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RNI No. 2016/1957, REGD No. SSP/LW/NP-34/2019-21
Established 1864
Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA
Late City Vol.157 Issue 261
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

OPINION 8
THE HISTORY OF THE ASSAM PROBLEM

NATION 10
OPP FLAYS MODI FOR VISITING CENTRAL VISTA PROJECT SITE

WORLD 11
AFGHANISTAN, MYANMAR WILL NOT ADDRESS UNGA

LUCKNOW, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2021; PAGES 14 ₹3

the pioneer

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MOEEN ALI RETIRES FROM TEST CRICKET
14 SPORT

SC slams arbitrary change in NEET speciality syllabus

Authorities can't treat doctors as footballs, tell us justification: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a stinging snub to the Centre, the Supreme Court on Monday warned that it may pass strictures if it is not satisfied with justification for the last-minute changes to the NEET Super Speciality Examination 2021 syllabus. The court also asked the Centre not to treat "young doctors as football in the game of power."

Asserting that it will not allow these young doctors to be placed in the hands of some insensitive bureaucrats, the court asked the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), National Medical Commission (NMC) and National Board of Examination (NBE) to "put their house in order".

The court was hearing a plea from 41 postgraduate doctors who have challenged the last-minute changes made to the syllabus after the notification for examination was issued.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and BV Nagarathna asked Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, to hold a meeting with the other two authorities within a week.

"Better come with some strong reasons, and if we are not satisfied, we will pass strictures," it said.

"Don't treat these young doctors as footballs in the game of power. Hold the meeting and put your house in order. We will not allow the lives of these young doctors to be placed in the hands of some

insensitive bureaucrats," it added.

In their plea, the doctors pointed out as per the prevailing pattern of examination, 60 per cent marks are given on questions from super speciality courses while 40 per cent on questions from other courses.

"But as per the notification issued on August 31 for modifying the pattern of examination, 100 per cent marks will now be given on questions from general medicines," they said.

Senior advocate Shyam Divan, who represented the doctors, said that there is urgency in the matter and they have filed a written submission also in the matter.

Advocate Gaurav Sharma, appearing for NMC, said he would like to file reply in the matter and sought adjournment of one week.

Continued on Page 11

Kisan Bharat Bandh: Road, railway traffic grinds to halt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH/LUCKNOW/KOLKATA

Farmers block the railway tracks during their 'Bharat Bandh' against Central Government's three farm reform laws, at Devi Dass Pura on the outskirts of Amritsar on Monday PTI

The Bharat Bandh call given by farmers on Monday to demand scrapping of three controversial farm laws affected normal life as the farmers blocked highways and disrupted railway traffic at many places across the country.

The 10-hour bandh called by farmers' body Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) hit normal life in Punjab and Haryana as 50 trains were cancelled, highways and key roads blocked. Flow of traffic at Delhi's borders with Uttar Pradesh and Haryana was affected, but shops and businesses remained open.

The impact of bandh was felt the most around Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh and also in large pockets of Kerala, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha. The massive jams that prevented the cross border movement of commuters as well as trucks carrying essentials. The blockade was lifted at 4 pm.

Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait said, "Our Bharat Bandh was successful. We had the full support of farmers…We can't seal down everything as we have to facilitate the movement of people. We are ready for talks with the Government but no discussions are happening."

The SKM termed it's an historic bandh as there was an unprecedented response from every part of the country. "Crores of farmers came together in a show of unity and solidarity," it said.

The Delhi-NCR region, including the satellite towns of Gurgaon, Ghaziabad and Noida, was particularly hit as cross-border movement was badly hit.

Continued on Page 11

IMPACT OF CHAKKA JAM

- About 50 trains cancelled
- In **Delhi,** markets remained open but business activities were largely unaffected, though massive traffic snarls were witnessed in border areas due to road blockades
- The bandh hit normal life in **Punjab** and **Haryana** as protesters blocked highways and squatted on railway tracks at many places in the two northern States
- Normal life was affected in **Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu**
- The bandh failed to evoke any response in **Arunachal Pradesh, Assam,** while it had lukewarm response **in Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh**

CAPSULE

DOPE TESTS ON FLIGHT CREW FROM 2022: DGCA

New Delhi: For the first time in India, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) announced on Monday a rule that pilots, crew members and air traffic controllers (ATCOs) will face random dope tests from January 31, 2022. The new rules require that at least 10% of these personnel in the organisation be tested annually.

WHO NOD FOR COVAXIN DELAYED FURTHER

New Delhi: The WHO has further delayed the emergency use authorisation (EUA) for Covaxin, as the global body has sent more technical queries to its manufacturer Bharat Biotech, according to sources.

MAN WANTED IN DELHI RIOTS CASES HELD

New Delhi: A 29-year-old man wanted in several cases related to last year's Northeast Delhi riots has been arrested from Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh, police said on Monday.

INDIA TESTS 'AKASH PRIME' MISSILE

New Delhi: A new version of the Akash Missile — 'Akash Prime' was successfully tested from the Integrated Test Range at Odisha's Chandipur on Monday at around 4:30 pm.

Digital IDs a new phase of health facilities: Modi

PM launches Digital Health Mission

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses at the launch of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, through video conferencing in New Delhi on Monday PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday launched the Pradhan Mantri Digital Health Mission (PM-DHM) which will ensure that every citizen in India has a separate health ID containing all health details.

While launching the Ayushman Bharat digital mission, Modi said, "The drive to strengthen the health facilities of the country, in the last 7 years, is entering a new phase today. This is not an ordinary phase. This is an extraordinary phase."

The nationwide rollout of PM-DHM coincides with the National Health Authority (NHA) celebrating the third anniversary of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).

On August 15, 2020, Modi had announced the mission (Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission) from the ramparts of the Red Fort.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Madaviya, who was present on the occasion, said, "I believe that this will bring a revolutionary change in the health sector."

Currently, over one lakh unique health IDs have been created under the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), which was initially launched across six States and Union territories on a pilot basis.

Based on the foundations laid down in the form of Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile (JAM) trinity, and other digital initiatives of the Government, PM-DHM will create a seamless online platform through the provision of a wide range of data, information, and infrastructure services, duly leveraging open, interoperable, standards-based digital systems while ensuring the security, confidentiality, and privacy of health-related personal information, said a senior official from the Union Health Ministry.

Continued on Page 11

India important player in Indo-Pacific: German Envoy

'New Berlin Govt to continue to have strong ties with New Delhi'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

German Ambassador Walter J Lindner File photo

With the Quad emerging as a major grouping amidChina's growing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region, Germany on Monday said India is becoming an important player in that region, and the next coalition Government in Berlin is expected to continue strong ties with New Delhi.

These remarks by German envoy to India Walter J Lindner came as a new coalition Government is expected to assume charge in his country soon.

The German envoy said relations between India and Germany saw a significant upswing, including in areas of trade and investment, in the last over one decade and that the upward trajectory in ties is likely to continue.

"None of the global issues can be solved without India, be it climate change, global warming, trade issues, Covid-19 vaccination and terrorism...India is important for us," he told reporters.

His comments came as the federal elections in Germany marked the end of Angela Merkel's 16-year tenure as the Chancellor, a period that saw significant expansion of India-Germany ties.

Merkel has already announced that she will not seek a fresh term at the helm of the country. According to reports, Social Democrats (SPD) was ahead of the ruling conservative bloc of Merkel in the federal elections.

"The Indo-Pacific is becoming more and more important and India has emerged as a major player in the region," the German envoy said. On Afghanistan, he said there was a need to address the need for humanitarian assistance in the country.

Stop bypolls, demands Dilip Ghosh after TMC attack

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

BJP national vice-president Dilip Ghosh on Monday demanded countermanding of the election process at Bhawanipore after an alleged gang of Trinamool Congress men attacked him and BJP workers wounding two of them seriously.

Ghosh, who was heckled by the crowd too, escaped unhurt after his security personnel pulled out guns and escorted him to safety. Ghosh had gone to Bhawanipore to campaign for party candidate Priyanka Tibrewal who is contesting against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who is seeking election to the Assembly.

Mamata, who contested from Nandigram Assembly constituency was defeated BJP's Suvendu Adhikari in the April-May elections by a margin of 1,900 votes, needs get elected to the Assembly within six months of swearing in as the Chief Minister.

Continued on Page 11

Covid caused biggest fall in life expectancy since WWII: Oxford

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-19 has caused the biggest decrease in life expectancy in 2020 by a huge amount — the largest since the Second World War — according to an Oxford study. The paper was published in the *International Journal of Epidemiology.*

"Life expectancy in 2020 was slashed by more than six months compared to 2019 in 22 of the 29 countries that were analysed. Of the 29 sampled countries, 27 belonged to Europe, while the other two were Chile and the United States," the study said.

The results highlight a large impact that is directly attributable to Covid-19. "This shows how devastating a shock it has been for many countries," Dr Ridhi Kashyap, co-lead author of published paper, said.

Highlighting the urgency of more research on Covid-19, she called for the publication and availability of further information and data to better understand the worldwide impacts of the coronavirus.

She also urged the Governments of other countries, especially low-income and middle-income countries, to make available their data on Covid-19 mortality rates.

The study also shows that due to Covid-19 life expectancy of men dropped by a greater margin than that of women in most of the sample countries.

Continued on Page 11

Yogi allocates portfolios to seven new ministers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday night allocated portfolios to the seven new ministers inducted into his ministry on Sunday. The announcement of the portfolios was made by the chief minister himself on his twitter account. The chief minister tweeted, "All the new members who joined the Uttar Pradesh cabinet yesterday have got the responsibility of the departments today."

"I am sure that under the able, experienced and hard-working leadership of all of you, the concerned department will touch new heights of development," he said and added, "Best wishes to all of you for a bright tenure."

According to the portfolio distribution, the lone cabinet rank minister Jitin Prasada has been given the responsibility of the Technical Education department. Minister of State Paltu Ram has been given the portfolio of Sainik Welfare, Home Guard, Provincial Guard Dal and Civil Defence departments, Minister of State Dr Sangeeta Balwant has been given the responsibility of the Department of Cooperation and Dharamveer Prajapati has been given the responsibility of the Industrial Development department.

Minister of State Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar has been given the portfolio of Revenue department, Minister of State Sanjeev Kumar of Social Welfare, Scheduled Castes and Tribes Welfare departments and Minister of State Dinesh Khatik has been given the responsibility of Jal Shakti and Flood Control departments.

Panchjanya dubs Amazon 'East India Company 2.0'

E-commerce firm highlights positive impact on small traders in India; Cong raps RSS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after RSS mouthpiece weekly magazine *Panchjanya* attacked Amazon as "East India Company 2.0" and labelled it a "threat to indigenous entrepreneurship", the e-commerce giant highlighted its "positive impact on small businesses, including sellers, artisans, and delivery and logistics partners".

"During the pandemic three lakh new sellers joined us of which 75,000 were local neighbourhood shops (dukaans) from 450+ cities (selling) furniture, stationery, consumer electronics, beauty products, mobile phones, garments, medical products..." a statement by the company said.

The Congress, which had earlier attacked Amazon, found an opportunity to slam the RSS saying whatever the Sangh says was irrelevant as it did not say anything in national interest, but in the interest of the ruling BJP. Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said the allegations of bribery against the US e-commerce giant are serious and cannot be ignored. "The issue of Amazon is a serious one and it merits everybody's attention," he said.

Raising the issue of a bribery scandal being probed by e-commerce giant Amazon, the grand old party last week had alleged that the company's representatives had paid huge bribes for presence in India during 2018-20.

The article has, however, been backed by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT).

Continued on Page 11

'CT scan angiography best non-invasive technique'

Lucknow (PNS): CT scan angiography is emerging as the best non-invasive technique to detect coronary heart disease. On the eve of World Heart Day, Dr Prof Akshaye Pradhan from KGMU said there should be more awareness amongst people on this issue.

"CT angiography has been a very good advancement in terms of detecting the coronary disease because the patient does not have to be taken to the cath lab. We can do angiography through CT scan and this is something which the general public should know more about," he said. He added that the negative predictive value of this testing is hundred percent, which means if you come out normal in this scan, the chances of finding a coronary heart disease is almost zero.

He said it needs to be done on the advice of the doctor and the scan gives an idea of the heart disease if the doctor is suspecting coronary heart disease in patients.

"This has come as a boon for patients if they are not willing to get admitted. This is also prescribed when the symptoms are not clear and the patient is not able to explain them. This can be used as a good diagnostic tool in such a situation," he said.

He added that all the government hospitals have this kind of provision of CT scan angiography. "We recommend it at least two to three patients in the OPD everyday and some days even more. Its use is increasing as the technology is improving," he said.

He further pointed out that one can also get the coronary calcium score from the CT scan angiography which gives one an idea of the lipid lowering therapy, which means the percentage of the disease.

"It also gives an idea of the coronary anomalies as sometimes the arteries are not in their normal position and are displaced. They can also be known from the CT angiography. These three advantages have made it a very important tool," Dr Pradhan said.

the pioneer CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I Brijesh Kumar Tripathi S/o Ramaraman Tiwari R/o 126/73 H Block Govind Nagar, Kanpur have changed my name to Brijesh Tiwari. In future I will be known as Brijesh Tiwari.

NOTICE

My High School Marksheet Roll No. 0924160 Year 1997 Has Been lost anywere. Saiyad Shahanavaj Husain S/o Syed Afsar Husain R/o 111/108 A Royal Compound Jajmau Kanpur

NOTICE

Be it known to all that earlier my name was Ram Karan Tripathi which is changed to Ram Karn. In future I shall be known as Ram Karan. Ram Karan S/o Shyam Sunder Dhikuhi, Khemipur, Kunda, Pratapgarh, U.P.

NOTICE

My daughter's name Oshin Smith is registered by mistake in her school which is wrong. Her correct name is Osheen Smith. she should be known as the same name (Correct Name) in future also. Brijesh Smith R/o-20 Madauka Road, Tignauta, Dandi, Naini, Prayagraj

सूचना

सूचित हो कि मेरा नाम एल.आई. सी. पालिसी नं0 225651805 में सुनीता गलत दर्ज हो गया है जबकि अन्य दस्तावेजों में उइया नाम दर्ज है जो सही है अतः मेरा नाम पालिसी में उइया दर्ज किया जाये। उइया पत्नी श्री गोपी चन्द प्रताप मार्केट के सामने इन्दिरा नगर लखनऊ।

NOTICE

I Army no-15420854F, Rank HAV . MV SURESH KUMAR S/O M ANJANEYULU, Unit-AMC Center and collage MT Coy lucknow, that in my service Records My Daughter's Name Wrongly mentioned Malayati Divya Charita while her correct Name malayati Venkata Divi Druva sree , Malayati Divya Charita and Malayati Venkata Divi Druva Sree both Are One and same persone in future perpose

सूचना

मैं आर्मी नं. 4189697 Y हवलदार मनोज कुमार S/O जीत सिंह निवासी धनोडा पोस्ट सीलधाम तहसील जिला पिथौरागढ़ मेरे सर्विस रिकार्ड में मेरे पुत्र का नाम त्रुटिवश अभिनव सिंह AVNOV SINGH लिख गया है जबकि उसका वास्तविक नाम अभिनव पोखरिया ABHINAV POKHARIYA है भविष्य में उसे अभिनव पोखरिया ABHINAV POKHARIYA नाम से जाना व पहचाना जाए

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

Delhi CELEBRATES FREEDOM@75

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of
Amar Shaheed Sardar Bhagat Singh Ji,

'DESHBHAKTI CURRICULUM' IN DELHI'S SCHOOLS FROM TODAY

DIP/Shabdarth/d/0085/21-22

NOW EVERY CHILD WILL LEARN PATRIOTISM. NOW EVERY CHILD WILL BECOME A TRUE PATRIOT

-Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi

Directorate of Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi

'Non-communicable diseases account for 63% of deaths'

Lucknow (PNS): Non-communicable diseases such cardiovascular disease, cerebrovascular, cancer, chronic respiratory illness, diabetes account for around 63% of all deaths. As per the statistics till June 2020, to look after the healthy life of the Indian population of 130 crore, registered doctors (MBBS) were 12.55 lakh, specialist doctors around 3.71 lakh, Ayurveda, Unani & Homeopathy doctors around 7.88 lakh. Besides, a total of 8.9 lakh ANMs and around 21.51 lakh registered nurses and registered midwives were in India.

This was said by director of CTVS, Woodlands Hospital, Prof Bhabatosh Biswas while speaing on 'Healthy life! Ever receding dream!' at the 6th Popular Health Talk organised by CDRI at its auditorium.

Prof Biswas discussed the meaning of healthy life and how to pursue this ever receding dream as healthy life is very complex and dynamic and needs to be redefined periodically. He emphasised on the urgent need of new disease markers and medicines and for scientists and researchers to explore newer avenues constantly to find out the technologies and translation of knowledge from bench to bedside.

"Though we are major contributors for skilled human resources in the medical and related research field, after training most of them are serving abroad. So this is again a major concern for us," he said.

He said that keeping in mind all these factors, the armamentarium of the modern health care system is required for diagnostic modalities and therapeutic options for fighting fearful diseases of various organs and systems.

"Practicing more precision medicine than intuitive medicine will make healthcare simpler, more accessible, and less expensive. Innovations as well as their application in clinical scenario will be the remedies to face future challenges of health care. This will help us motivate ourselves as well as our scientists and researchers to explore newer avenues constantly and find out applications of new technologies for alleviation of human sufferings leading to translation of knowledge from bench to bedside," he said.

CDRI director Prof Tapas Kundu felicitated Prof Biswas with a shawl and memento.

रायगढ़ जिला अर्बन पब्लिक सर्विस सोसायटी

निविदा सूचना पत्र

क्रं. 1601/RJUPSS/NPN/2021 रायगढ़, दिनांक 25/9/2021

रायगढ़ जिला अर्बन पब्लिक सर्विस सोसायटी द्वारा आर.एफ.पी. में उल्लेखित मापदंडों को पूरा करने वाले निविदाकारों से नीचे दिये गए विवरण के अनुसार आर.आफ.पी. आमंत्रित करती है :-

System Tender No.	Description Project	Last Date to Download RFP Document
84119	Selection of Private Partner for Establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines Consumables etc at **Baramkela** city under state sponsored Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojna at SP complex 2nd floor Hall no 2 (MMSDDY) **(1st Call)**	20/10/2021

General Information about Tender Fee, Earnest, money & RFP Document can be obtained from E-Procurement web portal http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in. Bidder must Posses Digital Signature

Nodal officer (MMSDDY)
Raigarh Urban public Service Society
Raigarh (C.G.)

कार्यालय : अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जोन–8, जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम, लखनऊ

पत्रांक : 440/EE-8/2021-22 दिनांक : 27.09.2021

(अति–अल्पकालीन निविदा–सूचना)

जलकल विभाग में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु अल्पकालिक निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा प्रपत्र किसी भी कार्यदिवस में दिनांक 4.10.2021 को अपराह्न 03:00 बजे तक अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जोन–8 के कार्यालय के कैश काउन्टर से प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। सील्ड निविदाएं दिनांक 4.10.2021 को अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जोन–8 के कार्यालय में अपराह्न 3:30 बजे तक सील्ड टेन्डर बॉक्स में प्राप्त की जायेंगी। प्राप्त सभी निविदाएं दिनांक 4.10.2021 को उपस्थित निविदादाताओं के समक्ष 4:00 बजे जोन–8 के कार्यालय में खोली जायेंगी।

1. बिजनौर रोड सेक्टर–आई स्थित नलकूप नं0–4ए की 160एमएम डाया की पी0वी0सी0 पाइप लाइन 52 मीटर डालने का कार्य, धरोहर राशि रु० 4000/– एवं निविदा मूल्य रु० 150/–

अधिशासी अभियन्ता, जोन–8
जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम, लखनऊ

UP. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED E-TENDER INVITING NOTICE

Tender is invited in two parts for the following electrical work / supply from class 'A' working organizations/firms which are registered with GST and possess Income Tax-payable certificate. Detailed information of tender is available on the website www.etenderup.nic.in and for any other amendment / extension of the tender, Please logon www.etenderup.nic.in upto date of opening of tender. The authority to reject the tender without assigning any reason will be reserved with the Executive Engineer, Electy. 400KV Sub-Station Division, Sultanpur. **E-tender No. 06/ESDS/2021-22 To be opened on dt. 22.10.2021, Tender cost Rs.236.00, Earnest Money Rs. 2000.00** 1. Attending of hotpoint & minor breakdown, tightening of jumpers, clamps etc. of 220/132/33KV feeder bays at 220KV S/S Sultanpur under Electy. 400KV S/S Division Sultanpur. **Executive Engineer Electy. 400KV Substation Division Sultanpur** No. 748 Date 27.9.2021 "Save Energy in National interest."

Bharat Bandh passes off peacefully in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The dawn to dusk 10-hour-long nationwide Bharat Bandh called by the 40-member farmers' front Samyukt Kisan Morcha to mark the completion of one year of their protest against the Central government's agriculture laws on Monday passed off peacefully with no major untoward incident being reported from any part of Uttar Pradesh.

