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SIDDIQUI GETS
NOMINATED
FOR AN EMMY
12 VIVACITYYogi balances caste
equation in CabinetAhead of polls
CM inducts 3
OBCs, 2 Dalits, 1
ST & 1 Brahmin

PREETAM SRIVASTAVA ■ LUCKNOW

In a move to balance the caste equation in his Ministry ahead of next year's Assembly election, Uttar Pradesh (UP) Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expanded his Cabinet on Sunday by inducting seven new faces, which included three OBCs, two Dalits, one ST and one Brahmin.

Itin Prasada (Brahmin), Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar (Kurmi), Paltu Ram (Dalit), Sangita Balwant Bind (OBC), Sanjeev Kumar (ST), Dinesh Khatik (SC) and Dharmvir Prajapati (OBC) were inducted into the Cabinet at a simple ceremony.

Itin took oath as Cabinet Minister while the others were sworn-in as Minister of State (MoS). The oath was administered by Governor Anandiben Patel at a function in the Raj Bhavan.

There were 53 Ministers in



Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with newly sworn-in State Ministers during expansion of the Cabinet ahead of the UP Assembly elections in Lucknow on Sunday

the UP Cabinet earlier and seven more were inducted on Sunday as per the constitutional limit, out of which there are now 24 Cabinet Ministers including the Chief Minister.

The Cabinet was expanded for the first time on August 22, 2019 and several new faces were included then, while some

were dropped. There were 56 members in the Cabinet at that time.

Three Ministers died due to Covid-19, which included the Minister of State Vijay Kumar Kashyap, who died recently, while Minister Chetan Chauhan and Minister Kamal Rani Varun died in the first

wave of the corona pandemic.

Brahmin leader Prasada had been inducted into the BJP earlier this year amid its internal worries about the thin representation of the community in the party. He was made a Cabinet Minister in the Yogi Government.

A younger Cabinet
takes shape in Punjab

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

The old order came to an end in the Punjab Congress with the induction of young and new faces into the Cabinet in an apparent attempt to infuse enthusiasm and youth in the party, just about three months before elections, while ensuring a social, caste and regional balance. Six days after he took over the party reins amid a changed political situation, Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Sunday introduced his 15-member Council of Ministers, inducting seven new faces while retaining eight from the previous Cabinet. However, the re-entry of Rana Gurjit Singh, who stepped down following his alleged involvement in a mining scam less a year after becoming the Minister in 2018, has attracted a lot of criticism, not only from rivals but from within the party also.

The new Cabinet, formed with the approval of the party high command, especially Rahul Gandhi, has three below-50 Ministers — indicating the party's effort to bring in a generational shift by giving the youth a chance to perform with just about three months in hand. Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, 43, is the youngest Minister in the Channi Cabinet, while 78-year-old Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa is the oldest.

While constituting the



Punjab's Governor Banwarilal Purohit administers oath to Rana Gurjit Singh during the oath-taking ceremony of Punjab Cabinet Ministers on Sunday PTI

Cabinet, which took about three days of hectic deliberations with the high command and Channi's back-to-back trips to the national Capital, special attention has been paid to strike a balance between all castes, sections, and regions. Besides, an attempt has been made to placate the legislators close to the former Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh, while also paying off for the loyalty to the party.

In all, eight of the 15 Ministers, who took oath of office on Sunday, were retained by Channi, including Brahm Mohindra, Manpreet Singh Badal, Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, Sukhbind Singh Sarkaria, Aruna Chaudary, Razia Sultana, Bharat Bhushan Ashu, and Vijay Inder Singla. Six are the first timers — Randeep Singh Nabha, Raj Kumar Verka, Sangat Singh Gilzian, Pargat Singh, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, and Gurkirat Singh Kotli; while one Rana Gurjit Singh, who stepped down in

2018, made a re-entry.

Brahm Mohindra, a prominent Hindu, is the senior-most leader of the Punjab Congress.

Four-time MLA Nabha, popularly known as Kaka, was finally placated by the high command by dropping the name of Punjab Congress working president Kuljit Singh Nagra at the eleventh hour "without any opposition".

It has been learnt that the Raj Bhawan has to issue an ultimatum to the Punjab Government to share the list of the MLAs to be sworn-in.

Five Ministers — Rana Gurmeet Singh Sodhi, Balbir Singh Sidhu, Gurpreet Singh Kangar, Sadhu Singh Dharamsot, and Sunder Sham Arora — who all supported Captain Amarinder during the political turmoil that led to his dethroning, have been dropped.

The induction of Kotli, grandson of former Chief Minister Beant Singh, was opposed by the Opposition par-

Channi tries to
infuse youth,
caste balance
in State Cong

ties — Shiromani Akali Dal and the Aam Aadmi Party. He had faced trial in the 1994 case of abduction and molestation of a French tourist, but was acquitted in 1999.

Besides, seven senior party leaders from Doaba, including six legislators, have met Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu hours ahead of the swearing-in ceremony, strongly opposing Rana Gurjit's "proposed inclusion". In a letter written to Sidhu, they said: "We all request you to immediately drop Rana Gurjit Singh from the Cabinet expansion and instead include a clean Dalit face in view of the upcoming election."

Other than Channi, the new Cabinet also has Verka from the Scheduled Caste community — apparently to woo the estimated 31 per cent of vote bank in the State. While taking oath, Verka changed the wordings of his "oath" and referred to the Constitution as the one "drafted by BR Ambedkar".

Among the seven new faces, five are Jats, one an OBC, and another a Valmiki. However, Mazhabi Sikh MLAs have been left out of the Cabinet.

Questions were also raised on giving six Ministers from Doaba region, while ignoring Western Malwa region which is the epicentre of active politics having the Badals and the Aam Aadmi Party's presence.

Support for 10-hour
Bharat bandh growsProtest by farmers
to mark first anniv
of three farm laws

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Support has grown for the 10-hour Bharat bandh call given by farmers on Monday to mark the first anniversary of the three controversial farm laws getting Presidential assent.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella union of the farmers who are protesting, has appealed to the people of the country to join their nationwide strike. Public transport is likely to be affected in some States.

The Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party, Trinamool Congress, Rashtriya Janata Dal, Samajwadi Party, Rashtriya Lok Dal, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led Andhra Pradesh



Farmers lie in pits during a protest against farm laws in Ghaziabad on Sunday PTI

Government, MK Stalin led Tamil Nadu Government and P Vijayan Government of Kerala have backed the bandh call.

Kerala's ruling LDF has called for a State-wide hartal on September 27 to express solidarity with the farmers. And the Left parties have already extended support to the Bharat Bandh earlier.

'Don't confuse border mgmt
with fixing boundary issues'Indian envoy
tells China not
to shift goalposts

PTI ■ BEIJING

India has told China not to "shift goalposts" and "confuse" managing the border affairs and restoring peace at the frontiers with the larger issue of the resolution of the boundary question, which is dealt with by different designated mechanisms.

After the standoff erupted in eastern Ladakh in May last year, India has consistently maintained that peace and tranquillity in the border areas are essential for the overall development of relations between the two countries.

Besides being neighbours, India and China are also large and emerging economies and "it is not unusual to have differences and problems", Indian envoy to China Vikram Misri said while addressing the 4th High-level Track II Dialogue



on China-India Relations held on September 23.

"The key question is how to deal with them and ensure that outcomes are informed by reasonableness, maturity and respect for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity along our frontiers," Misri said.

Besides Misri, China's Ambassador to India Sun Weidong also participated in the meeting.

Referring to "multi-faceted dialogue" held by the two countries since last year, including several rounds of talks between the top military officials on both sides and the meetings between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi to resolve the military standoff in Eastern Ladakh, Misri said: "These contacts have resulted in significant

progress on the ground."

"Following disengagement in the Galwan Valley in July last year, the two sides have been able to disengage from the North and South Banks of the Pangong Lake in February 2021, and most recently from Gogra in August 2021," he said.

"The conversation between the two sides continues regarding the remaining locations and we hope that disengagement at the remaining friction areas will enable us to reach a point where we can pick up the threads of bilateral cooperation," he said.

"The experience of this multi-faceted dialogue over the last year and a half leads me to believe that we are well-equipped when it comes to resolving pressing issues in the bilateral relationship," he said.

"Our leaders have in the past concurred that we must work out issues peacefully, prevent differences from turning into disputes and, most importantly, preserve peace and tranquillity in our border areas," he said.

Govt to intensify anti-Naxal
ops, choke flow of fundsAmit Shah holds
meeting with CMs
of Naxal-hit States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The high-level meeting convened by Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Chief Ministers of Naxal-affected States on Sunday decided to intensify the anti-Naxal operations and chocking the flow of funds to them.

The three-hour-long meeting with Chief Ministers from six States and top officials of four States also discussed actions to be taken against the frontal organisations of the Maoists, filling up the security vacuum, concerted action by the Enforcement Directorate, the National Investigation Agency and the State police.

The Chief Ministers who attended the meeting were Naveen Patnaik (Odisha), K Chandrashekar Rao (Telangana), Nitish Kumar (Bihar), Shivraj Singh Chouhan



Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrives to chair a high-level meeting with Chief Ministers of ten Naxal-hit States, at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Sunday PTI

(Madhya Pradesh), Uddhav Thackeray (Maharashtra) and Hemant Soren (Jharkhand), official sources said.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Bhupesh Baghel of Chhattisgarh, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan did not attend the meeting. Their States were represented by senior officials.

According to sources, focused investigation and prosecution of cases, action against

front organisations, coordination amongst States, capacity building of State intelligence branches and special forces of the States, construction of fortified police stations were other issues discussed at the meeting.

The Union Home Minister reviewed the security situation and ongoing operations against Maoists and development projects being carried out in the Naxalism-affected areas, the sources said.

Canada lifts 'pandemic'
ban on flights from India

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Canada on Sunday lifted the ban on direct passenger flights from India after a gap of more than five months. Air India and Air Canada will be operating direct flights between the two countries.

At the same time, it has cautioned its own citizens in India to avoid travelling to parts of northeastern States, especially Assam and Manipur due to safety and security situations.

Announcing the decision, Transport Canada on Saturday in a tweet said: "Beginning at 00:01 EDT on September 27, direct flights from India can land in Canada with additional public health measures in place." That time translates to 9.30 am IST.

"Travellers must have proof of a negative Covid-19 molec-



ular test from the approved Genestrings Laboratory at the Delhi airport taken within 18 hours of the scheduled departure of their direct flight to Canada," it added.

The passengers will have to "present the test report with a QR code issued by this laboratory to the air operator before boarding", it said. Those who have previously tested positive

for Covid-19 can present a positive molecular test report issued by a certified laboratory in India.

The date of collection must be between 14 and 180 days before their scheduled departure to Canada," it said. Airlines will refuse boarding to any traveller who's unable to meet these requirements," it stressed.

CJI for 50% quota for women in judiciary

Shout, demand,
it's your right,
Ramana tells
women lawyers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Backing the demand for reservation for women in the judiciary, Chief Justice NV Ramana on Sunday urged women lawyers to strongly raise their voice for setting aside 50 per cent berths for them and assured them of his "total support".

He said that out of 1.7 million advocates in the country only 15 per cent are women and only two per cent elected representatives in the State bar councils are women.

"I don't want you to cry but with anger, you have to shout



and demand that we need 50 per cent reservation," he said.

Referring to what he called "thousands of years of suppression", he said women are entitled to the reservation and added, "It's a matter of right, and not a matter of charity."

"I want to say that I strongly recommend and support the demand of a certain

percentage of reservation in all law schools of the country for women, so that they can join the judiciary," he said.

Speaking at a felicitation function organised by Lady Advocates of Supreme Court for the nine newly-appointed judges, including three women judges, CJI Ramana said he has modified Karl Marx's quote

"workers of the world unite. You have nothing to lose but your chain." "I say: Women of the world unite. You have nothing to lose but your chain."

The CJI said, "You all are laughing. Yes, I don't want you to cry but with anger, you have to shout and demand that we need 50 per cent reser-

vation. It's not a small issue but an issue of thousands of years of suppression. It is high time we have 50 per cent representation of women in the judiciary. You are entitled (to it), it's a matter of right. It is not a matter of charity. It is unfortunate that some things are realised very late."

He said he will be very happy whenever the goal will be realised.

"All my sisters and all of you have carved out exceptions for the people and women in society, and for that matter youngsters, whether male or female, are all waiting to see as role models. Your success stories will make them more impulsive and we expect more women will join the profession and we will achieve the goal of 50 per cent shortly. I wholeheartedly support all initiatives taken by you and so long as I am here I will support all of your causes," he said.

‘UP close to becoming self-reliant in medical oxygen production’

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Owing to the sustained efforts of the Uttar Pradesh government towards making the state self-reliant in medical oxygen production, as many as 450 oxygen producing plants have been operationalised in the state.

Ensuring adequate presence of medical oxygen, the state government on Sunday announced that 450 oxygen plants had already been set up in Uttar Pradesh while work to get the other 105 plants functional was progressing rapidly.

In a proactive move to equip the state with sufficient availability of medical oxygen, a total of 555 oxygen plants were sanctioned during the second wave of COVID-19 which hit the country during April and May this year.

With as many as 41 plants becoming functional in the span of the last 11 days, the dedicated efforts of the Yogi government have given a major boost to the state in terms of producing the life-saving fluid.

While reviewing the COVID-19 situation across the state in a high-level meeting with senior officials, the chief minister said that 41 more oxygen plants had become functional in the last 11 days and the process of establishing the remaining under-construction plants should be expedited.

Real-time monitoring of the installation work has been planned, with the district administrations being asked to continuously monitor the progress of installation work of these plants and ensure availability of raw material so that the work could be completed on time.

Along with emerging as the top state in terms of conducting Covid tests and COVID-19 vaccination, Uttar Pradesh has also been proactively engaged in ramping up the medical resources in view of any possible future requirements. The presence of oxygen plants has also been mandatory in hospitals of over 50-bed capacity. The chief minister also directed the officials to assess the updated situation in this regard and take necessary action. Along with hospitals and medical colleges, oxygen plants are also being installed at the health centres and primary health centres across the state.

As many as 25 oxygen plants were functional in the state before the government took the step of constructing more to equip Uttar Pradesh with sufficient amounts of medical oxygen. Apart from the initiatives of the state government, the Centre has also approved the establishment of PSA medical oxygen plants with funding

IN A PROACTIVE MOVE TO EQUIP THE STATE WITH SUFFICIENT AVAILABILITY OF MEDICAL OXYGEN, A TOTAL OF 555 OXYGEN PLANTS WERE SANCTIONED DURING THE SECOND WAVE OF COVID-19 WHICH HIT THE COUNTRY DURING APRIL AND MAY THIS YEAR

from PM Cares. Keeping in mind the importance of medical liquid oxygen which is essential in treatment of COVID-19 patients, the state government is closely monitoring the installation of these plants.

To further improve the Covid Control Mechanism as well as giving employment to the youth, the government is also providing training to ITI trainees in operation of oxygen plants in the state. Special training sessions are also being conducted for paramedical staff and pharmacists to prepare them to fight the pandemic's possible third wave. With this initiative, the government is not only providing skill training to the local youth but is also giving them employment opportunities.

ACTIVE CASES DOWN TO 176

The active caseload in the most populous state has been reduced to 176 from a high of 3,10,783 in April, pushing the recovery rate up to a remarkable 98.7 per cent, while the percentage of active cases as against the total confirmed cases is just 0.01 per cent.

In another encouraging sign, the number of COVID-19 patients in home isolation in the state has reduced to 158. This is a result of timely provision of free medical treatment, medicine kits and regular teleconsultation as per the directions issued by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Eliminating the deadly second wave of COVID-19, out of over 2.17 lakh samples tested in the last 24 hours, 11 tested positive for coronavirus infection and as a result the test positivity rate (TPR) has slumped to even lower than 0.01 per cent in Uttar Pradesh. In the same period, another 12 COVID-19 recovered from the infection.

Yogi government hikes SAP of sugarcane

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in a major decision barely months ahead of the upcoming 2022 assembly elections, on Sunday announced a Rs 25 per quintal hike in the state advisory price (SAP) of sugarcane for the next cane crushing season 2021-22 to commence from October.

Yogi Adityanath also announced to waive the interest on the outstanding electricity bills of the farmers. The announcement was made by the chief minister in the BJP's Kisan Sammelan here at The Defence Expo Ground in Vrindavan area in the state capital. Yogi Adityanath also announced to waive the interest on the outstanding electricity bills of the farmers.

The Yogi government had left SAP unchanged at Rs 315 (for common variety) for three years in a row since 2018-19. The UP government had, however, raised SAP by Rs 10 per quintal soon after assuming power in 2017.

With the hike in SAP, the cane farmers will get Rs 350 per quintal for early variety, Rs 340 for common variety and Rs 330 for



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addressing a gathering during Kisan Sammelan on Sunday

rejected variety. Earlier the rate was Rs 325, Rs 315 and Rs 305 per quintal respectively. The hike in the sugarcane price will benefit over 45 lakh cane farmers in the state. This will be the second hike of SAP of sugarcane during the BJP regime. Earlier it was hiked nominally when Yogi Adityanath came to power in 2017 and now after four-and-a-half years it is being hiked by Rs 25 per quintal.

While announcing the hike in the sugarcane prices, the chief

minister said along with the Centre, the Uttar Pradesh government had always been friendly to the farmers and the poor. He said all the schemes were also prepared keeping in mind the interest of the farmers.

Yogi Adityanath said that now sugarcane farmers would get hiked sugarcane prices which would increase their income by eight per cent. "This will increase the income of 45 lakh farmers of the state," he said.

He said during the Bharatiya Janata Party government the closed sugar mills were revived and no mill was sold by the government to the private sector. He said during the Bahujan Samaj Party government as many as 21 PSU sugar mills were sold to the private parties.

"These people had sold the government sugar mills at throw-away prices. The work was done to sell sugar mills worth Rs 250-300 crore for Rs 25-30 crore. We

are trying to restore these mills," he said.

To give this message to counter the ongoing farmers' stir and a day before the Bharat Bandh, the BJP Kisan Morcha called farmers from every assembly constituency in the meeting. Around 20,000 farmers representing almost all the 403 assembly constituencies in the state were present in the meeting. The Centre on August 26 had increased the fair and remunerative price (FRP) of sugarcane from Rs 285 to Rs 290 per quintal, triggering speculation that state governments would fall in line and raise SAP for the next cane crushing season commencing from October.

The state government has managed to pay more than 85 per cent cane dues to farmers for the 2020-21 crushing season.

A cane department official said a record Rs 1.45 lakh crore was paid to farmers in the last four years despite challenges posed by the pandemic that brought economic and industrial activity to a standstill. Experts say the demand for sugar in the commercial sector fell dramatically and sugar mills faced a contracted paying capacity.

Govt nominates 4 to Legislative Council

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government, on Sunday, recommended four names for nomination as members of the UP Legislative Council to Governor Anandiben Patel. The strength of the upper house is 100 and four members are nominated by the state governor on the recommendation of the chief minister.

According to official sources here, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has recommended the nomination of Chaudhary Virendra Singh (Gurjar from Shamli) who was cabinet minister in the previous Samajwadi Party government led by Mulayam Singh Yadav from 2003-2007.

The others are Gopal Anjan Bhurjiwahi a BJP leader from Moradabad. Jatin Prasada from Shahjahanpur, who was inducted in the cabinet on Sunday. Sanjay Nishad from Gorakhpur is the president of the NISHAD party, an ally of the BJP. The notification for the nomination of the four persons will be issued as soon as it is approved by Governor Anandiben Patel.

Case registered against Tewari, Aradhana

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Even as the government suspended a circle officer (CO) for Saturday's clash between Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party supporters in which BJP MP Sangam Lal Gupta was injured, the local police registered five FIRs against Congress' former Rajya Sabha member Pramod Tiwari, and his daughter Aradhana Mishra 'Mona' who is Congress Legislature Party leader in UP assembly. While one case each was registered against them on Saturday, four more cases were registered on Sunday. The FIRs have been registered under Section 307 (attempt to murder) along with nine other serious sections of the Indian Penal Code. The FIRs have been registered at the Lalganj police station.

Since Saturday's incident, IG Prayagraj KP Singh has been camping in Pratapgarh along with a heavy police force.

Meanwhile, the UP government on Sunday suspended Deputy Superintendent of Police Jagmohan Singh posted as circle officer of Lalganj in Pratapgarh.

DySP suspended for Pratapgarh violence

The action was taken against him after he was found prima facie guilty of dereliction of duty. In the suspension order issued by Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi, it is said that the CO did not deploy adequate security personnel on the spot which led to the clash. The recommendation for suspension was made by ADG (Prayagraj). On the other hand, injured BJP MP and BJP OBC Morcha national general secretary Sangam Lal Gupta was to meet Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow on Sunday in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya.

In Sunday's clash, BJP leader Om Prakash Pandey and his gunner constable Sunil and Devendra Pratap Singh and Abhishek Kumar of Sangipur had given a complaint to register a case against the Congress leaders. Earlier on Saturday night, on the complaint of Sangam Lal Gupta, the police registered a case against 27 named and 50 unidentified people under

several sections, including attempt to murder. These included the names of Pramod Tiwari and Aradhana Mishra. After the case was registered regarding the incident, the police conducted raids the whole night to arrest the accused. The police raided the houses of six accused, including the son and former head of a Congress-backed district panchayat member from Sangipur and detained their relatives. In the case registered on the complaint of Sangam Lal Gupta, the husband of the district panchayat member has also been made an accused.

The clash between Congress and BJP workers took place during Garib Kalyan Mela in Sangipur block. In the clash, Sangam Lal Gupta was also attacked and he was injured and was treated at the CHC in Lalangaj. The MP gave a complaint addressed to the superintendent of police in Lalganj Kotwali in which he alleged that senior Congress leader Pramod Tiwari attacked him when he reached the programme venue

under a pre-planned plan. According to Gupta, when Sangipur SO tried to intervene, Pramod Tiwari started beating some BJP workers. After this, on the instigation by MLA Aradhana Mishra, Congress workers attacked him with the intention of killing him. There was stone pelting and Congress workers attacked him with sticks. Several vehicles were damaged. Somehow, the security personnel escaped from the spot with him and his life was saved, the MP claimed.

On the complaint of the MP, the police registered a case against 27 named and 50 unknown people including CLP leader Aradhana Mishra, Congress leader Pramod Tiwari, Sangipur block chief Ashok Singh Bablu.

CO Lalganj Jagmohan had said that on the complaint of the MP, a case had been registered against 77 people including Aradhana Mishra, Pramod Tiwari. The government had also sought a report of the incident that took place in the presence of the police.

Maya supports Bharat Bandh call of farmers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati has supported the farmers' organisation sponsored Bharat Bandh on Monday and reiterated her party's demand for withdrawal of the three new farm laws enforced by the Centre.

In a couple of tweets on Sunday morning Mayawati said, "The farmers of the country are dissatisfied with the three agricultural laws made hastily by the Centre. They have been agitating in the whole country and especially in the states around Delhi for almost 10 months, demanding withdrawal of the new laws. Now the farmers have called for 'Bharat Bandh' tomorrow (Monday) and the BSP will support a peaceful bandh".

She also said, "Along with this, there is also an appeal to the Central government to withdraw all the three disputed agricultural laws by showing proper sympathy and sensitivity towards the farmer society. The government should further bring a new law with proper consultation and consent of the farmers so that this problem can be resolved. If the farmer is happy, then the country is happy too".

2.5-fold increase in civil service aspirants opting for Sanskrit

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The dedicated efforts of Uttar Pradesh Sanskrit Sansthan (UPSS) in promoting Sanskrit have started reaping the desired results. The language has not only gained popularity nationally and internationally, but also, the number of civil service aspirants opting for Sanskrit has seen an overwhelming 2.5-fold increase.

As a result of the growing popularity of Sanskrit among the youth, over 500 civil service aspirants appeared in the entrance examination conducted for free preparation for civil services in Sanskrit by the UP Sanskrit Sansthan this year. The number of students has climbed up by two-and-a-half times as compared to last year. The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has taken several initiatives to promote Indian culture among the youth along with providing them with the knowledge and understanding of Sanskrit, consequently, the number of students taking online Sanskrit classes from UP Sanskrit Sansthan has reached 60,000.

To increase the importance of Sanskrit in the administrative services, under the free coaching programme by

the Uttar Pradesh Sanskrit Sansthan, the preparation for civil services ranging from preliminary examination to interview is being done in Sanskrit. The selection of students is done in two phases. The first phase includes the entrance exam. After which the students are shortlisted for an interview according to the merit. A total of 60 students are selected. There is also a provision to give direct admission to such candidates who have passed the preliminary examination of UPSC. A total of 15 students are taken under this.

According to Prof Vachaspati Mishra, head of UP Sanskrit Sansthan, students from other states like Kerala, Rajasthan, Haryana, West Bengal, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab are also being prepared for civil services in Sanskrit. Under the third session of free coaching to civil service aspirants, about 946 people registered.

Appreciating the efforts of the state government in reviving Sanskrit, Alka Verma, who became assistant commissioner in the Industries department after clearing the civil services examination in Sanskrit language in the last two sessions, said that the measures taken by

The language has not only gained popularity nationally and internationally, but also, the number of civil service aspirants opting for Sanskrit has seen an overwhelming 2.5-fold increase

the government have been beneficial to many, especially to people coming from financially weaker backgrounds. To be taught by the spokespersons of central universities is very valuable, she said.

