nine persons had been arrested. They comprised television actress Gehna Vashisht (32) Yasmin Khan (40) Monu Joshi (28) Pratibha Nalavade (33) Atif Ahmed (24), Dipankar Khasnavis (38), Bhanusurya Thakur (26) Tanvir Hashmi (40) and Umesh amat (39).

The HotShots app --described as the "world's first 18+ app" showcasing some of the hottest models and celebs globally in exclusive photos, short films and hot videos (implying soft-to-hard porn) – was removed from mobile platforms. Similarly, Apple and Google have removed the app because of the pornographic

subsequently to all regions of the

of 2500 metre length and 45

metre width, which can be

extended by another 1,000

metres. The airport can handle

up to 400 passengers or two

beauty, ancient temples, sea and

land forts, a rich cultural her-

itage, unique lifestyle and major

generate the passenger

traffic, but also it will be a boon

for economic development of

the region as it will facilitate

and boost cargo transportation,

generate direct as well as an

indirect employment and

other business opportunities for the local people," Mhaiskar

to become a cargo hub of the

Western Region as there is

Cargo; and is expandable to

meet the future growing needs,"

"The airport has potential

"The Airport will not only

historical landmarks.

million passengers.

The airport has a runway

any involvement and has claimed that he had sold the "Hotshots" app to Pradip Bakshi. However, the police said Mr Kundra was kept in the loop about the finances of the

The two Kundra-linked firms — Viaan and Kendrin made available porn content on mobile apps, offering subscriptions akin to the mainstream OTT platforms, advertise them on social media, all of which were illegal as pornography in any form is banned in India.

The laws against publishing and transmitting "obscene material" are considered illegal in the country, while watching pornography in private is legal

The modus operandi involved in the production and circulation of pornographic films was: the porn films were allegedly shot in India, transferred using WeTransfer to the UK and released as paid mobile apps there.

The police said that Kundra had allegedly also set up a WhatsApp group on which matters relating to the production, distribution and selling of Hotshots clips were

November 1

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday.

flights per hour with an estimated annual capacity over a The airport can handle aircraft like A-320 and B-737 which would give a huge fillip to tourism in Konkan, known for its long and picturesque coastline, dazzling beaches, big opened by November 15. and small rivers, creeks, abundant greenery and natural Stringent measures are

ample space for handling the

Kerala to reopen schools from

Schools in Kerala would be re-opened on November 1, after 18 months of Covid-19 induced lock down. This was decided in the review meeting convened by Chief Minister

November 1 is the anniversary of the formation of the State of Kerala. The chief minister has instructed the authorities that primary schools and 10th, 11th and 12th standard classes should start functioning from November 1 and the remaining classes to be re-

being taken by the Department of Health to ensure that the children are fully protected from Covid-19 attack. The State continues to be under the spell of the pandemic as 19, 325 out of the 1.21 lakh persons tested on Saturday were diagnosed with Covid-19. The Test Positivity Rate as on Saturday was 15.96 per cent while 143 patients succumbed to the pandemic. Though the situation in the State is far from satisfactory, the Kerala Government is going ahead with the reopening of schools and educational institutions. The review meeting held on Saturday decided not to allow dining in hotels and consumption of spirits in bars or pubs.

For Commission & Omission in Publication, Please contact with the branch or Zonal Office. बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda 1 DENA

ROSARB, KANPUR Branch Address: 3rd Floor, 118/330, Gumti No. 5, Kaushalpuri, Kanpur-208 012 • Ph.: 0512-2215173

e-mail: sarkan@bankofbaroda.co.in Sale Notice For Immovable Properties "APPENDIX-IV-A [See Proviso to rule 6(2) & 8 (6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable assets under the securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial assets are Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Read with Proviso to Rule 6(2) & Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, possession of which has been taken by the authorised officer of Bank of Baroda as Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is," "As is What is," and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Secured assets/dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date and time. EMD and Bid increase are mentioned below.

Date of e-Auction: 08-10-2021 Last Date of EMD Submission: 07-10-2021 upto 4.00 PM							4.00 PM
SI. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers / Guarantors	Description of Immovable Property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues	Date & Time of e-Auction	Reserve Price/EMD/ Bid increase Amount	Status of Possession (Constructive/ Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time
1.	Borrower: M/s Vikrant Trading Corporation, Proprietor: Shri Vikrant Sharma S/o Shri Avadhesh Sharma, Address: 6 Nagwa, Swarn Jayanti Vihar, Kanpur & Also at House No. 2/87-B, LIG, Swarn Jayanti Vihar, Satbari, Kanpur. Guarantor: Smt. Rekha Sharma W/o Shri Avadhesh Sharma, R/o: House No. 2/87-B, LIG, Swarn Jayanti Vihar, Satbari, Kanpur.		Rs.52,47,621.67 +Intt. and other charges (Minus amount if any paid after the demand notice or possession notice)	08-10-2021 between 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm	₹ 34,34,000/- (RP) ₹ 3,44,000/- (EMD) ₹ 25,000/- (Bid increase Amount)	Constructive	06-10-2021 between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
2.	Borrower: M/s Le Mart International, Proprietor: Shri Riyaz Akhtar S/o Ahmad Ali Ansari, R/o: 36/1, Pragati Vihar, Gajjupurwa, Kanpur. Guarantor: Smt. Amna Khatoon W/o Ahmad Ali Ansari, R/o: 4/6, Ganga Vihar, KDA Colony Jajmau, Kanpur.	House No. 36/1, Gajjupurwa, Kanpur in the name of Smt. Amna Khatoon. Area: 272.53 Sq. Mtr., Bounded-North: Plot No. 35 of Rashid Ahmad & Anwar Iqbal, South: Open Arazi Land, East: Property of M/s Prakash Pen Co., West: 30 Ft. Road.	Rs.25,46,410.67 +Intt. and other charges (Minus amount if any paid after the demand notice or possession notice)	08-10-2021 between 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm	₹ 49,50,000/- (RP) ₹ 4,95,000/- (EMD) ₹ 25,000/- (Bid increase Amount)	Constructive	06-10-2021 between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
3.	Borrower: M/s Vishal Traders, Address: 75/104, 105, Ranjeet Purwa, Halsi Road, Kanpur Nagar. Proprietor: Sri Vishal Agarwal, S/o Late Jagdish Prasad Agarwal R/o: 48/237, Sarai Lathi Mohal, Kanpur Nagar.	Equitable mortgage of Land & Building Situated at 48/273, Chak No. 48, General Ganj, Kanpur in the name of Sri Vishal Agarwal.Area: (1) Undivided Area 73.74 Sq. Mtr. (1/2 of Total 147.48 Sq.Mtr.), (2) Covered Area: Ground Floor-123.09 Sq.Mtr., First Floor-123.09 Sq.Mtr., Total: 369.27 Sq.Mtr., Bounded-North: House No. 48/272 of Mrs. Geeta Arora, South:House No. 48/274 of Mr. Ramesh, East: 8 Ft. Street, West: 5 Ft. Street.	Rs. 34,45,854.00 +Intt. and other charges (Minus amount if any paid after the demand notice or possession notice)	08-10-2021 between 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm	₹ 34,93,000/- (RP) ₹ 3,50,000/- (EMD) ₹ 25,000/- (Bid increase Amount)	Constructive	06-10-2021 between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
4.	Borrower: M/s Radha Kishan Foods, Address: House No. 48/273, Sarai Lathi Mohal, Generalganj, Kanpur. Proprietor: Shri Sanjay Agarwal S/o Late Jagdish Prasad Agarwal R/o H.No. 75/104 & 105, Ranjitpurwa, Halsi Road, Kanpur.	House No. 48/273, Sarai Lathi Mohal, Chak No. 48, Generalganj, Distt. Kanpur in the name of Shri Sanjay Agarwal, Area: 73.74 sq.mtr. Bounded-North: House No. 48/274, Geeta Arora, South: House No. 48/274, Ramesh, East: 8 Ft. Street,	Rs. 30,19,986.00 +Intt. and other charges (Minus amount if any paid after the demand notice or possession	08-10-2021 between 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm	₹ 29,86,000/- (RP) ₹ 2,99,000/- (EMD) ₹ 25,000/- (Bid increase	Constructive	06-10-2021 between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

West: 5 Ft. Street For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Bank of Baroda secured website i.e. www.bankofbaroda.in/eauction.htm, & e-bikray, https://ibapi.in. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorised officer on Mobile No. 7080701712

Place : Kanpur

Mhaiskar added. Western Maharashtra, Mumbai, Aerodrome to be used as reg-Teen rapes 15-year-old girl, uploads video of act, held

PTI ■ MAHOBA (UP)

 $T^{
m he}$ police here on Saturday arrested an 18-year-old boy for allegedly raping a minor girl and posting a video of the act

online, officials said. The 15-year-old victim has been sent

Police (ASP) Rajendra Kumar Gautam said. On the complaint of the victim's father, the accused was taken into custody and a case registered at Kotwali Nagar police station.

said.

Quoting the victim, Station House tening to the accused, he made the video to a Government hospital for medical Officer (SHO) Balram Singh said the inciviral," the SHO said.

examination, Additional Superintendent of dent took place in August when the arrestee made an obscene video with the victim. He threatened to post it on social media and raped her several times later, according to the complaint.

"The victim said when she stopped lis-

Disruptions of proceedings contempt of House: Naidu



In a first of its kind observation by any presiding officer of the legislatures in the country and in the context of rising disruptions, Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday unequivocally held that disruptions of proceedings amount to contempt of the House and disruptors can't claim it as their privilege to do

Delivering the second Ram Jethmalani Memorial Lecture on "Is disruption of parliamentary proceedings an MP's privilege and/or a facet of parlia-mentary democracy?" Naidu spoke at length on the intentions of various rules and other provisions requiring high standards of behaviour of MPs in the House and the scheme of privileges and argued that disruptions negate the objective of



effective performance by individual members and of the House collectively. Speaking on disruptions

in the Parliament, Naidu informed that the productivity of Rajya Sabha is being quantified since 1978 and during the first 19 years till 1996, the productivity of the House has been over 100% and has begun to decline since then. While the House clocked annual productivity of over 100% during 16 of these 19 years, it was so only in two years in 1998 and 2009 during the next 24 years and not even once in the last 12 years.

The Chairman further said that the productivity of Rajya Sabha during 2004-14 has been about 78% and it declined to about 65% since then. Of the 11 sessions that Shri Naidu presided over, four of them clocked low productivity of 6.80%, 27.30%, 28.90% and 29.55% and during the year 2018, the Rajya Sabha recorded the lowest ever productivity of 35.75% under the impact of disruptions, he stated.

During the last monsoon session (254th), the Rajya Sabha lost more than 70% of the scheduled time including over 76% of the valuable Question Hour time, the Chairman

Since the Rajya Sabha came into being in 1952, only 10 suspended for misconduct inside the House during the first 57 years while 18 were also suspended in the last 11 years including 9 in the

Giving this information,

pensions do not reflect the gravity of the situation since such actions were not taken on all occasions for various rea-

Seeking to answer in the negative, if disruption can be claimed as a privilege by MPs, Chairman Naidu argued that the Rules of the House, the Code of Conduct, the detailed Parliamentary Etiquette to be complied with by the Members of Rajya Sabha were clearly aimed at ensuring a high standard of behavior of members inside the House befitting the solemnity of proceedings of the House while the scheme of privileges granted to the Members are intended to enable effective performance of the Members individually and of the House collectively.

He asserted that accordingly, disruptions negate the principle of effective functioning of the House besides being against the wishes of the peo-

Earlier in his speech, Naidu described Jethmalani as a rebel and radical thinker who brought innovation to legal inquiry and opened new vistas of interpretation and opportunities in every major case he a r g u e d during his 77 year long and suc-

cessful career as a leading

Unforgettable moment: Modi on 2.50 cr shots on his b'day

Panaji: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said it was an unforgettable and emotional moment for him as over 2.50 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses were administered in the country on his 71st

"With your efforts, India has created a world record of administering over 2.5 crore vaccines in a single day, a feat not even the most powerful nations have been able to achieve," PM Modi said during an interaction via video link with healthcare workers and beneficiaries in Goa.

'We saw how the nation kept looking at CoWIN dashboard yesterday. Over 15 lakh vaccinations per hour, over 26,000 vaccinations every minute took place yesterday. Over 425 people were administered vaccines each second,"

PM Modi said he appreciates all doctors, medical staff, and people in administration in the country for this effort. The huge effort and skilled manpower needed to accomplish this task show the might of India, he added.

"Birthdays come and go

things. But yesterday was emotional for me. It has become an unforgettable occasion for me," PM Modi said.

Without naming any party, PM Modi said "a political party" developed fever after over 2.5 crore vaccine doses were administered on his birth-

"People speak of fever as a side effect of vaccines. but a political party experienced fever after 2.5 crore vaccines were administered on my birthday," he said.
PM Modi praised Goa
Chief Minister Pramod Sawant

and his government for over-coming challenges in accomplishing 100 per cent vaccination of the first dose of covid vaccines in the coastal state.

Goa is on way to becoming a leading state in India as far as vaccination is concerned, PM Modi said.

"Goa is playing important role in the success of the world's largest and fastest vaccination drive - 'Sabko vaccine, muft vaccine'. In the past few months, Goa fought bravely against heavy rainfall, cyclone and flood, under the leadership of Pramod Sawant," he said.

When they are aware that



PM should daily celebrate his b'day, Cong takes a dig

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi should celebrate his birthday every day as some BJP-ruled states "performed" on the day and vaccinated many times the daily average, the Congress said on Saturday.

The party took a dig at Modi a day after India achieved the highest record of 2.5 crore Covid-19 vaccinations on a

single day. The Prime Minister's reaction came after senior leader Congress Chidambaram tweeted asking

all people are vaccinated,

why we had to wait until the PM's birthday. "Happy and grateful that 2.5 crore vaccinations were administered vaccines yesterday But why did we have to wait until the PM's

b i r t h d a y ? Suppose the PM's birthday was on December 31 then would the 2.5 crore vaccinations have been done only on the last day of the year? Vaccination is not like cutting a cake on a birthday," he tweeted. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said this is the pace of vaccination the country needs.

flock to Goa in more numbers,

Taliban trying to sell leftover US weapons to overcome fin crisis

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

 $F_{ ext{Taliban is negotiating with}}^{ ext{acing financial crunch,}}$ African countries to supply leftover American weapons. In lieu of the weapons, the outfit is seeking payments in diamonds to trade the same through white channels in the international markets.

The African diamonds are globally reputed to be of high quality and the Taliban is aiming to offset the financial crisis amid pending recognition of its regime from the international market and a drought in staring Afghanistan.

The crisis is such that the Taliban has started selling off seized properties of the political and ideological opponents. A number of such properties have already been sold off to the Pakistanis based in Kandahar. Several also on the block.

In view of the financial mess the country is going through, the Taliban has sought aid from a number of countries like Germany and Iran as also from the international community.

In addition, the Taliban has already invigorated the drug cartel in collusion with the Pakistani military-ISI syndicate to the Al Qaeda affiliates in Africa like the Boko

Haram and Al Shabab. Founder President of the Afghanistan Republic Salvation Front and counterterrorism expert Ajmal Sohail

said, "Taliban is essentially a terrorist or an insurgent organization that has been involved in drugs trade and smuggling of antiques and has also relied on funding from the Sheikhs of the Gulf countries. But such funds cannot sustain a government at the helm in Kabul. Running a government is an altogether different ballgame than operating a guerilla organization. Having realized the constraints of governance, the Taliban is already amplifying messages of an inclusive government and respect of human rights, all of which are aimed at seeking recognition for its regime and subse-

quently gaining access to international funding." Meanwhile, attacks on Pakistani troops continue in Pashtun dominated areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Tehrik-eTaliban Pakistan (TTP) reportedly attack Pakistani military post in Bajaur late last night.

Quoting sources on the ground, Sohail said several Pak soldiers were killed and wounded in the attack by the

A spokesman for the Pakistani Taliban said in a statement that they had targeted a Pakistani military post in the Nawagai area of Bajaur, killing and wounding the mil-

The TTP is a breakaway faction of the Afghan Taliban active in Pashtun dominated areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

SC favours disbursal of Maha's ₹25cr to Covid-orphaned kids



The Supreme Court is in favour of disbursing the over ₹25 crore deposited by the Maharashtra Government in the apex court registry five years ago to children who lost both parents during the Covid pandemic in the State.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and B V Nagarathna noted earlier this week that the state has about 19,000 children who lost a parent due to Covid-19 and 593 who lost both their par-

Maharashtra, one of the worst affected states during the second wave of pandemic earlier this year, had deposited the money in the apex court registry in an old

matter related to medical college admissions.

The Supreme Court noted that the government of Maharashtra formulated a policy on June 17, 2021 envisaging that Rs 5 lakh be placed in fixed deposit for children due to the pandemic and the money will be payable to them after they attain the age of maturity.

The amount of ₹20 crores which was deposited (by Maharashtra government) in pursuance of the order dated December 2, 2016 enhanced to ₹25,53,25,548 as a result of accretions of interest," the

The top court said before it directs the disbursal of the

money to the State of Maharashtra, it wants that a concrete statement be placed on affidavit about the manner in which the money will be utilised for the benefit of children affected by the death of either or both parents due to the Covid pan

'The Secretary, Women and Child Development of the State of Maharashtra shall file an affidavit within a period of three weeks. The Court shall thereafter pass an appropriate order after scrutinizing the proposal," the bench said in its order passed on September 13.

Advocate Sachin Patil, appearing for the Maharashtra government, submitted a note giving details on how the money would be utilized in the interests of the children.

Courts can summon persons not accused only after cogent proof: SC



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has said that courts can exercise their power to proceed against persons not accused but appearing to have committed an offence only when there is "strong and cogent evidence" against such individuals and not in a "casual and cavalier manner".

Under Section 319 of Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), when during the course of inquiry or trial of offence, it from the evidence that any person, who has not been made an accused, has committed any offence; the court can proceed against such individual for the offence which he appears to have committed.

A bench of justices K M Joseph and P S Narasimha while dealing with a criminal case said, "This is yet another case where summons issued purporting to invoke power under Section 319 of the CrPC has brought the newly summoned person to this court."

It said that the test as laid down by the constitution bench of this court for invoking power under Section 319 CrPC inter alia includes the principle that only when strong and cogent evidence occurs against a person from the evidence the power under Section 319 CrPC hould be exercised.

'The power cannot be exercised in a casual and cavalier manner. The test to be applied, as laid down by this court, is one which is more than prima facie case which is d at the time of framing of charges," the bench said in its September 13 order.

The top court referred to the 2014 constitution bench verdict in Hardeep Singh versus State of Punjab and others which dealt with the issue of applicability of Section 319 CrpC and said it will all depend upon the evidence which is tendered in a given case as to whether there is a strong ground to proceed against an individual, who has not been

Dunzo Med Air consortium to conduct drone vaccine delivery trials



IANS NEW DELHI

 $D_{\text{will conduct drone trials}}^{\text{unzo Med Air consortium}}$ for the 'Medicine from Sky' initiative of the Telangana Government from Monday.

Accordingly, drone delivery tech firm, 'Skye Air' that focuses on an end-to-end ecosystem for UAV based logistics will be conducting this as a part of the 'Dunzo Med Air' consortium led by the hyper local giant, 'Dunzo Digital'.

