

## OPINION 8

US PROBING PAK'S  
ROLE IN AFGHANISTAN

## WORLD 11

US CALLS ON UNSC P5 MEMBERS  
TO REMAIN UNITED ON AF

## SPORT 14

RCB SEEK RETURN TO  
WINNING WAYS AGAINST CSK

LUCKNOW, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2021; PAGES 14 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

PRATIK'S LIFE-  
CHANGING  
PHONE CALLS  
12 VIVACITY

## PM invites American CEOs to India

IANS ■ WASHINGTON

In the first leg of his US visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday met leading American CEOs in Washington.

He held one-on-one meetings with the CEOs of semiconductor and wireless technology manufacturer Qualcomm, software major Adobe, renewable energy firm First Solar, arms manufacturer General Atomics and investment management company Blackstone. The first meeting was held with Cristiano Amon, President and CEO, Qualcomm.

"President and CEO of @Qualcomm, @cristianoamon and PM @narendramodi had a productive interaction. PM Modi highlighted the vast opportunities India offers. Mr. Amon expressed keenness to work with India in areas such as 5G and other @DigitalIndia efforts," the PMO tweeted.

"We talked about 5G and acceleration of 5G. We talked about the incredible opportunity to advance the industry, as we think about the digital transformation enabled by 5G combined with the design in India," Amon said.

He said Qualcomm may look at India as it builds a resilient supply chain for semiconductors if necessary infrastructure are provided in the country.

Modi's meeting with Amon is significant as India is look-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being received by the dignitaries, on his arrival in Washington DC on Thursday

PTI

ing at fast adoption of 5G technology in the country for which it is eyeing investment in this high technology area from credible partners who can provide safe and secure networks.

The San Diego-based company creates semiconductors, software and services related to wireless technology and is getting big into 5G technology with its range of pioneering products. It is expected that high-level meetings would pave the way for big investment in the new tech area that is required to help the country leapfrog to providing its citi-

zens with the next generation of networking services.

The PM also met Shantanu

Narayan, Chairman, President and CEO, Adobe.

*Continued on Page 11*

## Indian diaspora has distinguished itself across the world, says Modi

**Washington:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has commended the Indian Diaspora for distinguishing itself across the world, as he received an enthusiastic welcome from the community on his arrival here on a major visit to further

enhance Indo-US relations. Modi was warmly greeted by groups of Indian-Americans at the airport soon after his plane landed here on Wednesday and later at the hotel where he had an interaction with the members of the community.

## US rules out India, Japan in AUKUS bloc

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The US has ruled out adding India or Japan to the new trilateral security partnership with Australia and Britain to meet the challenges of the 21st century in the strategic Indo-Pacific region.

On September 15, US President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson jointly announced the formation of the trilateral security alliance AUKUS under which Australia would get a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines for the first time.

"The announcement of AUKUS last week was not meant to be an indication, and I think this is the message the President also sent to (French President Emmanuel) Macron, that there is no one else who will be involved in security in the Indo-Pacific," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters at her daily news conference on Wednesday.

Psaki was responding to a question if countries like India

and Japan whose leaders would be in Washington this week for the first in-person Quad Summit would be made part of the new security alliance.

The Quad comprises India, the US, Japan and Australia. US President Joe Biden is hosting the first in-person Quad summit at the White House on September 24.

"On Friday... you'll have the Australians there (for the Quad summit). But then you also have India and Japan. Would you envision for them a similar kind of military role that you've now defined for with the Australians?" a journalist asked.

"AUKUS? What would it become? JAUUKS? JAIAUKUS?" Psaki said in lighter moments before giving answer to the question.

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

*Continued on Page 11*

## SC to set up body to probe Pegasus row

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a big blow to the Government, the Supreme Court on Thursday observed orally that it will set up a technical expert committee to enquire into the Pegasus snooping matter and pass an interim order next week.

A bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana, which was to hear some other matter, addressed senior lawyer CU Singh, one of the counsels of the petitioners in Pegasus case, that the order will be pronounced next week.

"We wanted to pass an order this week," the CJI said, adding that it had to be deferred as some members of the technical committee, which the court had in mind, expressed "personal difficulties" in becoming part of it.

"That is why it is taking time to constitute the committee," the CJI said, adding, "We will be able to finalise the members of the technical expert team by next week and then pronounce our orders."

The CJI told Singh that he was conveying this to him as senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who had argued for senior journalists N Ram and Shashi

## Court observes orally, order next week



Kumar, has not been seen in courts for the last few days. "I will inform Sibal," Singh told the bench which then proceeded with the hearing in other listed cases.

The SC's observations on constituting the committee assume significance in view of the Centre's statement that it would set up an expert panel on its own to look into the grievances of the alleged surveillance of certain eminent Indians by hacking their phones using Israeli firm NSO's spyware, Pegasus.

*Continued on Page 11*

## ED probes ₹21K cr Afghan heroin haul from Mundra port

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has launched a money-laundering probe into the recent seizure of nearly 3,000 kgs of heroin from two containers at Mundra port in Gujarat by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).

The Opposition Congress has raised the issue and demanded a court-monitored probe into the biggest drug haul in the country and also estimated to be one of the largest globally.

The ED is studying the details of the case gathered



from the open source and has sought the copy of the complaint filed by the DRI that unraveled the narcotic smuggling bid of the syndicate.

The drugs haul relates to the DRI seizing a staggering 2,988.21 kg Afghan heroin, worth ₹21,000 crore, from the Mundra port in the Kutch district of Gujarat on September 15.

*Continued on Page 11*



Restoration work in progress at the Yaas cyclone effected Udaypur beach near Digha in Midnapore district on Thursday

PTI

## Vaccine at home for divyangs, says Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days after the Supreme Court asked the Centre to provide details of its policy framework and steps taken to prioritise Covid vaccination of persons with disability, the Modi Government on Friday announced "vaccination at home" for the disabled, "in line with Covid-19 SOPs".

"I am pleased to inform that an advisory has been issued to make arrangements for 'vaccination at home' for those who have disabilities or are differently challenged, in line with Covid SOPs," NITI Aayog member (Health) Dr VK Paul said, as the panel warned that the second wave is not over yet. Thirty-three districts in the country are now reporting over 10 per cent weekly positivity rate, while 23 are recording 5-10 per cent.

Under Covid guidelines for the upcoming festival season, mass gatherings has to be avoided in containment zones and in districts with over 5 per cent positivity rate, they said. **Detailed report on P7**

## Auto hit Dhanbad judge on purpose, CBI informs HC

PNS ■ RANCHI

The CBI on Thursday informed the Jharkhand High Court Bench of Chief Justice Ravi Ranjan and Justice Sumeet Narayan Prasad that Uttam Anand, Additional District and Sessions Judge of Dhanbad, was deliberately hit by the auto rickshaw hence it was not the case of hit and run.

The CBI said that the judge suffered fatal injuries. CBI joint director Sharad Agrawal told the HC that the agency was investigating whether accused auto driver Lakhman Verma and Rahul Verma had hit the judge as a part of conspiracy on instruction of other persons.

In the previous hearing, the court had expressed displeasure over the CBI making no headway in the investigation and summoned the joint director to appear before the court in the next hearing.

During virtual hearing on Thursday, the court made an oral observation that murder of the judicial officer has lowered the morale of judicial officers. The HC pointed out that if the



murder case of a judicial official is not solved soon it will not be a good sign for the judicial system of the country since it was for the first time when a judge died in this way.

During the previous hearing the court had expressed displeasure that the CBI could not be able to investigate beyond two accused persons Lakhman Verma and Rahul Verma.

The accused are learnt to have told the CBI that they deliberately hit the judge on the morning of July 28 in Dhanbad when the judge was returning home after a morning walk.

The accused said in order to loot the person walking on the road they hit him. But they fled away after they saw some bikers approaching them.

## Order for ₹7,523 crore desi Arjun tanks placed

## Main battle tanks to be made in TN

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major boost to maintain combat readiness and self-reliance, the Government on Thursday placed an order for 118 Arjun Mk-1A main battle tanks (MBT) for the Indian Army. The deal is worth over ₹7,523 crore and the Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF), Avadi, Tamil Nadu will manufacture the tanks.

The tanks are indigenously designed and manufactured by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Prime Minister Narendra Modi had handed over the upgraded Arjun tank in February this year to Army Chief General MM Naravane.

Giving details of the order, Defence Ministry officials said here on Thursday, it will provide further boost to the "Make in India" initiative in defence sector and is a big step towards achieving "Aatmanirbhar Bharat", envisioned by the Prime Minister.

The state-of-the-art MBT Mk-1A is a new variant of



Arjun Tank designed to enhance fire power, mobility and survivability. Infused with 72 new features and more indigenous content from the Mk-1 variant, the tank would ensure effortless mobility in all terrains, besides precise target engagement during day and night. The DRDO has incorporated numerous upgrades on Arjun MBT, the in-service main battle tank with the Indian Army, they said.

The MK-1A is equipped with accurate and superior firepower, all-terrain mobility and an invincible multi-layered protection provided by an array of advanced technology systems. It can take on the enemy during day and night conditions and in both static and dynamic modes. By virtue of these capabilities, this indigenous MBT proves to be on a par with any contemporary in its class across the globe.

*Continued on Page 11*

## Unique digital health ID soon to record your health info

## Modi to launch PM Digital Health Mission on Sept 27

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will announce the nationwide rollout of Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission on September 27. Under this, a unique digital health ID will be provided to the people, which will store the details of a person's medical history like the hospitals where s/he has been treated.

All information related to the person's health will be recorded on this unique health card. This way, the patient will not have to carry the files everywhere. Seeing the unique health ID of the patient, the doctor will be able to know the health situation and continue further treatment, said an official from the Union Health Ministry here on Thursday.

"This card will also tell whether the holder receives benefits from Government



schemes like Ayushman Bharat Yojana," he said.

The person's ID will be made using his mobile number and Aadhaar number. These two records will be used to create unique health cards. For this, the Government will create a health authority that will gather all the data of a person, he added.

The health authority will be allowed to raise the health records of the person whose health ID is to be made. Public hospitals, community health centre, health and wellness centre or healthcare provider,

which can be connected to the National Health Infrastructure registry, can make health ID.

The National Digital Health Mission is currently in its pilot phase across the Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep, and Puducherry.

According to the official, the mission is on track and the three basic platforms, health ID, doctor's registry, and the health facility registry have been made operational.

*Continued on Page 11*

## Sensex spikes to near record 60K

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex vaulted 958 points to scale a fresh lifetime high on Thursday, propelled by across-the-board buying amid a positive trend in global equities despite hawkish comments from the US Fed.

Robust gains in the rupee further buoyed sentiment, traders said.

Reversing the previous session's lethargy, the 30-share BSE Sensex zoomed 958.03 points or 1.63 per cent to end at an all-time high of 59,885.36. It scaled a new peak of 59,957.25 during the day.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty soared 276.30 points or 1.57 per cent to its new closing high of 17,822.95, after touching an intra-day record of 17,843.90.

Bajaj Finserv topped the



Sensex gainers' chart, climbing 5.15 per cent, followed by L&T, HDFC, Axis Bank, SBI, Reliance Industries (RIL) and IndusInd Bank.

Index heavyweights RIL and HDFC twins accounted for nearly half of the benchmark's gains. Only five counters closed in the red — Dr Reddy's, ITC, Nestle India, HUL and Bharti Airtel, skidding up to 1.07 per cent. **Detailed report on P10**

## CAPSULE

## 'FREE CANCER TREATMENT TO BHOPAL GAS VICTIMS'

**Jabalpur:** The Madhya Pradesh High Court has directed the State Government to provide free treatment to Bhopal gas tragedy victims suffering from cancer at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Bhopal. The September 16 order was made available on Wednesday.

## 3 KILLED IN BLAST AT BENGALURU GODOWN

**Bengaluru:** Three people were killed and four others were injured in a blast at a storage facility in Bengaluru's New Tharagupet area on Thursday.

## SC PRAISES CENTRE'S HANDLING OF COVID

**New Delhi:** No other country managed to do what India did in terms of its response to the coronavirus pandemic, the Supreme Court said on Thursday, in rich praise for the Government, as it reserved the order on a case involving the ₹50,000 compensation proposed for Covid-19 deaths.



## BJP back on its communal agenda, says Mayawati

**Lucknow (PNS):** Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati slammed the Yogi Adityanath government for making fake claims of development of Uttar Pradesh and alleged that now the Bharatiya Janata Party was back on its communal agenda.

In two tweets posted on Thursday, Mayawati took a dig at the government saying, "The BJP's development claims before the UP elections have been exposed and have turned out to be hollow. Now the party has returned to playing with religious sentiments and Hindu-

Muslim division, etc. But people will not be deceived again, which is also evident from their mood." The BSP chief further said that as per latest Reserve Bank of India data, there was stagnant per capita income in UP and people remained "poor and backward", which proved that the BJP's claims of development were mere hot air balloons. "Now the general belief is that the claims of BJP's development were just fake and rhetoric. Why is this even here in their 'double engine' government?" she questioned.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### NOTICE

I Have lost Original Allotment latter date-07/03/2007 and possession latter dated-05/12/2012 in respect of house On plot no-B/3/0147, sec-B, Pocket-3 at Sushant Golf City Lucknow

### NOTICE

I Have lost my Original sale deed ON 4904, dated-02/06/1997 sub registrar 1, lucknow. Executed by Devesh Deepak in favour of smt Afaq Fatima.

### NOTICE

I Radha Singh Yadav Spouse of JC 278261k Ex Sub Rajendra Singh Residing of Vill. Phool Nagar, Po. Biswana, Teh. Chayal, Distt. Allahabad. UP. Pin-211012 have changed my name Radha Singh to Radha Singh Yadav.

### NOTICE

I Aymy No-300322Y Rank HAV Rewa Shankar Rajput 4 RAJPUT C/O. 56APO Vill-pipliya Kewat, Tehsil Udaipura, Distt-Raisen M.P in My service Records My brother's Name wrongly mentioned INDRA-PAL , while my Actul Name is INDRAPAL RAJPUT, Indrapal and Indrapal Rajput both are one and same person in all future purpose

### NOTICE

I want to inform you that my son Nilansh Srivastava in his High School & Intermediate Marksheet & Certificate, etc. The name of father & Mother is mentioned incorrect as Navin Srivastava, Roopam Srivastava real and correct name of father & mother, Navin Kumar Srivastava, Rupam Srivastava Address: MIG 212/ I T.R.T., LDA colony Rajajipuram, Lucknow-226017

### आवश्यकता है

**कृष्णपाल सिंह पी0जी0 कॉलेज तबौर सीतापुर**  
आवश्यकता है  
एम0 ए0 विभाग सहआ0 आचार्य पद हेतु  
गृह विज्ञान-02, उई-02  
बी0 ए0 विभाग सहआ0 आचार्य पद हेतु  
भूगोल-02, चित्रकला-02, इतिहास-02  
योग्यता एवं तैयारी UGC/ राज्य सरकार/ विश्वविद्यालय मानकानुसार इच्छुक अर्जकर्ता अपना बायोमेट्रिक शैक्षिक प्रमाणपत्रों की छायावर्ति एवं चार नवीनतम फोटोग्राफ सहित 15 दिनों के भीतर महाविद्यालय के कैंप कार्यालय B-8, सेक्टर-C, अलीगंज, लखनऊ-226024 पर रजिस्टर्ड डाक द्वारा भेजे  
अध्यक्ष 7084265999

### WANTED

**MUMTAZ P. G. COLLEGE (Minority College)**  
Iradat Nagar, Daliganj, Lucknow.  
**WANTED**

One post of Assistant Professor in each subject Sociology, Urdu and English in clear vacancy likely to be permanent in the prescribed U.G.C. Pay Scale. Qualifications etc, and conditions of service as per Act and Statutes of Lucknow University and Government orders as amended upto date.

One another post of Assistant Professor in Urdu in clear vacancy against permanent post in the prescribed U.G.C. Pay Scale. Qualifications etc, and conditions of service as per Act and Statutes of Lucknow University and Government orders as amended upto date.

Applications on prescribed form, obtainable from the college office, with required fee and necessary documents must reach the college office within one month of last insertion of this advertisement.

ATHAR NABI  
MANAGER

### NOTICE

My Name was ATIN GUPTA which I have changed as ATIN KUMAR GUPTA. Henceforth I shall be known with this New Name. Atin Kumar Gupta, 54/20, Canal Road, Nayaganj, Kanpur Nagar.

### सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरे भवन सं० 4/55 विरामखण्ड गोमती नगर लखनऊ का मूल आवंटन-पत्र कहीं खो गया है। उक्त आवंटन-पत्र का उपयोग अवैध माना जाय। अजय कुमार नि० 4/55 विराम खण्ड गोमती नगर लखनऊ मो० 9140441348

### NOTICE

Service No. 2896241H Hav Arvind Singh R/O Vill. Malehta Po - Malehta Tehsil- Rath Distt. Hamirpur (UP) Army Record my child name has been recorded as Rajna Singh Instead of Ranjna Singh her real correct name is Ranjna Singh it shold be correted,

### NOTICE

I Santosh Kumar Sah unit 215 Fwc C/o 56 APO Pin-906215. is my EME Record Sheet the name of my wife is Puja Devi which is incorrect. Right name is Pooja Devi Both names are of my wife. Santosh Kumar Sah R/o Dharampur Tehsil Patori, Samashtipur Bihar.

### NOTICE

I, Army No 15343508 H Banarsi Yadav presently residing at vill Jamalpur PO Jamalpur, Naikot, Chanduli Uttar Pradesh Pin-232109. have changed Date of Birth of my son Aditya Yadav from 13.08.2002 to 13.04.2004 vide affidavit dated 10 Sept. 2021 in the notary of civil court prayagraj UP.

### NOTICE

My self Guru Narayan Dixit S/O Triveni Shankar Dixit R/O I - 825, Gujani Kanpur, I am owner of bhawan No. F-12 Block- Gujani Area 180.00 Sq mt. Kanpur which original allotment has lost, Vide letter No.31/KUDP/88-89 Date 3.11.1988 which use illegal

### NOTICE

I Aymy No-300322Y Rank HAV Rewa Shankar Rajput 4 RAJPUT C/O. 56APO Vill-pipliya Kewat , Tehsil Udaipura, Distt-Raisen M.P in My service Records My brother's INDRA-PAL RAJPUT . D.O.B. Wrongly mentioned as 04/02/1987, whereas my brother correct D.O.B -11-06-2004 in all future porpose

### NOTICE

Be it known to all that my son Mohammad Shaquib Siddiqui who passed out ICSE Exams Year-2020 respectively with UID No- 7214274, My name-has been wrongly endorsed as Nasreen Begum which is incorrect. Correct name is Nasreen Begum. The spelling of my name need to be corrected. Nasreen Begum W/o Mohd. Rizwan Siddiqui R/o - 37C/12M/1M, Kareli, Prayagraj.

# CM inaugurates exhibition on life of PM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated an exhibition based on the life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Bharatiya Janata Party state headquarters in Lucknow on Thursday.

Union Education Minister and ruling party's UP election incharge Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister Anurag Thakur and BJP state president Swatantra Dev Singh were also present with him.

On this occasion, Pradhan said, "The country has thrown up several tall leaders from time to time but no one can match Narendra Modi. For 20 years, he ruled Gujarat and now he is ruling the country. He has sacrificed his entire life serving the nation. The party is celebrating the birthday of the prime minister from September 17 to October 7 by holding programmes on seva and samarpan. I think the life of our PM will give inspiration to our youths and they will get a direction of their life."

Pradhan said that an exhibition was being organised by the BJP in every district on the personality and work of Prime Minister Narendra Modi through which the challenges that he faced were being shown to the public.

"The purpose of organising this exhibition today is also that the new generation should contribute in nation-building by taking inspiration from the personality and work of Prime Minister Modi ji," he said. Meanwhile, a meeting was held



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurating the exhibition on Thursday

to divide the workload among different party incharges. BJP state president Swatantra Dev Singh said that a detailed discussion was held regarding the organisational programmes and campaigns being run by the party. BJP national vice-president and UP incharge Radha Mohan Singh, Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dr Dinesh Sharma, state election co-incharge and Union minister Anurag Thakur, BJP state

general secretary (organisation) Sunil Bansal and other senior party office-bearers attended the meeting in which discussions were held on programmes being run across the state under the Sewa and Samarpan campaign started by the BJP on September 17.

It was decided that from September 26 to October 2, BJP workers would work across the state telling people about the government's achievements. On

October 2, a cleanliness campaign will be carried out at divisional level in the state and a conference of pramukhs will be organised.

The party expressed happiness over the success of the recently concluded prabuddha sammelan in all 403 assembly constituencies of the state and it was decided that the party would now interact with various sections like teachers, doctors, advocates, chartered accountants and other professionals.

## RLD demands ‘One Nation, One Health Insurance Policy’

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A recent report on Uttar Pradesh's economy released by State Planning Institute (Economic and Statistics Division) does not paint a rosy picture of the state and claims that the state's economy has grown at less than 5 per cent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in the last four-and-a-half years of the Yogi Raj. The survey report does not augur well as Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had earlier set the target of taking Uttar Pradesh to a one-trillion-dollar economy in the next five years. At present, the nominal GDP of the state for the year 2020-21 is Rs 17.05 lakh crore (US\$ 240 billion).

There is no denying the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the state's economy as UP's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has shrunk by 5.9 per cent in 2020-2021.

But the worrying sign is that the state's economy grew at less than 5 per cent in the last four-and-half-year tenure of the Yogi Adityanath regime. The revised data released for 2018-19 (revised provisional), 2019-20 (revised quick) and 2020-21 (revised advance) also indicate that the economy of Uttar Pradesh grew at a lesser rate than expected.

The revised estimates of the state's income that the State Planning Institute (Economics and Statistics Division) released last week show a systemic decline in the health of the economy.

The GSDP growth in 2017-18 was 4.9 per cent. However in 2018-19 and 2019-20 fiscals, it remained at about 4.3 per cent only. As per these estimates, the rate of economic growth was less than 5 per cent

Describing Indian health insurance as one in dire straits, the RLD leader said that the only solution was 'One Nation, One Health Insurance Policy.' "Today, the government should be responsible for providing health insurance to every citizen. When countries like America, England and Brazil can implement this, then why is it not possible in our country? Ayushman scheme provides a package of treatment for 918 diseases but there is no provision for diseases like dengue, chikungunya and Japanese encephalitis. Moreover, for serious diseases like cancer, the common man has to get cancer top-up in his health policy, while all diseases should be covered under it," Mishra said. "There are 572 medical colleges in India but private medical colleges do not treat Ayushman card holders. There is a need to take strict steps on this and the government should make a 'One Nation One Health Insurance Policy' covering all diseases under it and should do away with the provisions of OPD and admission and make the treatment of all diseases a part of it according to the concept of universal insurance. Also, the rates of treatment should be made practical and uniform," Mishra opined.

# A lot needs to be done to boost UP's economy

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

## ‘Singapore investors willing to invest in UP’



**Lucknow (PNS):** Singaporean High Commissioner in India, Simon Wong, said that there was a favourable environment for investment in Uttar Pradesh and a large number of Singapore investors were willing to invest in different projects of the state, including in the defence industrial corridor and MSME sector.

Wong expressed these views during his meeting with Chief Secretary Rajendra Kumar Tiwari in Lucknow on Thursday. After the high-profile meeting, the chief secretary said that due to the development of infrastructure facilities in Uttar Pradesh, it was being successful in attracting investors from across the world.

"Uttar Pradesh is providing an investor-friendly and fear-free environment. Besides, 21 new investment-friendly policies have been implemented in the state. New expressways, including Purvanchal Expressway,

Bundelkhand Expressway, Gorakhpur Link Expressway, Ballia Link Expressway and Ganga Expressway, are being developed making commuting by roads easy and safe. Similarly, tehsil headquarters and block headquarters are being connected by two-lane roadways, while roads from the state capital to district headquarters are four-lane," Tiwari said.

"Similarly, several airports are being developed with the aim to increase air connectivity. An international airport is being constructed in Kushinagar which will facilitate the movement of Buddhist followers living in the country and abroad. Defence industrial corridors are being developed in the state at Aligarh, Agra, Lucknow, Jhansi, Chitrakoot and Kanpur," the state's top official said.