Prashant Singh Rathore, currently working as block education officer, says that along with preparing for civil service in Sanskrit, we also were imparted lessons on basic etiquettes, moral education and Indian culture. Benefiting from the free coaching programme, Manish Singh, senior spokesperson of DIET, says that where hardly any person opted for Sanskrit earlier, now Sanskrit has largely increased its presence in every examination.

Government promotes 8 IPS officers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Yogi Adityanath government on Sunday promoted eight senior IPS officers and gave them the same posting on higher ranks.

According to an official communiqué of the Home Department, these IPS officers in the state were recently promoted from IG to the post of ADG, DIG to IG and SP to DIG.

Vijay Prakash has been promoted as ADG (Fire Service) from IG rank while IG (STF) Amitabh Yash has been made ADG (STF). Till

now the post of ADG (STF) was with ADG (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar.

Similarly IG Navniet Sekera has been posted as ADG in Housing and Welfare at Police Headquarters while Vinay Kumar Yadav has been promoted from DIG to IG (Prosecution) and DIG Hiralal has been promoted as IG (EOW, Lucknow).

DIG (PTC, Moradabad) Shiv Shankar Singh has been promoted to IG (PTC). SP Women Power Line 1090 Ravi Shankar has been promoted as DIG and SP Technical Services Pratibha Ambedkar has been promoted to DIG rank.



NOTICE

I Divvijay Kumar Mishra S/o Late Raajinand Mishra R/o Plot No. 685 Kacochi Basti Govind Nagar Kanpur have changed my name to Divvijay Mishra for all future purposes.

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Mega drive: Lucknow sets itself target of 2.4L jabs

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow has set a target of administering over 2.4 lakh Covid vaccine jabs in the mega vaccination campaign scheduled for Monday. District Immunisation Officer Dr MK Singh said they have set themselves this target even though they have been asked by the state government to administer 1.7 lakh jabs.

He said the vaccine shots will be given at 12 district hospitals, 19 CHCs, 18 PHCs, 383 workplace vaccination centres, with the total sites being 432, the maximum in the state capital so far.

He said there would be a total of 991 booths and each would be cover 250 people. The plan is to vaccinate 2,47,800 people. The focus is on rural areas and SDMs, kotedars, tehsildars & ANMs are mobilising people for the vaccination. In urban areas, District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash has directed the SDMs and the ADMs to ensure maximum turnout. There will several new vaccination centres for the mega vaccination exercise, including Radha Krishna Mandir, Madhav Kalyan



Mandir, Chandra Pun New Marriage Lawn, Dharamshala, Desh Bharti College, Parijat Palace, Laxmi Narain Mandir, Hotel Mangalam, Cheshire Old Age Home, IMRT Business School and Gymkhana Club. There will be one vaccinator and one data operator for every 250 beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, a senior official from the Health department said the credit for the rapid pace of vaccination goes to all the ground workers.

“The ANMs must be given maximum credit for working so hard and without any holidays for the past year and a half. Even the vaccinators should be given due credit for their contribution. Everyone has done their bit,” he said.

“To give further boost to the exercise, a mega vaccina-

tion drive will be conducted across the state tomorrow (Monday). We have kept a target of 50 lakh vaccinations, but it could go well breach this mark,” he said.

The vaccination drive has picked up pace in UP from June onwards following the initial vaccine hesitancy and increase in the availability of vaccines. The cluster approach also helped in increasing the pace of vaccination in rural areas. The official said that considering the vast population of Uttar Pradesh, the coverage is still less.

President of People's Health Organisation Dr Ishwar Gilada said the speed at which UP is administering vaccine jabs to people, the eligible population would probably be covered by the end of November.

“Uttar Pradesh is doing almost 20 lakh vaccinations per day and with the increased availability of vaccines, the figures can go up to 40-50 lakh per day, which would help in completion of the target,” he said. He added that the availability of vaccines will shoot from October as manufacturing companies will be producing more vaccines.

Neighbours accused of acting fresh with widow

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A widow accused two of her neighbours of acting fresh with her in Jankipuram on September 25 night. It was alleged that the accused, identified as Rohit Yadav and Harnam Yadav, used to stalk the woman whenever she stepped out of her house. On September 25 night, both the accused, reached infront of her house and removed their clothes. The woman alleged that the accused also made obscene gestures. She further alleged that the accused acted fresh with her and used cuss words when she confronted them. “They threatened to kill me. They are influential persons and I fear for my life. I need security cover,” she said. She further said that the accused have been harassing her for the past 2-3 days and but she did not lodge a complaint earlier as she feared it might irk them further.

Meanwhile, a company dealing in real estate and promoting investment was accused of duping three people of over Rs 2 lakh in Vibhuti Khand police station area. According to one of the complainants, Trivendra Singh of Hazratganj, Dr Ghanshyam Yadav formed a company after which he would lure investors by promising them attractive refunds.

Singh alleged that the accused promised to pay double the money invested in two years besides monthly dividends. “My acquaintances Rananjay Singh & Rekha Shukla and I invested the money. We got the first installment for the investment but nothing after that. Yadav was sent to jail for fraud and is now hiding somewhere in Gomtinagar Extension,” he said.

Hotel worker stabbed to death

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A hotel worker was stabbed to death allegedly during a booze session in Vikas Nagar police station area on Saturday night. The victim was identified as Rishi Singh Thapa of Nanda Kheda in Bazaarkhala police station area. His uncle Bal Bahadur named a youth, Lucky Rawat, in the murder of Rishi. Police registered a case of murder in this connection.

As per reports, Rishi had gone to work at Mahabali Kitchen in Tedhipuliya under Vikas Nagar police station. Late in the night, the cook and other staff were preparing food

for themselves when Lucky, who is a carpenter by profession and lives in a house adjacent to the hotel, reached there and picked up a fight with Rishi without any provocation.

While other staff of the hotel tried to mediate in the fight, Lucky whipped out a knife and stabbed Rishi in the stomach repeatedly before fleeing the scene. The victim was rushed to a hospital where doctors pronounced him brought dead.

Initial investigation revealed that the staff had a drinking session during which Lucky and four of his supporters picked up a fight with Rishi

and later, Lucky stabbed Rishi to death. Police detained five people for interrogation during which it surfaced that there was a rivalry between the old and new staff and Rishi was among the new staff at the hotel. Rishi was later rounded up. The police also quizzed the hotel manager, identified as Sumit. Rishi had joined the hotel only on Saturday and he had to start his work from Sunday. The police were also informed that Lucky was an ill-tempered man and he had had fights with several people in the past.

Meanwhile, a 28-year-old man was found dead under mysterious circumstances in

Krishnanagar on Sunday. The deceased was identified as Dilip Kumar Tiwari of Ashiyana (Sector G). He worked as a private driver and was unmarried. The police identified him on the basis of an Aadhaar card which was recovered from his possession. As per reports, Dinkar Yadav of Indralok Colony spotted the body stuck in the mesh of a transformer installed near Ashutosh Nagar Park. He informed the police and a team reached the scene. The police said they also traced the house of the deceased and the family members identified the the body, which was sent for autopsy.

Shopowner pushed to death by fellow, staff

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A shopowner, along with his staff, allegedly pushed a fellow to death over an issue involving a girl in Ghazipur police station area on Sunday. People thronged the scene in support of the deceased, sending police in a tizzy.

The police, who initially sought to play down the incident, registered a case in this connection under public pressure. Following the incident, commuters also assembled at the scene to witness the verbal spat which was underway there, causing a traffic jam-like situation.

The victim was identified as Naresh Gupta of Indiranagar (Sector 22). He ran his shop at Amrapali crossing close to another one.

The fellow shopowner came to know that Naresh's son had a friendship with his daughter and they used to exchange greetings and messages. On the revelation, the fellow shopowner got irked and demanded an explanation from Naresh's son while accusing him of playing a malicious trick with him. As the issue escalated, Naresh also reached the scene. It was alleged that Naresh was pushed aside



when he tried to intervene in the matter. Seeing his son being bullied, Naresh decided to intervene and was pushed down by his rival and latter's staff. He fell unconscious after he fell down and was rushed to a hospital where he was pronounced brought dead. As the news of death reached the market, a huge number of shopowners assembled the scene. Since Naresh was an office-bearer of a traders' union in the locality, he had a sizeable following. The protesters demanded stern action against the accused but the police tried to sweep the issue under the carpet. Following a stiff protest, a case was registered in this connection. A spokesman said the police registered a case of culpable homicide not amounting to murder against eight accused.

QMH to screen women for cervical, breast cancer every 3 months

Lucknow (PNS): Queen Mary's Hospital (KGMU) will be carrying out the screening of cervical and breast cancer in rural women at the Sarojininagar PHC every three months. Prof Nisha Singh from the medical university said it is important to reach out to rural women and make them aware of these health issues. KGMU and Lucknow Gynaecology and Obstetrics Society held a programme at the Sarojininagar PHC on Saturday. Awareness about these diseases was spread and women who visited the camp were screened. They were also encouraged to ensure HPV vaccination for girls between 9-14 years to prevent cervical cancer.

“This PHC comes under KGMU but if other CHCs and PHCs come forward for such awareness programmes, we will be ready. However, right now we are focusing on the Sarojininagar and Mall PHCs,” she said. Dr Singh said they held the programme for over 60 women, including rural women and ASHA workers. “They were informed about these cancers, how they occur and what can be done for prevention. We then conducted the pap smear tests of over 40 women,” she added. Dr Singh said that earlier, cervical cancer was more common as compared to breast cancer in women, but now breast cancer has become the number one cancer amongst women. “In rural women, cervical cancer cases are much more because of several high-risk factors such as lower socio-economic status, early marriage, multiple children, smoking, lack of menstrual hygiene and reproductive tract infections. We also ensure follow-up if we discover any abnormalities and help them in disease management,” she added.

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Yogi cheated farmers in the name of hike in cane SAP: Priyanka

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh increasing the state advisory price (SAP) of sugarcane to Rs 350 per quintal, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday said the Bharatiya Janata Party had "cheated" the sugarcane farmers in a "big way" as there was only a marginal hike in the cane price under its rule while the input costs had gone up many times.

In a major decision barely months ahead of the 2022 UP assembly elections, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday announced a Rs 25 per quintal hike in the state advisory price of sugarcane.

Reacting to the development, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said in a tweet in Hindi, "The BJP has cheated the sugarcane farmers of UP in a big way. After a marginal increase of Rs 35 in four-and-a-half years, it has been announced that only Rs 350 per quintal will be given to sugarcane farmers despite the input cost having gone up many times."

"The sugarcane farmers of UP do not want even a rupee less than Rs 400 per quintal," the Congress general secretary said.

PGV arriving on a 3-day visit to Lucknow

Lucknow (PNS): To give a final shape to her proposed campaign for the coming UP assembly elections along with discussions to decide the first list of about 40 candidates, Congress general secretary and incharge of Uttar Pradesh, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will be reaching Lucknow on Monday afternoon.

This will be her second visit to Lucknow in September. UP Congress spokesperson Jeeshan Haider, on Sunday, confirmed Priyanka Vadra's visit to the state capital. Though earlier sources had said that Priyanka Vadra would be on a week-long visit to Uttar Pradesh, Haider confirmed that they had received the programme according to which the Congress general

secretary would stay in Lucknow for three days.

She will reach here on Monday afternoon and directly go to Kaul House where she stays during her Lucknow visit. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the Congress general secretary will hold marathon meetings with party leaders and workers. She has not yet finalised the date for her return to Delhi and as expected she can again visit Rae Bareilly and Amethi.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is also likely to participate in one of the training programmes being organised by the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee.

Haider said that in the meetings the leadership would give a final shape to the upcoming yatra of the party

along with election strategy. The Congress general secretary will also review the list of candidates for the assembly polls.

Earlier, the UP Congress incharge had concluded her 5-day visit to the state on September 13. The UP Congress has already extended the date for submission of assembly candidate form along with Rs 11,500 as fee to October 10.

The party has announced plans to take out a 12,000-km rath yatra with the banner 'Hum Vachan Nibhayenge'. Earlier Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was slated to launch these yatras in September but due to pitrapaksh it has been postponed to the first week of October.

that the SAP would be increased by one-and-a-half times as per the government's pre-poll promise, but the government did not fulfill its promise," he said.

He said it was unfair to farmers to keep the cane price lower than Rs 450 per quintal even when the government gained Rs 32,000 crore revenue from sugarcane per year.

the ruling party was anti-farmer and anti-poor.

He said in a statement that it was mockery with the sugarcane farmers to raise the state advisory price (SAP) of sugarcane by just Rs 25 per quintal and the decision would prove very costly for the BJP in the UP assembly elections in 2022.

"The farmers had hoped

AAP announces second list of candidates

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Aam Aadmi Party, on Sunday, announced the second list of its probable candidates for the UP assembly polls. In the second list the AAP has focused on giving a bigger chunk to candidates from OBC category.

AAP state president Sabhajeet Singh said the party had given maximum representation to OBCs in the first list also.

He said the candidates would go door to door and contact people and apprise them of the party's promise of 300 units of free electricity to domestic consumers and round-the-clock free electricity supply to farmers.

He said Lalit Valmiki was given a ticket from Mahabadi assembly seat and Pankaj Yadav from Bakshi Ka Talab.

The list was announced in the presence of AAP national spokesman party chief whip in Delhi assembly, Dilip Pandey.

He said those being given tickets had been made incharge of their respective assembly constituency and they would have to conduct campaigns.

In the second list, there are 29 OBCs, 19 Brahmins, five Muslims and 13 Dalits.

The party has tried to give representation to people from all walks of life and the list includes engineers, doctors, advocates, graduates and post-graduates, youths, farmers and people of intellectual class.

CITYBRIEFS

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME

IET, in collaboration with its alumni association, is organising a series of trainings and workshops for women empowerment. In this series, the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET), in collaboration with The Fin Lit Project, IIIT-Delhi and STPI (Chennai), organised a 5-day certificate programme by NISM, an educational initiative of SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) and Kotak Securities on Financial Literacy. The aim was to impart financial literacy to the young students and faculty. The programme received an overwhelming response from over 190 participants. More than 60% participants were female students. The programme covered various aspects of financial literacy from savings, budgeting, insurance to investment in the Indian Securities Markets. The certificate programme encouraged students to adapt to financial behaviour as a way of life. The programme was opened by Anita Verma, a 1990-batch alumna of IET.

FOUNDATION DAY

The 80th Foundation Day of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) was celebrated virtually on at Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) in Lucknow. The four research centres of CIMAP in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pantnagar and Purara also participated in the programme. The chief guest on the occasion was advisor to DG, CSIR, New Delhi, and former director of CSIR-IIIM (Jammu) Dr Ram Vishwakarma. CIMAP director Dr Prabodh Kumar Trivedi briefed the audience about the contributions of the institute during the last year. He highlighted the significant milestones achieved by the institute, notably in the CSIR-Aroma Mission towards the enhancement of income of farmers. He also presented the scientific progress done in the institute along with various technology transfers and help provided during the Covid-19 pandemic.

AWARD

City Montessori School will be awarded the 'Iconic Leadership in School Education Award 2021' for its efforts to make its students good and smart and for its broader and bolder education methodology at the New Normal Education Leadership Summit and Awards to be held at Hotel Radisson in Gurugram on October 1. CMS CEO Roshan Gandhi will be the main speaker at the event and will also receive the award on behalf of the school.

WALKATHON

The department of Cardiology, SGPGIMS, along with UP Chapter of Cardiological Society of India, organised a 5-km walkathon on Sunday. It was flagged off by president of UP-CSI Prof Satyendra Tewari, head of the department of Cardiology Prof Aditya Kapoor, UP-CSI secretary Prof Sudeep Kumar, HoD (Anesthesiology) Prof Anil Agarwal, HoD (Gastric Surgery) Prof Rajan Saxena, and CMS, department of Endocrine Surgery, Prof Gaurav Agarwal. Also present on the occasion were Dr Naveen Garg, Dr Roopali Khanna and Dr Ankit Sahu.

Nearly 75 faculty members, along with their family members, attended the 'Walk For Your Healthy Heart' event which was held to mark the World Heart Day which is celebrated on September 29. "Cardiovascular diseases, including heart attacks and hypertension, are the most common causes of death globally as well as in India, and their rising numbers, especially in the younger population, is a cause for concern. Important modifiable causes of these diseases are lack of exercise, smoking and unhealthy food habits," Prof Aditya Kapoor said. He said since the theme of the World Heart Day this year is 'Use Heart to Connect', it's important that people connect with their hearts and make sure that they are fueling, nourishing and nurturing their hearts to the fullest.

CEOs' rountable meet inaugurated

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

As a part of CSIR's 80th Foundation Day celebrations, National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) and Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR) are holding a CEOs' roundtable meet, which was inaugurated by Jal Shakti Minister Dr Mahendra Singh on Sunday. A total of 12 MoUs were signed on the occasion.

Over the years, the scientists of NBRI and IITR have developed several technologies and products of industrial and social relevance. However, many of these technologies developed during the five years are yet to be transferred to the industry. Keeping this in mind, the roundtable meet has been organised involving the industry leaders from different parts of the country. Singh stressed on the need for research institutions and industry collaboration to take the country forward. Welcoming the guests and industry participants, NBRI & IITR director Prof SK Barik said that this meet is aimed at strengthening the partnership between the industry and R&D institutions. He stressed on the need for a government-industry collaboration to make India self-reliant.

"The meet will be helpful in establishing effective collaboration of CSIR labs with the prospective entrepreneurs, start-ups and industry persons. Being a scientific institution, our products and technologies must reach the ground level for the greater good of the society,

Most of these technologies have been developed during the past three years with substantial innovation component," Barik said.

He added that the meet would also provide an opportunity for one-to-one engagements with mentors, experts, investors and service providers.

"The event is intended to showcase the cutting-edge technology, research, innovation, and start-ups coming out of the institute ecosystem," he added.

Co-chair, CITAR, IITR, Vinayak Nath discussed the need for a scientist-industry collaboration for making India a 5 trillion dollar economy. "For that, we need to set the target for agriculture and start-ups with a respective target of 1 trillion dollar economy," he said. He also mentioned the importance of agriculture and start-up collaboration. He appealed to the scientists to work for solutions of the problems that the industry and the country are facing.

A total of 12 MoUs were signed on the occasion by different companies for products and technologies developed by IITR and NBRI.

NBRI signed MoUs with Mark Laboratories, M21 Breweries Pvt Ltd, Tansukh Herbal Pvt Ltd, Aashvi Technologies LLP, Kalob Organics LLP and Ultra International Ltd. It also signed an MoU with IFFCO for collaborative research in the field of agriculture and bio-stimulants. IITR signed MoUs with Ramky Enviro Engineers Limited, Toshiba Water Solutions, Tata Motors, Ultra International Limited, Yash Pakka, Faizabad, Khanna Paper Mills.

CBMR studying how brain of deaf works during tactile ops

Lucknow (PNS): The Centre of Bio-Medical Research (CBMR) is working on how the brain of a deaf person works during tactile operations when he or she is touching things and trying to discriminate between different objects. Senior scientist Dr Uttam Kumar said they have been working on deafness for the past seven years with the support of the department of Science and Technology.

It is important to understand this function to design rehabilitation products for such people, he said. "We are already working on a learning app for them. We try to understand how a deaf person processes any word and how their tactile function is operating," he added. Dr Kumar explained that an early loss of hearing marks gross changes in the brain.

"The absence of early hearing ability induces structural and functional changes in the auditory cortex. Deaf individuals rely more on alternative communication strategies such as sign language, facial expression, lip reading, gestures etc. Such skills require coordination and involvement of multiple levels of the brain which accords a different function to the area that is not doing its normal functioning," he said.

He added that they are trying to find out

whether the tactile functioning is normal or different when gross changes occur in the brain.

A one-day symposium was also organised on 'Current advances in early diagnosis and rehabilitation of deafness and hearing impaired' at CBMR. People from different fields such as special educators, health workers, rehabilitation professionals etc attended the programme offline as well as online. The event was organised on the occasion of 'International Deaf Awareness Week'. The symposium was not limited to diagnosis and rehabilitation of deafness and hearing impairments as expert speakers from different academic institution discussed the current trend and advances related to diagnosis and rehabilitation of hearing-impaired individuals. Dr Amit Keshri from the Neurosurgery department of SGPGIMS discussed the recent advancements in cochlear implant and the procedure of selecting the right candidate for it. He also explained in detail the post-cochlear implant rehabilitation process.

Dr Pravin Kumar from the Audiology department of All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore, explained the methods available for early diagnosis of the hearing impaired.

ATS arrests three more in conversion racket

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Making a further breakthrough in the alleged illegal conversion racket, the sleuths of the Anti-Terrorists Squad (ATS) arrested three more people on Sunday.

Those arrested by the ATS on Sunday were identified as Salim, Idris and Kunal Ashok Chowdhary alias Atif.

According to an official communiqué released by the ATS on Sunday evening, Muzaffarnagar residents Mohammad Idris and Mohammad Salim and Kunal Ashok Chowdhary alias Atif, resident of Nashik district of Maharashtra, were arrested on charges of running a nationwide gang of illegal conversions and funding through hawala from abroad for conversion.

Idris was working as an associate of Maulana Kalim Siddiqui (already arrested) and was helping him to collect funds.

Significantly, on June 20, the UP ATS had arrested several people, including Maulana Umar Gautam, for operating an alleged illegal conversion gang. Maulana Kalim Siddiqui was also arrested in this connection on September 21 from Meerut.

The ATS claimed that accused Salim, arrested on Sunday, was collaborating with Kaleem in the work of illegal conversion for the last 17 years. Similarly, it said, Kunal Chowdhary alias Atif and Idris were also involved in conversion activities with the help of Kalim Siddiqui.

Earlier, Uttar Pradesh ATS had arrested Maulana Kalim Siddiqui from Meerut in the conversion case.

Maulana Kalim Siddiqui is the head of Global Peace Centre and president of Jamiat-e-Waliullah.

After this, the UP ATS produced Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui in the court on Thursday and the court gave him a 10-day remand to the ATS.

He is presently being grilled by UP ATS to extract information about the gang and its members along with the sources of their income.

The arrest of Mufti Qazi and Umar Gautam has already been made in this case. It is alleged that crores of rupees from abroad had come into the account of Kaleem Siddiqui. According to UP ATS, Rs 1.5 crore came from Bahrain in Maulana Kalim Siddiqui's account.

A total of Rs 20 crore had come in his account so far from different sources.

According to the information, Maulana Kalim Siddiqui (64 years) resident of Fulat village of Muzaffarnagar is one of the biggest Islamic scholars of the country.

MURDER OF BJP LEADER WASEEM BARI

2 LeT ultras killed in encounter

PNS ■ JAMMU

Two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists involved in the killing of a local BJP leader Waseem Bari and his family members were eliminated by the joint team of the security forces during fierce gunfight in Watrina village of Bandipora district on Sunday.

Bari along with his father and brother were shot dead last year in July inside his home in Bandipora.

The anti terrorist operation was launched in the general area of village Watrina late Saturday night on the receipt of pinpointed human intelligence about the presence of LeT terrorists in the area.

According to a police spokesman, "the first contact with the terrorists was established in the wee hours of Sunday after which the hiding terrorists were given repeated opportunities to surrender but they refused and fired indiscriminately targeting security forces. In the ensuing gunfight two terrorists were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter".

According to a police spokesman, the killed terrorists have been identified as Azad Ahmad Shah and Abid Rashid Dar @ Haqani. The killed ter-



rorist Abid Rahid Dar was a Pakistani trained terrorist who had crossed over the Wagah Border in April 2018 and had infiltrated back in the year 2019. As per police records, both the terrorists were involved in planning and executing terror attacks on security establishments and civilian killings. Moreover, terrorist Abid Rashid Dar was instrumental in recruiting the gullible youth into terror ranks of proscribed terror outfit LeT in North Kashmir.

Police spokesman said, both the killed terrorists along with foreign terrorists Usman and Sajad @ Haider were involved in the killing of BJP

leader Waseem Bari, his brother and father.

The involved foreign terrorists Usman and Sajad were already eliminated in an encounter at Kreeri on 17/08/2020, while the other two local involved terrorists got killed in today's encounter.

Meanwhile, a special operations group of Jammu and Kashmir police Sunday arrested a Kashmir based terrorist affiliated with The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba near the Jammu Railway station. The TRF terrorist was tasked to carry out an attack in the city. According to a police spokesman, "Sheikh Sunain

Yousuf alias Raja alias Sultan, a resident of Gadapora village of south Kashmir's Shopian, was arrested and a pistol and seven rounds were recovered from him".

According to police the TRF terrorist was arrested in a dramatic sequence of events.

"During checking near railway station Jammu, a two-wheeler driver dropped a pillion rider about 50-60 metres behind the check point and sped away". The police spokesman said, the suspected person, carrying a bag, started moving fast towards a nearby bylane but was chased by police and overpowered at some distance. The search of the suspect led to the recovery of a pistol loaded with seven cartridges, the spokesman said, adding he was put under sustained questioning on the spot by officials of SOG Jammu which revealed that he is an active terrorist of TRF and had come to Jammu for a specific task.