The trials will begin on September 20 in Vikarabad, Telagana and shall continue till September 25 during which several healthcare logistics related cases will be demonstrated.

On its part, Skye Air said it will conduct around 50 flights all delivering vaccines.
These BVLOS 'Beyond

Visual Line of Sight' trials will deliver vaccines up to 12 km within an expected time frame of 18 minutes.

Each drone will carry vaccines in temperature-controlled

India inks ₹230 cr deal with France to buy phased out Mirages



PNS NEW DELHI

Tn an effort to maintain oper-Lational readiness and increase the life of its Mirage jets, the IAF has signed an agreement with France to buy phased out Mirages flown by its air force. The deal is worth over ₹ 230 crores and the airframes of these planes will be brought to India in containers.

At present, India has a fleet of 50 Mirage planes pro-cured in 1985. These versatile planes were used in the Balakot air strikes against terrorist hide outs in 2019.

All these planes are now in mid-life upgrade and the acquisition of the phased Mirages will ensure seamless availability of spares, sources Bengal in the east.

Moreover, this procurement will make sure maintenance cycle of these jets is adhered to thereby prolonging their operational life.

Incidentally, the IAF had inked a similar pact some years too and bought phased out Mirages from France. The Mirage fleet is based in Gwalior.

France is in the process of switching over to Rafale jets and has phased most of its

Mirages. The 36-jet deal with India for Rafales will be completed next year with the last batch of two planes arriving here. The IAF has placed these jets in two bases including Ambala in north and Hashimara in West

Nadda gives tips to Dalit leaders for Assembly polls

IANS NEW DELHI

With an eye on next year's crucial assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, BJP national president J.P. Nadda on Sunday gave tips to the Dalit leaders who had gathered in Varanasi, the Parliamentary constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on how to win votes.

Referring to various schemes run by the Modi government -- Jan Dhan Yojna, Antyodaya, toilets, housing, education, Ujjwala, Ayushman Bharat, campaign to connect villages with electricity, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Samman Yojana, Mudra loan etc - Nadda claimed that for the first time in the country the government is following the right path shown

by Babasaheb Ambedkar. Nadda said that the work that the Modi government has done for the Dalit members of the society in the last 7 years, the previous governments could

not do even in 70 years. In view of the number of Dalit voters in Uttar Pradesh, while virtually launching the two-day meeting of the BJP Scheduled Caste Front's national executive convened in Prime Minister Modi's parliamentary constituency Varanasi, the BJP President claimed that the Modi government has taken the steps



in the interest of Dalits which no previous government had ever taken. He asked the workers to take the facts along with the data directly to the Dalit

Accusing the Opposition parties of using Dalits only as a vote bank, Nadda said that the Congress has always insulted Babasaheb and the BJP has only respect for him.

After OBC voters, the number of Dalit voters is very high in Uttar Pradesh. Out of 403 seats in the UP Legislative Assembly, 84 seats are reserved for the SC category. The population of Dalit voters in the state is about 21 per cent and out of this, more than half are Jatavs -- about 54 per cent. In 42 districts of the State, the population of Dalit voters is more than 21 per cent. The history of the last three assembly elections shows that the political party which got more seats out of the reserved seats, was because of the Dalit votes.

The BJP wants to win the hearts of the Dalits of the state once again by holding a meeting of the National Executive of the SC Morcha in Varanasi. In the two-day meeting, the BJP will plan a strategy on how the Dalits of Uttar Pradesh should be told about the work of the government and how they have benefited from the various schemes. Dalits will be informed about not only the schemes of the government but it will also expose other opposition parties including the BSP and the SP over their hollow promises.

CVC recommends implementation of 'Integrity Pact' in all Govt procurements



the appointment of Independent

External Monitor who are emi-

nent and experience person of

high integrity, adequate experi-

ence, a person of high integrity

and having unblemished service

record are appointed as IEM in

any organisation, the Commission is empaneling per-

sons of integrity, after following

due process to such person," the

"The panel of such persons is updated at periodic intervals

IANS NEW DELHI

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has made recommendation for implementing the of Integrity Pact (IP) in all public procurements by the various Ministries and the Departments.

IP helps government and companies to reduce high cost and maintain quality control. IP adoption creates public

confidence and trust in decision making process. In its order issued on September 14, 2021, the CVC said that in order to enhance the transparency and probity in

to ensure the constant availability of suitable person for nomination/appointment as IEM," it added further. Realising the importance public procurement, it has provided the Standard Operative of IP as a vigilance tool in con-Procedure which also envisages trolling corruption in public the appointment of an indecontracting and procurement, pendent external monitor. the CVC has, through its office

order said.

Orders recommended adoption of Integrity Pact to all the Secretaries to the government, all Chairman and Managing Director (CMDs) of Public sector Units, Public Sector banks and all Chief Vigilance Officers and provided them basic guidelines for its implementation in respect of major procurements in the government organisations. On May 18, 2009, it issued

Standard Operating Procedure spelling out all the details of the IP which has been revised as per the need basis and in its latest order on September 14 revised the SoPs and provided the appointment of IEM for all government procurements.

The CVC is an apex vigi-

lance institution to advise and guide Central Government agencies in the field of vigilance.

INDONESIA'S MOST WANTED KILLED

Palu (Indonesia): Indonesia's most wanted terrorist with ties

to the Islamic State (ISIS) group was killed on Saturday in a gunbattle with security forces,

the military said, in a victory for

the counterterrorism campaign

of Sulawesi island. Ali Kalora

against extremists in the jungles

was one of two militants killed in the shootout, said Central

Sulawesi's regional military chief

UAE REMOVES TEST RULE FOR OTHER EMIRATES

Dubai: The capital of the United

policy requiring those coming in

recent negative coronavirus test.

Abu Dhahi made announcement

on Saturday, saying that people

emirates could enter the capital

from Sunday without getting a

from the UAE's six other

from other emirates to have a

Arab Emirates has ended a

Brig. Gen. Farid Makruf. He identified the other suspected extremist as Jaka Ramadan.

Taliban replace Ministry for women

Afghanistan's new rulers set up a Ministry for 'propagation of virtue and the prevention of vice' in building that once housed Women's Affairs Ministry

AP ■ KABUL

Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers set up a Ministry for the "propagation of virtue and the prevention of vice" in the building that once housed the Women's Affairs Ministry, escorting out World Bank staffers on Saturday as part of the forced move.

It's the latest troubling sign that the Taliban are restricting women's rights as they settle into Government, just a month since they overran the capital of Kabul. In their first period of rule in the 1990s, the Taliban had denied girls and women the right to education and barred them from public life.

Separately, three explosions targeted Taliban vehicles in the eastern provincial capital of Jalalabad on Saturday, killing three people and wounding 20, witnesses said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but Islamic State (ISIS) terrorists, headquartered in the area, are enemies of the Taliban.

The Taliban are facing major economic and security problems as they attempt to govern, and a growing challenge by ISIS insurgents would further stretch their resources.

In Kabul, a new sign was up outside the women's affairs



Ministry, announcing it was now the "Ministry for Preaching and Guidance and the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice.

Staff of the World Bank's \$100 million Women's Economic Empowerment and Development

Programme, which was run out of the Women's Affairs Ministry, were escorted off the grounds Saturday, said programme member Sharif Akhtar, who was among those being removed.

be given equal access to education, albeit in gender-segregated settings.

"It is becoming really, really troublesome. ... Is this the stage where the girls are going to be forgotten?" Suraj said.

"I know they don't believe in giving explanations, but explanations are very impor-

Suraj speculated that the contradictory statements perhaps reflect divisions within the Taliban as they seek to consolidate their power, with the more pragmatic within the movement losing out to hard-liners among them, at least for now.

Statements from the Taliban leadership often reflect a willingness to engage with the world, open public spaces to women and girls and protect Afghanistan's minorities. But orders to its rank and file on the ground are contradictory. Instead restrictions, particularly on women, have been imple-

Suraj, an Afghan American who returned to Afghanistan in 2003 to promote women's rights and education, said many of her fellow activists have left the country.

She said she stayed in an effort to engage with the Taliban and find a middle ground, but until now has not been able to get the Taliban leadership to meet with activists who have remained in the country to talk with women about the way forward.

We have to talk. We have to find a middle ground," she said. Also on Saturday, an international flight by Pakistan's national carrier left Kabul's airport with 322 passengers on board and a flight by Iran's Mahan Air departed with 187 passengers on board, an airport official said.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorised to speak to the media, said the two flights departed on Saturday morning. The identities and nationalities of those on board were not immediate-

The international flights were the latest to depart Kabul in the past week as technical teams from Qatar and Turkey have worked to get the airport up to standard for international commercial aircraft.

A Qatar Airways flight on Friday took more Americans out of Afghanistan, according to Washington's peace envoy, the third such airlift by the Mideast carrier since the Taliban takeover and the frantic US troop pullout from the

3 dead as series of explosions hit Af's Nangarhar province



Taliban fighters and residents gather at the site of an explosion in Kabul on Saturday, A sticky bomb exploded in the capital Kabul

AP ■ JALALABAD

Witnesses say a series of three explosions that targeted Taliban vehicles in the capital of Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province has left at least three dead and 20 wounded.

No one immediately took responsibility for the attack Saturday in Jalalabad, but the increasingly violent Islamic State group affiliate is head-

Åfghanistan and are enemies of Afghanistan's new Taliban

It wasn't immediately clear

Kabul wounding two people, said police officials. The target of the Kabul

quartered in eastern AMERICAN SAMOA

whether Taliban officials were among the dead and wounded. Also on Saturday a sticky bomb exploded in the capital

bomb was not immediately

1ST CASE OF COVID IN

Pago Pago: American Samoa, a US territory in the Pacific, reported its first case of coronavirus on Friday. The territory's acting governor, Lt. Gov. Talauega Eleasalo Ale, and health officials said the islands' first case of Covid-19 was in a resident who returned to America Samoa from a trip to the US mainland and Hawaii

VIOLATIONS REPORTED IN RUSSIAN ELECTION

Moscow: The head of Russia's second-largest political party is alleging widespread violations in the election for a new national parliament, in which his party is widely expected to gain seats. Communist Party head Gennady Zyuganov said on Saturday the second of three days of voting in the election - that police and the national elections commission must respond to reports of "a number of absolutely egregious facts" including ballot-stuffing in several regions.

UNSC URGES SOMALIA'S LEADERS TO COMPROMISE

United Nations: The UN Security Council urged Somalia's feuding Government leaders on Saturday to resolve their disagreements through dialogue and give top priority to holding long-delayed national

Fearful US residents in Afghanistan hiding out from Taliban

Kabul: Every night in yet another house in Afghanistan's capital, a US green card-holding couple from California take turns sleeping, with one always awake to watch over their three young children so they can flee if they hear the footsteps of the Taliban.

They've moved seven times in two weeks, relying on relatives to take them in and feed them. Their days are an uncomfortable mix of fear and boredom, restricted to a couple of rooms where they read, watch TV and play "The Telephone Game" in which of rooms where they read, watch TV and play "The Telephone Game" in which of the Taliban are in control.

We are scared and keep the Taliban are in control.

Milley, US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and

they whisper secrets and pass them on, a diversion for the children that has the added benefit of keeping them quiet.

All of it goes on during the agonizing wait for a call from anybody who can help them get out. A US State Department official contacted them several days ago to tell them they were being assigned a case worker, but they haven't heard a word since. They've also been talking to an international rescue organisation.

After Afghanistan pullout, US seeks NATO basing, intel pacts

Against the backdrop of the troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, the top US Military officer is meeting in Greece with NATO counterparts this weekend, hoping to forge more basing, intelligence sharing and other agreements to prevent terrorist groups from regrouping and threatening America and the region.

Mabouba Suraj, who heads

the Afghan Women's Network,

said she was astounded by the

flurry of orders released by the

Taliban-run government

Meanwhile, the Taliban-

restricting women and girls.

run education ministry asked

boys from grades 7-12 back to

school Saturday along with

their male teachers but there

was no mention of girls in

those grades returning to school. Previously, the Taliban's

minister of higher education minister, had said girls would

Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the meeting of NATO defense chiefs will focus in part on the way ahead now that all alliance troops have pulled out of Afghanistan and

American intelligence officials have warned that al-Qaida or the Islamic State group could regenerate in Afghanistan and pose a threat to the United States in one year to two years.

The US Military has said it

can conduct counterterrorism surveillance and, if necessary, strikes in Afghanistan from "over the horizon" — meaning from assets based in other countries. But they have made it clear that surveillance flights from bases in the Persian Gulf are long and provide limited time in the air over Afghanistan. So they have talked about seeking basing agreements, overflight rights and increased intelligence-sharing with nations closer to Afghanistan, including some neighbours.

Imran says he 'initiated a dialogue' with Taliban for inclusive Afghan Govt

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday said that he has "initiated a dialogue" with the Taliban for an inclusive Afghanistan government having Tajiks, Hazaras and Uzbeks, a day after the SCO members sought representation for all ethnic, religious and political groups in the new dispensation.

The Taliban, which seized control of Afghanistan in mid-August, had promised an "inclusive" government that represents Afghanistan's complex ethnic makeup, but there is no Hazara member and no woman in the interim 33member Cabinet

FROM PAGE 1

Taking to Twitter, Khan said: "After mtgs (meetings) in Dushanbe with leaders of Afghanistan's neighbours & especially a lengthy discussion with Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon, I have initiated a dialogue with the Taliban for an inclusive Afghan govt to include Tajiks, Hazaras & Uzbeks". However, details of the "dialogue" were not shared by him or other offi-

After 40 years of conflict, this inclusivity will ensure peace and a stable Afghanistan, which is in the interest not only of Afghanistan but the region as well, Khan said in another

Addressing the Shanghai

said: "the Taliban must fulfil the pledges made, above all for an inclusive political structure where all ethnic groups are represented. This is vital for Afghanistan's stability". Khan said that it was also important to ensure respect for

Cooperation Organisation

(SCO) summit on Friday, he

the rights while making certain that Afghanistan would never again be made a safe haven for The SCO leaders, in a joint

declaration issued at the end of the annual Summit of the bloc in Tajikistan on Friday, voiced support for an independent, democratic and peaceful Afghanistan, free of terrorism, war and drugs.

'HUMILIATED' CAPTAIN

Political circles in Punjab are rife with similar speculation though it is unlikely that the entire Cabinet in Punjab would be changed, but sources do not rule out a major surgical operation to weed out the

On the sudden change of leadership, Congress sources said that its internal reports suggested that there was an undercurrent against the sitting Chief Minister for being inaccessible to the party workers and even MLAs and Ministers. "Going to elections with this sort of an upheaval where everyone was against someone (Capt Amarinder) it was not prudent to leave things (elections) to chance," said a senior party leader. He added that antiincumbency is a big factor in Punjab where Governments are not repeated (except Akalis once) and taking corrective measures in line with the demands and wishes of the MLAs, was a practical political solution.

A party MLA added that the Raja of Patiala was busy enjoying life in the sere Siswan Dam area near Chandigarh where he lives in his farm house and had cut off himself from the ground realities of grass-

roots politics. In the CLP meeting, as expected and as per the traditions of Congress, MLAs authorised party president Sonia Gandhi to pick a new CLP leader (Chief Minister) with a resolution to this effect being passed unanimously in a meeting of the hurriedly convened "emergency" meeting.

Central observer Ajay Maken said 78 of 80 party MLAs were present in the meeting. He said another resolution praising and thanking Capt Amarinder for his contribution towards Punjab and the Congress was also unanimously passed at the meeting. "We expect that the party will continue to get guidance from Amarinder Singh," he said.

Amongst the top contenders in the race for becoming the interim Chief Minister till the elections, former State Congress chief Sunil Jakhar tops the list. A staunch loyalist of Capt Amarinder till recent months, he changed track when he sensed the brewing resentment against the CM amongst the MLAs and silently became neutral. He was replaced by Navjot Singh Sidhu two months ago in July. If Jakhar is chosen, Congress would go with both-- a Jat Sikh and a Hindu -- into the polls, bringing in the caste and community equation in the Sikh majority State.

AMARINDER BLASTS SIDHU, CONGRESS

Capt Amarinder claimed that he was well aware of all the games his political rivals were playing with him all this time. They have been doing all this as they want to be the Chief Minister…I am aware of their game…this game has been going on since long," he said.

Expressing displeasure with the party high command over the turn of events that forced him to tender his resignation, Capt Amarinder said that he had already asked the party chief Sonia Gandhi to "relieve" him but the high command asked him to continue.

"I had told the party president Sonia Gandhi…not today…but three-four weeks back when I met her…seeking to relieve me from this charge telling her that this won't be possible with Sidhu pulling right and me pulling left…I told them that in this way the party would split…Rawat ji was also there†But she asked me to carry on…Why they took this decision now, I don't know," he said.

WON'T ACCEPT SIDHU AS PUN-JAB CM EVER: In a bitter fight with the Punjab Congress chief for over a year now, Capt Amarinder declared that he would not agree with Navjot Sidhu as mukhyamantri". Slamming Punjab Congress president, who had led a fight to dethrone him, Capt Amarinder said that Sidhu is a complete disaster as chief minister frontrunner for the state. "He is a total disaster. He wasn't able to run one Ministry, will he be able to run the Government? How can he handle whole of Punjab?" said Capt Amarinder, adding that he would ruin Punjab if he becomes the chief minister of the state. Capt Amarinder said that he "knows his (Sidhu's) capability….He has no capability".

RAM LALA JALABHISHEK: WATER FROM 115 COUNTRIES RECEIVED

"Indian culture is very rich and there is no discrimination on the basis of caste, creed and religion in India," he said.

Addressing the gathering, Rai said rocuring water from across the world is a historic moment. "In Ayodhya, there is a place called 'Saptasagar'. It is believed that water from all oceans of the world was brought during the coronation of Lord Ram in Treta Yuga. And now when his temple is being made at his birth place, water from all the oceans of the world has

again been brought. It is a sentimental issue for me," he said.

Rai also said the first phase of the foundation of the Ram Temple has been completed. Jolly said during the Covid pandemic, when people could not step out of their homes, his organisation procured water from 115 nations across the world.

He also said people from various reliions, including Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Jews, and Buddhists of the world contributed to this cause.

Jolly said the water was stored in 115 small pots mentioning their respective

CENTRE CAUTIONS STATES ON COVID AS SCHOOLS OPEN

The Centre also asked States to accelerate the speed and coverage of vaccination and take necessary measures for the prevention and control of dengue and vector-borne diseases.

States were also guided on the control of Serotype-II Dengue in 11 States, including Haryana.

Health secretary Rajesh Bhushan, V K Paul, member (Health), NITI Aayog, chief secretaries, additional chief secretaries (Health), principal secretaries (Health), municipal commissioners, and district collectors attended the meeting.

"We hope that with increased availability of vaccine doses, the pace of vaccination will be maintained. There is no room for complacency. There is a strict need to enforce Covid Appropriate Behaviour (CAB)," Gauba said

Drawing examples from other countries that saw multiple peaks of Covid-19, the Government expressed concern over certain pockets in the country reporting high test positivity and advised States to undertake granular analysis of their Covid trajectory, ramp up their health infrastructure, undertake the stocking of essential medicine and augment human resources at the earliest, to meet any potential surge in cases.