The Singaporean high commissioner said that the trade relations between Singapore and India were very strong and there was a

favourable environment for investment in UP and the logistics points had been developed in a very systematic manner.

"It being the most religious place, a large number of devotees from all over the country and abroad come to Uttar Pradesh. Singapore investors are willing to invest in setting up the Bundelkhand defence Industrial corridor, MSME, logistics, integrated township, and data centre in Uttar Pradesh. Apart from this, investors want to invest in the area of skill centres in Varanasi," Wong said.

On the occasion, the chief secretary presented ODOP products to the delegation led by the high commissioner and Wong presented a book to the chief secretary. Additional Chief Secretary, (Infrastructure and Industrial Development) Arvind Kumar and Special Secretary (Industrial Development) Muthu Swamy were also present on the occasion.

during 2017-20 and -5.9 per cent in the COVID-19 affect-

ed 2020-21. The advance estimates for

2020-21 (released in March 2021) indicated a contraction

## 5-member CBI team launches probe into Mahant Giri's death

PNS ■ ALLAHABAD

A five-member team of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) reached Prayagrah on Thursday start a probe into the mysterious death of Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad president Mahant Narendra Giri, who was found dead in the Ashram on Monday evening.

On the demand of the office-bearers of Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had on Wednesday night recommended a CBI probe into the case.

A video shot in the room of the Mahant just after the incident went viral on Thursday, deepening the mystery. When the police, including IG (Range) KP Singh, had reached the spot, they found the body lying on the ground and the ceiling fan from which the Mahant had reportedly hanged himself was found running in full speed. A thin nylon rope was also recovered in three pieces. The IG is seen in the video asking the inmates as to why the body was brought down in haste before the arrival of police.

Yet another video was out showing Anand Giri in a Vajra van, saying that IG KP Singh was the main culprit who could eliminate him (Anand Giri). On the basis of the alleged suicide note, Anand Giri was arrested from Haridwar and brought to Prayagraj amidst tight security. He was kept in the police lines where no mediaperson was allowed. While being sent to jail from the court, he uttered those words but the window of the van was shut immediately. The saints, mainly the Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad office-bearers, are not ready to buy the suicide theory and have questioned the authenticity of the suicide note. They have also not allowed Balbeer to take over as Mahant on the basis of the note.

of about 6.4 per cent in the GSDP. The UP government can take solace because the national economy too contracted by 7.3 per cent in the 2020-21 fiscal, as per GDP statistics released by National Statistical Office (NSO) of the Union government on May 31, 2021.

The worrisome fact is that sectors like manufacturing registered negative rates of growth over the last four years and its share in GSDP is also declining and is less than 15 per cent. For a state which is yearning for industrialisation, this is not a good sign. On the contrary, the performance of the agriculture sector has been encouraging as even during the pandemic-affected 2020-21, the sector showed a positive growth of 2.7 per cent. Services, or tertiary, sector has done well except in 2020-21 wherein it shrunk to 7.9 per cent.

The data shows that UP's GSDP (at current prices) is estimated to have reached Rs 15.82 lakh crore in 2018-19, Rs 17.25 lakh crore in 2019-20, and Rs 17.39 lakh crore in 2020-21. The state government had recently claimed that the GSDP had peaked from Rs 17.91 lakh crore to Rs 19.40 lakh crore (revised estimates) on March 31, 2021.

The above facts should be a sobering reminder to the state government that much needs to be done to put Uttar Pradesh on the fast trajectory of growth. If it really wants to become a one-trillion-dollar economy, the state has to come up with a clear roadmap.

The poor GSDP does not enthuse confidence that the state will be able to achieve the target within the stipulated timeline and it would be better that the state government goes back to the drawing board and revises its strategy.



# Over 8 cr vax jabs given in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Emerging successful in the fight against COVID-19, Uttar Pradesh crossed the landmark of administering more than eight crore first dose of Covid vaccination on Thursday. The most populous state of the country has so far given the 'Jab of Life' to more than 9.77 crore people and in the last 24 hours over 7.56 lakh people have been inoculated.

Besides, the state also achieved the landmark of administering the first dose of the Covid vaccine to nearly 54 per cent of the eligible adult population while over 1.76 crore people in the state have been fully vaccinated.

"The Uttar Pradesh government is focused on getting the majority of the population inoculated. As the second wave of the coronavirus remains in control across the state, the demand to get vaccinated remains high as it is the only option to fight the invisible enemy," a government spokesman said.

Making a rapid stride towards eliminating the viral infection, the state witnessed the sharpest decline in the number of active COVID-19 cases as the tally fell below the

## Mega vaccination camp in city on September 27

**Lucknow (PNS):** A mega vaccination camp will be held in Lucknow on September 27. District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash held a meeting in this regard on Thursday. The DM said they have doubled their target for this vaccination camp because they want maximum number of people jabbed.

In terms of the arrangements being made for the drive, he said all the CHOs have to work along with the data operators and all the staff nurses administering the vaccine jabs have to help in the entry of beneficiaries on the CoWin portal. In order to make the drive a success, he said a nodal officer each would camp at all the blocks.

He said all the block development officers would monitor the data operators in their areas so that their work finishes in time. The DM also said that the training of all

190-mark on Thursday. Active caseload in the state now stands at 186, having been

the data operators should be completed by September 25.

Prakash said that the numbers beneficiaries should be increased through the medium of schools where principals should be given forms to be taken by the children to their homes. "It will help in getting the vaccination status of their families and those left out should be called at the mega drive," the DM said.

As regards the Covid cases in Lucknow, he said most of the people testing positive are foreign travellers and their contacts. He said that the patients have to be kept in complete isolation and an app be installed in their mobiles so that their locations could be tracked.

He told the rapid response teams to track the Covid positive cases and carry out random checking twice a day.

brought down by almost 99 per cent from its peak capped at 3.10 lakh cases on April 30.

In a clear indication that the spread of the dreaded coronavirus has been arrested in UP, out of 2.20 lakh samples tested, only 11 have tested positive in the state while in the corresponding period, 20 COVID-19 patients have recovered from the infection. While major states are witnessing a greater surge of new coronavirus cases (daily cases ranging from 22,000-2,000), Uttar Pradesh has restricted the daily-case count below 50 for 44 consecutive days now.

As many as 30 districts, namely Amroha, Auraiya, Ayodhya, Azamgarh, Baghpat, Ballia, Banda, Bahraich, Bhadohi, Bijnor, Farrukhabad, Gonda, Hamirpur, Hapur, Hathras, Kanpur Dehat, Kasganj, Mahoba, Mau, Mirzapur, Moradabad, Muzaffarnagar, Pilibhit, Rampur, Saharanpur, Sant Kabir Nagar, Shamli, Shravasti, Sitapur and Sultanpur have eradicated the coronavirus as their fresh and active COVID-19 cases remain zero.

None of the 75 districts of the state has reported fresh coronavirus cases in double digits lately and only six districts have reported new cases in the last 24 hours.

# Man held for bid to rape minor girl

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

An accused who allegedly assaulted a 12-year-old girl with an intention to outrage her modesty in Para police station area landed in police net on Thursday. He was identified as Dharmjeet aka Dharm of Para. After a case was lodged on September 21, a police team nabbed the accused on Thursday. He was arrested on a tip-off near Buddheshwar crossing. The police said Dharmjeet was challaned under sections 354/323/452 & 506 of IPC. He was also booked under POCSO Act.

Meanwhile, a Chinhat res-

ident was threatened and an extortion of Rs 1 crore was demanded from him by unidentified accused. Police were said to be clueless about the accused and their motive. However, the police suspected that there could be a business-related dispute between the complainant and the accused. Amitav Agarwal of Omega Green Apartment in Chinhat lodged a case in this connection on September 20. Agarwal got the first extortion call around 9 pm on September 18 when he was at his flat. He got three successive calls and each time he was asked to pay Rs 1 crore as extortion or he would be killed.

Initially, Agarwal did not pay much attention to the issue. On September 20, he got a call from a new number and was asked to pay Rs 1 crore and threatened that he and his entire family would be eliminated otherwise. Agarwal then contacted the police and he was asked to file a complaint.

In another case, a policeman who was admitted to Medanta Hospital in Sushant Golf City police station area due to some illness on Wednesday died on Thursday. He was identified as Subedar Singh of Prayagraj. He was posted in Hamirpur (Dial 112). Son Prakash Singh said his father fell

sick three four days back. Meanwhile, a man identified as Anil Kumar Gupta of Lakadmandi locality in Saadatganj was found dead on Thursday. Police said he was crushed to death by some unidentified vehicle.

As per reports, some residents spotted Anil lying dead and informed his brother Sunil Kumar Gupta. Sunil reached the scene and informed the police. "Anil was a drug & liquor addict and would loiter around in the locality," Sunil was quoted as saying by the police. They said Anil was sleeping near a trans-former and some speeding vehicle ran over him.

## 15 fresh dengue cases detected

**Lucknow (PNS):** Fifteen fresh cases of dengue were reported from the state capital on Thursday. An official from the CMO office said that the fresh dengue cases were found in Rajajipuram, Aliganj, Indiranagar, Ruchi Khand, Ashiyana and Manaknagar.

He said 1,760 houses were surveyed and notices served on 33 house owners. A social organisation spread awareness about dengue in Faizullaganj and Daudnagar while the CMO teams inspected Triveninagar,

Kavi Jaishankar Prasad, Daulatganj, Ayodhya Das First, Ruchi Khand, Shankarpurwa and surrounding areas.

In a meeting, District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash said most of the dengue cases were coming from Kanpur road. He directed the officials concerned to take note of the hotspots and distribute medicines. From September 28 to October 2, a special communicable disease programme will be conducted by the health teams.

## Mock drill to assess preparedness of PICUs, NICUs

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

A mock drill of PICUs and NICUs at six government hospitals will be carried out by the Health department on Friday to assess their preparedness for the Covid third wave.

Additional CMO and incharge of PICUs & NICUs, Dr Vivek Dubey said the mock drill would be monitored by the Health department officials. The drill will be carried out at Malihabad, Mohanlalganj, Chinhaat & Gosainganj CHCs besides Lok Bandhu and Balrampur hospitals.

"We will see how the patients are treated right from the time when they reach the hospital. All the hospitals will be monitored by different officials from the Health department to ensure that there are no loopholes in the preparedness," Dr Dubey said.

Each CHC has 50 PICU & NICU beds while hospitals like KGMU, RMLIMS and SGPGI have 100 beds each. "Each CHC will be visited by one additional CMO or deputy CMO during the mock drill while additional directors and joint directors of the Health department will visit the remaining hospitals," he said.

Dr Dubey said they would first carry out the mock drill at government hospitals and then at private hospitals, so that if there are any problems faced by government hospitals during the third wave (if at all it strikes), private hospitals could be roped in.

He said dummy candidates would be used for the mock drill. "We have to remain alert and cautious about the third wave and this is a step in that direction. What is of utmost importance is that we have to behave properly with the kin of the patients," he said. Dr Dubey said they have 716 paediatric isolation beds, 384 HDU beds and 266 PICU & 144 NICU beds in Lucknow, which makes it a total of 1,510 beds. These beds are in 34 hospitals with 158 paediatricians, 174 medical officers, 1,155 nurses and 309 ventilators. There are 314 paediatric isolation beds, 178 HDU beds, 116 PICU & 29 NICU beds, making it a total of 637 beds in nine government hospitals with 83 paediatricians, 43 medical officers, 681 nurses and 118 ventilators.

Arrangements have been made for 150 paediatric isolation beds, 105 HDU beds, 51 PICU & 20 NICU beds, making it a total of 326 beds in three medical colleges with 27 paediatricians, 40 medical officers, 154 nurses and 118 ventilators. Besides, there are 252 paediatric beds, 101 HDU beds, 99 PICU & 95 NICU beds, making it a total off 547 beds in 22 others hospitals with 48 paediatricians, 91 medical officers, 320 nurses and 73 ventilators. When asked if there is any child who has tested Covid positive, Dr Dubey said there is no case as of now. "We are hoping that children are not impacted because it directly affects the entire family," he added.

## Clerk accused of fraud

**Lucknow (PNS):** A clerk at RFRMC Pratishtan dealing in provident fund of the employees of Uttar Pradesh Rajkiya Nirman Nigam (Vishweshwaraiya Bhawan) allegedly made a fraudulent payment. After it surfaced during a departmental investigation following a complaint, a case for forgery, criminal breach of trust and tampering with the documents for payment was registered against him at the Vibhuti Khand police station.

The accused was identified as Ravindra Kumar Verma. The case was lodged by Amit Kumar Bajpai, employed in the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner (II) office. PF account holder Sushil Kumar Sharma lodged a complaint with the PF office, stating that Rs 60,000 was paid to another person from his account. The department conducted a probe and found that RFRMC Pratishtan clerk Ravindra Verma had made the payment and referred the case to RFRMC officials.

Meanwhile, after spotting her husband hanging from the ceiling in a room, a woman jumped off the fourth floor of a building where the couple resided, to end her life. She was immediately rushed to a hospital where her condition was said to be out of danger while she was still under treatment.

As per reports, Shazia (20) saw her husband Suhail (22) hanging from the ceiling in a room when she reached there. She later jumped off the fourth floor of Kanshi Ram Colony where the couple resided. She suffered injuries and was rushed to a hospital from where doctors referred her to KGMU Trauma Centre. Suhail ended his life in his house and further investigations were underway.



# स्मार्ट बनिए

## यातायात नियमों का पालन करिए







# सड़क सुरक्षा सप्ताह

## 24-30 सितम्बर, 2021



समझदार बनें, सुरक्षित रहें।

- वाहन चलाते समय हेलमेट/सीट बेल्ट अवश्य पहनें
- तेज रफ़्तार से वाहन न चलाएं
- वाहन चलाते समय मोबाइल पर बात न करें
- नशे में वाहन न चलाएं ● बिना लाइसेंस के वाहन न चलाएं
- राँग साइड से वाहन न चलाएं ● अपनी लेन में ही वाहन चलाएं
- पार्किंग के नियमों का पालन करें

## आइए, हम सब यातायात नियमों का पालन करने का संकल्प लें।

### यातायात नियमों का उल्लंघन दण्डनीय अपराध है।






हेल्पलाइन नम्बर  
**1800-1800-151**

# सुरक्षित सफ़र, सुरक्षित प्रदेश

uptransportdept uptransportdept

**परिवहन विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश**





# shubham

# SHUBHAM HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CO. LTD.

Corporate Office : 425, Udyog Vihar Phase IV, Gurgaon-122015 (Haryana)

Ph : 0124- 4212530/31/32 E-Mail: [customercare@shubham.co](mailto:customercare@shubham.co) website : [www.shubham.co](http://www.shubham.co)

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES)

## Sale Notice for sale of immovable properties as per proviso to Rule 8(6) and Appendix-IV-A (Under Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002)

Whereas the undersigned being one of the Authorized Officer of the Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited (hereinafter called the Company) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (The Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (The Rules) issued demand notices calling upon the borrowers, whose names have been indicated in column (C) below on dates specified in column (D) written against their names, calling upon them to repay the outstanding amount indicated in column (E) below within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers have failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken voluntary surrendered/possession of the property mortgaged with the company, described in column (F) herein below, to recover the said outstanding amount, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 9 of the Rules on the date mentioned in column (H).

The Borrower In particular and the public in general be hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned in column (F) below and any dealings with these properties will be subject to the charge of the Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited for an amount mentioned in column (G).

Now, the borrower and the public in general is hereby also informed that the said properties may be sold by public auction on date, time and venue as specified in column (K) against each of the property by inviting bids in the sealed envelopes as per the procedure and terms and conditions stated below:

Sl. No.	Application Number	Name & Address Of the Borrowers	Date of Notice/ U/s 13(2)	Demand Notice Amount	Property Possessed	Total Due on 22-09-2021	Current Rate of Possession	Current RP	EMD (Rs.) (10% of RP)	Date, Time & Venue of auction
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1.	VRN_1406_023064	Ghure Lal Sharma, Khushi Sharma, Kathauri, Landua, Landua, Sakolahi, Chandauli U.P. 232104	05-11-2018	Rs. 3,76,007/-	Arazi No. 63 Mauza: Alrai Nagar- Parsana: Dhus Teh. & Distt.-Chandauli U.P.-232101	Rs. 4,32,658/-	31/05/2019 (Physical)	Rs. 16,28,700/-	Rs. 1,62,870/-	26-10-2021 11.00AM To 2.00PM, Office No. 108 First Floor, Vaishali Archade 6 Park Road, Lucknow-226001
2.	LKW_1506_040236	Sheela Tiwari, Abhishek Tiwari, L-210 Aliganj Sec-B, Near LIC Colony Lucknow - 226020	19-08-2016	Rs. 14,69,701/-	Part of Plot No. 75 at Land Kharsa No. 478 & 481 (Mirjania), Gaur Sheela, Ward Faizulaganj, Lucknow-226021	Rs. 27,31,679/-	31/03/2021 (Physical)	Rs. 12,88,000/-	Rs. 1,28,800/-	26-10-2021 11.00 AM To 2.00 PM, Office No. 108 First Floor, Vaishali Archade, 6 Park Road, Lucknow-226001
3.	DSRT1609 00000501 928	Santosh Dipchand Rajbhar, Neerpal Rajbhar, Jawahri Barnhi Borhaji Deoria, Uttar Pradesh - 274601	22-05-2021	Rs. 3,71,305/-	Flat No. 407, 4th Floor, Rudrani Complex, Nr. Vardeli, Gram Panchayat, Vardeli, Surat, Gujarat - 395001	Rs. 3,95,669/-	17/06/2021 (Physical)	Rs. 3,56,000/-	Rs. 35,600/-	26-10-2021 11.00 AM To 2.00 PM, 2nd Floor, Shree Kuberji Complex, Athugar Street, Near Post office of Rasta Nanpara, Surat-395001

**Note:** To the knowledge of the company, there is no encumbrance on the above properties. Terms and conditions of auction sale notice

**TERMS & CONDITIONS OF PUBLIC AUCTION - PROCEDURE AND TERMS & CONDITIONS OF PUBLIC AUCTION BY INVITING BIDS:**

- The property at can be inspected on 18.10.2021 Respectively from 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM.
- Sale is subject to the conditions prescribed in SARFAESI Act/Rules 2002 and the terms and conditions mentioned hereunder as also subject to conditions in the offer/bid documents to be submitted by the intending participating bidders.
- The bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope to the office of undersigned along with a Demand Draft/Pay Order towards the Earnest Money Deposit favouring Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited, payable locally. The Earnest money deposit shall not carry any interest on win bid. From the proposed bidder shall also attach his/her identity proof/ KYC norms and proof of residence such as copy of the passport, Aadhar Card, Election form commission card, ration card, driving license etc, and a copy of the PAN card issued by the Income tax department.
- Last date to submit the bid along with Earnest Money Deposit for before 25-10-2021 10.00 AM To 4.00 PM
- In no eventually the property would be sold below the reserve price indicated against each of the property.
- On the date of sale all the, bids so received would be opened and the bid of the highest bidder, provided it is above the reserve price, may be accepted by the company. If a bidder or bidders personally present at the auction site shall have the right to further enhance their bid price, subject to a minimum of Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) and in the event if higher bid price being offered the company shall have the right to accept the same. Thereafter, the Purchaser will be required to pay deposit of 25% (Twenty Five percent) of the sale price, after adjusting the earnest money deposit, immediately at the fall of hammer with the undersigned upon receipt of said amount the company will confirm the acceptance of the bid. The request for extension of time may be allowed by the Authorised officer at his sole discretion subject to such terms and conditions as may be deemed at and proper by him. In the event the highest bidder fails to tender 25% of the bid amount immediately at the fall of hammer then the earnest money deposited by the highest bidder will be forfeited and the property would be offered to the second highest bidder. The balance amount of the purchase price shall be paid by the Purchaser to the undersigned on or before the fifteenth day of confirmation of the sale of the said property or such extended period as may be agreed upon in writing by the parties. In default of payment & within the time as mentioned above, the company shall be at liberty to forfeit the Earnest Money Deposit and/or any other deposit made by the purchaser and proceed with re-auction of the Property. That defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which they may be subsequently sold.
- All the payments shall be made by the purchaser by means of the Demand Draft/Pay Order favouring Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited.
- On receipt of the sale in full, the company shall be issuing a Sale Certificate in favour of the Purchaser and would hand-over the possession of the property to the Purchaser.
- The said Immovable Property described in the Schedule shall remain and be at the sole risk of the Purchaser in all respects including loss or damage by fire or theft or other accidents, and other risk from the date of the Confirmation of the sale by the undersigned authorised officer. The Purchaser shall not be entitled to annul the sale on any ground whatsoever.
- The Demand Draft/Pay Order deposited towards the earnest money shall be returned to the unsuccessful bidders.
- For all the purposes sale of these Properties is strictly on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS' and 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS' AND 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS' WITHOUT ANY RECOURSE BASIS'. The company is not aware of any encumbrance of any nature whatsoever on the aforesaid properties.
- The expenses relating to Stamp Duty, Registration Charges, Transfer Charges and any other charges in respect of the above referred property shall be borne by the Purchaser.
- The Authorised officer is not bound to accept the highest offer or any or all offers/bids(s) and the company reserves its right to reject any or all bid(s) without assignment any reasons therefor.
- No person other than the bidders themselves or their duly authorised representative shall be allowed to participate in the sale proceedings.
- In case all the dues together with all cost charges and expenses incurred by the company are tendered or settled by the above name borrower at any time before the date fixed for sale for the property, under Sec13(8) of the Act, then the property will not be sold and all the bids received from the prospective bidders shall be returned to them without any liability (claim) against said company.
- This notice is also a notice to above said Borrowers under Rule 8(6)and Appendix IVA of the security Interest Enforcement Rules 2002 to the Customer at their respective address as mentioned in Column "C" & "F".
- For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the Secured Creditor's website i.e. [www.shubham.co](http://www.shubham.co).
- For further information, clarity or any assistance, same can be approached to S. No. Jal Prakash Tripathi (Authorised Officer) at Mobile No- 7048951934 & S.No. 2 Prabhat Singh (Authorised Officer) at Mobile No- 8394257268 & S.No. 3 Shaleesh R. Singh (Authorised Officer) at Mobile No- 9879240362, 7827942255

**PLACE : Gurgaon**

**DATE : 23/09/2021**

**Authorized Officer**

**Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited**



# BJP organises camps to benefit beneficiaries of welfare schemes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As a part of 20 days ‘Seva aur Samarpan (Service and Commitment)’ campaign launched by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on the occasion of the 71th birthday of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the camps were organised on Thursday at six places in the district to benefit the beneficiaries of the welfare schemes being carried out by the government.

The various government departments installed their stalls in the camp organised at Shahid Udyan in Sagra for the beneficiaries of three assembly constituencies of the city areas—City South, Cantt & City North. Besides, the camps were also organised in Jagatpur Degree College, Sevapuri block, Subhadra Inter College in Basani, Cholarpur block and Mahadev PG College in Chiragaon for the beneficiaries of assembly constituencies of rural areas—Rohania, Sevapuri, Pindra, Ajagara and Shivpur respectively.

In the camp at Shahid Udyan, the certificates of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana were given to more than 10 beneficiaries and the Divyang department gave away the certificates to over seven beneficiaries to run shops while the Employment Exchange handed over the appointment letters to more than five beneficiaries.

Similarly, the Social Welfare department benefited more than half a dozen beneficiaries with the old-aged pen-



MLA Saurabh Srivastava giving certificate to a beneficiary in Varanasi on Thursday

Pioneer

sion scheme, the Food & Supply department gave away antyodaya ration cards to over a dozen beneficiaries and the Health department gave certificates of Ayushman Bharat Yojana to more than a dozen beneficiaries. The Basic Education and other government departments also benefited the beneficiaries with the schemes of the respective departments.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA Saurabha Srivastava said that the government at Centre and in the state made an attack on the root cause of the corruption to eradicate this

menace and added, the BJP is not a political party and rather it is a social organisation. The SP and the BSP governments had announced the schemes but instead of benefitting the actual beneficiaries, either the party workers or the dear and near of their leaders were benefitted during their regimes, he blamed. The BJP is committed to get the benefits of government schemes to the last man of the society by following the philosophy of the great ideologue Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay, he said and informed that in this order, a free health camp is to be clear organised on

September 26 from 9 am to 3 pm at Ayurvedic Medical College in Chowkaghat.