However, he said the task was not yet conveyed to him by his handlers. He had come to Jammu on directions of handler Ahmed Khalid alias Hamza alias Haqparast, a Pakistan-occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK) based active handler of the TRF outfit, the spokesman said.

PM clocks 20 meetings in his 65-hr stay in US

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-day trip to the United States was packed with meetings as he attended 20 of them during the around 65 hours he spent in the country, Government sources said on Sunday.

He also had four long meetings in flights with officials on the way to and back from the US, they added.

Sharing details, sources said Modi had two meetings in flight on Wednesday on the way to the US and three in the hotel upon his arrival.

On September 23, he had five meetings with as many CEOs followed by talks with US Vice President Kamala Harris and bilateral interactions with his Japanese and Australian counterparts Yoshihide Suga and Scott Morrison respectively. He also chaired three internal meetings.

He had a bilateral meeting with US President Joe Biden the next day and then attended the Quad meet. Sources said Modi also held four internal meetings on September 24.

As Modi left the US for India on September 25, he held two meetings in the flight back, sources said. The Prime Minister is known to keep a busy schedule on his overseas trips, packing his stay with important meetings. **PTI**

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR.**

AT/PO- Nayabazar, Cuttack -753004, Tel No. 0671-2444488, Email-serw_kpd@yahoo.com

O-765 No. Tender Online RCK - 21 / 21 Letter No.- 2441 Date :- 27.09.2021
e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Name of the work	: Construction of Charge Office at Aul in the District of Kendrapara for 2021-22..
2. Class of Contractor	: B & A Class as specified in the column 7 of the Annexure.
3. Time for Completion	: As specified in the Column-8 of the Annexure.
4. Detail Projects	: As per Annexure attached
5. Other Details	:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur	Tender Online RCK - 21 / 21	28.09.21 At 11.00 A.M	18.10.21 At 5.00 P.M	18.10.21 up to 12.00 P.M	21.10.21 At 3.00 P.M	To be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

OIPR-25129/11/0018/2122

**Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur**

West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC party candidate from Bhabanipur constituency, Mamata Banerjee (L) with party general secretary and MP Abhishek Banerjee (R) during her election campaign for Assembly bypolls, in Kolkata on Sunday

PTI

she was not going to Rome as a tourist but as person whose presence at the forum could have enhanced India's prestige.

"They earlier stopped me from visiting Chicago ... they stopped me from going to China --- which however I did not mind on account of the recent diplomatic developments --- then they did not allow me to go to Cambridge ... I want to ask why ... why was I being stopped ... is there a political reason behind this..." Banerjee said asking the voters of Bhabanipur from where she is seeking a by-election to retain her Chief

Ministerial chair.

"Last time in the Assembly elections we called for a Khela that ended with the defeat of the mischief mongers who swarmed Bengal like daily passengers to disturb its secular tranquil ... now the Khela will resume from Bhabanipur and end with the defeat of the BJP in the entire country ... this Khela will herald the downfall of the BJP ... it will end only after the BJP is thrown out of India ... and we will make that happen ... so Bhabanipur which is my home ... where I have grown up has a great responsibility towards the nation," she said.

Two stabbed to death over property dispute

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In a double murder, an elder brother stabbed his younger brother and his wife to death at Rahimpur Nai Basti, under the Lohta police station. After committing the crime, the killer managed to escape from the scene. The double murder led to tension in the locality and the heavy police force was deployed to avoid any untoward incident. The cause behind this was said to be property dispute between both brothers.

According to the information, the killer Munna (40) of above mentioned locality has dispute with his younger brother Nisar (35) in their paternal property. On Sunday morning, both brothers indulged in heated exchanges on this issue which led to beating by each other and it soon took an ugly turn when Munna made an attack on Nisar with sharp-edged weapon, said to be knife.

Nisar sustained serious injuries and seeing this, when his wife Khushboo interfered,

Munna also made an attack on her with the same weapon and she also sustained serious injuries. By the time the neighbours reached the spot, both had died. Though both were rushed to nearby private hospital where the doctors pronounced them brought dead. After committing heinous crime, the killer managed to escape from the scene.

On being informed, the local police reached the site and took stock of the first hand information about the incident. The police sent both bodies for the postmortem examination. The senior police officers also reached the site and police teams were constituted to nab the killer. The police detained some for interrogation but failed in reaching out to the killer till the news last came in. The police force was deployed in the locality to avoid any untoward incident.

TIWARI TO FLAG OFF SKATING RALLY: To mark the World Tourism Day, the India Tourism, Varanasi in collaboration with Varanasi Roller Skating Association will

conduct a skating rally on September 27 which will culminate at Lucknow on Gandhi Jayanti on October 2 by covering a distance of around 325 km.

Talking to the press persons on Saturday at his office, the Assistant Director of India Tourism, Varanasi Amit Gupta informed that the UP Tourism Minister (Independent Charge) Dr Neelkanth Tiwari will flag off the skating rally at 8 am at the office, while the Mayor Mridula Jaiswal, Divisional Commissioner Deepak Agrawal and District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma will be present on the occasion. In addition, the member of the Indian Hockey Team which bagged the bronze medal in Tokyo Olympic Lalit Upadhyay will also be present on the occasion to encourage the skaters, he added.

There will be 14 girls in 25 members' team of skaters that will take out the rally and the world record holder in Kathak dance and skating expert Soni Chaurasia will lead the team,

informed Gupta adding, the physiotherapists will also accompany the team during the rally for the physical test of the team members.

The team will take halt at six places in Jaunpur, Badalapur, Sultanpur, Jagdishpur and Hydergarh and its members will also generate consciousness among the villagers about the tourism in Kushi Nagar, Prayagraj, Ayodhya and other cities by visiting the villages during the rally, he informed adding, the team will take rest at night and take out rally only during the day hours. The team will take a break after each 15 km and thereafter will start the rally for the next destination.

Apart from this, an audio clip of tourism and Swachhta awareness will be played through railway announcement system round-the-clock at Varanasi Cantt railway station from 12 noon to 2 pm, he informed adding, a seminar on Incredible India will be held at a banquet hall in Ramkatora at 7 pm, he informed further.

CBI takes over preliminary reports of SIT probe

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The CBI is in action here in Prayagraj, and is trying to search out a clue to determine whether the mysterious death of the Akhara Parishad chief Mahant Narendra Giri was a suicide or murder.

On Saturday itself the senior officials of the CBI of IG and ASP rank took over the preliminary reports of the SIT probe, including relevant information, the suicide note, and the postmortem report at the Police Lines during a marathon close door meeting.

After collecting papers the CBI team visited Math Baghambari Gaddi in Allahpur area under the Georgetown police station where the Mahant was found dead. The CBI team examined the room of the Mahant and its door, which was pushed open by the Sewadars of the Math to find the seer allegedly hanging from the ceiling fan hook. The officials also visited the newly created Samadhi of the Mahant.



CBI officers investigating at Baghambari Gaddi Math

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The team spent hours at Baghambari Math and then visited Naini Jail to cross question Anand Giri, who was held the prime accused in the alleged suicide note of the Mahant.

In yet another development the lawyer of the Mahant said that the writing of the suicide note does not match his original writing.

He, however, said that the Mahant made alterations in his

will twice, and in the latest alteration he changed the name of his heir from Anand Giri to Balbeer, whose name has also been mentioned in the said suicide not as the next Mahant.

Rare surgical feat performed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In a rare case, the senior laparoscopic surgeon Dr Manish Jindal of the Varanasi Hospital successfully operated on the twin gallbladder of a middle aged woman who was suffering from stomach pain for long time. Now, the patient is enjoying a healthy life after the operation.

The female patient, aged around 44 years and resident of Ghazipur, was suffering from stomach pain for a long time. She consulted a number of doctors and it was found in medical tests that there were twin gallbladders in her body by birth but no doctor became ready to operate on them. On the advice of one of her familiars, she reached the Varanasi



Twin infected gall bladders successfully separated by Manish Jindal and his team from the body of a middle aged woman.

Pioneer

Hospital to take consultation from Dr Jindal.

Dr Jindal advised her for some medical tests and after examining the test reports, he decided to conduct an opera-

tion. Dr Jindal and his team successfully separated both infected gallbladder by conducting the much more complicated operation through laparoscopy on September 24

last.

The patient is now enjoying a healthy life, informed Dr Jindal adding, there is rare instance in the medical literature about the presence of twin gallbladder as normally, there is single gallbladder in the human body.

When the Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), Banaras Hindu University (BHU) came to know about this successful rare to rarest operation, it consulted the Varanasi Hospital and sought the operated twin gallbladder to keep in its Anatomy department so that the medical students can study it, informed Dr Jindal adding, the other medical colleges have also sought detail information from the about this operation.

Some social activists join Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As the assembly election in UP is inching closer, each and every party is trying hard to bring the common men into their fold and in this order, the Congress Party succeeded in convincing the scores of social activists and common men who joined the oldest party by extending their trust on the former state minister Ajay Rai.

It is noteworthy that the assembly election in UP is scheduled next year and all the political parties have started their political campaigns to woo the electorates. The Congress Party got success in this direction when the social activists and common people of Odar village in Pindra assembly constituency joined it at a programme held under the leadership of Rai in the village. Rai had also represented this assembly constituency in 2012 but lost to the BJP candidate in 2017 assembly election.

Welcoming those who joined the party, Rai said that the common men have become fed up with the present government at Centre and in the state and are eyeing towards the Congress Party for the better



Some common people joined the Congress Party in favour of former State Minister Ajay Rai.

Pioneer

situation as the price of essential commodities has crossed all limits and the BJP governments seemed not to be interested in controlling the inflation.

By hiking the price of petrol, diesel and domestic LPG cylinder, the government has now added to the worries of the middle class while the poor people are already facing hardship due to anti-people policies of the government, he said, adding that both central and state governments have nothing to do with the cause of common men. The health problem, unemployment and misrule have become the identification of UP, he blamed further. The state government had made tall promises but failed in meeting even single

promises, he said adding, the criminals are roaming freely with the patronage of the ruling party.

The state government claims of helping the farmers during the natural calamities but reality is contrary to it as the farmers are still waiting for the compensation of their crops damaged during the flood and water logging, he blamed and added that the government is using the money earned by common men by their hard works for their political benefits. But the people will teach a lesson to the saffron brigade in 2022 assembly elections, he claimed.

MANMOHAN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED: Congressmen on Sunday celebrated the 89th birthday of the

former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh by distributing sweets, biscuits, etc among children. Congressmen gathered at Khajuri area, here and celebrated the birthday of the former PM with children. They distributed sweets, biscuits, toffee, fruits, etc among the children. Dr Singh took the nation to the path of development during his ten years term as the PM and his development works will be remembered forever, said the former state general secretary of the Congress Party Satish Chaubey adding, it was Dr Singh who protected the financial interest of the country when the entire world was facing recession in 2009.

Dr Singh made the name of India high in the world with his strong leadership and the nation developed a lot during his regime, said the city general secretary of the party Manish Chaubey adding, the present BJP-led NDA Government at Centre should take a lesson from Dr Singh that how the ex PM made the country's economy strong.

Many graced the occasion including Dilip Chaubey, Manish Sharma, Mayank Chaubey, Anubha Rai and Vipresh.

Ayurvedic health camp organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

As a part of ongoing Seva Avam Samarpan (Service & Commitment) programme, launched on the 71st birthday of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the district and city units of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in association with the NGO S Balkundan Foundation on Sunday held free Ayurvedic health camp at Rajkiya Ayurvedic College and Hospital in Chowkaghat, here in which the people in large numbers took the medical assistance.

The BJP Co-Incharge in UP Sunil Ojha inaugurated the camp and the senior diabetes expert from AIIA, New

Delhi Prof Mahesh Vyas, joint disorder expert Dr Ramakant Yadav, life style disorder expert Dr Raja Ram Mahto, skin diseases expert Dr Kamal Kumar and gynecologist Dr Garima also provided their consultancy to the patients during the camp apart from the team of doctors of the hospital.

The patients particularly suffering from diabetes and joint disorder visited the camp in large number to seek medical assistance and consultancy from the expert doctors. In the camp organised under the guidance of MLA Saurabh Srivastava, the requisite medicines were also distributed among the patients.

Earlier on Saturday, the Mukhya Mantri Arogya Mela was organised on the Jayanti of Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay at all CHCs and PHCs of the district. The aim of health fair was to provide all the health facilities and tests to the patients under one roof, the AD/CMO Dr VB Singh informed adding, the medical test of a total of 3,658 persons was conducted by the teams of doctors including 1,476 men, 1,712 women and 470 children. The golden card of as many as 451 beneficiaries of Ayushman Bharat Yojana was also made during the fair.

The screening of 2,184 persons at COVID-19 helpdesks was also made and

of them, the test of COVID-19 of 989 persons from antigen kits was also conducted and all were tested negative. As many as 43 children were also identified as malnourished. Other medical tests were also conducted during the health fair. As many as 10 patients were referred for the treatment and eight patients were referred for the general surgery.

The screening of eye of 34 patients was made and eight patients were identified for the surgery. Besides, four patients were identified for the ENT surgery. A total of 134 medical officers and 496 paramedical staff served during the health fair.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Railway Recruitment Board (RRB), responsible for conducting examinations and recruitment for the Indian Railways, would soon be a thing of the past. The RRB would be integrated with the National Testing Agency (NTA), which would conduct examinations and recruitments thereof for the Railways.

This follows the recommendations of the Principal Economic Advisor, Sanjeev Sanyal. The recommendations have already been approved by the Ministry of Finance. A letter to this effect has been sent to the Railway Board which in turn has sent the same to all the zones of the Indian Railways,

including North Central Railway (NCR). The Railway Board has been instructed to keep the ministry informed about the progress made in terms of implementing the recommendations on 5th of every month.

Following the implementation of the recommendations, all the RRB spread across the country, including the one at Prayagraj, would cease to exist as it would integrate with NTA.

The recommendations reads, 'The recommendation made by the Principal Economic Advisor mentions that the Railway Recruitment Control Board (RRCB) was established in 1998 to coordinate and streamline the working of various railway recruit-

ment boards. Given that the government has set up a National Testing Agency which would conduct a common preliminary examination for various recruitments in the central government, there is no need for separate RRBs.

It is therefore recommended to integrate the 21 RRBs and the existing infrastructure under NTS apex authority. The railway may conduct its exam via the NTA. There may be a small digital office in the railway to coordinate with NTA.

One of the RRBs has been located at Prayagraj since its inception in 1998.

Commenting on the recommendations, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of NCR, Dr Shivam Sharma, said,

'Such a letter has been sent to all the zones of IR including NCR and we are studying the content and the reply would be sent to the Board as and when required'.

However, the employees union of NCR has condemned the content of the letter. Zonal general secretary of Men's Union, R D said, 'The government is fast moving towards massive privatisation. RRB was made functional to maintain total transparency in the recruitment in IR and now as these entities are being closed down, it is nothing but opening a gate for corruption. North Central Railway Men's Union will oppose this proposal in every possible way,' he added.

Politics & Atique more important for Owaisi than religion

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Politics and Atique Ahmed are more important for Asaduddin Owaisi of All India Majlis Ittehadul Muslimin (AIMIM) than religion and Peers, and it was proved on Saturday when Owaisi visited Prayagraj.

Prior to his arrival the local party leaders had issued a press releases stating that Owaisi will address a public meeting in Atala. If permission for the public meeting is not granted by the district administration, Owaisi will visit four Mazaars of famous Peers in different parts of the city. It means offering special prayers at Nazars was the second option for the AIMIM leader in Prayagraj, and he did the same.

When Owaisi was granted permission to address a political meeting in Atala, he forgot about the religious leaders of Islam, and instead visited the residence of the jailed Mafia Don Atique Ahmad with Begum Shaista Parveen wife of Atique.

The local carcade of Owaisi, provided by the Atique supporters, included brand new SUVs without number plates, but with posters high-

lighting Atique with a big photo in the middle, and throwing Owaisi in a corner.

Though Atique and his wife have joined AIMIM, the attitude of the Atique supporters depicted clearly that Atique is much important for Owaisi, but Owaisi and his AIMIM is not that important for Atique.

Muslim card was played openly at the above meeting, and every effort was made to prove that the Government was unnecessarily harassing Atique Ahmad and his associates. It was termed as an attack on the minority community.

Shaista Parveen held the Samajwadi Party responsible for sending Atique to Jail, and the BJP for demolishing properties worth crores of rupees.

An emotional card was also played by Shaista Parveen who read out with tears in her eyes, a letter of Atique written from the Ahmedabad jail.

It is being termed as the beginning of the political innings of Shaista Parveen with support of Atique associates.

HC DIRECTIVE: The Allahabad High Court directed the UP government and Uttar Pradesh Higher Education Services Commission (UPHESC) to file

their respective replies (counter affidavits) in response to a petition alleging that the Commission was compelling its contractual employees to join as an outsourced employee of a contractor.

While passing the above directive, the court directed that the petitioner shall be allowed to continue in the employment of the Commission in the manner as was being done earlier during the pendency of the petition.

Hearing a writ petition filed by one Mahaboob Ali, Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra directed to list this case after the expiry of period of two weeks.

The petitioner was engaged as a computer operator/clerk on the contractual basis by the Commission in the year 2011. Subsequently, the Commission started making efforts to engage him as an outsourced employee of a contractor.

Appearing on behalf of the petitioner, his counsel Tanisha J Monir argued that the petitioner had been working satisfactorily for the last 10 years. However, on September 2, 2021, an order was passed by the Commission, which compelled the petitioner to join as

an outsourced employee of a contractor.

The court after hearing concerned parties observed, "Prima facie, this court finds no good ground for the Commission to compel the petitioner to function as an outsourced employee of a contractor engaged subsequently by the Commission".

The court while staying the order of September 2, 2021, asked the state government as well as commission to file their respective replies in the case within two weeks and directed to list the case after the expiry of a period of two weeks.

NCR GM TRAVELS IN TRAIN: General Manager of Norht Central Railway (NCR) Pramod Kumar travelled in Saranath Express and took feedback from passengers regarding cleanliness in the train. Feedback regarding cleanliness at station and station premises was also taken.

General Manager, accompanied by Chief Commercial Manager(C&PS) S.P. Verma, CPRD Shivam Sharma and SrDCM Prayagraj Vipin Kumar interacted with the passengers travelling in sleeper and AC classes.

Singhal's concern over graft in govt welfare schemes, seeks report

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Board of Revenue Chairman Mukul Singhal has expressed concern over the large-scale corruption in the distribution of marriage grants and family benefit schemes and sought an explanation as to why the names of the three main persons have yet not been disclosed.

He asked Kanpur Divisional Commissioner Dr Raj Shekhar to submit the names of the people involved in the racket and the report of inquiry into the large-scale financial bungling.

Hundreds of people not eligible for these schemes were given the benefits.

Later, addressing a meeting, the Board of Revenue chairman expressed concern over the slow pace of progress in the distribution of land authorisation letters and directed the officials concerned to give momentum to this work.

He said the government would carry out physical inspections of the work with



Chairman of the Revenue Board, Mukul Singhal planting a sapling on the Commissionerate.

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the help of drones to get a clear picture at the ground level. He said all those neck deep in corruption would be taken to task and asked the top officials to give momentum to the inquiry to bring the guilty to book.

Singhal said the maintenance of records was found in

order in the divisional commissioner's office but in other departments it needed to be done in a proper and strategic manner.

He said drones would be acquired for the inspection of eight villages and said in case this number was insufficient more drones should be

deployed for quick inspection and it be ensured that the benefits reach the beneficiaries.

He said the district magistrate had been directed to ensure that at least 10 villages were inspected through drones, adding that there were very few complaints in most of the villages.

He said all district officials would have to work as a team to ensure that the work was carried out in full transparency.

He said the DC had put up a request for the construction of the new DC office as the current one was 100 years old and said that the proposal in this regard should be sent to the Board of Revenue and it would be taken into consideration at the earliest.

He then planted a sapling and asked the officials to ensure that all departments planted more saplings for a cleaner environment. Similarly, a massive financial bungling has been found in Kanya Sumangala Yojana and CDO Dr Mahendra Kumar has ordered an inquiry into it.

DM inspects medical college

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Nagar District Magistrate Vishak G Iyer, while holding an emergency meeting with the doctors of GSVM Medical College, expressed concern over the poor pace of work under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana and directed the officials concerned to ensure its completion within the stipulated time frame.

The PMSSY aims at correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable and reliable tertiary health-care services and also to augment facilities for quality medical education in the country.

Iyer said under this scheme, this super speciality

would have 240 super speciality wings. He also inspected the installation of the oxygen plant which was found to be continuing on a snail's pace and directed the authorities to make it ready before the third wave of COVID-19 hits the city.

He then interacted with the doctors and the heads of departments on dengue and directed them to ensure there was no compromise on the facilities and arrangements and that all the patients were given the best and quick treatment so that there was no life loss.

He said it was very important that the relatives of the patients should be apprised of the condition of their patients every day and the onus rested

on the doctors. He expressed displeasure over the yet to be completed infrastructure of the PICU and directed officials to get it completed at the earliest.

He also directed that secondary preventive measures be taken to prevent the spread of dengue which was always at its peak in October and said the department concerned need to pull up their socks.

He then visited the SNCU which is under construction and expressed concern over the slow pace of the work. He said these projects needed to be completed on top priority and the work should be taken up on a war footing.

He said the objective of setting up a Special Neonatal

Care Unit was to provide care to newborns so that care for sick newborns, that is, all types of neonatal care except major surgeries and assisted ventilation, could be performed. He said the priority was because of the apprehension of the third wave of COVID-19.

He said all the patients who approached hospitals functioning under the medical college should be attended timely and properly.

He said the resources available should also be rationally used and there should be no problem to the patients.

Principal of GSVM Medical College Dr Sanjay Kala and CDO Dr Mahendra Kumar were also present in the meeting.

'Family planning gives women greater independence to take crucial decisions'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

In the current times there is not only the need for women empowerment but it is equally important to ensure they are physically and mentally healthy to manage successfully their filial and professional duties. The biggest issue that has surfaced in the modern times before working women is that they are not able to give time to their family. At this juncture, it is important that women should understand the importance of family planning.

This was stated by noted IVF expert and gynaecologist, Dr Astha Singh, while addressing a free health camp at Tulip Gynaecological and IVF Centre on the occasion of World Contraception Day on Sunday. She said the objective of the free health camp was to apprise women of their major gynaecological problems so that it did not retard their professional pace along with the family care.

She said over 50 per cent of women considered success in work very important, while 17.3 per cent considered it



Dr Astha Singh, addressing a free health camp at Tulip Gynaecological and IVF Centre on the occasion of World Contraception Day on Sunday.

Pioneer

somewhat or not very important. She said women who placed less value on career success were less likely to consider pregnancy planning important and were less optimistic about the success of delayed child bearing than their work-centric counterparts. She said women less focused on their careers were also more likely to have serious ethical concerns about IUI or IVF when compared to career-focused women.

She said reproductive counseling for career-focused women should focus on effective

contraception when attempting to delay pregnancy, improved knowledge about age-related fertility decline, and the scope and limitations of current reproductive technologies. She said in addition, the unique reproductive views of career-focused women suggested that they may benefit from increased employer or insurer support for strategies to enable delayed childbearing, such as fertility preservation and third-party reproduction.

Dr Singh said family planning was important, not only because of the sheer number of

women who used contraception but for economic and societal reasons as well. She said women's ability to control their fertility through preventive care in the short term had long-lasting and far-reaching consequences. She added that whether through reducing the cost of unintended pregnancies or enabling women to advance their education and careers, family planning provided women with greater independence to make crucial life decisions on their own terms like decisions that affected not only their lives but also the greater society.

FELICITATED: Kanpur's Social, Cultural and Family Magazine, 'Kanya Kubja' felicitated Sandeep Yadav and awarded him with Rs 5,000 cash for his exemplary services during the COVID-19 for saving many lives and providing proper timely medicines and oxygen at places where it was needed. The editor of the magazine, Vishnu Pandey, felicitated Sandeep Yadav at a function organised under Basanti-Balkrishna Sewa Sansthan on Sunday.

32 registries executed at KDA camp

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

In the second camp organised by the Kanpur Development Authority (KDA), as many as 32 registries (Agreement to Lease) of houses allotted in Ram Ganga Enclave Scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Avas Yojana (Urban) were executed on Sunday.

It may be recalled that in the first camp organised on September 19, 60 registries were executed. After completing all the procedural formalities, Vice Chairman Arvind Singh handedover the registry documents along with sweets to the allottees. Speaking on the occasion, he said "KDA is the first to execute registries of houses under the PMAY(U) in the state. Today also, all the



KDA Vice Chairman Arvind Singh handingover registry documents and sweets to allottee of PMAY(U) on Sunday.

Pioneer

formalities to enter Agreement to Lease were completed under one roof in the camp. The camp aims at delivering the housing facility up to the last person of the society and fulfilling his/her dream of living in their own house. KDA would continue to provide such facilities to allottees of all categories of the society in

future also." On the directives of the Vice Chairman, officers and employees of Registrar's Office were invited in the camp to dispose of all the procedural formalities on the spot. Online registration facility was also available in the camp. Senior officers of KDA including Incharge (Bulk Sale), accountant, etc. were also present at the camp.