Bhsuhan also highlighted the emerging challenge of Serotype-II Dengue in 11 States which is associated with more cases and more complications than other forms of the disease.

He suggested the States undertake steps like early detection of cases, operationalisation of fever helplines, adequate stocking of testing kits, larvicides and medicines, deployment of rapid response teams for prompt investigation and necessary public health action like fever survey, contact tracing, vector control, alerting blood banks for maintaining adequate stocks of blood and blood components, especially platelets.

"In view of the forthcoming festival season, States were directed to ensure all necessary precautions and effective enforcement for the avoidance of mass gathering and congested closed spaces. Existing guidelines regarding malls, local markets, and places of worship are to be strictly followed," said the Government in

WHOPPING 80 CR COVID **VACCINES ADMINISTERED**

The country took 24 days to reach 40 crore from 30 crore doses and then 20 more days to cross the 50-crore vaccination mark on August 6, the Ministry

It took 19 more days to go past the 60-crore mark and took only 13 days to reach 70 crore from 60 crore on September 7, it said. The total number of doses administered crossed the 75-crore mark on

September 13. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease is 3,26,32,222, while the case fatality rate has been recorded at 1.33 percent, it said. The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the vaccination drive has exceeded 79.42 crore, according to the

SUPRIYO JOINS TMC

Replying to posers on the reasons behind his quitting the party that he joined after being "inspired" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Supriyo said, "I knew that questions will be asked as to why I left the party or whether it had anything to do with my losing the ministerial job. I thought some encouragement would come my way after seven years of hard work I had put in for the people and the party."

He later said he would go to Delhi in a couple of days where he would tender his resignation to the Lok Sabha Speaker.

On whether he will campaign for the TMC at Bhawanipore, he said, "Mamata Banerjee does not need me to campaign for her. Notwithstanding, if shewants me to go there I definitely will."

Incidentally, the singer-turned-politician was listed by his earlier party among the 20 star campaigners — against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee — in the highprofile Bhawanipore Assembly by-elec-

KABUL DRONE STRIKE KILLED 10 CIVILIANS, ADMITS US MILITARY

"Our investigation now concludes that the strike was a tragic mistake," he

The Pentagon had maintained that at least one ISIS-K facilitator and three civilians were killed in what Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Gen. Mark Milley had previously called a "righteous strike" on the compound in Kabul last month. However, the strike must be considered in the context of the on-ground sit-

Airport following the ISIS-K attack that killed 13 US soldiers and more than 100 Afghan civilians. Also, a substantial body of intelligence had indicated the imminence of another attack, McKenzie said. He said that having thoroughly reviewed the findings of the probe and supporting analysis, he is convinced that

as many as 10 civilians, including up to

seven children, were tragically killed in that

uation at the Hamid Karzai International

drone strike. "It was a mistake, and I offer my sincere apology. As the combatant commander, I am fully responsible for this strike and this tragic outcome," he told reporters.

SONU SOOD, AIDES EVADED TAX, FLOUTED FCRA, ALLEGES I-T DEPT

"During the course of search at the premises of the actor and his associates, incriminating evidence pertaining to tax evasion has been found.

"The main modus operandi followed by the actor had been to route his unaccounted income in the form of bogus unsecured loans from many bogus entities," the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) claimed in a statement.

It added that, so far, use of 20 such entries has been found and the providers of which, on examination, have "accepted" on oath to have given "bogus" accommodation entries (transaction entries in accounts).

"They have accepted to have issued cheques in lieu of cash. There have been instances where professional receipts have been camouflaged as loans in the books of accounts for the purpose of evasion of tax," the policy-making body for the tax department said.

These bogus loans, it said, have been used for "making investments and acquiring properties." The total amount of tax

evaded unearthed so far amounts to more than Rs 20 crore, the statement and official sources said about Sood. It also talked about his charity organisation that was established during the COVID-19 outbreak last year.

The actor shot to national prominence

after he arranged free transport through rail, air and road for numerous migrant workers to reach their home states during the nationwide lockdown clamped last year to contain the spread of coronavirus pan-The Delhi government, led by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, had also

brand ambassador of the Aam Aadmi Party government's 'Desh ka mentors' programme under which students will be guided in making their career choices. The CBDT said the charity foundation set up by the actor was incorporated on July 21, 2020 and has collected donations

recently declared that Sood will be the

to the tune of Rs 18.94 crore from April 2021 till date. Out of this, it said, the foundation has spent around Rs 1.9 crore for various relief works and the balance of Rs 17 crore has

been found lying "unutilised" in its bank It is seen, the statement alleged, that funds to the tune of Rs 2.1 crore have also been raised by the charity foundation from

overseas donors on a crowdfunding platform "in violation" of FCRA regulations. It said the actor had entered into a joint venture with the Lucknow-located infrastructure group and "invested substantial funds", and said the taxman has unearthed 'incriminating" evidence pertaining to tax evasion and irregularities in the account books. "The search has revealed that the said group is involved in bogus billing of sub-contracting expenses and siphoning off of funds. Evidence of such bogus con-

Rs 65 crore," it said. Evidence of unaccounted cash expenses, unaccounted sale of scrap and digital data evidencing unaccounted cash transactions has also been found. The infra group "has entered into dubious circular transaction to the tune of Rs 175 crore with an infrastructure company based in Jaipur".

tracts found so far are to the tune of over

"Further investigations are being carried out to establish the full extent of tax evasion," it said. The CBDT said Rs 1.8 crore cash has been seized during the raids and 11 lockers have been placed under "prohibitory orders".

A total of 28 premises in Mumbai, Lucknow, Kanpur, Jaipur, Delhi, and Gurgaon are being covered as part of the search operation.



HOME THEATRE

Engaging and interesting



BELL BOTTOM Amazon Prime

*ing: Akshay Kumar, Lara **Dutta, Vaani Kapoor, Huma Qureshi, Dolly Ahluwalia** Rated: 6/10

≺his movie released in theatres last month and all those who missed watching it in the cinema hall can now see it on the OTT platform in the safety of their homes. The film in 15 days of its theatrical released earned collected ₹26.50 crore at the BO. Directed by Ranjit M Tewari, Bell Bottom is based on true a event — hijacking of a plane that was first taken to Amritsar to Lahore to then Dubai. It is definitely an interesting and an engaging watch especially for those who read about the hijackings that were taking

place in the 70s ans mid-80s. Tewari has done his best to bring the era alive by reacreating the backdrop and

even give it the a retro effect. Since bellbottoms were very much in fashion back then, probably that is how the title

Of coure, the younger generation would cringe in horror at the style but then the movie is not about fashion but about India giving a befitting reply to our nemesis Pakistan.

And any film where we come out looking heroes is a must watch. The fact there were instances where we didn't pander to their whims and fancies says a lot about the leadership even then.

At the helm is Akshay Kumar. off late, the actor has everything going for him. Whatever project that he does and has done appear to have been verycarefully thought off. Probably that is why he is able to pull off the roles that he has done — be it *Padman*, *Laxmii* or Mission Mangal.

As a desk clerk with RAW and the go to person when a hijack takes place, he has given great performance even though there was instances where he over-steps. Everyone knows that in bureaucracy this is a no-no. But one can give this slight missif given how he

outwits Pakistan.

Akshay Kumar does these kind of roles to perfection and that is what makes watching Bell Bottom interesting till the last frame. He has redefined

what a hero is for sure.

A specialy mention for
Dolly Ahluwalia. Though her
role is small, she has done a great job to play mother to Akshay Kumar. Lara Dutta as Late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi may not look like her but does a good job as well.

Overall, the movie is engaging to watch till the end with a twist that none saw it

Shalini Saksena

The teenagers will love this

NIGHTBOOKS

Netflix *ing: Winslow Fegley, Lidya Jewett **Krysten Ritter** Rated: 5.5/10

ne would think that a movie that has kids would definitely be kidappropriate. But there have been a few execptions to this rule. Take IT for example — a movie that had kids — but Oh boy! was it scary at least for the kids.

Nightsbooks directed by David Yarovesky and written by Mikki Daughtry and Tobias Iaconis is no different. It is based on the 2018 horror-fantasy children's book

on the 2018 horror-fantasy children's book of the same name by JA White.

There is something very creepy and scary when it comes to films that have kids with horror as its genre. The kids are sweet, cute and somewhat innocent; they get lured in by the witch and wham! Now they are trapped in the evil house forever.

Sounds familiar? Nightsbooks, one can say is a modern twist to the Hansel and Gretel tale. However, there is nothing scary for the adults who love horror and scary movies. Strange, weird and even creepy would be some of the words to describe this

The only somewhat horrible looking

character in the entire film is the real witch. Yes, there are two witches! The bad witch is the good one as compared to the older one. This older one eats kids and is all bones and candy! She has been sleeping for years and what puts her to sleep? A scary story. But there is a twist; the scary story can't have a happy ending. Those unable to deliver this become little dolls.

But there are highs too. The CGI is great. If one can manage to get past the ugly looking witch, one can actually appreciate the effor that has gone into creating here. The kids are smart.

Another good is that this somewhat scary movie is something that young teenagers will love and enjoy. Who doesn't like to best a witch and here there are two!

And if one the kids is smart enough to make a horror story on the go and outwit and outsmart even the witch, what can be better? For the teens, nothing gets them going than watching another teen with a streak of rebellion and yet never giving up or snitching of the friend. That is the underlinung message here — make frineds for life and never give up on them what the

Nightbooks has a whimsical touch to it that definitely has a happy ending

Plan Your Sunday

THE LAST POET



he Last Poet is an online interactive performance that brings together theatre, film, sound art, creative coding, and digital scenography. A poet has disappeared suddenly, leaving his city haunted. In this virtual city, you will meet several people who will tell you about the vanished poet and unravel the mystery behind his disappearance. While watching the show, you navigate this whirling

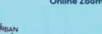
city yourself. You may choose to step into a floating room, stay back and listen, or travel to another one. Who you meet, what you see, how you listen is upto to you. This city will seek you, as you seek what is inside this unbuilt world.

What: Theatre and Arts Where: Online When: September 24, 2021 and September 26, 2021 Time: 7 pm and 8 pm

MINDFULNESS WITH ART

Mindfulness with

Date: 19th September Time: 5pm to 6pm Online Zoom



∟ello Everyone Color store Asian paints is organizing a one of its kind MINDFULNESS WITH ART session which is curated and Conducted by Savita Iyer from Urbankala- Art Of Gifting.

Mindfulness through art is a tool to steer your daily life towards joy. If you want to learn more about practicing mindfulness in your daily life, we recommend this insightful



Mindfulness practice involves self-exploration and awareness of our minds, bodies, feelings and thoughts. Art making helps us to explore what we experience and discover in our mindfulness practice.

Mindfulness is a valuable tool for increasing general well-being and psychological health.

What: Theatre and Arts Where: Online When: September 19, 2021

TELLYTALE

'TELEVISION CONNECTS TO ITS AUDIENCE ON A DAILY BASIS'

Vivian Dsena says the pandemic has been a great educator. These tough times have made us compassionate and health conscious. It has also helped in understanding the importance of staying close to your loved

"I think one of the essential lessons from true friends and well-wishers. Social distancing is not just applicable to save ourselves from the virus but we should also do the same with people, who do not mean good to us," he says the actor who is in talks for a comeback soon. His last show was Shakti — Astitva Ke Ehsaas Ki, He continues. "TV is growing in different directions. It's not about saas-bahu anymore. They are experimenting with new genres, stories and also exploring different concepts and presentations. OTT can't be compared with TV because it comes in seasons, while TV is for daily viewing, hence these daily soaps. The audience is completely different, so is the



reach. Yes a lot of people have smartphones these days, but more people have TV that came much before mobile phones. Television connects to its audience on a daily basis, for some the medium is a part of their daily regime." Like any other child, the actor too has grown up watching TV. "I watched a lot of cartoons. I have grown up watching

Aladdin, Tom and Jerry, Dexter's Laboratory. also enjoyed watching Alif Laila," adds Vivian, who never imagined that one day he would be an actor himself.

Unlike what many might say, he believes people still enjoy watching TV. The actor also shares how wonderful it feels to be working on a medium that takes you closer to the masses. "People belonging to different strata of the society watch TV, so when they see you daily, they form a special bond with the actors and the shows. Being recognised and loved by people from all walks of life is a different feeling altogether.

Whenever I step out rickshaw puller, people working on the work or asking for help on the streets, those working in medical and general stores recognise me much like those stepping out of big cars or running to catch a bus or hire a taxi for office. This connection with all kinds of people makes working on TV worthwhile. I think that's the real reward," he concludes.

Sheena shares that photo

shoots are fun. And that she loves

experimenting with different eye

makeups, lip shades and creating

SHEENA BAJAJ LIKES GETTING PHOTOGRAPHED

'Doing comedy is not easy'

SAPNA SIKARWAR who is all set to enter the sitcom Happu Ki Ultan Paltan is going to play a pivotal role. She speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about her induction in comedy among other things

■ What is your role?

likes dressing up and doing make-up. Talking about my nature in the show, I am a very fun loving person who enjoys it a lot. But it is not always smooth sailing, I do lose my temper at times, sometimes I am quite stubborn and get upset as well. I do not judge people and am a very broad-minded person, which obviously doesn't mean that I don't respect people.

■ What is the best part of Bimlesh? She might be very stubborn and grumpy at times but in the end she cares about her husband, who she loves the most.

■ What was the attraction of playing the character?

To be honest, in real life I am a very moody person but I don't get angry or fight with people like Bimlesh does. Otherwise, Bimlesh's character describes me well and that is what attracted me. Moreover, it was the director's trust in me that I would fit the role and when you work with a particular production for a long time they know who can pull off the character well. It is definitely a very challenging role but I was finalised because I gave my 100 per cent to it.

■ Happy Ki Ultan Pultan is an iconic show. What would you say is the reason for its success?

It is because people can relate well to the show, it is very realistic.

■ How is Bimlesh different from what you did in FIR, May I Come In Madam and Excuse me Madam?

In FIR I had played many characters and in May I Come In Madam I was playing a housewife's role, who was very possessive, insecure and doubted her husband. In Bimlesh, it is totally the opposite, I don't doubt my husband or isn't insecure about things. I trust him and love him.

■ How did you get into acting?

Since childhood I was very fond of acting, I always loved dancing and aced it and I also sing pretty well. My family also kind of psyched me and said I am a good actor and that is when I thought I should give it a try. Comedy was also something which interested me and that is why I have been doing back to back comedy roles. ■ You have done a lot of comedy shows.

Has that been a conscious decision? When I worked for FIR, I played so many roles and as far as I know, to win your audience's heart is tough but when

you do it makes you the happiest. It is a

very big thing for every actor of course.

I have made a place in my audience's heart with my work. They love me in comedy and like my timing. That is one thing which has always motivated me and that's why I am constantly doing comedy roles.

■ What are the challenges that come with doing a comedy genre?



hard, and people who do comedy also work hard. But I think comedy is quite tough because if you are not good with the timing, people would also not enjoy it. It is all in the timing, which is not very easy and not everyone can do it.

People who do daily soaps work

PRIYANKA LALWANI LOVES BEING ON STAGE

Jamai Raja actress Priyanka Lalwani enjoys acting, but says that being on stage and hosting a show have a special place in her heart.

"From corporate events to wedding events to fashion shows to interviews. you name it and I've probably done it all, she said. Asked which one

she prefers -

anchoring or acting, she said, "It's like asking a parent to choose between their kids who is your favourite. I love both because while I'm on stage, I get to be myself and I can do my own thing. When I'm in front of the camera, I get to be the character that I am playing." The Spotlight 2 actress didn't take any formal training in anchoring. "In my early modelling days, I was offered to host a sangeet event and I was like why not. I remember taking my mom along with me. Since then there is no looking back. But it does require some different skills, most important

retakes in anchoring," she said Over the years, she has learnt that it's very important to be patient and not rush through

impromptu unlike acting where

a script is given. There are no

is that you have to be



things when she is speaking on

"Be calm and always smile

on," she suggested. Talking about her favourite anchor on TV, she shared, "Since the time I was a kid I used to really look up to Vishal Malhotra and never missed any of his shows on Disney. I have really admired Ambika Anand. I have grown up watching her on NDTV Good Times. I wanted to do what she did. I wanted to travel and do shows like she did. And some way or the

other, I am doing that. Apart from them, I really admire Ellen DeGeneres. Jimmy Fallon, Maniesh Paul and Raghav Juyal.

Actor Sheena Bajaj recently did a photoshoot and the same time it's also one's personal choice," she adds.

photographer is none other than her own sister, Riya Bajaj. The latter is a professional and her brand is called Riya Bajaj Photography. Sheena shares her experience

and why it is essential to click new images every time. "Riya shoots with film stars and many

other celebrities. She is quite good at her job. All my life, I had only shot with her and dad. I trust her skill and she knows me better than anyone else," says the actor, known for her show "Best of Luck

Sheena shot about three looks because she doesn't enjoy draining herself in one day. And, if she wants more, then she can do it later. "Riya has got a lot

of options, different concepts, which I really like. I don't like continuously clicking pictures and doing photoshoots but since I am on Instagram and I have to maintain my profile, connect with my fans, do brand promotions and all of that, I do photo shoots every few months. I have to keep upgrading myself... In fact, I think actors should get photo shoots done every four to five months, it helps. But at the

different looks. She adds, "I create different looks for my channel Sheena Bajaj Official on YouTube so I do different concept shoots and upload videos, BTS etc. It's fun, especially when your are shooting with someone you are very comfortable with, the person behind the camera is innovative and you know the result will be

Mu-tation worry

Even as cases of the COVID-19 delta variant continue to spike the world over, a new variant, Mu, has become a variant of interest for the WHO. This new strain appears to have mutations with the potential to evade immunity provided by a previous COVID-19 infection or vaccination. Could Mu be a variant of concern? SUPRIYA RAMESH speaks with experts to tell you more

ince the COVID-19 pandemic hit the globe last year, there has been no let up—either in the number of cases globally nor in the emergence of new variants. When the second wave hit India, there was talk of how the third wave would affect the children more. But now, it appears that there are more worries ahead. A new varient—Mu—that had been detected in Colombia, South America is the new worry—not just for India but for the entire world.

The good part is that the Government has said that the variant has not been found in India yet, there is no telling when it may enter the country and wreak havoc.

The country reported its first COVID-19 case in Kerala on January 27, 2020, and the country has been cuffed by the virus ever since and coming out of this pandemic dungeon looks only like a distant dream. Since the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the Delta variant as the Variant of Concern (VOC) on May 6, 2021, the country has seen a new wave of cases and death worldwide, slowing down the nation's recovery, threatening economic stability and severe social and political impacts.

The new variantis getting more attention now as it has started to spread around parts of the country and it is something to make a note of. Mu is not only being seen in high numbers or high percentages but it is being detected in different places throughout the US with highest prevalence of the variant in Colombia currently.

It carries a cluster of mutations in the genome of COVID in the genetic structure. According to the WHO, it is still a Variant of Interest (VOI) and no samples have been detected in India yet.

"From Colombia it has spread to other South American countries such as Ecuador (13%) and Chile (around 40%). The Mu variant has now been detected in 43 countries including the United States, United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan, Ecuador, Canada and parts of Europe. So far, it has not been detected in India," says Dr Rahul Pandit, Member, COVID-19 Task Force, Maharashtra Government.