Mayor Mridula Jaiswal said that the BJP-led Governments not only start the welfare schemes but also work to benefit each and every beneficiary with them and added that the BJP does not make politics of vote bank and rather, it takes the politics as work to serve the people. The Municipal Commissioner Pranay Singh, the Secretary of VDA Sunil Kumar Verma, the CMO Dr VB Singh and the BJP city president Vidya Sagar Rai also spoke on the occasion.

# Laliteshpati quits Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Prior to upcoming assembly elections, the Congress has received a major blow when party’s former MLA Laliteshpati Tripathi tendered his resignation not only from all the party’s posts but also from primary membership of Congress. ‘The decision was tough as for the last one century, my family was associated with the Congress and my parental place, known as ‘Aurangabad House’, was an important centre during the freedom struggle as well as decades after the independence,’ said Laliteshpati, the great grandson of former Union Minister Pt Kamalapati Tripathi. His grandfather Pt Lokpati Tripathi was former UP Minister, grandmother Chandra Tripathi a former MP from Chandauli and father Rajeshpati ex-MLC.



Ex-MLA Laliteshpati Tripathi addressing a press conference in Varanasi on Thursday.

Pioneer

Recently, during his visit when the matter of Laliteshpati was raised in a press conference, the former External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid said that Laliteshpati had resigned the party’s posts but not from the Congress membership and the party was

in Laliteshpati’s contact trying to resolve the matter soon. However, addressing a press conference at Aurangabad House here on Thursday, Laliteshpati, who won Marihan assembly seat in Mirzapur in 2012 but lost the same to BJP’s Rama Shankar Singh in 2017, made it clear about quitting the Congress.

However, he categorically denied all the speculations about his decision to join any other political party. ‘I would not take any decision in hurry and decide my future political plans only after discussing the issue with the friends,’ he said, expressing his unhappiness over the ongoing affairs in Congress where no proper responsibilities are being given to old cadre workers who had remained intact with the party during all the recent period of crisis.

He expressed gratitude to

the Congress and its icons Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi for showing their faith in him by giving some important responsibilities in the party’s affairs. ‘Being myself a cricket player, I think that there are two types of batsmen, one who makes runs and others who stay on the crease for long.

Both are important but I’m such a batsman who prefers to make runs,’ he said, adding that he was not happy in the manner thousands of devoted party’s workers were sidelined. ‘It was a tough decision as my family was associated with the Congress for a long time but he had no option in order to fulfill the aspirations and expectations of my supporters,’ he said, adding that he would continue to serve the suppressed, deprived and weaker sections of the society along with the youth.

# Rains leave many areas water-logged

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Rains lashed the city here on Thursday, leaving several areas water-logged. There were heavy weather conditions throughout the day and the rains hit the city many times with thunderstorms at brief intervals during the day hours. Due to rains, normal life was affected badly as there was water-logging in many areas, slowing down the speed of vehicles.

Due to heavy water-logging as usual during the rains, many vehicles especially two-wheelers were stranded at



Rain lashes the city in Varanasi on Thursday.

Pioneer

Andhrapal and some other areas.

Water-logging was also

seen in Godowlia, Girjagarh, Nai Sarak, Teliabagh and many other areas.

It caused problems to the people who reached Dashhashwamedh and other adjoining ghats to offer pinda-daan during ongoing Pitrapaksh.

Rains also disrupted power supply in some areas. Besides, it also affected trains, flight and road transportation. According to information received from Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Babatpur, the flights G8-404 from Delhi and G8-403 from Bengaluru were cancelled while G8-397 from Mumbai, AI-406 from Delhi and UL-3612 from Delhi arrived late.

# Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan exam to be held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

This year, the Vigyan Bharati (VIBHA) in collaboration with Vigyan Prasara and National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT) will conduct Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan (VVM) Exam, a national level talent test, online on November 30 and December 5.

The state coordinator of the VVM Sangeeta Tiwari informed that the main objective of the exam is to generate interest among schoolchildren about science and apprise them of the contribution given by the Indian scientists in the field of science. The students from classes VI to XI can appear at this exam for which the online registration process has com-



Sangeeta Tiwari

menced from August 7 and will last till October 31. The registration fee is Rs 100, she added.

The VVM Exam is to be conducted in three phases and the first phase of the exam will be conducted on November 30 and December 5 online but the students have option to opt one date either November 30 or December 5 to appear, she

informed adding that as the exam is to be conducted online and thus, the candidates can take the help of internet access such as desktop, laptop, tablet and android smartphone.

The examination is to be conducted in 12 languages including Hindi and English. The candidates who get success in the first phase exam, will qualify for the exam of second phase to be conducted at state level, she informed adding, the candidates who get success in the second phase exam, will appear at the third phase examination to be conducted at national level.

Aarti performed for strong Indo-US ties: On the eve of the first meeting between Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden, the activists of Namami Gange performed the aarti of Ma

Ganga for the strong relationship between the two countries here on Thursday.

They prayed to the Goddess Ganga to strengthen the multifaceted Indo-US bilateral ties and relationship.

Carrying the flags of India and US and pictures of Narendra Modi and Joe Biden, they first performed Ganga aarti under the leadership of convener of Namami Gange (Kashi area) Rajesh Shukla, who said that proposed Modi-Biden meeting on Friday would write a new chapter of relationship.

Besides, he said that during their meeting the two leading heads of big democratic nations, they would discuss ways to eliminate radicalism, extremism, cross-border terrorism and global terrorist networks.

# No evidence yet of dispute between Mahant and disciple over property

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Contrary to speculations that Cassetts owned by Mahant Narendra Giri’s Baghambari Gaddi Math could be a bone of contention between Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad (ABAP) president Mahant Narendra Giri and his disciple Anand Giri, police have yet to come across any evidence to corroborate the same. However, it is true that the monastery owns chunks of land worth several crore in different parts of the country.

Sources in the Baghambari Gaddi Math confirmed that it owns around 30 acres of land in Manda tehsil of Prayagraj apart from another 25-acre land in Shankargarh that is said to be rich in silica sand, which is used to manufacture glass and hence is much more valuable than a normal plot of land.

The Math itself, which is located at Allahpur locality, is spread over an area of around 10 acres. The Math also has Mahant Vicharanand Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, a gaushala and an open field. The monastery also owns a fleet of high-end luxury sedans and SUVs. Till a few years ago, Mahant Narendra Giri had sold off a

## ABAP to set up own confidential probe

**ALLAHABAD (PNS):** The Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad has decided to initiate its own independent and secret probe apart from the one by the 18-member SIT into the mysterious death of Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad (ABAP) president Mahant Narendra Giri. A confidential probe committee will look into all the aspects related to the case and come out with its findings.

“The panel will submit its findings to ABAP, the apex decision-making body of the country’s 13 Hindu monastic Akharas, which would then out it in public domain,” chief patron of Juna Akhara and general secretary of ABAP Mahant Hari Giri said here on Thursday. “It is not the first time that a seer associated with the Math has died mysteriously. It has to be probed whether these incidents are related to property of the Math or is there someone who wants the Math to be acquired,” he said.

“I have discussed the issue with prominent leaders of all the 13 Akharas and members of the Niranjani Akhara after which ABAP has decided to set up a probe into the death of Mahant Narendra Giri,” he added.

He also informed newsmen that all the 13 Akharas are with the Niranjani Akhara in its time of grief. “Once this Akhara comes out of mourning, we will sit together to decide the course of action,” he added.

20-bigha land at Bhardwaj Puram to spruce up the Math.

Speculations of the Math property being a possible bone of contention between Mahant

Narendra Giri and Anand Giri dates back to 1980 when a top seer had died under mysterious circumstances. Mahant Vicharanand, who bought the

land where the Math presently exists, through donations collected at Bade Hanuman temple, was found dead on board a train while travelling to Haridwar in 1980.

Baghambari Gaddi Math was initially a part of Shri Panchayati Akhara Niranjani and its funds were used to maintain the famous Bade Hanuman Temple at the Sangam. Later, Narendra Giri entered into a court battle as a result of which the Math came into existence with an identity separate from Niranjani Akhara. Later, Narendra Giri became the Pithadheeshwar of the Math and also that of Bade Hanuman temple.

The Niranjani Akhara is also quite rich in terms of properties spread in various parts of the country. The Akhara owns around 100 bighas of land near Manda in Prayagraj and another 400 bighas in Mirzapur’s Mahuari, including 70-bigha land in Mirzapur’s Naidi and another 70 bigha in Sigda. The Akhara also owns properties in Haridwar and other parts of the country. There are nearly a dozen temples and ashrams on the lands owned by Niranjani Akhara in Haridwar alone.

# Commuters troubled by poor condition of roads

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Even as the October 15 deadline set by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to ensure potholes-free roads across the state is fast approaching, the roads dotted with craters continue to trouble bike riders and car drivers across the Sangam city.

The condition of some of the roads, including Tashkent marg, Tagore town road, Georgetown, roads near Manmohan Park, Old Katra, Netram Chauraha, Civil Lines bus stand, Rajapur trisection and adjoining areas are in such bad shape that mishaps often seem inevitable.

Moreover, the recent downpour and poor patch-and-repair work have compounded the woes of commuters. Even though CM Yogi Adityanath had cautioned officials of various departments to ensure quality work and also warned that complaints of irregularities would be dealt with sternly, the development agencies appear to be unfazed.

While talking to mediapersons, city-based physician Dr Anupam Dwivedi said that the Tashkent Marg is in the worst condition and driving has become next to impossible on this stretch. The road was widened for commuting and even after the construction of dividers months back, there

were no signs of road construction yet.

Corporator and senior Congress leader Mukund Tiwari said that nearly two lakh vehicles ply on the roads in different parts of the city every day and over 40 per cent of the vehicles develop snags regularly, thanks to the craters and potholes. Every month, hundreds of new vehicles hit the streets and these are also not spared from quick decay due to the poor road conditions. The poor condition of tabletop crossings also causes damage to vehicles’ suspensions. The cost of the repair of these damages in most cases for SUVs and other expensive cars ranges from Rs 5,000 to Rs 15,000, and

these are not even covered under insurance policies.

“Insurance can be claimed only when cars suffer damages in accidents. The cost of the repair of luxury vehicles is spiralling, but the damages cannot be insured,” said the owner of an automobile garage at Civil Lines, adding that despite insurance policies, car owners have to shell out money for repairs. Apart from suspensions, the ravaged roads wreak havoc on different car parts, especially axles, wheels and tyres. “The car’s alignment system suffers due to the poor condition of roads and it burns a hole in the pockets of commuters even if the damages are minor,” a car owner said.

# Poetry contest held during Rajbhasha Pakhwara

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

An online ‘Swachit Kavita Path Competition’ was held on the occasion of Rajbhasha Pakhwara being organised at the headquarters of North Central Railway. The employees working in different departments of divisions and workshops, including the headquarter office, participated with enthusiasm. The participants

presented poems, ghazals, etc.

Addressing the participants, Chief Rajbhasha Officer and Principal Financial Advisor Ajai Mathur said that the themes of poetry chosen by the participants like national, cultural, contemporary and social concerns show the correct path to the individual and the society. He appreciated the poetic talent and creativity of the railway staff and said that their

works are not only the hallmark of an alert and intelligent railway worker but also of a conscious citizen and a nation’s watchdog. Principal Chief Commercial Manager MN Ojha said that poetry motivates and awakens people. Poetry is not only a matter of amusement but also a matter of social consciousness, he added. The judge of the competition was Chief Claims Officer

Shailendra Kapil, who appreciated the performances.

He said that the success of poetry depends on the fact that contemporary meanings and themes are exposed in the mind of the listener through traditional poetic components. General Manager Pramod Kumar will give away awards to the winners in the main function of Rajbhasha Pakhwada to be held on September 29.

## SHUATS organises seminar on agro-management model

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, (SHUATS) Prayagraj, organised a seminar on agro-management model in which Siddharth Rai, a rural entrepreneur, shared with the students the techniques of Khurpi Nature Village started by him, which is a model for modern farming.

The programme started with a prayer by Dr Shailesh Markar, Director, Research. Joint Registrar (Administration) Dr C John Wesley spoke about the achievements of the university. He said that under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Rajendra B Lal, SHUATS has earned global fame.

Siddharth Rai said that after doing MBA, he decided to establish Khurpi Nature

Village. He started fish farming by making a pond in which ducks were also reared. The ducks float on the water and thus the layer does not form and the fish get oxygen.

He started cow rearing on the same land from which fish started getting food in the form of dung. When there was a lack of oxygen in the water due to excess dung, a paddle-head boat was put in the pond, which started producing oxy-

gen.

He built a decorated hut over the pond and started earning income by giving it on rent. When the crowd increased, the sale of tea and other stuff also started. He then brought chicken of Sonali breed, which started eating grain from the cow’s dung. He also established a ‘Gobar Gas Plant’ and earned by preparing 1 kg packet of compost from cow dung.

# Gramin chaupal organised

**VARANASI (PNS):** Baroda UP Bank, Gajendra Branch organised Gramin Chaupal at Buchi village of Korra Gram Sabha.

The chief guest and General Manager of the bank MK Haldhar threw lights on the loan and deposit schemes of the bank. The Regional Manager MK Jha apprised the villagers of KCC and loan-related schemes, while the Chief Manager and DRM, Varanasi Naveen Srivastava informed about the schemes



Gram Chaupal organized by Baroda UP Bank

Pioneer

related to the social security such as Pradhan Mantri

Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima and Atal Pension Yojana to the villagers. FLC of the bank Daya Shankar Pandey and DDM of NABARD Anuj Kumar Singh detailed about the group of women to the women present in the programme. The Branch Manager DK Singh offered a formal vote of thanks at last. Gram Pradhan of the village appealed to the villagers to take the benefits of the schemes. Many were present on the occasion.



# Doc favours early screening for hearing of newborns

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Noted cochlear implant surgeon and ENT specialist Dr Rohit Mehrotra, while addressing a virtual session on International Day of Sign Language at Mehrotra ENT Hospital on Thursday, said this year the theme of International Day of Sign Language observed all over the world on September 23 was ‘We sign for human rights’.

He said in India there were 64 million people (6.5 per cent) who suffered from significant auditory loss and four in every 1,000 children suffered from severe to profound hearing loss. He said over 1,00,000 babies were born with hearing deficiency every year.

He said loss or impairment of auditory sense was the most prevalent deficit of all the sensory organs. He said with virtually no mortality, hearing impairment caused a huge impact on one’s social, educational and economic well-being. He said there were 5 to 6 infants who were hard of hearing out of 1,000 neonates and they would not be identified till they attained two or more years of age but by then irreversible damage was caused. He said this engendered the need for universal screening for hearing of newborns as this was the only way to decrease the

burden of deafness in society.

He said tools were available which could be administered by health workers after initial training for screening the infants for hearing impairment. He said every individual had a right to lead a healthy life and communication disorders like hearing impairment had its onset very early in life. He said only through systematic early detection programmes would infants with hearing loss be assured of a chance to develop their full potential to become fully active, contributing, and integrated members of society.

Dr Mehrotra said under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness (NPPCD) of India, universal screening was being applied. He said the programme would entail additional financial burden for the initial purchase of screening machines and rehabilitating the identified children. He said the ability to hear was one of the five primary senses which helped to communicate properly with fellow human beings. He said unfortunately, the sense of hearing was often taken for granted and people did not realise its importance unless it was lost or impaired.

He said auditory sense was crucial for the mental development of a child and identifying the hearing loss early

would prevent the problem from going out of hand. He said this would also decrease the burden of hearing loss and thus many presumptively productive years would not be lost. He suggested screening of the newborns and infants as the cost-effective way to reduce the burden of hearing loss. He said globally, hearing loss was the most common sensory deficit in human beings and could range from slight to profound. He said moderate to profound hearing loss was disabling conditions which affected 360 million people worldwide.

Dr Mehrotra said hearing loss was the second most common cause of years lived with disability accounting for 4.7 per cent of the total and the much-referred prevalence data for India put 6.5 per cent of Indians suffering from significant auditory loss. He said rural areas had a higher prevalence of hearing loss than urban areas and of these a large percentage was children between the ages of 0–14 years. He said deafness acquired in childhood had an enormous impact on the social, economic and productive life of an individual. He said there was a huge gap in human resources in healthcare to meet this health challenge and the government of India had retained

primary health care (PHC) as the strategy of choice for the provision and implementation of prevention of deafness.

He said the auditory function could be either peripheral (cochlear) or central (brainstem) and the available techniques could differentiate the two. He said no single test detected all failure patterns in the auditory system thus use of two tests for the screening of newborns for deafness was recommended and sequential (two stage) testing could be done to detect hearing impairment.

He added that the two-phase screening using two different electrophysiological measures, OAE and ABR, allowed detection of various failure patterns and provided more complete information about the auditory function. He said the OAE measured whether parts of the ear responded properly to sound and during the test, a plastic probe containing both a transmitter and a microphone was inserted into the infant’s ear. He said the transmitter sent sounds down into the inner ear, and the microphone picked up the vibrations the hair cells made in response. He said in normal-hearing persons, the ear “echoes” sounds, and this “echo” was detected by the OAE machine.

## Teachers’ concern over suspension of some self-financed courses

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A delegation of Aided Degree College/University Self-Financed Approved Teachers Association met CSJM University Vice Chancellor Prof Vinay Pathak on Wednesday and apprised him of the suspension of some self-financed subjects, including Hindi, Political Science and Sociology in Tilak Degree College at Auraiya.

The vice chancellor has summoned the manager of the Tilak Degree College for submitting the facts before him.

Members of the association also informed the vice chancellor that teaching of post-graduate subjects was being carried out in the college for the past 22 years but for the past three years, due to the rigidity of the college manager, efforts were being made to disrupt admissions and studies of these subjects there and due to this, students were facing problems in taking direct admission to these subjects which had resulted in a sharp decline in the number of admissions made in the college. Besides, they said, teachers engaged to teach these subjects were also worried about their employment in the college.

President of the association, Dr Arunesh Awasthi, urged the vice chancellor to take some positive action on such a serious issue.

On the directive of the vice chancellor, Regional Higher Education Officer Dr Ripudaman Singh and Assistant Registrar Anjali Maurya took the issue seriously.

The delegation comprised association’s co-convenor Dr Arun Kumar Srivastava, organisation general secretary Dr Vishal Saxena and respective faculty members of the college.

## Iris felicitated for winning KSS Elocution Contest



Iris Kanauija who bagged the first prize in KSS elocution contest.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Principal of Delhi Public School, Punita Kapoor, while felicitating Iris Kanauija, a class four student, for bagging first position in the KSS Elocution Contest, said the student had always been in the forefront of both academics and co-curricular activities and this was due to the best effort made by the student under the tutelage of the teachers of the school.

She said by bagging the first position, Iris had not only brought laurels for the school but for the city as well and extended her blessings and wishes on the great achievement.

She said the elocution was in fact a latent talent further honed by the skillful teachers to bring out expressive speech, especially of distinct pronunciation and articulation. She said it was the way or the manner of speaking and in simple language it was the manner of expressing words and ideas in the most expressive way. She said students had to express speech through gestures and facial expressions

She said elocution lessons helped a child improve communication skills and ultimately become more persuasive when one spoke. She said they could help increase a child’s confidence and ensure that they became more assertive and were more likely to feel that they could join or even steer conversations. She added that the best part was its main benefit was improving voice quality through clear speech. She said elocution training may also increase an individual’s confidence and self-esteem when using one’s voice. Iris gave the credit to her teachers and parents who had motivated her to express her views on being nice.

# DC reviews schemes

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Divisional Commissioner (DC) Yogeshwar Ram Mishra while presiding over the divisional review meeting held at Commissioner’s office on Wednesday expressed discontent over poor ranking of the division and directed the chief development officers (CDOs) not to send the progress reports to his office without reviewing it effectively at the district level. While reviewing the schemes related

to send the updated report on October 1. While reviewing the law and order situation the Commissioner and Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Police, jointly warned the nuisance values that stringent action would be taken if any one was found creating any problem during the forthcoming festivals. Besides, the cops were asked to keep an eye especially on girls’ schools and colleges and activate the anti-Romeo squads. They were asked to check overloading at

of voters’ list at Sadar tehsil on Wednesday. He said that information related to gender ratio, EP ratio, double entry, addition and deletion, deceased, shifting etc should be given to the booth level officers (BLOs). He further said that information should be collected by going door to door in case the voters are more than 80 years of age and Divyangs. On the occasion he made it clear that the laxity will not be tolerated at all and work had to be completed within the deadline. While Addressing the meeting, Additional District Magistrate (Namami Gange) Amarendra Kumar Verma directed them to keep updated information about the polling booths and inform timely if the building required repair or was not in a condition to hold polling. He said that the clear information should be given about the ramp, potable water arrangement, light etc.

**CASE WORKED OUT:** Police worked out the case in which three members of a family were attacked under Katra Kotwali recently. Giving detail about the incident to mediapersons, Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Sanjay Kumar Verma said that minor nephew of Anjani Kesarwani, attacked his wife Puneeta, and their two sons, Tejas and Virat, in Dankeenganj locality on September 4 last. The ASP said that the police was clueless as the injured were unconscious. However, the closed circuit television (CCTV) camera helped in nabbing the accused. Circle Officer (City) Prabhat Rai said that the accused seemed to be suspicious from the first day but they did not had no any substantial evidence. He further said that through scientific inquiry the name of the accused came to light. As per the ASP, the accused, who had confessed his crime, had divulged that he was inspired to commit it due to the new version of a game. As the accused was a minor he was sent to court for the order.

# Note writing competition organised

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

In all units of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), a Miniratna company of the Government of India, during the Rajbhasha Fortnight being celebrated from September 14 to 28 to promote the official language, Hindi, and its use in official work many competitions like Rajbhasha implementation, note writing, Hindi typing on com-

puter, essay writing, impromptu speech, question forum, tongue twister and poetry recitation are being organised.

In this sequence at NCL headquarters a note writing competition in Hindi was organised under Rajbhasha Fortnight 2021 recently. In the headquarters a competition related to implementation of official language during the fortnight has also already been

organised. Besides, an essay writing competition was organised at Central Workshop, Jayant, recently.

It is worth mentioning that in each project/unit of NCL, various competitions to be organised during Rajbhasha Fortnight are conducted under the supervision of nodal officer, Rajbhasha.

The fortnight will end on September 28 in which all the winners will be honoured.

# Clean Hospital Day observed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Along with the entire Indian Railways in Varanasi division of North Eastern Railway (NER) from September 16 to October 2 special cleanliness drive is being run. Many programmes are being organised on all dates during this period. In this sequence under the special cleanliness campaign fortnight, Wednesday was observed as Clean Hospital and Clean Railway Colony Day. The officers, supervisors and employees participated in this campaign with full enthusiasm. In Wednesday’s campaign the officers nom-



Chhapra, Siwan, Kaptanganj, Deoria Sadar, Azamgarh health units, Banaras/Prayagraj Rambag railway colony, Varanasi City railway colony, Varanasi division’s Vasundhara Colony, Officers’ Colony, Jal

premises. During it works of fogging, sanitisation besides disinfection were done in health centers as well as railway residential colonies by the team of senior divisional medical officers and health inspectors. During this campaign a cleanliness drive was conducted in all the major colonies of Varanasi division in which about 350 participants cooperated actively.

During the Clean Hospital and Railway Colony campaign, the supervisors themselves explained the importance of cleanliness and clean environment. During this period ‘shramdaan’ (voluntary contribution of labour) and targeted cleaning were also done by the railway employees. Along with it emphasis was laid on awareness about social distancing and use of masks in order to avoid the spread of Covid-19 infection, Public Relations Officer (PRO) Ashok Kumar said. During the campaign awareness about cleanliness was spread through posters, banners, ‘nukkad natak’ (street play) etc in hospitals along with railway residential complexes and by taking out ‘prabhat pheri’ and cleanliness rally being conscious of cleanliness an appeal was made to make other citizens aware about cleanliness.

# CSA Agriculture University to host gardening conclave

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Vice Chancellor of Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Dr DR Singh, said the 9th Indian Gardening Conclave would be held on the campus organised by the Indian Horticulture Science, New Delhi, titled ‘Gardening for economic livelihood and health’, from November 18 to 21, 2021.