Agreement to Lease was executed on a non-judicial stamp paper of Rs.500 only. Lauding the arrangements and efforts of KDA Vice Chairman Arvind Singh, all the allottees present in the camp were upbeat and they expressed their gratitude to him. One of the allottees Amit Kumar Tripathi said 'Due to better arrangements made by KDA, he did not face any problem in getting the registry of his house executed quickly.' Another allottee Ramesh Vishwakarma said 'In such a camp, I successfully got the registry of my house done without running here and there. I thank KDA for its work.' Rani informed that 'all the formalities were completed in the camp smoothly.

Youth battered to death to settle old scores

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

In a bid to settle old scores, a youth was battered to death in Rura police station area of Kanpur Dehat late Saturday night.

Later, the assailants indulged in vandalism and stone-pelting at the house of the deceased. After the incident, tension prevailed in the village and a heavy police force was deployed there. Raids were on to nab the assailants.

According to reports, a youth (30) had lodged a report against some local persons for assaulting and teasing his wife, five days ago. This irked accused Kalloo and Hridyesh who, after a police case was registered against them, had been threatening the youth with dire consequences.

Around 11 pm on Saturday, when the youth was at his house, Kalloo and Hridyesh along with around a dozen accomplices reached there and brutally beat him up. They also beat up his family members who came to rescue him. Due to the large number of assailants, the victims could not muster courage to protest their move. Prior to the arrival of police, all the assailants escaped.

The injured youth was taken to the community health centre from where he was referred to the district hospital late in the night in view of his serious condition. However, the youth succumbed to his injuries in the hospital around 2am.

Thereafter, a heavy police force was deployed in the village while the assailants were found absconding.

Station House Officer of Rura, Shashi Bhushan Mishra, said due to the presence of a large number of assailants, two police teams were deputed to nab them.

Red Eagle Division organises cleanliness awareness campaign

KANPUR (PNS): The Red Eagle Division organised a Swachhata Jagrookta Abhiyan (cleanliness awareness campaign) to mark Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with the objective to educate and apprise the younger generation about the importance of cleanliness by taking a pledge for Swachh Bharat at the Military Station, Kanpur.

NCC cadets, defence personnel and police personnel took part in the function celebrated on a grand note. The mega event was bound to instill patriotism in the hearts and minds of the people and also provide a boost to the Government of India initiative of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

The NCC head, addressing the cadets, said the campaign was focused on a cleaner country and awareness to refrain from open defecation. He said it was beneficial for the people living below the poverty line. He said the NCC cadets had a major role in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan which was essential to make this campaign successful as it aimed at bringing out behavioral changes in public and encouraging health practices, spreading awareness and strengthening the cleanliness systems.

He said Clean India also brought about change in regard to investments by foreign countries leading to economic development of our country and its growth. He said apart from this it would also bring in a variety of sources of employment, reducing death rates and health costs and many more.

The awareness campaign also included activities like quiz competition, painting competition for schoolchildren of all the schools in Cantonment area based on the theme of 'Jal, Thal, Nabh Swachhta Pakhwara', Environment Protection and India's Victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war.

He said the Swarnim Vijay Varsh celebrations were being held to commemorate the 75th year of Independence and 50th anniversary of Indian Armed Forces' victory in the 1971 Indo-Pak war. He said several activities, including cultural activities by NCC cadets and schoolchildren, had been planned as part of the ongoing celebrations.

NER GM flags off Fit India Run

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

Under the aegis of North Eastern Railway Sports Association (NERSA) at Syed Modi Railway Stadium here the 'Fit India Freedom Run 2.0' was organised on Sunday. On the occasion patron of NERSA and General Manager, North Eastern Railway (NER) Shri Vinay Kumar Tripathi, who was the chief guest on the occasion flagged off the 'Fit India Run'. Thereafter, the GM participated in the 'Fit India Freedom Run' with the chairperson of North Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (NERWVO) Meena Tripathi, heads of departments, senior railway officers, members of NERWVO, sportspersons and railway personnel. Among the participants in the 'Fit India Freedom Run' were Principal Chief Engineer (PCE) Satish Kumar Pandey, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)/Construction RK Yadav, Principal Chief Operating Manager (PCOM) Anil Kumar Singh, Senior Deputy General



Manager DK Singh, Principal Chief Security Commissioner (PCSC) Atul Kumar Srivastava, Principal Chief Personnel Officer (PCPO) Rita P Hemrajani, Principal Chief Medical Director (PCMD) Dr V Nagaprasumamba, Principal Chief Materials Manager (PCMM) RK Yadav, Principal Chief Electrical Engineer (PCEE) AK Shukla, Principal Chief Signal and Telecom Engineer Anil Kumar Mishra, Chief Workshop Engineer (CWE) BS Dohare, president of NARSA and Chief Workshop Manager, Yogesh

Mohan, Secretary/General Manager DK Khare, general secretary and Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh, Deputy General Manager (General) KC Singh, office-bearers of NERSA, railway personnel and sportspersons etc. It is noteworthy that in sequence of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebration by the nation in order to create awareness about physical fitness this 'Fit India Freedom Run 2.0' was organised. The function was conducted by general secretary of NERSA Pankaj Kumar Singh.

Running period of Gkp-BDTS spl to be extended for two trips

CORRESPONDENT ■ GORAKHPUR

For the convenience of the passengers the railway administration has decided to extend the running period of 05301/05302 Gorakhpur-Bandra Terminus-Gorakhpur special train for two trips. All coaches in them will be of reserved class and the passengers travelling in them will have to follow the Covid-19 prevention guidelines, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Pankaj Kumar Singh said. The 05301 Gorakhpur (Gkp)-Bandra Terminus (BDTS) special train will run

on October 8 and 15 from Gorakhpur and 05302 Banda Terminus-Gorakhpur special train on October 9 and 16 from Banda Terminus. However, this train will run as per its predetermined route, timing and rake composition.

TRAIN CANCELLED

Due to waterlogging in Tikiapara yard of Eastern Railway, the run of 03019 Howrah-Kathgodam special train to depart from Howrah on September 26 has been cancelled by the railway administration. Due to non-availability of rake, the 03020

Kathgodam-Howrah special train to depart from Kathgodam on September 28 will remain cancelled, CPRO PK Singh said.

BOY FOUND

Railway Protection Force (RPF), North Eastern Railway (NER) makes constant efforts to provide security to the passengers. In this sequence the RPF Kasganj found a 12-year-old boy in an abandoned condition at platform No 1 of Kasganj railway station. After inquiry the boy was handed over to Child Line, Kasganj, CPRO said.

NCL bags best coal sector company title

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), a Miniratna company of the Government of India, during the prestigious 'India's Top PSU 2021' programme organised by Dun & Bradstreet has bagged the title of best company in the coal sector. During this programme organised on Friday, Union Minister of State for Finance, Dr Bhagwat K Karad, was present as the chief guest through virtual medium. Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of NCL, Prabhat Kumar Sinha and its directors have congratulated NCL for it and wished them all the best. Dun & Bradstreet organised a grand virtual conference titled 'India's



a leading company globally which helps companies around the world to improve their business performance. In view of the important role being played by PSUs in country's development, Dun & Bradstreet organised a grand virtual conference titled 'India's

Top PSU 2021' on Friday in which various public sector undertakings of the country were honoured in more than 20 categories. On the occasion the publication of India's 'Top PSU 2021' was also released through digital medium by the organisation.

22 cases disposed of

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

As many as 22 matters out of 122 were disposed of during the Thana Samadhan Divas organised at all police stations in the district on Saturday. On the day the officers, including the divisional commissioner, inspected the

Magistrate Praveen Kumar Laxkar and Superintendent of Police (SP) Ajay Kumar Singh heard the grievances of the aggrieved. Besides, teams were sent for disposing of the matters. The SP heard the problems of the aggrieved at Padari police station too.

MEETING: In view of



police stations. At Jigna police station Commissioner Yogeshwar Ram Mishra heard the problems of the aggrieved and directed the officials concerned to solve them on merit without inordinate delay. At Kotwali Katra police station two cases out of 13, at Lalganj police station four cases out of six, at Halia police station one out of 24, at Jigna police station one case out of three, at Kachhawaan police station three cases out of 13, at Padari five cases out of 15, at Lalganj police station four cases out of six, at Halia police station one out of 24, at Jigna police station one case out of 15, at Adalhat police station one case out of five and at Jamalpur police station one case out of four. At Chunar police station District

Navratri a meeting was held in the administrative building at Vindhyachal on Saturday. Addressing the officials Divisional Commissioner Yogeshwar Ram Mishra warned to complete the necessary works till October 4 otherwise remain prepared to face the music. Reviewing each point regarding preparations thoroughly he directed the PWD to ensure that all roads were repaired timely. He directed the Nagar Palika to keep every street of Vindhyachal clean. He said encroachment on drains should be removed. Regarding other preparations the DC directed the Electricity department to ensure unhindered power supply during the festival and if any approval was

required from higher authorities it should be obtained on time. The railway staff was directed to make all arrangements timely. He directed the police to identify the places at Ganga Ghat where it is risky to take bath and display red signals there with a warning for devotees. The administration was directed to be in close touch with intellectuals as well as pandas. The commissioner was accompanied by DM Praveen Kumar Laxkar, SP Ajay Kumar Singh along with the other officials concerned at the meeting.

TRAGICEND: A teenager drowned in Ganga river under Dehat Kotwali police station on Friday. As per the reports received here, Dharmveer (19), a resident of Piparadaand village, had gone to take a bath in Ganga at Piparadaand ghat. During bathing he suddenly slipped into the area where the water was deep and drowned. On getting information about the matter the Dehat Kotwali police reached the spot, recovered the body from the river and took it for completing the legal formalities.

Meanwhile a youth died due to drowning in a pit under Katra Kotwali police station on Saturday. Mehtab alias Chhunmun (20), a resident of Gazia under Vindhyachal police station, was on his way to Basahi locality under Katra Kotwali police station to his relative's house when he fell into a roadside pit. The Katra Kotwali took the body for completing legal formalities.

Now, ‘airgun surrender campaign’ across India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a cue from Arunachal Pradesh, where the ‘Airgun Surrender Abhiyan’ has started delivering results with over 2,000 weapons given up voluntarily since its launch in March, the Centre has decided to roll out similar drive across the country with the help of retired forest workers and representatives of social organisations for wildlife conservation. Urging people not to hunt animals and birds, Union Minister of State for Environment Ashwini Kumar Choubey said that retired forest workers, representatives of social organisations among others will be roped in for the ‘air gun surrender campaign’ to be launched soon across the country.

He described Arunachal Government’s campaign as an important initiative to save animals and birds from poaching and for their conservation. He said that it is giving very positive results and said that it will be started across the country and States will also be requested for this. The Minister was speaking at an event in Itanagar a few days ago where



some people from Arunachal Pradesh surrendered their air guns in front of the Union Minister. Hunting of wild animals is illegal in India though it is part of the culture of many tribal communities in the country.

Andhra Pradesh environment and forests minister Mama Natung, who masterminded the initiative, said “We want to raise awareness about conservation. Arunachal covers an area of 83,743 sq km, out of which 80% is covered with forests where we have some 500 species of birds and animals, perhaps many more undiscovered.

If we keep killing them, our forests will disappear,” Natung said.

Choubey agreed and said, air guns do not require any license. “In such a situation, many people in our country hunt birds through air guns in every district and village. Due to this, the number of many birds is rapidly decreasing,” he said.

The programme was launched on March 17 at Lumdung village in East Kameng district where 46 air guns were surrendered. In return, the person got a certificate of appreciation.

CBI to include cyber fraud complaint by deceased seer to unearth demise conspiracy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI, which is probing the death of Mahant Narendra Giri, has decided to include a cyber fraud complaint lodged by the seer, as part of its wider investigation to unravel the possible conspiracy behind the demise of president of Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad.

Giri, who headed the Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad, had on September 6 lodged an FIR with the Daraganj police, alleging that a fake Twitter account had been created in his name. The seer headed the ABAP, the largest body of Sadhus in the country, till he was found hanging by his disciples at Baghambari Mutt in Prayagraj on September 20.

Earlier, the 18-member special investigation team (SIT) constituted by the Uttar Pradesh government to probe Mahant’s death was investigating the cyber fraud allegations before the CBI took over the case.

The agency will match the Mahant’s signature and handwriting in the police complaint with those in the purported suicide note, recovered from his room.

The agency is likely to seek

the assistance of the Government Examiner of Questioned Documents, sources said.

The purported suicide note had mentioned that the seer was mentally disturbed and upset with one of his disciples.

The CBI team probing the death case has already retrieved the complaint lodged in connection with cyber fraud FIR registered at the Daraganj police station in Prayagraj district of Uttar Pradesh for further enquiry, they said.

The CBI had on Friday taken over the probe into the death of the Mahant following a notification from the Centre and subsequently dlspatched a team of investigators to Prayagraj.

The UP police had registered a case under Indian Penal Code sections relating to abetment to suicide against one of his disciples Anand Giri who was nabbed from Haridwar and brought to Prayagraj for questioning.

Anand Giri was expelled from the Math earlier this year on charges of indiscipline. But he later apologised to the Mahant who forgave him and took him back into the Math.

Modi, Cabinet Ministers, others wish Manmohan on his birthday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with his several Cabinet colleagues and other political leaders cutting across party lines, wished former PM Manmohan Singh on his 89th birthday on Sunday.

Modi, who arrived in Delhi after concluding a 3-day official visit to the United States, tweeted, “Birthday greetings to our former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh Ji. I pray for his long life and wonderful health.”

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, too, greeted the former Prime Minister on the occasion. “Warm wishes to former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh ji on his birthday. May he be blessed with good health and long life,” the Defence Minister said.

Senior Congress leaders greeted the former PM with former party chief Rahul Gandhi saying he has a great understanding of issues facing the country and there is much to learn from him. Singh, a Rajya Sabha member and one of the Congress’s top leaders, turned 89 on Sunday.



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and former deputy CM Sachin Pilot, also wished the renowned economist. “Best wishes to former PM Dr Manmohan Singh ji on his birthday. Wishing him a long and healthy and happy life. We thank him for his leadership during the UPA,” Gehlot said in his tweet.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also took to Twitter to wish birthday greetings Manmohan Singh. “I pray for your long and healthy life,” tweeted Kejriwal, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) con-venor.

The Congress said Singh’s unbridled commitment to India’s progress - right from

the time of being the finance minister to the prime minister to even today - has benefited every Indian to a scale unimaginable.

In a Facebook post, Rahul Gandhi said, “Happy birthday to Dr Manmohan Singh ji. He is fearless and brilliant with a great understanding of the issues our country has been facing. There is much to learn from him.” “I wish him good health and happiness,” he said.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, senior leaders Sachin Pilot, Mukul Wasnik, Salman Khurshid, among others, wished Singh on his birthday.

Cooperatives can help tackle climate change, says report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cooperatives—which have drawn attention worldwide for their resilience in adapting to a crisis like Covid-19 pandemic — can play an important role in protecting the environment, as well as mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, according to a global report.

Titled “Cooperation for the transition to a green economy,” the report holds importance for India too which recently created a new Ministry of Cooperation with an aim to strengthen cooperatives in the country on the one hand and on the other has taken various green steps to mitigate the impact of climate change.

“As businesses are driven by values, not profit, co-operatives act together to build a better world. Benefits of the model include long-term vision, preserving assets and indivisible reserves, encouraging value creation and delivering education, including on ecological matters,” said the report about the cooperative movement made of over 3 million cooperatives with a total membership of approximately 1 billion people worldwide from all sectors and regions.

The paper has been co-produced with the involvement of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) global and regional offices in the framework of the ICA-EU



Partnership, known as Coops4dev.

“The vast scope of the cooperative movement means that it is particularly well placed to contribute to global challenges affecting our planet, the most urgent of which include climate change and environmental degradation,” noted the report which includes a series of case studies on how co-ops in the energy, forestry, housing, transport and finance sectors have been contributing in green transition in the economy.

These are Certel, the oldest energy co-operative in Brazil, which provides affordable renewable energy, Hepburn Wind in Australia, and Toutenvélo, a French national network of worker co-ops that provide delivery services while replacing car and van deliveries with environmentally friendly bikes in urban centres, to name a few.

The report also looked at

co-operative contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 13 on climate action and SDG 7 on clean and renewable energy. However, this is not the first time that Cooperatives have been found to overcome challenges.

However, the report warns that, judging by the research, co-operatives hold great potential but “are not simply a silver bullet and it is important not to romanticise their role in the face of an issue as complex and serious as climate change”.

Talking about the report, former Environment Secretary CK Mishra said no doubt, “India being a unique country should learn from global experiences but should do what is locally required and relevant. The essence of Cooperative movement is that it is interwoven with being environment friendly/ecologically conscious. The main connection of coop-

erative movement in India with climate change is that it is an essential tool for poverty alleviation.

“Poverty impacts climate adversely as it creates adverse pressure on natural resources, which gets reduced if income levels are increased. Thus, cooperatives can contribute by reduction in poverty which will lead to saving of ecology.”

India has committed to tackle climate change by 2030 by reducing 30-35% of our GDP’s carbon emission, shifting 40% of power generation to renewables and creating 2.5 to 3 billion metric tonnes of new carbon sink.

Sundeep Nayak, MD National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) felt that the IPCC report on global warming should come as a warning signal. If we are to address the climate crisis, we need to adopt all that can mitigate it such as organic farming, recycling, sustainable development to name a few which are best done by the cooperatives.

For instance, he pointed out, the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) has been providing sustainable plant based fertilisers starting with bio-fertilisers and is also working to reduce energy consumption, undertaking alternative and renewable energy initiatives in their fertiliser plants.

Bruno Roelants, Director General, ICA said in the Foreword, “As the cooperative movement is based on meeting needs and has among its key principles that ‘cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities,’ it is bound to focus increasingly on the existential environmental challenges the world is facing today. This study will substantially help promote this ongoing evolution.”

Modi gets warm welcome at Palam airport after his arrival from America



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on Sunday given a warm welcome by BJP leaders, including party chief JP Nadda, after his arrival from the US at the Palam airport here.

Modi, who walked for nearly two kilometres meeting party workers and the people lined up along the road outside the airport, thanked them for welcoming him.

Lavishing praise on the prime minister upon his arrival in the country from the United States, Nadda hailed him as a “global leader” who has made India a “global player”.

Citing Modi’s meetings with US President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris, besides his participation in the Quad meet and address at the UNGA, the BJP president said the prime minister put across strongly and frankly global issues and also India’s views over threats like terrorism and expansionism.

Folk artists from different states in their traditional cos-

Folk artistes from different States in their traditional costumes greeted the Prime Minister playing different kinds of drums and musical instruments

tumes greeted the Prime Minister playing different kinds of drums and musical instruments, Delhi BJP vice-president Virendra Sachdeva said.

Several senior BJP leaders, including party national general secretaries Arun Singh and Tarun Chugh, former Union health minister Harsh Vardhan, Delhi unit president Adesh Gupta, MP Ramesh Bidhuri were among those who welcomed Modi at the airport.

The BJP workers gathered at the airport’s technical area hours before the prime minister’s arrival. A stage was also prepared for Modi to greet the people outside the airport.

Nitish reiterates demand for caste census, says this is in nat’l interest



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Sunday reiterated his demand for a caste census, saying it is in national interest and will facilitate development of the communities lagging in development.

Asked about the Centre’s affidavit in the Supreme Court that virtually ruled out census on the caste lines, he told reporters that it was “absolutely not correct” but added that the matter was not directly related to the issue of caste census.

In the national capital to attend Home Minister Amit Shah’s meeting with the chief ministers of naxal-affected states, the JD(U) leader also rejected arguments against caste census and asserted that the demand for it has been coming from not only Bihar but many states. Kumar said he will speak to members of different parties in Bihar over the issue to chart out their next course of action.

He had led an all-party delegation from the state to meet Prime

Minister Narendra Modi in support of such a headcount across the country.

However, the Centre told



the Supreme Court on Thursday that caste census of backward classes is “administratively difficult and cumbersome” and excluding such information from the purview of Census is a “conscious policy decision”.

In an affidavit filed in the apex court, the government has said that caste enumeration in Socio-Economic and Caste Census 2011 was fraught with mistakes and inaccuracies.

Kumar asserted that caste census can be done by imparting appropriate training to people.

However, the Bihar chief minister, whose party’s ties with the BJP have been uneven for some time, refused to be drawn into any political implications of the issue.

“Caste census is in the interest of the country. It will help the country’s development,” he said.

After the Centre’s stand, many BJP leaders in Bihar have strongly defended the move and questioned the need for caste census.

The BJP has made it clear that its stand on the politically fraught issue can be different from those, including some of its allies, supporting the step.

As far as the BJP is concerned, it stands for “sab ka saath, sabka vikas”; the party had said.

Fully-vaccinated people who want to travel abroad to get CoWin vaccination certificate with DOB

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Come next week and people who have taken both doses of Covid-19 vaccines and want to travel abroad will have a CoWin vaccination certificate with their full date of birth.

At present, CoWin certificates mention the beneficiary’s age based on the year of birth. The date will follow the “yyyy-mm-dd” (Year-Month-Day) format as per the World Health Organization (WHO) standards for international travellers. The new feature is likely to be available from next week.

The revised information on CoWin certificate comes amid the India-UK tussle over the vaccination status of Indians.

Dr RS Sharma, the CEO of National Health Authority (NHA) said, “As the world is slowly opening up for business and travel, we are working continuously to ensure that international travellers can



travel stress-free. This new feature and the format of date of birth will be in “yyyy-mm-dd” format as per the WHO standards for international travellers.”

The United Kingdom has recently issued its new travel guidelines to include the Covishield vaccine in its updated list of approved Covid-19 vaccines. Following India’s strong criticism over the UK’s refusal to recognise Covishield, London has included the vaccine in its updated international travel advisory. However, Indian travellers vaccinated with two doses of Covishield would still have to undergo 10 days of quarantine in the UK.

7.9% children suffered from cancer between 2012-19: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Of the 6.10 lakh cancers reported between 2012-2019 under the National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP), at least 7.9 per cent were found in children below 14 years, according to a report, “Clinicopathological Profile of Cancers in India: A Report of Hospital Based Cancer Registries, 2021” prepared by the Indian Council of Medical Research.

Leukaemia accounted for nearly half of all the childhood cancers in both genders in the 0-14 years age group (46.4 per cent in boys and 44.3 per cent in girls). The other common childhood cancer in boys was lymphoma (16.4 per cent), while in girls, it was malignant bone tumour (8.9 per cent), said the report.

It consolidates data collected during the period across 96 hospital-based cancer registries under the National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP). The data pertains to

all diagnosed and treated cases of confirmed malignancies reported to these centres across the country.

The country registered 13,32,207 cases of cancer during 2012-19. Of these, 6,10,084 were included for analysis, based on the completeness and quality of data. Childhood cancers rank ninth as a leading cause of childhood diseases at the global level, accounting for 11.5 million of the Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs).

In India, according to a recent NCRP report, the proportion of childhood cancers (0-19 years), relative to cancers in all age groups, was found to range from 1 per cent to 4.9 per cent. Delhi reported the highest age-adjusted incidence rate (AAR) of 203.1 per million in boys and 125.4 per million.

Among all the cancers, the highest proportion of distant metastasis at presentation was seen in patients with lung cancer (49.2 per cent males and 55.5 per cent females), followed by gall bladder cancer (40.9 per cent males and 45.7 per cent females) and prostate cancer (42.9 per cent). The data has come in September which is observed as childhood cancer awareness month worldwide.

Dr Nita Radhakrishnan, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Pediatric Hematology Oncology at Post Graduate Institute of Child Health, Noida said that even though there have been several government schemes for cancer treatment, there are many who still are not able to avail any of these. “They either do not have necessary documents or are not aware of these schemes. Many stop treatment for the mere fact that there is no one back at home to support the family,” she added.

CSIR should re-invent itself for future challenges: V-P

IA NS ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday advised the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to reinvent itself and turn futuristic while pursuing the science of the highest order.

Participating in the CSIR’s 80th Foundation Day celebrations here, he said that he wanted CSIR laboratories and institutes to address challenges that require long-term scientific and technological solutions.

Citing climate change, drug resistance, pollution, epidemic and pandemic outbreaks, among the challenges that need the focus of the scientific community, Naidu said: “I want CSIR to bestow greater attention on agricultural research and come out with new innovations, techniques and solutions to address the problems faced by farmers.”

Union Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Minister Jitendra Singh asked the CSIR and all the science departments to explore S&T



innovations needed in the next ten years to make India globally competitive, a Science and Technology Ministry release said.

As the nation is celebrating the Azadi ka Amrit Mahostav, the combined strength of the CSIR, Department of Bio-Technology, Department of Science and Technology, and Ministry of Earth Sciences, along with other science ministries, can indeed transform the entire country in the next 25 years as the entire progress is going to remain heavily technology-dependant, he

said, adding, 25 years later, India should be a global leader ranging from defence to economics with strong scientific and technological inputs.”

Lauding the 80-year successful journey of CSIR, he said that it is heartening to see the evolution of the CSIR from developing India’s first indelible ink used in elections to providing Indian Standard Time using atomic clocks today.