Barring districts along the UP-Delhi border, the Bharat Bandh call had little impact in central and eastern districts of the state.

Normal life continued as all schools, commercial establishments and public transport functioned as usual. All emergency establishments and essential services, including hospitals, medical stores, relief and rescue work, functioned smoothly as they were exempted from the strike along with people attending to personal emergencies.

In Lucknow, the vegetable markets on the city's outskirts like Bakshi Ka Talab, Dubagga and Gosainganj got off to a late start but then continued to do brisk business. Chhedi Lal, a vegetable wholesaler in Dubagga, said, "We were apprehensive in the morning but no one told us not to open the market and then we got going with the daily business."

He pointed out that farmers around the state capital are mainly small farmers who still do not understand what the agitation is all about and what are the farm laws. "Support kyon karenge jab kuchh maloom hi nahi hai (Why should I support when I have no idea)?" he asked.

In Prayagraj and Kanpur Nagar, life remained normal and the cities moved at normal pace. Traffic on the highway moved normally.

A senior official of the Home department said that blockades had been set up by farmers only in districts along the UP-Delhi border and there were no reports of any impact of the Bharat Bandh call from anywhere else in the state.

In western UP, normal traffic resumed on the Delhi-Meerut Expressway late in the afternoon. The expressway was closed by the agitating farmers since morning. The Bharat Bandh was called by the farmers' union from 6 am to 4 pm.

Meanwhile, opposition parties also supported the Bharat Bandh. Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati said, "The farmers of the country do not endorse the three farm laws brought in a hurry by the Centre, and are sad about it. They have been protesting for the past 10 months in the country and aggressively, especially around Delhi."

The BSP chief said that her party fully supported a peaceful bandh and demanded that the Centre withdraw all the three farm laws in the interest of the farmers.

Lending her party's full support to the farmers' agitation, including the Bharat Bandh call, on Monday, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who reached Lucknow on a three-day visit, attacked the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.

"The entire nation is standing behind the farmers in their agitation against the three farms laws brought by the Narendra Modi government to benefit his industrialists friends," tweeted Priyanka Vadra while giving full support to the bandh call.

"Fields belong to farmers; labour done by them and the yield is also theirs but the government wants to hand over them to the industrialists," she said, asking the prime minister to immediately take back the three "black" farm laws.

The Communist Party of India's UP unit claimed that the Bharat Band was a big success and thanked those who extended support to it. The CPI warned the government, saying they should read the writing on the walls or be ready to face a major setback.

In a statement, the CPI said the BJP and its governments in different states of the country tried their best to foil the Bharat Band. "The call was chiefly of farmers and workers who kept their works closed. The markets, schools remained closed in many parts of the country," the party said.

CPI state secretary Dr Girish said the government had started arresting the left parties leaders since the night on Sunday and several of them were put under house arrest.

Akhil Bhartiya Kisan Mahasabha, ACTU, Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) and All India Students Association took out a march in support of the Bharat Bandh call given by Samyukt Kisan Morcha which is agitating against three farm laws in Bakshi Ka Talab which concluded Asti railway crossing on Monday.

After the conclusion of the march, the protesting leaders alleged that the Central government was not ready for a dialogue with the agitating farmers and hence the farmers were forced to take to different platforms to raise their voice and also give nationwide Bandh Call on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, CPI (ML) leader Sudhakar Yadav said the BJP aimed at establishing Angrezi Raj (British Rule) by implementing the three "black" farm laws.

He alleged that the Narendra Modi government wanted to hand over the farming sector to 'friendly' corporate groups but the farmers would not let it happen.

CPI (ML) leader Ramesh Singh Sengar said that the farmers' protest would continue for a long time and it would be one of the greatest protests of the farmers against the "fascists forces".

AISA leader Anjali, also addressed the gathering and raised issues of students, women and farmers.

DELHI JAL BOARD
OFFICE OF THE EX.ENGINEER (NE) II
R-POCKET DILSHAD GARDEN DELHI-95

"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

PRESS NIT NO. 21 (2021-22)

S. No.	Name of work	Amount put to tender to Tender	EMD Amount	Tender Fees	Date of release of tender in eprocurement solution	Last ate/time of receipt of tender through eprocurement solution
1.	Providing and laying 250 mm dia DWCHDPE pipe in 22 1/2 No. Gali in Rajeev Gandhi Nagar in Mustafabad AC- 69 under NE-II **Tender ID No. 2021_DJB_208831_I**	26,31,551.00	EMD Exempted	5.00	25.09.2021	07.10.2021 upto 02.30 P.M.

All the terms and conditions including technical specification and special conditions is available on Delhi Govt. Website **https://delhi.govtprocurement.com**

Sd/-
(SUKHPAL CHAUHAN)
EX. ENGINEER (NE)-II

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER
Advt. No. J.S.V. 434 (2021-22)

UP to commence ethanol production from cane from next season

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh will commence production of ethanol directly from sugarcane from the next cane crushing season commencing from October. Ethanol used for blending with petrol will be produced at the public sector undertaking Pipraich sugar mill at Gorakhpur and Balrampur sugar mill.

The UP government had decided in October last year to produce ethanol directly from sugarcane and a pilot project was started at the Pipraich sugar mill.

UP is the top producer of the ethanol in India and more use of the commodity for blending with petrol will help the industry to earn more revenue and clear the payment of the farmers. There are 53 distilleries producing ethanol and annual installed capacity is 158.44 crore litre.

In the financial year 2016-17, UP produced 42.70 crore litres of ethanol which increased to 99.31 crore litre in 2020-21. UP has 72 distilleries which include 25 standalone and 47 attached with the sugar mills.

Sugar Industry Minister Suresh Rana said in a press conference on Monday that the hike in state advisory price of sugarcane for the next crushing season 2021-22 would fetch an additional over Rs 4,000 crore to the farmers. He said the sugar mills had cleared 100 per cent payment of the 2019-20 and over 85 per cent of the last season (2020-21) had been cleared by the industry. He said against the demand of Rs 33,014 crore, the sugar mills had so far paid Rs 28,015 crore to the farmers for the 2020-21 season.

He said during the 10-year rule of the Bahujan Samaj Party and Samajwadi Party from 2007 to 2017, sugar mills made total payment of Rs 1,47 lakh crore to the farmers while the during the four years of Yogi Adityanath government, the payment made from 2017 to 2021 was Rs 1,44 lakh crore till September 21 this year.

"The focus of the Bharatiya Janata Party government in the last four years was on ensuring payment to the farmers, reviving the closed sugar mills and introducing the latest technology in the industry," the minister said.

"During the BSP regime, 21 sugar mills were sold at throwaway prices and 19 mills were closed and 11 mills were closed during the SP government and clearing the payment of the farmers was never on the agenda of both the parties," he said.

The minister said till 2016 -17, three varieties of sugarcane were cultivated where the share of the high yielding early variety was only 52 per cent which had now increased to 98 per cent. He said UP was also leading the country in sugarcane productivity as productivity of 66 MT per hectare in 2016-17 and went up to 81.05 MT per hectare in 2020-21.

The minister said with the increase in sugarcane productivity, the acreage under the crop had also increased by eight lakh hectares in the last four years.

He said in the five years of the Samajwadi Party government the total cane crushed by the sugar mills was 2,918 lakh MT while during the four years of BJP government the crushing increased to 4,289 lakh MT.

He said the Yogi Adityanath government, to provide an alternative market to sugarcane farmers, amended the khandsari policy, allowing new units within 7.5 km radius of sugar mills from the earlier 15 KM.

"The new policy led to the setting up of 270 new khandsari units, thus providing jobs and ensuring the crushing of sugarcane equivalent to the cane crushed by 14sugar mills," the minister said.

Rana said during the pandemic, operations of sugar mills were not disrupted and UP remained on top in the area under sugarcane, sugar production and production of ethanol.

CITYBRIEFS

SCHOLARSHIP

Four students of City Montessori School, Chowk Campus — Mrityunjay Pandey, Om Mehrotra, Saad Furqan and Yashfeen Shahran — have been awarded scholarship worth Rs 16 lakh by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology. These students have been offered the scholarship to pursue higher education under which each student will receive Rs 80,000 per year for five years. They secured this scholarship by figuring in the top 1% merit list in the country on the basis of their ISC (class 12) percentage marks.

OATH CEREMONY

An oath ceremony of the newly-elected officials of RDSO SC/ST Association was organised on Monday. The oath of office was administered to the elected members by chief patron YR Sagar. The newly-elected officials included Sanjiv Kumar (president), Roshan Kandulna (working chairman), Subash Chand (secretary), Veerendra Paswan (additional secretary) and Arvind Kumar (treasurer).

RHETORICA QUARTERLY

The department of English and Modern European Languages, University of Lucknow, launched volume-II and issue-I of its journal titled 'Rhetorica Quarterly'. Head of the department Prof Ranu Uniyal recited her own poem titled 'Betiyan kaisi hoti hain' to mark Daughters' Day. The current issue of the journal is dedicated to Prof Ashok Kumar, former head of the department.

OFFICE OF THE CANTONMENT BOARD, KANPUR
64, Subhash Chandra Bose Marg, Cantt Kanpur -208004
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online Tenders through **http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app** are invited on behalf of Cantonment Board, Kanpur. from registered and eligible Contractors, Firms, Agency and NGO as per category for the work detailed below : -

S. No.	NIT NO.	Name of work and location	Last Date of Uploading tender	Estimated cost of tender
1	CBK/Engg /K-836/1	Cleaning of Public Group Latrines (PGL) & Urinals 24 hours x7 days and Spray of disinfectants in Ward No. 1 & 2 Kanpur Cantt.	18-10-2021	₹ 42 Lakh

The detail may be obtain from **kanpur.cantt.gov.in** and **http://eprocure.gov.in/ eprocure/app.**

(A.K. Dwivedi) CEO, Kanpur Cantt

B-424 **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CENTRAL (R&B) CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR
Mail i.d seccbbsr@gmail.com
*****

E-procurement Tender Call Notice No.06 of 2021-22

No. **2649** (Estg.) Bhubaneswar the 22nd eptember-2021

The Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for Two numbers of Building work (Composite) and one number building civil work to be received in online bidding, double cover system for construction work as detailed in : **https://tendersorissa.gov.in**. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from 5:00 P.M of 08.10.2021 to 5.00 P.M of 25.10.2021. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened at 11.00 A.M. of 26.10.2021 in the Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**.

Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

Sd/-Er.T.K.Panda
Chief Construction Engineer
Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-34005/11/0007/2122

Maya slams govt for delay in announcing hike in cane SAP

Lucknow (PNS): Extending full support to the on-going farmers' agitation and their Bharat Bandh call given on Monday, Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati slammed the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh for delaying the announcement of hike in sugarcane prices.

She also alleged that the expansion of the ministry at the fag end of the government's tenure would not serve any purpose to the ruling party in the coming assembly elections scheduled early next year.

In a series of tweets posted on Monday, the former chief minister of UP said, "The Bharatiya Janata Party government in Uttar Pradesh kept ignoring the farmers for the whole four-and-a-half years and did not increase the support price of sugarcane, which I pointed out in the Prabuddh Varg Sammelan on September 7. Now they have suddenly remembered the sugarcane farmers just before the election and raised cane SAP which exposes their selfishness."

Mayawati further posted, "The entire farming community is very sad and troubled by the anti-farmers policies of the Central and UP governments. But now increasing the support price of sugarcane for face saving just before the assembly elections is not the right solution to the basic problem of farming. In such a situation, the farmer is not going to fall into any allurement dished out by the BJP." Reacting on the recent expansion of the UP ministry, the BSP chief posted, "Whoever has been made minister by the BJP has been inducted in ministry to mobilise votes on the basis of caste in UP, but it would have been better if they did not accept it because as long as they understand their respective ministry and want to do something, the Election Code of Conduct will come into play." Mayawati further tweeted, "While the present BJP government has not taken any concrete steps for the development and uplift of the classes which it has given representation to in the ministry rejig and has only stopped the schemes brought by her government earlier for the purpose. What is more, most of the works started by the BSP government in their interests have also been stopped. It is an advice to these classes to be alert of the BJP's double standards."

रायगढ़ जिला अर्बन पब्लिक सर्विस सोसायटी

निविदा संशोधन सूचना पत्र

क्रं. 1599/RJUPSS/NPN/2021 रायगढ़, दिनांक 25/9/2021

निम्नलिखित निकायों दिनांक 27.09.2021 की स्थिति में किसी भी वेन्डर द्वारा ऑनलाईन आवेदन अभी तक नहीं किया गया है। अत: निविदा ऑन लाईन भरने की तिथि दिनांक 03.10.2021 तक बढ़ाया जाता है।

System Tender No.	Description Project	Last Date for online submission	New last date for online submission	संशोधित स्थल का नाम
82668	Selection of Private Partner for Establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines Consumables etc at **Pussore** city under state sponsored Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojna (MMSDDY) **(1st Call)**	28/09/2021	03/10/2021	पूर्वत
82675	Selection of Private Partner for Establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines Consumables etc at **Kirodimal** nagar city under state sponsored Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojna (MMSDDY) **(1st Call)**	28/09/2021	03/10/2021	प्रा. स्वा. केन्द्र के सामने वार्ड क्र. 12
82677	Selection of Private Partner for Establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines Consumables etc at **Gharghoda** city under state sponsored Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojna (MMSDDY) **(1st Call)**	28/09/2021	03/10/2021	पूर्वत
82678	Selection of Private Partner for Establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines Consumables etc at **Dharamjaigarh** city under state sponsored Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojna (MMSDDY) **(1st Call)**	28/09/2021	03/10/2021	पूर्वत
82680	Selection of Private Partner for Establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines Consumables etc at **Kharsia** city under state sponsored Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojna (MMSDDY) **(1st Call)**	28/09/2021	03/10/2021	उर्मिला आटो के बगल वार्ड 10
82682	Selection of Private Partner for Establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines Consumables etc at **Lailunga** city under state sponsored Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojna (MMSDDY) **(1st Call)**	28/09/2021	03/10/2021	पूर्वत
82695	Selection of Private Partner for Establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines Consumables etc at **Sarangarh** city under state sponsored Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojna (MMSDDY) **(1st Call)**	28/09/2021	03/10/2021	खण्ड चिकित्सा अधिकारी सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र कार्यालय परिषर वार्ड
82702	Selection of Private Partner for Establishment of Fair Price Outlets for Medicines Consumables etc at **Sariya** city under state sponsored Mukhya Mantri Sasti Dawa Dukan Yojna (MMSDDY) **(1st Call)**	28/09/2021	03/10/2021	पूर्वत

अमानत राशि का टि.डी.आर./एफ.डी.आर सचिव अर्बन पब्लिक सर्विस सोसायटी के नाम पर बनाना होगा। जो कि पेयबल एट रायगढ़ होगा।

नोडल अधिकारी
(मु.स.द.दु.यो.)
रायगढ़ जिला अर्बन पब्लिक सर्विस सोसायटी

CANCELLATION/SHORT TERMINATION/SHORT ORIGINATION/REGULATION OF SPECIAL TRAINS

In order to upgrade the existing infrastructure and enhance the safety standards, Northern Railway will undertake overhauling work at Balamau Jn. of Shahjahanpur-Lucknow section on Moradabad Division. To execute this work, Northern Railway will take suitable traffic blocks from 02.10.2021 to 04.10.2021. During this period the following special trains will temporarily be affected as under:-

CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL TRAINS

Train No. & Train Name	Date of Cancellation (from originating station)
04327 Sitapur City - Kanpur Central Express Special	02.10.21 to 04.10.21
04328 Kanpur Central - Sitapur City Express Special	03.10.21 to 05.10.21
04305 Balamau Jn. - Shahjahanpur Express Special	02.10.21 to 03.10.21
04306 Shahjahanpur - Balamau Jn. Express Special	02.10.21 to 04.10.21

SHORT TERMINATION/ORIGINATION OF TRAIN

Train No. & Name	Train to Short Terminate/ Originate at/from station	Train to Partially cancelled between Stations	Date of Cancellation (From Originating Station)
04328 Kanpur Central-Sitapur City Exp. Special	at Balamau Jn.	Balamau Jn.-Sitapur City	02.10.2021

REGULATION OF SPECIAL TRAIN

Train No. & Name	Regulation of Trains (from originating station)
22454 Meerut City - Lucknow Jn. Rajya Rani Express Special	Train will be Regulated for 30 min. from Meerut City Station on 04.10.21

For any kind of information such as detailed time-table of station enroute etc., passenger are requested to contact RailMadad helpline No. 139 or visit Indian railwayswebsite https://enquiry. indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 may please be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations.
All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

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Printed and Published by Vijay Prakash Singh for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226016 and Printed at Tin Tin Printech Pvt Ltd., C-33 Amausi Industrial Area, Nadarganj, Lucknow. Executive Editor: Navin Upadhyay. Resident Editor: Vijay Prakash Singh. RNI No. 2016/57. Lucknow Telephones: EPABX: 4036600 Fax: 2345582. Allahabad Office: (0532) 2420818, 2421018, 3290460. Kanpur Office: (0512) 2304006, 2304416. Varanasi Office: (0542) 2414294, 2414295. Delhi Office: No. 6, Behind Gulab Bhawan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455. Communication Office: F-31, Sector 6, NOIDA, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301, U.P. Phone: 0120-4879800 & 4879900

UP gives over 32.9L jabs in single day

1,85,390 doses administered in Lucknow

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Giving a major boost to the Covid vaccination drive which is already going on at a rapid pace, Uttar Pradesh on Monday administered over 32.9 lakh doses of the vaccine, making it one of the highest ever single-day coverage for the state. This vaccination landmark was achieved under a mega free vaccination campaign conducted by the state on September 27 to inoculate the maximum number of the eligible beneficiaries. Over 1,72,040 doses were administered in the state capital itself.

Meanwhile, Lucknow set a record by administering 1,85,390 jabs in a single day against a target of 1.7 lakh. District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash said though the CoWin data was showing 1,75,336 vaccinations in a single day, they had given a total of 1,85,390 doses. He said that in the mega vaccination camp, 48 percent of the beneficiaries were in the age groups of 18-44 years, 34 percent in 45-60 years and 18 percent above 60 years. District Immunization Officer Dr MK Singh said they crossed the target of 1.7 lakh at 7 pm itself. He said it was the highest figure in a single day.

Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia inspecting the vaccination at a centre in Lucknow on Monday Pioneer

As UP continues to intensify its vaccination drive with the aim of keeping the anticipated third wave of COVID-19 at bay, the state has so far given over 10,33,49,118 'Shots of Life' to the people.

In another achievement, the most populous state has also achieved the landmark of administering the first dose of the Covid vaccine to over 55 per cent of the eligible adult population. Over 8,38,28,804 people have received the first dose of the vaccine so far in the state. The state of Uttar Pradesh has also inched closer to touch the 2-crore-mark in number of fully vaccinated people. As many as 1,95,20,314 people have received both the doses of the vaccine so far.

Earlier, UP had administered more than 30 lakh Covid vaccine doses on August 27, which was the highest ever in a day by any state. On August 3, UP gave around 29.5 lakh doses of the vaccine against COVID-19, which was also an all-time high record in single day coverage. On September 25, UP became the first state to cross the 100-million Covid vaccination mark.

Aggressive vaccination is an integral part of the comprehensive strategy of the Yogi Adityanath government to contain the pandemic, along with adherence to Covid appropriate behaviour. The UP government is on the toes to get the majority of the population inoculated. As the second wave of the novel coronavirus remains in control in the state, the demand to get vaccinated remains high as it is the only option to fight against the invisible enemy. On the contrary, Maharashtra lags behind in vaccination with 7.93 crore doses so far. The vaccination figure in Rajasthan stands at 5.5 crore. West Bengal has given nearly 5.6 crore doses of the vaccine so far, while in Tamil Nadu, only 4.63 crore vaccine doses have been administered and in Kerala only 3.51 crore doses have been given so far.

Steepest decline in fresh cases

Lucknow (PNS): In a big success towards eradicating the deadly coronavirus, Uttar Pradesh witnessed the steepest decline in the number of fresh cases on Monday with only seven new infections being reported, making it the lowest single-day tally. In sharp contrast to other states like Kerala, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, UP, the most populous state of the country, has significantly lesser cases and has been largely successful in harnessing the raging disease. When other states are witnessing a surge of fresh COVID-19 cases (daily cases ranging from 20,000-2,000), Uttar Pradesh has restricted the daily-case count to below 50 for 47 days in a row.

The downward trend of the viral infection has continued for an eleventh consecutive week. Consequently, Uttar Pradesh, pushing the Covid graph southwards, has maintained the daily Covid test positivity rate (TPR) — the number of positive cases against the total tests done — at 0.01 per cent, the lowest in the country. This rate was at its highest at 16.84 per cent on April 24 and now remains even lower than the lowest post-first COVID-19 wave. Due to aggressive tracing and testing, Uttar Pradesh's positivity rate has been registering a steady decline for several days.