He said the objective was to provide a platform to the top agriculture and horticulture scientists to put up their research papers so that it could benefit the masses. He said the focus of this conclave was to discuss the nutrient value of the food products grown in the country for the all-round health of the masses.

He said with food and nutritional security being a major global challenge, there was an urgent need to find innovative ways to increase food production and diversify food sources while increasing income-generating opportunities for communities faced with hunger and poverty. He said the conclave would give a direction that when implemented properly, home gardens could become just such an innovative solution, as well as an integral part of sustainable food security programmes. He said it would also provide a conceptual overview of social, economic, environmental and nutritional issues related to home gardening in diverse contexts, including gender issues and biodiversity conservation.

He said home gardening



Vice Chancellor of CSA University, Dr DR Singh addressing presspersons.

experiences and initiatives discussed in this conclave would further enhance home gardens for sustainable food security and development. He said the agricultural paradigm was already undergoing a shift with focus from cereal production to diversified farming and horticultural crops besides improving biological productivity and nutritional standards also had enormous scope for enhancing profitability. He said the group of crops comprising fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, plantation crops, medicinal and aromatic plants, spices and condiments and ornamental crops, would constitute core of any such agro-economic strategy. He said the past investment had been rewarding in terms of increased production, productivity and export of horticultural produce.

Dr Singh said the bigger challenge confronting the country was that despite being the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables; the availability of fruits and vegetables still continued to be much below the dietary requirements. He said with increase in per

capita income and accelerated growth of health conscious population, demand for horticultural produce was on increase which was expected to further accelerate, which will require more production. He said the production had to be competitive both in terms of quality and price and thus, the potentialities, which existed, need to be harnessed and gains have to be sustained.

He added that development of improved cultivars with high quality characteristics, productivity, resistance to pest and disease and tolerant to abiotic stresses. He said the technologies must improve the efficiency of water and nutrients and variability in yield, quality and also reduced post harvest crop losses. He said efforts would also be needed to ensure timely availability of quality seed and planting material. He said this horticultural development had to be seen as an integrated approach, addressing important gaps, in harnessing the potential through targeted research with focus on enhancing efficiency. He said this technology driven horticulture was expected to address the concern for complementary and nutritional security, health care leading to ultimately economic development.

**MASSIVE PROTEST AGAINST KILLING OF TEENAGE GIRL:** An irate mob staged a massive dharna and blocked the GT Road in Araul in Bilhaur Kotwali police area on Thursday in protest against the rape and murder of a teenage girl by throwing her off the 10th floor of an apart-

ment in Kalyanpur police station area on Tuesday night.

The protesters demanded Rs 50 lakh compensation for the kin of the victim and death sentence to the accused dairy owner. On being cane-charged by the police, the mob indulged in stone-pelting and refused to remove the body from the road. A native of Araul (Bilhaur), the girl along with family members was living in a rented house in Sharda Nagar. On the complaint of her sister, the police had arrested the dairy owner.

After the post-mortem, the kin of the deceased carried the body to their ancestral village on Wednesday night. On Thursday morning, the kin along with villagers and Samajwadi Party leaders staged a massive demonstration on GT Road along with the body. Circle Officer Rajesh Kumar along with a force, SDM Gulab Chandra Agrahari and Tehsildar Laxmi Narain Bajpai rushed to the spot.

**MEMORANDUM:** A delegation of Adhivakta Kalyan Sangharsh Samiti have demanded early recovery of Vishal Rai (22) son of their colleague Pramod Rai of Babupurwa who is missing since September 10. They handed over a memorandum addressed to Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath to ADM (City) Atul Kumar on Thursday.

Convenor Pt Ravindra Sharma said Babupurwa police had failed to trace the youth even after 13 days of his disappearance. Avinash Bajpai, SK Sachan, Gurmeet Singh, Vijay Sagar and KK Yadav were in the delegation.



# Govt brings guidelines to help Covid survivors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With most of the Covid survivors facing long-term health issues, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday released guidelines on the treatment of sequelae of Covid-19 which will help in building the capacity of doctors, nurses, paramedics and community health workers across India to deal with long-term effects of the coronavirus infection.

The modules have been prepared to provide guidance to doctors and healthcare workers to deal with the issue of long-term effects of Covid-19, the Health Ministry said in a statement.

Mandaviya said that proactive and comprehensive treatment of Covid-19 is required to ensure minimum side effects and no negative effect of the treatment.

“We have witnessed the consequences of post-Covid effect in patients due to taking of higher doses of steroids like cases of Mucormycosis. It is important to take medicines, with less or negligible side



effects. If we are alert beforehand, it will be fruitful in tackling the future consequences of Covid,” he said.

“The perceptions related to post-Covid that are perpetuating in our society like fears, mental health issues resulting due to Covid are important to be tackled. So, it’s important to understand these post-Covid issues and resolve them,” Mandaviya stated. Efforts have been made by the resource persons across the country for the management of these post-Covid-19 complications to prepare the sequelae modules. These are very specialised modules prepared keeping in mind various fields of healthcare professionals, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister of State for

Health Bharati Pravin Pawar emphasised on the need to tackle mental health issues and to reach the last mile. This pandemic has put an unprecedented challenge on our health and healthcare system. Mental health care is a big challenge for a country with such a large population. We need to build our capacity to tackle this challenge of mental health,” Pawar said.

If the frontline workers are equipped with proper knowledge and training, they can become a valuable resource in the fight against these post-Covid-19 challenges. “When we are trying to equip ourselves to fight against post-Covid consequences, it’s also important to take these to the last mile. The training modules for mental

# India logs 31,293 fresh Covid cases in 24 hours

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With 31,923 new Covid cases in the last 24 hours — which is an increase of 18.4 per cent from a day ago — the country’s total caseload now stands at 3,35,63,421. The top five states which have registered maximum cases are Kerala with 19,675 cases, followed by Maharashtra with 3,608 cases, Tamil Nadu with 1,682 cases, Andhra Pradesh with 1,365 cases and Mizoram with 1,294 cases. India reported 282 in the last 24 hours, taking the total death toll to 4,46,050.

Cautioning that the second Covid-19 wave is yet not over, the Government warned the people to avoid mass gatherings during festivities. Dr Balram Bhargava, Director

General of the Indian Council of Medical Research said, mass gatherings should be avoided in areas identified as containment zones and in districts reporting more than 5% case positivity.

Though India is showing a decline in new Covid-19 numbers, the surge isn’t over, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan too reiterated at the Health Ministry press conference. “We have to continue adhering to norms. We have to ensure that people should take their vaccination.”

The ministry recommended that relaxations and restrictions can be imposed based on weekly case positivity. The states have been asked to allow gatherings with advance permissions and lim-

ited people (as per the state’s cap) to be allowed in districts with a positivity rate of 5% and below. “Kerala and Mizoram remain states of concern.”

Dr Bhargava said that a detailed SOP has been issued by the centre to states and UTs regarding precautions to be taken during festive season. 33 districts in the country have over 10% test positivity rate, according to data presented by the ministry.

Weekly positivity rate is less than 3% for the 12th consecutive week, he said.

Six states and UTs - Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshwadeep have vaccinated 100% of their population with one dose.

# UK-based company booked for cheating BOI of ₹192.48 cr



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has booked UK-based firm Molinare Limited and its Indian directors for cheating the Bank of India’s London branch to the tune of ₹192.48 crore.

The agency also conducted searches at two locations in the national capital at the premises of the accused after registering a case on a complaint from Bank of India against the borrower company and others including Managing Director Prabodh Kumar Tewari, Directors/Guarantors Abhishek Tewari and Anand

Tewari and unknown public servants for causing an alleged loss of ₹192.48 crore to the public sector lender.

“The accused private company was said to have been engaged in activities relating to post production services in entertainment and media industry. It was alleged in the complaint that the said accused had cheated the Bank of India by submitting fabricated / inflated / bogus invoices without having any genuine business transactions for availing the loan funds and thereafter diverting the same, the CBI said in a statement.

# PM CARES Fund not a Govt of India fund, Delhi HC informed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The PM CARES Fund is not a Government of India fund and the amount collected by it does not go to the Consolidated Fund of India, the Delhi High Court has been informed. An affidavit filed by an Under Secretary at the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) who is discharging his functions in the PM Cares Trust on honorary basis, has said the trust functions with transparency and its funds are audited by an auditor -- a chartered accountant drawn from the panel prepared by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

The affidavit was filed in response to a petition seeking a direction to declare the PM CARES Fund a ‘State’ under the Constitution to ensure transparency in its functioning. A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Amit Bansal has fixed the matter for further hearing on September 27.

“To ensure transparency, the audited report is put on the official website of the trust along with the details of utili-



sation of funds received by the trust,” says the affidavit filed by Pradeep Kumar Srivastava, Under Secretary at the PMO. “I state that when the petitioner is claiming to be a public-spirited person and seeking to pray for various reliefs only for transparency, it does not matter whether PM Cares is a ‘State’ within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution of India,” the officer said in the affidavit.

Irrespective of whether the trust is a ‘State’ or other authority within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution or whether it is a ‘public authority’ within the meaning of provisions of the Right to Information Act (RTI), it is not

permissible to disclose third party information, it added. It said that all donations received by the trust are received via online payments, cheques or Demand Drafts and the amount received is audited with the audited report and the expenditure of trust fund displayed on the website.

“The trust functions on the principles of transparency and public good in larger public interest like any other charitable trust and, therefore, cannot have any objection in uploading all its resolutions on its website to ensure transparency,” it said, while reiterating that “the trust’s fund is not a fund of Government of India and the amount does not go in the

Consolidated Fund of India.” The officer said he is discharging his functions in the PM Cares Trust on honorary basis which is a charitable trust not created by or under the Constitution or by any law made by the Parliament or by any State legislature. “Despite being an officer of the Central government, I am permitted to discharge my functions in PM Care Trust on an honorary basis,” he said.

The court was hearing a petition filed by Samyak Gangwal who has said that the PM CARES Fund is a ‘State’ as it was formed by the Prime Minister on March 27, 2020 to extend assistance to the citizens of India in the wake of the public health emergency -- the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. His counsel had told the court that if it is found that the PM CARES Fund is not ‘State’ under the Constitution, usage of the domain name ‘gov’, the Prime Minister’s photograph, state emblem etc has to be stopped.

The petition said that the Trustees of the fund are the Prime Minister, Defence Minister, Home Minister and the Finance Minister and immediately after the formation of the fund, the Centre through its high government functionaries represented that the fund was set up and operated by the Government of India.

# Govt committed to providing affordable healthcare facilities to citizens: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said it is the Government’s commitment to ensure affordable healthcare for citizens.

“The importance of healthcare has been even more clearly understood in the year gone by. It is our commitment to ensure top quality and affordable healthcare for our citizens. Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY is key to realising this vision,” he said.

The Prime Minister commented as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, also known as Ayushman Bharat scheme, completed three years which is also being described as the world’s largest health scheme. The scheme provides health insurance of up to ₹5 lakh to the poor households.

Modi will also be launching nationwide rollout of Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission on Monday. Under this, a unique digital health ID will be provided to people which will contain all their health records, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said.

# Govt should mark Moplah rebellion as Malabar Hindu Genocide Day: RSS-affiliated think tank

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Moplah rebellion of 1921 against British and local landlords in Kerala’s Malappuram has come under controversy with the RSS seeking to see it as against Hindus in the region. An RSS-affiliated think tank demanded on Wednesday that the Moplah Rebellion of 1921 be termed as a “genocide and a memorial be set up”.

The Government should build a “genocide memorial” to mark the 1921 Malabar killings that took place 100 years ago in Kerala’s Malappuram and mark September 25 as the “Malabar Hindu Genocide Day”, the all-India convener of Prajna Pravah, J Nandakumar, was quoted as saying by News Agency Press Trust of India (PTI).

He maintained that the Sangh had been opposing the recognition of the Malabar killings as part of an uprising against the British or landlords, he said it was “targeted killings of Hindus”.

“Annie Besant and C Sankaran Nair, who was the president of the Indian



**The Moplah rebellion of 1921 was an uprising by poor peasants**

National Congress, called it a genocide. But after 1975, it was illegally deemed as part of the freedom struggle,” Nandakumar was quoted as saying by agency.

He said the Kerala government has not considered their demand, but they are hopeful that the Centre will look into it.

The Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) formed a three-member committee recently to study the Moplah Rebellion.

The panel reportedly recommended removal of sever-

al hundred names from the list of the victims.

The RSS-backed organisation will be organising an exhibition and a memorial programme for the victims in Delhi as well as in every block in Kerala on September 26.

A set of historians, most of them from the left, have studied The Moplah rebellion of 1921 was an uprising by poor peasants against ‘crushing revenue burden’ imposed against them by British and landlords , majority of them being Hindus.

The RSS is now wanting to study the ‘rebellion’ from not strictly as anti-colonial or anti-tax revolt by the peasants and favours a fresh assessment of the famous incident in the British era.

# Centre, States step up efforts to prevent stubble fire for clean air

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the season of stubble burning sets in along with winters in the North, the Centre along with its several agencies and the five key agriculture States stepped up efforts to prevent any large-scale burning and avoid dangerous air quality. The central government on Thursday held a key meeting with Delhi and its neighbouring states of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan on the action plan to mitigate air pollution caused by stubble burning.

Discussions were held over implementation of action plans by states to mitigate pol-

lution due to agriculture stubble burning, dust, construction and demolition waste, biomass burning and vehicular pollution, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said, briefing the media about the meeting. The minister said coordination and synergy reflected in the action plan by each state under the overall framework prepared by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM).

“Outcome of the action plan will significantly depend on the efficacy of the enforcement and implementation by the states,” Yadav said. Tweeting about the meeting later, the minister said,

“Chaired a meeting with Haryana CM Shri @mlkhat-tar ji and Environment Ministers and senior officials from neighbouring states on the preparedness and taking ahead the multi-pronged action plan on air quality. Addressed issues requiring inter-state & inter-ministerial coordination.”

“It was heartening to note that the spirit with which the Commission for Air Quality Management was conceived is reflected in the action plan of states. The outcome of the action plan will significantly depend on the efficacy of the enforcement and implementation by states,” he said.

# Vaccination at home for Divyangs announced

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days after the Supreme Court asked the Centre to provide details of its policy framework and steps taken to prioritise Covid vaccination of persons with disability, the Modi Government on Friday announced ‘vaccination at home’ for the disabled, ‘in line with Covid-19 SOPs’.

“I am pleased to inform that an advisory has been issued to make arrangements for ‘vaccination at home’ for those who have disabilities or are differently challenged, in line with Covid SOPs,” NITI Aayog member (Health) Dr VK Paul said, as the panel warned that the second wave is not over yet.

In May this year, the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19 (NEGVAC) had recommended the proposal by a Technical Expert Committee of the Union Ministry on the guidelines for Near to Home COVID Vaccination Centres (NHCVC) for elderly and differently-abled citizens.

The NHCVC for elderly and differently-abled citizens followed a community-based, flexible and people-centric approach, bringing the vaccination centres nearer to homes.

The Technical Expert Committee’s recommendations were aimed to ensure vaccination of senior citizens and differently-abled populations having limited mobility due to their physical condition. The recom-



mendations were in response to the need to increase access by bringing vaccination services closer to the community while maintaining all necessary precautions and safety measures.

In the Supreme Court on September 21, petitioner Evara Foundation, an NGO, argued before a bench of justices DY Chandrachud and BV Nagarathna that the IMA has recommended door-to-door vaccination of persons with disability but only Jharkhand and Kerala have implemented this. The bench issued notice to the Centre and sought its reply affidavit in two weeks.

The Government also warned the people to avoid mass gatherings during festivities. Dr Balram Bhargava, Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research said, mass gatherings should be avoided in areas identified as containment zones and in districts reporting more than 5% case positivity.

The ministry recommended that relaxations and restrictions can be imposed based on weekly case positivity. The states have been asked to allow gatherings with advance permissions and limited people (as per the state’s cap) to be allowed in districts with a positivity rate of 5% and below.

# SC lauds Centre’s stand of providing financial help to kin of Covid victims

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday appreciated the Centre’s step to grant ex-gratia assistance to the kin of those who died due to Covid-19 saying it has to take judicial notice of the fact that what India has done, no other country has been able to do. “We are happy that something has been done to wipe the tears of many families,” apex court bench of justices M R Shah and A S Bopanna.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Centre said, “We cannot repair the loss of life but whatever the country could do for the families who have suffered, is being done.” The which took on record two affidavits filed by the Centre, said it will pass orders on October 4 with some directions, authorising the grievance redressal committees at district level to call for hospital records of the deceased, in case of any dispute over issuance of death certificate.

“We are happy that there will be some solace to the persons who have suffered. It will wipe the tears of many families. We must take judicial notice of the fact despite so many problems of population and over-population, something has been done. What India has done, no other country has been able to do,” the bench said. The top court was hearing a batch of pleas filed by advocate Gaurav Kumar Bansal and some intervenors who lost their family members to COVID-19.

# Cong’s posting of Manmohan’s pic to counter Modi’s narrative sparks row on Twitter



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared a photo from Air India One on his way to the US, talking about working on a long flight, the Congress posted a counter, featuring former PM Manmohan Singh.

Sharing images of the former PM addressing the media in-flight, the Congress quipped: “Some photographs are harder to copy. Former PM, Dr. Manmohan Singh addressing Press Conferences on board Air India One.”

On Thursday morning, Modi’s post showed him going through files on his flight to Washington, where he has a packed three-day schedule, including a Quad meeting and an address to the UN General Assembly.

“A long flight also means opportunities to go through



papers and some file work,” the PM captioned it. Several BJP leaders shared the Prime Minister’s tweet.

“Always in the service of the country without stopping, tirelessly,” Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, replied to the tweet, using #SevaSamarpan.

During the visit, Modi will participate in the first in-person Quad meeting, address the UN General Assembly and meet a number of top executives of major American companies.

The Congress’s photo retort triggered a row on Twitter with the rival parties posting images and memes.



## Breathing death

WHO's revised air quality levels are in tune with the times. India must implement these quickly

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has revised air quality levels for six pollutants, including the particulate matter (PM). Coming after 2005, they cut down the existing acceptable threshold limits by half, prodding countries like India to improve their air quality without losing time. Pollution in Indian cities is far above even the existing limits at present. The new rules render the situation worse. Of particular interest are the PM guidelines. The average PM 2.5 (respirable pollution particles) concentration cannot be higher than five micrograms per cubic metre. However, the existing level is 10. For PM10, the threshold is brought down from 20 to 15. The world organisation said the revision was necessary as pollution is growing in developing countries engaged in large-scale urbanisation and economic development. The guidelines are welcome and need to be implemented. Recent studies show air pollution is reducing life expectancy in Indian cities by six to 10 years. It is time for India to implement big-ticket anti-pollution reforms. A national pollution survey is called for, to assess the meteorological and geographical changes impacting polluting levels. In cities situated in valleys, emissions tend to stay longer, adding to pollution problems. In cities like Delhi with flat terrains, the meteorology impacts in dispersing air pollution. Studies of air movement over urban areas help authorities know about pollution patterns necessary for anti-pollution planning. In the time since 2005, Delhi, for example, grew from being a city to the

National Capital Region of Delhi, covering an area of over 55,000 square km.

Townships, satellite centres and industrial zones have come up with IT and industrial clusters. The population and number of vehicles have grown several times. Adding to the city's pollution is the new element of trans-boundary pollution with emissions originating outside the city by way of traffic from Gurgaon and Noida. Industries in the north-east and northwest sectors contribute to the problem. The expansion of Delhi has increased demand for energy from domestic, industrial and transport sectors. Air pollution emissions naturally increased along with those of sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons. Over one-third of Delhi suffers from respiratory problems. The last time was 1998 when Delhi implemented low-emission reforms. The public transport vehicles switched to CNG and that alone made a difference. Hundreds of heavy industries were either shut down or relocated, their energy systems upgraded. India's national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS), revised last in 2009, are up for another revision in 2022. The study being conducted for updating the standards should take into account the latest WHO thresholds. Common sense measures are also called for. Vote bank politics cannot encourage stubble burning by farmers in Punjab and western Uttar Pradesh. Similarly, motorists should be made to realise that apart from exhaust fumes, brake dust also causes pollution.

### PICTALK



Clouds hover over the Old City area in Delhi

PTI

## Marching on

The SC insists that females be given the chance in Nov itself to take the NDA entrance exam

The National Defence Academy (NDA), the cradle for grooming boys to become officers in the three Services since 1954, will for the first time welcome women cadets. The Supreme Court has prodded the Government to allow female candidates to appear for the NDA exam in November this year. The Government had told the apex court that women can take the examination in May next year. However, the



court, saying women's hopes cannot be belied, ordered that they be allowed to take the test in November. Determined to have gender parity, the only tri-Services training institute in the world, the NDA, was engaged in creating suitable infrastructure for women cadets since early this year. While there is no issue with academic curriculum, the authorities are taking meticulous care in finalising the outdoor training and physical fitness parameters for the females. Physical training includes basic combat drills besides endurance, so far customised for only male cadets. Then there is the issue of fixing standards for

physical and medical criteria for females. The male candidates who clear the written exam and interview have to pass the medical test to become eligible for joining the NDA. The test also comprises specified weight and height.

Aiming to induct women cadets in a short time, the NDA is working overtime to fix these standards regarding outdoor training and medical exam. The effort is to ensure that training standards remain top class while formulating parameters for them. The Government had submitted in the apex court that any dilution of physical training and service subjects of firing, endurance, field craft and living off the land for women cadets would impact the battle worthiness of the armed forces. The three Services chiefs had visited the NDA in August to review the infra creation progress. With changing times, female officers are serving with distinction in various wings of the IAF, Navy and Army. In fact, at least four women IAF officers are currently undergoing the final stage of their fighter jet flying training. Similarly, women officers are flying helicopters and transport planes. The Navy has also allowed women to serve on warships when they are seaward-bound. It means they will sail like their male colleagues for months together. Of course, the Navy has created suitable living bunks and other related infrastructure on the warships.

# US probing Pak's role in Afghanistan

Ever since it became a sovereign nation, Pakistan has been ostensibly 'helping' the US to actually further its own interests in the region



JL KOUL **JALALI**

The US is keenly looking into the role Pakistan played in Afghanistan after its war against Taliban and terrorism following the attacks on the World Trade Centre and Pentagon on September 11, 2001. This was revealed by US Secretary of State Tony Blinken to angry US lawmakers who were protesting against Pakistan's "duplicious" role in Afghanistan. Among others, Congressman Bill Keating, Chair, House Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee, said that apart from the ISI's strong ties with the Haqqani network, Pakistan created the Taliban and helped it regroup in 2010. He bemoaned that the Pakistan PM celebrated the Taliban's takeover of Kabul.

Pakistan started following a duplicious policy towards the US soon after it came into existence in August 1947. In 1952, when the West was engaged in its efforts to contain Communism, Pakistan opted for the American bloc (and arms) purportedly to fight the expansion of Communism but actually to strengthen its muscle against India. Some years later, then Pakistan President Gen Ayub Khan said that the arms were "not to be kept wrapped". These were actually used against India in the 1965 and 1971 wars even though given only to fight the expansion of Communism, if the need arose.

The erstwhile Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in 1979 had added to Pakistan's strategic importance. It exploited the development dexterously to continue its special relationship with the US despite clear signs of duplicity and formal breakup of the Soviet Union in 1993. The US had turned Pakistan into a ground for Mujahideen fighting against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and a conduit for arms and funds to equip them with weaponry. Pakistan diverted a part of these arms to perpetrate terror in Kashmir and to train, equip and indoctrinate Pashtun students from Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The radicalisation programme started under then Pakistan President Gen Zia-ul-Haq and was meant to address the ethnic divide because of which Pakistan had failed to



have full sway in Afghanistan. Apart from fomenting terror in Kashmir, Pakistan's main aim was to create Taliban Islamic Movement to acquire leverage in Afghanistan and to establish a commanding position, especially vis-a-vis India. But despite clear indications, the US appeared to connive with Pakistan's ulterior motives to foster its own geopolitical and other interests.