From the development of Swaraj Tractor to the recent test flying of HANSA-NG is a testament to the growth of CSIR in the last eight decades, he added.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

The influencer

Modi has had a good trip to the US, with markers among UNGA, Quad and magnates

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is back in India, having wound up his three-day visit to the US, after attending the first in-person Quad Summit, meeting other world leaders and addressing the UN General Assembly as its first speaker. It is in stark contrast to his earlier visits that were marked by hype, festivities and fanfare. This time round, the political dispensation in the US has changed from the much-friendly Trump Administration. Modi met US Vice-President Kamala Harris, Australian counterpart Scott Morrison, Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga and the CEOs of five multinational companies. The Australian and Japanese PMs are in the US for the Quad Summit (A virtual Summit was held in March this year). This diplomatic and military arrangement is widely viewed as a response to increased Chinese economic and military power. Addressing the Summit, Modi said Quad would act as a “force for global good” and “will establish peace and prosperity in the world”, he added. The culmination



Afghanistan’s vulnerability for “selfish interests”.

The context was that Pakistan PM Imran Khan had made direct and scathing attacks on India, insisting that the two nuclear powers have to “behave, else the consequences would be grave”. Modi, without naming either China or Pakistan, hinted that terrorism as a State policy was not a good idea and the countries should refrain from doing so. He also mentioned the accomplishment of the Indian presidency at the UN Security Council last month. Modi also referred to the issue of the “origins of the COVID virus” and the cancellation of the World Bank’s “Ease of Doing Business Index”, both of which have been laid at China’s door for a lack of transparency by the global institutions. He also emphasised the need for cooperation, saying he represented India as the “mother of all democracies”. Earlier, at a meeting with Kamala Harris, both sides emphasised safeguarding democratic values and upholding human rights in respective countries. Modi also offered condolences to the pandemic victims. Overall, it was a well-crafted speech and well delivered though his “chaiwala” reference is better avoided as it has become rather clichéd. Though Modi also had a meeting with President Joe Biden, it was more to do with protocol than anything else. The personal chemistry between them was clearly missing.

PICTALK



Goddess Durga's idols being readied ahead of the Durga Puja, in Hyderabad

S Lanka looks at empty plates as hunger gnaws



PRAFULL GORADIA

From a carefree, merry-making and well-fed nation, our neighbour has run out of foreign exchange, having overborrowed from China

Since 1964, I have been in touch with Sri Lanka intermittently. At the time, I was told that the butter and ice-cream they ate came from New Zealand. Many vegetables were also imported, including from India. A few days ago, I read that Colombo has declared a national “food emergency”. What their people eat as a habitual diet will now be from ship to mouth. The country has run out of foreign exchange; its Government over-spent on development by borrowing from China, a greedy lender. The takeover of Hambantota port by the lender was a signal that what Sri Lanka could not pay back China in cash, it is having to fork out in kind, namely real estate at the cost of its sovereignty.

Two characteristics of the Sinhala people I have noted are (One) they love life and enjoy themselves when the going is good. Two, they are a little suspicious of Indians, because of the Tamils. They fear that someday a situation may arise whereby India may take over Sri Lanka. Given identical lending terms by India and China, they would prefer the latter. The presumption is that the yellow giant is far away whereas India is next door along with its Tamils. The food emergency is the result of the focus on “today, tomorrow and the day after will take care of themselves”.

Truly, Sri Lanka has good guns but no bread. Right after its independence, Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) has not insisted on growing its staple food on a sufficient scale. In the early days and for years, the country concentrated on tending its tea gardens, rubber and copra trees. The foreign exchange earnings were so plentiful that there used to be a picnic of imported goods. The first painful pinch was felt in 1964 when NM Pereira was the Finance Minister and he went to Parliament to pass very stringent laws. After working a whole career, on retirement, foreigners were henceforth allowed to remit only ₹75,000 for Indians and ₹2,50,000 for others. The discrimination was severe. Had the Indian High Commissioner not been very helpful, my father-in-



law could not get permission to remit a total of ₹1,50,000 after working in a British Company for 32 years, all in Sri Lanka. Such was the foreign exchange famine suddenly discovered.

Although I must confess, the management at New Delhi was no better. In 1990, the Indian treasury had run out of foreign exchange. In order not to fail commitments overseas, the Government sent many crates of gold to banks in London. Fortunately, in 1991, India was gifted with a decisive Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao who liberalised and globalised Indian economy. He thus brought about an economic revolution.

A small country is vulnerable both economically as well as politically. Its Government must play very cautiously. Sri Lanka liberalised before India and recovered from the cave-in of 1964 that is described above. But any significant decline in foreign exchange earnings should be taken seriously. Otherwise, trouble can surround the economy before giving the Government a chance to draw in the reins. The picture of tea industry has been rather sad

A SMALL COUNTRY IS VULNERABLE BOTH ECONOMICALLY AS WELL AS POLITICALLY. ITS GOVERNMENT MUST PLAY VERY CAUTIOUSLY. SRI LANKA LIBERALISED BEFORE INDIA AND RECOVERED FROM THE CAVE-IN OF 1964

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A STRONG MESSAGE FROM THE UNGA

Sir — Calling India the mother of all democracies, PM Narendra Modi hails a clear message to the world that all those who want to tarnish India’s image by calling it an anti-secular State must watch their mouth. Also, the timely use of ‘Right to Reply’ by Indian diplomat Sneha Dubey to slam Pakistan for its attempt to propagate abhorrence against India on a global platform is equally commendable. India categorically highlighted strategic issues of geopolitics, inter-government, terrorism, UNSC Reforms, climate change and neighbours’ expansionism. India clearly messaged that it has no space for friendship with terror supporters.

Pakistan, who has blamed India many times at the UN General Assembly, must introspect where it stands against India. We do not need to remind Pakistan that it still remains in the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Thus, for peaceful inter-regional relations with India, it should cooperate rather than blaming. Also, Prime Minister Modi must bring forward the view-point of India, and showcase a glimpse of what India’s geopolitics and diplomacy will be in the years to come. India is and will be firm against all those forces who spread scorn in society.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

SNOOPING FOR NATIONAL SECURITY?

Sir — Pegasus is back in the news, thanks to the Supreme Court of India. It is claimed that this zero-click digital snooping spyware of the Israeli tech firm NSO Group, upon installation, follows the attacker’s command and controls servers to receive instructions and sends back the target’s private data, including passwords, contact lists, calendar events, text messages, and live voice calls. The attacker can control the phone’s camera and microphone as well. The spyware is designed to evade forensic analysis, avoid detection by antivirus software and can be deactivated and removed by the attacker. In short, the spyware is designed to invade people’s privacy.

No more false claims



In a significant ruling, the Supreme Court has stated that caretakers/ servants of a specific property can no longer claim ownership in that property irrespective of their long possession. This shows that the ownership of the property does not pass on to them merely because they enjoyed staying there for a long time. Therefore, the property should be vacated upon being asked by the owner. In Karnataka, during the Devaraj

viewed the statement of the Solicitor General, Tushar Mehta, in the court that “Filing (an affidavit) and making it a public discourse (whether the Indian Government uses Pegasus) is not possible as it will affect national security” as an attempt to stonewall the queries about the illegal invasion into citizens’ privacy using the bogey of national security. That certainly was not a eulogy to the precepts of democracy either. The Court’s decision to appoint a committee to probe the spyware scandal has come as a sigh of relief.

Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

INEXPENSIVE OR CHEAP?

Sir — There is a flood of SMSes on mobile phones offering a complete package of so many blood-tests at just ₹599 or less, that too, with home sample collection facility. But these SMSes do not give details and addresses of laboratories where those blood-tests are conducted. Such messages are available on Facebook as well. Either such offers do not come from recognised

Urs regime as the Chief Minister, tiller of the land was made its owner through a legislative action. Because of this obnoxious law, many owners lost their properties.

The order of a trial court and the High Court, which had refused to allow a plea of an owner for not proceeding on a suit filed by a caretaker seeking that he should not be vacated from the premises, has been set aside by the Supreme Court. The Bench, headed by Justice Ajay Rastogi, has come to the rescue of the owners who acquired the property with their hard-earned money. Had this judgment not come, and if the trial court order and High Court had come to stay, the plight of owners would have come to a sorry pass. The Supreme Court has observed that the trial court has committed a manifest error. This ruling in unambiguous terms has definitely come as a whiff of fresh air to the owners of the properties.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

and Government-approved labs, or just some random pathological laboratories are looting the public. The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare should probe into the matter. Those offering such cheap packages should be directed to give details of their labs in the SMSes along with their website details.

Any consumer who gives samples for tests should be given a unique ID and a changeable password whereby a complete record of his/her tests may be accessed from the website of the concerned laboratory. A reputed pathological laboratory of Delhi which also covers other cities has dual pricing for medical-tests. Charges for ordinary patients are much higher than those under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS). At least such dual pricing must not be allowed in health-services including for pathological and biochemical tests.

Madhu Agrawal | Delhi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

We need to scale up our banking. There is a need for at least four-five more SBI-sized banks.



—Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman



We have a chance to stop climate change’s worst effects, but we have to act right now. We must pass our ‘Build Back Better’ Agenda.

—US President Joe Biden

Playing in overseas leagues gives you a lot of experience, especially in the T20 format. And, of course, you get to learn a lot.



—India batter Smriti Mandhana



You have to be blessed to be able to get a chance to make a film and that’s why I cling on to the studio.

—Filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali

The BJP Government does not have a single logical reason for why it is against the caste-based census.

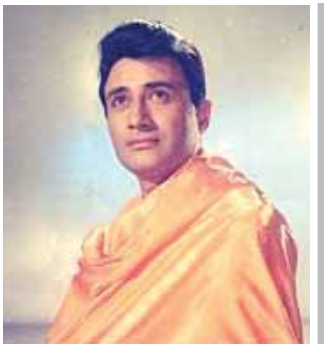


—RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav

Evergreen

Dev is the quintessential romantic ever since he graced the screen, to this day and forever

The Peter Pan of Indian cinema may have faded away 10 years ago, but not before leaving an indelible imprint on the hearts, minds and romantic doctrines of millions. He kept in thrall at least three swooning generations, who swore by his charisma, never-say-die spirit and debonair style. The soigne star — part of the unsailable troika comprising thespian Dilip Kumar and simpleton Raj Kapoor, who ruled the silver screen for over three decades — is best remembered for essaying Raju’s character in *Guide*. The 1965 movie, which was Dev’s first outing in colour and simultaneously shot in Hindi and English, was arguably a better show than even the much-hyped *Sholay*. The thinking masses adored it; it was much ahead of the times for addressing an issue like extramarital affair; and the one point that everyone claims worked for *Sholay* — that the characterisation was so good the audience still remembers each character — holds good for *Guide* too. After all, who doesn’t remember the voluble and exploitative Raju,



the beautiful Rosie, the jealous-repentant-revengeful Marco, Raju’s friend Gafoor and even the bit players?

His magnetism was such that youngsters took to puffing on cigarettes after watching him lip-sync *Main zindagi ka saath nibhata chala gaya* (*Hum Dono*). The number was voted the “best inspirational film song” in a survey by one of the top two national dailies a few years back. Since the time Gregory Peck influenced his mannerisms to developing an inimitable style of his own, Dev had had many an infatuation. His first famous affair was with Suraiyya, who was elder to him, but her grandmother forbade the alliance. Suraiyya never got married. With his swaying walk and impeccable dressing sense, it was no surprise that girls swooned over him. The Mayor of Bombay had to issue an appeal against the star appearing in public wearing a black suit after a girl fainted and fell from a multi-storey in the melee to catch a glimpse of the star. Dev looked so dashing that even Madhubala had to be content with the No. 2 slot in terms of grabbing eyeballs in *Kala Paani* (1958). Dev didn’t just spend his life, he lived. And loved. As the penultimate scene of *Guide* shows, after all the excesses, it all boils down to: “*Na deen hai, na duniya, sirf main hoon ... Main hoon ... Sirf main ...*”. Long live, Dev saab!

FIRST COLUMN

TIGRAY: SPARTA IN AFRICA

Tigray's army has already covered about a third of the distance to Ethiopia's Capital



GWYNNE DYER

We have to deal with anyone who's still shooting," said Getachew Reda, spokesman for the Tigrayan forces, last month. "If it takes marching to Addis to silence the guns, we will." In fact, Tigray's army has already covered about a third of the distance to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, since it took back its own provincial capital, Mekelle, in late June.

The fighting has been bloody, for the Ethiopian army is much larger, but the Tigrayan army is more professional and determined. Not only has it liberated all of Tigray except the far west, but it has also seized around one-third of neighbouring Amhara.

Seven million Tigrayans defeating the army of a country of 110 million people may seem odd, but Ethiopia is a patchwork quilt of dif-



ferent ethnic groups, languages and religions that was held together in the past by a centralised monarchy or dictatorship backed by ruthless military force. Until quite recently, it was Tigray that provided that force.

The Tigrayans earned that job by being the most effective guerrilla force in the long struggle to overthrow the former Communist regime, the Derg. They parlayed that role into an ethnic dictatorship that lasted from 1991 until just a few years ago. But the other ethnic groups then united to instal a new prime minister, Abiy Ahmed, who started to dismantle that corrupt autocracy.

He did it, but the Tigrayan military elite withdrew to their own homeland and sulked. It was a well-armed sulk, for almost half the Ethiopian army was based in Tigray, and it consisted largely of ethnic Tigrayans. When it became clear that Abiy's project to destroy the old ethnic pecking order was not negotiable, they rebelled.

This was all pretty inevitable, but then the Ethiopian prime minister decided to invade Tigray and end the problem for good. The Tigrayan army pulled out of the province's cities for a while, and by last November Abiy Ahmed declared the war over. But the Tigrayan leaders were just mobilising their forces, and in June they counter-attacked. The Ethiopian forces broke and ran, and most of Tigray was liberated without a fight.

If it had stopped there, some sort of Ethiopian state would have survived, albeit with a semi-detached Tigray, but Abiy then made the serious mistake of resorting to a blockade to starve the Tigrayans out. By now many people in landlocked Tigray are close to famine, but their leaders have countered with an invasion of Amhara province.

They are now within striking distance of the roads that carry 95 per cent of the Ethiopia's import and export traffic between Addis Ababa and the port of Djibouti. Their success has also emboldened the Oromo Liberation Army, a rebel army seeking autonomy or even independence for Ethiopia's largest ethnic group, to make an alliance with the Tigrayans.

If Abiy makes a quick deal with the Tigrayans that ends the blockade and recognises their independence and borders, he may have enough troops and credibility left to suppress the Oromos and other ethnic insurgents who will soon come out into the open. If not, Ethiopia probably splinters, and it's Yugoslavia all over again.

And what would the Tigrayans do next? Some of them are confident enough to dream of invading Eritrea and taking down President Isaias Afwerki, who sent troops to help Abiy invade Tigray.

Some of the Tigrayan elite may even be speculating about uniting the two countries. After all, half the Eritrean population speaks the same Tigrinya language, and joining the two together would give Tigray access to the sea, which sometimes comes in handy.

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

Does AUKUS cast a shadow over Quad?



NISHTHA KAUSHIKI

With a vision of deterring China and ensuring free international waters, there should not be any doubt that AUKUS will cast a shadow over Quad

The decision to form AUKUS came two weeks of the US withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan. It displays the geopolitical resolve that the US has to counter the Chinese threat in the Indo-Pacific region, which is increasing with each passing day. Many experts now think that AUKUS might strategically and tactically sideline Quad. That is not the case. The objectives, either stated explicitly or otherwise, are the same. Chinese expansionism has driven this new military alliance, but both Quad and AUKUS complement each other if seen strategically.

With India and Japan, there are essential constraints that make them more susceptible to the Chinese threat. Apart from the common factor of geographical proximity to China, both aspire to become permanent members of the UNSC. An upfront, direct military alignment against China might adversely affect those aspirations. Individually, India has also to deal with an unholy alliance of China, Pakistan, and the Taliban. Apart from this, it is concerned about Russia's shifting foreign policy priorities towards a Sino-Pak alliance. On the other hand, Japan faces issues such as the dependence on raw materials and food supplies and ageing workforce apart from its Article 9 clause that prohibits the re-armament of Tokyo.

The emerging arrangement seems to present before the world a ring of defence, paving the way for future multilateral alliances against Chinese expansionism. A very look at the map of the oceans will give us a common understanding that the South China Sea, Pacific Ocean, and the Indian Ocean taken together are very difficult for either of the powers to defend by themselves. There have to be multiple security arrangements for a strong defence. In the present circumstances, if India and Japan decide to institutionalise a military alliance with the help of the US, Beijing might resort to increasing its aggressiveness either in the SCS or on the Indo-China border, a purpose which then might be self-defeating.

Thus, strategic manoeuvrability is probably a part of the solution. India and Japan together can possibly hold back China on account of their non-participation in any military bloc while simultaneously keeping up the ante against its hegemonic diplomacy. For this reason, India's joint battle commands need to be operationalised soon. The absence of any institutionalisation will also give time for both India and Japan to modernise their maritime assets. India, in particular, needs to speed up on the interoperability within its forces. France then plays an essential role for India and Japan, apart from other European countries, followed by Israel.

Concerning Japan, it has to gradually move beyond its circumstantial clause that led Tokyo to adopt a 'peace constitution'. From 'self-defence', it has to evolve a 'maritime defence' force to handle



BRITISH AND AMERICAN SUBMERSIBLES AND ANTI-SHIP MISSILES WOULD DETER CHINA FROM THREATENING NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES. IN CASE OF SEVERE PROVOCATIONS, THE AUKUS CAN PROVIDE TACTICAL COVER-UP FOR ESSENTIAL SEA ROUTES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN APART FROM THE PACIFIC OCEAN AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

(The writer is an Assistant Professor at Central University of Punjab, Bathinda. The views expressed are personal.)



Beijing. The move might instigate some powers like South Korea to put forward their anti-Tokyo stance. However, time demands that those countries that are not compatible with each other bridge their strategic differences and work for a common cause, especially when they have a shared substantial threat and are covered under the US security umbrella. Thus, an expansionist China allows them to resolve their differences and work for a common goal.

British and American submersibles, anti-ship missiles and other striking capabilities would deter China from threatening the countries. In case of severe provocations and open hostilities, the second layer, the AUKUS, can be a deterrent and a defender at the same time by providing a tactical cover-up for essential sea routes in the Southern and Eastern Indian Ocean apart from the Pacific Ocean and the South China Sea. It then might try to divert attention to the Malacca Straits against India or Japan, but the Indian Navy would present a formidable force there, thus making its 'Malacca Dilemma' a reality. Additionally, the 'five eyes' intelligence sharing mechanism also increases the concerns for China.

Nevertheless, without any institutionalised alignment, it might be difficult for China to go in for the first move against a non-militarily aligned country such as India and Japan and create more complexities. In case of severe threats and imminent attacks, the two might not hesitate to join AUKUS formally. Joint sea denial strategies then have an essential role to play in the upcoming multilateral security

arrangements. Thus, it would not be wrong to envision a consortium of powers guarding the entire Indo-Pacific region, with each player understanding its role and responsibilities well. It is for this reason that both India and Japan have together welcomed the new alliance AUKUS.

One can easily recall that in 2010, Yang Jiechi, China's then foreign minister, on his trip to the ASEAN summit in Hanoi, commented, "China is a big country, and you are small countries, and that is a fact". Today, the time is ripe to reverse the 'big fish-small fish' syndrome. China has reiterated that the Quad will find no support within the Asia Pacific countries. Beijing perhaps fears the expansion of Quad to include other democratic, "like-minded countries" such as Vietnam, the Philippines, South Korea, and Taiwan. All of them have coastlines and have been harassed by China for long. Other pertinent issues such as Chinese illegal fishing, climate change and natural disasters also underline the need for security overlaps with the other countries. Hence, Quad +4 can be envisioned. The small countries with the support of various extra-regional powers have to make formations via unwritten multilateral security arrangements.

The scope of an expanded Quad can include joint technical cooperation and military exercises to increase the interoperability of the forces between themselves and within their force to counter the military challenges before them. As states have security and economic convergences, an understanding can be built to 'strategi-

cally encircle' China and keep it guessing on multiple fronts. In essence, the Quad then remains the strategic linchpin of navigational freedoms marked by a "free, open, transparent and inclusive Indo-Pacific region" apart from focussing on other new and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence apart from climate change. India and Japan thus will have a more significant role from here onwards.

Developments in Afghanistan, China-Pakistan's unconditional support to Taliban and the shifting sands of alliances in the Asian region strongly indicate that the time for multilateral re-alignments and acknowledgement of the reality has arrived. AUKUS fulfils this purpose and consequently occupies the space of an 'institutionalised security alliance' having a formalised treaty, ready for action either as a deterrent or more if the situation demands. The 'friendly' nuclear submarines will detect and intercept the Chinese nuclear submarines collecting essential data of the Indo-Pacific Ocean. In this direction, Quad and AUKUS are entirely complementary to each other. Having a joint shared vision of freedom of the high seas and a common challenge of deterring China, there should not be any doubt that AUKUS will cast a shadow over Quad. Apprehensions concerning this new approach should not be viewed from the prism of China. Instead, it should be taken as a part of comprehensive diplomacy not only for deterrence against China's compulsive 'cabbage policy' but also for the peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE *KHELA* (GAME) WILL START FROM BHOWANIPUR AND WILL FINISH AFTER WE WIN IN THE ENTIRE NATION.
—BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER
MAMATA BANERJEE



MANY WOMEN WERE RAPED AND MANY OF OUR ACTIVISTS WERE KILLED IN BENGAL. THIS IS WHAT THE TMC MEANS BY *KHELA HOBE*?
—UNION MINISTER
SMRITI IRANI

Two sides of the cooperation argument

Considering the high stakes involved, the tussle to control the cooperative sector has become the core of politics in Gujarat and Maharashtra

The recent decision of the BJP Government to constitute a new Ministry of Cooperation under the charge of Union Home Minister Amit Shah had mixed reactions. It was hailed by Government supporters as "the new entity which would help cooperatives across states progress as a true people-based movement reaching the grassroots". On the other hand, the opposition camp termed it as a "sinister move to hijack the cooperative movement for political gains".

After formation of the Ministry, the first ambitious move was to come out with a national framework for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country but the Supreme Court on July 20 said that cooperatives is a



BRIJENDER SINGH PANWAR

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State subject and States have exclusive power to legislate on topics reserved for them. The SC upheld an eight-year-old Gujarat High Court verdict limiting the Centre's say in cooperative sector. This had put spanner in the path of the Government because if it wanted to create a "national framework", permission had to be sought from 28 States which include opposition-ruled ones.

Now, the onus of finding a way out is on Amit Shah who is not new to the field of cooperatives who started his political journey as the Chairman of Ahmedabad Cooperative Bank and later helped in turning around the Madhepura Mercantile Cooperative Bank. By 2016, he helped in edging out the Congress from all 33 cooperative banks in Gujarat.



The success of BJP in the politics of Gujarat passes through the route of dairy cooperatives. The dairies including Amul are a huge part of Gujarat's economy.

The opposition is apprehensive about the government's intention of exporting the "Gujarat model" of cooperatives to other states. This is apparent from the reaction of the former agriculture minister Sharad Pawar who conveyed his concern about the "formation of the coopera-

tion ministry and the amendment to the Banking Regulation Act" and calling it an encroachment in federalism and powers of the state.

It is pertinent at this stage to understand the significance and structure of cooperatives in the Indian context. The dairy cooperatives were initiated by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as grassroots organizations to harness the power of collective bargaining for a common goal. Later, with the pooled resources of farmers and other workers, the cooperatives found their way into agriculture, sugar, textiles and other sectors.

The financial clout of cooperative sector can be gauged from the fact that at present, the biggest beneficiaries of state funds and subsidies

are the cooperatives in the finance, sugar and dairy segments.

Considering the high stakes involved, the tussle to control the cooperative sector has become the core of politics in Gujarat and Maharashtra. With its strong network of around 225,000 cooperative bodies controlling sugar, dairy and finance, Maharashtra is the prime example. The Congress and NCP have controlled it for decades, and the BJP has been trying to break the monopoly. Incidentally, what the present Government is trying to do through the newly formed Ministry of Cooperation was opposed in 2013 by present Prime Minister and then Chief Minister of Gujarat, Narendra Modi. He challenged certain

provisions of the 97th constitutional amendment that empowered the Centre to design a framework for the cooperative sector. However, the way out of the impasse was crafted by the NDA-I government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee by passing a law in 2002 allowing multi-state cooperative societies (MSCS) to help cooperatives diversify and operate outside their home state.

Some experts in cooperative affairs find justification in the formation of a separate Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India monitoring on the grounds that in the absence of regulations, there have been allegations of scams in several cooperatives. Money was siphoned off to fund businesses of politicians, bureaucrats and cooperative leaders. The

Rs 6,500 crore Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank scam in 2019 is a case in point. Acting swiftly, in September last year, the government amended the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and gave the RBI powers to regulate operations of urban and multi-state cooperative banks. The RBI put a check on politicalisation of the cooperatives by debarbing the elected politicians from holding full-time positions as CEOs and Directors. The initiative of forming a national cooperative framework finds favour with the experts who feel that it has the potential of creating more entrepreneurial opportunities, get better value of their produce to the farmers and also reduce the exploitation of farmers by middlemen.

India needs 4-5 'SBI size' banks: FM

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India needs 4-5 "SBI size" banks to meet the growing needs of the economy and industry, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Sunday.