UP Congress demands judicial probe into Pratapgarh violence

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In what can be termed as a delayed reaction, the Uttar Pradesh Congress has demanded a judicial probe into the Pratapgarh violence in which former Congress MP Pramod Tiwari and Congress Legislature Party leader Aradhana Mishra have been booked for assaulting Bharatiya Janata Party's sitting Lok Sabha member Sangam Lal Gupta last Saturday.

A total of five FIRs have been registered against the Congress leaders after local BJP MP Sangam Lal Gupta was allegedly manhandled by a group of people during an official programme at Sangipur area of Pratapgarh last week. Gupta alleged that he had been attacked by the Congress workers at the behest of their leaders. In the aftermath of the incident, the state government suspended Lalganj Circle Officer Jagmohan for dereliction of duty. Nine persons have also been arrested so far by the police.

In his complaint, the BJP MP alleged that the incident took place on Saturday when he and his party workers reached the 'Mela' site in Sangipur where former Congress MP Pramod Tiwari was sitting on the dais. He further alleged that Tewari's supporters first hooted at him and his party workers and later turned violent and attacked them, assaulted them and even tore his kurta.

While the BJP leaders rushed in to support their party MP, the UP Congress maintained a studied silence for more than 30 hours before finally coming out to support their leaders charged with attempted murder and other sections of the Indian Penal Code. Even Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who is in the habit of tweeting on every issue, did not condemn the accusations against her party leaders.

After facing flak in the party's WhatsApp groups for not standing in support of Pramod Tiwari and Aradhana Mishra for two day, UPCC president Ajay Kumar Lallu said in a statement on Monday that the Pratapgarh police acted in a partial manner and demanded a judicial inquiry into the incident.

He alleged that BJP leader Sangam Lal Gupta had masterminded the violence in order to gain sympathy after his party fared poorly in the panchayat elections. He also challenged Gupta to produce the video evidence of the incident to prove that he was attacked by Congress workers.

Talking to media persons in Lucknow on Monday afternoon, former Congress MP Pramod Tewari termed the allegations made against them in the FIR as "baseless" and claimed to have publicly put forward all the evidence in the form of video.

"I have given all the evidence in the form of video that nothing like this happened to him (Gupta) during the programme in Sangipur development block on Saturday. Now it is the responsibility of the MP to produce evidence in support of his charges," asserted Tewari.

About a video of the assault that went viral on social media soon after the incident, Tiwari said that the person seen in the video was someone else and had been identified by the clothes. He stressed that there should be a fair investigation into the incident of violence.

The Congress leader said that he did not file any complaint in the matter as nothing happened to him but there were some party workers who submitted their complaints but FIRs were not registered yet.

On her part, CLP leader Aradhana Mishra described the whole incident as shameful. Responding to a question, she said that Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, scheduled to visit Lucknow on Monday, was aware of the developments and was in constant touch with state leaders.

Meanwhile, the Pratapgarh police have so far arrested nine persons in this case and several police teams conducted raids at the houses of Sangipur Congress block chief Ashok Singh Bablu and Rambodh Shukla, Ashok Dhar, Guddu but at the time of writing the report, the police could not arrest any accused in the MP's complaint.

Mentally unstable girl gang-raped

Lucknow (PNS): A mentally unstable woman was gang-raped by a group of autorickshaw and rickshaw drivers in Alambagh. On a complaint, police arrested four of the accused while five others, including a woman, were said to have absconded. As per reports, the woman, who is a resident of the Krishna Nagar, is the daughter of a retired head clerk of railways. She went missing on September 23 night and her father lodged a case with the police the same night. He got a call from Alambagh Kotwali the next day and was informed that his daughter was there.

When he reached there, he came to know that she was injured and her clothes were torn. She told him that she was asked to sit in an autorickshaw near a juice shop and was taken to a railway colony in Alambagh where she was raped by eight accused. Inspector Amarnath Vishwakarma said four of the accused were arrested. They were identified as Shivnandan of BG Colony and his friends Sone Lal, Ashok Kumar and Girijesh. Shivnandan is an auto driver and he, along with Sone Lal and their woman associate, had lured the girl.

She alleged that she was also thrashed when she offered resistance and she fell unconscious. The police registered a case under sections 376 (d)/120 B/34 of IPC and also booked the accused under SC/ST Act.

Meanwhile, a model alleged that her employers forced her to strip for an ad shoot and then shared the photos on social media. The complainant, who lives in Gomtinagar and is a part-time model, met one Rehan who introduced her to Ayush Mishra. After a deal was finalised, Ayush took her to Varanasi where she was introduced to their boss Divya Verma. The complainant alleged that she was forced to remove her clothes for the ad shoot and the video was later shared with some apps. In due course of time, the complainant came to know about it and asked Ayush to get the videos removed. She alleged that she was asked to cough up Rs 2 lakh for that and was also threatened with dire consequences.

Two minors gang-raped, blackmailed in Kannauj

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a sensational incident reported from Kannauj, two girls were allegedly held hostage and gang-raped in a cyber cafe when they went there to get some documents photocopied. Police said on Monday that four men took the two girl students hostage at the cyber cafe on September 13 and gang-raped them and one of the accused also recorded the act. The accused also extorted Rs 10,000 from the girls by threatening to circulate the video.

Superintendent of Police Prashant Verma said a case was registered at Sadar Kotwali on Sunday against six people, including a woman, based on the complaint of one of the girls. The 17-year-old student in her complaint said she had gone to the cyber cafe along with her friend at noon on September 13 when four people, who were already present there, raped them.

One of the accused also made a video of the act and handed it over to his brother-in-law who extorted Rs 10,000 by threatening to make it viral, police said. The girl said she and her friend stole money from their houses to give it to the accused, the police said. It was the missing money which alerted their family members after which the incident came to light, they said. The girls were sent to the district hospital for medical examination. Police were raiding all possible places, the SP said, adding in the initial investigation, the police found signs of prostitution from the cyber cafe.

The victim had said that after the incident, the wife of one of the accused made her phone calls, pressurising her into prostitution and some neighbours had also spoken about presence of young girls there, the SP said, adding that efforts were on to nab the accused.

MAN'S DEATH SHROUDED IN MYSTERY

Lucknow (PNS): A 30-year-old man was found dead in a pool of blood at his house in Sarojininagar police station area on Monday. Locals suspected that he was killed, but police said they were waiting for the autopsy report. The deceased was identified as Mahesh of Amausi locality. Mahesh's nephew Vipin Verma, who lives in another village, was informed about the incident. The bed was soaked in blood and the deceased had a deep cut wound under his ears. The police confirmed that the body bore injury marks. Mahesh lived in the house all alone.

Man deserts wife, marries another woman

Lucknow (PNS): A man deserted his wife for dowry and allegedly married another woman, claiming that his first wife was no more. Father of the first wife lodged the accused and his family members, alleging that they tortured her for dowry. As per reports, Nimisha Rai of Indiranagar married Sanjay Kumar aka Pappu of Gopalganj in Bihar in 2004. Sanjay is presently employed with NTT data service (Noida) whose head office is in Bengaluru. After marriage, Nimisha went to Bengaluru where she was allegedly tortured by Sanjay and his parents (Sumitra Devi and Rajeshwar Rai) for not bringing enough dowry. In his complaint, Nimisha's father Jagat Narayan Rai said she was humiliated on several occasions, was referred to as less educated and ignorant of etiquettes.

"She was forced to clean the house and work for long hours without rest. Nimisha's in-laws would her to wake up early in the morning even as she was not allowed to sleep early and would be kept engaged in household chores," the complainant alleged.

"In due course of time, Sanjay started beating Nimisha. Since 2008, Sanjay's excesses increased manifold and he started force-feeding her medicines while terming her mentally unstable. Sanjay later started consuming liquor and would threaten to divorce Nimisha if she did not give birth to a child. Later, Sanjay dropped Nimisha to her house in Indiranagar and promised to take her back. However, he never took her back. On August 16, Nimisha got a call from a woman who asked her if Nimisha was alive. Later, the woman told Nimisha that Sanjay had married her while claiming his first wife had died," Jagat Narayan stated in the complaint. He alleged that Sanjay's brother Brij Kishor, his sister Kiran, her husband Satish Singh and his friend Vikas Agrawal were involved in the diabolic plot. A case was registered in this connection and further probe was underway.

Meanwhile, a woman was tortured for dowry by her husband, who is allegedly in a relationship with another woman. The accused was assisted by his family members and the woman was turned out of the house in Agra. She lodged a case with PGI police. As per reports, Nikita Patel of PGI police station area married Prashant Verma of Radhey Vihar Shastripuram (Agra) in 2016. Her father spent Rs 17 lakh on dowry, including household goods worth Rs 6 lakh.

"After the marriage, I was subjected to brutality by my husband and in-laws for dowry. They forced me to bring more dowry if I wanted to stay in the house. In 2017, I gave birth to a son but their behaviour did not change," she alleged. Nikita said she got pregnant in 2018 and was forced to undergo abortion which she refused. "Prashant gave me some pills and I fell sick soon after," she alleged. "When I complained to my in-laws, there was no need for another child," Nikita alleged. She said she got pregnant in 2019 again and was forced to undergo abortion, but she refused. "They tortured me and I was forced to leave the house. I gave birth to a child but they remained unmoved even after being informed," the woman alleged.

AAP plans mass contact in UP

Lucknow (PNS): After promising 300 units of free electricity to domestic consumers and waiving the power arrears, the Aam Aadmi Party plans to contact the people in person in a bid to intensify its campaign for grabbing power in Uttar Pradesh. AAP state president Sabhajeet Singh said the party was going to launch a campaign on a war footing and AAP workers and leaders would be contacting 3.5 crore families in Uttar Pradesh to get their support for the party.

He said the AAP workers and leaders of all the assembly constituencies had been given a target to contact 90,000 families in a month. He said AAP considered electricity as a constitutional right of the people and his party would launch the campaign on this plank in UP.

"The AAP workers will contact people door to door and brief them about Arvind Kejriwal's guarantee of 300 units of free electricity to them. This way we will contact 3.5 crore families across UP in a month," he said and added that the campaign would be launched on October 3 in all the assembly constituencies.

Singh said 15 teams, each consisting of three workers and leaders, had been formed and they would move in vehicles fitted with loudspeakers and seek public support on the electricity issue. He further said people could give their support by giving a missed call and the missed number would be announced soon. "All the missed calls will be recorded in an app developed by AAP for the campaign," he said.

'Many patients still complain of post-Covid issues'

Lucknow (PNS): Many patients in the OPD of the Respiratory Medicine department of KGMU still complaint of post-Covid issues, according to head of the department Dr Surya Kant Tripathi. He was speaking at the second National Pulmonary Conference on Monday. The patients are treated according to the symptoms, he said. The department, along with the UP Chapter of Indian Chest Society, organised the conference on Monday. Dr. Surya Kant said they are celebrating a series of 75 events to mark the completion of 75 years of the department. The conference was inaugurated by KGMU Vice-Chancellor Dr Bipin Puri.

Dr Surya Kant said it is often seen that many of patients also have mental problems post Covid, which is treated with the help of mental medicine specialists. The conference covered various lung diseases like TB, asthma, impulse oscillometry, lung cancer, COPD, post-Covid sequelae and pulmonary hypertension.

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda

Regional Office Kanpur Dehat Region
118/330, 2nd Floor, Kaushalpuri
Gumti No. 5, Kanpur -208012

Possession Notice Branch : Orai, Distt. Jalaun

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower & guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules.

The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the first charge of Bank of Baroda for amount & interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of 13 of the act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property & O/S Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand Notice Date & Possession Notice Date

Borrower : Shri Braj Bihari S/o Tularam Yadav and Smt. Ram Devi W/o Shri Braj Bihari, Both R/o : Naya Patel Nagar, Orai, Distt. Jalaun.
Demand Notice Date: 05-07-2021 • Date of Constructive Possession: 22.09.2021
Description of Mortgage Property : Residential House situated at Mohalla Naya Patel Nagar, Orai,Distt. Jalaun. in the name of Smt. Ram Devi W/o Shri Braj Bihari, **Area :** 1500 Sq. Ft., **Bounded- North :** Open Plot of Sri Devi, **South :** Open Plot of Seema, **East :** 15 Ft. Wide P.C. Conc. way after that houses of Shri Vinod Kumar Yadav & Shri Anoop Yadav, **West :** Open Plot of Sri Devideen.
O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 2,67,800.42 + Intt. + Others Charges

Date : 28-09-2021 Place : Orai, Distt. Jalaun Authorised Officer

इण्डियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)
INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
RO: LUCKNOW | CO: CHENNAI

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8(1)]
Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (For Immovable Properties)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the Indian Overseas Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice as detailed here in below calling upon the borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the **Borrowers/ Mortgagors/Guarantors** and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on mentioned Date.

The **Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors** in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charges of the **Indian Overseas Bank** for the amounts and interest thereon mentioned against account herein below.

The Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, In respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

Details as under:

Sl. No.	Name and Address of the Borrowers/Mortgagors/ Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Properties	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession / O/S Amount
Branch-Aliganj Branch, 35A Chandralok Colony, Kapoorthala, Aliganj, Lucknow, Email: iob1574@iob.in			
1.	**1. Borrower: M/s Durex Engineers & Associates Prop Mr. Vinod Kansal S/o Mr.S.K. Kansal** R/o- 9/32, Indira Nagar, Lucknow-226016 **2. Guarantor: Mrs. Meeta Kansal W/o Mr. Vinod Kansal**, R/o- 9/32, Indira Nagar, Lucknow-226016 **3. Guarantor: Ms. Rashi Kansal D/o Mr. Vinod Kansal**, R/o- 9/32,Indira Nagar, Lucknow-226016 **4. Mortgager: Mr. Vinod Kansal S/o Mr. S.K. Kansal,** R/o- 9/32, Indira Nagar, Lucknow-226016 **5. Mortgager: Mrs. Meeta Kansal W/o Mr. Vinod Kansal**, R/o- 9/32, Indira Nagar, Lucknow-226016	**1.** Residential property at House No. 9/32, Sector 9, Indira Nagar, Lucknow in the name of **Guarantor/Mortgager Mrs. Meeta Kansal W/o- Vinod Kansal, admeasuring- 242.00 sq.mt, Boundaries as per sale deed No.3874/2000 dated 19.07.2000:-East-** House No. 9/53, **West-** 9.00 mt wide road, **North-** House No.9/31, **South-** House No.9/33 **Total area- 242.00 sq.mt,** ***** The above mentioned property is also mortgage in other loan account (Housing Loan) in the name of Mr.Vinod Kansal S/o S.K. Kansal and Mrs. Meeta Kansal W/o Vinod Kansal ***** **2.** Flat No.1402, 13th floor, Block 14, The Close North Nirvana Country, Sector 50, Gurgaon, Haryana in the name **Guarantor/ Mortgager Mr. Vinod Kansal S/o S.K. Kansal and Mrs. Meeta Kansal W/o Mr. Vinod Kansal, admeasuring 3034 sqft i.e 281.86 sqmts, Boundaries as per Transfer Deed No.10745 dated 18.12.2018 (Earlier Deed no. before transfer deed in blood relation dated 26.05.2011):-East-** Open, **West-** Open, **North-** Entrance, **South-** Open **Total area- 281.86 sq.mt** **3.** Land property situated at Plot No.573 Ka **admeasuring 0.345 hectare**, Plot No.573 Kha **admeasuring ½ of 0.345 hectare** and Plot No.568 **admeasuring 12 Biswa 6 Biswani (0.156 hectare)** situated at Village- Bahrauli, Tehsil- Fatehpur, District Barabanki, **Boundaries as:-East-** Minor Canal, **West-** Lucknow to Mahmoodabad Road, **North-** Property of Ram Naresh, **South-** Land Khasra No.569 **Total area- 6735 sq.mt**	10.05.2021 24.09.2021 **Rs. 9,09,38,254/-** + further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc.
2.	**1. Borrower: Mr.Vinod Kansal S/o S.K. Kansal and Mrs. Meeta Kansal W/o Vinod Kansal** R/o- 9/32, Indira Nagar, Lucknow-226016 **2. Mortgager: Mrs. Meeta Kansal W/o Mr. Vinod Kansal,** R/o- 9/32, Indira Nagar, Lucknow-226016	Residential property at House No. 9/32, Sector 9, Indira Nagar, Lucknow in the name of **Guarantor/Mortgager Mrs. Meeta Kansal W/o- Vinod Kansal, admeasuring- 242.00 sq.mt, Boundaries as per sale deed No.3874/2000 dated 19.07.2000:-East-** House No. 9/53, **West-** 9.00 mt wide road, **North-** House No.9/31, **South-** House No.9/33 **Total area- 242.00 sq.mt,** ***** The above mentioned property is also mortgage in other loan account M/s Durex Engineers & Associates Prop Mr. Vinod Kansal S/o Mr.S.K. Kansal *****	19.05.2021 24.09.2021 **Rs. 6,60,222.01** + further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc.

Date : 24.09.2021 Place : Lucknow Authorised Officer, Indian Overseas Bank

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

Zonal Office: S 19/33, Ekram Khan Building, Nadesar, Varanasi. Ph.: 0542-2505443,
Email: zovaranasi@indianbank.co.in

Demand Notice

This demand Notice id hereby given under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act,2002 (54 of 2002) read with rule 3, of the security interest (Enforcement) rules 2002 hereinafter calling upon the under mentioned borrowers/guarantors to repay the amount outstanding for the credit facilities granted to them / on their guarantee within 60 days from the date of this notice if you fall to repay to the bank the below mentioned amount , with further interest and incidental expenses . costs etc. in terms of the notice u/s 13(2) of the act. the bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub - section (4)of the section 13 and under other applicable provisions of the said act . You are also put on notice that in terms of sub section (13) of section (13) you shall not transfer by sale. lease or other wise the said secured assets detailed below of this notice without obtaining written consent of the bank . the details of the accounts and secured assets along with amount outstanding with interest and other charges and expenses thereon are given below.

S.	Name of Account	Borrowers/Guarantors	Details of Mortgage Property	Demand Notice Date & Amount
1.	**Mrs. Kanchan Hotwani & Mr. Lalit Hotwani** Branch **Mughalsarai**	1.**Mrs. Kanchan Hotwani W/o Mr. Late Vishnu Hotwani** R/o H.No.301, Ravi Nagar, Mughalsarai, Distt. Chandauli **(Borrower / Mortgagor)** 2. **Mr. Lalit Hotwani** R/o H.No. 301, Ravi Nagar, Mughalsarai, Distt. Chandauli **(Borrower)**	All that Part and Parcel of the property at Arazi No. Mi 86/3, Area 616 sq. ft. or 57.25 sq.mtr. Mauza- Bechupur, Pargana- Mawai, Tehsil & Distt- Chandauli, in the name of Smt Kanchana Hotwani W/o Late Vishnu Hotwani. Boundaries East - Colony Road, West - House of Indu Pandey , North - Joint Portion of Arazi No. 86/3 Mi, South - House of Sushila Srivastava.	**23.06.2021 Rs 1319613.49** (+ Intt. and other legal and banking expenses at applicable rate).

Date: 28.09.2021
Place: Varanasi
For Commission & Omission in Publication, Please contact with the branch or Zonal Office.
Authorized Officer, Indian Bank

Govt sets target to enhance India's export to 400 billion dollars

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel speaking in Vanijiya Utsav. Pioneer

In order to materialise the vision of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi Atmnirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India), the government has set a target to enhance the country's export to 400 billion dollar in the financial year of 2021-2022 and 2 trillion dollar in six years to come, said the Union Minister of State for Commerce & Industry Anupriya Patel adding, the country's export during the last five months of the current financial year remained 164 billion dollar against 98 billion dollar export during the same period in the previous fiscal year. There is an aim to take the nation to the path of prosperity by taking the advantage of opportunities, Patel expressed.

Speaking as chief guest in Vanijya Utsav organised for the capacity building of farmers at Rudraksh convention centre in Sigra, here under the Azad Ke Amrit Mahotsav on Sunday; Patel said that the Central Government is working to sign agreements with other countries regarding free trade. To make the income of farmers double, there is a need to produce qualitative agro products and make them as exporters, the minister emphasised, informing that the district level export planning is being chalked out for purpose.

The quality is an important part of the export of any product and so, there is a need to impart training to the farmers in this direction, Patel said and emphasised on capacity building of the farmers on the packaging and other points to achieve the target. The minister exhorted the farmers to enhance the contribution of this eastern belt of UP in making the economy strong by following the slogan of Local goes Global given by the PM.

The UP has 5.6 per cent share in the country's total export and the state government has worked well in the ease of doing business, the minister said adding, the possibilities of export promotion has increased in the state.

Guest of honour and UP Minister for Stamp (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal said that it is the hard work of the farmers that the nation is self-reliant on foodgrain at present and added that there is aim to get farmers to reach to traders and farming to trade. He emphasised on extending assistance to farmers in the training, capacity building and skill development so that they could produce value-added products and can trade their products like the traders.

Chairman of APEDA Dr M Angamuthu said that the export is an important tool to increase income of the farmers and emphasised on making farmers the exporters in Varanasi as it will directly benefit the locals.