The Soviet forces withdrew from Afghanistan in 1989 and the US too faded from the scene after ensuring that Pakistan had established its influence on the Mujahideen. After Soviet withdrawal, a civil war ensued in Afghanistan. Interspersed by its army, Pakistan introduced the Taliban militia in this civil war in November 1994. After wreaking havoc on hapless Afghans, the militia gained power in September 1996. With Saudi fugitive Osama bin Laden already present there and declaring jihad against the West, Afghanistan turned into a bastion of terrorism. Pakistan, with calculated use of terrorism as a tool of its State policy, had already become the epicentre of terrorism. India continued to caution the world, both in the

“  
APART FROM FOMENTING TERROR IN KASHMIR, PAKISTAN'S MAIN AIM WAS TO CREATE THE TALIBAN ISLAMIC MOVEMENT TO ACQUIRE LEVERAGE IN AFGHANISTAN AND TO ESTABLISH A COMMANDING POSITION, ESPECIALLY VIS-A-VIS INDIA

UN and outside, about these dangers to world peace. In an article on October 2, 1999, titled "International Drive To Fight Terrorism", the writer criticised the narrow American approach towards the Pak-Taliban nexus but the US did not heed the warning. Obviously, the ground had been laid for the September 11, 2001, terror attacks.

Following the horrifying attacks, the US waged a war against the Taliban. The public opinion in Pakistan was that its Government shouldn't join this effort. When criticised for aligning with the West, then Pakistan President Gen Pervez Musharraf reportedly stated that had he not done so, America might have taken action against Pakistan, too. He was aware that their duplicity had begun to be noticed. The Taliban was soon removed from power. But, years later, Pakistan resumed helping the Taliban regroup. It turned into a haven for terror attacks on Afghanistan. Pakistan's duplicious attitude prompted former US President Donald Trump to say in 2019: "The US has foolishly given Pakistan more than \$33 bn in aid over the last 15 years and they have given us

nothing but lies and deceit, thinking of our leaders as fools."

Obviously, now the inevitable has happened. Despite a positive sign or two, the Taliban's resurgence poses a serious threat to peace. Radicalisation has been the main factor behind the Taliban's rise. The challenge can be met by promotion of liberal Islam and Sufism. Though this section is a minuscule minority, Sufism has an eternal appeal and, with the passage of time and through encouragement, it can turn into a potential challenge to radicalism and extremism. As mentioned by this writer on October 8, 2016, in the article, "Islamic Radicalism and Sufi Islam", Russia, like India, too was hit hard by Jihadi terrorism in Chechnya. But after dealing with the situation strongly, it encouraged liberal and Sufi Islam to root out the remnants of Jihadi terrorism. If Russia could do it, the rest of the world can also do it. For survival and the betterment of mankind, the world powers must desist from turning terrorism into a geopolitical issue. (The writer is a journalist, former IIS officer and producer. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ARMY 'BIRD' GOES DOWN

Sir — The fatal crash of a *Cheetah* helicopter has highlighted the urgency to focus on re-examining the safety of these helicopters, which are being operated by the Indian armed forces. These choppers need to be grounded immediately till a comprehensive safety audit is completed about airworthiness. Two young pilots from Army Aviation corps, Major Rohit Kumar (35) and Major Anuj Rajput (28) who lost their lives in this crash, were on training sorties and were extremely passionate about joining the armed forces and serving the nation.

The Hindustan Aeronautical Ltd (HAL) should go into an in-depth investigation to see if there is any design flaw in the *Cheetah* helicopter and take corrective measures. If this helicopter had crashed in a civilian area, casualties could have been way more. Therefore, any fault or technical glitch must be investigated at the earliest to avoid any such future crashes. It would be unjust to neglect the safety of those who protect us at all times. Major Kumar and Major Rajput were brave officers who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. Tragically, they leave behind their grieving parents. The nation will always remain indebted to them. Our hearts go out to the family members of these young pilots.

Ramesh Jethwani | Bengaluru

### NOT JUST ANOTHER SHEET OF CLOTH

Sir — Who believes that saree is not a smart outfit? A restaurant in the Capital seems to have a perverted view and pointed out that saree does not qualify as a smart dress and it is a lopsided view. In the fashion world, saree has assumed a prominent place with the womenfolk preferring the six-yard wonder as the best dress for all seasons. It is worth mentioning here that the women in Pakistan prefer sarees, too. By draping the saree around your body with a proper matching blouse, you get the feeling of security and the posh look.

The symbolism of saree goes a long way in developing the personality of a

## 'Narcotics jihad' busted



Now that Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has exposed the falsehood of the claim of Pala Bishop Mar Joseph Kallarangatt that there is the phenomenon of 'narcotics jihad' in the State, the Bishop should show the basic decency to admit to having made a mistake and withdraw his remark. The remark made by the Bishop of Syro-Malabar Church with an intent to malign a particular community was unworthy of a spiritual leader. It led us to have a down on him. The false narrative that Christian girls

are befriended and lured by Muslim men into marriage in order to rope them into religious wars should end here and now.

Women, irrespective of their religions, cannot be denied autonomy in their lives. They are entirely free to choose their partners; they don't need a Bishop's nod. Putting religion above humanity should be anathema to educated people in its true sense. The Vatican should take a serious note of the utterances of the likes of Pala Bishop to drive a wedge between religious communities and discipline them to watch their language and behave properly and responsibly in a multi-religious society in which people of different faiths live cheek by jowl. The laity or congregation must also raise their voice against Bishops who by word or deed do harm or hurt a sense of wider secular community and neighbourliness they all cherish and share.

G David Milton | Maruthancode

woman in the office as a professional. It is a wrap worth wearing with all glamour and style. There is nothing like a saree to make you look most elegant all the time. Saree not only has cultural significance in India but, over the years, has also been seen a touch of modern fashion. In recent times, actors like Vidya Balan are diehard saree lovers and their success on the big screen is counted based on the saree culture. The present generation go for pattu and chiffon of different colours and designs. Thus, by far, the saree is the most flexible garment available in the fashion world.

MR Jayanthi | Mumbai

### KOHLI LEFT ON A HIGH NOTE

Sir — Even if the team lifts the upcoming T20 World Cup at the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the crown of success will most probably be laid at the door of MS Dhoni. Ironically, Kohli had a stupendous success rate as captain in the shortest format of the game. He has led India to victory in the last five T20 series

though not a World Cup trophy as yet. At the same time, the presence of Dhoni at the T20 world cup can be a blessing in disguise for Kohli who can solely concentrate on batting, knowing well that the calming presence of Dhoni is more than enough for the team's prospects.

Kohli's record as the ODI captain is mixed, so is Test skipper's. But there is no denying that he has provided a new dimension to India's test match-winning ability abroad. The recent win in the truncated series against England is an example. Most international players enjoy captaining their sides in white ball cricket. Kohli is one captain who seems to relish guiding his men in the traditional form of cricket — the Tests. Therefore, it looks just a matter of time before the star batsman relinquishes the captain's responsibilities in one-day internationals, too.

Ganapathi Bhat | Nagpur

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## SOUND BITE

The need of the hour is to initiate actions that return the economy to a high-growth track and create gainful jobs by 2030.



Vice-President  
— M Venkaiah Naidu

I express gratitude for the warm welcome Canada has shown Tibetan refugees since the time your (Justin Trudeau) late father was the Prime Minister.

Tibetan spiritual leader  
— Dalai Lama

If the youth, in any way, can create or propagate an inclusive space by working with the deaf community, please do.



Actor  
— Ranveer Singh

Started off my time with a wonderful afternoon with @abhinav\_bindra Sir and his family. Was able to introduce my medal to its elder sibling from Beijing.

Olympics gold medalist  
— Neeraj Chopra

I personally believe that *Ramayana* is an imaginary book and I don't think Rama was a great person or that he was alive.



Former Bihar Chief Minister  
— Jitan Ram Manjhi



## FIRST COLUMN

# QUAD SUMMIT AND MODI-BIDEN TALKS

India has a range of bilateral discussions lined up on current issues of interest



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The United States is hosting the first in-person summit of QUAD leaders in Washington and perhaps beginning of a new era of cooperation on what the White House termed as “demonstration of the priority of engaging in the Indo-Pacific, including through new multilateral configurations designed to focus on 21st century challenges”. The centrality is the realigning of the partners’ foreign policiesto Indo-Pacific coordination on shared targets. This roughly translates into keeping a sharp eye on Chinawhich is trying to defy international legal orders; therefore, a global consensus on the South China Sea is emerging. India’s focus during the QUAD summit will be tackling the Covid-19 pandemic and future cooperation, climate change issues,and an open Indo-Pacific region that allows equal and fair access for nations to prosper. During the first, virtual meeting of the QUAD leaders in March, 2021, a commitment of one billion vaccines by 2022 was made. The leaders may also talk about additional relief and assistance measures for poor countries as a goodwill



gesture. On the QUAD sidelines, a working group of senior representatives from member countries will focus on cyber security,secure supply chains infrastructure,and work towards finding a common language on emerging technologies including artificial intelligence. The global pandemic has ensured all digital economies around the globe, not to mention the QUAD members, need to find a common thread on defining paradigms for next-generation technology growth and collateral threats. The world industry facing acute shortage of semiconductor chips and other critical digital hardware components understand the importance of working with reliable trusted partners. United States, Australia, Japan and India are critical levers of the huge digital engine driving this technology towards a prosperity dream. One of the best outcomes from the QUAD summit could be for the leaders to come out with a paper on destinations and targets for this digital highway. This in itself could be one the key success stories for QUAD.

The last aspect on which most of the countries from the quadrilateral can make announcements would be on securing clean targets and achieving goals on climate change. The US envoy on climate John Kerry’s visitto India a few days back was a firm commitment towards achieving time bound targets. The US offered assistantceto India for quickly reaching its renewable energy targets of 450 GW by 2030. Currently India’s environment and climate change portfolio is held by ruling party heavy weight Bhupendra Yadav, who enjoys the blessings of the senior leadership. The only challenge for India on this green path could be about assuming more green responsibilities at international forums while trying to attract investments. That is where the will of the domestic government and the organizational skills of the current minister will come for test. Finally on the sidelines of QUAD, Prime Minister Modi and his external affairs minister will hold a whole range of bilateral talks on current issues of interest. The India-US discussions and theoutcome notes would the most watched as this would be first in-person meeting between the President of the US and the Indian Prime Minister. Narendra Modi shared a visible sense of bonhomie with Joe Biden’s predecessor Donald Trump. The same optics may not be repeated but Biden is unlikely to disappoint his counterpart. Afghanistan’s safety, security and upholding of human rights in central Asia would definitely feature as key topics during the bilateral. The hurried exit of the US from Afghanistan has placed many fringe players such as India in a spot in the Central Asian theatre. Every major player in the region including China, Russia and Iranis trying to recalibrate its position with regard to Afghanistan.

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

# Role of cooperatives in Indian economy

The NCAER recently undertook a study on cooperative agro-processing and identification of institutional financial lacunae in the cooperative movement



SAURABH BANDYOPADHYAY



ANUPMA MEHTA

The cooperative movement in India has regained focus after the Union Government recently created a Ministry of Cooperation to provide a separate administrative legal and policy framework for streamlining the cooperatives. The move is expected to cascade the movement down to the grassroots level for facilitating the growth of a people-based economic development model. It envisages an environment that would enable ‘sahkar se samridhhi’ (prosperity through cooperation) and promote ‘ease of doing business’ for cooperatives through various proactive measures, including the development of Multi-State Cooperatives (MSCs).

The genesis of the current movement can be traced to the enactment of the Cooperative Credit Societies Act by the British in 1904. Subsequently, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru gave it a fillip by integrating cooperatives into the Five-Year Plans. His vision of “convulsing India with the cooperative movement...to make it, broadly speaking, the basic activity of India, in every village as well as elsewhere, indeed to make the cooperative approach the common thinking of India” was a precursor for the establishment of cooperative societies especially in rural India, thus laying the foundation for the largest cooperative movement in the world.

The institution of cooperative marketing societies by the National Development Council (NDC), coupled with the passage of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act by the Parliament in 1984 enhanced the importance of the movement. By definition, therefore, cooperative societies were envisioned as a combined agglomerate of persons voluntarily coming together to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

It was anticipated that the cooperative movement would largely be concentrated in the agricultural sector, playing a significant role across operations spanning production, distribution, and consumption. Two of the most conspicuous success stories emerging from the implementation of this model were the White Revolutionand the Green Revolution. As per data from the National Dairy Development Board, in 2019-20, dairy cooperatives had procured 4.80 crore litres of milk from 1.7 crore members,while selling 3.7 crore litres of liquid milk per day. Farm sector experts point out that cooperatives have also positively impacted post-harvest processing, storage, transportation, trade, and input procurement for a range of activities in the agricultural sector.

The movement has reportedly fostered 5.03 lakh cooperatives, a membership of 210 million, and a network stretching through the entire breadth of rural India, while accounting for 46.31 per cent of the total agricultural creditand 23.5 per cent of the total fertiliser production across the country. These milestones have been achieved through the institution of 21 national-level, 361 State-level, and 2,572 district-level



THEREFORE, THE IMMEDIATE PRIORITY BEFORE THE NEW MINISTRY IS TO REVAMP THE NATIONWIDE COOPERATIVE STRATEGY TO ENSURE ACCESS TO COST-EFFECTIVE INSTITUTIONAL SOURCES OF CREDIT, CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY FOR PRODUCERS, ESPECIALLY IN AGRICULTURE

(Saurabh Bandyopadhyay is Fellow and Anupma Mehta is Editor at NCAER. The views expressed are personal.)



cooperative federations in the country. Hence, every sphere of national and local economic activity has literally been brought under the ambit of the cooperative movement.

But is the picture as rosy as these statistics apparently indicate? Rumbblings of discontent among farmers, in particular, and the farm sector, in general, suggest that the contribution of cooperatives to actual growth in the agricultural sector is significantly lower than expectations. Despite the need for substantial investments in the form of plant, machinery, tools, and equipment in farming, the outcomes reflect low capital and low productivity linkages, along with the need for augmenting an under-performing marketing infrastructure.

In order to identify the ground-level roadblocks and suggest measures to overcome them, the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) recently undertook a study on cooperative agro-processing and identification of institutional financial lacunae in the cooperative movement with special attention on the role of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). The NCAER study, covering 304 cooperative units in Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, and West Bengal, found that marginal and small farmers sell a major part of their agricultural commodities to private traders, which prevents them from reaping the profits of their produce even during a bumper harvest. Their small quantity transactions translate into meagre cooperative shares and weak bargaining power in the market. Lack of adequate storage facilities also compromises the processing of paddy, grains, and fruits and vegetables, which, in turn, adversely impacts the shelf life

of products and compromises employment outcomes. Further, the study showed a decadal decline in the share of agro-processing in the total value of the manufacturing output from 32.31 per cent in 2000-2001 to 22.9 per cent in 2011-12.

The NCAER estimations, based on analysis of the 70th Round unit-level data from the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), also highlight the need for providing cooperative support for marketing penetration and storage to smallholders, who constituted 86 per cent of the total share of landholdings in 2015-16, according to the Tenth Agricultural Census. In this context, NCDC, which has been at the forefront of the cooperative movement in the country, can offer pivotal support to the agriculture sector through the development of sustainable supply chains linking farmers to processing centres and markets. Critical funding from NCDC towards cooperative sector schemes comprising fisheries, dairy and livestock, water conservation, micro irrigation, agricultural insurance and credit, among others, constitutedover 49 per cent of the cumulative lending for the period 2008-13. Yet the corporation is not being offered concessional finance under priority sector lending. Compelled to source its funds from the market, NCDC faces constraints in offering loans to cooperatives at competitive rates, which has a deterrent impact on post-harvest agricultural activities.

An assessment of the capacity utilisation of the surveyed units revealed that nearly 34 per cent of them were under-utilising their capacities in the range of 25 to 75 per cent, due to various reasons, such as inadequate supply of products for processing, shortage of skilled manpower, funds crunch, lack of demand, and non-availability of advanced machinery. In addition,

most States exhibit poor urban and rural representation of self-help groups and cooperatives in the sphere of foodgrain disbursal under the Public Distribution System (PDS) through the network of Fair Price Shops (FPS). Notwithstanding the policy for issuance of FPS licences to women’s self-help groups, village panchayats, urban local bodies, and cooperatives, the combined percentage of their FPS presence in India is merely about 26 per cent, with the rest going to private individual ownership.

It is obvious that despite its monumental potential, the cooperative model in the country is facing numerous policy hurdles. Since the administration of cooperatives has traditionally fallen under the purview of the respective State governments, the establishment of a Central Ministry to oversee their functioning may also have certain political repercussions and revive the national debate on collaborative federalism. The immediate priority before the new Ministry, therefore, is to revamp the nation-wide cooperative strategy to ensure access to cost-effective institutional sources of credit, capital equipment, and state-of-the-art technology for producers, especially in agriculture. Another vital mandate for it would be fulfilment of the fundamental objective of cooperativesof lifting the illiterate and unskilled workers out of poverty by providing them comprehensive infrastructural and marketing support for livelihood. There is no denying the fact that cooperatives have always signified viable solutions even in a failing market. It remains to be seen if the renewed political and economic focus on cooperatives can actually metamorphose into a truly people-based movement at the grassroots level, to usher in prosperity through people’s participation.

## POINTCOUNTERPOINT

CAST YOUR VOTE EVEN IF IT RAINS. IF YOU WANT TO SEE ME AS THE CHIEF MINISTER, YOU MUST VOTE FOR ME. — WEST BENGAL CM MAMATA BANERJEE



A DEFEATED CHIEF MINISTER IS MAKING DESPERATE EFFORTS. SHE DID NOT LEARN FROM THE NANDIGRAM LESSON. — BJP LEADER SUVENDU ADHIKARI

# The misuse of law — a challenge to Indian judiciary

Public Interest Litigations have ensured against derailment of the rule of law and benefited the socially vulnerable sections

Efficient implementation of law is a pre-requisite for a stable and peaceful society and democracy is the torch bearer for a vibrant people-centric governance. The democratic fabric of a nation compliments the jurisprudence in ensuring the lawful governance. Over the years judicial activism through the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has ensured that the derailment of the rule of law is prevented and the socially vulnerable sections of the society have immensely benefited.

The PIL concept was introduced by Justice PN Bhagwati. It refers to litigation undertaken to secure public interest and created an opportunity of justice to socially-disadvantaged



VK BAHUGUNA

(The writer is Chairman of Centre for Resource Management and Environment. The views expressed are personal.)

groups and provided relaxation on the traditional rule of locus standi. Ever since its enunciation in 1980s, the judiciary has used it for the course correction of executive’s functions and several landmark judgements have provided reliefs to affected citizens.

However, in India of late a serious problem of misuse of law is cropping up and threatening the jurisprudence. This writer has been a witness to such misuse of law both by the common citizens as well as people in power. He has recently written a book “Quest for Civility-an insight into Indian Babudom” on the misuse of power by people in authority.

The trigger for this article



came from a newspaper report about challenging the appointment of Rakesh Asthana as the Delhi Police Commissioner under a PIL filed by a few non-government organizations opposed to the present dispensation at the Centre. Asthana has challenged it as misuse of law.

Now let us discuss it how his appointment was made and under what rule. The AllIndia Service officers IAS, IPS and IFS (forests) are recruited by the Union

Government and it is up to the sweet will of the government to utilize them anywhere in the country or abroad in public interest. They can be granted extension in service or transferred from one cadre to the other if need be, depending upon their service records and the opinion of the government. Such action of the Central is absolutely within its power and cannot be challenged. The government will have its reasons for the appointment. Some officers may have their reasons to be disappointed with the decision. If affected officers had gone to the Central Administrative Tribunal it would have been justified and the case could have been decided on merit. However, how could an unaf-

fected party challenge the power of the government? If the country allows such wastage of time on things based purely on ulterior motives or at the instigation of political leaders to regularly bring such matters in courts it would put the entire country’s administration as well as security to peril.

There are many other instances of misuse of powers, however, which need the attention of Supreme Court, High Courts and lower courts as well as legislatures. Crimes against women are attracting the attention of the judiciary with stringent provisions but surveys had shown that most of the provisions of section 354 of IPC and the Dowry Prevention Law (Section 498A/ 406 of

IPC) are the most misused provisions of law in India and yet no modifications seem to have been made in it. The provision, enacted to protect the dignity of a woman, has become a widely misused weapon by them and is used to harass and blackmail their husband and his family. Once an FIR is filed under 498A/406 (IPC) it becomes a tool in the hands of the police to harass the husband and all his relatives named in the FIR without even preliminary investigation.

According to a survey conducted by Fight against Misuse of Dowry law, 98 per cent of the cases filed under section 498A are false. One senior officer of Ladakh is facing a false dowry case and his father, a retired senior

officer of 71 years, is running from pillar to post. Similarly, section 354 is routinely used to harass men deliberately to settle property and other disputes. More than half of such cases ultimately prove false and no real punitive action is taken against the complainant.

The country needs to bring in a law to prevent misuse of law. If a case is dismissed, the complainant and others involved in the investigation and tendering of false witnesses must be punished. Only then the country’s judiciary as well as the police and other agencies would be spared such wastage of time and at the same time the law protecting citizens would be implemented well.



# Market at fresh peak: Sensex zooms to 958 pts

## Nifty tops 17,800

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex zoomed 958 points to end at a fresh lifetime high on Thursday, tracking gains in index majors Reliance Industries, HDFC twins and ICICI Bank amid a positive trend in global markets.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty soared 276.30 points or 1.57 per cent to its new closing peak of 17,822.95. It touched an intra-day record of 17,843.90.

After scaling a new peak of 59,957.25 during the day, the 30-share Sensex settled 958.03 points or 1.63 per cent up at an all-time high of 59,885.36.

Bajaj Finserv was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising over 4 per cent, followed by L&T, HDFC, Axis Bank, SBI, Reliance Industries and IndusInd Bank.

On the other hand, Dr Reddy's, ITC, Nestle and HUL were the laggards.

Domestic equities wit-

nessed sharp recovery with benchmarks Nifty and Sensex both recording fresh all-time highs, said Binod Modi, Head-Strategy at Reliance Securities.

Favourable FOMC meeting outcome and ease of concerns from possible default of Evergrande aided market rally. Financials and Reliance Industries have dominated market rally, followed by metals, IT and auto, he added.

US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said the Fed plans to announce as early as November that it will start to taper its monthly bond purchases, should the job market maintain its steady improve-

ment. Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Shanghai and Hong Kong ended with gains, while Seoul was in the red. Japanese market was closed for holidays.

Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading on a positive note in mid-session deals.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude slipped 0.12 per cent to USD 76.10 per barrel.

# Mcap of BSE-listed firms touches all-time high of ₹ 261.73 lakh cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies reached an all-time high of ₹ 261.73 lakh crore on Thursday, helped by a massive rally in the equities where the benchmark Sensex zoomed 958 points to end at a fresh lifetime peak.

The 30-share BSE benchmark jumped 958.03 points or 1.63 per cent to settle at its new closing peak of 59,885.36. During the day, it gained 1,029.92 points to touch an intra-day record high of 59,957.25.

Driven by the rally in the equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies jumped Rs 3,16,778.1 crore to reach Rs 2,61,73,374.32 crore.

"The market took the US Fed statement of starting tapering as soon as November in its stride. Encouraging news on Evergrande crisis also helped to clear some uncertainty on the global front. Indian markets have been on a roll and the rally today was symbolic of the prevailing strong sentiment locally on the back of reduction in covid cases and the strong vaccination numbers," Devang Mehta, Head of Equity Advisory at Centrum Broking, said.

On Wednesday, US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said the Fed plans to announce as early as November that it will start to taper its monthly bond purchases, should the job market maintain its steady improvement.

"Amidst a strong start, bulls showed no signs of weakness to soar higher boosted by strong global cues and broad-based buying led by realty, metal and banking stocks. Global markets tempered optimism despite a slightly hawkish tilt by the Fed Reserve intimating that the US Central Bank will begin reducing its asset purchases in November and conclude the tapering process around mid-2022," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Bajaj Finserv was the biggest gainer among the 30-share BSE benchmark frontline companies pack, gaining over 5 per cent, followed by L&T, HDFC, Axis Bank, SBI and Reliance Industries.

In contrast, Dr Reddy's, ITC, Nestle, HUL and Bharti Airtel were the laggards.