He further adds that there are more than 4700 cases of the Mu variant worldwide. Although with 2000 cases, the US has recorded the highest number of Mu cases, it is not yet regarded as an immediate threat.

"A VOI becomes a VOC when we see documented evidence that there is an increase in transmissibility of the virus, it is more dangerous, have more resistance to vaccines, and higher infectivity rate," says Dr Ankita Baidya, Consultant, Infectious Diseases, Manipal Hospital, Dwarka, New Delhi.

Despite making its first presence in January 2021, and being around since, the Mu variant doesn't seem to be as bad as Delta, which is the dominant variant across most of the world. But Mu has mutations which possess the potential of evading the protection we get from the COVID vaccines.

However, the concern is that it can lead to immune escape phenomena in the form that the existing antibodies through natural infection might not be able to protect us from this infection. "When we see such novel strains circulating in the world, it becomes a concern especially with so many mutations in it that can evade our immunity and can also reinfect a person who has already recovered from the virus from some different strain," Baidya tells you.

The WHO has said, "The Mu variant has a

The WHO has said, "The Mu variant has a constellation of mutations that indicate potential properties of immune escape. Preliminary evidence shows that these mutations may allow it to escape vaccine- and convalescent serum-induced antibodies, similar to the Beta variant."

Dr Shomeshwar Singh, Lead Consultant, ENT, Madhukar Rainbow Children's Hospital says that though the reports have suggested its



decline in most of the world apart from South America lately, we have to watch carefully how this strain spreads.

The exact infection rate as of now is not well established and requires more data because there have only been sporadic cases. "With the mutation that it is carrying, there are chances of having a more severe infection from this strain as it is showing some sort of immune escape phenomena, which means that the previous antibody is not working and it can result in higher infectivity rate," says Baidya.

Talking about the efficacy of vaccines,

Talking about the efficacy of vaccines, there is still a lot of research to be done in order to confirm whether the existing vaccines will be effective against the Mu strain or not. Simultaneously, the risk that it can lower the vaccine's effect is also present.

Baidya says that the signs and symptoms of the mu strain are very much similar to the Delta variant. It also has a good amount of gastrointestinal symptoms along with the normal viral symptoms of upper respiratory tract that is the cough and cold, mild fever, loose motions, abdominal symptoms, nausea and dyspepsia. There can also be some headache, leg pain and body pain as with the other viral symptoms.

- A report from England's public health agency last month suggested the mu variant might be as resistant to vaccines as the worrisome beta variant first seen in South Africa, but said more real-world data was needed
- WHO officials said the mu variant appears to be rising in some countries in South America, but that the delta variant still spreads far more easily

Currently, only symptomatic treatment is given for any variant, similar to that of exist-

Many of us are wondering how quickly the

ing strains. The treatment is mostly designed

according to the severity of the disease whether

virus mutates and with every new variant emerg-

it is mild, moderate or severe.

spreads far more easily

The mu variant doesn't seem to be

spreading quickly: It accounts for fewer than 1% of COVID-19 cases globally

- In Colombia, it may be responsible for about 39% of cases
- Scientists monitor emerging COVID-19 variants based on suspicious genetic changes and then look for evidence to determine whether the new version is more infectious or causes more severe illness
- Viruses evolve constantly and many new variants often fade away

ing, recovering from this deadly pandemic seems difficult and looks like a far-fetched dream. On the other hand, we are learning to live with the pandemic and now consider it as a part of life. The virus will continue to undergo mutation in the genetic structure to evade the immune response, to evade the antibody

pressure and to evade the antiviral pressure. The new mutations may be less or more severe than the existing strains but at the same time we should not stop from taking adequate infection control precautions like wearing a mask, practising hand hygiene and maintaining social distancing. "Today, the world is a smaller place since people travel far and wide in a matter of hours, this helps the virus spread. We need to exercise carefully drawn up social isolation and quarantine measures to fight the virus spread. Vaccination is very important," Singh tells you.

The Mu variant has severe mutations such as T95I, Y144S, Y145N, R346K, E484K, N501Y, D614G, P681H, Y144T, K417N and D950N in the spike protein. Some of these mutations have been detected in the variants of concern. The N501Y and P681H mutations are also present in the Alpha variant (B.1.1.7, first detected in the UK) and have been linked to rapid transmission. The N501Y mutation is also present in the Beta and Gamma variants of concern (VOC). The E484K and K417N mutations, which also occur in the Beta variant (B.1.351, first detected in South Africa) are associated with immune escape. However, the significance of other mutations is not yet known.

'To prevent new variants, get swiftly vaccinated'

he World Health Orgaization (WHO) has added a fifth variant of interest (VOI)— B.1.621.1 and labelled it — Mu variant — on August 30, 2021. The other four present VOIs are Eta (B.1.525), lota (B.1.526), Kappa (B.1.617.1) and Lambda (C.37).

The Mu variant was first identified in Colombia in South America in January 2021, where Mu has been detected in 39 per cent of the samples analysed. From there, it has spread to other South American countries such as Ecuador (13per cent) and Chile (around 40 per cent).

The Mu variant has now been detected in 43 countries including the US, the UK, South Korea, Japan, Ecuador, Canada and parts of Europe. So far, it has not been detected in India.

According to Dr Dr Rahul Pandit, Member, COVID-19 Task Force, Maharashtra Government there are more than 4,700 cases of the Mu variant worldwide. Although with 2000 cases, the US has recorded the highest number of Mu cases, it is not yet regarded as an immediate threat.

Last month, the WHO has said that the Mu variant has a constellation of mutations that indicate potential properties of immune escape. "Preliminary evidence shows that these mutations may allow it to escape vaccine- and convalescent seruminduced antibodies, similar to the Beta variant," Dr Pandit says.

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The Delta variant (B.1.617.2) continues to be the predominant variant across the world and the major cause of resurgence of cases

in many parts of the world.

At present, the Mu variant accounts for only 0.1 per cent of cases globally, even though it has been around since January this year.

Although it is not a variant of

Although it is not a variant of concern (VOC) yet, it is being closely monitored to detect any changes that would make it more transmissible than the delta variant, cause more severe disease and make vaccines less effective. If this happens, it may be re-categorised as a VOC.

"The best strategy to prevent emergence of new variants is to swiftly vaccinate as many people as possible. The larger the vaccinated population, the less the vulnerable population for the virus to infect and mutate," Dr Pandit says.

Bopanna and Ramkumar crack in must-win doubles match, India lose 1-3 to Finland

PTI ■ ESPOO (FINLAND)

Ramanathan blew their chances in the must-win doubles match as India lost the World Group I tie 1-3 to hosts Finland in the Davis Cup, here on Saturday.

Captain Rohit Rajpal changed the doubles combination by pairing Bopanna with Ramkumar instead of lefthanded Divij Sharan but they lost the crucial match 6-7(2) 6-7(2) to Henri Kontinen and Harri Heliovaara in one hour and 38 minutes.

Coming into the match down 0-2, Indians needed to win the doubles to stay alive

Niklas-Salminen in the dead fourth rubber 6-3 7-5, while the fifth match was not played.

India will now have to compete in the Play-offs next year to keep their place in the World Group I.

Heliovaara was considered the most vulnerable of all four players on the court but he raised his game by several notches and created a huge impact on the outcome of the match with his fearless approach.

The Indian, on the contrary, fumbled even when they had advantage as they up by a break and had four breakpoints in the eight game of the second set but squandered the chances.

After doing all the hard work, the Indians cracked at crucial junctures.

Bopanna said the fact that the Finnish players have played together at a higher level made a difference to the

"We were playing first time together at this level. In close points it did make a difference. But we played a great match, (considering) we were playing for the first time together," said the 40-year-old.

Bopanna also backed the captain's call in changing the combination saying, he and Ramkumar were the right pair for today's match.

He also said that India needs to do well in singles matches if the team has to win



"Four points are from singles matches, that's where we need to focus. It's been six years that an Indian singles player has beaten a higherranked player in Davis Čup.

"We need to have good structure back home, good junior system. Cricket does well because there is a fantastic structure, so every sport needs something like that. You can't do it on your own. The Federation and the government has to come together," he said.

In the opening set, at 3-3, the Indian pair attacked the serve of Heliovaara, going 30all but the home player served big on the next two points to ensure the set stays on serve.

Heliovaara found a stunning service return winner off Bopanna on the second point to get the mini break and also held his serve as Finland took a 4-1 lead.

Then came Ramkumar's double fault and a volley error at the net that gave Finland players five set points. They converted the second when Ramkumar could not return Kontinen's serve. A forehand winner by

Ramkumar at 30-all in the second game of the second set, set up the first break chance for India and they converted when Kontinen could not return Bopanna's backhand.

However, the big-serving

serve in the next game when he made consecutive unforced

Bopanna' serve again came under attack but he managed to hold after going down to deuce points from 40-15 as India led 4-3.

In the next game, the Indians went up 40-0 on Heliovaara's serve but blew away all three breakpoints and later one more to let the rivals hold for a 4-4 scoreline.

Another tie-breaker followed. Helovaara pulled of a sensational forehand winner at 5-2 to get to first match point and it was all over for India when Ramkumar could not return the ball in the

Extended NZ squad flies out of Pakistan on chartered plane



PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

n extended 33-member An extended 55
New Zealand cricket squad left for Dubai on a chartered flight from Islamabad on Saturday evening, a day after abandoning its entire tour of the country over security fears.

The New Zealand players and officials had to undergo rapid COVID-19 tests at the airport and after all the reports came negative, they were allowed to board the flight amid tight security protocols.

New Zealand Cricket

(NZC) called off the series in Pakistan abruptly on Friday just before the first One-Day International at the Rawalpindi stadium, citing they had received a serious threat.

ard nor their government has shared the nature of the the tour.

threat with the Pakistan government, security officials or the Pakistan Cricket Board.

A clearly upset interior minister, Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed, said on Saturday that there was no threat to the New Zealand team and they just made up an excuse to leave for home as they didn't want to play the series.

New Zealand had arrived in Pakistan on September 11 for a white-ball series after 18 years and were scheduled to play three ODIs and five T20 Internationals.

They also held a few practice sessions at the Pindi stadium under tight security but on the day of the match, all hell broke loose when the two teams didn't leave the hotel before it emerged that the visitors had got Neither the New Zealand a threat leading to their government advising t

PTI ■ KARACHI

New Zealand's abrupt decision to pull out of their cricket tour of Pakistan has created "an unfortunate scenario" but the hosts know how to overcome such crises, the chairman of the country's cricket board Ramiz Raja said on Saturday.

New Zealand abandoned

opening fixture on Friday citing a government security alert, while England are also reconsidering their men's and women's team visits to Pakistan next month.

The tour was due to start with the first of three one-dayers in Rawalpindi but New Zealand did not travel to the stadium.

"It's an unfortunate scethe tour on the day of the nario," Raja, who took over as



Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman on Monday, said in a video posted on the board's

'But we've faced similar situations in the past and have always overcome them. We've tremendous resilience... it's a setback to staging international cricket in Pakistan but we'll overcome this crisis

Several Pakistan players

took to Twitter to vent their anger and frustration at New Zealand's decision. Raja advised them to channel it into improving their perfor-

"My message to the team -- vent your anger and frustration through your performance on the field. "If you become the best team in the world, others will queue up here to play you in Pakistan."

Honey Baisoya ends title drought, lifts J&K Open trophy

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Delhi's Honey Baisoya on Saturday ended a threeyear title drought by claiming a four-stroke win over Gurugrambased Veer Ahlawat at the J&K Open. Six-time PGTI winner Baisoya (67-69-66-68), who was struggling for form through the season, totalled 18-under 270 for the week following his classy final round of four-under 68 at the Royal Springs Golf Course. He thus skyrocketed from

85th to 22nd place in the PGTI Order of Merit. Ahlawat (67-71-70-66) also made his presence felt in the last round with a score of 66 to finish second at 14-under 274 in

the Rs. 40 lakh event. Patna's Aman Raj (68-71-70-66) too shot a 66 on day four to take the third place at 13under 275.

Baisoya, the overnight leader by four shots, had a nervy start to the day as he made



even as the likes of Angad Cheema and Kartik Sharma piled on the pressure on the leader with early birdies.

Baisoya almost found the hole with his chip on the seventh but eventually tapped in for his first birdie of the day. A 20-feet birdie conversion followed on the ninth as he made the turn with a two-shot cushion.

of the tournament when he three-putted on the 13th. That narrowed down his lead over Veer Ahlawat to just two shots.

Baisova mag

Robert Lewandowski scored yet again Bayern Munich's 7-0 rout of pro-

moted Bochum in the Bundesliga on

run to 19 consecutive games across all

competitions for Bayern. The Poland

star's second half goal also ensured he

became the first Bundesliga player to

starting the Champions League on

Tuesday beating Barcelona 3-0, while Bochum arrived in Munich after two

was Bayern's first shot on target.

league defeats.

Bayern was already confident after

The visitors made a solid start until Leroy Sané opened the scoring with a brilliant free kick in the 17th minute. It

score in 13 consecutive home games.

Lewandowski stretched his scoring

14th and 15th as a result of some long conversions thanks to his new putter.

The 25-year-old landed his approach from 134 yards to within a foot to set up another birdie on the 17th that all but sealed the deal for him.

"It still feels like a dream special," said Baisova, who had just one top-20 from 10 starts in the season. "Normally I'm a very aggressive player but with for victory with birdies on the confidence not being up there I Gurugram at 10-under 278.

tried to play more conservatively than I usually do. I used the 2-iron a lot and struck it to perfection all week.

"I also didn't make mistakes on the green like I had done in preceding events. The goal this week was to make the cut and I ended up winning. So it's still sinking in," added Baisoya, who took home the winner's cheque worth Rs. 6,46,600.

Ahlawat posted his second straight runner-up finish on the PGTI to move up from fifth to third in the Order of Merit.

Raj's 66 lifted him seven places to the third position. He made seven birdies and a bogey. Om Prakash Chouhan (66) of Mhow and Panchkula's Angad Cheema (70) shared fourth

shot the day's lowest score of 65 to secure tied seventh along with Kartik Sharma (7

Mohammad Hussamuddin enters quarterfinals at National **Boxing Championships**

PTI ■ BELLARY (KARNATAKA)

ommonwealth Games Cbronze . medallist Mohammad Hussamuddin (57kg) stormed into the quarterfinals with a 5-0 win over Chhattisgarh's Sahil at the National Boxing Championships here on Saturday. Defending champion Hussamuddin, who is representing Services Sports Control Board (SSCB), displayed smart

unanimous 5-0 win. He will face Rushikesh Goud of Maharashtra on

and mature boxing and landed

plenty of punches to secure a

In the other round of 16 match in the 57kg category, Haryana's Sachin was up against Manipur's Jobison

World youth champion chin wl

world championship medallist Gaurav Bidhuri, made light work of his opponent and won 5-0 to book his spot in the quarters. In 54kg, Goa's Roshan Zamir produced a dominant show in the last round to outwit Suraj Bhan Singh of Rajasthan 3-2 in one of the closest bouts of the day.

Rajasthan's Bhim Pratap Singh (51kg) and Delhi's Rohit Mor (57kg) too progressed into the quarterfinals with identical 5-0 victories on the fourth day of the champi-

In the 60kg match, Tripura's Parvinder Poonia beat Prabhu Murali of Tamil Nadu 5-0. Chandigarh's Aman (67kg) and Sachin (71kg) impressed everyone with their attacking boxing as both of them won after forcing the referee to stop the contest (RSC) in the second round and sailed into the quar-

Young, stacked US team faces familiar battle in Ryder Cup

AP ■ GOLF WRITER

 $T^{\text{he Americans would seem to}}_{\text{have a lot in their favor at the}}$

They are on home soil at Whistling Straits along the Wisconsin shores of Lake Michigan. A full house is expected, along with louder than usual cheering for the Stars & Stripes because of COVID-19 travel restrictions for European-based fans. As for the players? Younger than ever, to be sure, but no less stacked. The Americans have eight of the top 10 in the world ranking — Europe only has Jon Rahm at No. 1 — on a team that has won twice as many majors.

This is nothing new, of course. With one exception, the Americans always bring a better collection of players to the Ryder Cup. They just rarely leave with the precious gold trophy.

"We have the best players this year," said Paul Azinger, the lead analyst for NBC Sports who still uses pronouns as if it were 2008 when he was the U.S. captain. "And obviously, they (Europe) roll in with the most confidence and maybe the best team."

The trick is getting the American players to realize that. At the last Ryder Cup in France three years ago, the U.S. was just as loaded, with nine major champions on the 12-man squad who had combined to win 10 of the last 16 majors.

They got smoked again.
"I feel like on paper, from head to toe, the world ranking, I

would say we're a stronger team," U.S. captain Steve Stricker said. "But I don't think our guys feel we're better. They know deep down how hard it is to beat them." All that matters on paper are the results. Europe has won nine of the last 12 times in the Ryder Cup. And while the U.S. still holds a 26-14-2 advantage



dating to the start in 1927, that's $\,$ On paper — on paper — the U.S. not the real measure. Continental Europeans did not join the fray until 1979, and since then they are 11-8-1.

Europe, with Padraig Harrington now at the helm of the juggernaut, tries to extend its dominance at the 43rd Ryder Cup, which was postponed one year because of the pandemic.

Three relentless days of matches Sept. 24-26 will be held at Whistling Straits, the cliffside course with 1,000 or so bunkers that has hosted the PGA Championship three times in the last 17 years. American players, it should be noted, have been runner-up in all three.

Why do the Europeans keep

inning the Ryder Cup? They relish the role as underdogs. They seem to play with a chip on their shoulders, perhaps because the Americans don't and probably should — have one on theirs. "That's our advantage, I guess, in a way, right?" Ian Poulter said in a SiriusXM PGA Tour Radio interview. "That we have delivered when perhaps we shouldn't have delivered. And this is the magical question that gets asked all the time. That's what has the American press scratching their head. That's what has the American team scratching their heads at times.

team should have delivered.

"It's for us to enjoy and for the American team to figure out," he said. "There is a level of magic sauce which we've been able to create over the years.

Europe is bringing winning experience to Wisconsin.

Lee Westwood ties a European record by playing in his 11th Ryder Cup at age 48. He joins Sergio Garcia, already with the highest points total in history, on a short list of those who have played in Ryder Cups over parts of four decades. Garcia has contributed 25 1/2 points, the same amount as this entire U.S. team combined.

Whatever experience the Americans bring are mostly bad memories. Their lone victory in the last decade was at Hazeltine in 2016 against a European team that had six rookies. Only one of them, Matt Fitzpatrick, made it back on another team.

The six rookies are the most for the Americans since 2008 when they won at Valhalla.

Those include Collin Morikawa, who was an amateur when the last Ryder Cup was played and since then has won two majors, a World Golf Championship and led the U.S. standings in his first year of eli-



Lewandowski scores again as Bayern Munich routs Bochum 7-0

Sané set up Joshua Kimmich in the 27th and Serge Gnabry picked the far corner for Bayern's third in the 32nd.

An own goal from Vasilios Lampropoulos completed a first half to forget for Bochum - though history

showed an improbable comeback was

The clubs also met in the Bundesliga 45 years ago to the day, when Bochum - then playing at home - was four goals up against Bayern at halftime. Bayern fought back in the second half to win 6-5 with future club president Uli Hoeneß scoring the winner in the 89th.