The Varanasi had entered export two years ago and there is a target of ₹7.5000 crore in this eastern region of the state including Varanasi, he informed. The DM Kaushal Raj Sharma detailed about the works being done to increase export and income of farmers. The commissioner of special economic zone of Noida Vipin Menon and director of IRRI Dr Sudhanshu also spoke in the programme.

CBI gets 7-day custody of 3 accused in Narendra Giri death case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been given 7-day custody of Anand Giri, Aadya Tiwari and Sandeep Tiwari in Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad chief Mahant Narendra Giri's death case.

CBI had filed an application before Prayagraj Court on Sunday, seeking custodial remand of the three suspects on the grounds that they have to recover electronic gadgets containing incriminating information leading to the death of Narender Giri. The agency seeks to recover evidence from various places, which the three accused can point out in Prayagraj and Haridwar. "For the purpose of investigation of the present case and also to unravel the mystery behind the alleged suicide of late Narendra Giri, custodial interrogation of accused Anand Giri, Adya Prasad Tiwari and Sandeep Tiwari is essentially required," the CBI had mentioned in its application.

CJM Harendra Nath's court gave 7-day custody to the agency and the three accused will be on CBI remand from 9 am on September 28 till 6 pm on October 4.

Mahant Narendra Giri was found dead in his room at Baghambari Gaddi Math last week. A preliminary autopsy report revealed that Narendra Giri died of asphyxia due to hanging. The FIR was lodged after the Uttar Pradesh government recommended a CBI probe into Narendra Giri's death. An alleged handwritten suicide letter was also recovered from the room in which Mahant Narendra Giri wrote his will and the names of a number of people who had been allegedly troubling him.

Couple, along with 2 kids, attempt self-immolation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Victim Dharmveer being taken to Colonelganj police station from district court premises.

Troubled by hooliganism by some people and police apathy, a couple, along with two children, tried to immolate themselves in the district court premises on Monday. However, as the couple tried to set themselves ablaze, lawyers and policemen present there overpowered them. The family was taken to the Colonelganj police station where cops were collecting information from them about the issue.

Dharamveer Kumar, who is a resident of Faizulapur Hetapatti in Tharwai police station area, alleged that Ram Kailash and his family were troubling them while the police were doing nothing on his complaint.

In 2017, the accused forcibly occupied Dharamveer's land and demolished his house. Police registered a case in this connection but did nothing. As a result, the accused doubled down on their harassing tricks. They asked to withdraw the case. Dharamveer said he was fed up with making rounds of the police station.

He reached the district court premises along with his family but their bid was foiled. Police said information was being collected to decide the course of action.

Bharat Bandh evokes lacklustre response in Varanasi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A leader of VDIEA speaking during the protest against three farm laws. Pioneer

Extending its support to the call of Bharat Bandh given by Sanyukt Kisan Sangharsh Samiti and UP Kisan Sabha, the employees union of LIC VDIEA staged a protest against the three farm laws. Though, the bandh evoked a lacklustre response in Varanasi and almost all the markets remained open.

The employees associated to VDIEA gathered at the office premises in Bhelupur here and staged a protest demanding the cancellation of three agriculture laws and termed the laws as anti-farmers. They also demanded the guarantee of MSP and abolition on change made in labour laws.

Speaking on the occasion, the president of association Narayan Chaterjee accused the government at Centre to impose the farm laws on farmers without holding any talk with the farmers and added, the government is selling the PSUs. The government has decided to close the banks of the public sector and BSNL, make a bid for Air India and sell the shares in favour of its favourite capitalists, he charged.

Former general secretary of association Sagar Chatterjee said that to bring the bill of three farm laws without having talks with the farmers is injustice to them and thus, the association will continue its protest against these laws. The speakers demanded the cancellation of these black laws and discussion on this issue in both houses of the Parliament. They also demanded the government not to make any change in the original form of the LIC which is a public property and it will remain the same. They also opposed the changes made in the labour laws and demanded the government to implement them only after holding dialogue with the labour unions. Vinod Kumar Sriavstava, DC Singh, Rakesh Gujrati, Shailendra Mehrotra, Arti Srivastava and others joined the protest.

Meanwhile, the Bandh Call evoked a lacklustre response and almost all the markets remained open. Even, no trade union or farmers' association tried to get the shops closed. The district administration was also alert in view of the call and heaved a sigh of relief when none came out on the road in favour of the bandh.

APEDA team visits SHUATS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

A team of Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Union Ministry of Commerce and Industries, under the leadership of its Chairman Dr M Angamuthu, visited Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology And Science (SHUATS) in Prayagraj to raise awareness about the processing labs, technologies, research achievements, extension programmes of the university.

Dr Angamuthu was impressed by the achievements of SHUATS and said that it would play an important role in exporting Indian agricultural products to overseas markets which would benefit the farmers of the country. He said SHUATS has developed important technologies in the field of quality seed production, poultry, dairy, processing etc. With the help of this, agricultural products will be promoted in foreign markets. He said that proper processing and marketing of farmers' produce is necessary to increase their income. He added that APEDA is doing export work in 190 countries.

"SHUATS will be supported by APEDA in capacity building, after which product identification and technical work will be done by SHUATS so that quality products can be prepared and made available in foreign markets," he said. Describing Purvanchal as the biggest agriculture belt, he also talked about cooperation with SHUATS in promoting agriculture start ups and agriculture entrepreneurs sponsored by APEDA. Dr Tarun Bajaj of APEDA said that after manufacturing quality products, it has a major role in exporting them. Dr Sudhanshu of APEDA said there is a lot of production of guava, amla and mango in Uttar Pradesh, for which the university needs to develop processing variety for its original grown products. "This can be done with technology, better packaging and management," he said. He discussed the problem of pests and diseases in the seeds exported in the foreign market.

Passing out parade held at 39 GTC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A passing out parade was conducted at the Parade ground of the 39 Gorakha Training Centre (GTC) in Cantonment area, here on Monday in which as many as 95 recruits took oath of having faith in the Indian Constitution, service to the Indian Army conscientiously and sacrificing for the country. They were also presented with the traditional weapon 'khukri' as per Nepalese culture. The recruits were also rewarded for their outstanding performance in various fields during the training. With this, they became an integral part of the Indian Army at the 39 GTC.

The Commanding Officer of 39 GTC Brig Hukum Singh Bainsla (Sena Medal) inspected the parade after taking salute. The Dy Commandant Col Hitesh Duggal (Seva Medal) and Col Nitin Thapa (Training Battalion) reviewed the parade. During the passing out parade, the officers of 39 GTC, school children, NCC cadets and others were present.

These recruits have to pass through rigorous 42 weeks long training in which they were mentally prepared for facing the toughest situation during the war. The recruits were imparted training for always keeping their spirit high and being filled with the spirit of patriotism in the face of adversity. The young Rifleman Amrit BK was honoured with the Best in Firing and the young Rifleman Kapil Kumar was honoured with Best in Combat Obstacle Course and Lt Kapadia Trophy while the young Rifleman Nikkil Thapa was honoured with Best in Tactics. Besides, the young Riflemen Sumit Thapa, Sanam Shrestha, Manoj Mashrangi Magar, Sanod Magar and Madhav Kumal were honoured with Best in BPET, Best in Baner & Khukuri Fighting, Best in Drill, General MK Lahiri Medal of 2nd All Round Best and Gaurav Talwar of All Round Best respectively.

13% of eligible population fully vaccinated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Roughly 13 percent of the targeted population has been fully vaccinated in Sangam city so far. With 12,767 people getting the second jab on Sunday, the number of people fully vaccinated crossed the 5.39 lakh-mark. Over 1.59 lakh people of all age groups have taken the second dose in just 25 days this month.

The number of people who were fully vaccinated till September 1 was 3,80,525, which rose to 5,39,555 on September 26. Till August 1, only 2,32,156 recipients were fully vaccinated.

Moreover, 43 percent of the targeted population (19.87 lakh people) has received the first dose in the district so far. The Health department has set a target of vaccinating around 46.10 lakh people of all age groups, including 34 lakh people aged between 18 and 44 years and 12.10 lakh people above 45 years. As per the latest data released by the Health department, a total of 25,27,181 shots have been given to people of all age groups in the district till September 25.

Out of the 25,27,181 people who have received the vaccine doses, 5,39,555 are fully vaccinated. In the past 24 hours, as many as 14,844 vaccine shots were administered to people of all age groups, including 2,066 with the first dose and 12,767 with the second. District Immunisation Officer and ACMO Dr Teerath Lal said the vaccination drive was in full swing in the district and they were making sincere efforts to administer the second dose to eligible people.

He added that mega vaccination camps have also helped the department cover people living in remote villages. "More such vaccination camps are in the pipeline. Owing to the Health department's efforts to ramp up the drive, the city has already zoomed past the 25 lakh vaccination mark this week," he said.

With 25.27 lakh doses already administered to beneficiaries in the district, the department now aims to cover at least 30,000 recipients in a single day, Dr Lal said.

"People of all age groups are enthusiastic to get inoculated as they wait for their turn in the long queues at the Covid vaccination sites in both rural and urban areas," a senior health official said, adding, "Queues are increasing by the day, particularly in urban areas, as no one wants to miss out on getting the vaccine jab."

Tiwari flags off skating rally

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

To mark the World Tourism Day, India Tourism, Varanasi in collaboration with Varanasi Roller Sports Association, a skating rally was taken out which the UP Minister for Tourism (Independent Charge) Dr Neelkanth Tiwari flagged off on Monday. The skating rally began from the office of India Tourism, Varanasi in Cantonment area here and will culminate in Lucknow on the Gandhi Jayanti on October 2.

Encouraging the 25-members skating team, Dr Tiwari threw light on the work being carried out to promote the tourism in this entire eastern belt of the state and added that the rally will help in attracting the tourism to the district. The rally is being led by world record holder in the Kathak dance and skater Soni Chaurasia and the president of Varanasi Roller Sports Association Rajesh Dogra.

The rally will cover a total of 325 km distance and take a halt at six places during night hours. During the halt, the team members will visit the villagers to make them aware about tourism. The team members also carried banners and flags to promote tourism. Besides the skating rally, the seminar on tourism, heritage walk, cleanliness drive, etc were also held by India Tourism, Varanasi to mark the day.

The Member of Indian Hockey Team which bagged bronze medal in Tokyo Olympic Lalit Upadhyay, Member of UP Women's Commission Meena Chaubey, District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma, the Assistant Director of India Tourism, Varanasi Amit Gupta, Pankaj Srivastava of Sanskriti Bharati and many others were present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, the Varanasi Tourism Guild conducted a padyatra for inclusive growth in tourism from a hotel in Nadesar which was flagged off by Aryama Sanyal. The padyatra culminated at Shastri Ghat. The passengers of flights were also honoured with garland at Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport by the members of Guild and Airport Authority staff.

A cultural programme was also organised at a hotel in Cantonment area to mark the occasion in which some personalities were honoured by Guild for their outstanding contribution in the field of tourism. The president of Guild Sandeep Patiyal, vice president Pankaj Singh, secretary Subhash Kapoor and many others were present on the occasion.

SAIGAL HONOURED WITH UP RATNA AWARD: Senior Orthopedist of Varanasi Dr Ajit Saigal has been honoured with Uttar Pradesh Ratna Award by All India Conference of Intellectuals (AICI). In the 43rd annual meeting of AICI convened in Lucknow on Sunday last, Dr Saigal received the award from the chief guest and former DGP of UP Brij Lal and guest of honour and former Governor of Chattisgarh RK Seth and RK Singh of SB University, Dehradun. Dr Saigal was honoured with this award for his contribution in the medical field and social work. Sanjeev Agrawal, Ranjit Chaddha. Chand Shekhar Kapoor, Sanjeev Srivastava, Sanjeev Khatri, Dr Bhramri and others extended congratulations to Dr Saigal on his achievement.

170 out of 231 dengue cases reported from urban areas

ALLAHABAD (PNS): With more than 73 percent dengue cases reported from urban areas, the officials of the Health department are trying to find out the root cause behind the spread of the vector-borne disease. Out of 231 cases, 170 cases were reported from urban areas and the rest from rural areas, including trans-Ganga and trans-Yamuna. However, 213 of the patients have recovered while 10 are still hospitalised. The city has reported only one death due to dengue. Health authorities on Sunday said they were sending around 50 samples to MLN Medical College for testing everyday. District Malaria Officer Anand Kumar Singh said we have intensified anti-larva and fogging drives in the identified pockets (hotspots) and things are under control. He, however, added that health teams are interacting with denizens to make them aware about vector-borne diseases and preventive measures in different parts of the district. People are being briefed about the factors responsible for mosquito breeding and spread of vector-borne diseases. Focus is being shifted towards localities including MLN Medical College campus, Sulemsarai, Shivkuti, Chandpur Salori, Chota Baghara and Naini areas where more cases have been reported, he added. Singh said the department has laid stress on spreading awareness about dengue and other vector-borne diseases. The Health department has already stepped up its surveillance and stressed on the cleanliness drives for prevention.

SILVER JUBILEE OF JAGRITI LADIES CLUB: Jagriti Ladies Club was established on September 13, 1996 in Lukar Ganj by Sarla Darbari. The silver jubilee year of the club was organised in Kamdhenu Hall in which the members participated. Dr Shobha Darbari said the programme started with Ganesh vandana and lighting of lamp by Sharda Mandhyan. Sarla Darbari was remembered on the occasion. Dance and music were presented by children.

Dy Chief Minister, Dr Dinesh Sharma, felicitating veteren teachers at the Centennial Function of BNSD Inter College on Monday. Pioneer

Dy CM: UP govt to open more varsities, colleges

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Deputy Chief Minister Dr Dinesh Sharma said the Uttar Pradesh government had decided in principle to open new universities and colleges in an effort to bring the academic environment at par with the world.

Addressing the centennial function of BNSD Inter College here on Monday, Dr Sharma said the UP government had also decided to prepare a rule book for the teachers of unaided educational institutions to include them in the Mukhyamantri Puraskar Yojana.

He said the government had placed its combined efforts on investment, reform and performance which had instilled confidence among the investors and with 44 new projects Uttar Pradesh had reached first position in development.

Felicitating the former teachers and students, the deputy chief minister said it was a matter of great pride that he had the privilege to felicitate such outstanding teachers and students.

He said the teachers and students of the past had carved a niche for themselves on the global environmental front.

He said under the new education policy the youth would be linked to modern education patterns which would give rise to employment. He said in UP, education from classes 9 to 12 had been brought at par by introducing National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) syllabus and all the books of NCERT would now be provided from the school itself.

He said the teachers were contributing towards national uplift and advised them to further their knowledge and research work. He said they need to think of ways to bring in reform among the students.

He said the UP government had managed to hold free and fair examinations and for this it arranged CCTV in the examination halls. He said under the NEP there shall be total modification of laboratories, e-libraries, WiFi, startup and many more.

He said in UP over seven decade old institutions were in a state of veritable mess and in dilapidated state and thus the government had decided to modernise them with new constructions for which the UP government would release funds liberally.

Singing paeans for Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Dr Sharma said 54 months ago one could not even dream of a developed Uttar Pradesh but the government under the leadership of Yogi Adityanath had proved it to be true. He said today development meant infrastructure, better environment, crime control and welfare measures and all this was being extended without any bias.

He said the expressway was now the identity of Uttar Pradesh and giving momentum to economic progress. He said with a cost of Rs 36,400 crore the biggest Ganga Expressway was being constructed and it would give employment to over 20,000 people.

He said employment to youth was the priority of the UP government. He said in vaccination, UP was at the top in the country and even today two lakh Covid tests were being done every day.

He then felicitated the teachers and students. Prominent among them were Ajay Agnihotri, SN Tripathi, KN Awasthi, AS Bajpai, Pramod Tandon, RC Bajpai and PC Mehrotra.

Minister of State for Higher Education Neelima Katiyar, Swapnil Varun, Surendra Maithani, Arun Pathak, Sunil Bajaj, Neetu Singh, Dr KK Gupta and many more were present.

Surveillance teams directed to identify people with fever, distribute medicines

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

District Magistrate, City, Mr Vishak G Iyer, inspecting the dengue health checkup camp at Kursauli Village under Kalyanpur Block on Monday. Pioneer

Kanpur Nagar District Magistrate Vishak G Iyer, during his visit to Kursauli village on Monday, directed officials to ensure that the surveillance teams while going from door to door identified the fever cases and simultaneously distributed medicine packets.

Stressing on strict monitoring of all fever cases, the district magistrate said the surveillance team should remain in close touch with the houses having dengue cases. He also directed that fogging and spraying should be continued without fail and every day.

He directed the surveillance team to advise people that there should be no stagnant water in and around their houses, boil water before consuming it and take active part in keeping their surroundings clean.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Nepal Singh said that dengue spread due to ignorance and apathy and mosquitoes that spread dengue were found in clean water and thus one should ensure that there was no stagnant water around or inside one's house.

He said mosquito-borne disease dengue was caused by the bite of the Aedes mosquito which could be identified by the black and white stripes on its body. He said this mosquito required just one teaspoon of water to lay its eggs and could breed in any place where clean standing water was available.

He said symptoms of dengue felt like an uncomplicated fever and was not easily identifiable in teens and children and caused a fever of 104 F degrees along with at least two symptoms like headache, muscle and bone and joint pain, nausea, vomiting, pain behind eyes and rashes on body. He said there were three stages of dengue -- mild dengue fever, dengue haemorrhagic fever and dengue shock syndrome. He said in the last stage the person could die as well.

Dr Singh said painkillers were generally prescribed to the patients and often IV (intravenous) drips were sometimes supplemented in case of severe dehydration. He said it was crucial to keep the body hydrated as most bodily fluids were lost during vomiting and high fever. He said continuous intake of fluids made it sure that the body did not easily dehydrate.

He said another important factor was hygiene and patients should take bath or sponge bath with disinfectants and also sanitise hands with sanitiser and one should disinfect the water used to wash the patient's clothes.

He said people should wear long pants and full-sleeve shirts to cover skin surfaces to reduce the chances of mosquito bites. He said mosquitoes were highly active early in the morning or evening, so one should avoid venturing out in those times and use repellent with at least 10 per cent concentration of diethyltoluamide (DEET). He added that a higher concentration was needed for longer exposures and said one could apply the ointment daily to keep mosquitoes away.

DEMAND TO CONFER BHARAT RATNA ON BHAGAT SINGH: Members of Adhivakta Kalyan Sangharsh Samiti celebrated the Jayanti Samaroh of Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh in the Lawyers Association Hall on Monday and demanded that the government confer the Bharat Ratna award on him by declaring him a martyr.

Garlanding on the portrait of Bhagat Singh, former president of Kanpur Bar Association, Radha Krishna Pandey, recalled the great martyr's contribution in the freedom struggle. He said it would be an insult to all martyrs if Bhagat Singh was also not declared a martyr.

Convener Ravindra Sharma, while recalling the unparalleled contribution of Bhagat Singh in the country's freedom, demanded that Bharat Ratna be conferred on him. President of Upbhokta Bar Association, Gurmeet Singh, BL Gupta, Mohd Quadir Khan, Sanjiv Kapoor, Sarabjit Singh, Jitendra Singh, Sarvesh Tripathi, Anuj Tewari, Anil Babu, Viphal Tripathi and KK Yadav were present.

Prof Pathak for medicine database to develop diagnostic system

KANPUR (PNS): Vice Chancellor of Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Prof Vinay Pathak, while addressing the 38th annual conclave of UP APICON-2021 on Monday, said medicine department should prepare a database which could be used by experts of artificial intelligence (AI) to develop a modern diagnostic system.

He said the current era was the time of telemedicine and focus was being laid on artificial intelligence. He appealed to the university researchers to make breakthroughs in newer treatment of diseases with the aid of AI.

He said artificial intelligence had a high scope in the field of clinical research as it helped in determining the pattern of how well the drug was performing on the patients and also to determine the pattern of side effects or adverse events that were seen in different patients.

He said the practice of medicine was changing with the development of new artificial intelligence (AI) methods of machine learning. He said coupled with rapid improvements in computer processing, these AI-based systems were already improving the accuracy and efficiency of diagnosis and treatment across various specialisations. He said the increasing focus of AI in radiology had led to some experts suggesting that one day artificial intelligence may even replace radiologists.

Prof Pathak said medical artificial intelligence (AI) mainly used computer techniques to perform clinical diagnoses and suggest treatments. He said it had the capability of detecting meaningful relationships in a data set and had been widely used in many clinical situations to diagnose, treat and predict the results. He said unlike a human clinician, data-rich computer algorithms capable of human-like intelligence were able to observe and process vast amounts of information with high degrees of accuracy. He said AI could even bring clarity to areas that clinicians disagree on, such as identifying tuberculosis on chest radiographs. He said it could make the research process far more cost-effective and the key figures within healthcare were standing up and taking notice.

He said data aggregation remained a major challenge, for example, while algorithms also needed to be more transparent in order to meet rigorous regulations for drug discovery. He added that although there was no universally agreed definition for 'artificial intelligence', the term broadly referred to computing technologies that could perform tasks which normally required human intelligence. He said in medical research, AI was most commonly employed to analyse and identify patterns in large, complex data sets and this data could be analysed in a significantly faster, precise and more cost-effective way than traditional analytical methods.