The BSE midcap and smallcap gained up to 1.28 per cent.

# Reliance Industries mcap goes past ₹ 16 lakh cr mark in intra-day trade

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The market valuation of Reliance Industries Limited went past the ₹16 lakh crore mark in intra-day trade on Thursday following a rally in its share price.

The index heavyweight stock jumped 2.43 per cent to settle at ₹2,489.65 on the BSE. During the day, it gained 2.72 per cent to its record high of ₹2,496.95.

On the NSE, it rose by 2.36 per cent to settle at ₹2,488.10. In intra-day, the company's market valuation rose to ₹16,88,455 crore. At closing, its market capitalisation (m-cap) was at ₹15,78,299.46 crore.

RIL was the biggest contributor to the overall market rally on Thursday, where the 30-share BSE benchmark zoomed 958.03 points or 1.63 per cent to its new closing peak of 59,885.36.

Earlier on September 3, the market valuation of Reliance Industries Limited jumped to Rs 15 lakh crore.

On June 3 this year, Reliance Industries' market valuation crossed the Rs 14 lakh crore mark.

Shares of Reliance Industries have gained over 25 per cent so far this year.

# Rupee rebounds 23 paise to close at 73.64 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee rebounded by 23 paise to close at 73.64 against the US dollar on Thursday following an improved risk appetite among investors triggered by positive global cues.

Investors globally took the US Fed statement of starting tapering as soon as November in their stride and encouraging news on China's Evergrande crisis also helped to clear some uncertainty on the global front, analysts said.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened flat at 73.85 against the greenback. During the session, it witnessed an intra-day high of 73.61 and finally settled at 73.64.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.29 per cent to 93.19.

"The Indian rupee erased Wednesday's loss tracking cues from regional currencies and a surge in global equities after the US Federal Reserve's meeting. Globally risk is looking fairly balanced with two large events of the week FOMC and Evergrande chaos seem to be behind," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

# Digital cos' data hegemony may lead to 'attention economy', says Competition Comm chief

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Competition Commission Chief Ashok Kumar Gupta on Thursday flagged that data hegemony by some digital companies may lead to "attention economy" in which big tech players work to capture users' attention, build profiles of their choices and sell the profiles to advertisers.

The remarks from the Chairperson of the country's fair trade regulator assumes significance against the backdrop of concerns in certain quarters about the business ways of big tech entities and also some digital players coming under the lens of the watchdog. While noting that rapid changes are happening in markets, which are increasingly shifting towards a digital platform-centric configuration, Gupta also pointed out that these platform markets are by their very nature "winner-takes-all or winner-takes-most".

"Network effects, access to large amounts of data, economies of scale and scope, induced behavioural biases among consumers etc., in digital markets, may heighten market concentration and result in the creation of impermeable entry barriers," he

said. Addressing a conference on competition law organised by industry body Assocham, Gupta said that data hegemony by some digital companies may lead to an "attention economy".

In an "attention economy", big tech players work to capture users' attention, build profiles of their choices and habits, then sell those profiles to advertisers, he added.

"Moreover, since these digital platforms are the ones who make the rules about how different users would interact on their platform, it gives them an incentive to engage in conduct that may not only impede competition in the market but may also strengthen their incumbency advantage," Gupta said.

According to him, the regulator has a very important role in ensuring that these platforms remain neutral, offer a level playing field and allow enterprises, big and small, that access consumers through these platforms to compete on the basis of merits.

The Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) acknowledged that in these fast-evolving and dynamic markets, a regulator's task is much like hitting at moving targets.

NIFTY 50						BSE 500					
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	
NIFTY 50	17670.85	17843.90	17646.55	17822.95	276.30	RELIANCE	2445.00	2496.95	2445.00	2489.65	ACC
BAJAJFINSV	17787.50	18750.00	17682.05	18430.00	815.25	INFY	1732.15	1745.00	1722.30	1741.70	BHARATFORG
HINDALCO	473.50	484.80	468.00	483.80	20.80	HDFC	2760.00	2829.05	2731.05	2817.95	JINDALSTEL
IT	1718.30	1775.00	1715.05	1774.55	63.65	ICICIBANK	708.60	719.90	707.85	717.40	ESCORTS
TATAMOTORS	313.20	324.00	313.20	321.00	10.80	TCIS	3889.00	3889.00	3835.65	3868.70	OBEROILRITY
COALINDIA	163.75	170.00	163.10	167.50	5.40	BAJAFINANCE	7835.00	8000.00	7805.00	7897.45	
HDFC	2756.10	2825.00	2730.00	2825.15	90.45	ZEEL	343.00	362.85	315.00	318.30	
AXISBANK	794.35	814.50	792.55	813.00	24.65	HINDUNILVR	2796.00	2816.35	2774.00	2781.85	
ONGC	134.80	138.35	134.40	137.75	4.10	BHARTIARTL	731.55	740.00	723.40	726.20	
INDUSINDBK	1150.00	1175.00	1147.00	1172.00	30.60	AXISBANK	795.00	814.40	793.00	812.35	
SBI	442.40	451.15	442.05	450.00	11.15	HCLTECH	1327.95	1336.00	1313.85	1327.95	
HDFCBANK	1542.00	1572.00	1542.00	1571.60	37.90	TATASTEEL	1332.00	1339.90	1306.50	1319.40	
RELIANCE	2447.40	2497.00	2445.50	2488.10	57.60	LT	1718.00	1774.75	1715.25	1770.00	
SBIIFE	1224.00	1224.00	1198.50	1219.00	27.70	ASIANPAINT	3344.00	3344.00	3315.05	3320.10	
GRASIM	1578.70	1625.00	1573.45	1608.05	33.40	DLF	370.10	412.60	370.10	401.95	
ICICIBANK	711.00	720.00	707.15	717.00	13.65	SBIN	442.00	451.00	442.00	449.80	
KOTAKBANK	2004.00	2052.00	1990.90	2024.05	38.50	TATAMOTORS	312.50	324.00	312.50	321.55	
DIVISLAB	5169.85	5224.70	5141.60	5219.50	79.20	KOTAKBANK	2008.00	2051.00	1991.40	2024.10	
INFY	1732.00	1745.00	1721.10	1742.10	25.60	BAJAJFINSV	17665.45	17665.45	18519.35		
NTPC	124.80	127.00	124.65	126.15	1.75	HINDALCO	470.15	484.75	468.00	482.85	
BAJAFINANCE	7863.60	7999.00	7804.65	7890.05	96.40	TECHM	1520.00	1530.05	1504.50	1521.20	
IOC	117.00	118.65	116.80	117.85	1.40	MARUTI	6855.20	6875.35	6821.10	6844.20	
TITAN	2090.00	2113.75	2076.60	2106.00	24.95	GODREJPROP	1977.80	2133.15	1960.00	2195.95	
ADANIPORTS	754.40	760.00	750.55	754.00	8.70	WIPRO	674.80	677.10	671.90	674.35	
BAJAJ-AUTO	3757.15	3820.00	3757.15	3795.00	37.85	ITC	245.50	245.75	241.75	242.40	
WIPRO	672.90	677.00	671.40	674.00	5.85	HDFCBANK	1548.00	1572.15	1542.40	1570.25	
HCLTECH	1326.85	1336.45	1313.90	1327.00	11.50	DMART	441.00	4495.00	4372.45	4410.60	
POWERGRID	177.00	178.75	177.00	178.20	1.45	JSWSTEEL	685.00	687.40	673.65	677.55	
M&M	756.50	762.00	752.75	758.10	5.60	ULTRACEMCO	7645.55	7692.40	7582.25	7616.25	
TATASTEEL	1330.00	1339.45	1306.05	1315.50	9.70	TITAN	2099.00	2112.95	2076.35	2104.00	
TECHM	1525.10	1531.00	1504.00	1523.00	9.40	IDEA	10.70	10.84	10.42	10.58	
CPIA	965.45	970.00	959.00	969.00	5.50	PEL	2650.00	2796.30	2650.00	2778.95	
EICHERMOT	2851.60	2876.70	2843.40	2858.70	15.85	M&M	755.00	761.95	752.50	758.40	
SHEREEAM	29851.20	30090.50	29554.65	29900.00	107.50	DIVISLAB	5175.00	5225.00	5139.15	5218.85	
UPL	725.10	732.00	723.05	727.10	2.20	DRREDDY	4865.70	4866.70	4771.05	4796.00	
TCS	3870.00	3879.00	3835.00	3872.00	9.85	COALINDIA	163.00	170.00	163.00	167.30	
ASIANPAINT	3340.00	3340.00	3315.00	3326.00	8.50	NESTLEIND	20128.90	20128.90	19815.00	19841.70	
MARUTI	6868.00	6879.00	6821.00	6843.00	12.00	POWERGRID	176.65	178.70	176.65	178.15	
HEROMOTOCO	2850.00	2882.00	2847.25	2852.00	4.80	VEDL	298.20	302.40	298.00	300.00	
ULTRACEMCO	7642.15	7697.20	7580.00	7628.00	2.40	SUNPHARMA	775.00	777.05	766.15	769.75	
BHARTIARTL	733.40	740.10	723.20	726.95	0.20	NTPC	124.85	127.00	124.70	126.10	
RELIANCE	2799.00	2817.70	2772.85	2782.00	-2.50	APOLLOHOSP	4940.00	5135.35	4905.20	5094.35	
BPCL	423.15	424.30	417.15	419.55	-0.60	SBIFILE	1221.00	1221.00	1197.20	1217.90	
SUNPHARMA	771.10	777.20	766.10	769.00	-1.10	HDFCLIFE	732.95	735.90	722.30	724.95	
BRITANNIA	4080.00	4077.45	4017.50	4048.95	-9.55	TATACONSUM	856.60	859.50	849.20	850.30	
NESTLEIND	20000.00	20211.00	19820.00	19844.00	-81.20	TATAELXSI	5590.00	5671.95	5574.30	5724.50	
ITC	245.00	245.60	241.70	242.35	-1.15	SBICARD	1061.10	1079.40	1042.05	1051.10	
TATACONSUM	857.15	859.75	849.05	850.00	-4.15	CPIA	965.00	969.55	959.55	968.05	
JSWSTEEL	685.30	687.25	674.10	679.40	-4.25	NAUKRI	6840.00	6893.00	6794.75	6833.95	
DREDDY	4866.90	4868.60	4770.00	4799.95	-46.40	BPCL	423.50	424.55	417.40	419.85	
HDFCLIFE	733.75	735.85	722.20	725.15	-7.90	ADANIANT	1449.20	1479.90	1442.00	1474.10	
NIFTY NEXT 50						ONGC	135.00	138.35	134.50	137.85	
SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE	GRASIM	1584.70	1624.70	1574.30	1606.75	
NIFTY NEXT 50	43212.10	43478.40	43137.50	43437.70	480.15	IRFLAEST	147.30	156.80	146.40	154.10	
DIF	372.20	412.80	370.00	402.90	33.85	ADANIIGREEN	1151.90	1160.00	1120.20	1148.20	
MCDOWELL-N	784.00	843.50	775.35	828.00	54.50	ADANIPORTS	754.50	759.90	750.65	754.05	
BAJAJHLONG	4760.00	4815.25	4706.50	4950.00	230.80	ADANITRANS	1480.40	1602.00	1480.40	1548.35	
APOLLOHOSP	4931.40	5134.00	4905.00	5129.00	224.10	BRITANNIA	4080.00	4080.00	4018.05	4043.15	
ITI	5916.95	6098.00	5860.00	6090.20	241.70	HAVELLS	1434.80	1454.20	1428.90	1435.60	
ADANIANT	1453.00	1480.00	1441.10	1475.60	37.85	SRTKTRANS	1356.35	1384.85	1346.55	1381.90	
GAIL	152.05	155.65	151.15	153.15	3.15	AMBUJACEM	423.00	423.00	415.00	419.70	
INDUSTOWER	275.15	288.30	272.25	279.90	5.55	JUBLFOOD	4178.00	4234.85	4139.00	4177.00	
PGH	14140.00	14500.00	13991.40	14325.70	253.15	TATAPOWER	139.45	144.90	138.90	143.65	
ALKEM	2875.00	2935.00	2876.35	2957.00	62.40	GODREJCP	1065.95	1065.95	1053.50	1057.35	
BANDHANBNK	48.75	49.75	48.10	28.80	4.40	IOC	116.60	118.60	116.60	117.95	
JUBLFOOD	213.00	223.00	213.00	217.10	60.90	INDHOTEL	174.80	181.00	174.00	183.80	



GLOBE TROTTING

**7 DEAD AS BOAT CAPSIZES IN LAKE VICTORIA**  
**Nairobi:** A local official in Kenya says seven people are dead after their boat capsized in Lake Victoria. Homa Bay County Commissioner Moses Lilan says the seven bodies pulled from the lake after the accident include one of a child. Officials say four people are still missing.

**ANCIENT CLAY TABLET GOING BACK TO IRAQ**  
**Washington:** A 3,500-year-old clay tablet discovered in the ruins of the library of an ancient Middle Eastern king, then looted from a museum 30 years ago, is finally headed back to Iraq.

**LAVA RAISES FEARS OF DAMAGE ON ISLAND**  
**Todouque:** The advance of lava from a volcanic eruption in Spain's Canary Islands has slowed significantly, raising doubts Thursday about whether it will fan out across the land and destroy more homes instead of flowing into the sea. A giant river of lava slowed to four metres (13 feet) per hour after reaching a plain on Wednesday. On Monday, a day after the eruption on the island of La Palma, it was moving at 700 metres per hour.

Af power transition without negotiation, in non-inclusive manner: India at UN

**New York:** India on Thursday said that the transition of power in Afghanistan has been without negotiation and in a non-inclusive manner, raising questions on its acceptability. India's Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs Reenat Sandhu, speaking at the Community of Democracies 10th Ministerial Conference 'Democracy and Resilience: Shared Goals', said it is important that the new government in Afghanistan is broad-based and inclusive, representing all sections of Afghan society, including women and minorities.

The Taliban took control of Kabul on August 15 and have put in place a headline interim 33-member Cabinet that has no woman and includes UN-designated terrorists.

Over the past month, we have witnessed dramatic changes in Afghanistan. There has been a transition of power without negotiation and in a non-inclusive manner, which raises questions on its acceptability," Sandhu said.

In a thinly-veiled reference to Pakistan, she said: "Those who practice and harbour terror cannot respect democratic values or institutions. Pluralism, diversity, human rights and freedoms are alien values to those who preach terror and radicalisation. As a Community of Democracies, we must stand resolutely against terrorism and its perpetrators."

Sandhu underscored that the international community must remember that democratic governance is important not only at national or local levels, but equally on the global stage. "While we as a group are united by the practice of democratic governance at home, in the larger international arena, the global governance architecture has elements of non-inclusiveness and less than fully participatory institutions. "Contemporary institutions must reflect the voices of today, and not the architecture of a bygone era. What we need is a reformed multilateralism which reflect contemporary realities and is fit for purpose to address today's challenges. The change must begin here at the United Nations," she said, underlining the need for urgent reforms of the world organisation.

China sends 19 fighter jets towards Taiwan in display of force

AP ■ TAIPEI

China sent 19 fighter jets toward Taiwan in a large display of force on Thursday, after the self-governing island announced its intention to join an 11-nation Pacific trade group that China has also applied to join.

Taiwan deployed air patrol forces in response to the Chinese jets and tracked them on their air defense systems, the island's Defense Ministry said in a statement. Among the various jets, some of which flew in a long L-

Taliban unlikely to participate in UNGA

Diplomats of ousted Govt still in office

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

The Taliban, which now rule Afghanistan after overthrowing the elected Government of President Ashraf Ghani, are unlikely to represent their country at the high-level United Nations General Assembly session as representatives of the ousted dispensation still occupy the office at the UN, a Pakistani media report said on Thursday. Afghanistan is scheduled to address the ongoing UN General Assembly session on September 27.

US calls on UNSC P5 members to remain united on Afghanistan

**United Nations:** The US has called on fellow permanent members of the UN Security Council to remain "united" on Afghanistan, to hold the Taliban accountable to its commitments and to work together to ensure humanitarian access and availability of funds to meet humanitarian needs in the war-torn country. The US, the UK, France, China and Russia, known as P5, are the five permanent and veto-wielding members of the 15-nation powerful UN organ.

UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss chaired a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the P5 and United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Wednesday on the margins of the high-level 76th session of the UN General Assembly.

US State Department spokesperson Ned Price said that in the meeting, Secretary of State Antony Blinken emphasised the importance of a constructive P5 action to maintain international peace and security.

"On Afghanistan, the Secretary called for P5 coordination to mitigate the emerging humanitarian crisis and prevent an economic collapse. He noted the shared expectations for an inclusive and representative government.

"The Secretary encouraged the P5 to remain united on Afghanistan, to hold the Taliban accountable to its commitments, and to work together to ensure humanitarian access, respect for humanitarian principles, and availability of funds to meet humanitarian needs," Price said in a statement.

UN Secretary General Guterres, responding to a question on whether there was unity in the Council on Afghanistan, said: "as the resolution of the Council is clear, we all want an Afghanistan in peace, and stability and an Afghanistan in which we could have an inclusive government, representative of the different sectors of the population, with respect for the rights, especially of girls and women, and with no sanctuary for terrorism and a cooperative approach to drug trafficking. These are the areas in which I believe everybody agrees." The UN Security Council resolution 2593 on

shaped path, were 12 J-16 and two J-11s, as well as bombers and an anti-submarine aircraft. China has sent fighter jets toward Taiwan on an almost daily basis this past year. It stepped up its military harassment of the self-ruled island and has sent large displays of fighter jets after political events in which it views as interfering with its sovereignty. Taiwan and China split during a civil war in 1949, but China continues to claim Taiwan as part of its territory. Beijing opposes Taiwan's involvement in international



Afghan children collect water from a public water pump in Kabul on Thursday AP

On September 20, the Taliban-controlled Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent a letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, requesting him to participate in the 76th UNGA session in New York.

It was signed by Taliban leader Ameer Khan Muttaqi as the new Afghan Foreign Minister. A week ago on

September 15, Guterres had received a letter from the currently accredited Afghan ambassador, Ghulam Isaczai, stating that he and other members of his team, still occupying the Afghan mission at the United Nations, will represent Afghanistan in UNGA.

On Tuesday, they attended the UNGA session addressed by US President Joe Biden.

"They will continue to occupy the mission until the credentials committee takes a decision," a diplomatic source was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper.

Turabi: Strict punishment, executions will return

AP ■ KABUL

One of the founders of the Taliban and the chief enforcer of its harsh interpretation of Islamic law when they last ruled Afghanistan said the hard-line movement will once again carry out executions and amputations of hands, though perhaps not in public.

In an interview with *The Associated Press*, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi dismissed outrage over the Taliban's executions in the past, which sometimes took place in front of crowds at a stadium, and he warned the world against interfering with Afghanistan's new rulers. "Everyone criticized us for the punishments in the stadium, but we have never said

Afghan Taliban's new UN envoy urges recognition

**Kabul:** The Taliban's newly appointed envoy to the United Nations on Wednesday urged quick world recognition of Afghanistan's new rulers even as the World Health Organisation raised the alarm of an impending health care disaster in the war-ravaged country.

The humanitarian crisis is one of the many challenges the Taliban face since their takeover of Afghanistan last month, including renewed threats from the militant Islamic State group, which recently stepped up its attacks, targeting members of the Taliban in its stronghold in the country's east.

In an emergency measure, the UN aid coordinator Martin Griffiths released USD45 million in life-saving support Wednesday for Afghanistan from the world body's emergency fund.



anything about their laws and their punishments," Turabi told *The Associated Press*, speaking in Kabul. "No one will tell us what our laws should be. We will follow Islam and we will make our laws on the Quran." Since the Taliban overran Kabul on Aug. 15 and seized control of the country, Afghans and the world have been watching to see whether they will recreate their harsh rule of the late 1990s.

Tensions grow as US, allies deepen Indo-Pacific involvement

AP ■ BANGKOK

With increasingly strong talk in support of Taiwan, a new deal to supply Australia with nuclear submarines, and the launch of a European strategy for greater engagement in the Indo-Pacific, the US and its allies are becoming more assertive in their approach toward a rising China.

China has bristled at the moves, and the growing tensions between Beijing and Washington prompted UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the weekend to implore US President Joe Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping to repair their "completely dysfunctional" relationship, warning they risk dividing the world. As the UN General Assembly opened on Tuesday, both leaders chose calming language, with Biden insisting "we are not seeking a new Cold War or a world divided into rigid blocs," and Xi telling the forum that "China has never, and will never invade or bully others or seek hegemony."

But the underlying issues have not changed, with China building up its military outposts as it presses its maritime claims over critical sea lanes, and the US and its allies growing louder in their support of Taiwan, which China claims as part of its territory, and deepening military cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

On Friday, Biden hosts the leaders of Japan, India and Australia for an in-person Quadrilateral Security Dialogue for broad talks including the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change, but also how to keep the Indo-Pacific, a vast region spanning from India to Australia, "free and open," according to the White House.

It comes a week after the dramatic announcement that Australia would be dropping a contract for conventional French submarines in favour of an Anglo-American offer for nuclear-powered vessels, a bombshell that overshadowed the unveiling of the European Union's strategy to boost political and defense ties in the Indo-Pacific.

"One thing is certain, that everyone is pivoting toward the

Indo-Pacific," said Garima Mohan, an Asia program fellow with the German Marshall Fund think tank. As partners pursue moves that play to their own strengths and needs, however, the past week has underscored the lack of coordination as a networked security strategy develops, she said.

"Not everyone has the same threat assessment of China," she said in a telephone interview from Berlin.

The EU policy emphasizes the need for dialogue with Beijing, to encourage "China to play its part in a peaceful and thriving Indo-Pacific region," while at the same time proposing an "enhanced naval presence" and expanded security cooperation with regional partners. It also notes China's increased military buildup, and that "the display of force and increasing tensions in regional hotspots such as in the South and East China Sea, and in the Taiwan Strait, may have a direct impact on European security and prosperity."

Germany, which has close economic ties to China, got a wake-up call last week when China rejected its request for a port call for the frigate Bavaria, which is currently conducting maneuvers in the Indo-Pacific. "China is telling them this inclusive approach is not going to work, so in a way it's a rude awakening for Berlin," Mohan said. "You have to take a position, you can't have your cake and eat it too, and if you have an Indo-Pacific strategy ... You can't make it neutral."

Other EU countries, most notably France, have also sent naval assets for exercises in the Indo-Pacific, and Britain has had a whole carrier strike group conducting exercises for several months as London pursues the new tilt toward the region recommended by a recent British government review of defense and foreign policy. China's Foreign Ministry said after rejecting the Bavaria's port

call that it remained "will-

ing to carry out friendly

exchanges with

Germany on the basis of mutual respect and mutual trust," but made

clear it was displeased with the increased naval presence in

the region. "Individual powers... Have repeatedly dispatched military aircraft and warships to the South China Sea for some time in the name of exercising freedom of navigation to flex muscle, stir up trouble and deliberately provoke conflicts on maritime issues," spokesman Zhao Lijian said.

"China's determination to safeguard national and territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests is unwavering, and will continue to properly handle differences with the countries concerned through consultations and negotiations."

Beijing was less reserved in its reaction to the submarine deal with Australia, under which the US and Britain will help Canberra construct nuclear-powered submarines, calling it "highly irresponsible" and saying it would "seriously damage regional peace and stability."

In signing the pact with the US and Britain, Australia cancelled a \$66 billion deal with France for diesel-powered submarines, infuriating Paris, which recalled its ambassadors to Washington and Canberra and suggested it calls into question the entire cooperative effort to blunt China's growing influence. While clearly irked by the surprise deal, many observers have suggested that the vociferous reaction from France may be more directed toward a domestic audience, where President Emmanuel Macron faces a reelection bid early next year.

But there was clear disappointment that the US seemed to be ignoring France's own engagement in the region by not informing them in advance, said Laurence Nardon, an expert at the French Institute for International Relations.

"There was a way to do this while keeping Europeans in the loop," she said. "The Indo-Pacific is important for the EU too; it's not one or the other."

In a call with Macron late Wednesday, Biden reaffirmed "the strategic importance of French and European engagement in the Indo-Pacific region," according to a joint statement.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

PM INVITES...