Lewandowski has his own history to write, however. The Poland striker made it 5-0 in the 61st to extend his club-record scoring run. He has scored in every game since Feb. 15.

Kimmich got his second goal four minutes later and substitute Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting made it 7-0 in the 79th. It could have been worse for Bochum. Thomas Müller thought he made it 8-0 but his goal was ruled out through VAR for offside.

Mane reaches 100 goals for Liverpool in 3-0 win over Palace



AP LIVERPOOL

 S_{ninth} adio Mane scored for the against Crystal Palace and reached 100 goals for Liverpool to set his team on its way to a 3-0 win in the English Premier League on Saturday. The Senegal forward got to the milestone at Anfield by converting from close range in the 43rd minute after Mohamed Salah's header from a corner was parried out by Palace goalkeeper Vicente Guaita. Of Mane's century of goals for the Reds, which have come in 224 games, 10 have been scored against Palace. Salah added the second in

the 78th and that also came from a corner, with the Egypt international volleying in after a delivery from the left was deflected to him at the back post. Naby Keita scored the best of the lot in the 89th minute with a volley from the edge of the area after the ball was punched clear by Guaita. It proved to be a tough game for Liverpool, which was without its two attacking full backs because Trent Alexander-Arnold was ill and Andrew Robertson was rested, and there were some nervy moments before Salah's goal. Liverpool has won four of its five games in the league and conceded only once, its improved defensive showings coinciding with the return from injury of center back Virgil van

Falcao scores in debut as Rayo beats Getafe 3-0

AP ■ BARCELONA

Radamel Falcao scored 10 minutes into his debut with Rayo Vallecano on Saturday, completing a 3-0 league win over Getafe in a derby between the Spanish capital's two more

modest clubs. The veteran striker went on as a 71st-minute substitute with Rayo 1-0 ahead. Midfielder Pathé Ciss doubled the lead shortly before he set up Falcao with a pass for the Colombian to score from an

angle. Oscar Trejo had put Rayo ahead with a penalty nine minutes into the match at Vallecas Stadium

Rayo goalkeeper Stole Dimitrievski denied Getafe a late goal when he saved Enes Unal's penalty. Rayo has two wins, a draw,

and two defeats in its return to

Spain's top division. Getafe is

a free agent.

last after losing all five games. The 35-year-old Falcao signed with Rayo earlier this month as 'I had dreamed of being

able to go out there and score

a goal," Falcao said. "My team-



mates have given me a lot of support. I feel right at home." Falcao had two highly suc-

cessful seasons with Atlético Madrid from 2011-13, when he helped it win the Europa League and the Copa del Rey.

IPL RETURNS AS PRECURSOR TO T20 WORLD CUP

ubai, Sep 18 (PTI) Players will be getting valuable experience in the UAE conditions ahead of the T20 World Cup while the Indian cricket board will be hoping its money-spinner stays away from the looming COVID-19 shadow when the IPL resumes with the blockbuster Chennai Super Kings-Mumbai Indians clash here on Sunday.

As the second wave of COVID-19 wreaked havoc in India in April-May, the water-tight IPL bio-bubble was also breached, forcing the suspension of the tournament after 29

With too much at stake for all stakeholders including the players, teams and BCCI, there was little doubt over the completion of the world's biggest T20 competition. It was only about when the BCCI would squeeze in the IPL in an everpack global calendar.

After a few alterations in the franchise cricket and international calendar, the best possible window was found with the BCCI slotting in the tournament as the lead up to the T20 World Cup.

Last week, doubts over smooth conduct of the tournament resurfaced with the outbreak of COVID-19 in the Indian team's camp in England but fortunately for the organisers, the issue did not escalate and the available Indian and English players arrived here safely.

the UAE last year without any hassles and the BCCI will be hoping for a similar experience this time around.

Fans, albeit a limited number, will also be present at an IPL venue for the first time since 2019, adding immensely to the event's spectacle.

Though the squads have already been announced for the World Cup, an IPL performance seldom gets unnoticed and there could be some players, including Indians, who make the squad in the 11th hour in case of injury with the ICC allowing changes until October 10.

India skipper Virat Kohli, who will step down from T20 captaincy after the World Cup, would love to get his hands on the elusive trophy and Royal Challengers Bangalore showed signs earlier in the season that they could finally go all the way.

Delhi Capitals, who finished runners-up in 2020, are leading the points tally and are primed to win their maiden title. The other teams in the top four are CSK, RCB and the mighty Mumbai Indians, the winner of a record five titles and the team to upstage.

There are 31 games to be played in UAE conditions instead of the usual 60 and that could mean good pitches for the majority of the tournament. With the conditions different from India and pitches expected to be slower, all teams have emphasised on starting from scratch.

CSK and MI renew their

IPL 2021 Sept 19 Match: 30 7:30 pm

Chennai Super Kings



Mumbai Indians

Dubai International Stadium, Dubai

celebrated rivalry to kick start the IPL resumption on Sunday. Having already played half of their 14 league games, MI, who have three wins from seven games, can't afford

another slow start. CSK, aka Dad's Army, finally seemed to have found a winning combination after the disappointment of 2020. Their young guns like Ruturaj Gaikwad and Sam Curran delivered in the first half of the season while their spinners --Imran Tahir, Moeen Ali and Ravindra Jadeja -- also came to the party. Moeen and Jadeja also impressed with the bat.

Now the team will be hoping its stalwarts, skipper Dhoni and Suresh Raina, too find their

MI, on the other hand, will be hoping to up their game like they often do in pressure situations. Their famed middleorder did not exactly set the stage on fire and their bowling in the powerplay also can be

Skipper Rohit Sharma, who has been in stellar touch of late, will be expected to continue in the same vein and the likes of Suryakumar Yadav, Ishan Kishan and leggie Rahul Chahar, come into the event a more confident trio having made the World Cup

Star all-rounder Hardik Pandya would be expected to bowl regularly in the tournament which will also tell the India selectors on how he is shaping ahead of the ICC showpiece.

The teams which have been affected by withdrawals of key players include Punjab Kings, Rajasthan Royals and Kolkata Knight Riders, who all are struggling to survive in the competition.

Punjab had to seek replace-

Tried sitting on balcony to get acclimatised to conditions: Pant

Chennai Super Kings Total IPL matches played: 186 Won: 111 Lost: 74 No Highest total: 246/5 results: 1 **Mumbai Indians** Total IPL matches played: 210 Won: 124 Lost: **86** Highest total: 223/6 Head-to-Head in IPL Matches played: 31 CSK MI Won: 12 Won: 19 Highest total: Highest total: 218/4 219/6 KBK **Spoots** Graphics

ments for Dawid Malan, Riley Meredith and Jhye Richardson. They managed to rope in the services of rising Australian pacer Nathan Ellis to boost

their death bowling. England leggie Adil Rashid too has

"Our ultimate goal is to

win the trophy, but we are

going to focus on our process. Hopefully, we can continue to

play the way we did in the first

half of the IPL 2021 season

and we can go on and win the IPL trophy this year," said

excitement about meeting his

teammates after completing

meeting the teammates here in

training."
Delhi Capitals will take on

Sunrisers Hyderabad on

his quarantine period.

He has also expressed his

"It's really nice to meet everyone after coming out of quarantine. It's been great

eight matches.

Hasaranga and Chameera have provided new dimension to team: Kohli

PTI ■ DUBAI

 $R^{\text{oyal}}_{\text{Bangalore}} \overset{\text{Challengers}}{\text{skipper}} \overset{\text{Virat}}{\text{Virat}}$ Kohli on Saturday said his side will not take the good showing in the first leg of the IPL for granted, adding that latest additions, including Sri Lanka's Wanidu Hasaranga and Dushmantha Chameera, have added a new dimension to the team.

The IPL-14, which was suspended midway into the league in May owing to multiple COVID-19 cases in its bio-bubble, will resume in

the UAE on Sunday.
RCB are missing the services of a few of their players who featured in the first leg, including the Australian duo of Adam Zampa and Kane Richardson.

"We have made changes, we've got a few replacements. Kane Richardson, Adam Zampa who were with us in the first leg, made a decision not to play in the second leg for reasons which are absolutely understandable," Kohli said at the unveiling of team's blue jersey.

"The replacements we have got for those guys are two players who know these conditions, the conditions in the sub continent around this time are similar.

"Wanidu Hasaranga, Dushmantha Chameera have played so much cricket in Sri Lanka and know how to play in pitches like these. There skill sets will be of huge help

to us.
"We haven't spoken at all on what we have missed out on because players have pulled out. We feel stronger, the new additions have given us a new dimension," Kohli added.

RCB are currently placed third in the league table, having won five of their seven matches but the skipper said the team will start the second phase with the same passion and commitment they showed

in April-May.

"Having played the game for so long at this level you understand that whether you are seven wins in a row you have to start the eighth with the same passion and commitment and professionalism.

"Whether you have no wins out of five games you still have to find motivation and the passion inside to go out

and change the result. You can't take anything for grant-

"On the outside there are many analyses and data points but the game is not played on that. The game is never about information from the outside it is about reaction, belief in certain moments, game plans and making sure you have the will and commitment to execute those plans."

Asked if the players not getting enough time to spend as a group ahead of the tournament affect preparations in any way, Kohli said the team's performance in the first half instilled a lot of confidence.

"It is an important factor (players joining the squad at different times) but that isn't going to take away from what we set out to achieve and what we already set in motion in the last time.

"We had a great start to IPL 2021 to the campaign and that is a driving factor that we can play a certain brand of cricket that we have already shown in the first leg with really strong and consistent performances, every player chipping in somewhere or the other etc."

RCB are slated to take on Kolkata Knight Riders on Monday in Abu Dhabi and the Kohli-led RCB players will be wearing blue jerseys resembling the colour of the PPE kits of frontline warriors.

These signed jerseys will be auctioned and the proceeds will be used for free vaccination among lesser privileged communities in India.

Mumbai pick Roosh Kalaria as replacement for injured Mohsin

Defending champions Mumbai Indians have added fast bowling all-rounder Roosh Kalaria to their main squad as a replacement for the injured Mohsin Khan for the UAE leg of the IPL.

The 28-year-old Kalaria had travelled to Abu Dhabi with the Mumbai Indians squad as a back-up player, and now has earned his first IPL contract. Kalaria was part of the India U-19 team in the 2012 ICC U-19 cricket World Cup. He has been a key player

for Gujarat in the domestic cricket over the years since his debut in 2012.



Kalaria was inducted in the squad on Saturday during the team's training session. The lucrative league resumes here on Sunday with a much-awaited clash between five-time IPL champions Mumbai Indians and three-time winners Chennai Super Kings.

PTI DUBAI

oming off a long tour of the United Kingdom, Delhi Capitals captain Rishabh Pant sought to get acclimatised to the UAE's extreme heat by spending time on the balcony of his hotel room during the mandatory quarantine.

However, it was still not comfortable when he did his first training session on Friday ahead of the IPL's resumption. Pant said that he is currently focussing on getting used to the conditions in the UAE.

"It's pretty hot here in the UAE. I was trying to sit on the balcony during my quarantine period as much as possi-

ble to get used to the condi-

tions. But, it still felt quite hot

when I took part in my first practice session here.

"I'm just trying to get used to the conditions now and hopefully, I will be fully acclimatised to the conditions in 2-3 days," Pant said in a release issued by Delhi Capitals.

The wicketkeeper-batsman said that the team will look to continue its brilliant performance from the first half of the IPL 2021 season.

The Delhi Capitals are currently at the top of the table with 12 points from

September 22, in their first match on resumption.

ife may come to a full circle for Anil Kumble Las the Sourav Ganguly-led BCCI might ask him to apply for the post of head coach of the Indian team along with VVS Laxman once Ravi

Kumble was the coach of the Indian team for a year between 2016-17 when the Cricket Advisory Committee headed by Sachin Tendulkar, Laxman and Ganguly had appointed him, replacing Shastri.

Kohli led to Kumble tendering his resignation after the Champions Trophy final defeat against

approach Laxman, who has been a mentor of the IPL side Sunrisers Hyderabad for some years now. However, Kumble will be favourite even as

The manner in which the CoA succumbed to the pressure of Kohli and removed him, wasn't the best example set. However, it also depends on whether Kumble or Laxman are ready to apply for the job," a senior BCCI source privy to development told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Kohli has already announced that he will quit as T20 captain after the World Cup.



is always the first choice and both Kumble and Laxman with their stature in Indian cricket with 100 plus Test matches along with coaching experience fit the bill perfectly. A foreign coach is the second option.

'The criteria for BCCI's coach's job will be such that only a select few with very good record as player as well as experience of coaching/men-

torship can apply for the top job," the source said. Asked if Vikram Rathour is in contention, the official said,"He can apply if he wishes to but he doesn't have the stature to become a head coach of the Indian cricket team.

"He is at best an assistant coach. However, when we select the new coach, he will have a team all by himself. So let's wait and watch," the source

Pelé in 'semi-intensive' care, daughter says he's doing well

AP ■ SAO PAULO

 $B^{\text{razilian soccer great Pelé "took a little}}$ step back" in his recovery from surgery to remove a tumor from his colon but he is "recovering well" at a Sao Paulo hospital, his daughter Kely Nascimento said.

However, the Albert Einstein hospital said the 80-vear-old Edson Arantes do Nascimento had returned to intensive care after "a brief breathing instability" Thursday night. Pelé was currently stable in "semi-intensive" care, the hospital said, and he "continues recovering." It did not give further details.

Kely Nascimento posted a picture Friday with her father on Instagram which she said she had just taken in his room at the Albert Einstein hospital.

"He is recovering well and within normal range. Promise!" Kely Nascimento

"The normal recovery scenario for a man of his age after an operation like this is sometimes two steps forward and one step back. Yesterday he was tired and took a little step back."

'Today he took two forwards!" she added, without giving more details.

The hospital had not previously issued a new statement on Pelé's health since Tuesday, when he was removed from intensive care.

Later Pelé confirmed on social media that he is feeling well and that he had been visited by family members during the day. "I continue to smile every day. Thank

you for all the love I get from you," Pelé said. The tumor was found when Pelé went for routine exams at the end of August. His surgery took place on Sept. 4. Pelé won the 1958, 1962 and 1970

World Cups, and remains Brazil's all-time leading scorer with 77 goals in 92

No regrets on book launch, no-one got Covid from that party: Shastri celled with the outcome of the series

PTI ■ LONDON

London, Sep 18 (PTI) India head Coach Ravi Shastri says he has no regrets about organising the book launch, which was widely perceived to be the reason for a COVID-19 outbreak that forced the cancellation of the fifth Test against England in Manchester.

Shastri, fielding coach R Sridhar, bowling coach Bharath Arun and physio Nitin Patel were found infected during the Oval Test and when junior physio Yogesh Parmar's test came positive ahead of the fifth Test in Manchester, the game was controversially called off with India leading the series 2-1.

There were reports of people not

wearing masks at the event. "I have absolutely no regrets because the people I met at that function were fabulous. And it was good for the boys to get out and meet different people rather than constantly being in their rooms," said Shastri in

an interview to 'The Guardian'. "At the Oval Test, you were climbing stairs used by 5,000 people. So to point a finger at a book launch?"



he asked.

...but I wasn't worried because incubation probably takes weeks. There were about 250 people there and no-one got COVID from that

party."

Talking about his time in isolation, Shastri said: "It was funny because in my 10 days, I didn't have a single symptom barring a little sore throat. I never had any temperature and my oxygen level was 99 per cent all the time

"I didn't take any medication through 10 days of my isolation, not a single paracetamol. I tell the guys: 'Once you're double jabbed, it's a bloody 10-day flu. That's it."

The book launch got even more attention after the fifth Test was can-

yet to be decided.

Asked if he was made the scapegoat in the aftermath of the abandoned Test, Shastri said the truth was

'I've not got it at my book launch because it was on the 31st (August) and I tested positive on 3 September. It can't happen in three days. I think I got it in Leeds. England opened up on 19 July and suddenly the hotels were back, lifts were back. No restric-

Shastri said he wasn't involved in the decision to not play the Manchester Test while he was isolating in London. He also didn't discuss the matter with the players.

"No. I didn't know who had got it. I didn't know (the junior physio) got it suddenly and tested positive. He physically treated five or six players. think that's where the issue started. We were aware that the incubation period meant that someone might get it in the middle (of the Test).

"A lot of players had their families there. So it became a situation where you don't know what that player is thinking."

BCCI may approach Anil Kumble, VVS Laxman for head coach's post

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shastri finishes his term after the T20 World Cup.

However, a bitter fall-out with captain Virat

Along with Kumble, the board may also

Laxman will also remain in contention. "Anil Kumble's exit needs course correction.

For the BCCI brass, a reputed Indian coach

tenure as captain," the 42-year-old said. "This has been a strange year off the field due to pandemic and who knows it might be a different year for Bangalore from previous seasons and they go on to win the trophy," said Sehwag. Just like that last edition of IPL in the UAÉ, Sehwag again feels that Mumbai and

Dhoni as mentor will benefit bowling: Sehwag While the BCCI has announced the I think more so for Virat as with his huge 15-member squad with three reserves, fan base, everyone wants Virat to win a Sehwag believes that with ICC giving a trophy for the Bangalore franchise. If not multiple times then at least once in his

> "100%. We have around seven matches minimum left for the teams. That means you still have a platform to perform and

> "Since ICC allows a window to change teams, I will not be surprised if there are some changes in the original squad," the

ahead," he said. Sehwag reckons that pitches in UAE

Delhi are favourites to win the tourna-

'Since the second half has been shift-

ed to Dubai and Abu Dhabi, I think Delhi

lacking a bit in batting firepower. If I have to pick one team, that will be Mumbai."

He said that for Chennai, after such long gap, it might take "some more

PTI ■ NEW DELHI Mahendra Singh Dhoni was always a bowlers' captain in white ball crick-

India opener Virender Sehwag. Dhoni was recently named mentor for the mega event by the BCCI.

et and his presence as team mentor for the

T20 World Cup will immensely benefit

Jasprit Bumrah and Co, feels former

"I am very happy that MS accepted the offer to be the Team Mentor for the T20 World Cup. I know many people want that MS should again comeback into the mainstream of Indian cricket and being roped in as the mentor is the best thing that could have happened," Sehwag told PTI in an exclusive interview.

Sehwag, who has played alongside Dhoni for a decade, knew what his core strength was as a captain and that is understanding his bowlers' psyche in limited overs format

"As a keeper, MS was exceptional with his understanding of field placements and this is something that will help the bowling unit in this World Cup. The bowlers can pick his brains and get useful tips on planning against a batsman," the explosive opener of yesteryears said.

For Sehwag, there can't be a better 'mentor' than Dhoni when it comes to young players, who are a bit introvert and need someone to guide them as they try to express themselves on the field. There are always players in any

international side, who are shy and do hesitate to go up to their skipper and strike up a cricketing conversation. MS has always been that kind of a person who is easily approachable and also a perfect trouble shooter for youngsters."

window to change teams till October 10, there could still be room for some good performers, who have missed the bus.

those who are on the fringes could still impress the Indian selectors who would be watching the tournament closely.