IHTM organises food festival

KANPUR (PNS): On the occasion of World Tourism Day, the Institute of Hotel and Tourism Management (IHTM) of Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University (CSJMU) organised a food festival on Monday.

The students prepared famous dishes of different states of India which included Hyderabad's biryani, Lucknow's kebab, Punjab's laddoo, Bengal's rosogolla and Gujarat's dhokla. CSJMU Vice Chancellor Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak graced the occasion as special guest while Prof Sanjay Kumar Swarnkar was the chief guest.

Prof Sudhanu Kumar Pandiya was also present. Addressing the gathering, Prof Pathak said World Tourism Day was first observed by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) in 1980. He said the day is celebrated on the anniversary of the adoption of the statutes of the United Nations Organisation in 1970 for creating a route for the establishment of UNWTO after five years.

Since then, World Tourism Day is observed each year on September 27.

Minister's appeal to people

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel while addressing the Exporters' Conclave as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' as the chief guest on Sunday said the government was committed to making all districts as export hub through their local products. Underlining the government's policies related to industry and export the minister said that the ODOP scheme was introduced with the purpose of promoting traditional trade and to get it global identity. She said at Dubai Expo which was scheduled to be held from October 1 to March 31 the Union government had set up India podium and at that place all states had the opportunity to exhibit their products and UP was going to showcase agricultural products. She said under healthy competition UP had secured second place after Maharashtra in export share of the country. She appealed to people to manufacture best quality durries and brass items to attract buyers for which the government was ready to provide all type of support. Speaking on the occasion Commissioner Yogeshwar Ram Mishra said nature had bestowed a lot to the district and there was a huge potential for setting up industries by availing the facilities under MSME related policies. Prominent among those who also spoke on the occasion were District Magistrate Praveen Kumar Laxkar, Chief Development Officer (CDO) Srilaxmi VS, Joint Director MSME Umesh Kumar Singh, director, IICT, Amarnath, and metal trader Mohan Das Agrawal. The programme was conducted by Deputy Commissioner, Industry, District Industry Promotion and Entrepreneurship Development Centre VK Chaudhary.

LIGHTNING CLAIMS TWO LIVES: Lightning claimed two lives in the district on Sunday. Reports said that Sangeeta (35) had gone to graze the cattle in the field in Amirti Maharjganj village under Lalganj police station when she was struck by lightning which caused her death on the spot while three others sustained burns. Besides, under police station Madihan Preeti (18), daughter of Ram Pravesh, a resident of Nikarika village, died when lightning struck her when she was in her field. In another case Laxman Padey (55), a resident of Madaipur village, got burnt when lightning struck him and was undergoing treatment, last reports received here said. Besides, Kunti Devi (68) sustained serious burns due to lightning when she was in her field in Khoradeeh village under Ahraura police station. Besides, a boy lost his life due to lightning strike under Halia police station on Saturday. According to a report received here, Sushil (7), son of Shiv Achal, a resident of Devhat Kharka village under Halia police station, was struck by lightning as a result of which died on the spot. On getting information about the matter the area police reached the spot and took the body of the victim into custody for completing the necessary legal formalities.

SUICIDE: One person committed suicide under Kotwali Katra police station on Saturday. According to a report, Rajesh Gupta (35), son of Bachchalal Gupta, a resident of Sangmohal under Kotwali Katra police station, was found hanging from the window of his house situated in Gali No 5, Nai Basti under Katra Kotwali police station. On getting information the area police reached the spot and took the body of the deceased into custody for completing the legal formalities. Meanwhile a 17-year-old girl committed suicide by consuming some poisonous substance under Halia police station on Sunday. She was brought to the hospital in a serious condition but could not be saved. On getting information the area police reached the spot and took the body for completing the legal formalities.

NCL director (Tech) holds review meeting

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

The top leadership of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), a Miniratna company of the Government of India, is constantly visiting all the coal projects to take stock of coal production, despatch, operation of machines, productivity and welfare facilities etc and necessary guidelines are being given to the project management for coal production and despatch as per the demand. In this sequence, on Sunday, Director (Technical/Operations), NCL, Dr Anindya Sinha, with all the heads of departments held a review meeting on coal production, despatch, availability of machines and other important components at the view point in Block B mine. During it General Manager of Block B, Harish Duhan, gave detailed information about the action plan regarding coal production and despatch as per the target and demand. After the meeting, Dr Sinha visited the OB patch, HOE patch and other important places and directed the project management to maintain the coal supply as per the target. NCL Director (Finance & Personnel) Ram Narayan Dubey during his visit to Kakri area conducted extensive inspection of mine and canteen. During it its General Manager Vishnu Kumar Agrawal gave detailed information to Dubey about the work plan decided in relation to coal production, overburden removal, dispatch. In this sequence, Dubey visited the Krishnashila mine area and inspected the coal face, view point and canteen etc and gave directions for necessary improvements. It is worth mentioning that due to continuous top management visits to the mines, production, despatch and welfare facilities are getting a new dimension.

Due to these efforts of the NCL top management, the company has been ensuring energy security of the country for the past many years by producing more than the target before time.

Mosquito nets, umbrellas distributed

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

The CSR section of NTPC Rihand station under its Corporate Social Responsibility distributed 1,100 mosquito nets and 600 umbrellas among the people of station's nearby gram sabha Dodhar, Bijpur and Sirsoti village recently. This distribution programme was organised with the aim of saving the villagers from various diseases like malaria and dengue. Prominent among those present during the programme were Deputy General Manager (HR) Anit Kumar, Senior Manager (HR) Neeraj Kumar, Senior Manager (HR) Sundari Pappu, Executive (CSR) Mokshada Jogi, gram pradhan (Dodhar), gram pradhan (Bijpur) and gram pradhan (Sirsoti).

Clean Water Day observed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Along with the entire Indian Railways, in Varanasi division of North Eastern Railway (NER) from September 16 to October 2 special cleanliness drive is being run. Many programmes are being organised on all dates during this period in the division. In this sequence under the special cleanliness campaign Sunday was observed as Clean Water Day, Public Relations Officer (PRO) Ashok Kumar said. At all the stations of EnHM wing awareness drive, water testing and intensive cleaning campaign was carried out. As well in Varanasi division's Azamgarh, Ballia, Banaras, Deoria Sadar, Ghazipur City, Mau, Chhapra and Siwan stations' premises and train surrounding area thorough cleaning of water taps, water booths and their drainage and completion of necessary repair work was ensured by the nominated officers. During it the team of senior divisional medical officer and health inspectors by checking the quality of drinking water and its TDS at the drinking water booths installed in railway stations and railway premises got the work of getting it fit done. During this cleanliness drive, the supervisors themselves explained the importance of cleanliness and clean water. A supervisor also motivated to keep the water booths clean so that diseases caused by impurities of water can be checked. 'Shramdaan' (voluntary contribution of labour) and targeted cleaning were also done by the railway employees during this period. Along with it in order to avoid the spread of Covid-19 pandemic emphasis was laid on awareness about maintaining social distancing and use of masks. During this campaign in the premises of stations and railway units awareness about cleanliness was spread through posters, banners, nukkad natak (street play) etc and by taking out 'prabhat pheri' and cleanliness rally, other citizens were also made aware about cleanliness.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Inhumane

Dalits in India live in a sorry state, whether it is spoken about or not

In the 21st century, while India plans to reach the Moon and Mars, Dalits cannot afford to go a hundred yards riding a horse. In a country that the Government wants to make self-reliant as a way out of its economic morass, Dalits dare not make themselves "*aatma nirbhar*". What is a more unnerving aspect of our ultra-modern society is the inglorious fact that the Government authorities are, as we speak, formally searching for hamlets and villages where untouchability is still practised with two hoots to the law. The search follows two quick incidents of untouchability reported from the Koppal district of Karnataka within a fortnight. In the first instance, a Dalit family was fined ₹25,000 by upper caste village elders because their three-year-old child entered a temple. Dalits are banned from entering the temple in that village. In the second incident, a Dalit youth was asked to pay ₹11,000 for entering a temple in another village.

The fine would be used to purify the temple, the upper caste villagers told him. These incidents are not new. They happen dime a dozen in most Indian States. Dalits have no right to worship, believe, celebrate or cremate their dead on public property because the upper castes treat all public property as fief and the Dalits have none in their names.

However, what is startling is the Koppal administration telling the media that untouchability is still practised in 25-30 villages in that district. The very admission of such a fact is violative of the Constitution but all that the administration and the police are willing to do is search for those villages. Obviously, they are not going to find them because nobody will admit to practising untouchability. What is scary is the routinisation of the Indian, casteist social order, immune to the Constitution, even as the society claims to embrace modernity. The Dalit is so untouchable s/he can get killed for touching an animal. A youth was hacked to death in Gujarat in 2018 because he rode a horse. In 2019, a Dalit groom's family was socially boycotted because he sat on a horse, again in Gujarat. In 2020, a Dalit youth found out being an army jawan does not make him immune to upper caste taunts as he was forced down from his horse, also in Gujarat. After dozens of similar cases were reported in Uttar Pradesh, a Dalit groom in Meerut managed to reach the bride's home on his horse because of police protection. The only consolation for the poor Dalits is that even prosperous Dalits suffer the same insults. Young Dalits get a taste of the discrimination quite early, during mid-day meals in schools. Whom can Dalits turn to seek equality as human beings in everyday life and not be beaten or killed for wearing new clothes or walking on a paved street or drinking water from a public tap?

PICTALK

Tourists paragliding at Solang Valley, near Manali PTI

High time

It's time to take a leaf out of Kerala's book to take steps to nurture our next generation

Come November 1 and schools and colleges in Kerala would reopen after a 21-month hiatus caused by COVID-19. November 1 assumes significance as it was on this day in 1956 that the State came into existence following the merger of Travancore, Kochi and Malabar. This is the longest ever closedown seen in the educational sector of the State known more for its militant trade unionism and student agitation. The LDF Government, led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, has been doubly cautious about announcing the lifting of lockdown in schools and colleges because of the 'once bitten twice shy' syndrome experienced by the State. Vijayan had declared on May 8, 2020, that Kerala had become COVID-free, thanks to the State's well-functioning health sector. However, within weeks, the pandemic returned with renewed potency and caused devastating havoc by claiming nearly 25,000 lives. This time round, the State administration is leaving no stone unturned to ensure student safety. The bio-bubble scheme under the Government's consideration envisages three offline classes and an equal number of online classes for each batch of students. Only those parents who are confident of the cleanliness of the schools need send their wards for physical classes. The rest could continue with the on-line sessions which are in vogue now.

Another Government initiative is the de-addiction centres planned across the State to ensure that students do not fall to drugs. Narcotics smugglers are out in the open across the State and schools and colleges are on their target. Since the lockdown was slapped in the State, another social evil in the name of online games has hit Kerala. This has resulted in suicides by students and parents, who were left in financial distress. Vijayan said that all police inspectors have been instructed to establish close rapport with head masters and parent teachers' associations to save students from drug pushers and online gaming operators. The State also saw some students resorting to the extreme measure of suicide because of mental agony arising out of the absence of peer company. The partial opening of schools is expected to go a long way in resolving the issue while the students have to be trained to face the changed lifestyle as they emerge from COVID-19. Life will not be the same anywhere in India and Gen-Next should be warned about the ground reality. This step should be replicated across India.

The history of the Assam problem

PRAFULL **GORADIA**

The tale of illegal migrants into Assam is old, told by all observers but swept under the carpet by the Congress and its Muslim supporters

What happened in Darrang district a few days ago, whereby two alleged infiltrators were killed, was sad but reflected the historic agony of the Assamese people. Under the Government of India Act of 1935, provincial governments were formed by political parties. Soon enough, a Sir Mohammed Saadulla of the Muslim League became the Premier. In the 1937 elections, the League led by MA Jinnah was disappointed with its meagre winnings in UP, the largest province. Talk of a distinctly separate Muslim holy land began in seriousness.

The idea was first concretely mooted by the poet Iqbal who presided over the 1930 League session at Allahabad. A few years later, Cambridge University scholar Chaudhry Rehmat Ali worked out a theoretical note and innovated the name Pakistan, the land of the devout. Jinnah's idea was that five provinces should form the holy land including Assam, Bengal, North-West Frontier, Punjab and Sindh. Balochistan came in later. From the Muslim majority angle, Assam appeared touch and go to Jinnah although the Hindu impression was that they had a clear majority. Premier Saadulla got down to the business of facilitating as many east Bengali Muslims to come across and settle in Assam. A whispering campaign was started that the Adivasis were not really Hindus but worshipped animals or were Christian. There was thus a race to somehow prove that there were more Muslims in Assam than Hindus.

In the course of a discussion at Shillong in 1945, Viceroy Lord Wavell noted in his diary that while the reason for the encouragement of this migration was officially justified as being to grow more food, the real object was to increase Mohammadans (as recorded by BK Nehru in his book *Nice Guys Finish Second*). The tale of illegal migrants into Assam is an old one told by all observers but swept under the carpet by the Congress and its Muslim supporters. Other distinguished Muslims like Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and late Pakistan PM Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who openly expressed the view that without Assam, the economy of East Pakistan could not be complete.

The entire episode is heart rending for those who care for Assam. The writer has often visited the state and seen all its tea growing sub-districts. He was there for some ten days during the 1983 elections, which were boycotted by those who loved Assam. In many of the assembly constituencies, the voting was pathetically low although the Hiteswar Saikia Government had ensured perfect law and order. Most of the electoral officers in the heartland constituencies and the booths therein were manned by men flown in from other States. Nevertheless, for five days, the Assamese districts seemed as dead as graveyards.

Quoting from the *Hindustan Standard*, a well patronized Kolkata daily of those days, Rajendra Prasad in his book *India Divided*, stated: "It is sad but by no means improbable that in another 30 years Sibsagar district will be the only part of Assam in which an Assamese will find himself at home."

The Census Report of 1941 completes the story with a short but significant sentence, quoted: "The most noticeable rise in the Muslim population is in Assam and once again represents migration from Mymensingh and east Bengal generally." This policy of colonisation of Assam by the Muslims of Bengal was continued under the joint auspices of the Muslim League ministries of Sir Saadullah in Assam and Sir Nazimuddin in Bengal, as the following Bengal Government communique published in the press, in the last week of October 1944, shows. It goes on to quote the Census Report of 1941: "The Government of Assam in their resolution dated the 21st June 1940 prohibited settlement of land with persons coming from outside the province after the 1st January, 1938 — The Bengal Legislative Council went on to appeal to the Governor to ask for the Viceroy's intervention in Assam.

> A WHISPERING CAMPAIGN WAS STARTED THAT THE ADIVASIS WERE NOT REALLY HINDUS BUT WORSHIPPED ANIMALS OR WERE CHRISTIAN. THERE WAS THUS A RACE TO SOMEHOW PROVE THAT THERE WERE MORE MUSLIMS IN ASSAM THAN HINDUS

Dr Prasad quoted a retired SP Desai (ICS) writing in *Hindustan Standard* of December 1944: "Every day, new bamboo sheds and temporary huts are springing up in the reserves. I found that the immigrants absolutely ignore the local officers." The few Nepali graziers and Assamese Pamuas finding no protection from anywhere give '*dohai*' in the name of the King Emperor. Verily, the cup of humiliation for the Assamese was full.

Thus the Indira Gandhi Government in collaboration with Assam CM Hiteswar Saikia suppressed the people of Assam and their sentiments. They continued to protest and agitate but to no avail. As if to rub salt on their wounds, the Central Government passed the pernicious Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act in 1983. Hereby, in Assam the onus of proving that a particular person is an infiltrator rested with his complainant or the Government of Assam, not on the suspect. The Foreigners Act of 1946, whereby the onus of proving his bona fides is on the suspect, continued to apply to all other States in India. The only exception made was Assam to help out the illegal migrants. When travelling from Guwahati to Shillong, one does not spontaneously realise when one has crossed from Assam to Meghalaya. Yet in the latter State, the Central law was the old 1946 Act! Such was the discrimination against the Assamese people.

(This is part of an ongoing series on India making multi-dimensional advancement across States and nations).

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FARMERS' BHARAT BANDH

Sir — It is uncharitable to say that the Bharat Bandh called by farmer unions has caused 'disruption', 'inconvenience' and 'hardships' for the public when it is a life-and-death struggle for them. It is important that we keep a sense of proportion. The do-or-die spirit with which the farmers are protesting reveals their deep disquiet over the three farm laws enacted to pave the way for the dismantling of the MSP system, takeover of the agriculture sector by big corporate houses and the eventual loss of agricultural land. It is futile to try and trivialise the farm protests and show them in a negative light, given the rightness of their cause and the mass support for them.

The support extended by the Opposition parties to the ongoing protests is not 'pandering' to the farmers when elections in several States are around the corner. To say that the farmers are 'egged on' by the Opposition is an insult to the integrity of both the farmers and the Opposition. The ruling party can easily outsmart the Opposition by repealing the three farm laws. The attempt to pit the protesting farmers against 'common citizens' is eminently avoidable. Farmers are a part of social organisms; they are ordinary, decent, hard working people for anyone to speak ill of them or attempt to trash their reputation.

G David Milton | *Maruthancode*

ABOLISH MISUSED EXEMPTIONS

Sir — The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) should widen the scope of Form 26AS of Income Tax Act by auto-inclusion of allowable deductions like investment in Public Provident Fund, LIC policies, Government-securities, mutual funds etc. Insurance companies should be directed to compulsorily put PAN number and Aadhar number on policies. The outdated Income Tax Act, 1961, with so many amendments should be replaced by an altogether new and simplified Act as repeatedly assured by the Government.

Our political parties are rich enough to spend heavily for their political purposes which regrettably also includes costly super-luxury stay of MLAs in costly five-starred resorts and hotels for immoral ways of toppling or saving Governments. Tax-exemptions in respect of political parties are also heavily misused by an ever-increasing number of registered political parties with most of them not having contested any election. Considering massive misuse of tax-free agricultural income by super rich celebrities and heavy spending on ongoing farmers-agitation, agricultural income should also be taxed by having a basic exemption-limit of ₹5 lakh with various deductible investments or spending clubbed together for maximum rupees two lakhs.

Subhash Chandra Agrawal | *Delhi*

THE CYCLONE NAMED 'GULAB'

Sir — The cyclonic storm 'Gulab' is likely to move nearly westwards and cross north Andhra Pradesh-south Odisha coasts between Kalingapatnam and Gopalpur around Sunday evening, the Cyclone Warning Division revealed. The Odisha Government has already mobilised men and machinery and launched an evacuation drive in seven identified districts in the southern parts of the State.

Over the next three days, the sea condition will be rough to severe and fishermen in Odisha, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh have been asked to not venture into east-central and adjoining northeast Bay of Bengal. It is understandable to issue a cyclone warning by raising the red flag in coastal areas of these two States.

A visual storm warning signage is permanently hoisted at the mast of ports to alert ships of the weather condition in the ports they approach, that is the common practice. While certain countries hoist flags, India uses distinct signs for day and night. Day signals are a combination of cylinders and cones, while night signals are red and white lamps. Deep depression intensifies and it is indeed a dangerous signal for the coastal areas.

MR Jayanthi | *Mumbai*

Seven years in orbit

It's truly delightful and a matter of pride to know that India's Mars orbiter has completed seven years in its orbit, well beyond its designed mission life of six months. The Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), also called Mangalyaan, was the maiden interplanetary mission of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It was launched in November 2013 and the probe was successfully inserted into Martian orbit in September, 2014 in its first attempt. The successful survival of the Mangalyaan during all these years has enabled the ISRO to continuously monitor the spacecraft and its scientific instruments giving the scientists enough time to analyse and study the strengths and the glitches so that these could be made useful in future space missions. The longevity of the MOM has raised the confidence of ISRO scientists.

Mangalyaan's success in the red planet's orbit is sure to be an impetus in ISRO's ambitious space exploring plans like - launching its own space station, the Chandrayaan mission, Aditya L1, the mission to explore the Sun's corona and so on. The biggest advantage is that other nations have begun to keenly observe our low cost space technology. While the developed countries spend billions on space missions, India has been able to do the same on a low budget but precisely and flawlessly. It stands testimony to our accomplishment in space exploration that many nations rely on ISRO for launching their satellites into space using our rockets.

M Pradyu | *Kanpur*

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

The farmers' non-violent '*satyagraha*' is intact today but the exploitive Government doesn't like it and that is why Bharat is 'bandh'.

—Congress leader
Rahul Gandhi

Now is the time to eliminate nuclear weapons from our world and usher in a new era of dialogue, trust and peace for all people.

—UN Secretary-General
Antonio Guterres

Gaining 20 kg in six months and losing it all within six months that too in my thirties messed up many things in my body.

—Actor
Kangana Ranaut

It is difficult. You have been playing Test cricket for five months and suddenly you have to come and play white-ball cricket.

—Chennai Super Kings batter
Ravindra Jadeja

Elections are close and I welcome all kinds of tourism so that all my Goan brothers and sisters have access to a new business in Goa.