The discussions focused on leveraging technology to provide smart education to the youngsters and enhance research. They also discussed the vibrant startup sector in India, powered by the youth of the country.

"PM Modi believes that technology is the way to help things move forward," Narayan said after the meeting, adding that the company intends to continue to invest heavily in India.

The CEO of FirstSolar, Mark Widmar, also called on Modi. During the meeting, Modi elaborated India's efforts to harness solar energy, including the 'One world, One sun and One grid' initiative and investment opportunities in the sector.

"The strong balance created between India's industrial and trade policies has built ideal opportunities for companies like FirstSolar to establish manufacturing in India. The productivity linked incentive (PLI) schemes will help India attract more investment in manufacturing from the US," Widmar said.

PM's discussions with Vivek Lall of GeneralAtomics Global Corporation hovered around India's strides in drone technology, including the reforms and the PLI scheme. "There are lots of potential areas of collaboration that we are in discussions with. The opportunities are a win win for both the countries," Lall said. India is in the process of procuring a significant number of drones for the three branches of its armed forces. It has also leased a few drones from General Atomics.

SC TO SET UP...

The apex court, while reserving its interim order on September 13, had said it will be pronouncing an order in a few days and had asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, to mention the case if the government has a re-think about filing a detailed affi-

davit. The bench had said it only wants to know from the Centre whether Pegasus was used to allegedly spy on individuals and if it was done lawfully after the latter expressed its unwillingness to file a detailed affidavit citing national security. Observing that concerns have been raised by journalists and others over violation of privacy in the Pegasus row, the top court had said it will pass an interim order on their pleas, reiterating it was not interested in knowing issues related to national security. The Centre had said it did not wish to file a detailed affidavit on whether a particular software is used or not as it was not a matter for public discussion and will not be in the "larger national interest".

The law officer had contended that the disclosure whether the country is using a particular software or not may cause "harm" and alert all potential targets, including terror groups. "We had to have your affidavit to understand your stand. We do not want to say anything further," the court had told Mehta, adding that if a spyware is used by the Government then it has to be as per the procedure established by the law.

PM's discussions with Vivek Lall of GeneralAtomics Global Corporation hovered around India's strides in drone technology, including the reforms and the PLI scheme. "There are lots of potential areas of collaboration that we are in discussions with. The opportunities are a win win for both the countries," Lall said. India is in the process of procuring a significant number of drones for the three branches of its armed forces. It has also leased a few drones from General Atomics.

PM's discussions with Vivek Lall of GeneralAtomics Global Corporation hovered around India's strides in drone technology, including the reforms and the PLI scheme. "There are lots of potential areas of collaboration that we are in discussions with. The opportunities are a win win for both the countries," Lall said. India is in the process of procuring a significant number of drones for the three branches of its armed forces. It has also leased a few drones from General Atomics.

ED PROBES...

The seized consignment is estimated to be worth ₹21,000 crore with the price per kg of the contraband ranging from ₹5-7 crore.

After the ED joining the probe, the Narcotics Control Bureau, the apex federal anti-drugs agency will also subsequently take up investigation to unravel the larger ramifications of such a large transshipment of drugs being routed from Afghanistan via India to other possible destinations, officials said. However, the DRI being an empowered agency to enforce the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS), the NCB may not be immediately taking up the case, they said.

After receiving the DRI complaint, the ED will formally

register a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to investigate the money laundering behind the syndicate and identify proceeds of crime for possible attachment of such assets.

The consignment was imported by a trading company registered in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, as semi-processed talc stones. The cargo originated from Bandar Abbas port in Iran before landing at Mundra and the contraband is estimated to have been sourced from Afghanistan.

A total of 2988.21 kg of heroin -- 1999.57 kg heroin from one container and 988.64 kg heroin from the second container -- was seized under the provisions of the NDPS (Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) Act by the DRI.

Searches were later conducted by the DRI in Ahmedabad, Delhi, Chennai, Gandhidham and Mandvi in Gujarat, following which two persons were arrested.

Involvement of some Afghan nationals is also under the scanner of the DRI. The importer firm, identified by official sources as Vijayawada-based Aashi Trading Company, allegedly operated by Chennai couple M Sudhakar and his wife G Durga Purna Vaishali was the importer of the contraband.

The couple was arrested by the DRI from Chennai after the seizures at Mundra and the duo was later brought to Bhuj town in Kutch. The duo is currently undergoing remand of DRI for sustained custodial interrogation following an order of the special court for NDPS cases in Bhuj.

The Congress on Wednesday demanded a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the large drugs haul in Gujarat as also the alleged bribery case involving e-commerce firm Amazon.

"These issues are concerned with the country's security and those involved in these issues are guilty of sedition and

that is why the Prime Minister will have to answer to the nation," Congress general secretary and chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said. Surjewala's assertions came after drugs seizure by the DRI from Mundra. Those involved in these cases are "traitors", he said. "Should this matter now not be investigated by a special commission of sitting judges of the Supreme Court and a special SIT be put at their disposal," he said.

He also rejected suggestions of seeking a CBI probe, saying, "How can CBI probe those who are its bosses?" The shocking revelations in the two cases have shaken the conscience of the country, he added.

US RULES OUT...

China has sharply criticised the trilateral alliance, saying such exclusive grouping has no future and will gravely undermine regional stability and aggravate the arms race and hurt international non-proliferation efforts.

The move has also angered France, an European ally of the US, which said it had been "stabbed in the back" and has publicly expressed its outrage at the AUKUS alliance. It recalled its ambassador to the US and Australia after the AUKUS security deal was announced. France also lost a lucrative contract to build conventional submarines for Australia. Meanwhile, in a bid to mend ties, President Joe and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron agreed on Wednesday that the "open consultations" among allies on matters of strategic interest to France would have helped in having a better situation. Biden and Macron have decided to open a process of in-depth consultations, aimed at creating the conditions for ensuring confidence and proposing concrete measures toward common objectives, a joint statement said after their meeting. "Of course, it's an important topic in conversations with the French, with a range of coun-

tries who have a direct interest in the region," Psaki said at the White House briefing on Wednesday.

UNIQUE DIGITAL...

The difficulty of maintaining long trails of paper-based health records, or standing in long queues at health facilities, etc. will no longer be a burden in this digitally-driven ecosystem. "Besides, there will be continuity of treatment without any hassle as access to health records will be just a click away for doctors once given consent by the patient. To sum up, this initiative will revolutionise the delivery of high-quality services to patients by making healthcare providers more accessible and accountable," he said.

ORDER FOR...

This tank is particularly configured and designed for Indian conditions and hence it is suitable for deployment to protect the frontiers in an effective manner.

This production order to HVE, Avadi opens up a large avenue in defence manufacturing for over 200 Indian vendors including MSMEs, with employment opportunities to around 8,000 people. This will be a flagship project showcasing the indigenous capability in cutting edge defence technologies.

The MBT Arjun Mk-1A has been designed and developed by Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE), along with other laboratories of the DRDO within two years (2010-12). The development activities commenced from June 2010 and the tank was fielded for user trials in June 2012.

It took only two years to develop and field the MBT Arjun Mk-1A for user trials from the user requirement. Extensive trial evaluation was conducted in various phases covering nearly 7,000 kms (both in the DRDO and user trials) of automotive and substantial firing of various ammunition during 2012-2015.





# LEADING THE WAY

CHRISTY VARGHESE talks with AKSHAT BHATT, the brains behind the novel, 'portable' Mohalla Clinics

When the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) rose to prominence and formed the Delhi government in 2015, building 1,000 clinics was one of its primary promises. However, acquiring land for the Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinics programme, in a congested Delhi, was one significant roadblock that came in the way of achieving such a promise. Only 500 Mohalla Clinics have been developed in the last six years, court- ing mixed reviews along the way.

While prestigious institutions such as the Stanford University, in its Social Innovation Review, and The Lancet, the renowned medical journal, expressed their appreciation at the Delhi government's move to offer free primary medical facilities through the neighbourhood clinics, there were others who criticised the capital territory's government for not being able to keep up with their pre-poll promises.

To address such criticism, and administer the services that fall within their purview as best as they can, the Delhi government announced last month that two new 'portable' Mohalla Clinics would be inaugurated shortly. And when these modular clinics were set up, in Shakur Basti and Rani Bagh, everyone had a lot of questions. The already innovative concept of Mohalla Clinics had received an ingenious twist — these were made out of what seemed like shipping containers at first glance, armed with air conditioning and other amenities.

Keeping aside the political shade of the event, while the government courted a lot of positive feedback for such an out-of-the-box initiative, little has been said about the brains behind this ingenuity. The clinic's design was developed by Architecture Discipline, a multi-disciplinary architectural practice founded

by Akshat Bhatt in 2007, and set up with the support of Tata Power-DDL. Based in New Delhi, Architecture Discipline used upcycled shipping containers to provide a compact, portable, and sleek twist to the concept of Mohalla Clinics.

Salvaged from various container yards in Delhi and Haryana, two 20-foot-long containers were joined together to form a single clinic that includes an examination room, a reception and waiting area, a pharmacy that is accessible from outside, and a washroom. The clinic is fully equipped to support routine health checks, testing, and medicine purchasing, as per the state's Health minister, Satender Jain. These new-age Mohalla Clinics aspire to provide an affordable, space-efficient, and high-quality model of healthcare to all neighbourhoods in Delhi, especially in dense residential clusters that are hard-pressed for space and have limited access to healthcare facilities.

When we called in on Bhatt, the principal architect at Architecture Discipline, he offered to walk us through the thought-process behind the designing of these new models of the mohalla clinic, and the facilities provided.

"We have been experimenting with the use of shipping containers as a building material for a long time now, in typologies ranging from hotels to workspaces. Our own studio has an extension created out of a

repurposed shipping container," shared Bhatt animatedly.

He explained that such experiences had made the firm fairly proficient in the art of converting repurposed shipping containers into high-quality, usable spaces.

"Ever since the pandemic hit, we have been exploring the potential of containers in creating healthcare facilities. We designed the Life Community Medical Facility (LifeCMF), a concept for a modular healthcare facility built out of shipping containers that was presented at the London Design Biennale 2021. The Mohalla Clinics which have come up at Shakur Basti and Rani Bagh are a scaled-down version of LifeCMF, drawing on its central ideas of prefabrication, rapid deployability, and economic feasibility," revealed Bhatt.

He pointed out that the clinics' interiors are oriented towards creating a hygienic and optimistic patient friendly environment, with air-conditioning that is fitted with anti-viral filters and insulated walls that protect visitors from Delhi's searing heat. Features such as the anti-microbial vinyl flooring and medical-grade stainless steel countertops are designed to be easy to maintain, he further shared.

"The clinic's design capitalises on the structural strength of a

discarded shipping container and works with it as a module, reducing the need for costly modifications or custom-built additions. In this manner, it redefines post-industrial waste as a medium for universal primary healthcare," observed Bhatt.

With respect to the design related process, Bhatt explained that what they had in mind was that the end product should be capable of relocation at short notice. "Bearing in mind the congestion in a city like Delhi, we designed something which could be quickly deployed. In case of any emergencies or urgent requirement of a clinic at a location, we can relocate these clinics at short notice. The typical Mohalla Clinic occupies an area of about 720 square feet, our rendition of the clinic has everything that features in a typical clinic, within 350 square feet. And we haven't achieved this in an haphazard manner, mind you. We have assigned dedicated spaces for doctor-patient interaction, waiting room etc while making allowances for acoustic comfort. Even though we toned it down to the bare-minimum, there are provisions for making the clinic disabled-friendly with a graded-ramp facility that can be installed. An ad-hoc ramp solution has also been built-in to each unit," he said, to our wide-eyed wonder.

With the steadily increasing population, are modular spaces here to stay? Or are such instances just another novelty that will be less relevant with time? Only time can tell. However, in the meanwhile, the new clinics are something that would be welcomed by all Delhiites.



## Strange times, novel solutions

RAJESH BHATIA shares some ways by which educators can counter the challenges posed by the pandemic

The education sector has been hit hard by the unexpected and unprecedented challenges posed by the ongoing pandemic. The biggest question has been how to address the absence of the chalk and talk model in education or do without the brick and mortar structures where young children once stepped in to experience the world outside their homes, for the first time? For preschoolers especially, not being able to step outside their homes to play and learn with peers has been hard because a big milestone from their lives has gone amiss in a blink.

As an educator, it is important to focus on the children. Here are some tips that helped teachers to transition from conventional teaching methods to virtual ones:

### Involve the kids instead of turning them into passive onlookers

When the kids participate in activities, whether in real or virtual classrooms, they feel more connected with the learning process. When they are encouraged to become the characters they are learning about, they take ownership of a lesson.

It is important to keep preschool kids engaged in particular, because their attention spans are very small. With aids like sound effects, dance sets, music, interactive games that engage all their faculties, children enjoy their lessons far more.

### Provide alternatives to screen time

When most of the education is being imparted virtually, it is important to give children a break from screen time. Giving them projects that involve creativity, the use of imagination, planting something, painting or building a scrapbook, completing a puzzle, learning a poem or a song, gives them the pleasure of exercising their faculties actively and energises them to come back to learn with renewed zest.

### Teach teachers to adapt to the new normal

Teaching during the pandemic is not something any educator was prepared for and adds wherever possible, teachers should update their skills to adapt to the new nor-



mal; be it with animated and interactive PowerPoints or the delivery of concepts in a new way.

### Enhance student-teacher interaction

What teachers and students miss the most is actual interaction with each other and this gap can be bridged innovatively with simultaneous experiments that teachers and students can conduct, apart from daily interactions.

We should encourage all students to answer questions in class and to approach teachers to solve their queries. It is absolutely important that all kids get opportunities to be heard, read aloud or recite a poem so that they develop confidence along with reading and speaking skills respectively.

Teachers must employ the scaffolding method where students are supported in such a way that they eventually learn to work independently, and this happens only with consistent communication.

### Celebrate life together

In an increasingly virtual world, children miss being part of festivities, functions and connecting with peers and schools are learning to create alternatives to even such experiences. We should encourage students and teachers to dress up, put up skits and share the essence of a festival together with music and dance.

(The author is an educator, as well as the founder and CEO of TreeHouse, a borderless online initiative for preschoolers.)



It goes without saying that travelling is fun. You get to explore new cities, meet people and try out different food cuisines — that's the idea of heaven for every travel nerd. But thanks to Covid-19, the tourism industry has taken a hit. The UN's World Tourism Organisation stated that export revenues from international tourism have registered a loss of \$ 935 billion. This amount is only going to go up, as several countries have still not opened their doors to foreigners. Amid the strict international travel restrictions in place, what can Indians do to satisfy their travel needs? Well, the safest bet is to travel within the country.

While many might consider heading to the beaches or opting for a road trip to the mountains, how about a lazy train ride? You get to relax, enjoy the view and spend quality time with your friends and family while on the move. Read on for five train journeys that are worth your time and money.

(The author is the co-founder and CEO of Confirmtkt, the official partner of IRCTC.)

### KALKA-SHIMLA TOY TRAIN

There are two reasons why people travel to Shimla — to capture the mesmerising view of the mountains and to enjoy the toy train ride. Built in 1903, the route is renowned for its engineering masterpiece, which covers 102 tunnels, 919 stunning curves and 864 bridges. The journey starts from Kalka, taking you through amazing views of the waterfalls, lush forests and rugged mountains. Till the time it reaches Shimla, you will be awestruck by the beauty of the city, which retains the title, 'Queen of hills'. This ride is so special that

## Feed your travel bug

DINESH KUMAR KOTHA points out five train journeys in India that will satiate your wanderlust



it is listed as a UNESCO site. Generally, five trains cover the distance between Kalka and Shimla — Shivalik Deluxe, Himalayan Queen, Rail Motor, Shimla Kalka passenger and Shimla Express, with the fare starting from ₹70.



### MANDOVI EXPRESS

Started in 1999, the Mandovi Express has been in service for over 21 years. It has been named after the Mandovi River, which is known as the lifeline of Goa. The train operates between Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus and Madgaon Junction, which is the primary railway station in Goa. The train covers 581 kms with an average journey time of 11 hr 50min and is known for its tasty food that includes a mixture of regional cuisines like Gujarati dabelis, methi vadas, soups, idli-vadas and more. With the help of comfortable seats, great hospitality and delicious food, your journey with Mandovi Express promises to deliver an enjoyable experience to the passengers, with the fares starting at ₹210.

### THE DECCAN ODYSSEY

If you want to feel like a true king, then the Deccan Odyssey is your way towards it. The train is built to mimic the traditions of the various royal-eras of Maharashtra. It operates between Delhi and Mumbai with 21 coaches. The entire train is stocked with top-of-the-range facilities like internet connectivity and air-conditioning, among other things, to provide optimum comfort to passengers. Once you get on the Deccan Odyssey by paying the minimum fare of ₹5,12,400, luxurious provisions like a well-stocked bar, multi-cuisine menu, conference cart and spa are sure to give you an unforgettable experience.



### GOLDEN CHARIOT

When people want to travel in style, they hop on the Golden Chariot. This train covers the territories of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu along with Pondicherry and Goa. Once inside, the passengers are greeted with alluring hospitality and bombarded with a 360-degree view of the age-old royal traditions. The decor of the train creates an elegant atmosphere, which makes the passing landscapes more magical. With a starting price of ₹3,355, passengers get the best of suites, dining experience, spa and more at their service.



### THE DARJEELING TOY TRAIN

Hopping aboard the Darjeeling toy train is an opportunity that one would rarely want to miss. It's recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site and rightly so. The train functions between New Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling with the help of a small steam engine. As most of the train components are close to 100 years old, it runs at a slow pace, allowing passengers to absorb the surrounding beauty of the hills. The toy train takes you through the villages and local



shops with children waving at you, a moment a photographer will cherish forever. By paying a minimum of ₹1,420, you can get the ride of your life and enjoy the view of Batasia Loop, covered in the lap of the hills.

## TRENDBLAZER



### FARAH'S ADVICE FOR SHAH RUKH KHAN

When Juhi Chawla shared a story of Shah Rukh Khan coming extremely late for a party, on *Zee Comedy Show*, FARAH KHAN shared what she had learnt in her time with the star.

"We all know that when we have a 9 am call time, Shah Rukh will come at 2 pm, and that's fine. However, when he suddenly turns up at 11 am, things go for a toss. I feel that if you are coming late, the least you can do is be consistently late," expressed Farah.

Juhi is all set to feature as the special guest during this weekend's episode of the *Zee Comedy Show*.

fairtalk  
PRATIK GANDHI



"While filming for the forthcoming film, *Bhava*, I received two phone calls which have changed my life forever. When we were shooting in Bhuj, I got a call from Hansal Mehta saying 'let us meet whenever you are back in Bombay', that's how *Scam 1992* happened. The other call came from my home to inform me about my dad's ill health and eventually, in six months, I lost him."

dailytalk  
TINA DESAI



"Since I started my career in cinema from scratch, I did not have much understanding on how to judge projects that come my way. My first film, *Yeh Faasley*, was a disaster but when I heard the script narration, I had found that story and my character very interesting. Eventually, I realised that it is not just about the story, it is about how well the idea is executed and how the film is made."

### 'CANCEL CULTURE IS OUT OF OUR HANDS'

Actor **JOHNNY DEPP** talked about 'cancel culture' and how social media can affect you.

Seen addressing the issues during a press conference at the San Sebastian Film Festival, Depp agreed that it is a "complex situation."

"It's so far out of hand now that I can promise you, no one is safe. Not one of you, as long as someone is willing to say one sentence. It takes just one sentence and the carpet has been pulled from under your feet," he shared, without divulging too much about his life.





# BON APPETITE

TANMAYA DAS finds that the fare at Dhansoo cafe in Gurgaon has interesting twists and riveting representations

The majority of millennials enjoy spending countless hours in a cosy, teeny-tiny café. I had an excellent reason to test the new Dhansoo café in Gurgaon because I had been travelling since the morning to explore the city. I'm sure it will be the next big thing for foodies as the place offers a wide range of delicacies with a *dhansoo* touch. The café was the nicest pick, thanks to its lovely lighting, and décor of gorgeous flora murals that complemented the vibe immensely, while the umbrella-shaped lighting added a romantic touch to the space. The wine glasses were hanging upside down in the mocktail section and the calm romantic music playing in the background flattered me. I could see families and friends gathering around to spend a wonderful time on the weekend. The place displayed a colourful array of Indian cuisine with intriguing names on the menu list. Despite the fact that the café was packed, I was able to secure a little table in the corner to escape the din. The exquisite décor of the café brought back memories of evenings that I used to spend with my friends. I decided to try a few Indian dishes

to break my train of thought about those lovely moments spent at my hometown. After a while, I was served with small *Podi idli*, along with refried kidney beans and smoked tomato chutney, I had a yearning for something spicy, and this dish satisfied that need. *Podi idli* presented with spicy tomato chutney gave a burning sensation, but the bland flavour of refried *rajma* balanced out the spicy taste. Being an ardent non-vegetarian, I do have a fascination for chicken kebabs too. I vividly recalled my college days when we ate chicken kebabs for almost a month before getting sick of them. However, the next item on my list was to try

*Dhansoo corn seekh kebab*, as the name suggested distinctiveness. The dish was presented with mint chutney and *varqui* paratha along with masala onion. As I took a bite of the *seekh* kebab with mint chutney, it tasted little savoury, appealing to my tastebuds to the fullest. A delightful mocktail with

detoxifying advantages of fresh kiwi and cucumber, along with jalapenos, mint springs, and coriander leaves was brought aside the corn *seekh* kebab. I sipped the drink carelessly, enjoying the combination of sweetness and tartness entirely throughout the meal. Nonetheless, some of my South

Indian acquaintances recommended that I must try *chettinad* paneer someday. While perusing the menu, I discovered *Chettinad pulled chicken*, which described the ingredients like a shredded chicken with *idiyappam* and gunpowder. It reminded me of my friend's suggestion and I ordered the dish right away. As I took a bite, I opted not to eat any more since it was extremely spicy and hot, which I was not aware of beforehand. Thankfully, *Kaala jadoo* came to the rescue and soothed my tastebuds immediately. The amazing combination of activated charcoal detox juice with sweet lime helped me to relax for a while with a chill sensation on my tongue. The corporate chef Ashish offered *Pallet dlinger* that came on the house gracefully. I loved how the drink was presented in two miniature bottles with a small leaf marked on each of them, which gave it a cute appearance on the table. My taste buds were sweetened to the core by the lovely pink strawberry syrup and I happily finished the entire drink. Out of all dishes, my personal favourite was the *British paneer butter masala* (I always have a soft corner for paneer butter masala, honestly), which had a fantastic balanced flavour of all masalas. The creamy soft gravy had a sweet taste of tomato and butter, and the soft paneer was great and worth trying again. Finally, *Yaddan ki churri* was served with *kalakand* and *rabri* was the last dish for the day. The sweetness of *rabri* appealed to me, the pleasant taste mesmerised my soul. As I went out of the café, more people came in, and the place got busy and lively in the evening. All of the customers were greeted with a humble nod from the employees. I could see the staff preoccupied while serving the best cuisine to their customers, making them contented. The courteous workers greeted me with a sincere smile and insisted on seeing me again as I was leaving, it was indeed a pleasant evening.

## Partying on the health bandwagon

JYOTI DABAS shares five secrets and tricks to socialising while sticking to your health goals



Do you feel your health goals derail every time you socialise with your relatives and friends? Worried that you might overeat or drink too much and fall off the bandwagon? Or do you cancel all your social invites so you don't lose your progress?

Well, look no further, we have got you covered. Going out with friends, family or for social events no longer needs to be stressful, daunting or a full-of-guilt affair anymore. You can bake your cake and eat it too! All you have to do is keep the following five guidelines in mind which will help you stay on track:

### Remember the ½ and ¼ rule

While going out is fun and you should enjoy yourself and eat what you desire to, there is an easy way to ensure you do not overdo on calories. To begin with, make sure that you fill up half your plate with vegetables. These could be low calorie vegetables, which means those that are high in fibre or water content. Of course, you need a balanced meal, so add lean proteins such as chicken, fish, or paneer to fill quarter of your plate. And last but not least, fill the remainder of your plate with carbohydrates such as rice or lentils. This can be a good guideline if you want to have an overall low-calorie meal.