Nawab of Najafgarh said. Talking about Virat Kohli, Sehwag said that Kohli at least owes one IPL trophy to Bangalore since he enjoys such a huge fan

"IPL is important for every captain but will be slower and thus Chennai and

Bengaluru might facesome problems. 'Chennai's average score in India was 201 during the first phase but I think when it comes to UAE tracks, they would be

and Mumbai will again be favourites and

the five-time champions are slightly matches" to settle down and get into the





■ What's your role in Kaboom?

I play an office going girl. It's been a lot of fun because in office you make friends with a lot of people, you like few of them and there are friends who would totally change the course of your life. It's a story of five guys and all the women in their lives.

■ How is it different from other roles you

I have played an office going lady before but it is slightly different. No two characters can be the same. You could probably dress up alike but characters would be different. For example, in Inside Edge and City of Dreams, I'll be dressed the same way but the roles are different. All characters are different. In Kaboom, I have not been a part of such a story before. That is what excited me and

made me say yes.

How did you get into acting?

After my Board, I had a lot of time while waiting for the result. I ended up walking the ramp that my mom and aunty had asked me to participate in. Then I took part in beauty contest in Delhi L was the first runner's up. It contest in Delhi. I was the first runner's up. It was a huge moment for me. I went to Mumbai, did an acting course. In the second month into my training I got my first Telugu

■ What were the challenges that came your way to make space in the entertainment

me a ticket to Bollywood.

film. While I was doing my first film, I signed my second, a major blockbuster, which got

Many. Even after I had lost weight I still had the baby fat on my face and body. I have gone through so much rejection. I got work in the South but everytime I came to Mumbai



EVEN AFTER I HAD LOST WEIGHT I STILL HAD THE BABY FAT ON MY FACE AND BODY. I HAVE GONE THROUGH SO MUCH REJECTION. I GOT WORK IN THE SOUTH BUT **EVERYTIME I CAME TO MUMBAI AND** AUDITIONED, I WAS **REJECTED & TOLD TO** LOSE WEIGHT



and auditioned, they would just say: "Sorry, please lose weight. Second would be the challenge of meeting good and bad people and knowing the difference. Third would be having periods of no work. Every actor has to be brave to be an actor. But it has been a fun ride with lots of lessons learnt.

You have primarily worked in Tollywood. How did Bollywood happen?

I always wanted to do Bollywood. Tollywood happened by chance and I am glad it did. In Bombay, I only got rejections to begin with. My mom was a teacher and the principal of that school was the producer of my first film, Love in Nepal. It was my faith that I started with South and Hindi happened because they knew I am working in South.

From Punjabi to Telugu to Tamil to Hindi movies how has the journey been

The journey has been amazing. But I have many miles to go. I am grateful that I am at present, in the best phases of life. ■ Is there a co-star you loved working

There are lots. I have learnt something or the other from all of them. But I would like to talk about Sonu Nigam. We were shooting for *Love in Nepal* (2003). It was November-December in Nepal and very cold. We were shooting a song and all the locals came and sat on the wall of the bungalow. Someone asked him to sing a song and he did. He is a people's person. That's what I loved about him. What I have learnt was that it is the love of people that makes you a star. I never heard him saying no, he would do anything and

Bolly

World

Rashmi **Agdekar on** The Interns 2

he *Rasbhari* actress Rashmi Agdekar will be seen in the upcoming web series The Interns 2 on September 24.

for her debut web series Dev DD and I'm Mature, where she played the lead role

In a candid chat, Rashmi shared about being part of The

"I'm so excited for this season. Season 1 received so

much love. This season we'll see more of the intern life, everyone who has gone through an internship will totally relate to the series, said Rashmi, who made her Bollywood debut in Andhadhun. The actress will be seen alongside Ahsaas Channa, Revathi

Pillai and Khushbu Baid, in the series directed by Durin Das. "This series is close to my heart as I got to work with people who are also my friends, Rashmi said.

PM Modi biopic starring

The biopic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. starring Vivek Modi is going to get a digital

Talking about the movie. Vivek said: "I have immense respect for our Prime Minister, and it was an honour to have been given an opportunity to be

through cinema. "It traces Modi*ji's* journey from his modest origins to his historic victory as the Chief

his nomination as the Prime Minister of India. I feel immense pleasure that this inspirational story will now have a wider reach with the release." he said.



Vivek Oberoi

Anand Oberoi, titled PM Narendra

able to tell his story to the world.

Minister of Guiarat and eventually



Masterstroke

t appears that the rain Gods are here to stay for some more time. Monsoons are seen as beauty and rage, all in one frame. This is the time when the windows call for all those outdoor shades, indoor blinds, multi-layered curtains and sheer shutters designed to watch over your

The cloudburst and drizzles are cloaked in all different formsintricate finespun drapery, clean-lined bamboo louvres, woven jute rollers and quilted curtains have a unique take on the interior persona.

The sheer choices befit the spaces overlooking good vistas and lighter showers, while opaque alternatives become the first choice for a rougher microclimate.

With an aesthetic overlay of motifs, botanical prints or chintz patterns, these shades are everything we need on a rainy day. - Courtesy Punam Kalra, Creative Director, I'm The Centre for Applied Arts

NatureTalk

It is not always possible to ensure that the plant that you bring is going to live. Hence, it is important to take care of it properly. Let's take the pitcher plant. So how does one take care of it if one wants to keep it indoors even if it is a carnivorous plant?



Depending on the species, some require full sunlight and those that originate in the floor of the rainforest may need filtered light.

It requires moist soil, keep the potting soil moist, but not soggy. Allow the pot to drain thoroughly after watering and never let the pot stand in water or the roots will rot.

NOE BOLT IDEA

Wheelchair users are generally restricted within the four walls of their homes. However, now a motorised wheelchair developed by IIT Madras is transforming the lives of the physically challenged. SHALINI SAKSENA tells you more

ndia is still not a very friendly when it comes to movement for the physically challenged. However, a lot has changed and now malls and many theatres have ramps. Yet, there movement is entirely dependent on a family member or a friend. But what if there was a way where these people could be independent in their movement? Go to the market? Go to work without having to depend on others? All this and much more is now possible.

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras has developed the country's first indigenous motorised wheelchair vehicle that can be used not only on roads but even on uneven terrains!

The NeoBolt as the vehicle is called makes it possible for the wheelchair user to move with a convenient, safe and low-cost mode of outdoor ility. The motorised wheelchair has been developed by a team led by Professor Sujatha Srinivasan, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Madras and commercialised through a start-up NeoMotion and co-founded by Srinivasan and an IIT Madras alumnus Swostik Sourav Dash who is the

Interestingly Professor Srinivasan also led the team that developed India's first indigenously-designed standing wheelchair — Arise. It helps a wheelchair user to shift from sitting to standing position.

Professor Srinivasan who is also the faculty head, TTK Center for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development tells you that their vision is to transform the disability landscape in India by creating functional and affordable assistive devices. Dash says that the features of the NeoBolt are available only in the global market but these are at least three to five times more expensive. After graduating from IIT Madras and working in the corporate sector for a couple of years, Dash decided that he had had enough and he wanted to get back to product designing that has

"To begin with, we launched standing wheelchair. In 2015, while travelling for one design and development product, I interacted with around 200 wheelchair users across 40 locations. It was during these interactions that we understood the ground reality — what kind of wheel-chairs people have been using and the challenges that came with it. Based on our findings in 2016, we started NeoMotion, Dash says.

One is told that the NeoFly is the first wheelchair in the country that is customised to the user. It is provide comfort, efficient propulsion, higher manoeuvrability and superior ergonomics. This means more comfort for the user with no back pain due to sitting long hours on the wheelchair.

It is estimated that three lakh wheelchairs are sold annually in India, of these 2.5 lakh are imported. Nearly 95 per cent of all wheelchairs sold are one-size-fits-all, which restricts mobility and damages health.

"Once we realised what the market was like, we decided to develop NeoFly, a customeise wheelchair. The advantage is that it covers three to five times more distance for every push since the user has the right posture, a rigid frame and an ergonomic push-rim. As the wheelchair is conforms to user's body, the user more visible than the wheelchair. Also, the cushion, that comes with each of our



wheelchair is designed to enhance skincare, stability and ease of transfer," Dash explains.

But this is not all. The best part of the NeoFly is that it can be converted into a NeoBolt — a motor-powered clip-on. In other words, after the 18 customised paramentres that are taken into consideration while designing the wheelchair for better comfort of the user, the motorised clip-on makes it possible for the user to be independent; he can drive up to 25 km for a round trip. "With an additional battery this disThe motorised wheelchair comes with great features. It has safety anti-tippers, digital dashboard, headlight, side indicators, horn and a mirror. It was a reverse function and a telescopic suspension

tance can increased," Dash says. So, how does it work? The wheelchair comes with a design that makes it possible for the user to attach the wheelchair to a motorised part in such a manner that from the front it looks like a bike. Once the wheelchair is clipped in and locked, it gets converted into a safe, road-worthy vehicle that can navigate any kind of terrain. It can drive through unpaved streets or climb a steep gradient. To be able to do this easily and comfortably it has suspensions to absorb the shocks. If this did not impress you here are some more features that are an eye-opener. It has safety anti-tippers (prevents the wheelchair from tipping over on the road), a digital dashboard, headlight, side indicators, horn and a mirror. It was a reverse function, has telescopic suspension with a rugged built chassisum. The motorised wheelchair has a speed of 25 km per hour and trav els up to 25 km per charge. It is powered by a lithium-ion battery.

Till now, the start-up has sold has sold over 600 such wheelchairs across 28 States. "The feedback has been positive. People can go and seen the demo units that are available at 15 dealer outlets and four rehabilitation centres in major cities. Also, the entire customisation is done remotely. It takes around 35-40 days for it to reach the user's doorstep," Dash says.

The personalised wheelchair is available at ₹39,900 and the motorised add-on is available at ₹55,000. Though the price may be high given that normal wheelchair costs around ₹7,000, the benefits that this wheelchair offers is worth every penny.

Those looking for EMI options, can pre-book with ₹1,000 by registering on company website," Dash says.

GOUROV DASGUPTA, who composed music for films like Chehre, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about his solo compositions and other upcoming projects

❖ Bhuj: The Pride of India is a war movie. How is composing different here?

It was extremely challenging to compose it. I went to Amazon and ordered myself a Khaki shirt and pants, an army jacket, a helmet and a toy gun. I took my guitar, sat on my balcony and made Hanjugam. Later I got in touch with my lyricist Devshi Khanduri, she wrote the most incredible lyrics and Jubin Nautiyal sang it. You have released two singles this year Saiyyonee and Dream Main Entry. How different is the experience working on an independent track then a movie track?

Indie music is at par with Bollywood and in some ways has actually surpassed it because in the last two years due to the lockdown Bollywood has taken a back seat to a great extent, which breaks my heart completely. But independent music is at an

all time high and Saiyonee was my last song with Sony music, I did eight singles with them.

Dream Main Entry is my first association on the independent music front with Saregama. I have done film Total Dhamaal with them and it was really huge. I was surprised at the way Saregama handled and executed this song as I personally did not expect the song to be as big as it is. **Your track from Chehre is** receiving a lot of love? How was the overall experience while working on the track?

Composing for Chehre was really challenging because to be working with Emraan Hashmi, you can't fool him with an average song. He is someone who goes hand in hand with good music since the time I can remember. He understands his music. When a song works, you already know it in your heart so, this is one song I am very proud of.

'It has been a tough year for music'



How tough has it been since the pandemic? It has been tough, we did-

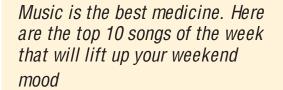
n't see it coming. It has been

tough on the entire industry, especially the music industry because so many artists were dependent on the shows and gigs for livelihood. But there has been a complete blast on the digital forefront as far as music is concerned. Hopefully there will be a filter soon where we will know what is good and

what is not. **♦** What are your upcoming projects?

I have a few very interesting films and a couple of singles coming out soon. Just that in our industry till you finally see your name on the list, you really don't know what is happening anymore. Those times are gone when you would verbally commit to a film and then it would just sail through. Now, anyone can be replaced on the 11th hour. So, I am a little superstitious about that but I will definitely keep my fan posted as there are a lot of interesting releases this year.

Sound of . MUSIC .



BOLLYWOOD VIBES

Mann Bharryaa 2.0 (B Praak)

Baarish Ban Jaana (Stebin Ben, Payal Dev) Bepanah Ishq (Yasser Desai, Payal Dev) Sakhiyan 2.0 (Maninder Buttar, Zara Khan) Ishq Mein (Sachet Tandon)

ENGLISH VINGLISH ILY (Surf Mesa) Where Are You (Otnicka) Butter (BTS) Willow (Taylor Swift) Stuck With You (Ariana Grande)



If streaming services are looking at making profits in India, they should adapt to regional realities, start thinking creatively and take a leaf out of what has worked globally, writes AJAYYA KUMAR

he Covid-19 induced lockdown might have given a shot in the arm for streaming services, but making substantial profits in the Indian market still remains an elusive dream for most of them. In the financial year 2020, Netflix India recorded a revenue of Rs 924 Crore and managed to eke out a marginal profit of Rs 9 crore. The streaming giant's over all profits globally for the same year stood at a whopping \$2.8 billion.

Disney+Hotstar in India, on the other hand, recorded revenue to the tune of Rs 1629 Crore with losses amounting to Rs 362 crore. Hotstar is currently India's largest streaming platform with a subscriber base of 300 million.

According to an analysis by Media Partners Asia, India's online video market is projected to grow at a CAGR of 26 per cent over 2020-25 to reach US\$4.5 billion. Another report by Boston Consulting Group notes that the OTT video streaming market alone in India is set to touch US\$5 billion by 2023. And for a share of this pie contend not just Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Disney+Hotstar, but around 30 streaming platforms including AltBalaji, Zee5, SonyLiv, MXPlayer, ManoramaMax, Neestream, and so on

The right revenue model still remains an enigma, thanks to the uniqueness of the Indian market. There are no proven models in the Indian media industry to show that subscription-led growth is if at all possible. Be it the newspapers or entertainment channels, the advertisement brings in the lion's share of the revenue. While Netflix and Amazon Prime banks entirely on subscriber revenue, Disney+Hotstar which has a base of both paid and unpaid subscribers see its share of ad revenue coming in through the advertisements shown to the unpaid subscribers. While it is yet to be cracked which of these models would ultimately work, there are few things streaming platforms could work on meanwhile.

EXPLORE THE UNEXPLORED

On June 1, 2021, a review of the Malayalam Movie 'Joji', starring Fahadh Fazil and directed by Dileesh Pothan, appeared in The New Yorker magazine. This wasn't the first time the international magazine reviewed an Indian movie. In fact, on April 15 it had published Richard Brody's take on Duvidha, the 1973 film by Mani Kaul. But Joji was different. For one it was a regional language movie. And rarely has international media recognised non-Hindi movies, probably with the exception of the works of Satyajit Ray, as Indian movies. To take a review seriously or not is one thing. But to me, it was the beginning of a change; Undeniably the world is starting to take note of Indian regional content, especially from the South. Now, this is a moment to be seized; not only by the language movie industry but also by the OTT players that are looking to turn profitable in the Indian market.

If Joji premiered on Amazon Prime, The Great Indian Kitchen, yet another Malayalam movie that garnered critical acclaim from across the world, made its first appearance on Neestream, a regional OTT platform. The movie later became available on Amazon Prime too. Nayattu and Jagame Thandhiram streaming on Netflix, C U Soon, Kuruthi and Karnan streaming on Amazon Prime and Netrikann streaming on Disney+Hotstar are some of the notable movies from regional productions that premiered on international OTT platforms during the pandemic season. Some of the other notable Malayalam films currently streaming include Aarkkariyam and Santhoshathinte Onnam Rahasyam, while the Tamil movie industry came together to produce the anthology Navarasa now running on

Meanwhile what particularly stands out is the glaring absence of any noteworthy productions from the behemoth that is Bollywood. Clearly, it is the regional language movies that have helped the streaming platforms to offer a diverse range of content and cash in on the subscription surge during the pandemic. This is a signboard. The first step towards profitability for OTT platforms is to spot the industries that are nimble, agile, dynamic and quick to adapt to the changing socio-economic circumstances. But the efforts shouldn't stop at simply sourcing the content. Given the diversity of movie industries in India, streaming platforms are looking at a cornucopia of possibili-

Let's start from the South. Given the high literacy rates in the Southern states, OTT platforms are looking at a large market for their English and international content. While The New Yorker might have reviewed Joji this year, what is to be noted is that there already exists an international audience for Malayalam movies and a Malayali audience for international movies, thanks to IFFK and various other film festivals.

Then there is the large Indian diaspora outside the country. According to a report by the United Nations, India has the world's largest diaspora population — 18 million living outside the country. A large part of them is Malayalis, Tamils, and Punjabis. In other words, by exploring regional content, streaming platforms would be striking a goldmine.

OFFER MORE DIVERSITY, LEARN FROM WHAT HAS WORKED INTERNATIONALLY

Streaming services in India should take a leaf out of what has worked internationally for their global counterparts.

According to news reports, French show Lupin streamed on Netflix held the number one spot in countries like Brazil, Argentina, Germany, Italy and Spain and the number two spot in the US. This only means one thing out there, there seems to be a genuine and ever-increasing demand for premium non-Anglophone content. In this sense, India is a

ACCORDING TO AN ANALYSIS BY MEDIA PARTNERS ASIA, INDIA'S ONLINE VIDEO MARKET IS PROJECTED TO GROW AT A

VIDEO STREAMING MARKET MXPLAYER, MANORAMAMAX,

goldmine for streaming services with its lin-

guistic diversity.

But linguistic diversity alone doesn't serve the purpose. Barring a handful of shows or movies, Indian content has not been able to create much of a ripple in the international arena, owing to the relatively poor quality of the content.

Now here is something to consider. One of the features that have set Netflix a class apart from its competitors globally is its huge investment in original content. Reports suggest that in 2019 about 85% of its new spending was set apart for original content, more than any of its competitors dared to. In India too Netflix has taken a lead by setting up its first global post-production facility in Mumbai.

Producing original content of all hues and (Indian) languages with strict quality checks for a pan-Indian and international audience could work magic for Indian streaming services. Keep experimenting and do not hesitate to disrupt your own revenue/content models if need be. Because now this is a bus that OTT platforms cannot afford to miss.

ROPE IN THE STALWARTS

What streaming platforms should further aim is to bring traditional producers into their folds. If the initial focus of OTT platforms was to license existing content, the pandemic has changed their course of action to producing original content and premiering movies. But there is still a large section of producers who are wary of these platforms. These traditional producers have been deciding the ways of the industry for a long time. Many of them are actors and even superstars controlling production, distribution, and the overall dynamics of the industry. Alienating them or even appearing as a threat to their business would in no way bode well for the new-age players.

But if streaming platforms could come up with ways to accommodate them and make a business model around it, it would be a winwin for all. OTT services so far have more or less been working with the new crop of movie makers from the regional cinema and have been able to successfully give shape to new movie aesthetics and language. Roping in the traditional players would be the cherry on top and will help attract a wider segment of the audience. For example, consider streaming services tying up with AMMA, the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists. Such a partnership would mean that now the streaming services would get to enjoy the benefits of the clout wielded by the stalwarts of the industry, while the industry reaps the benefits of being in alliance with platforms that are international, sophisticated, and professional. If streaming services this way get a dip at the massive pool of talent, for artists and technicians it would mean more work even during crisis times like the pandemic and therefore more stability.