—Goa Chief Minister
Pramod Sawant

FIRST COLUMN

CHILD ADVERSITY AND CHRONIC PAIN

It is necessary to understand what links early life adversity to poor adult health

TIM **HALE**

There is a widely held belief that our health is largely preordained by the genes we inherit from our parents. Indeed, this lottery of inheritance plays an instrumental role in some health outcomes. Early onset diabetes is an example of an inherited disease which,although debilitating, is relatively uncommon with only three new cases per 100,000 children in India. Late onset diabetes is much more common afflicting 12 per cent in urban populations and, like most predominant diseases,lacks a clear pattern of inheritance. The evidence suggests a greater role for nurture (environment) rather than nature (genes) in maintaining well being.That is good news because we can improve the environment. Chronic pain (pain that lasts longer than three months) is another debilitating condition that lacks clear genetic origins. It is much more common than all forms of diabetes, estimated to affect approximately 20 per cent of adults in India. A report this year reveals that pain of the lower back and extremities afflicted 83 per cent of an adult population in rural Gadchiroli in Maharashtra in a period of one year, leading to 11 lost workdays per study participant.

In addition to unquantifiable personal suffering, the estimated economic costs of lost work and medication are staggering; each person with pain lost 4.9 per cent of the annual per capita regional income. Even a small reduction in the prevalence of chronic pain would be exceptionally beneficial. Unfortunately, pain treatment options have limited efficacy and for many recuring chronic pain becomes a way of life. However, not all adults living in similar circumstances are vulnerable to chronic pain. Some are remarkably resilient. If this is not because of genetics, then why are some vulnerable and others resilient? The answer may lie in exposure to childhood adversity. Adverse childhood experiences include physical or emotional abuse, neglect and domestic violence. The World Health Organisation describes adverse childhood experiences as the most common and intense childhood stressors. Many of us experience at least one and children exposed to several adverse events are likely to have more frequent and severe health problems later in life, including chronic pain. Furthermore, childhood adversity is emerging as a leading contributor to health disparities, disproportionately affecting the poorest in society. There is a strong relationship between exposure to childhood adversities and social deprivation. However, there is a lack of screening for exposure to childhood adversity, which might otherwise enable targeted health interventions. Reasons for this include inconsistent screening methodsand poor understanding of factors that may contribute to vulnerabilities following exposure. The Consortium Against Pain Inequality (CAPE), led by the University of Dundee, seeks to overcome these deficiencies in understanding. CAPE will develop a comprehensive tool for screening exposureand establish mechanisms linking early life adversity to chronic pain in adulthood. By understanding what links early life adversity to poor adulthealth, we hope to address pain inequality by identifyingthose at greatest risk and providing tailored interventions. By raising awareness of the long-termimpact of childhood adversity we will promote efforts to improve childhood and adult well being.

(The writer is Professor of Anaesthesia and Principal Investigator of the Consortium Against Pain Inequalities at the University of Dundee, UK. The views expressed are personal.)

Banks' bailout — Make it transparent

UTTAM **GUPTA**

The proposed 'bad bank' scheme by the Government is merely an attempt at using taxpayers' money for bailing out NPA-afflicted banks

In the Union Budget for 2021-22, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had proposed setting up of a bad bank. Crafted as National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL), it will bundle up all the non-performing assets (NPAs) of banks and sell them to investors such as private equity funds, alternative investment funds (AIFs) and so on, by putting a turnaround plan in place. On September 16, 2021, she announced the broad contours of the action plan.

Under it, the NARCL will purchase NPAs from banks under 15:85 structure, wherein it will pay up to 15 per cent of the agreed or discounted value of the loans in cash and issue Security Receipts (SRs) for the rest. The Government will provide sovereign guarantee - valid for a period of 5 years - for the SRs issued by NARCL. The guarantee would be invoked to cover the loss being the difference between the realized value (resolution/liquidation) and face value of SRs. A provision of ₹30,600 crore has been made for this purpose.

The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has already started the process with incorporation of the NARCL and applied to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a license as an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) with a capital base of ₹6,000-crore. The public sector banks (PSBs) will have 51 per cent ownership in the NARCL.The remaining shareholding will vest in 16 entities including private banks and non-bank finance companies.

The NARCL is intended to resolve stressed loan assets above ₹500 crore each amounting to about ₹200,000 crore. In phase I, it will take over fully provisioned assets of about ₹90,000 crore while the remaining assets would be transferred in phase II.

High NPAs have been haunting the Modi Government ever since it took charge in 2014. In 2016, it enacted the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), an overarching law that gives lenders and banks the power to drag defaulting borrowers to a judicial authority. It also amended the Banking Regulation Act giving RBI powers to force banks to act within strict timelines.

As per RBI circular dated February 12, 2018, for accounts with aggregate exposure of over ₹2,000 crore, as soon as there was a default in the account with any lender, all lenders - singly or jointly - shall initiate steps to cure the default by preparing a resolution plan. The plan had to be readied within 6 months from the default date. If not, proceedings under IBC would be initiated by referring the case to National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) which would get six months to resolve.

According to a statement in parliament by Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat K Karad, PSBs alone have recovered over ₹500,000 crore. The NPAs ought to have gone down by this much but the decline is only about ₹200,000 crore and the difference of ₹300,000 crore is due to fresh slippages. This figure-excludes the Covid period — March 1, 2020 to March 24, 2021 — during which banks were not allowed to recognize bad loans. On their inclusion,we could get back to March 31, 2018 level.

> THE NON-PERFORMING ASSETS HAVE BEEN HAUNTING THE MODI GOVERNMENT SINCE 2014. IN 2016, IT ENACTED THE INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY CODE (IBC) THAT ENABLES LENDERS AND BANKS TO DRAG DEFAULTING BORROWERS TO A JUDICIAL AUTHORITY. IT ALSO AMENDED THE BANKING REGULATION ACT, GIVING THE RBI THE POWERS TO FORCE BANKS TO ACT WITHIN STRICT TIMELINES

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

Much lower yield than expected from the IBC mechanism has a lot to do with a revised RBI circular dated June 7, 2019 — issued under Supreme Court orders - which took away powers from the banking regulator and gave too much of flexibility to the latter in working out the resolution plan. Effectively, it rendered the IBC process dysfunctional.

Now, the Government wants the 'bad bank' do the trick. Look at the first lot of ₹90,000 crore. These loans being in default for over 3 years, the banks have already made a full provision and captured in the profit and loss figures. There is no compulsion on them to recover this money. They will not object to NARCL paying a very low price.

However, what prevents other asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) from bidding for a higher price. Indeed, the proposed mechanism requires NARCL to go for the "Swiss Challenge" auction wherein other ARCs will be invited to better the offer made by it. However, in the present case, this will not work as the bank would play safe by giving asset to NARCL whose SRs enjoy sovereign guarantee.

As for the remaining ₹110,000 crore for which a lower provision has been made and the chances of recovery are better, the bank could have reason to offer lower discount on the face value. This is provided transfer happens fast. If, this is delayed and default period increases even exceeding three years, the fate of these loans too will be no different from those in the first lot.

In short, the entire bad loan book on offer (read: ₹200,000 crore) would be available to the 'bad bank' at heavy discount to the face value. What if this is fixed at say 18 per cent?

In absolute terms, this works out to ₹36,000 crore. Of this, NARCL pays 15 per cent or ₹5400 crore in cash to the banks and for the balance ₹30,600 crore, it will issue SRs. To redeem them, the former must realize at least ₹30,600 crore from selling theNPAs to investors. If, the NARCL doesnot realize even one rupee, then also it need not worry as SRs valued up to ₹30,600 crore being guaranteed by the Union Government, the latter will pay for it in full.

Short of jargon and high-sounding phraseology, the proposed 'bad bank' is merely an attempt to use tax payers' money for bailing out NPAs afflicted banks. Put simply, of the ₹ 200,000 crore, the Union Government will give ₹30,600 crore by way of sovereign guaranteeand the rest (sans a tiny sum of ₹5400 crore)as direct budgetary support.

The Government should stop taking recourse to disingenuous methods. Instead of following a circuitous route, making things non-transparent, setting up new institutions, adding to administrative and overhead costs and so on, it should candidly accept the dire need to inject that much capital in to the banks and give it from the Budget. During the last four years, it gave them ₹300,000 crore to deal with their NPAs; it can give a further ₹200,000 crore.

At the same time, to recover bad loans and stem their proliferation, first, it should revitalisethe IBC mechanism by restoring the February 12, 2018 circular and strengthening the NCLT; secondly, expeditious disposal of challenges to NCLT orders in High Courts and SC; thirdly, stepping up 'tracking' and 'surveillance' within banks for early detection of bad loans including frauds (at present, it takes years for them to report) and lastly, stem corruption and nepotism.

Sans these harsh steps, the tide of NPAs will not stop forcing the Government to repeatedly bail them out.

POINT COUNTER POINT

THE BJP DID NOT LET DIDI ATTEND THE ROME PEACE MEETING AS SHE IS MORE POPULAR THAN MODI.
—TMC GENERAL SECRETARY
ABHISHEK BANERJEE

NO POLITICAL LEADER IN THE COUNTRY, LET ALONE DIDI, MATCHES PM MODI. ABHISHEK SHOULD WAIT FOR 2024.
—BJP LEADER
SUVENDU ADHIKARI

US corp pledge elusive; bad bank is expensive

Economic development is a complex matter. The Government alone cannot make it happen but needs the involvement of all — businesses and the public

SHIVAJI **SARKAR**

The visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US has tried to kindle hopes in an economy that needs investment but the American companies have not yet given any firm commitment to him. He held meetings with five global CEOs for potential investments.

India has taken many steps to bring in reforms through an asset reconstruction construction company (ARC) or the bad bank, lower interest rates, networked businesses and chain of roads. Companies like Qualcomm have investments in wireless modem, digital media networking, dairy transportation and defence. Now Modi has suggested to them to invest in hi-tech sectors and in measures to strengthen innovation ecosystem. General Atomics, which opened its first office in India in 2018, is making significant contributions to deepen India-US defence and security cooperation. It is working with both governments to provide India with the latest defence systems.

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

Investments in real estate too are always lucrative. Blackstone has so far invested $15 billion in real estate, private equity, real estate, education, fashion, packaging and housing finance. It would continue to do so as per the assurance of its CEO Stephen Schwarzman.

Blackstone Real Estate Fund is said to be the largest owner of commercial real estate in India. The company

played a key role in launching India's first real estate investment trust (REIT) along with its partner Embassy Group in 2019 and has since then launched two REITs in the country.

The Quad is a symbolic multilateral body. It provides a platform to seek cooperation from like-minded countries on issues like ensuring respect for territorial integrity, sovereignty and peaceful resolution of disputes. Quad leaders agreed to scale up collective strategic cooperation.

There may be gains in the future. As of now, there are only expectations amid not-a so-good domestic economic situation. The country's non-performing assets have increased. Steps like taming inflation, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Act, Real Estate Regulatory Act, and GST did not add to the desired growth. These have shaken the system and market confidence. The rules are more stringent and do not help the people. The foreign investors though keen to invest may also have apprehensions, which the scrapping of the retrospective taxation may partially help resolve.

Corporate tax rates were cut but it ignored the pivot the individual. His taxes peaked during 2019. It hit the basic capacity of the individual to ride through a crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic situation. At 42 per cent plus various cesses, India has the highest tax rates. The gestures by foreign countries would not be enough to bring that confidence back. It would be welcome even now to cut the income tax rates. It would boost the individual's capabilities and benefit the whole economy as the individual consumes more.

The lower interest rate is playing havoc along with tax deductions on deposit hedging against inflation that interest accrual does. It affects the developmental process. To accelerate development, the interest rates must be lowered. Economic development is a complex matter. The government on its own cannot make it happen. It needs the involvement of all — businesses and the public in their various spheres of activity. The country needs to ponder how the entire system is revamped.

The new ARC or the bad bank with the limited government guarantee will remove ₹22.14 lakh crore ($30 billion) of NPAs from the system. Since now it will be now under one entity resolution would be easier, it is being said. Bad bank is not all virtue.

The world experience with bad banks is that they have excessive and hidden fees, bouncing cheques, expensive debits, big banking errors and failure to honour promises. It can create a new kind of market in dealing with stressed loans but there are apprehensions that asset buyers may resort to harsh unethical methods.

In a difficult situation, new methods are inevitably tried out but it has to be remembered that all Euro-US models of capital market should not be copied as the financial literacy is poor here. Moreover, Indian society is far more complex and heterogeneous. A complicated system may not be a proper solution. Hiving off bad assets may be practical but settling or reselling those for realization of dues is not easy and would have many complications as each of the cases are different. True, the nation will chart out its course. Setting the new course is not easy and none as of now has a clear idea how it would function.

ED questions Raj CM's brother in fertiliser scam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday questioned Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's brother Agrasain Gehlot in a money laundering case linked to fertiliser scam entailing alleged fertiliser export irregularities.

Gehlot's statement was recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), officials said.

Gehlot, accompanied by a lawyer, appeared before the agency here for questioning at around 11.30 am.

The agency had questioned him earlier also but he had approached the court seeking relief from the ED action.

The Rajasthan High Court recently asked him to cooperate with the agency in the investigation as it directed the ED not to take any coercive action against him.

The agency had raided his business premises located in Rajasthan in July last year. The raids came when a political slugfest was then on between CM Ashok Gehlot and his then deputy CM Sachin Pilot in the State.

Agrasain Gehlot's son Anupam too had deposed before the agency in this case.

The ED searches against him came after it filed a criminal case under the PMLA based on a 2007-09 Customs department case in which it was alleged that irregularities took place in the procurement and export of subsidised Muriate of Potash (MOP) meant for farmers and investigation in this case was finalised in 2013.

The ED took cognisance of the Customs FIR and a charge sheet (filed on July 13, 2020) in this case to press money laundering charges and probe a "smuggling syndicate" allegedly linked to Agrasain Gehlot, his firm Anupam Krishi and others.

The agency had said the case pertained to fraudulent export of MOP, a restricted commodity for exports, in the guise of industrial salts to buyers based in Malaysia and Taiwan.

Its export is restricted so that it is available to Indian farmers.

Agrasain Gehlot and his firm were slapped with over ₹60 crore in penalties by the Customs for these alleged export irregularities in 2013.

Gehlot's company allegedly "diverted" 35,000 metric tonnes of MOP that had a value of ₹130 crore in the international market, according to sources.

The ED has claimed that Gehlot, in his capacity of being a dealer, was the custodian of the MOP and was "solely responsible" for its proper distribution to the farmers.

Gehlot's alleged connivance with a company Saraf Impex Pvt Ltd and others resulted in the diversion of MOP that was imported by Indian Potash Limited at concessional rate of duty.

Opp flays Modi for visiting Central Vista project site

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition, led by the Congress, on Monday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for visiting the construction site of the Central Vista project, and dubbed it as a "thoughtless and insensitive" gesture.

It said the timing of the Central Vista project was questionable as the country was still recovering from the coronavirus pandemic after losing precious lives during the second wave.

"We would have supported him had he visited some hospital site. I am sorry we cannot support a gesture as thoughtless, as insensitive as this," Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said at AICC briefing. When asked about the PM's visit to the under-construction site of the new Parliament complex, the Congress leader asked whether he ever visited a hospital or an oxygen plant site.

The building is part of the Central Vista project, which has faced criticism from the Opposition

"I don't know if the Prime Minister was seen visiting a hospital or an oxygen plant under construction. Three months ago, we were trying to save our loved ones and today our PM goes to visit the ₹25,000 crore Central Vista project, the timing of which is questionable. The country is yet to recover from the pain, grief and sorrow that we went through," he said.

AIMIM questioned why the Prime Minister was there without the Lok Sabha Speaker as Parliament is the domain of Speaker.

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi slammed Modi saying the PM violated the principle of separation of powers, which is part of the basic structure of the Constitution. "Parliament isn't PMO's domain. Why was he there without Lok Sabha Speaker? Did Speaker permit him? This violates principle of separation of powers, which is part of basic structure of Constitution. Maybe it was the jet lag from his US tour. It was AM there but PM was here," Owaisi said.

The building is part of the Central Vista project, which has faced criticism from the opposition. Government officials have said that Parliament's Winter session in 2022 will be held in the new building.

Modi on Sunday visited the construction site of the new Parliament building, which is expected to be completed in the second half of the next year. He also spoke to people involved in the construction as he inspected the ongoing work.

As per the Supreme Court judgment, Parliament is the basic structure of the Constitution and the theory of separation of powers says the executive can't interfere in the activities of the judiciary or legislature and PM Modi is a part of that executive, Owaisi took to Twitter to express his opinion.

Digital archive must be set up to recognise contribution of workers employed in Vista project: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reviewing the ongoing construction work of the new Parliament building, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that a digital archive must be set up to recognise the contribution of workers employed there.

He also told officials to ensure Covid-19 vaccination and monthly health check-up of all workers engaged at the site, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement on Monday. Modi had visited the site on Sunday evening and had laid emphasis on timely completion of the project.

He interacted with workers engaged at the site and also enquired about their well-being. Prime Minister Modi stressed that they are engaged in a "pious and historic" work. The digital archive at the site should also reflect their personal details, including their name, place they belong to, their picture, while noting their contribution to the construction work, he said. Workers should also be given a certificate about their role and participation in this endeavour, the statement said. The surprise inspection by the Prime Minister was done with minimal security detail, and he spent over an hour at the site, it added.

The new Parliament building will be ready by Winter Session in 2022. The new building will have an area of 64,500 square metres. It will also have a grand Constitution Hall to showcase India's democratic heritage, a lounge for members of Parliament, a library, multiple committee rooms, dining areas and ample parking space. In the new building, the Lok Sabha chamber will have a seating capacity for 888 members, while the Rajya Sabha will have 384 seats for members.

ED grills Azam Khan in money laundering case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday questioned Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan in Sitapur jail in a money laundering case.

The ED move comes after the agency on September 20 secured an order from a designated Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court to grill Khan in the jail where he is currently undergoing judicial custody.

Khan is accused in several criminal cases in Uttar Pradesh and the ED questioning related to alleged illegal construction of a university in Rampur on an enemy property, sources said.

Based on similar court orders for questioning inside the jail premises, the agency is set to question two other strongmen from the State—Atiq Ahmed lodged in Sabarmati Jail, Ahmedabad and Mukhtar Ansari undergoing judicial custody in Banda Jail of Uttar Pradesh. The duo is accused of separate cases of money laundering.

VP exhorts security forces to establish their superiority in cyber warfare

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Monday urged the security forces to prepare themselves to dominate not only in a conventional war but also establish their superiority in the new and emerging areas of conflict such as information and cyber warfare along with the increasing use of robotics and drones in the battlefield.

He said the geo-strategic environment around us was turning unpredictable. "We are facing both symmetric and asymmetric threats from outside and within", he observed.

Making these observations during an interaction with the officers and troops of 12 RAPID Division of Indian Army in Jaisalmer, the Vice President termed peace as

the prerequisite for progress of humanity and emphasised that our military has an onerous responsibility to ensure peace and stability on our borders and within the country.

Praising the valour of the Indian Army, Naidu said any attempt to challenge India's sovereignty by inimical forces would be dealt with strongly by our security forces.

The Vice President, who is on a five-day tour to Rajasthan, visited 'Jaisalmer War Museum' where he was received by Major General Ajeet Singh Gahlot, General Officer Commanding 12 RAPID.

He praised the Indian Army's Battle Axe Division (12 RAPID) for defending the nation and also guarding the borders in scorching Thar desert and in harsh climatic conditions. "The nation is assured that any misadventure by an adversary will be given a befitting reply by the Indian Army," he told the troops of 12 RAPID.

Reiterating that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India, the Vice President said by doing away with Article 370, which was a temporary provision only, Parliament removed a major barrier between the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of India.

India must expedite its artillery modernisation programme: Artillery chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has to fast track its artillery modernisation plan with stress on self-reliance by manufacturing the guns within the country, artillery chief Lt General TK Chawla said here on Monday.

He also said the army is handholding two programmes to develop indigenous guns including Dhanush and Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System(ATAG). These projects are running behind schedule.

Addressing a news conference on the eve of the Gunners' Day here, the artillery chief said the army is keen that the two projects succeed.

Elaborating upon the delay, he said the summer trials of the ATAG could not meet the required parameters and will go for more modifications. The parameters needing improvement include firing and non-firing parameters, Chawla said. The trials were conducted in Pokhran, Rajasthan.

He also said it was difficult to put down a timeline for the induction of the guns into the Army. Chawla said the issues were flagged to the DRDO, adding the army wants a robust and reliable gun capable of firing accurately. The ATAG programme took off in 2012.

As regards the Dhanush gun, Chawla said he discussed some issues with the Gun Carriage Factory, Jabalpur which is manufacturing the gun. The army had placed an order for 114 Dhanush guns in 2019 and so far only 12 of them with long range firing capability have joined service.

These two projects are part of the Field Artillery Rationalisation Programme (FARP). As per the FARP, the Army has planned to procure a mix of around 3,000-3,600 155mm howitzers — with different calibre types by 2025-27.