### Everything in moderation is fine

Want to eat that burger, pizza or slice of cake? Go ahead! A few bites will not derail you from achieving your health goals. In fact, depriving yourself from food often leads to binge-sessions. You might end up consuming three-fold or four-fold of the calories in comparison to just a few bites. When you are eating your favourite high calorie food, make sure you slow down your eating – savor the taste, texture and make every bite last. Now all you have to do is ensure you balance the remainder of your meal with nutritious food items.

### Starving yourself before going out might not be a good idea

You could not be more wrong to think that you will adjust the calories by starving yourself or eating



light during the day for your night-out. On the contrary, arriving hungry to a party or a dinner will lead you to make poor food choices such as snacking on fried foods, peanuts, and so on. Instead, according to the 'quantified nutrition' methodology, spread the excess calories in a structured manner over the next three to four days.

### Enjoy the occasion

It can be stressful to go out and keep worrying about your calorie intake and the food you are consuming. But remind yourself that you are outside to enjoy yourself so, go have fun! Forget the food, strike a conversation with your friends, dance, play a game and simply enjoy the moment and the company you are in.

### Watch out for alcohol-based or carbonated/sugary drinks

Calories from alcohol, mixers and accompanying food can quickly add up. Ideally, alcohol is never advisable but for some, it is an inevitable part of enjoying the occasion. The best thing is to be aware and choose your drinks and mixers wisely. Cocktails can be the worst offenders while food that goes along with the drinks pile up the calories. There are some great alternatives including infused water or low calorie drinks that have negligible calories. Keep hydrated and enjoy your time out without fussing about ruining your progress.

You no longer have to be a hermit when it comes to accepting social invites. Needless to say, do not overdo it if you are serious about seeing progress. Keep these guidelines handy and remember to plan well in advance. You are now well equipped with the above tips which will allow you to have a fun and stress-free night-out.

(The author is the co-founder and CEO of Institute of Nutrition and Fitness Sciences (INFS).)

Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) or Polycystic ovarian disease (PCOD) is a hormonal imbalance disorder. As per the results of a recent country-wide survey, close to 16 per cent women in the age-group of 20 to 29 years suffer from PCOS/PCOD. It is typically earmarked by irregular periods or by no menstruation at all. In this condition, women typically have multiple cysts in their ovaries that are caused by an overproduction of hormones called androgens. As a result, many are overweight and develop associated complications. Lifestyle changes and dietary modifications can play a major role in dealing with this hormonal disorder and in losing weight. If the symptoms are not controlled, the risk for heart disease, Endometrial cancer, Type 2 diabetes (T2D), and high blood pressure increases. It affects the woman's fertility and can cause complications during pregnancy. Many women with PCOS or PCOD have been able to manage their symptoms and

## Battling with PCOS/PCOD

ROHIT SHELATKAR suggests superfoods to fight hormonal imbalance

reduce the risk of associated medical issues by modifying their diet and lifestyle choices. These simple lifestyle tweaks can improve your overall health while reducing the anxiety that can significantly impact one's ability to conceive.

Here are some superfoods for PCOS/PCOD women should include as a part of their diet:

### Leafy greens

Women must include at least one-two servings of nutritious leafy green vegetables in their diets. Not only are these healthy, but they are also rich in vitamin B. It is an important nutrient that supports fertility by regulating ovulation, insulin control, and regular



ising blood flow in the body. Hence, a high intake of vitamin B can help in managing the symptoms associated with PCOS.

It is an important nutrient that can help in correcting hormonal imbalances. Certain fishes like salmon and sardine are rich in omega-3. It also helps to control stress levels and

reduce inflammation that may cause uncontrolled weight gain. If these fishes are not available, fish oil supplements can be taken. Vegetarians can opt for flax seeds or walnuts with yoghurt or smoothies.

### Omega-3

These nutrient-dense chickpeas, beans, lentils, peas, and soybeans are loaded with fibre and protein with zero cholesterol. Legumes are beneficial for diabetes manage-

ment because of their low glycemic index, which leads to a low rise in blood sugar after consumption. Additionally, they are also rich in proteins and can be taken by themselves, as a side dish with salads, wraps, or tacos.

### Berries

Berries are extremely beneficial for patients with PCOS as they are filled with antioxidants that may help reduce oxidative stress. Berries contain polyphenols, which have been shown to help in the management of weight, diabetes, and indigestion. A mix of strawberries, blueberries can be consumed with yoghurt for additional benefits.

### Oats

These contain soluble and insoluble fibres that slow down the absorption of fat and sugars in the body. Oats also contain vitamin B which helps in increasing the production of progesterone hormone. The zinc in oats can benefit hair growth while reversing PCOS.

A healthy diet helps to reduce the risk or impact of heart disease. Women who follow a low-carbohydrate or a low-GI diet have improved insulin metabolism and lower cholesterol levels.

Weight loss or weight management will help to manage the side effects of PCOS. In addition, women with PCOS/PCOD must seek medical advice, especially if they are taking fertility supplements to compensate for the nutrients missing from their daily diet. Women dealing with PCOS/PCOD often find it challenging to keep stress at bay. But long-term stress can have a negative impact on hormones and fertility. However, there are multiple researches that show a link between high stress and infertility. High levels of stress trigger the release of the hormone, cortisol. To more effectively manage stress, affected women can practice meditation, exercise, yoga, or try counselling. (The author is a fitness expert and the VP at Vitabiotics.)



### PEPPER CIGAR ROLL

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Spring roll sheet: 3
- Red capsicum: 10 gm
- Green capsicum: 10 gm
- Yellow capsicum: 10 gm
- American corn: 5 gm
- Black pepper: 1 gm
- Broth powder: 2 gm
- Maggi seasoning: 1 gm
- Garlic: 10 gm

#### METHOD

- Take all the ingredients and toss them together.
- Use the sheets of spring roll and put the mixture into them. Roll and place them in a fryer.
- Lastly, serve with sweet chili mayo in shot glasses to make them look more appealing and presentable.

Courtesy: Corporate Chef Kapil at The Western Village

### OATS IDLI

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Oats/rolled oats: 1 ½
- Olive/groundnut oil: 3 tsp
- Mustard: 1 tsp
- Urad dal: ¼ tsp
- Chana dal: 1 tsp
- Cumin: ½ tsp
- Curry leaves: 2-3
- Ginger paste: ½ tsp
- Chilli (finely chopped): 2
- Carrot (grated): 1
- Turmeric: ¼ tsp
- Curd/yoghurt: ½ cup
- Water: 1 cup
- Coriander (finely chopped): 2 tbsp
- Salt: ¾ tsp
- Eno fruit salt: ½ tsp



### JUNGLE FISH

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Salmon: 200 gm
- Mushroom: 100 gm
- Asparagus: 25 gm
- Avocado: 20 gm
- Butter: 10 gm
- Salt
- Pepper
- Lemon
- Coriander
- Green chili
- Garlic

#### METHOD

- Take the salmon and wash the fillet pieces properly. Use a paper towel or clean kitchen towel to pat each fillet dry on the top and bottom to prevent them from sticking to the pan. Rub salt, pepper and lemon juice all over the fillet pieces.
- Place over medium-high heat and let the pan heat up for a couple minutes.
- Add and spread the butter



## R E C I P E S

### METHOD

- In a *kadhai*, heat the oil and splutter mustard, *urad* dal, chana dal, cumin and few curry leaves.
- Add ginger paste and chillies. Sauté slightly.
- Further, add a carrot and turmeric and sauté for 2 minutes.
- Now add the oats and roast on low flame until it turns aromatic.
- Transfer the mixture and allow it to cool completely.
- Add curd and water. Mix well, while making sure there are no lumps.
- Further add coriander, salt and water. Mix well, making sure to form an idli batter consistency.
- Let the batter rest for 20 minutes or until the oats absorb water.
- Just before steaming, add Eno fruit salt and mix well. Steam the oats idli for 15 minutes on medium flame.
- Remove it from the steamer and serve.

Courtesy: Aakriti Arora

### VARHADI RASSA FROM VIDARBHA

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Carrots: 100 gm
- Beans: 100 gm
- Potatoes: 100 gm
- Cabbage: 150 gm
- Onions: 2
- Tomatoes (pureed): 2
- Coriander leaves: 1 handful
- Mint leaves: 1 handful
- Green chilly (chopped): 3
- Ginger garlic paste: 3 tsp
- Garam masala: 2 tsp
- Coriander powder: 1 tsp
- Red chilli powder: 2 tsp
- Turmeric powder: 1 tsp
- Mustard seeds: 1 tsp
- Cinnamon: 1 inch
- Bay leaf: 1
- Grated coconut: 6 tsp



- Godrej groundnut oil: 2 tbsp
- Salt as per taste

#### METHOD

- Dry-roast coconut and onion together and grind them to smooth paste with coriander and mint leaves.
- Heat oil and add mustard seeds,

bay leaf, and cinnamon stick.

- Add green chilli and mix well.
- Then, add ginger garlic paste and sauté for a minute.
- Further, add onion and coconut paste and saute till it is golden brown.
- Add fresh tomato puree and cook well.
- After that, add salt, turmeric and red chilli powder and coriander powder.
- Wash, clean and cut all the vegetables in small cubes and boil them separately.
- Add the above in the gravy. Mix it well and cook for 20 to 30 minutes.
- Add garam masala and water as per requirement. Bring it to a boil and garnish with coriander leaves.
- Serve hot with steamed rice.

Courtesy: Godrej Vikhroli Cucina

for thinner fillets.

- In the same pan put mushroom, asparagus and garlic. Add salt, pepper and lemon juice and fry it till it's properly cooked
- In a blender, make avocado sauce with coriander, green chili, garlic, lemon juice and salt.
- Put the vegetables and fish on a plate along with avocado sauce and enjoy.

Courtesy: Chirag Barjatya



# RCB seek return to winning ways against CSK

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Star-studded Royal Challengers Bangalore would look to shrug off the crushing defeat in the previous outing and get their mojo back when they take on Mahendra Singh Dhoni's resilient Chennai Super Kings in an Indian Premier League (IPL) match, here on Friday.

While RCB will look to start afresh, CSK got a confidence-boosting 20-run win against defending champions Mumbai Indians on Sunday night. It is imperative for RCB to improve upon their batting as they seek to keep their place in the top half of the points table. It will be important that the openers -- Devdutt Padikkal (217 runs) and skipper Virat Kohli (203 runs) -- provide a solid start. But the opening duo would also need support from the middle-order, which crumbled against Kolkata Knight Riders.

The likes of Glenn Maxwell (233 runs) and AB de Villiers (207 runs) will have to perform in unison against a strong CSK attack. Australian Maxwell did justify his high price tag during the first leg, becoming the side's top scorer. He would be raring to go once again as will the ever-reliant De Villiers.

CSK could have suffered the reversal in their tie against Mumbai had it not been for youngster Ruturaj Gaikwad's mature unbeaten knock of 88 off 58 balls.

The team's leading run-getter Faf du Plessis (320 runs), Moeen



Ali were out for ducks while Ambati Rayudu was retired hurt on nought. Veterans Suresh Raina and Dhoni also failed to reach double digit scores and the side was reeling at 24 for 4. But Gaikwad was not ruffled and kept

his calm, steering the three-time champions to a respectable 156 for 6. He stitched crucial partnerships with all-rounders Ravindra Jadeja and Dwayne Bravo, who smashed 23 runs off eight deliveries, taking the team over the 150-run mark.

Defending a modest total, CSK showed immense resilience as the bowlers led by pacer Deepak Chahar and Dwayne Bravo handed the "Yellow Army" their sixth win of the season.

A win on Friday will take

them back to the top of the table. CSK will also have the option to choose young England all-rounder Sam Curran, who had been one of the breakout stars of last year's IPL, shining with both the bat and the ball.

## I respect team's decision to let Pant stay as captain: Iyer

PTI ■ DUBAI

Shreyas Iyer says he relished captaining the Delhi Capitals in the IPL but completely respects the team management's decision to let Rishabh Pant stay as leader of the pack till the end of the 2021 season.

Iyer had led the Capitals to the summit clash of the 2020 season but he missed the first phase of this year's season due to a shoulder injury and the management asked Pant to captain the side.

The 26-year-old returned to the side before IPL's resumption after the COVID-19 forced break but the Capitals chose not to change the leader again, keeping Pant in the captain's chair.

The young Mumbai batsman, who hit a blistering 47 in team's win on Wednesday night, said he understands team's policy and has no complaints.

"When I was given the captaincy, I was in a different frame of mind and my decision-making and temperament level was very good and I benefited from it in the last two years," Iyer said at the post-match press conference.

"This is part of the decision-making from the franchise or whatever decision they took, I respect the fact and Rishabh is leading the side well from the start of the season and they thought that he should be continued till the season end and I completely respect the decision," he added.

The 26-year-old said he continues to enjoy the pressure situation as he thrives in such circumstances.



"And no drastic change has come that my focus has increased in batting. When I was captain, I like to soak in the pressure, when there is pressure, there are more challenges and, in such situations, I perform, that is my mind-set.

"Even today (Wednesday) when I went in, there was pressure to win the game. The wicket was playing uneven, so the mind-set is the same that being a main part of the team, you have to finish the match and whenever I play, my mindset is that I play till the last ball and see to it that I make the team win."

The aggressive batsman it is a "really good feeling" to contribute in team's win in his first match post comeback.

"I wouldn't say that I'm satisfied because the hunger has just gone up and the appetite keeps on increasing every match you play, so yeah, not satisfied or not contained," he said after DC demolished Sunrisers Hyderabad by eight wickets.

## Rahul, Venkatesh script KKR's win



PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Rahul Tripathi and Venkatesh Iyer starred as Kolkata Knight Riders produced a clinical performance for the second successive game since the Indian Premier League's resumption to beat Mumbai Indians by seven wickets and enter the top four in the points table in Abu Dhabi on Thursday.

Iyer (53 off 30), playing his second IPL game, displayed a wide range of his strokes alongside Rahul Tripathi (74 not out off 42) to help KKR to MI's modest total of 155/6 with as many as 29 balls to spare.

Quinton de Kock struck an entertaining 55 for MI before KKR bowlers bounced back in the last 10 overs, conceding 75 runs and taking five wickets.

Shubman Gill and Iyer gave KKR another flying start with the first two overs bowled

by Trent Boult and Adam Milne going for 15 runs each.

Gill flicked Boult for a delightful six while Iyer pulled the New Zealand pace spearhead to set the tone for the rest of the innings.

While Jasprit Bumrah rattled Gill's stumps in the third over, Iyer went on to play a fine knock comprising four boundaries and three sixes.

Iyer and Tripathi shared an 88-run stand for the second wicket which completely shut the door on MI, who suffered their second loss since IPL's resumption.

Earlier, Mumbai Indians set up the target of 156 runs with skipper Rohit Sharma scoring 33 off 30 balls, in the process he completed 1000 runs against KKR.

All-rounder Hardik Pandya did not start once again, raising questions about his fitness.

## Army Red withdraws from quarterfinal due to Covid

FIANS ■ KOLKATA

The Durand Cup quarter-final match between Army Red and FC Bengaluru United (FCBU), scheduled for Friday at the Kalyani stadium, has been called off after a Army Red player tested positive for Covid-19 virus on Thursday.

As the player had come into contact with other teammates during Thursday's training session, the Army Red squad decided to withdraw from the tournament as a result and



FCBU received a bye into the semi-finals.

All decisions have been taken, keeping in mind the health and safety of players and officials primarily and the continuity and success of the tournament, the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) of 130th Durand Cup informed in a release on Thursday.

It is learned that one player of Army Red tested positive in the mandatory Rapid Antigen Test conducted in the morning. He was asymptomatic while the

other players have tested negative.

The organising committee has decided to go ahead with other matches as they are being held at other venues and there has not been any contact between the players since the last Covid test which had come negative for the said player.

Meanwhile, the LOC has also decided to shift the quarter-final match between FC Goa and Delhi FC from the Mohun Bagan ground to the Kalyani Stadium because of heavy rains in Kolkata.

## Odisha to host Men's Junior Hockey WC

FIANS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha will host the International Hockey Federation's (FIH) Men's Junior Hockey World Cup from November 24 to December 5 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced on Thursday.

Addressing a special event organised here for this purpose, Patnaik said that recently the Hockey India had approached the state government to support it for the Men's Junior Hockey World Cup, which is to be held in two months' time.

"It is a short notice for making arrangements for such an event, especially during the pandemic period. But since the country's prestige is at stake, we readily agreed to support," he



said. Stating that the junior India team had won the last hockey World Cup, he said, "As a defending champion, I am sure that our team will emerge victorious again on home turf." The Chief Minister further said that hockey has a special place in the minds of the people of Odisha and hockey players from the state have led the country in many international tournaments.

## Paralympics bronze winner Sharad diagnosed with heart inflammation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tokyo Paralympics bronze medal-winning high jumper Sharad Kumar has been diagnosed with heart inflammation and has undergone a few more tests, reports of which are still awaited.

Kumar, who won a bronze in the T-42 high jump event in the Tokyo Paralympics on August 31, was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) after experiencing chest congestion last week.

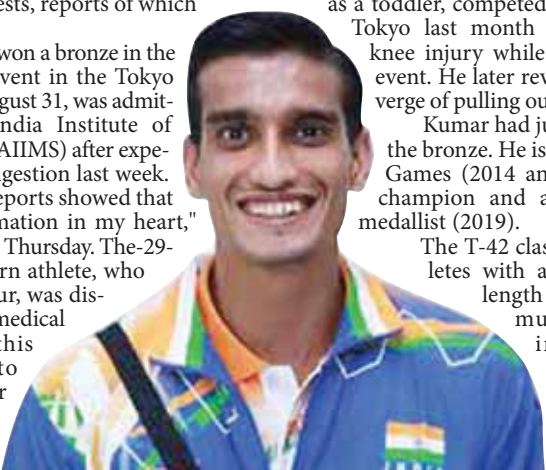
"The earlier reports showed that I have an inflammation in my heart," Kumar told PTI on Thursday. The 29-year-old Patna-born athlete, who stays in Chhatrapur, was discharged from the medical facility earlier this week but had to come back for some more tests.

"I have come

back here for more tests. Since I live just 10 minutes away, I had asked the hospital authorities to allow me to go home," he added.

Kumar, whose left leg was paralysed after he was administered a spurious polio vaccine as a toddler, competed in the T-42 final in Tokyo last month despite suffering a knee injury while training before his event. He later revealed he was on the verge of pulling out of the competition. Kumar had jumped 1.83m to win the bronze. He is a double Asian Para Games (2014 and 2018) high jump champion and also a world silver medallist (2019).

The T-42 classification is for athletes with a leg deficiency, leg length difference, impaired muscle power or impaired passive range of movement in the legs. The athletes compete in a standing position.



## HC asks Centre to conduct inquiry into allegations against TT body

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday stayed the Table Tennis Federation of India's mandate on compulsory attendance at the National Coaching Camp in order to be selected for any upcoming international event and asked the Centre to conduct an inquiry into



Manika Batra's complaint against the sports body. Justice Rekha Palli further said that if warranted, the Union Sports Ministry may look into the affairs of the TTFI as well. Justice Palli was hearing a plea by Batra who was left out of the Indian contingent for the upcoming Asian Table Tennis Championships and has alleged that the national coach Soumyadeep Roy "pressurized" her to "throw away" an Olympic qualifier match in favour of one of his personal trainees.

The judge said the rule mandating compulsory attendance at the national camp has been enforced "at a point when there was a complaint pending against the national coach" and the same "does not inspire confidence". "They are overreaching the court. I will issue a notice of contempt. I pass an order and you appoint a new person. This is shocking... I am expressing my anguish," the judge stated. "I am of the view that the operation of the rule is required to the stayed till the next date of hearing. Respondent no. 2 (Sports Ministry)...Is itself inclined to hold an inquiry into the serious allegations by the petitioner. There is no reason why respondent no 1 (federation) should continue with its rule," she ordered.

## La Liga: Asensio, Benzema star as Real beat Mallorca 6-1

FIANS ■ MADRID

Marco Asensio scored a hat-trick and Karim Benzema struck a brace of goals as Real Madrid soared on their goal-scoring prowess to thrash Mallorca 6-1 and rose to the top of the table in the Spanish La Liga.

Asensio scored in the 24th, 29th, and 55th minute while Benzema struck in the third and 78th minute as Real Madrid produced another goal-fest for the Santiago Bernabeu faithful. Isco scored the sixth goal in the 82nd minute while Lee Kang-In got the

lone goal for Mallorca in the 25th minute.

The game was a lively affair and played at a high intensity throughout. The Real got off to an electrifying start when Benzema latched onto a missed controlled ball by Gaya and fired it past goalkeeper Manolo Reina to net his seventh goal of the league campaign after with just three minutes on the clock. In the 7th minute, the hosts almost doubled their lead when Marco Asensio's in-swinging corner kick was cleared off the line by the defence.

The visiting goalkeeper Reina was once again beaten in the 229th minute. Rodrygo picked up the ball inside the box with his back to goal, turned, and crossed. The ball deflected off both Valjent and Reina falling kindly for Asensio who slammed in the rebound for his first goal of the evening.

Mallorca's response was immediate, as Lee Kang-In produced a fine piece of individual skills before curling the ball superbly past Thibaut Courtois.

Real took control after Mallorca reduced the margin.



The game was an end-to-end affair, Benzema linked up with Asensio after 29 minutes, his superb control and finish saw him dispatch the ball expertly past

Reina. The Balearic midfielder doubled his tally and could have made it three seven minutes later. Vinicius Jr. delivered to the far post, Benzema got on the end of it and headed towards the penalty spot where Valjent was on hand to clear Asensio's effort off the line as the team went for half-time with Real leading 3-1.

The intensity did not let up after the break and Real Madrid came close to the fourth goal on two separate occasions. Firstly, Benzema played the ball into the path of Vinicius Jr but his spectacular left-footed cut-back to his

marker in the 48th minute was kept out by Reina. Rodrygo then picked up the ball in his own half, raced past Battaglia, and delivered a perfect ball for Benzema to head home. However, the goal was ruled out by the referee after he spotted a foul by the striker.

Real could not be denied for long and the Los Blancos' fourth goal came in the 55th minute courtesy of a superb effort by Asensio, who received the ball on the edge of the area before firing in a left-footed shot that Reina could do nothing about.

## Natarajan's positive COVID-19 test did not impact game: Bayliss

PTI ■ DUBAI

Sunrisers Hyderabad head coach Trevor Bayliss has asserted that their pacer T Natarajan's positive COVID-19 result did not impact their performance against Delhi Capitals on Wednesday since all the players are used to last-minute setbacks.

The game went ahead after other members of SRH squad tested negative but Delhi Capitals cruised to an eight-wicket win with 13 balls to spare.

"I don't think that would have



affected the result of the match. They played way too well for us tonight. It was a little bit of an upset," Bayliss said at the post-match press conference.

"Natarajan was going to play, but these guys are professional players. Every now and then, there's an injury just before play and you have got to make a late replacement. So, I am sure all of the players are, in a way, used to that. But we hope Nattu (Natarajan) gets over it pretty quickly and we can move on," added Bayliss.

The Sunrisers Hyderabad coach said Delhi Capitals' world-class tall pacers used the wicket pretty well and deserve the credit for scripting their team's victory.

"Give Delhi the credit. They bowled particularly well. They have got some world-class bowlers and upfront some world-class very fast bowlers, so they had a good day. We didn't have such a good day and that's the game of cricket,"

"Their bowlers upfront bowled exceedingly well. A lot of pace and used the wicket well with cutters, with the ball just holding in the wicket little bit and jumping up a little-bit, those tall fast bowlers took full advantage of it."

## Women's European Championship cash doubles, vast gender gulf

AP ■ NYON

UEFA has doubled prize money for the Women's European Championship while maintaining vast disparities with the cash distributed for men's tournaments. The 16 teams in the women's competition next year will share 16 million euros (\$19 million), while 4.5 million euros (\$5 million) will go to clubs who release their players. The 24 teams at the men's European

Championship shared 371 million euros (\$435 million) in UEFA prize money this year, but clubs were also guaranteed at least 200 million euros (\$235 million) for the release of players. UEFA said it was "ensuring that more money than ever before is distributed across the women's game."

The Women's European Championship is being hosted by England next July after being delayed by a year due to the pandemic.