Such partnerships would also help to usher in a world where theatres do not view OTT platforms as a threat. It would open up a new world of complementary existence where theatres would still benefit from the rush during the initial release and for sustained viewing and wider reach, there would be the OTTs. And no doubt, the ultimate winner would be the movie itself which would get the grand release it deserves without worrying about 'running' days being cut short as new movies come in.

In a nutshell, being creative in the ways it associates with the movie industry and its stakeholders should be the way forward for OTT services.

EXPERIMENT WITH DYNAMIC CONTENT

While all that is said about static content, what still remains unchartered territory for streaming services is dynamic content. Exploring live content like music concerts and stand-up comedy will help the OTT players further their reach and bring in a new audience who have been deprived of live shows during the pandemic. It is in fact surprising that such programmes are still largely hosted on video communication platforms like Zoom given that the pandemic has been the perfect opportunity for the Netflixes and Amazon Primes of the world to experiment

If you are further looking to expand your reach, ever thought of news and the popularity of news programmes in India? Sure, there may be regulatory issues for OTT channels to broadcast news as of now. But, learn from the radio. In India, All India Radio holds the right to broadcast news and current affairs programmes, and private broadcasting stations are prohibited from airing the same. But several FM stations have found workarounds in the form of programmes that are satirical takes on current affairs or other fun variations which are essentially not news programmes, but yet manage to pass on the news to the audience. To sum it up, be creative. If OTT platforms could come up with shows similar to that of 'Last Week Tonight with John Oliver' it is bound to capture the attention of a huge section of the audience.

There is also a growing audience for art and science content. Although streaming services have covered this to an extent, to make it a more balanced mix would be a welcome

All that said and done, ultimately the success and profitability of OTT platforms would depend on how well they can gel with our lifestyles. Movies and theatres succeeded by doing the same, by being our oases of entertainment and our weekly escape from reality. Streaming services should pull all stops to replicate the same and leave no stone unturned in this journey.

The writer is an ethical Investor, start-up mentor, art curator and author



NEESTREAM, AND SO ON

TAMING THE DRAGON

Unravelling the many aspects of China's statecraft, Blinkers Off serves as an important tool in understanding that the threat Beijing poses is multi-dimensional, and response to it should also be the same, writes MAJ. GEN. DHRUV C KATOCH (Retd)

he transformation of China under the Fourth Generation's leadership has indeed been incredible. China sees itself as taking the lead in world affairs by the middle of this century and towards this end, it seeks to establish the country's primacy in the Asia-Pacific region while primacy in the Asia-Pacific region while concurrently moving towards establishing Chinese leadership of the international order. In Asia, Delhi is Beijing's only economic and geo-strategic rival. No surprise then, that Beijing's policy towards Delhi will continue to be shaped by its desire to achieve pre-eminence in the region.

If successful, what will China's international leadership look like? It would certainly aim at a different world order, in which Chinese interests remain paramount. That, of course, is an objective which all nations strive for. In the case of China, however, it perceives itself as the 'Middle Kingdom', and the 'centre of the universe', around which all other nations revolve. Here, competition would most certainly lead to confrontation. While the Chinese would, in all probability, seek to avoid war with the US, though this does not include proxy wars, they may seek a limited military engagement with India, when they feel that they have the capacity to achieve a decisive result in their favour. That makes a future war scenario with India a certainty, though not so with

In China's world view, they would aim at forcing the US to not just accept, but respect China's authority as the global leader and refrain from harming Chinese interests. The consequences of Chinese success in strategic competition could be severe for the United States and disastrous for India. So what should India and the international communities do, to remain relevant in the world stage?

This book, Blinkers off: How Will the World Counter China (Pentagon Press), authored by senior journalist Gaurie Dwivedi, gives a perspective on a counter strategy. It rests on a fundamental premise that unlike the Cold War, where America was able to take on erstwhile USSR on its own due to its economic and political might, Washington now needs partners to address the challenge of an autocratic and rising China. It presents a 360 degree perspective on building deterrence against an



expansionist Beijing which poses a threat not just to India and the United States, but the present world order.

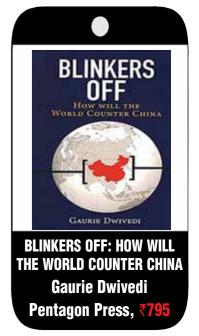
Divided into four segments, Dwivedi documents China's rise as it spread its tentacles from Asia to Europe to Africa and makes a case that Beijing's "long term waiting game" was to topple the very institutions of the liberal world that aided its growth. From the WTO to the WHO to the UNHRC; Dwivedi highlights specific instances when China was successful in 'gaming the system'.

Though written prior to the developments in Afghanistan, Blinkers Off sug-gests that the world has now firmly tilted

towards a bipolar scenario, with China forming a nexus with other authoritarian and likeminded nations like Pakistan, Iran and Russia. The present security climate in Kabul seems to be testimony to the altered geo-political outlook that Dwivedi mentions to be the primary driver for building strong deterrence. Failure to create them would see China further building on its strengths, continuing its wolf warrior diplomacy and pushing the pedal on its hegemonic agenda. This would adversely impact not just India and Asia, but will destabilise the world. For it to be effective, Dwivedi says, the deterrence must encompass both military and nonmilitary aspects of engagement with China. İt also highlights the role India will play in any such global endeavour. Non-military challenges like trade, technology, and information are highlighted as key domains for any potential clash with China, since these may not elicit a sharp response from India, US and others due to the non conventional nature of warfare. Even before the pandemic, the book points out instances when China used such domains to further its global political and military objective.

India, due to its geo-political and geo-economic potential is expected to con-tribute significantly. In the Indo-Pacific,

where China has gained clout on the back of its large infrastructure investments; Blinkers Off suggests a more active maritime and economic role by India. Enhanced utilisation of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands beyond the present focus on reconnaissance, larger investments in its naval capabilities and identifying opportunities for collaboration are some of the recommendations for India to counter China's enhanced influence. To provide an alternative for the BRI investments in the Indian Ocean Region, which



funding to the smaller nations.

By combining useful insights with vivid language, Dwivedi has presented a case for global cooperation against China and identified newer age dimensions of warfare. Perhaps most interesting is the warfare. Perhaps most interesting is the argument that India could leverage its trade deficit against China since it has been following the same template against other economies. It is the nature of India's trade with China, where it predominantly exports raw materials, needs to undergo a change, rather than the fact that New Delhi is a net importer.

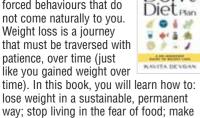
Unravelling the many aspects of China's statecraft, Blinkers Off serves as an important tool in understanding that the threat Beijing poses is multi dimensional, and response to it should also be the same. It is hence a must read for those dealing with foreign policy in the government of India, to all in the Indian military fraternity, the think tanks, the educational institutes as also to all China watchers in the lay public.

The reviewer is Director, India Foundation and Editor,

THE DON'T-DIET PLAN: -NONSENSE GUIDE TO WEIGHT LOSS

Kavita Devgan Rupa, ₹295

Say goodbye to fad diets, restrictive eating or other forced behaviours that do not come naturally to you. Weight loss is a journey that must be traversed with patience, over time (just



Don't-

paybacks; and draw from your ancestors about hearty eating habits. Bestselling author Kavita Devgan offers strategies that she has tried and tested as a practising weight-loss consultant with over thousands of patients. With her practical advice that are easily inculcated, you will be able to make simple lifestyle changes that will lead to a more vibrant,

small changes that would lead to big

VULTURES OF PARADISE

Atulya Misra Rupa, ₹495

A story of greed, love and sacrifice narrated in the backdrop of a crippling human tragedy. Acclaimed author Atulya Misra tells a gripping and powerful story that traverses numerous

clean up our habitat.

confident and healthier you.

cultures and geographies. The story follows the life of Neha, who, at first, is driven by blind ambition. The heights she achieves in business dissipate once she starts spiralling in the opposite direction. Just when she appears to be an abysmal failure in the eyes of everyone, Neha creates a corporation to counter the biggest threat to the planet—the human propensity to consume endlessly and create more and more waste. Her enterprise becomes so large and successful that it becomes a danger to the very people who created it. Humanity has been a parasite for long enough on this planet. It's time we become vultures and

Becoming a National Champion

Swimming Against the Tide: True Story of Para Swimmer by Madhavi Latha Prathigudupu is a true story of an extraordinary sportsperson who challenged her circumstances and physical disability to overcome the odds to emerge as a winner. An edited extract

any of my friends suggested that I try my luck in Paralympics. LI learned from the Internet that Dr Dabas was the head of Para Swimming Federation of India. His contact number was also available on Google. So I contacted him and expressed my wish. He informed me that he used to frequently visit Chennai for some work and promised to let me know when he would plan his next visit.

After a few months, I contacted him again. He told me that he was about to call and inform me about his forthcoming visit to Chennai. I thought it would be great if I arranged a get-together with all our well-wishers when he would visit Chennai; I needed a venue for the same. So I requested Gita, the head of corporate affairs at my work, for her permission to arrange the meeting in our office. She accepted my request and also agreed to make all the arrangements, including to provide refreshments.

I invited all our well-wishers and the people who had approached me after reading the article in The Hindu; Anand, Dr Karthik (who was my pool mate), Mr Narsa Reddy, Father Antony Samy, Dr Rema Devi, Ms Uthira and Sai were also there. Dr Dabas attended the meeting and explained his efforts to promote para swimming in India through a nice presentation. We then explained our contributions so far and elaborated on our plans to create and increase awareness on hydrotherapy/swimming in Tamil Nadu. The guests also shared their experiences in supporting our efforts. Dr Dabas suggested us to form Tamil Nadu State-level Paralympic Swimming Association and send the participants for the forthcoming nationals to be held in Kolhapur, Maharashtra.

We took Dr Dabas to the Andhra Club pool. Our swimmers exhibited how we practised swimming and sought his guidance to improve our skills. He gave his valuable suggestions to us and appreciated our efforts. We also introduced our coach Gopi to him.

I had a discussion with Anand, Preetha, Dr Rema Devi, Ms Uthira, Sai and other well-wishers. We started the Paralympic Swimming Association of Tamil Nadu informally, with Dr Rema Devi as president, Ms Uthira as vice-president, Preetha as treasurer, myself as the general secretary, Sai as joint secretary, Dr Ponraj as medical direc-tor and Anand as technical director. With great efforts, we convinced Rema Devi aunty to be our





Left: Participation that made us champions; Right: PSATN family (Standing from left—Preetha, Anand, Dr Ponraj, Ms Uthira, Sai Krishnan, Sitting—me and Dr Rema Devi

president. They treat us like their children so we all thought their guidance would help us in taking this initiative forward successfully. Mr Narsa Reddy accepted to be our patron. We started to practise swimming vigorously. We tried hard to find more people to train but ended up with only four swimmers: Uthira aunty, Venkatesh, Jyothi and myself.

We all went to Kolhapur along with our coach Gopi. At that time, I was feeling a little under the weather as my stomach was upset. I consulted a doctor and took the prescribed medicines. My friends asked me to reconsider my participation but I didn't want to lose the opportunity. Our transit time from Chennai to Kolhapur by train was almost 2 days, with a 10-hour layover at Bengaluru. During the layover, we had to wait at the railway station itself. We were all very tired by the time we reached Kolhapur.

Local organizers told us that they could not make the arrangements as planned, as they did not receive the promised funds from the sponsors. We decided to find an accessible hotel for our stay, as we were not comfortable with their stop-gap arrangements.

By the time we reached there, I started to feel better. It was the 11th National Para Swimming Championship, and our team won eight medals. Venkatesh and I won the championship in our respective categories. It was an amazing moment in my life — winning three gold medals (50-m freestyle, breaststroke and

SWIMMING AGAINST THE TIDE: TRUE STORY **OF PARA SWIMMER** Madhavi Latha Prathigudupu Sage, ₹59

backstroke) and becoming a national champion at the age of 40+ years. It was an unbelievable achievement even for me. My joy knew no bounds.

There, I could see persons with different types of disabilities to swim with ease. When I saw blind swimmers maintaining a straight line in the pool, I was very surprised. If I close my eyes for a few seconds, I cannot maintain the line of direction in the pool. I was unable to understand how they managed to do it.

We noticed that there were very few participants from South India in the championship. I thought that it might be due to the general notion that these sports are dangerous for persons with disabilities. In my experience, when I tried to encourage participation of children with disabilities, often their parents were reluctant as they thought that swimming was risky for their children. If I tried to convince them by giving my example, they would respond saying that it was possible for me because I was a superwoman and it may not be the case for their kids. As I drive, swim, work for an MNC etc., they thought that I had some extraordinary skills.

Dr Dabas put up the proposal to host the next nationals to various states; I strongly wanted to accept his offer with three aims. First, to create more awareness in South India. Second, to give confidence to the parents of children with disabilities, officials, and the general public. Parents because, I hoped that by seeing the participation of persons with different types of disabilities and different levels of abilities, they would understand the benefits of hydrotherapy and participation in sports. Also, if the concerned officials understood the benefits and the possibility, then the persons with disabilities would get more support. Finally the third, to conduct championships at par with other Olympic sports events. I observed an inferior feeling and sympathy towards adaptive sporting

events among the public instead of treating it like any other sporting event. Anand also agreed with my views, and we thought of discussing with our

association members. On the way back, our coach told us that IITM had a pool with international standards, and if we requested accommodation there, it would be easy to host the event in Chennai. After coming back to Chennai, we called for a meeting with all our members. We all knew that it was going to be a very challenging task. In the meeting, we decided to first register our association officially, and soon thereafter started that process. Dr Rema Devi, with the support of her husband, arranged for an office address and to fulfil all the statutory requirements to register the association and for its functioning.

Also, after coming back to Chennai,

we got a lot of media coverage on our achievements in the championship. I gave so many interviews. Everyone wanted to take a video or a photograph of me while swimming for an article. It gave me an opportunity to create more awareness about hydrotherapy/para swimming. Till then, I was the one to reach out to the media, schools and colleges. But now, they started to approach me. It made my job to create more awareness much easier. These articles reached a wider audience, and I received a few invitations from outside Chennai.

At that time, I got an opportunity to give a talk at IITM. I felt very happy. I was looking for an opportunity to connect with them so I could request them to allow us to host the national championship in their pool. My talk was received very well, and I got a standing ovation. Later, I came to know that their pool was under renovation. All my hopes were shattered.

After my talk, many professors wrote to the director of IITM, Professor Bhaskar Ramamurthi, to incorporate the suggestions I gave in my talk to make their pool accessible; he responded to their suggestions positively. The concerned staff from IITM were in touch with me. Later, I connected them with Dr Hutzler for his guidance on the accessible swimming pool, whom I met at a conference in Coimbatore.

Excerpted with permission from Swimming Against the Tide: True Story of Para Swimmer by Madhavi Latha Prathigudupu, published by SAGE Publications India

Challenges before US in post-Taliban Af

With great power comes great responsibility. This age-old maxim is a pertinent poser before the American defence and strategic dispensation in a post-Taliban Afghanistan. Americans call their humanitarian and democratic zeal in Afghanistan part of their super cop and regulator stature imbued with yeomanly and philanthropic verve. Undeniably, there is an iota of valueladen foreign policy analysis premised upon what transpires in the larger global polity and the regional dynamics of South Asia. One can also cite, as an attendant strategic constraint, America's failure to justify the long war, as far as the American presence in Afghanistan after September 11 is concerned. President Joe Biden arranged for the American withdrawal from the twilight zone's battle stations but it is not his personal decision. The decision to make the exit had already been taken by President Donald Trump where-in, a deal was struck with the marauding Taliban that Afghanistan will not be deftly utilised as a springboard for terror attacks on the American homeland. President Biden has merely walked the talk as he persisted with the White House's decision to evacuate the American interests from Afghanistan as the culmination of a mission.

The question that we need to ponder over is that is it the kosher time to leave Afghanistan? And, are the detractors correct when they contend that when the United States of America could not neutralise the Taliban in a two decade-long "Long Occupation" and the attendant "Long War", could they have made a difference in the political and security scenario after the Kabul's state forces collapsed without waging any major semblance of aggression and resistance

Now, in the aftermath of the IS Kohorasan machinated casualties of American marines at the Kabul Airport, will Washington carry out a mission as they had done in 2014 in Iraq as the power vacuum there had been surreptitiously occupied by the Islamic State and its novae dictum of territorial dominance. One opinion contends that the US could have negotiated with the Taliban in Qatar and also continued to aid and abet the battle in the twilight zone of

Afghanistan. American presence was required as it was hugely successful in diminishing the influence and the advent of the nefarious Islamic State (ISIS). American interests could have stayed on till the menace of the Taliban was completely eradicated. With the Pakistan strategic depth in the west of the contested Durand line, it was difficult for the US to topple the Talibani juggernaut. The excruciatingly high pace of a week within which the Mullah Baradar's men overtook the entire nation was not adequately forecasted by the American think tanks and the American Fourth Estate. The US denomination was expecting the fall of the Taliban in two to three months but the mind boggling one sidedness of the long war's culmination left even the most hardened analysts flummoxed by the high riding military spectacle of the Taliban vis-a-vis the defence strivings forwarded by the NATO aided and US backed ANSF

Now, as the Taliban have emerged triumphant in Kabul and beyond the capital, what one can eke out for the role-play of the Americans? Though it would be too far-fetched to compare the American withdrawal with the dirty war, that is, the American intervention in Vietnam, still, the American resolve has not been so quintessentially steely and stealthy as was expected when the outcome of the American nay-saying is there to be witnessed and captioned by all and sundry. America would either have to rebalance its ties with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in the light of Prime Minister Imran Khan shamelessly wishing for the Taliban's ascendance along with his ISI chief's hobnobbing with the Taliban. As Pakistan has always enjoyed the status of a frontline state for the US, one can witness a re-run of the eighties and nineties when the Americans seldom quizzed Pakistan about their efforts in propping up the Taliban's fervid

The US will have its task cut out as the New Delhi dispensation will point at the new camaraderie which has been spawned between the Taliban and Chinese President Xi Jinping. Since the last couple of years, a few Taliban negotiators have visited Beijing and it appears as the wreath of China-Taliban nexus rolls



out, the Taliban have promised China of not letting Afghanistan turn a springboard for anti-China forces. The Taliban's promissory note contends that Taliban will not let ETIM (East Turkistan Islamic Movement) foment insidious acts of separatism and insurgency in the turbulent province of Xinxiang in China and also the Taliban have expressed a desire to invite the OBOR and BRI initiative akin to the CPEC in Pakistan in order to take up the mantle of development and growth in Afghanistan. America can be assaulted with terror attacks as its widely believed that the Taliban have well delineated linkages with al-Qaeda which can utilise the Afghani space as a platform and rostrum for planning and executing ministrations against the American homeland as they had done twenty odd years back at the World Trade Towers behemoth as posited by the American Secretary

of State, Anthony Blinken. President Biden too dished out heady rhetoric when he vowed to avenge the death of American marines at the Kabul Airport as he declared, "We will not be inactive. The perpetrators of the American casualties will be dealt with assiduously, with alacrity and

immediately". C Rajamohan astutely declares and analyses in the Foreign Policy magazine that, "The withdrawal of all US troops from Afghanistan is likely to accelerate current trends in India's relations with the US, China, and Russia: greater cooperation with Washington, deeper conflicts with Beijing, and wider fissures in the traditional strategic partnership with Moscow. Reinforcing these structural shifts — and their mirror image are Pakistan's changing relations with the US, China, and Russia.