Addressing the 74th Annual General Meeting of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), she said the industry needs to imagine how Indian banking has to be in the immediate and long-term future.

As far as the long-term future is concerned, she said it is going to be largely driven by digitised processes and there is a need for seamless and interconnected digital systems for a sustainable future for the Indian banking industry.

"Although I did say that in the amalgamation process, your systems have spoken to each other, there wasn't a problem of those amalgamating banks. And, I remember the banking secretary at that time, Rajiv Kumar, telling me that we have ensured that the amalgamating banks do have their systems in such a way that they can align with each other," she said.

Mega consolidation was announced in 2019 when Kumar was the financial services secretary but was implemented by his successor Debasish Panda effective April 2020.

As part of the mega consolidation exercise, Oriental

Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India were merged into Punjab National Bank; Syndicate Bank into Canara Bank; Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank into Union Bank of India; and Allahabad Bank into Indian Bank.

Following the consolidation, there are now seven large public sector banks and five smaller ones. There were as many as 27 public sector banks (PSBs) in 2017.

Kumar, now an Election Commissioner of India, was instrumental in laying a digital pipeline that was leveraged during the pandemic to transfer money into accounts of crores of the vulnerable and needy with a click of button.

The finance minister said banks, whether public or private sector, cannot work in digital silos and systems should be speaking to each other.

"So, I would think that's one of the areas in which you would give some more time and make sure that bridge crossed," she said.

Appreciating the efforts of bankers to carry out smooth consolidation exercise during the challenging time of the pandemic, the Finance Minister said it did not cause inconvenience to the customer and there was no aberration.

"Amalgamation, after all, is an important exercise even as important to the Indian Banks'

Association because of the way in which the economy is shifting to a different plane altogether, the way in which economy together with the industry is also looking at various different ways of adapting to a post-pandemic era...", she said.

Asserting that the driving force for the amalgamation was to build scale, Sitharaman said India needs a lot more banks and a lot of global size banks.

"India needs at least four different SBI size banks. So, one of the driving forces was for the amalgamation that we need to scale up banking.

"We need to scale up banking to meet the new changing and growing requirements but that was thought of even before the pandemic. Now, all the more reason why we would need four or five more SBIs in this country," she said.

Paying homage to bankers who lost their lives in the line of duty during the pandemic, the finance minister urged IBA to help and support the families of the deceased.

"I do pay my humble homage to those who have served, but also suffered because of the pandemic but unfortunately couldn't survive it. I am sure the IBA will do everything that it takes to support their families, and keep them spirited and morally sound because the loss is irreparable," she said.

Many districts lack bank branches despite high economic activity: FM

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said despite the huge thrust on financial inclusion and high economic activity, there are districts in the country not having any banking presence at all.

She asked the lenders to get their act together and open either a full-fledged brick-and-mortar branch or an outpost rendering banking services, wondering how banking presence eludes even pockets which have high economic activity.

It can be noted that policymakers have been focusing on financial inclusion for over a decade and also had set a target of ensuring banking presence in every village with a population of over 2,000 people. A few years ago, the RBI had liberalised branch opening norms for banks.

"Even today, there are very many districts in which even big panchayats don't have a physical bank...There are very many districts in which not even one banking institution is

physically present," Sitharaman said, speaking at the 74th annual general meeting (AGM) of the industry lobby group Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

She exhorted the IBA members to digitally map all the districts to see the areas having low coverage for themselves and accordingly make provisions for either a physical branch or an outpost.

"You should be able to see the centres of economic activity. Be it a completely rural pocket but if the economic activity is strong there, wouldn't you think there should be some kind of presence?," she asked.

Making it clear that she is not against digitisation, which has paid tremendous cost benefits to lenders in terms of outreach, Sitharaman wondered how there can be parts of country which do not have even a single brick-and-mortar branch.

The minister cited the case of a highly persuasive lawmaker who has been making appeals for a bank branch in an area witnessing high agricultural-related trading.

Leading indicators suggest eco on recovery path: Bhanumurthy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Eminent economist N R Bhanumurthy on Sunday said leading indicators are suggesting that the Indian economy is on recovery path and clearly moving out of the 'dark clouds' brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bhanumurthy, currently Vice Chancellor of B R Ambedkar School of Economics (BASE), further said in terms of the extent of economic recovery, it could take may be one more year to even come back to pre-pandemic levels.

"Going by the recent trends in some of the leading indicators, there are clear positive signs and the Indian economy may be clearly moving out of the dark clouds covered by the pandemic," he told *PTI* in an interview.

Bhanumurthy pointed out that one leading indicator that could be considered is the robust Government revenue collections, higher than the budget estimates; it is something that suggests optimism in growth recovery in India.

According to the eminent economist, the Indian economic recovery is broad-based, although some components of services sector are still recovering largely due to severe sup-

ply-side disruptions. "But this could also be due to severe second pandemic wave that disrupted movement of economic agents."

The Indian economy grew by a record 20.1 per cent in the April-June quarter, helped by a very weak base of last year and a sharp rebound in the manufacturing and services sectors in spite of a devastating second wave of COVID-19.

India is now on track to achieving the world's fastest growth this year.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has lowered the country's growth projection for the current financial year to 9.5 per cent from 10.5 per cent estimated earlier, while the World Bank has projected India's economy to grow at 8.3 per cent in 2021.

On the stock market boom at a time when economic growth has slowed down, Bhanumurthy said it is common to say that stock markets do not reflect the real economy.

"However, this time around, sustained surge in the stock indices do not suggest such disconnect," he said.

Bhanumurthy, however, added that one may see some corrections when large central banks in the world start tightening when the inflationary pressures build up and the same

could happen in India as well.

On recent calls for using the huge forex reserves for infrastructure development or recapitalisation of public sector banks, the economist said the reserves are largely hot money that are required to maintain stability in the forex market.

"In such conditions, using reserves for any specific purposes such as financing or recapitalisation of public sector banks could only end up in weakening external accounts," he observed.

Asked if high retail and wholesale inflation is a matter of concern, he said going by the recent trends in both Consumer Price Index and WPI inflation, there are diverging trends.

He said indeed continuously high WPI inflation is a worrying factor because it could have pass-through impact of CPI even with a long lag.

Stating that the Monetary Policy Committee indeed taking note of this issue, Bhanumurthy said, "Hopefully the committee would take necessary action to mitigate the inflationary pressure."

On the government's National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) scheme, he said NMP is a very good policy measure to unshackle the unproductive public sector entities.

Over 90% Indian business leaders feel pandemic pressed need to improve crisis mgmt capability: Study

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Over 90 per cent of the Indian business leaders opined that the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the need to improve crisis management capabilities, says a survey by consultancy firm PwC India.

About 59 per cent of the Indian business admitted having adversely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, said the PwC's Global Crisis Survey 2021- India Insights.

The survey also revealed that over 80 per cent of India's business leaders have already invested in technology in the aftermath of the pandemic.

In India, it added, business leaders were substantially more confident than global leaders about their ability to evaluate the lessons of the pandemic and put them into action. "92 per cent of India organisations said they were 'confident' vs just 75 per cent of global leaders," the survey said.

The responses of India's business leaders were largely in line with the overall results of PwC's Global Crisis Survey 2021, showing only minor areas of significant divergence in views and insights.

About the survey, PwC said more than 2,800 business leaders around the world shared

company data and personal insights into the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the future of enterprise resilience.

"With 99 respondents representing Indian organisations, our report offers an analysis of how of how our business community is responding and how leaders are applying the lessons of this era to prepare for the next disruption," it said.

As per the survey, the top 5 priorities cited by business leaders going forward are, include accelerate transformations in organisational areas identified during the crisis (99 per cent); adapt strategy to respond nimbly to major interruptions and implement changes (96 per cent); and implement after-action review process to assess response to future incidents and crisis (89 per cent).

The other two are: Actively work on increasing resilience in the near future (86 per cent) and make changes to corporate strategy in response to the pandemic (51 per cent).

Puneet Garkhel, Partner and Leader, Forensics Services, PwC India, said that operations and supply chain, finance and liquidity, and workforce are the three areas in which Indian businesses experienced "significant" or "critical" impact owing to the pandemic.

1.71 cr workers from unorganised sector registered on e-Shram portal in a month

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Over 1.71 crore workers from the unorganised sector have been registered on the e-Shram portal in the last one month since its launch on August 26, 2021.

"Completion of one month of launch of e-Shram portal marks with the registration of more than 1.71 crores workers from the unorganised sector and in unorganised employment," a Labour Ministry statement said.

As of September 25, the statement said, as many as 1,71,59,743 workers have registered on the portal.

The e-Shram portal was inaugurated on August 26, 2021 by the Union Labour and Employment Minister Bhupendra Yadav. The portal is the first-ever national database of unorganised workers including migrant workers, construction workers, gig and platform workers.

It facilitates extending benefits of social sector schemes to the workers in the unorganised sector. The data shows that the drive has strengthened with the mobilisation of workers achieving a greater mile each week. In this first week, 13.55 lakh informal workers registered on the portal. Compared to the 2nd week with over 19.52 lakh registration, in the third and the fourth week, the enrolments gained exponentially.

In week 4, over 69.53 lakh workers registered on the e-Shram portal while it was 68.97 lakh in third week.

Global trends to steer markets; stocks may face volatility amid rich valuations: Analysts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Equity markets would track global cues for further direction this week and may face volatility amid monthly derivatives expiry and rich valuations, analysts said.

The BSE Sensex made history on Friday by reaching the 60,000-mark for the first time ever. It took just eight months for the BSE benchmark to cover the journey from 50,000 in January this year to scale the unprecedented 60,000 mark for the first time on Friday. The Sensex has traversed from 1,000 points to the historic 60,000 level in a little over 31 years.

"The roaring bull market is continued in the Indian market with climbing all walls of worries where Sensex has crossed the new milestone of 60,000. We are in a classical bull market like the 2003-2007 phase where this bull run is likely to continue for the next 2-3 years," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart.

However, he put a word of caution after a parabolic move in last few days because short-term correction cannot be ruled out in coming days.

Sharing similar sentiments, Motilal Oswal, the MD & CEO of Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited said, "Given rich valuations, one cannot ignore intermittent volatility - however we expect the positive momentum to continue on the back of improving economic activity and recovery in corporate earnings."

Chip shortage delaying launches, makers taking measures to mitigate risks: CEAMA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The domestic appliances and consumer electronics industry, facing shortages in components such as semiconductors and chips, expects the situation not only to last through 2022 but also to stretch into 2023, said the Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA).

Several manufacturers, using chips as inputs, are now facing bottlenecks in their capacities and expect a delay in launches of new products, said the CEAMA.

Moreover, shortage of chips, coupled with rising ferrous products, has also offset the softening of prices happening in the sector after some of the commodities like resins and chemicals have shown price corrections, said CEAMA President Kamal Nandi.

"The industry might run short of controllers owing to shortages of semiconductors and other electronic components. Keeping in mind the surge in demand during festive, we have taken appropriate measures to mitigate the near-term risks," CEAMA President Kamal Nandi told *PTI*.

Companies are exploring a combination of technical levers (like design optimisation and value innovation), commercial levers (like hedging, dual sources and localisation), and process levers (like advance and joint planning with suppliers)

to mitigate the impact, he added.

Semiconductors and chips are used for manufacturing key components such as micro controllers, optocoupler, power relay, switch, varistor, and connectors - for a range of appliances manufactured by the industry.

"It is a multifaceted issue with currently no sign of abating. With demand on the rise and supply likely to remain constrained, we expect this shortage to last through 2022 and into 2023," said Nandi.

Moreover, chips manufacturers are also ramping up production fees, which could give an upward push to prices in the future, he added.

However, he also added that the semiconductor industry is putting more capacity in place, but it will take time.

"It is going to take two or three years before we start to see the positive impacts of these steps," said Nandi, who is also business head and executive vice-president , Godrej Appliances.

The appliances price has already witnessing pressure on account of multiple macro-economic factors like increase in commodity prices, freight rates and material shortages.

SpiceJet now introduces interim fixed pay system; some pilots flag continuing salary cuts

PTI ■ MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Budget carrier SpiceJet, which had resorted to hourly-basis pay for pilots amid the pandemic, on Sunday, said it has introduced a new 'interim fixed salary system' for captains and first officers.

The airline said not only will pilot salaries "increase significantly" under the new pay structure but those who fly more than the stipulated minimum hours will be paid overtime.

However, some pilots contested the assurance given by SpiceJet and claimed 'stress' due to the continued reduction in their salaries implemented in April last year.

The pilots claimed that they were being paid a third or a half of their pre-Covid-19 salaries despite the company achieving an occupancy rate of over 85 per cent on passenger flights and being among the largest air cargo carriers during the pandemic.

The Gurgaon-headquartered airline said it had adopted a "block hour payment system" after the COVID-19 outbreak effective April 1, 2020, wherein pilots were paid based on the hourly flying rate without having to send anyone on 'leave without pay'.

"While many other airlines and organisations severed employee contracts during the pandemic, there was no retrenchment in SpiceJet," a SpiceJet spokesperson told *PTI*.

"The migration to the block hour payment model was expected to be short-lived. However, the second wave of COVID-19 has delayed the implementation of our 'normal' salary structure," the spokesperson said.

An interim "fixed salary system" effective September 1, 2021, has now been implemented to provide better payout, said SpiceJet two days after it sent out an e-mail to all pilots announcing the change.

The objectives of the new system, it said, are having a pay structure that reflects fixed salary components and other relevant components.

It will also enable payment of a fixed minimum salary to all available pilots and those who fly more than the stipulated minimum hours will be paid overtime, it added.

"The company will be paying higher amount under the interim fixed salary system and this has been done keeping in mind the welfare of the greater pilot community," SpiceJet said.

Diesel price hiked again, no change in petrol rate

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Diesel price on Sunday was hiked by 25 paise per litre - the second increase in rates after the state-owned oil firms ended a three-week hiatus in rates following international oil prices surging to their highest since 2018.

Price of diesel was hiked to ₹ 89.07 per litre in Delhi and to ₹96.68 in Mumbai, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

Petrol price was not changed. It costs ₹101.19 a litre in Delhi and ₹107.26 in Mumbai.

State-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) had on September 24 resumed daily price revision, ending the pause in rates hit since September 5.

On September 24, diesel rates were hiked by 20 paise a litre. On that day too petrol price had remained unchanged.

Global benchmark Brent crude has risen to USD 77.50 a barrel as crude inventories shrunk from Europe to the US. Oil rates are up 2 per cent for the week and this is the fifth weekly gain.

VIL CEO: Govt has no interest in acquiring any telecom company

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has given an option to telcos to pay back interest on dues through equity and also conveyed that it has no interest in acquiring any telecom company, a top official of debt-ridden Vodafone Idea has said.

Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) Managing Director and CEO Ravinder Takkar in an interview to *PTI* said it is clear that the Government wants the company to compete in the market and there should be at least three private service providers in the telecom sector.

"I have had many many interactions across various parts of the Government leading up to this announcement (telecom reforms). In all my conversations, it is absolutely clear that the Government has no interest in owning or acquiring or running any other telecom company," Takkar said.

The Government is already managing loss-making telecom firms BSNL and MTNL which are yet to post profit after a relief package of around Rs 69,000 crore granted to them in October 2019.

Some experts contended that the government may end up holding a "sizable" chunk.

Made for mission life of 6 months, India's Mars probe completes 7 years in orbit

Bengaluru: India's Mars Orbiter spacecraft has completed seven years in its orbit, well beyond its designed mission life of six months.

"Indeed, a satisfying feeling," K Radhakrishnan who as the then Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) led the Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) team told *PTI* on the milestone.

MOM is the maiden interplanetary mission of ISRO. Launched on November 5, 2013, the probe was successfully inserted into Martian orbit on September 24, 2014 in its first attempt.

MOM is primarily a technology demonstration venture and all the mission objectives were successfully met, according to officials of Bengaluru-headquartered India's national space agency. The main lessons learnt were in the field of design and realisation of systems and subsystems, launch for interplanetary mission, insertion into other planet's orbit, operation of the spacecraft and scientific instruments around Mars orbit, they said.

The lessons learnt have raised the confidence of ISRO scientists for taking up future interplanetary missions. ISRO has been continuously monitoring the spacecraft and its five scientific instruments, and officials said scientific analysis of the data being received from MOM spacecraft is in progress.

On the health of the spacecraft, M Annadurai, who was the Programme Director of MOM, said the spacecraft's "moving elements are facing some issues and some of the redundancies we have to switch over."

"The spacecraft's health is reasonably good considering that we are in the seventh year," Annadurai told *PTI*. He expects the spacecraft to have a mission life of probably another one year.

On the reasons for the long mission life, Annadurai said ISRO had done corrections after learning lessons from the Chandrayaan-1 venture, in terms of reconfiguring the spacecraft and optimisation of fuel management, among others. Noting that Earth remote-

sensing satellites typically have a mission life of seven to nine years, he said it was a very satisfying moment that India could establish that around Mars also, a spacecraft can be in operation for such a long period. On some criticism in some quarters that scientific output of the MOM was 'low', Annadurai said it was more of a technology-demonstration mission. He pointed out that the spacecraft was launched by PSLV as GSLV was not in operational condition then. ISRO could apportion only about 15 kg for scientific instruments, and the time available for scientists to develop them was only 18-19 months.

"I don't think we could have done better than what we have done," Annadurai said. ISRO officials said the spacecraft has already covered three Martian years (one Martian year is about two earth years).

"We have seen how changes happen on the Mars from one season to another, one Martian year to another Martian year," they said. *PTI*

Chidambaram lambasted by KPCC chief for comments against Pala Bishop

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) on Sunday lambasted Congress Working Committee member and former Finance Minister P Chidambaram for his comments on Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, the Bishop of Pala who had alleged that Jihadis were resorting to drug peddling for wooing girls from the Catholic community.

Chidambaram, had alleged in his weekly column in an upcountry newspaper that while love and narcotics were real, to attach the word jihad to love and narcotics revealed warped thinking.

K Sudhakaran, KPCC president, while addressing the media on Sunday termed Chidambaram's comments as unwanted and out of place. "We have a well organized Pradesh Congress Committee to look after the repercussions if any of the comments made by the Bishop. Outsiders need not aggravate the situation by making unwanted comments," said Sudhakaran, who is on a mission to smoothen the ruffled feathers arising out of the reported comments made

by Kerala Leader of the Opposition VD Satheshan who had condemned the Bishop in the strongest of words. The new KPCC chief had met all Christian and Muslim leaders in the State calling for restraint. Leaders of various Islamic outfits had expressed their anguish over the statement made by the Bishop while addressing a religious congregation in Kottayam district.

Chidambaram, who is the main ideological leader of the Congress party said in his article that the Hindu zealots and the Christians were targeting the Muslims. "There is no surprise in the Hindu radical right springing to the support of the Bishop of Pala. Both target the 'other', meaning the Muslims," he wrote. Sudhakaran is trying to make a tight rope walking without offending the Christians and Muslims, the main vote bank of the Congress in Kerala. "We in Kerala are struggling to maintain the cordial ties between two prominent communities. Persons sitting in New Delhi are spreading ideas which have no relevance to Kerala," said a close associate of Sudhakaran.

Covid-climate crisis leads to rise in child marriages in Sundarbans

New Delhi: Shackled by poverty in a home that came under water when Cyclone Amphan barreled into her village and left penniless by the pandemic, the hapless mother married off her 15-year-old daughter - their story emblematic of the Covid-climate crisis in the Sundarbans that has seen a sharp rise in the number of child marriages. It was May last year, recalled Rashmi Devi. With only a tent as cover for her seven-member family following the super cyclone and no money for food, the marriage proposal for her young daughter seemed like a godsend.

"We could barely manage one meal every day and the decision to get her married seemed right

at the time. In my mind I thought there will be one less mouth to feed and she will get more than just salt and rice to eat," the mother told *PTI* over the phone from Canning in the Sundarbans that falls in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district.

Sixteen months later, the decision doesn't seem so right. The family is still in dire straits and her son-in-law is behind bars on charges of dowry harassment. Rashmi's family is not the only one.

Communities in the ecologically fragile Sundarbans delta region are still reeling under the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change, say survivors and activists. *PTI*

GLOBE TROTTING

HURRICANE SAM BECOMES CATEGORY 4 STORM
Miami: Far from land, Hurricane Sam strengthened into a Category 4 hurricane in the Atlantic Ocean on Saturday. No coastal watches or warnings were in effect for Sam, which was about 990 miles (1,595 kilometers) east-southeast of the northern Leeward Islands in the Caribbean Sea on Saturday night.

BILLIONAIRE WALTER SCOTT DIES AT 90
Omaha (US): Billionaire Walter Scott, the past top executive of Peter Kiewit Sons Inc construction firm who helped oversee Warren Buffett's conglomerate and donated to various causes, particularly construction projects around Omaha, has died. He was 90.

AIRPORT REOPENS ROILED BY VOLCANO ERUPTION
La Palma (Spain): The airport on the Spanish island of La Palma reopened Sunday and authorities allowed some evacuated residents to collect belongings from their homes, as an erupting volcano continued to roar but lava flows remained slow. The island's government said there had been "no significant incidents" with the volcano since Saturday, when part of the crater collapsed and another river of lava emerged.

ENVOYS VISIT POKHARA TO BOOST NEPAL TOURISM
Kathmandu: Envoys from 10 countries on Sunday visited Nepal's popular tourist hub Pokhara in Gandaki province on the invitation of the provincial government as part of its efforts to boost tourism in the Himalayan nation, following a drop in the coronavirus cases over the past few weeks.

America has enough vax for boosters, kids' shots

AP ■ MADISON (US)

With more than 40 million doses of coronavirus vaccines available, US health authorities said they're confident there will be enough for both qualified older Americans seeking booster shots and the young children for whom initial vaccines are expected to be approved in the not-too-distant future.

The spike in demand — expected following last week's federal recommendation on booster shots — would be the first significant jump in months. More than 70 million Americans remain unvaccinated despite the enticement of lottery prizes, free food or gifts and pleas from exhausted health care workers as the average number of deaths per day climbed to more than 1,900 in recent weeks.

Federal and state health authorities said current supply and steady production of more doses can easily accommodate those seeking boosters or initial vaccination, avoiding a repeat of the frustratingly slow rollout of Covid-19 vaccines across the country early this year.

"I hope that we have the level of interest in the booster that we need more vaccines," Colorado Governor Jared Polis said Tuesday. "That's simply not where we are today. We have plenty of vaccines." Robust supply in the US enabled President Joe Biden this week to promise an additional 500 million of Pfizer's COVID-19 shots to share with the world, doubling the United States' global contribution. Aid groups and health organisations have pushed the US and other countries to improve vaccine access in countries where even the most vulnerable people haven't had a shot.

4 Pakistani security personnel killed, attack claimed by BLA

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

At least four security personnel were killed and two others injured in a blast targeting Pakistan's paramilitary forces in the country's restive Balochistan province, an official said on Sunday.

The outlawed Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) claimed responsibility for the attack. A vehicle of the Frontier Corps (FC) was attacked in the Khosat area of Harnai district on Saturday, according to the

Russia says it is in sync with US, China, Pak on Taliban

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Russia, China, Pakistan and the United States are working together to ensure that Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers keep their promises, especially to form a genuinely representative Government and prevent extremism from spreading, Russia's Foreign Minister said on Saturday.

Sergey Lavrov said the four countries are in ongoing contact. He said representatives from Russia, China and Pakistan recently traveled to Qatar and then to Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, to engage with both the Taliban and representatives of "secular authorities" — former President Hamid Karzai and Abdullah Abdullah, who headed the ousted government's negotiating council with the Taliban.

Lavrov said the interim government announced by the Taliban does not reflect "the whole gamut of Afghan society — ethno-religious and political forces — so we are engaging in contacts. They are ongoing."

The Taliban have promised an inclusive Government, a more moderate form of Islamic rule than when they last ruled the country from 1996 to 2001 including respecting women's rights, providing stability after 20 years of war, fighting ter-



Taliban fighters enjoy a boat ride in the Qargha dam, outskirts of Kabul

AP

rorism and extremism and stopping militants from using their territory to launch attacks. But recent moves suggest they may be returning to more repressive policies, particularly toward women and girls.

"What's most important... Is to ensure that the promises that they have proclaimed publicly to be kept," Lavrov said. "And for us, that is the top priority."

At a wide-ranging news conference and in his speech afterward at the UN General Assembly, Lavrov criticized the Biden administration including for its hasty withdrawal from Afghanistan.

He said the US and NATO

pullout "was carried out out without any consideration of the consequences... That there are many weapons left in Afghanistan."

It remains critical, he said, that such weapons aren't used for "destructive purposes."

Later, in his assembly speech, Lavrov accused the United States and its Western allies of "persistent attempts to diminish the UN's role in resolving the key problems of today or to sideline it or to make it a malleable tool for promoting someone's selfish interests."

As examples, Lavrov said Germany and France recently announced the creation of an

Taliban appoint Ghairat as new VC of Kabul varsity

Around 70 teaching staff resign after Taliban sacks VC of Kabul University

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Taliban regime has appointed an expert in making sticky/magnetic bombs Ashraf Ghairat as Vice Chancellor of Kabul University. After Ghairat's appointment, 70 faculty members have resigned from the University.