The K9 Vajra and M-777 lightweight howitzers projects part of the FARP are on track. The K-9 Vajra howitzers, manufactured by Larsen and Toubro in collaboration with a South Korean firm are now inducted.

On the US made M-777, assembled by India's Mahindra Defence, the artillery chief said half of those ordered have reached the Army, adding that the Covid pandemic caused a delay.

He ruled out the Army looking at ordering more M-777s, adding that three regiments of the howitzers have been deployed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

3.08 crore jobs generated in April-June quarter of 2021-22, claims Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday claimed that 3.08 crore jobs were generated in nine sectors in the April-June quarter of 2021-22, reflecting a growth of 29 per cent. These nine selected sectors are Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transport, Education, Health, Accommodation and Restaurant, IT/ BPO and Financial Services.

The Government made the claim as it released a report of Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) part (April to June 2021) of the All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey (AQEES) prepared by the Labour Bureau.

According to the report released by Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav on Monday, the most impressive growth of 152 percent has been recorded in the IT/BPO sector, while growth rates in Health 77 percent, Financial Services 48 percent, Education 39 percent, Manufacturing 22 percent, Transport 68 percent and Construction 42 percent were also quite significant. However, employment in Trade came down by 25 percent and in Accommodation and Restaurant the decline was by 13 percent.

The survey report said that nearly 90 percent of the establishments have been estimated to work with less than 100 workers, though 34.8 percent of the IT/BPO establishments worked with at least 100 workers, including about 13.8 percent engaging 500 workers or more.

In the Health sector, 18 percent of the establishments had 100 or more workers. It may be mentioned that 95 percent of the establishments were reported to working with less than 100 workers in the Sixth Economic Census. And in the IT/BPO sector the figures during 2013-14 for the size classes 100 or more and 500 or more stood at 19 and 6 respectively. Regular workers constitute 88 per cent of the estimated workforce in the nine selected sectors, with only 2 per cent being casual workers.

However, 18 per cent of workers in the construction sector are contractual employees and 13 per cent are casual workers. Only 9 per cent of the establishments (with at least 10 workers) were not registered with any authority or under any act. While 26 per cent of all the establishments were registered under the Companies Act with 71 per cent registration in IT/BPO, 58 per cent registration in construction, 46 percent in manufacturing, 42 per cent in transport, 35 per cent in trade and 28 per cent in financial services.

Four in CBI net in coal pilferage case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Monday arrested four persons in the ongoing investigation of a case related to multi-crore coal pilferage scam in Eastern Coalfields Ltd. areas during the last seven-eight years in which West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee is also embroiled.

The four arrested accused are Jaydeb Mondal, Narayan Kharka alias Narayan Nanda, Gurupada Maji and Nirad Baran Mondal.

"The Central Bureau of Investigation has today arrested four persons in on-going investigation of a case related to alleged theft of coal in Eastern Coalfields Ltd. areas during the last 7/8 years," the agency said in a statement here.

It was alleged that the arrested persons were close associates of other accused and assisted him in engaging miners, arranging transporters and

sold the illegally excavated coal. The arrested accused will be produced before the Court of CBI Special Judge, Asansol, District Paschim Bardhaman (West Bengal), it said.

The four arrested were close aides of prime accused Anup Majhi, alias Lala, who is the alleged mastermind behind the alleged pilferage of dry fuel from Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) mines in Asansol in Paschim Bardhaman district, officials said.

The Anti-Corruption Branch of the CBI in Kolkata summoned the four to appear before its officials at the agency's office there. They were arrested following a brief interrogation.

Earlier, the agency had arrested Vikash Mishra, brother of Trinamool Congress youth leader Binay Mishra, in connection with the case.

The CBI had registered an FIR in November last year against Lala, the alleged kingpin of the pilferage racket, ECL general managers Amit Kumar Dhar and Jayesh Chandra Rai, ECL security chief Tanmay Das, Kunustoria area security inspector Dhananjay Rai and Kajor area security in-charge Debashish Mukherjee.

Earlier, the agency had raided Lala's official premises, residences and other properties in Asansol, Ranigunj and Kolkata. It had also issued a look-out circular against him.

The scam, arising out of illegal mining from abandoned mines of ECL, runs into thousands of crores of rupees and part of the crime proceeds had been transacted through the hawala route for which the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has also joined the case to investigate the money laundering aspect.

Herbal drugs like Fifatrol helpful in Covid recovery, boosting immunity: Experts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As Covid-19-battered India grapples with influenza, viral fever and dengue, ayurveda experts have claimed that immunity boosting herbal drugs like Fifatrol can not only hasten the recovery from the infection but also strengthen immunity of the patients.

Prof KN Diwedi from the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) said there are some herbs which can prevent progression of the infections due to seasonal influenza, viral fever and vector-borne diseases.

Fifatrol comprises such time-tested immunity strengthening herbs, he said. Some of them are guduchi, sanjeevini ghan vati, daruharidra, apamarga, chirayata, karanja, kutaki, tulsi, godanti (bhasam), mrityunjaya rasa, tribhuvana kriti rasa and sanjivani vati.

The herbal drug is being recommended by ayurveda experts to even dengue patients and has been found to give positive results.

Professor Divedi explained that there are four types of dengue — serotypes 1 to 4 at play. "The prevalence of serotype-2 has been growing very fast across the States. It is more severe than other variants of dengue stereotypes. In serotype-2 dengue infections, platelets drop rapidly and the body's immune response is hyperactive, resulting in a cytokine storm which can damage the organs. This variant of dengue also impacts the kidneys," he said.

Dope tests on flight crew from 2022 for fliers' safety: DGCA

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

To ensure safety and security of air passengers, the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Monday issued guidelines under which pilots, cabin crew, maintenance staff and air traffic controllers would face dope tests on a random basis.

The DGCA has asked all scheduled commercial aircraft operators to carryout, random drug testing on flight crew members and Air traffic controllers. The rules will be effective from January 31, 2022. This is the first time that DGCA has come out for such random testing of flying and ground staff crews.

According to the DGCA, the rules will be applicable to aircraft operators engaged in commercial operations, Maintenance & Repair Organizations, Flying Training Organizations and Air Navigation Service Providers.

"All scheduled commercial aircraft operators and Air navigation service provider shall carryout, random drug testing for the consumption of psychoactive substance by flight crew members and Air traffic controllers employed by them respectively at the facilities established by them using the services of an appropriate laboratory. The medical personnel of the concerned Organisation shall associate during this process. This programme shall ensure that at least 10% of the employees of an organization," DGCA chief Arun Kumar said.

The rules said that the organizations shall use a scientifically valid method such as a random-number table or a computer-based random-number generator to select the employees for testing using the unique identifying number. The organization must ensure that all employees have an equal chance of being tested each time the selection is made. Specific individuals or groups must not be targeted including certain locations.

The Organisations shall ensure that Flight Crew Member, Air Traffic Control Officers, Aircraft Maintenance Engineers/ certifying staff, trainee pilots and Instructors/examiners in their employment are tested for consumption of psychoactive substances on the following occasions: a) Before employing a person b) Before admitting a trainee pilot in a FTO c) Follow-Up testing of confirmed cases. d) At first available opportunity, in case an aviation personnel has refused drug test to a foreign regulator during flight operation to that country/duty in that country. It said that all the positive cases shall be reported by the organization to DAS, DGCA (HQ) within 24 hours. In addition the information shall also be submitted to DDG/JDG Air Safety and DMS (CA).

In case a person refuses for the test on second occasion or is tested positive after first occasion of refusal for testing, the license shall be suspended for a period of three years and any subsequent violation shall lead to the cancellation of licence.

Afghanistan, Myanmar will not address UNGA

United Nations: Afghanistan and Myanmar "withdrew" their participation from the General Debate of the high-level 76th session of the UN General Assembly, a spokesperson for the President of the 193-member world body said.

According to the latest list of speakers for the last day of the General Debate on Monday, Afghanistan and Myanmar are not listed to address the session, even as previous provisional speakers' lists had the countries' diplomats listed to speak at the General Debate.

When asked why Afghanistan and Myanmar are not listed as speakers for the final day of the General Debate, Monica Grayley, Spokesperson to the President of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly Abdulla Shahid, confirmed to PTI that: "we have received information that the Member State withdrew its participation in the General Debate which was scheduled for today".

Grayley said Myanmar withdrew its participation "some time back and Afghanistan over the weekend, when we heard of it."

On Friday, spokesperson for the Secretary-General, Stephane Dujarric had said that "as for now, the Afghanistan representative inscribed on the list for Monday is H.E. Mr. Ghulam M. Isaczai," the Permanent Representative.

Last week, the Taliban had written to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres nominating their spokesman Suhail Shaheen as Afghanistan's ambassador to the UN and had asked to participate in the high-level

76th session of the UN General Assembly.

Following the coup in Myanmar, its military rulers have said the country's Ambassador at UN Kyaw Moe Tun has been dismissed and they want Aung Thurein to replace him.

Given that the current dispensation in both Myanmar and Afghanistan nominated their own envoys to the UN, while the Permanent Representatives of the toppled Governments continued to be stationed here, the decision of who represents the two countries at the United Nations fell to the UN Credentials Committee.

On September 20, on the eve of the commencement of the high-level UN General Debate, the Secretary-General had received a communication with the letterhead "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs" dated September 20, 2021, signed by "Ameer Khan Muttaqi" as "Minister of Foreign Affairs", requesting to participate in the "76th session of the UN General Assembly on September 21-27 2021". ***PTI***

Important to incentivise Taliban so that they fulfil promises: Pak PM

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has said it is important to incentivise the Taliban so that the new rulers of Afghanistan fulfil the promises they made after they seized power in Kabul last month.

The Taliban are yet to get international recognition. The heavily armed group have promised an inclusive government, a more moderate form of Islamic rule than that of their previous regime from 1996 to 2001, including respecting women's rights. However, their recent moves indicate that they are returning to their repressive policies, particularly toward women.

According to an official statement, Khan in an article published in US-based The Washington Post newspaper on Monday said the world desired an inclusive Afghan government, respect for the rights, and commitments that Afghan soil shall never again be used for terrorism.

"Taliban leaders will have greater reason and ability to stick to their promises if they are assured of the consistent humanitarian and development assistance they need to run the government effectively," he said.

Khan said providing incentives would also give the outside world additional leverage to continue persuading the Taliban to honour their commitments.

"If we do this right, we could achieve what the Doha peace process aimed at all along: an Afghanistan that is no longer a threat to the world, where Afghans can finally dream of peace after four decades of conflict," he said.

The Prime Minister said abandoning Afghanistan as tried before would lead to a meltdown. "Chaos, mass migration and a revived of international terrorwill be natural corollaries. Avoiding this must surely be our global imperative," he said. ***PTI***

Prosecutor seeks to resume ICC probe in Af

The Hague: The chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court sought urgent clearance on Monday from the court's judges to resume investigations of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Afghanistan, saying that under the country's new Taliban rulers "there is no longer the prospect of genuine and effective domestic investigations" in the country.

Judges at the global court authorised an investigation by Prosecutor Karim Khan's predecessor, Fatou Bensouda, in March last year. The probe covers offences allegedly committed by Afghan Government forces, the Taliban, American troops and US foreign intelligence operatives dating back to 2002.

The decision to investigate Americans led to the Trump administration slapping sanctions on Bensouda, who left office over the summer at the end of her nine-year term. ***AP***

Social Democrats narrowly beat Merkel's bloc in German vote

AP ■ BERLIN

Germany's center-left Social Democrats won the biggest share of the vote in a national election Sunday, narrowly beating outgoing Chancellor Angela Merkel 's center-right Union bloc in a closely fought race that will determine who succeeds the long-time leader at the helm of Europe's biggest economy.

The Social Democrats' candidate Olaf Scholz, the outgoing vice chancellor and finance minister who pulled his party out of a years-long slump, said the outcome was "a very clear mandate to ensure now that we put together a good, pragmatic Government for Germany."

Despite getting its worst-ever result in a federal contest, the Union bloc said it too would reach out to smaller parties to discuss forming a government, while Merkel stays on in a caretaker role until a successor is sworn in.

Election officials said early Monday that a count of all 299 constituencies showed the Social Democrats received 25.9% of the vote, ahead of 24.1% for the Union bloc. No winning party in a German national election had previously taken less than 31% of the vote.

Armin Laschet, the governor of North Rhine-Westphalia state who outmaneuvered a more popular rival to secure the nomination of Merkel's Union bloc, had struggled to motivate the party's base and suffered a series of missteps.

"Of course, this is a loss of votes that isn't pretty," Laschet said of results that looked set to undercut by some measure the Union's previous worst showing of 31% in 1949. But he added that with Merkel departing after 16 years in power, "no one had an incumbent bonus in this election."

Laschet told supporters that "we will do everything we can to form a government under the Union's leadership, because Germany now needs a coalition for the future that modernizes our country."

Some countries are hyping 'China threat': Beijing on Quad summit

Beijing: China on Monday slammed the Quad grouping, saying some countries are forming "exclusive cliques" and "hyping" the 'China threat' and the move is doomed to fail.

The Quad leaders at their first-in-person summit in Washington on September 25 pledged to ensure a "free and open" Indo-Pacific, which is also "inclusive and resilient", as they noted that the strategically vital region, witnessing China's growing military manoeuvring, is a bedrock of their shared security and prosperity.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison, Japanese premier Yoshihide Suga and US President Joe Biden described the summit as an opportunity to refocus themselves and the world on the Indo-Pacific and on their vision for what they hope to achieve.

Asked for her reaction at a media briefing here, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said that China took note of the Quad summit and is "closely following the situation".

"For some time, a handful of countries have been obsessed with attacking China by citing the rules-based order. They hype up the 'China threat'," she said.

"Facts have shown that China is an advocate of world peace, provider of public goods and China's development is important to international development. Coercion and undermining of international order can by no means be pinned on to China," she said.

China, she said, upholds the UN centred international order and rules-based international law.

"We don't think that the rules can be defined by a few countries. What the US wants is the rules where it can wantonly interfere with other countries without paying any price. It is the rule under which the US can bully in any manner and other countries bow to its hegemony which is against the trends of the times and aspirations of the people," she said. ***PTI***

Iran, Saudi sides continue tension-easing talks in Baghdad

Baghdad: Representatives from Iran and Saudi Arabia have held a new round of talks in Baghdad, two Iraqi officials said Monday, in the first such meeting between the regional foes since a new president was sworn in in Tehran.

The meeting held last week discussed "pending issues between the two countries according to a previously agreed on roadmap, including diplomatic representation between the two countries," according to one Iraqi official.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to give official statements, said the meeting was not on a ministerial level, but described the talks as positive.

Iraq has recently played the role of mediator between the two regional foes whose rivalry has often played out to deadly consequences in Iraq and elsewhere in the region.

Multiple rounds of discussions have been held in Baghdad since the first direct talks between Riyadh and Tehran took place in early April.

Saudi Arabia has sought talks with Iran as the kingdom tries to end its years-long war in Yemen against Iran-backed Houthi rebels, having lost an unflinching supporter in President Joe Biden's predecessor, Donald Trump.

Iran, meanwhile, appears to have calculated that a gradual detente with Saudi Arabia, a longtime US ally, will work in its favour during renewed nuclear talks with Washington and world powers.

Last month, Baghdad hosted a regional conference that brought together Arab heads of state and senior officials including the foreign ministers of Iran and Saudi Arabia. The meeting, meant to ease Mideast tensions, cemented Baghdad's new role as mediator. ***AP***

2 women, political opposites, vying in race for Japan PM

Tokyo: The inclusion of two women among the four candidates vying to become the next prime minister seems like a big step forward for Japan's notoriously sexist politics. But their fate is in the hands of a conservative, mostly male governing party — and the leading female candidate has been criticized by observers for her right-wing gender policies.

Sanae Takaichi and Seiko Noda are the first women in 13 years seeking the leadership of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in an election Wednesday.

The winner is certain to become the next prime minister because of a parliamentary majority held by the LDP and its coalition partner.

While both are LDP members, they are political opposites in many ways. The ultra-conservative Takaichi advocates a kind of paternalistic nationalism and a stronger military, while the liberal-leaning, pacifist Noda supports women's advancement and sexual diversity. ***AP***

US officials: Biden aide to meet Saudi Crown Prince on Yemen

Washington: President Joe Biden's national security adviser Jake Sullivan is traveling to Saudi Arabia on Monday to meet with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as the US tries to press the kingdom to move toward a cease-fire in its yearslong war with Houthi rebels in Yemen.

Sullivan will be the highest-ranking Biden administration official to visit Saudi Arabia. Besides seeing the crown prince, often referred to by his initials, MBS, Sullivan is expected to meet with deputy defense minster Khalid bin Salman, a brother to the crown prince, according to two senior administration officials. The officials were not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The Biden White House has largely steered clear of the crown prince since making public in February a CIA report that showed MBS likely approved the killing of Washington Post columnist and Saudi critic Jamal Khashoggi in a 2018 operation at the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul.

But the White House has resolved that bringing an end to perhaps the world's most complex conflict can't be done without engaging with the most senior Saudi officials face to face, one senior administration official said.

National Security Council spokesperson Emily Horne confirmed to The Associated Press that Sullivan was traveling to Riyadh on Monday and would also visit the United Arab Emirates, a Saudi ally in the war, but did not provide additional detail. Sullivan is being dispatched at a moment when the situation in Yemen, the Arab world's poorest country, has further deteriorated. Fighting has intensified in the key city of Marib, as Iran-backed rebels have sought to oust the Saudi-backed government from the oil-rich city in the country's north. The new U.N. Special envoy to Yemen, Hans Grundberg, recently declared that the country is "stuck in an indefinite state of war" and resuming negotiations to end the more than six-year conflict won't be easy. Yemen's war began in September 2014, when the Iranian-backed Houthis seized Sanaa and began a march south to try to seize the entire country. Saudi Arabia, along with the United Arab Emirates and other countries, entered the war alongside Yemen's internationally recognized government in March 2015. ***AP***

Jinnah's statue destroyed in blast in Balochistan

Karachi: A statue of Pakistan's founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah has been destroyed in a bomb attack by the Baloch militants disguised as tourists in the coastal city of Gwadar in the troubled Balochistan province. The statue, which was installed in June at Marine Drive - considered a safe zone - was blown up by explosives placed beneath the statue on Sunday morning, Dawn newspaper reported on Monday. The statue was completely destroyed in the blast, it added. Babgar Baloch, a spokesman for the banned militant organisation Baloch Republican Army, claimed responsibility for the blast on Twitter, BBC Urdu reported. The matter was being investigated at the highest level, Gwadar Deputy Commissioner Major (retd) Abdul Kabir Khan was quoted as saying by the BBC Urdu. He said that the militants who destroyed Jinnah's statue by planting explosives entered the area as tourists. According to him, no arrest has been made so far but the investigation will be completed in a day or two. "We are looking into the matter from all angles and the culprits will be caught soon," he said. "The demolition of Quaid-e-Azam's statue in #Gwadar is an attack on Ideology of Pakistan. I request authorities to punish the perpetrators in the same way as we did with those behind the attack on Quaid-e-Azam residency in Ziarat," Balochistan's former Home Minister and current Senator Sarfraz Bugti tweeted. In 2013, Baloch militants blasted a 121-year-old building used by Jinnah at Ziarat and raked it with gunfire, triggering a fire that blazed for four hours, destroying furniture and memorabilia. ***PTI***

KISAN BHARAT BANDH...

Delhi itself was mostly unaffected as markets remained open and business activities were largely unaffected, but there was chaos at its borders with traffic as vehicles entering the national Capital were checked by Delhi Police and paramilitary jawans.

Delhi-Gurugram border witnessed a massive 1.5 km traffic jam in the morning due to police barricades. The Delhi Noida Direct (DND) flyway also witnessed massive traffic congestion. Hundreds of people had to spend restless hours in their stranded vehicles as chaos reigned on the busiest roads connecting the national Capital and neighbouring States and rail traffic was disrupted.

In both Punjab and Haryana, national highways, State highways, link road and railway tracks were severally blocked, bringing road and rail traffic to a halt. The shutdown was almost complete in Punjab with transport services suspended during the bandh period, while shops and other commercial establishments remained shut at most places. National and State highways in several districts, including Amritsar, Rupnagar, Jalandhar, Pathankot, Sangrur, Mohali, Ludhiana, Ferozepur, Bathinda, were blocked by the protesters. Delhi-Amritsar National Highway was blocked at Shahabad in Haryana's Kurukshetra. The protesters also blocked highways in Sirsa, Fatehabad, Panipat, Hisar, Charkhi Dadri, Karnal, Kaithal, Rohtak, Jhajjar and Panchkula districts. In nearby Patiala in Punjab, too, members of the BKU-Ugrahan sat on the tracks to register their protest.

In neighbouring Haryana, highways in Sirsa, Fatehabad and Kurukshetra were blocked. There were also reports of farmers squatting on rail tracks at a few places in the two states. "More than 20 locations are being blocked in Delhi, Ambala, and Firozepur divisions. About 25 trains are affected due to this," a Northern Railway spokesperson said.