Thus, it is bound to witness a splurge in the context of systemic and structural modifications as far as India and the US are concerned. The proximity of the Indian State of Kashmir to Kabul and the rekindled Pakistan's ambition might bring the White House and New Delhi closer to each other as it's the very own dictum of the US, GWOT, (Global War on Terror), which is bound to take a new violent turn in the near future.

Also, the American strategy of containing terrorism originating from Rawalpindi might too become much more hoarse and strident leading to a further wedge in the relationship between Islamabad and Washington. The White House needs to realise that India will be impacted by the jehad from Taliban-occupied Afghanistan, though the Taliban have promised otherwise. The million dollar pertinent question is how can a terror group be venerated and relied upon when the US too has listed several of the members of the Taliban Government as terrorists. Can the Americans trust a nation whose cabinet ministers ride in SUVs and carry guns in meetings in the Presidential house with the heady rolls of bullets hanging afire. It brings us back to the strivings of Jaswant Singh during the Indian passenger plane's hijacking to Kandahar.

The same game returns akin to the classical great game but it is very apparent that if the terror factory and enterprise goes awry in Afghanistan, then the US might have to rethink on a "re-surge" of intervention in order to stem a conflagration in South Asia. And is it a mission unaccomplished, as far as, the reconstruction and nation building responsibilities of the US go?

(The writer teaches at International Relations and International Organisations, IIPA,

Therefore, even today, the restive

Shia majority of Bahrain is regard-

ed as the fifth column of Iran by the

successive rulers of the country.

The UAE and Bahrain can easily

explore business opportunities in

Israel, particularly in its most

advanced high-tech sector. On the

other hand, these two Gulf states

can easily attract millions of

Israeli tourists who are avid holiday

deal is that Iran is now fully sur-

rounded by all its enemies in the

region — the Sunni regimes accom-

panied by an all-powerful Israel. This

agreement has added pressure both

to the clerics and to the political lead-

ership of Iran. Besides the tough economic sanctions of Washington,

Teheran is now facing a strong

strategic pain. Clearly, once again

Another significant impact of the

The million dollar pertinent question is how a terror group can be venerated and relied upon when the **US** too has listed several of the members of the **Taliban Government** as terrorists. Also, the American strategy of containing terrorism originating from Rawalpindi might become much more hoarse and strident leading to a further wedge in the relationship between Islamabad and Washington



MANAN DWIVEDI

PERSPECTIVE •

Abraham Accords for peace in West Asia a misnomer

Establishing normal ties among the nations is a positive development in international relations. However, the Abraham Accords do not promise any hope for normalcy between Israel and the rest of West Asia. The central point here is the establishment of the Palestinian state. The great peacemakers and the global governance institutions are mute spectators to one of the oldest boiling points of West Asia — Palestine. Unless the issue of a permanent Palestine is addressed, the Abraham Accords will simply turn into a footnote for sure



MAKHAN SAIKIA

The historic Abraham Accords completed one year this week. Hopes and fears, as expected, have continued in the West Asian region since then. The agreement has heralded no credible peace so far. But the pact has marked a fundamental shift in Arab-Israel relations. Of course, the Donald Trump Administration then, amid all the chaos, had brought three warring nations — Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain — to the negotiation table.

Foreign policy experts across the globe are divided on the reasons for the signing of the Abraham Accords. This agreement, signed on September 15, 2020, by Israel, the UAE and Bahrain, and mediated by the US, has paved the way for normalisation of relations among three nations in West Asia. It was indeed an unprecedented move initiated by the Trump Administration. Basically, this 12-point agreement highlights the much-needed peace to be brought in among these rival nations in the region. In fact, the name "Abraham" was accorded to the treaty to honour the patriarch of three most significant monotheistic religions on this earth - Islam, Christianity and Judaism. Known as the "Father of Faith", Abraham can well be regarded as the unifier of all the three religions as they all draw their origin from him only.

While signing the agreement, the UAE and Bahrain pledged to normalise relations with Israel. Interestingly, within a week of the signing of the accords, the two other Muslim nations from the African continent Sudan and Morocco followed suit. What was surprising was that the issue of Palestine was nowhere pegged to the accords by the signatories. Precisely, the unrest in Palestine has been the hornets' nest for decades now for which Israel has turned out to be the arch enemy of many of these Arab nations in the region. Another striking point was



that the UAE and other signatories to the agreement did not demand more critical concessions like the end of Israeli annexation of more territories or most importantly, the final establishment of a Palestinian state in the region. Truly, all these could have been set as preconditions for signing the historic pact.

It clearly shows how the parties to the pact and its high-profile mediator, Trump, were trying to push the vexed issues to the background. And, thus the understanding among all the three rival nations of West Asia seemed more like a business deal than a historic diplomatic milestone. Further, the international community must note here that the last year's deal demanded that Israel refrain from de jure annexation of territories in the most contested region. But then who could stop Israel today? Everyone knows how outgoing Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu pursued his larger goal to establish the legitimacy of the state of Israel. And for all practical purposes, he received full support of the Trump Administration. This accords, in fact, helped Netanyahu get some important benefits like: first, he proved himself as a world statesman among his voters and sympathisers when he was facing serious allegations of corruption back home; second, he managed to make peace with the Arabs during his reign, but not with the Palestinians; and finally, he was cleverly diverting the attention of the Israeli public from the mismanagement of the Covid crisis by his office. In all, Netanyahu tried to enhance his image and pushed back the Palestinian cause much farther.

tively counter Iran, its potential enemy on the other side of the Gulf. And the interesting point is that both All the signatories to the Israel and the US are equally suspi-Abraham Accords are still enemies. cious of the role of Iran like the way But then why such rival nations it is perceived by the Emiratis and wanted to come to the negotiation Bahrain. Till 1969, Iran used to claim

Palestinians who have been waiting for a homeland are feeling betrayed by the accords. This agreement breaks the decades-long understanding among the Arab nations table? Was it because of America's that the normal ties with Israel could be established only when an intervention, both for long-term business interest and for achieving independent Palestinian state would be formed. Sadly, since 2020, Israel another milestone in global peace and diplomacy? Many experts say is coming closer to major nations of that some of the Gulf States like the West Asia and Africa while contin-UAE, having a global ambition, rightly see business opportunities in the normalisation of relations with Israel. It seems Washington has already promised Abu Dhabi advanced weapons like the F-35 stealth fighter and the EA-18 G Growler electronic warfare aircraft. All these were once inconceivable for the UAE, and these armouries are needed both to demonstrate regional leadership and possibly to effec-

uing its occupation both in the West Bank and in the East Jerusalem. Moreover, the accords have enhanced the status of Israel in the West Asian region. In a sense, it has clearly put an end to its isolation among the Arab nations. And definitely, America is celebrating after offering Israel a golden opportunity to establish its identity among the most powerful Gulf States of the Today, West Asia is trembling as paradigm shift is happening faster than expected. Stable peace still

eludes West Asia. And the question is how far? Probably, chaos in this part of Asia is a never-ending process. Frankly speaking, estab-

Bahrain as a part of its territory. lishing normal ties among the nations is a positive development in international relations, but when it comes to Abraham Accords, it could be a misnomer to say so. Nowhere does it promises any hope for normalcy between Israel and the rest of West Asia. The central point here is the establishment of the Palestinian state. And it is not happening and may not come to reality soon. This agreement was a great victory for Trump, the crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and the de facto ruler of the Emiratis Mohammed bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman, and then Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu. In fact, all of them needed the accords more than anyone else.

Today, the Joe Biden Administration is fully supportive of normalisation of relations between Israel and the rest of the Arab nations. But unfortunately, his regime is not able to offer the same inducements to Naftali Bennett, the new Prime Minister of Israel. And the situation in West Asia has remained the same as every single day new wounds are appearing both in West Bank and in East Jerusalem. The Palestinians are crying foul over the occupation of their land. The great peacemakers and the global governance institutions are mute spectators to one of the oldest boiling points of West Asia, i.e. Palestine. Finally, unless the Israeli occupation ends and the issue of a permanent Palestine is addressed, the Abraham Accords will simply turn into a footnote for sure.

(Dr Makhan Saikia has taught political science and international relations for over a decade in institutions of national and international repute after specialisation in globalisation and governance from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He is the chief editor of the Journal of Global Studies, an international























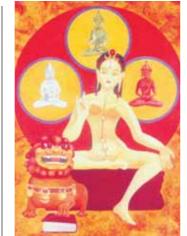




ARIES March 21-April 19

This week you may face anger issues and get into heated arguments. Those having health issues might be advised to undergo medical tests. Deepen your spiritual awareness and practice. Try something new, even if reading, for new clarity. Meditation practices would prove useful. Your job or professional responsibilities move at breakneck speed. Some obstacles are seen that could hamper your growth. The position you were aspiring for may not fall in your kitty. Work could be a challenge for vou. On the personal front, the power of your words is stronger than action. This could make your relationships complicated. Stay grounded and enjoy the energy of the day. Work with your heart rather than mind and be flexible in your approach with the loved ones

Lucky number 28 Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Saturday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Health needs immediate attention. Get clinically examined if you detect a problem. Take second, or need be, third opinion in case there is confusion in diagnosing. Rest and renewed energy would bring a state of calm and stability back into your life. Take a quick decision if you have to undergo treatment. On the career front, you are action-oriented and would be inspired to pursue a new idea or a project. You can use your creative energy and passion to get the project underway. Under your leadership, the people will be inspired. On the personal front, your focus would be to create a safe and trusting environment on which you can fall back on. Allow space to others and be tolerant of their needs.

Lucky number 10 Lucky colour Mustard Lucky day Tuesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

A balanced lifestyle is the first step for healthy living. Ensure that you are making full efforts from your end. Watch what you eat, how much you eat, and get good sleep. Take time out for entertainment and activities for rejuvenation and to regain energy. Your positive attitude plays an important role too. On the career front, this week is favourable. You will want to reach out to people and interactions & understanding will play a major role in keeping you on the move. On the personal front, you may feel the need to be liberated from certain restrictions and spread your wings and experience a freedom that may be your heart's desire. Traditions and family are important currently. Married couples will seek advice from elders.

Lucky number 13 Lucky colour Yellow Lucky day Thursday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you may feel stuck or restricted in your life. Get in touch with your real feelings and work to release yourself from these restrictions. Your health could be affected if you are not open and expressive. Learn to express yourself, share your sorrow and happiness to maintain equilibrium. More than physical, mental peace is required. On the work front, things are not as good as you expect them to be. Those willing to put themselves in the limelight may feel cheated. Other people might take the credit for your hard work. Beware of insecure and overly suspicious people. On the relationship front, this is a good week which has happiness, laughter and sharing time with loved ones stored in it.

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Maroon Lucky day Wednesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week there are strong chances of you picking up seasonal ailments. Avoid outside food. If you feel that something is amiss with your body, trust your instincts and follow through. Stay away from bright colours. Go for light pastel colours. Meditate when you get the time and stay natural. On the work front, your exceptional sense of cooperation and bonding with people at the workplace will prove to be an asset. You can progress by leaps and bound provided you share your findings with your boss. On the personal front, you may be dealing with some conflict at home. If you're looking for love, you have to deal with your partner with great humility. Allow your partner to have his or her space.

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Silver Lucky day Monday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week there is a need to bring positive changes to your lifestyle for sound health. Make sure you are not doing too many things at a time. Anger, aggression, and hyper actions could spoil your health. You can bring changes in your life by correcting yourself in certain matters. Check your diet, exercise, and working hours. At work, you are practical in your approach and very hard working. Determination and courage will be applied to all your endeavours. Results may be slow in coming but you will hold your own. You may need a boost to carry your goals. On the relationship front, you divert your attention through art, music, and entertainment with your partner. Your final decision matters a lot to someone. Express your confirmation or rejection

Lucky number 30 Lucky colour Peach **Lucky day** Saturday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week your energy and stamina will be outstanding. You have the confidence, and you will emerge strong. Everything seems to get better than what it was. On the work front, a new opportunity would show up, but it would depend on how you perceive it. This is the time to have a broader vision and an open mind. Discussing your career with a professional will be helpful for you. Update your knowledge and current happenings in technology and other fields. On the personal front, you may get occupied in something new and even more exciting and inspiring. You can look forward to progress in a relationship. There is no stopping you right now as you are full of energy and enthusiasm to move quickly.

Lucky number 25 Lucky colour Brown **Lucky day** Sunday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Keeping your stress level manageable is a must to stay in good health at the moment. Deal with any problems that come up physically. Ensure proper rest and avoid alcohol or intoxication. If you need healing, ask for it on both the literal and the spiritual planes. Professionally, if you work emotionally things may not turn out well for you this week. You need to make some firm decisions on certain matters. Financial matters should be dealt with extra precautions. Those looking for a job, will get support from a female in your life. Your energy and confidence increase dramatically. On the personal front, some impulsive decisions could make your relationships complicated. Be careful as you may be swept off your

Lucky number 19 Lucky colour Purple Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week health may suffer, so take adequate rest. Be open to spiritual healing. Those struggling with a serious illness, may require some therapy or surgery. Consult a medical professional without further delay. Professionally, you will be able to make a mark this week. You feel confident of your choices and decisions, and this helps you to move towards the achievement in your goals. A fortunate outcome is indicated whatever you do or start at this time. Your skills & potentials will be duly recognised. On the personal front, your loved ones will be supportive, and you will have new feelings and new hopes. Don't let your desire for fun make you overlook the real and deep love that may come your

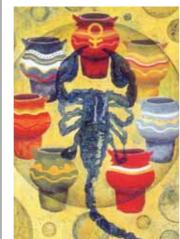
Lucky number 20 Lucky colour White Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

You have been thinking about bringing a major change in your life. Something is provoking you and there exists a feeling of dissatisfaction in life. This inner discontent demands a few changes. Improve your life by bringing more spirituality and imagination into the picture. Professionally, ensure that your day-to-day affairs are in order. If not, there is an urgent need for good time management and financial management. Check your expenditure/investments. It may sound tedious having to focus your attention on these more mundane issues, but these are fundamentals which pave the way for career success. On the personal front, increasing domestic requirements could affect the quality of your work, but you look at life more joyfully. You spend time on entertainment and celebrating life.

Lucky number 21 Lucky colour Pink Lucky day Wednesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

If you have not been feeling well or have been feeling low on energy, the phase will soon pass. Those with ongoing health issues may benefit greatly from undertaking some sort of alternative therapy. This is an excellent time for you to undertake some form of spiritual study. On the professional front, you may need to keep your eyes open for opportunities. The energy of the week is not favourable. You may feel stressed over minor details or the job you do and the recognition you get for it. Prioritise your work and give attention to your responsibilities to win the situation. Relationship area requires your attention. You need to turn your world around and view your situation from a different

Turn Ahamkara into asset

Lucky number 18 Lucky colour Black Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week the health is good. You have the confidence within yourself and present yourself as strong, vibrant, and persevering. Things are going to get better with the warmth and care of your loved ones. Don't push ourself too hard. Withdraw for a moment and take a break to restore your energy. Professionally, the week stores some negative energy. Your job responsibilities may be at a standstill position at this time. Expecting a promotion or increment will prove disheartening. Instead of feeling stuck or restricted in life, think of other ways to earn a livelihood. On the personal front, there is a need for balance with family, friends, and relatives besides work. If you're already in a relationship, it's about to get a new meaning

Lucky number 15 Lucky colour Gray Lucky day Tuesday

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uman beings enjoy the exclusive privilege to guide their action by choice and discrimination. But choice action carries equal probability of use and misuse. And there are no free lunches in life. You have to bear with the consequences of the choices you make and the actions thereto — good or bad — will depend on their intent and quality. This binds us into a cause-effect chain, which sets the premise on which the theory of Karma works. Things happening at the moment are a culmination of doings and undoings in the past. How you negotiate the present, defines the way the future may unfold, and which could stretch on even to the next birth. Your indwelling discriminatory ability though empowers you to weigh the options in hand and make reasoned choices, but this privilege doesn't play out involuntarily. You need to consciously invoke it for due diligence before you take any call, which needs

Truth remains, that we often end up making inappropriate choices. Why? For the answer, a look into the construct and chemistry of mind becomes imper-

being on full alert, which we seldom

ative. There are three functional dimensions of mind - Buddhi, Ahamkara, and Manasa. Buddhi offers the faculty of discriminate intelligence, intrinsic to which is a sense of dispassion. Applying which, the mind evaluates, unbiasedly makes right judgment, and directs Manasa to accordingly act upon.

Ahamkara brings in the sense of 'I' in a being, which wilfully makes choices, commits to the tasks undertaken and owns up all actions on our part. The way Ahamkara wills is how the ordinary mind works.

Manasa working from the front, drives through sense aided functionalities of mind. It is supposed to gather outer-field data, relay it to Buddhi for due diligence; and then act upon as guided. Also, it puts into action desires projected by Karmic imprints carried over from the past, or under external influence. And, if ever Ahamkara unmindfully wills to take things on face value, ignoring the necessity to invoke Buddhi, Manasa could also act upon instinctive judgement.

About mind, let me add here that it is just an instrument, which can't act on its own. Just like earth mass, which



lends ground to the seed sown to grow into a plant, the mind gets fuelled into action by indwelling thought-seeds (Karmic carryover from the past). These

imprints, varying from person-to-person, involuntarily build individual-specific belief patterns, which holds the key to our inherent desire trends, habits &

attitudes, as well as virtues and attributes. That defines the way the mind works. As the mind gets going, it also picks up and responds to inputs drawn out of environmental influences. Mind does also carry the potential to absorb fresh educational inputs consciously fed into it. Now, the mind first excites desire trends in accordance with the callings of inlaid thought seeds. Desires, in turn, excite thoughts, which when gravitate, following further processing in the mind, get translated into action.

Now, coming back to the three operative tools of mind again, they are supposed to work in perfect coordination with each other, as an inseparable unitary mechanism. If applied as mandated, the mind comes out with its optimum best. But, at the end of the day, it is Ahamkara's prerogative to take the final call. The paradox, however, is more often, ahamkara identifies itself with the inherent desire trends and then pursues it passionately as its end game. It also gets caught by the tempting influences of the seeming world, and makes it its dream destination. In both cases, taking things on the face value, ahamkara doesn't feel the necessity of invoking

buddhi for due diligence, often leading to undesirable ends.

We, therefore, need to train our mind to follow its usual design, with special focus on ahamkara. The irony, however, is that caught up in the usual mills of life, our habit tendencies trap ahamkara into its fold, which proves limiting. So, the challenge before us is to remain alert enough to use our choice option in order to ensure that ahamkara turns into a resolve to come out with one's best. In that case, it will transgress the limits of habit tendencies, and use other two dimensions of mind optimally.

A person faced with a serious challenge came seeking guidance the other day. His inflated ego was in evidence, as Jupiter was placed adverse to both Sun and Mars. When advised to turn his ego into a resolve that could lead him to his targeted destination, it was difficult for him to digest. I had to explain it in detail to make him understand.

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