Ghairat, 45, is only a graduate and has close links with Pakistani covert agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), and terror groups like Haqqani Network, Al Qaeda and Army of Mohammad among others. Earlier, VCs in different universities in Afghanistan, including in Kabul, used to have doctorates.

The move is aimed at converting the campus into a hub for radicalization of young minds as the Taliban has asserted that Ghairat has all the qualifications that are required for the top post at Kabul University.

The interim government in

Kabul already has listed terrorists from the Haqqani Network and Taliban. Such terrorists have been designated by both the United Nations and the United States.

Under the Doha pact with the Taliban, the US has committed itself to lifting the sanctions on all such leaders holding key positions in the current regime in Kabul.

The Haqqani Network as also the Taliban are projects of the Pakistani Army-ISI syndicate. The Haqqani Network has planted Ghairat as the VC as part of a conspiracy to convert the campus into a breeding ground for future global terrorists.

Ghairat has in the past trained hundreds of trainers for fabricating sticky or magnetic bombs and IEDs. He has also masterminded executions of sticky bomb blasts to kill scores of people opposed to the Haqqani Network or the Taliban.

The Kabul University attracts students from a number of countries in the region and radicalization of such youth will help expand the terror footprint in the entire region.

Founder President of

Afghanistan Republic Salvation Front and senior counter-terrorism expert of Afghan origin, Ajmal Sohail said, "The move is clearly aimed at revival of the global terrorist groups with renewed recruitment of young minds from university campuses like Kabul University."

By ramping up the terrorist cadres, the Taliban and its cohorts like the Haqqani Network and Al Qaeda aim at creation of a global caliphate, Sohail added.

Other counter-terrorism expert Dr Rituraj Mate said, "The Taliban is aiming at converting the Kabul University into a nursery of terrorism and radicalization for fueling global jihad. Appointing such a person from hardcore terrorist background is an ominous sign and agencies need to keep a watch on such developments to formulate suitable and timely counter measures."

Young minds are vulnerable to radicalization and inclined to take risks. Once radicalized and trained in making IEDs, the youths can be used for executing terrorist actions like blasts in their home country under the garb of jihad, Dr Mate added.

Alliance For Multilateralism "even though what kind of structure could be more multilateral than the United Nations?"

The United States is also sidestepping the UN, he said, pointing to the recent US announcement of a "Summit for Democracy" despite, Lavrov said, US President Joe Biden's pledge this week "that the US is not seeking a world divided into opposing blocs."

"It goes without saying that Washington is going to choose the participants by itself, thus hijacking the right to decide to what degree a country meets the standards of democracy," Lavrov said.

"Essentially, this initiative is quite in the spirit of a Cold War, as it declares a new ideological crusade against all dissenters."

Lavrov was asked for Russia's reaction to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' warning last week that the world could be plunged into a new Cold War potentially more dangerous than the lengthy one between the US and the former Soviet Union unless the United States and China repair their "totally dysfunctional" relationship.

He replied, "Of course, we see the tension tightening in relations between China and the United States."

Turkey could buy more Russian missiles despite US warnings

AP ■ ISTANBUL

Turkey's president has said he would consider buying a second Russian missile system in defiance of strong objections by the United States.

In an interview with American broadcaster CBS News, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey would have to decide its defence systems on its own.

Speaking to correspondent Margaret Brennan in New York this past week, Erdogan explained that Turkey wasn't given the option to buy American-made Patriot missiles and the US hadn't delivered F-35 stealth jets despite a payment of USD 1.4 billion. Erdogan's comments came in excerpts released in advance of the full interview being broadcast Sunday.

NATO member Turkey was kicked out of the F-35 programme and defence officials were sanctioned after it bought the Russian-made S-400 missile defence system. The US strongly objects to the use of Russian systems within NATO and says it poses a threat to the F-35s. Turkey maintains the S-400s could be used independently without being integrated into

At UNGA, turmoil in Haiti, Ethiopia draws global concern

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The speeches may be scripted, but the UN General Assembly can sometimes be the only direct window into the regional challenges that command global concern.

On Saturday, world leaders were speaking on behalf of some of the most unstable and unsettling current conflicts.

That includes India's fight over the Kashmir region with bitter rival Pakistan, Haiti's domestic crises spilling into a migrant crisis at the US-Mexico border and questions about the Ethiopian government's role in reported starvation deaths in the Tigray region.

Haiti Prime Minister Ariel Henry didn't shy away from addressing his country's turmoil following a major earthquake and the assassination of its president, Jovenel Moise, in recent months — alluding to but not directly addressing reports that may implicate Henry himself in the murder.

"I want to reaffirm here, at this platform, my determination to do everything to find the collaborators, accomplices and sponsors of this odious crime. Nothing, absolutely nothing, no political maneuver, no media campaign, no distraction, could deter me from this objective: rendering justice for President Moise," Henry said in a prerecorded speech.

"It is a debt to his memory, his family and the Haitian



In this photo taken from video, Ariel Henry, Prime Minister of Haiti, remotely addresses the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly in a pre-recorded message

AP

people," Henry said. "The judicial inquest is going difficultly. It's a transnational crime. And for that, we formally solicit mutual legal assistance. It is a priority of my government for the entire nation. Because this crime cannot rest unpunished et those culpable, all those culpable must be punished."

The statement comes days after Henry fired his chief prosecutor, who had asked a judge to charge Henry in the slaying of Moise that has shocked the world and to bar the prime minister from leaving the country.

Haiti's troubles have moved beyond its borders, with thousands of migrants fleeing to the United States. This week, the Biden administration's special envoy to Haiti, Daniel Foote,

resigned in protest of "inhuman" large-scale US expulsions of Haitian migrants. Foote was appointed to the position only in July, following the assassination.

Henry pointedly said that inequalities and conflict drive migration. But he stopped short of directly criticizing Washington, whose treatment of Haitian asylum-seekers has prompted an outcry.

Human beings, fathers and mothers who have children, are always going to flee poverty and conflict," Henry said.

"Migration will continue as long as the planet has both wealthy areas, whilst most of the world's population lives in poverty, even extreme poverty, without any prospects of a better life." It was a flat-out denial for Ethiopia Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen, who rejected humanitarian concerns over Tigray as part of a "twisted propaganda campaign" in the embattled corner of northern Ethiopia.

"The criminal enterprise and its enablers created and advertised horrific imagery of faked incidents. As if the real misery of our people is not enough, storylines are created to match not the facts but preconceived stereotypical attitudes," Mekonnen said.

Ethiopia has faced the pressure of global concern since the UN warned of famine in the conflict, calling it the world's worst hunger crisis in a decade.

Iceland elects Europe's first female-majority Parliament

AP ■ REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

Iceland has elected a female-majority parliament, a landmark for gender equality in the North Atlantic island nation, in a vote that saw centrist parties make the biggest gains.

After all votes were counted Sunday, female candidates held 33 seats in Iceland's 63-seat parliament, the Althing. The three parties in the outgoing coalition government led by Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir won a total of 37 seats in Saturday's vote, two more than in the last election, and appeared likely to continue in power.

The election makes Iceland the only country in Europe, and one of a handful in the world, with a majority of female lawmakers. According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Rwanda leads the world with women making up 61% of its Chamber of Deputies, with Cuba, Nicaragua and Mexico narrowly over the 50% mark. Worldwide, the organization says just over a quarter of legislators are women.

Israeli troops kill 5 Palestinian gunmen in arrest clashes

Jerusalem: Five Palestinian gunmen were killed in shootouts with Israeli security forces during a sweeping West Bank arrest operation cracking down on the Islamic militant group Hamas on Sunday.

It was the deadliest violence between Israeli troops and Palestinian militants in the occupied West Bank in recent weeks and came amid heightened tensions following this year's 11-day war between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian Health Ministry said two Palestinians were shot dead near the north-

ern West Bank city of Jenin and three others were killed in Biddu, north of Jerusalem.

The Israeli military said an officer and soldier suffered serious injuries during the arrest in Burqin, near Jenin, and were airlifted to a hospital for medical treatment.

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said in a statement that Israeli security forces in the West Bank moved against Hamas operatives "that were about to execute terror attacks in the very immediate future."

AP



In this photo provided by Kimberly Fossen people work at the scene of an Amtrak train derailment on Saturday

AP

3 dead in Amtrak train derailment

Joplin: At least three people were killed Saturday afternoon when an Amtrak train that runs between Seattle and Chicago derailed in north-central Montana, toppling several cars onto their sides, authorities said.

The westbound Empire Builder train derailed about 4 p.m. near Joplin, a town of about 200, Amtrak spokesman Jason Abrams said in a statement. The accident scene is about 150 miles (241 kilometers) northeast of Helena and about 30 miles (48 km) from the border with Canada.

Liberty County sheriff's dispatcher Starr Tyler told The Associated Press that three people died in the derailment. She did not have more details. Amtrak confirmed the deaths and said there were multiple injuries.

"We are deeply saddened to learn local

authorities are now confirming that three people have lost their lives as a result of this accident," Abrams said.

The train had about 141 passengers and 16 crew members onboard, Abrams said. The train had two locomotives and 10 cars, eight of which derailed, he said. "We are deeply saddened to learn local authorities are now confirming that three people have lost their lives as a result of this accident," Abrams said.

Megan Vandervest, a passenger who was going to visit a friend in Seattle, told The New York Times that she was awakened by the derailment.

"My first thought was that we were derailing because, to be honest, I have anxiety and I had heard stories about trains derailling," said Vandervest, who is from Minneapolis.



Bollywood
'Jagjit Singh ji lives on in our hearts. I thank him for leaving behind such a melodious legacy.'
—Sonu Nigam

THE FALLEN ANGEL

We no longer are seeking validation from the West because we know where we stand, says ANANYA SENGUPTA in a candid conversation with KHUSHBU KIRTI



Friedrich Nietzsche had once said, "He who fights his own demons, must take care he doesn't become one." *Enigma* — *The Fallen Angel*, an award winning short-film, explores exactly this — the dark, hidden recesses of the mind. It revolves around the intermingled lives of Richa and Myra. Besides winning innumerable awards at festivals, the short film qualified for the Oscars and will be screened in November in LA.

Actress Ananya Sengupta recently won two consecutive international film awards for the category of 'Best Actress' and 'Best Supporting Actress' for her short-films *Enigma* — *The Fallen Angel* and *Silver Gandhi* at Port Blair International Film festival and Golden Sparrow International Film festival, respectively.

Read on for excerpts of the interview:

□Your latest short film *Enigma- The Fallen Angel* has won widespread acclaim. Give us an overview of the film.

Firstly, I'm so glad for the interview. I do not think I've achieved much to deserve this (laughs heartily). Previously, I was a model and I didn't feel proud of myself for the same, because you're doing what other people are telling you to do and it is not like you are exhibiting your talent in it. It didn't seem consistent and I was not invested in it. Modelling is about posing, looking good and thin. You do not have much work. So, at the moment, I'm doing

a couple of short films, and Telugu films to showcase my acting skills. They were doing festival rounds and, luckily, one of my short-films has been spotted.

Enigma- The Fallen Angel has been made by a production called Dreamcatchers who are based in Pune. They are super passionate filmmakers. The trailer of the film itself looks so international because of the way that they have made it. So, this film is about a girl who has schizophrenia, hallucinates, and lives in her own world. She, then, returns to reality and realises that the world is still sad. It has a supernatural air to it and since the duration of the film is hardly 30 minutes, I'll leave it to the audience to watch it. I am proud of the film and the journey and I see these things that I am doing right now as stepping stones to what I actually wish to achieve.

□And what is it that you wish to achieve?

My plan is to do mainstream cinema and movies. Being a newcomer, when you don't have a back-up, and people always want to know what you've done. They want to cast you on the basis of your profile. I do not come from a film background, and so I cannot say I'm so-and-so's daughter or sister. I have to speak through my work. I'm trying to garner content to show to the makers. So I want to become 'already somebody'.

□The film qualified for the Oscars screening at LA in November, which is probably the highest accomplishment for a film. According to you, why aren't more people talking about it?

Yes, I understand that not many people have recognised it but people are noticing it in the Marathi film industry. We have plans to take it



ahead with press releases and bytes soon. But, honestly, I have seen people get confused between nomination and qualification when it comes to Oscars. We have been qualified for the screening, which is a big deal in itself, and I'm hoping gradually more spectators will notice.

□Films making a mark internationally, are we still looking for validation from the west?

I think we are always trying to do that. I remember Aamir Khan trying hard for *Lagaan* to get that credit in the West but couldn't exactly receive it. I remember Aishwarya Rai doing *Pink Panther*, but she couldn't last long either. She is the absolute queen and we all love her but it still did not work. Others have attempted to send their films for Oscars, too. This may have certainly happened in the past, but I do not think we're doing that anymore because I would like to believe we are now aware where we stand.

□You won the best actress award, at Port Blair Film Festival, for this particular role. We're excited to know about your character in the film. How did you relate with it?

I am playing the role of the 'mystery girl' in *Enigma*. The film belongs to the supernatural genre so I'm not sure if the audience will relate to my character, unless you watch it twice. I'm not trying to be greedy here but I feel it's just one of those films that you gotta watch twice to understand well.

□What, according to you, is the USP of the short film? Why should more people watch it?

I think everyone has a different perception and there would be numerous USPs when it comes to different opinions. Personally, I feel if a film clicks with you, it just does. That's what I look for and appreciate when I watch cinema. For this one, particularly, the content is very different. It is dreamy and fantastical. It is, altogether, a different world.

□You have a line-up of diverse films — a Marathi web-series called *Highdose* and a Telugu film called *Madras Gang*. Tell us about the films.

I'm doing two Telugu films, one is *Madras Gang* and the second one is untitled. The former is a trilingual film (Telugu, Tamil and Hindi) and it is about groupism. Everyone wishes to become the ruler of the gang. It is based in Mumbai and also revolves around this Maharashtrian girl from Dadar who has grown up in slums. There are cops and gangs involved. It is quite an interesting story. It is produced under the banner of SN Reddy and directed by Ajay Andrews, and features Ashmit Patel, Adhyayan Suman and Ranga Jinu.

In the untitled film, my role is opposite Naveen Chandra. The film is directed by Srinivasa Raju. They're commercial mainstream films and I'm very excited for both.

□You seem to play diverse roles in various languages. Is it difficult to shift from one to another, more so because of the language change?

(Chuckles before proceeding) It is too difficult, it really is. I can learn Russian and Spanish but I cannot learn Tamil and Telugu, for the love of God! They are complicated but obviously, like we know, practise makes you perfect. With practise, I got better at it or, at least, I can say I could pull it off. People, surprisingly, loved my performance. I was super anxious since I did not know these languages but I'm glad it all worked out.

□Can you tell us about your character in *Highdose*?

Yes. *Highdose* is a web-series directed by Marathi director Dilip Vasudev and produced by Shonali films, and is supposed to be released this year. It is being shot at a very large scale.

I am playing the character of Revati, a free-spirited young girl. She is a kind-of drug-addict and is troubled due to her past troubles caused by her parents' separation at a very young age.

WEBBED



EK THI BEGUM S2

Inspired by true events, the show reflects the story of Ashraf a.k.a Sapna. The loving wife of Zaheer, previously a confidant of Maqsood, the underworld don, but now arch-rival, Sapna vows revenge on Maqsood's empire after he kills her husband. It releases on September 30 on MX Player.



BINGO HELL

In the barrio of Oak Springs live a strong and stubborn group of elderly friends who refuse to be gentrified. However, their beloved bingo hall is about to be sold to a much more powerful force than money itself. It releases on October 1 on Amazon Prime Video.



SHIDDAT

The passion that overcomes all senses or logic to do things that you wouldn't usually imagine. To believe in something with all your heart and to possess the drive to achieve it — that's *Shiddat*. It releases on October 1 on Disney+ Hotstar.

Skincare essentials

Soft and happy skin is not out of your reach. You just need to be a little mindful, consistently



SMILE

When we smile the blood flow gets better, and the skin receives more oxygen and nutrients. This can help you develop a healthier complexion. It also leaves you stress free making you look happy and radiant.

CLEANSE AND MOISTURISE

Healthy skin is an outcome of a balanced diet. The food we eat provides the building blocks for healthy functioning of our bodies. Our diet has everything to do with the health of our skin. The nutrients, minerals, and proteins found in food support collagen production and healthy cell membranes. Additionally, don't forget to protect your skin from harmful stressors, such as UV exposure.

BALANCED DIET

Healthy skin is an outcome of a balanced diet. The food we eat provides the building blocks for healthy functioning of our bodies. Our diet has everything to do with the health of our skin. The nutrients, minerals, and proteins found in food support collagen production and healthy cell membranes, and protect skin from harmful stressors, such as UV exposure.

H2O

With our bodies comprising of 70 per cent water, drinking sufficient amounts of water helps your skin look healthy and hydrated. Drinking adequate water flushes out toxins from our bodies, preventing acne and boosting the skin's elasticity. After all, water is called the elixir of life.

MOVE YOUR BODY

Along with cleansing and proper nutrition, another aspect which is important for happy skin is movement. When we move or burn calories, the body produces chemicals called endorphins. These endorphins interact with the receptors in the brain to trigger positive feelings and happy thoughts. This feeling of pure happiness and joy reflects on the skin, thus having the power to completely change your mood and keep you and your skin beaming.

—IANS

Love yourself before you love others

ALINA MUSTAFINA believes that you have to achieve self-goals before being with someone and getting tagged as 'couple goals'

Everyone knows that we all strive for the 'perfect relationship'. And, for this, we seek inspiration from others, mostly celebrities and our near and dear ones. We will be lying if we haven't heard ourselves or someone else say that they are 'looking for the Chandler to my Monica', or 'Jake to my Amy', or 'Ted to my Robin'.

While it is normal to seek inspiration from external sources, it is equally important to understand the reality of our situation. Achieving the 'couple goals' status requires some effort, romance, and mutual respect from both you and your partner. Irrespective of whether you are single or in a relationship, one needs to set their own ground rules and expectations of why they are in a relationship or on a dating app. Laying these rules can define your dating life and help you understand the kind of relationship you seek, what qualities you desire in your potential partner and what could be a red flag for you.

To help those who might be feeling a little stuck on these questions, here are some key pointers that you should bear in mind before taking the leap of faith that dating is, online or offline:

Don't let one bad experience define you

There is a popular Hindi metaphor that goes, 'doodh ka jala hua chaach bhi

phuk phuk kar peeta hai'. While it means that one unpleasant experience will make you extremely cautious, in the context of the matter at hand, let us interpret it as-- a recent unpleasant experience in a romantic relationship makes you extra cautious in future relationships.

It is okay to be cautious of opening yourself to someone because of some past experiences. However, we should also understand that just because something happened in the past, it is not necessary that future pursuits will follow the same script. Rachel met Ross after Paolo (*F.R.I.E.N.D.S* reference). One should let this thought sink and commence their journey of love and dating with a positive affirmation.

What am I doing here?

This is the pertinent question to ask before you make your bio on dating apps or start dating someone. Self-inspection should be the ideal way to explore your romantic life.

The first step is to take some time to reflect and honestly ask yourself what it is that you're looking for. It doesn't matter if you're looking for a serious relationship or just want a Netflix and Chill partner. If you're aware of, and understand, what you want, you won't feel lost or confused about your love life.

Effort never goes out of style



We may make numerous excuses for forgetting anniversaries, missing out on dates, or just not replying to texts. But every successful relationship is built on the small efforts you and your loved one puts in. It is easy to enjoy the label of being someone's girlfriend/ boyfriend, but not many will do justice to it. Planning breakfast dates, watching movies together or bonding over your favourite activities is the best way to spend time with your significant other!

Wired for life

When clouded with the fear of being judged or as issues pop up, we tend to shy away from standing for our core values. Undermining what you stand for, just for the sake of impressing someone isn't right. A partner that believes and supports your moral values, even though they might disagree with them, is the one to always go for! If

your mental wiring is the same, you are more likely to be wired for life, together.

Honesty is the best policy

Not all relationships will work out. Things might fizzle, you may lose interest or be unloved. All these things happen quite usually. But what is necessary is to address this and have the 'we need to talk'-talk. It's not fair to drag something that is hurting both you and your partner. Either speak your mind and see if things can be made better or maturely part ways. And even if you fall apart, there is always the chance to find a new love that will bring much more joy to your life.

Don't forget that for a successful relationship, you need first to have a beautiful relationship with yourself!

(The author is the country manager of happn, an online dating app.)

TRENDBLAZER



NOMINATED FOR EMMY: SIDDIQUI

Actor **NAWAZUDDIN SIDDIQUI**, who has been nominated for the 'Best Actor' category at the International Emmy Awards for his performance in *Serious Men*, says his character in the film is flawed.

He shares, "The film intricately depicts the raw frailties of Indian society while reflecting the diversity of our culture. I would say that while my character is flawed, it is one that stays with the audience. Hats off to the director, Sudhir Mishra, who did a splendid job."



fairtalk

HEMA MALINI

'One fine day when we were shooting for *Andaz*, director Ramesh Sippy ji came over and told us that the song, *Zindagi Ek Safar Hai Suhana*, will be picturised on a motorbike. I wondered how will we pull it off and the first time I sat behind Rajesh Khanna ji on the bike, I asked whether he knew how to ride or not. As soon as the song played, he started jumping up and down while riding!'



dailytalk

PALASH SEN

'You can safely say that our new album, *Safe*, has been a work in progress for the past 17 years. One of the tracks featured in the album, *Kesariya*, was composed 17 years ago during a road trip with my brother Ayushmann Khurrana from Delhi to Shimla. The last entrant on the album was the title song, which was made just a little over two months ago.'

BOND FOR THE LAST TIME: DANIEL CRAIG

Actor **DANIEL CRAIG**, who is stepping down from his role as Agent 007 after the release of *No Time To Die*, says his role as James Bond is 'everything' to him.

"Bond films don't get made very often. Portraying the iconic role obviously was the biggest thing in my professional career and life, so it is a very emotional moment. While I am glad I am ending it on my terms, thanks to the producers, I will miss it," he expresses.



RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN SPOTLIGHT

Villagers in remote areas of the country stared at a healthcare disaster during the pandemic, says RAJESH NIRMAL

Around 65.5 per cent of India's total population resides in rural areas. Tucked away in some of the remotest corners of the country, these areas are often characterised by poor development infrastructure. Unavailability of and inaccessibility to health-care services is the most crucial gap. In terms of accessing health-care benefits, there are certain barriers faced by the rural population, especially women. In current Covid times, these barriers have multiplied, making the lives of the rural populations even more challenging.

During the different phases of lockdown, people who can access smartphones, the internet, and correct information, could reach out to doctors for online consultation. On the other hand, more than half of the rural population continued to rely upon the medicines they identify only by their colour, mostly available at the local medical stores. "Almost everyone in our village depends on these locally available medicines. We have a habit of curing sickness without visiting any doctor. As the nearest government hospital is eight to 10 km away from our village, no one has time and other resources to be spent on hospital visits," shared 34-year-old Laalti Devi from Rampur Babuan village, Sultanpur district in Uttar Pradesh.

Laalti, whose husband migrates to the city in search of work, informed that in his absence, she looks after the family. "In such a scenario, if anyone from my house gets sick, we get medicine from the medical store and follow the instructions given by the pharmacist," she said. Visiting private hospitals is not an option for the rural poor who find it difficult to make ends meet.

During both the first and second wave, the majority of district hospitals were converted to Covid facilities, further limiting the access of villagers in



case of emergencies. According to Laalti, during the horrific waves of the pandemic, people feared even thinking about visiting the hospitals. They are still afraid that they will get infected with Covid if they will visit hospitals. They are also frightened that they may be forced to get vaccinated if they will visit the government health-care facilities.

Sharing her experience regarding obtaining medical treatment during the

pandemic, Laalti informed, "Last year, I had developed certain health complications. With my husband not around, I had no one to seek advice from. The fear of Covid was such that I decided to wait. After the lockdown was lifted and my husband managed to return, we went to the hospital for treatment. The infection, however, had spread because of the delay in treatment."

47-year-old Prabha Devi, another local resident of the village, had to

undergo uterus removal surgery. As the hospitals were full of Covid patients, she could not utilise the services of government hospitals. "I wanted my aunt to undergo surgery in the district hospital, but I was not capable of that kind of hustle. Due to Covid, people with other health complications were not being treated properly. Doctors were overwhelmed with the Covid cases," shared Sandeep, a relative of Prabha Devi.

"Taking all the factors into consideration, my family had decided that even if they had to take a loan or sell our fields, my treatment will be done at a private hospital because they could not put my life at stake," rued Prabha Devi.

Not every woman is lucky to have access to financial resources to get their illness treated. They keep suffering in silence. One of the reasons that prevent rural women from receiving institution-alised health-care is the unavailability of hospitals in their villages. This year, the Finance Minister has, however, allocated ₹ 64,185 crores towards strengthening health services in rural India. Besides, ₹ 35,000 crores have been set aside to tackle the pandemic, which is planned to be spent on primary, secondary, and tertiary health-care. Overall, there has been a 137 per cent increase in the national budget as compared to last year. It is, however, not only the infrastructure that needs to be strengthened.

The issue of health-literacy among the rural populations, especially women, also needs to be addressed as it impacts their ability to apprehend health information provided by frontline workers like ASHA. Due to poor health literacy, women feel reluctant to seek health-care as they fear communicating with healthcare providers. Additionally, low health literacy impacts the implementation of government initiatives.

Drawing upon the experiences of the villagers, especially women, it is quite clear that a strong health-care network must be established in rural areas. Using the budget allocated by the union government, the local administration should devise a special program where the doctors and medicines should be accessible to villagers, and a strong healthcare work-force should help address the health illiteracy gap in these rural areas.

—Charkha Features



Moral paradigm

The development of morality can shape and save future generations, says RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Lately, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Economic and Social Council of the UN (ECOSOC), and also other similar institutions, which are working for development have also veered round to the point that the notion of development would be faulty unless our focus is on the people because it is the people for whom all developmental efforts must be served.

However, looking from all the aspects, the plans, programmes, and parameters of development that are charted by various UN agencies and other similar institutions; it seems that they aim only or mainly at the economic development and physical and mental wellbeing of the people and, therefore, their major thrust now is the provision of basic necessities, such as water and food, employment, literacy, health-care, pollution-free environment, and so forth, to the developing or backward areas. Thus, even in this new paradigm, the development of proper attitudes and outlooks of the human individual is missing or has not been given the attention it deserves. Therefore, there seems to be some lack of realisation that, although all the aforementioned kinds of development are necessary, these are not enough to bring real and durable security and peace. If people have parochial, communal, selfish tendencies that give them a narrow sense of self-identity, and a sectional loyalty, based on ethnic, racial, communal, casteist, and national background, they will let loose the divisive forces and will commit violence and destructive acts thereby bringing to nought all hard efforts made for development. Also, we all see many signs of insecurity and restlessness even in highly developed countries, some of which are known as gun-running societies.

Now, if there is reasonable security and safety there, why do the citizens of that country, in such large numbers, require guns and pistols? Again, why does a high percentage of people have to go in for treatment at the hands of psychiatrists in these nations? Why do they drink so heavily or take sleeping pills? Why is there a lot of mental tension amidst affluence? Why is there a large number of cases of divorce, rape, child abuse, domestic violence, and drug addiction? Why is there a high incidence of corruption even in high places in these highly developed countries? Aren't the developed countries, with a high percentage of literacy and, at least, with some degree of economic security, worried about the crime increase and drug traffic? Why do so many people commit suicide or murders? Does all this not show that there may still be deep restlessness in society even when there is a high degree of development and economic security? Does this not lead us to conclude that the basic requirement or the essential accompaniment to all development and progress is the development of the proper attitudes, outlook, and mindset and the moral sense of the human individual?

Therefore, it is significant to include ethical consciousness in the development paradigm. Again, when we talk of sustainable development, we generally mean that our developmental processes should not degrade the physical environment and that we should be considerate and careful in using the non-renewable resources so that we leave enough for the coming generations. But, does the present high rate of population growth, alongside the Law of Entropy, leave enough scope for such a sustainable development? Again, have we ever re-examined our various methods to stabilise or reduce the population growth? Our debates are generally centred around abortion, contraceptives, and so on, but in these cases, we hardly think of reforming the beliefs, attitudes, and evil impulses of individuals and people through value education. This is really the crux of the whole problem of development. So, if we want to achieve our dream, we need to act now by coming together and developing a spirit of cooperation, a sense of responsibility, and sharing of mutual concerns. Remember, if we fail to act now, it will impoverish our current and future generations.



Stress has entered the dictionary of a commoner and almost everyone goes through it. Our minds have been wired in a way that we are always looking for stress. It is strange and you will notice that it does not feel significant or complete if you do not feel stressed about the job at hand. These can be pseudo stresses — self-created ones.

However, we cannot discount the fact that stress does exist, it is real and tedious for many to handle. Having said that, it needs to be dealt with in a manner that completely removes its roots from our minds, but the process and time of releasing and making oneself stress-free will undoubtedly be different for different individuals.

In the fast-paced and frantic world we live in, a lot is going on, and there is only so much a mind can articulate and make sense of at a time. This can leave us stressed, exhausted, and overworked more often than we can imagine; emotionally, mentally, physically, and spiritually. But there are ways by which one can learn how to cope and rise above it.

Below are some quick methods that will aid your mental and spiritual healing, helping you cope with stress and reduce it — use them and notice the changes over time.

★Step back, take a helicopter view

Breathe, and just step back for a while. Look at your life from a broader perspective every now and then, notice the path and what are the important milestones and aspects of your life. This will help you eliminate the unwanted stresses you feel are important or consuming you. It just might not be of any importance in the bigger picture of your life.

★Identify the trigger/pattern

This is an essential thing one should do regularly, be aware

Breaking the tension

MODMONK ANSHUL suggests 10 ultimate stress-management techniques everyone can apply in life



and mindful of your mental and emotional patterns. Notice what triggers you and how you react - emotionally and mentally. How do your thoughts change? Knowing your stressors can help you manage your stress. Identifying the things that cause stress in your life can help you avoid potentially stressful situations and how you react to them when you face them in the future.

★Correct your sleep clock

If you have not slept well or enough, you will be irritable, and every small thing can start affecting you and make you snap. Over time, you would have collected many such small experiences that will lead to a more significant issue, resulting in stress. Try going to bed by 10:30 pm and wake up by 6 am. It might sound very school-like, but it is the best for your mental, emotional and spiritual growth. Get the right room temperature, bed, pillow and blanket. It is essential to be comfortable; your mind is processing information and helping your body heal when you sleep.

★Body scanning

Practise the technique of 'body scanning'. This helps you release stress instantaneously. All you need to do is close your eyes and start noticing your body from the tip of your toes to the top of your head slowly. While you do this, you will notice any energy or part of your body that feels strained or uneasy. Breathe in and out through that part as you consciously release tension from

that area. The process will hardly take three to five minutes of your time.

★Sea salt and apple cider vinegar bath

This is miraculous. When you stress, even though it is your mind, your muscles get tightened and sore. The cells hold on to tension more than you mind. Sea salt in a tub (or a bucket) will help you pull the negativity out and release your muscle-stress. You can add essential oils and aromas, but make sure the water is a little warm.

★Eat clean food

Look what you are eating on an everyday basis — you are what you eat, and it is true. The energy in your food is running through your veins and makes you feel the same frequency the food was in before you ate it. So eat good, freshly cooked *satvic* wholesome meals, you can also announce gratitude towards it before you eat it to make it even more *satvic* and good for your body and eventually for your mind, reducing stress over some time.

★Practise mindfulness

We have been harping over the buzzword meditation for a while now. Still, it is true that being in the state of meditation calms your nerves down not just spontaneously, but also for a long time. It will help you organise thoughts, feelings, and emotions and give you the capacity to deal with them constructively. Being mindful will help you be in the present moment, without comparison, helping you live the current moment to the fullest.

★Take a break

If you can currently take a small vacation to some scenic place where you can connect back with nature, perfect. Take

it! If you cannot, you can still take a break for a day or two just being mentally in a happy state, not worrying and taking some time off for yourself and enjoying the moment. Take a break to reconnect with yourself.

★Stretch it out

Exercise and workout at least thrice a week. It is not only necessary to maintain good health but also an extremely healthy way to manage stress. Pump up the adrenaline. You will feel happier and confident as a person, too.

★What's your hobby?

It is noted that when you do what you love, you get so immersed in it that it does the same work that meditation does for your mind and body. When you have a hobby and consciously cultivate and nurture it in daily life, it helps you express your feelings, channel your emotions and aids you in getting clarity of thought, all resulting in mental peace and calm. It can be as simple as solving jigsaw puzzles, painting, reading, lying down, and listening to music. If you do not have any hobbies, try getting one.

Use these tips to see the change in your being, not just mentally but spiritually, too. Remember the art of dealing and coping with the stresses of life is a lifestyle change and the healing journey is not a pill that you can gulp. Remind yourself that all the anxieties you have collected might not vanish away in a snap. But, be reassured they will fade in time and have to, as long as you take small steps towards a happy and peaceful you.

Even a little progress is progress, after all.

(The author is a psychologist, spiritual coach and the founder of SoulSchool business.)

URBAN MILLENNIALS SKIPPING BREAKFAST

A special study, conducted in the age group of 18-50 years, across four cities, has shown that 44 per cent of the urban millennials skipped breakfast during Covid times. Further, 64 per cent of urban millennial respondents were driven towards a healthy immune system.

The study pointed out that increased consumption of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, including oats, emerged as the key trend during the pandemic.

Also, 71 per cent of urban millennials leaned towards fad diets, including keto, intermittent fasting, and weekly detox plan, to maintain their weights.

Vidhi Sharma, a consultant at Euromonitor International, said, "While millennials acknowledge the importance of breakfast and believe that it should have wholesome nutrition, they often tend to skip breakfast due to their work schedules or tend to just grab a quick snack in the morning. Popular fad diets are supporting this behaviour of skipping breakfast."



NEW STUDY ON WOOLLY-NECKED STORKS

A study carried out by ornithologists indicates the woolly-necked storks prefer irrigation canals over wetlands.

They found a large breeding population in the Jhajjar and Rohtak districts of Haryana. These districts have witnessed agriculture for over a century, with the Western Yamuna canal network established before the era of the Mughals. Storks are large birds that have attracted enormous mythological and scientific attention over centuries.

"Our work on nesting woolly-necked storks published in a paper was conducted between 2016 and 2020 where we located 298 nests of this species, the largest data set in the world for this species," lead researcher K S Gopi Sundar, co-chair of the IUCN Stork, Ibis, and Spoonbill Specialist group, said.

He added that they entirely nested on either single trees in crop fields, or on the row of agroforestry trees planted along irrigation canals.



IIT-G FIGHTS ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

To address the environmental crisis caused by the marine oil spills, the researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IIT-G), have developed a highly porous and water repellent superhydrophobic cotton composite material that can selectively absorb oil from the oil-water mixture.

The material containing metal-organic framework (MOF) has great capability for selective separation of oil from oil-water mixtures, with the separation efficiency lying between 95 per cent and 98 per cent, irrespective of the chemical composition and density of the oil.

Explaining the motive of the research, Shyam P. Biswas, an associate professor at the department of Chemistry, IIT-G, who led the team of researchers, said, "We have grown our new MOF material on the surface of medical cotton, which is environment-friendly and cost-effective. Such low-cost material will reduce the production cost of the material for large-scale industrial synthesis for real applications, compared to the currently available materials in the market."



AIR POLLUTION LEADS TO SELF-HARM

Children, exposed to high levels of air pollution, are up to 50 per cent more likely to self-harm later in life, suggested a study that adds to evidence of a link between air pollution and mental health problems.

Researchers from the University of Manchester in

England and Aarhus University examined that 1.4 million kids are under the age of 10 in Denmark, and those exposed to a high level of nitrogen dioxide were more likely to self-harm in adulthood than their peers

"Our findings indicate that higher levels of air pollution exposure are linked with poor mental health outcomes," a lead author and a research fellow at Manchester University, Dr Pearl Mok, said.

"Although air pollution is widespread, it is a modifiable risk factor, and we, therefore, hope our study findings will inform policymakers who are devising strategies to combat this problem," he added.



IIT-J: NEW WAYS TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur (IIT-J) have demonstrated for the first time that plant-based microbial fuel cells (MFCs) can generate power profitably from wastewater compared to algae-based systems.

The increasing generation of large amounts of domestic wastewater has necessitated the development of newer treatment methods that are energy efficient and scalable.

The researchers at the Environmental Biotechnology lab at IIT-J led by associate professor, department of Bioscience & Bioengineering, Dr Meenu Chhabra said, "A microbial fuel cell (MFC) is a device that uses microbes to convert organic matter in wastewater directly into electrical energy." In MFCs, live microbes act on the waste organic matter to release the electrons that are extracted with an external load, thereby generating power.



“Your sacred space is where you can find yourself over and over again.” —Joseph Campbell

Harshal's hat-trick scripts RCB win over MI



fours and three sixes but it was Maxwell who justified his expensive price tag with a 37-ball blitzkrieg before Jasprit Bumrah brought MI back in the game.

Maxwell's innings had six fours and three sixes as he showed true destructive potential with switch hits, lap shots and flicks during the final overs when he launched into MI pacers Adam Milne (1/48 in 4 overs) and Bumrah (3/26 in 4 overs) with utter disdain.

Such was the ferocity of Maxwell's hits that even the normally calm MI skipper Rohit Sharma looked helpless before Bumrah removed both Maxwell and AB de villiers (11) off successive deliveries which at least helped them save 20 to 25 runs in the final two overs.

At the onset, Kohli hit the very second ball of the match from Trent Boult (1/17 in 4 overs) for a six. It was an inswinger which the RCB skipper flicked and Rahul Chahar at deep mid-wicket got his palms but couldn't latch on to it. The normally dependable Devdutt Padikkal (0) had an off-day as Bumrah bowled a beauty which pitched on length and moved away taking the outside edge into Quinton de Kock's gloves. Kohli found a confident partner in Bharat (32 off 24 balls) as they quickly added 68 runs for the second wicket.

Bharath for good measure swept Rahul Chahar against the turn for two sixes while Kohli also imperiously pulled Bumrah for a six over deep mid-wicket.

AGENCIES ■ DUBAI

Harshal Patel's hat-trick and Glenn Maxwell, Yuzvendra Chahal's heroic performances in help Royal Challengers Bangalore crush Mumbai Indians by 54 runs to end their losing streak in the UAE on Sunday.

Earlier, Glenn Maxwell finally came good with an attacking 56 after skipper Virat Kohli's second consecutive half-century, taking Royal Challengers Bangalore to a par-score of 165/6.

Kohli, who completed 10,000 runs in T20 cricket, scored 51 off 42 balls with three

POINTS TABLE

	TEAM	PLAYED	WON	LOST	POINTS
1	CSK	10	8	2	16
2	DC	10	8	2	16
3	RCB	10	6	4	12
4	KKR	10	4	6	8
5	PBKS	10	4	6	8
6	RR	9	4	6	8
7	MI	10	4	6	8
8	SRH	9	1	8	2

After another defeat, SRH mulling bringing in Jason Roy

IANIS ■ SHARJAH

Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) head coach Trevor Bayliss has said that England batsman Jason Roy could be in the playing XI in the next match against Rajasthan Royals on Monday after the team suffered its eighth defeat in IPL 2021 — this time against Punjab Kings by five runs on Saturday — to lose any hope of qualifying for the play-offs. Australian opener David Warner was again dismissed cheaply even

as the dependable New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson too saw his woodwork being displaced by PBKS pace bowler Mohammed Shami for 1. For long, there has been a discussion on whether Jason Roy — who replaced the injured Mitchell Marsh — should get a look-in ahead of Warner to turn the fortunes of SRH, and Baylis said that it is something “that will be discussed in the team meeting”.

“Yes. Obviously, he (Jason Roy) is our spare overseas batter. I'm sure the man-

agement will get together and discuss to pick a team. So, I'm not going to select a team right now. We'll sleep on that and think about it and have a selection meeting on Sunday,” Bayliss said.

Bayliss also said his batters were low on confidence. “Yeah, look I do not think that our batters are playing with confidence obviously. We have lost five games under 10 runs and most of them batting second. So, yeah, we made a lot of mistakes.

Dubai: India captain Virat Kohli on Sunday reached a coveted milestone of 10,000-run mark in all forms of T20 cricket (international, domestic and franchise) during his side Royal Challengers Bangalore's IPL match against

Kohli goes past 10,000 runs in T20 cricket

Mumbai Indians here.

Playing in his 314 T20 match, Kohli pulled his India team-mate Jasprit Bumrah for a six to get the milestone in the fourth over after RCB were

sent in to bat.

Kohli, who is set to step down from RCB captaincy at the end of this season, had come into the match with 13 short of 10,000 runs.

The 32-year-old has played 298 innings before Sunday's match and has scored runs at an average of 41.61 with the help of five hundreds and 73 fifties. **PTI**

Jadeja cameo helps CSK beat KKR by 2-wickets

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Ravindra Jadeja won a close match for as his back-end pyrotechnics ensured a two-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders in an Indian Premier League thriller here on Sunday.

Jadeja (22 off 8 balls) launched into pacer Prasidh Krishna, who bowled the 19th over, where the pacer lost his length completely under the Saurashtra all-rounder's onslaught with CSK reaching the target of 172 in exactly 20 overs.

Instead of bowling yorkers, Krishna repeatedly bowled length balls as Jadeja hit two sixes and two boundaries to make it a cakewalk in the final over. Krishna conceded 22 runs in the penultimate over to leave CSK with four runs to get in the final over.

But there was more drama in store as Sam Curran and Jadeja were snuffed out by Sunil Narine before Deepak Chahar ended the match with a single.

However, KKR skipper Eoin Morgan's captaincy left a lot to be desired as the decision to bring in Krishna in the 19th over would be debated. Morgan in his defence could sight Anre Russell's injury being the reason but Narine in the 19th over could have posed more challenge for a rampaging Jadeja.

The win also meant that CSK remained unbeaten after the IPL resumed and once again were back at the top in the pecking order, with 16 points. In pursuit of a challenging 172, CSK were down and out at 142/6 before Jadeja took the onus on himself.

KKR had posted 171/6, as they rode on late flourish by former skipper Dinesh Karthik and Nitish Rana after the foundation was laid by Rahul Tripathi (45).

CSK wasn't able to capitalise on the aggressive 74-run opening start given by Ruturaj Gaikwad (40 off 28 balls; 2 fours and 3 sixes) and South African Faf du Plessis (43; seven fours).

KKR pegged CSK by sending both the openers back in quick succession. CSK then suffered a middle-order collapse. Spinner Varun Chakravorthy had got KKR back into the game by dismissing Mahendra Singh Dhoni.



One-down Tripathi and in-form Venkatesh Iyer (18) tried to resurrect the innings but the southpaw was unable to convert his start after he nicked one to Mahendra Singh Dhoni off Thakur.

Tripathi, who fetched his first boundary, an imperious pull shot over mid-wicket, also got a 'life' after the ball on which he had nicked, was adjudged as a 'no-ball'. Off the very next one, he smashed his first maximum over deep extra cover.

Skipper Eoin Morgan (8) also fell cheaply as he holed to Du Plessis off Josh Hazlewood as KKR was in spot of bother at 70/3. Tripathi also fell in the 13th over, as he was cleaned up by left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja as KKR slipped to 89/4.

Then Andre Russell (20) took on Sam Curran in the 15th over, smacking two fours and a monstrous six, as KKR fetched 14 runs. But Shardul Thakur forced Russell to drag one back onto his stumps. Then it was the Rana and Karthik show that took them past 170.

India finish ODI series on a high

IANIS ■ MACKAY

India finished the ODI leg of the multi-format series on a high with a brilliant two-wicket win — fashioned by a collective team effort — which ended Australia's unbeaten ODI streak of 26 matches on Sunday. However, Australia won the ODI series 2-1, with the multi-format series' scoreline reading 4-2.

The third and final ODI in Mackay went down to the wire

but this time India held their nerves as they sealed a thrilling two-wicket win with just three balls to spare. Tall India pacer Jhulan Goswami hit the winning runs, lofting it straight for a four.

Chasing a target of 265, India showed poise and power in their response, with the opening pair of Shafali Verma and



for the first wicket. Negotiating the new-ball partnership of Perry and McGrath, Mandhana fell to the off-spin of Gardner for 22 (25), with Annabel Sutherland taking a catch running back from mid-off.

Young Yastika Bhatia continued her fine start to international cricket, ticking things along with Verma, bringing up a 100-run stand in just 19 overs.

At 160/1 after 29 overs and needing just 105, India looked in prime position, before a double blow swung the pendulum back once again. Verma fell to the left-arm orthodox spin of Sophie Molineux for 56, while wicket-keeper Richa Ghosh was dismissed an over later, with Sutherland taking her first wicket. Bhatia continued her press with captain Mithali Raj, with only a piece of inspired fielder ending her stay at the crease. Top-edging a short ball, Bhatia became Stella Campbell's first victim in international cricket,

only after a diving catch from substitute fielder Molly Strano.

Sutherland doubled her tally by rattling Vastrakar's (3) stumps, leaving Mithali and No.7 Deepti Sharma needing a run a ball from the last 10 overs. Sutherland struck once again, in her next over, snaring the India skipper, who was bowled for 16.

Rana got a lifeline when she was dropped by Nicola Carey on 11 on the last ball of the 44th over. The equation came down to India requiring 33 runs from the last five overs, with four wickets in hand.

Mandhana starred for India in Friday night's (September 24) nail-biting, final-ball loss to Australia in Mackay. Her innings of 86 from 94 balls was highlighted by 11 boundaries, and it helped set up India's competitive total of 274 runs.

Sharma made her presence felt in the ODI match described as one of the most thrilling played in Australia, with a knock of 23 runs and by capturing Tahlia McGrath's wicket.

Anand hopes one of talented Indian youngsters will become world champ in future

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Chess legend Viswanathan Anand on Sunday said the country has many immensely talented players at the junior level and one of them can “hopefully” become a world champion in future.

“There are many people with a lot of promise at junior level. R Praggnanandhaa, Nihal Sarin, D Gukesh, they're very good and motivated.



They have been travelling around playing tournaments, they have the

determination. Hopefully one of them cracks the code,” Anand said.

He was responding to a question on who among the young Indians could go on to become a world champion in future.

The five-time world champion was participating in an online interaction ‘Chat with Vishy - Viswanathan Anand’ with the participants of the training programme he conducts.

Post knee surgery, Federer hoping to return at ‘next year’

IANIS ■ BOSTON

Swiss tennis ace Roger Federer, who is recovering from a right-knee surgery he underwent last month, said on Sunday that it was a difficult process to decide whether to undergo a third right-knee surgery after having two last year. But following Wimbledon, where he was “really unhappy” with his performance in reaching the quarterfinals, Federer opted to go through with it.

Federer, who made a late decision to attend this year's Laver Cup in Boston -- a tournament held between teams from Europe

and the rest of the world — said on the sidelines of the event that the recovery and rehabilitation are “going to take me a few more months and then we'll see how things are at some point next year.”

“The reception I've received, everybody is so upbeat that I'm here. They wish me all the best and they don't even see the crutches. They just want me to be good again and enjoy the weekend,” Federer said in an interview for the event with former world No. 1 Jim Courier.

“I've seen some incredible tennis, some great matches and it's

been wonderful. I'm really happy I made the trip,” the winner of 20 majors was quoted as saying by atptour.com.

On why he opted for a third surgery, the tennis ace said, “I was just nowhere near where I wanted to be at the top, top level. But I tried my best and at the end... too much is too much. Now I've just got to take it step by step,” Federer said.



Sports Minister announces month-long nationwide Clean India Drive from Oct 1

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Sunday announced a month-long nationwide Clean India Drive from October 1 to get rid of single use plastic and other waste.

Announcing this in a tweet, Thakur said: “Cleanliness is next to Godliness! As we celebrate AmritMahotsav of 75 years of Independence, I urge everybody to join Clean India Drive from 1st-31st October to realize dream of plastic free India.”

Thakur said it will be the largest cleanliness drive in the world in which more than 75 lakh tonnes of waste, primarily plastic waste, from different parts of the country will be collected and further processed in a ‘Waste to Wealth’ model.

Gold eludes India yet again at world c'ships



PTI ■ YANKTON

Indian archer Jyothi Surekha Vennam lost a nerve-wracking final to Colombian heavyweight Sara Lopez to clinch a silver in the compound women's individual section at the World Championships here on Saturday.

The 25-year-old Indian was at her best and shot a perfect final end but the five-time World Cup champion Sara was superior to clinch the issue by two points (146-144).

For Jyothi, this was her second silver medal at the World Championships as she became the only Indian archer to have four podium finishes at the showpiece biennial competition.

Jyothi had bagged a silver (Mexico 2017) and a bronze (Den Bosch 2019) in the team events at previous World Championships.

Earlier on Friday, Jyothi was a member of the Indian women's and mixed pair compound archery teams which

signed off with silver medals after lop-sided losses to Colombia here.

India were in pursuit of their first ever gold medal at the world event.

For a country that doesn't have a gold yet, India have climbed the most podiums at the event — 11 —, appearing in nine finals and leaving with silver each time.

Jyothi dished out a consistent display shooting 28, 29 and 29 in her first three ends, but the Colombian top seed opened up a two-point lead at the halfway mark, drilling in seven perfect 10s with two X (closest to the centre) from nine arrows.

The sixth seeded Indian shot three 10s from three arrows in the final end but that was not enough as Sara wrapped up the gold medal match by two points.

Jyothi, however, upgraded the bronze medal she had won two years ago, as the Andhra archer concluded her campaign with three silver medals.



Sania wins first title of 2021 season in Ostrava

PTI ■ OSTRAVA

Star Indian tennis player Sania Mirza won her first title of the season as she and her Chinese partner Shuai Zhang beat the pair of Kaitlyn Christian and Erin Routliffe in the women's doubles final of the Ostrava Open here on Sunday.

The second seeded Indo-Chinese duo defeated the third seeded pair of American

Christian and New Zealander Routliffe 6-3 6-2 in the summit clash in one hour and four minutes.

The 34-year-old Sania and Zhang had defeated the Japanese pair 6-2 7-5 in the semifinals of the WTA 500 event.

It was Sania's second final of the season, following a runner-up finish at the WTA 250 Cleveland event in the USA last month with Chirstina Mchale.