In Kerala, where the strike was supported by the ruling LDF and the opposition Congress-led UDF, KSRTC bus services were off the road with almost all trade unions in the State taking part. People who had to travel opted for private modes of transport while others stayed home.

In Bihar and Odisha, too, there was a mixed response. RJD and CPI members blocked railway lines in Patna, Ara, Jahanabad and Madhepura in Bihar and several roads were closed too but markets were mostly open and offices registered usual attendance. Most private schools in the state were, however, shut.

In Odisha, reports came in of protesters at different places in towns such as Bhubaneswar, Balasore, Rourkela and Sambalpur. They also blocked the railway lines at Bhubaneswar station.

In West Bengal, life was largely unaffected but Left activists blocked roads and railway tracks in many places. Images from Kolkata showed protesters swarming a section of a railway track. Similar images came in from West Midnapore with Left Front supporters blocking the IIT Kharagpur-Hijri railway line. The ruling Trinamool Congress stayed away but said it supported the demands of the SKM.

The Bandh failed to evoke any response in Arunachal Pradesh as all services, including public transport, banks and commercial establishments, were operating normally in the frontier State.

Vehicular movement was disrupted in several parts of Jharkhand as supporters of the Bharat Bandh blocked roads and highways. Shops were shut in state capital Ranchi, while Government offices and banks functioned as usual. Farmers took out rallies on the major roads and held meetings.

In Maharashtra, commercial establishments and local transport were operating as usual and normal life remained unaffected. But APMC remained closed in Pune and a pro-farmers' outfit staged a road blockage in Nagpur.

Assam remained unaffected by the Bharat Bandh on Monday as public transport operated as usual, markets were open and offices registered usual attendance.

The Bandh evoked a mixed response in Congress-ruled Chhattisgarh as most of the shops and establishments remained open in major cities of the state. The Bandh call had no major impact in Madhya Pradesh as day-to-day and commercial activities went on as usual in the state.

Gujarat largely remained peaceful, though there were reports of highways being blocked briefly which affected traffic movement,

The shutdown did not have any major impact in the initial few hours in Karnataka with all businesses and establishments functioning normally and

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

transport services available. However, attempts to organise a 'Rasta Roko' at national and State highways led to disruption of vehicular movement in some places, especially in Bengaluru.

Many non-NDA parties extended support to the bandh. These included the Congress, Aam Aadmi Party, Samajwadi Party, Telugu Desam Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, Left parties and Swaraj India. The YSR Congress government in Andhra Pradesh had also announced support to the Bharat Bandh.

Expressing support for protesting farmers, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the farmers' non-violent 'satyagraha' is still resolute. Posting rhyming lines in Hindi on Twitter, Gandhi said, "Kisano ka ahimsak satyagraha aaj bhi akhand hai, lekin shoshankar sarkar ko ye nahi pasand hai, isliye aaj Bharat Bandh hai (Farmers' non-violent satyagraha is resolute even today, but the exploitative Government does not like this and that's why it is Bharat Bandh today)."

SC SLAMS...

The bench asked him, "Mr Sharma, what is the NMC doing? We are dealing with the lives of young doctors who will pursue super speciality courses. You have issued the notification for examination on July 23 and then changed the syllabus on August 31. What is this? They are to sit for examinations on November 13 and 14." Senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for NBE, said they be given time to file the reply till next Monday, as there were suitable reasons for doing the changes and authorities were well aware of the difficulties of the students and they made changes after approvals of the three authorities concerned.

The bench said, "Why the notification for examination was issued Mr Singh? Why cannot it happen next year? You see, students start preparing for these critical medicine courses months and months in advance. What was the need for last minute change?"

Singh said that change in syllabus was in the offing for quite some time and preparation was on since 2018 and the authorities concerned have tried to take care of the difficulties. "Kindly give us one week, we will explain everything," he said. The bench told the senior counsel, "We are ready to hear you but tell the authorities that we are unsatisfied with the way the last minute changes were made. We are putting you on notice in advance that if we don't agree with your justification, we will pass strictures and we will deal with you".

"Just because someone has the authority to wield power does not mean that he can wield power without application of mind. When you yourself issued notification for examination in July, then what was the need to rock the boat in August? Please talk to MoHFW and NMC and put your house in order," the Court said.

Justice Chandrachud said that this examination is very important for their (doctors') career, and merely because these doctors have already passed the MBBS exams, they (authorities) cannot change the exam pattern last minute.

Justice Nagarathna said that the pattern of study for these young doctors will depend on the pattern of questions. If you make last-minute changes, they will be ruffled". She said the young doctors might be put at ruse due to the last-minute changes.

Justice Chandrachud said that he agrees with his sister judge and added, "We have an example of Common Law Admission Test (CLAT). I have heard that students need to study for two years to prepare for the exams. Here it takes months and months for these doctors who have to study critical medicines and to prepare for the examination and you cannot just make last-minute changes".

When Singh said the court should hear the arguments first and then form any opinion in the matter, the bench said that it is open to the arguments but if it does not accept the submissions then the authorities concerned should also be ready to accept the strictures passed by the court. "These people who are doctors at NMC board have passed the stage which the young doctors are in at present, but it does not mean that they will treat them like this. You better come up with strong reasons. List on Monday," the bench said.

PANCHJANYA DUBS...

CAIT said it "greatly appreciated" the cover story and that it "corroborated" the group's claims that Amazon and Flipkart are "trying to become second edition of East India Company in India".

"This is exactly what East India Company did... both Amazon and Flipkart want to invade our country's economic and social culture..." the CAIT chief Praveen Khandelwal said.

In its statement Amazon also highlighted its export program, which it said had helped over 70,000 Indian businesses -- many from smaller cities and towns -- sell "made in India" products across the world. "Amazon's exports program is witnessing rapid momentum... today there are 70,000+ exporters from metros as well as Tier II, III and IV cities, selling crores of 'made in India' products to customers in 200 countries across the world - truly taking (it) global." Asked about the comments of the RSS, Pawan Khera said, "What the RSS says about Amazon is irrelevant because there is a duet going on between the RSS and the BJP. We have seen that duet and they stand exposed in the farmers' agitation. We have seen the dubious role played by the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh as it has not come in support of the farmers even for one day in the last 10 months."

The Congress leader said "nobody takes what the RSS says seriously anymore, because they do not speak the language in national interest, they talk in the interest of the BJP."

Amazon was dubbed as "East India Company 2.0" by "Panchjanya", which has also alleged that the firm has paid crores of rupees in bribes for favourable Government policies. In its latest edition the RSS-linked weekly has carried a cover story that is highly critical of Amazon. "Whatever the East India Company did in the 18th century to capture India, the same is visible in the activities of Amazon," the article titled "East India Company 2.0" reads. Claiming that Amazon wants to establish its monopoly in the Indian market, it says, "For doing so, it has started taking initiatives for seizing the economic, political and personal freedom of the Indian citizens.

DIGITAL IDs...

The key components of PM-DHM include a health ID-unique — 14-digit health identification — for every citizen that will also work as their health account. The national Health ID will be a repository of all health-related information of a person. The health ID will enable access and exchange of longitudinal health records of citizens with their consent.

This health account will contain details of every test, every disease, the doctors visited, the medicines taken, and the diagnosis, said the official.

This information will be very useful as it is portable and easily accessible even if the patient shifts to the new place and visits a new doctor, he added.

The Health ID is created by using a person's basic details and mobile number or Aadhaar number. Personal health records can be linked and viewed with the help of a mobile application, a Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR), and Healthcare Facilities Registries (HFR). Health ID under NDHM is free of cost and voluntary. The ID will be created using an Aadhar card or the beneficiary's mobile number and will serve as an identifier to pull relevant health

STOP BYPOLLS...

Speaking to the media Ghosh said, "Today when I was campaigning in parts of Bhawanipore constituency with four men scores of TMC people collected in the area in fact they were following us from the beginning, they started raising slogans against us and then attacked me. I was pushed around my security personnel were beaten and two-three of our workers were thrown to the ground and beaten up mercilessly. One of them has been hospitalised in a serious condition. This cannot go on the Election Commission owes a responsibility and I will ask them to countermand the polls which is turning out to be a farce because none of our men or leaders are being allowed to campaign from the day go."

Party MP Arjun Singh too was heckled at a different place and was forced to return without campaigning he said.

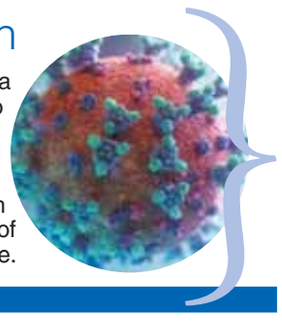
COVID CAUSED...

The greatest reduction was that of American men, whose life expectancy declined by 2.2 years compared to 2019.

Overall, in 15 countries, the life expectancy of men was reduced by a year, while the same happened for women in 11 countries.

A stark difference highlighted by the study was that in the US, the deaths of working-age people and of those under 60 contributed most to high mortality rates, while in Europe, the deaths of people aged over 60 were on the higher side.

COVIDProtein



A team of researchers has identified a protein that may critically contribute to severe forms of Covid-19. The research, published in the journal Current Issues in Molecular Biology, found that the infection of cells with SARS-CoV-2 results in increased levels of a protein called CD47 on the cell surface.

DOCYARD

DR PANKAJ N SURANGE

Managing Director and CEO

IPSC INDIA

Get rid of chronic pain

Chronic pain – defined as any persistent pain lasting more than three months – is rapidly emerging as a significant healthcare challenge in India that is going to extract a heavy toll on the social and health infrastructure of the country in the coming years. This was said by pain specialists of Interventional Pain and Spine Centre (IPSC), a chain of single-specialty centres offering state-of-the-art spine care and chronic pain management with less invasive techniques. More than 19% of Indian adult population today suffers from chronic pain of some kind, with prevalence being higher in females (25%). The prevalence increases steeply beyond the age of 65 years, according to a survey. This may be the tip of the iceberg as Indians usually understate their health issues and would rather not reveal their pain problems to others.

Chronic pain will take a huge social and economic toll in the next two decades with significant spending on surgical treatment and hospitalisation. It has a serious impact on work, with increasing loss of workdays associated with chronic pain, especially low back pain. It also interferes with one's social life, daily routine like walking or exercising, taking care of oneself and the family, and leading an independent lifestyle. Many patients start suffering from depression, anxiety and sleeping problems. Chronic pain does not occur in isolation. There are often a variety of mental and physical health problems behind it.

There has been a gradual rise in the number of older people in the society due to rising life expectancy. This is driving an increase in the incidence of chronic pain. The younger population too is getting affected, mainly due to leading a sedentary and physically inactive lifestyle. The commonest types of chronic pain faced by people include spinal pain, joint pain and migraine. Arthritis, degenerative conditions of the spine, and cancer are the most common contributors to chronic pain.

In the West, pain medicine has been a super-specialty for the last three to four decades. In India, it is only 15-20 years old. Several hospitals in the country now offer pain management as a separate discipline. Till five years ago, Western protocols were being used to manage Indian patients of chronic pain. However, now India-specific protocols have been developed for better outcomes.

Types of chronic pain often faced include spinal pain, joint pain and migraine. Arthritis, degenerative conditions of the spine, and cancer are also responsible

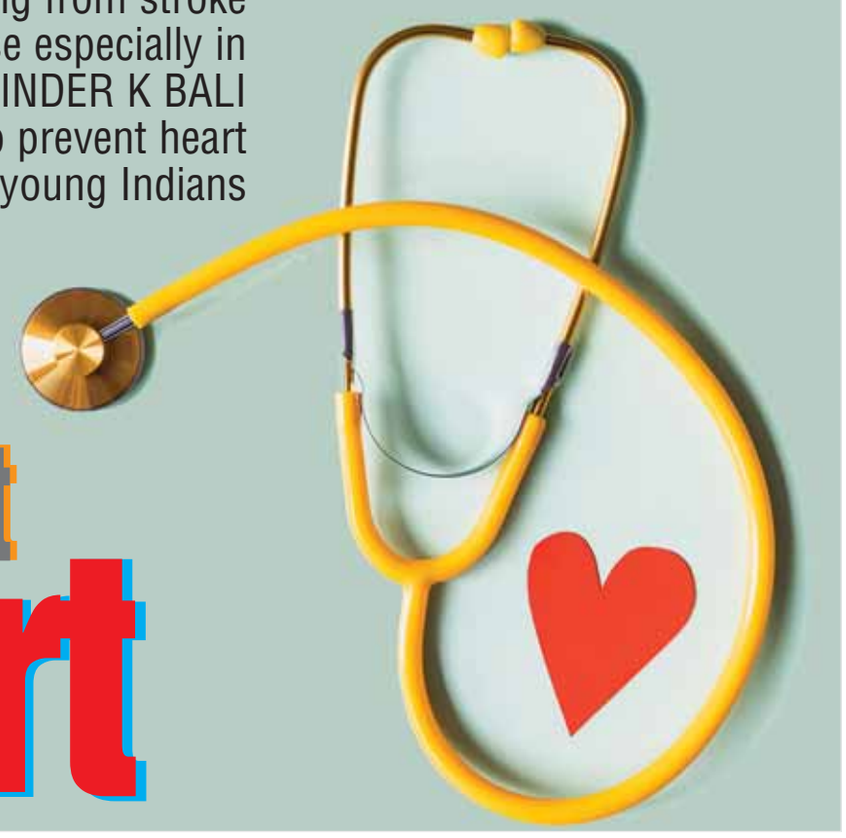
For most cases of chronic pain, less invasive and target-specific interventions (called interventional pain management) are better alternatives compared to open surgical methods, as these involve less risk and trauma to patient. They are also much safer and don't require hospital admission. Since most of these non-surgical procedures can be done in a day care setting, they cost almost half compared to conventional surgeries. Patients can go back home the same day. Early interventions not only relieve pain, but also reduce morbidity and improve quality of life. We currently have Indian protocols for all interventional procedures for pain management, which is a big step forward.

A 2018 survey of 20,000 patients of back pain from Indian metro cities estimated that 46% of Bengaluru's population in the younger age group suffers from spinal problems. This is among the highest incidence in the country. About 43% of patients neglect their pain for more than 7 weeks, leading to delayed treatment and increased risk of surgery.

With better understanding of chronic pain and technological advancement, pain physicians can now control chronic pain adequately and cure it in most cases. However, it is the responsibility of the doctors to treat acute stages of pain promptly to prevent patients from sliding into chronic pain.

According to the World Health Organisation, India accounts for one-fifth of the total deaths occurring from stroke and ischaemic heart disease especially in young adults. DR HARINDER K BALI shares some ways to prevent heart ailments in young Indians

Not so young at Heart



India accounts for one-fifth of the total deaths occurring from stroke and ischaemic heart disease especially in younger adults according to the World Health Organisation. Cardiovascular diseases affect Indians a decade earlier than their western counterparts and nearly 3 million people die of stroke and heart attack every year. The most unfortunate part is that forty per cent of those who suffering a heart attack are below the age of 55. The rising trend of smoking among young adults can be contributed to different factors like lack of sleep, diabetes, excessive stress, alcohol intake, drug abuse, unsafe and unnecessary supplements, over-exercise and slimming pills. With the incidences of heart disease deaths rising in India by 34% over the last 26 years, it is time to be aware of this serious issue and take necessary steps to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease in the country.

Major Risk Factors:

Being informed about the risk factors can help people to manage their symptoms early and avoid the chances of a sudden heart attack. These are some of the significant risk factors that one should be aware of:

Smoking

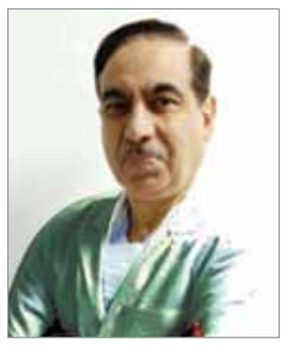
India has the second-largest number of smokers in the world, second only to China. Reports state that 34.6 of adults in India are smokers and India is home to 12 per cent of the world's smokers. Smoking can increase heart rate, lead to irregular heart rhythm and tighten the arteries. This can make the heart work harder and eventually result in stroke or heart attack.

Obesity

The high burden of obesity in India is a major challenge to mitigate the growing incidences of cardiovascular diseases among the population. India has the highest number of overweight and obese children who, as adults, are likely to contribute further to a higher burden of cardiovascular disease morbidity and mortality. Obese people are more likely to suffer from high blood pressure which is one of the biggest causes of heart attacks.

Hypertension

A Harvard University study revealed that hypertension among young adults in India is higher than that of Central and Eastern Europe, the region that previously had the highest numbers for this group. Hypertension contributes to 10.8% of all deaths in India and it has been on a steep rise over the last three decades both in urban and rural areas. Hypertension eventually escalates the risk of developing high blood pressure and diabetes.



The concerning fact is that young adults often fall prey to smoking and excessive alcohol consumption to deal with the increasing stress. Lifestyle modifications are the key to reduce these risks and prevent premature heart attacks. Young people must engage in regular periods of moderate to intense exercises and maintain a proper balanced diet

— DR HARINDER K BALI

Diabetes

There's been an exponential rise in the number of people diagnosed with type 2 diabetes over the last 30 years in India which has significantly contributed to the world burden as well. In India, people under the age of 25 are increasingly at risk of type-2 diabetes and life-threatening complications like heart diseases.

Ways to Prevent Heart Ailments in Young Indians

In the present society, young adults are under constant mental and physical stress from intense work demands, family issues, job security and much more. Increased periods of stress is often associated with high blood pressure and diabetes. The concerning fact is that young adults often fall prey to smoking and excessive alcohol consumption to deal with the overburdening stress. Lifestyle modifications are the key to reduce these risk and prevent premature heart attacks.

Young people must engage in regular periods of moderate to intense exercises like jogging, cycling, brisk walking, yoga, aerobics, weight training and swimming to prevent the onset of diabetes as well as keep blood pressure and weight in check. Also, one should stay away from excessive alcohol consumption and smoking.

A proper balanced diet is another requirement for healthy heart health. Instead of munching on junk foods, young people should look for healthy alternatives like fruits, juices, soya products and nuts. It is also equally important to avoid trans-fatty acids and include plenty of fresh, green vegetables in the diet rich in minerals and calcium. Apart from what is on the plate, it is also vital that proper attention is paid to the time of the meals. Late lunch and dinner is a strict no for those who wish to keep good care of their overall health.

It has been observed that if a person had a heart attack at a younger age, it increases the likelihood of another heart attack or stroke during the later stages of life. Spreading awareness about early detection and prevention is the most critical step in the successful prevention and management of this condition. Young adults should also get their cardiac evaluation done every year to stay safe and healthy.

The writer is Chairman, Cardiac Sciences, Paras Hospitals, Panchkula

CONTRACEPTION DURING COVID

Contraception is an important component of reproductive health. DR LOVLEENA NADIR tells you how contraceptives can be helpful in preventing cases of unwanted pregnancy and miscarriage

Everyone has a right to access the quality and affordable contraceptive options. They can be helpful in preventing cases of unwanted pregnancy and miscarriage. They also play a role in preventing many sexually transmitted diseases. World Contraception Day is observed every year on 26th September.

Even during the pandemic, our focus has been to ensure availability of high quality contraceptive options to the people, thereby ensuring the right health of the mother and reducing the number of premature deaths.

Every person should choose the option of contraception according to his/her need and choice. In general, contraceptive options are divided into two categories, reversible and permanent. Awareness about fertility (calendar method, birth control app, withdrawal method), barrier method (condom, diaphragm, cervical cap, contraceptive sponge, spermicidal jelly), intrauterine device, hormonal pills, transdermal patch etc. fall under the reversible category. At the same time, sterilization in men and tubal ligation in women are kept in the permanent category of contraception.

In this time of the corona epidemic, counseling regarding contraception is a mandatory step. Now, while choosing long-term reversible contraception, such as intrauterine devices etc provisions related to the corona pandemic such as social distancing, wearing of masks etc. should be taken care of.

Permanent contraception procedures like bilateral tubal ligation are done at the time of cesarean section /normal delivery for those who opt for it. Advice is given on correct use of lactational amenorrhea (some patients do not have period at the time of breastfeeding). The option of user-controlled contraceptives is also given to lactating and non-lactating women. Postpartum contraception is advised to patients immediately after delivery before hospital discharge.

All methods of contraception are safe even in this time of pandemic. Due to limited movement in hospitals, user controlled reversible options should be adopted. Condoms, fertility awareness methods & lactational, amenorrhea methods (for exclusive breastfeeding mothers) are good contraceptive options for self-care.

Condoms also protect against sexually transmitted infections and are used correctly & consistently. If hospitalization is not possible due to restrictions on movement, do not be concerned about delays in the implant or removal of an intrauterine contraceptive device. There are no medical problems caused by delayed removal of IUDs or implants. There is no harm in contraceptive options even if a person is corona positive. However, the use of hormonal drugs etc. should be avoided. Instead of combined hormonal contraceptives, progesterone-only pills or non-hormonal methods may be used. After complete recovery, combined hormonal contraceptive options can be used.

The writer is Senior Consultant, OB-GYN at Rosewalk Hospital

SUMMERCOOLER

RAISINS: Historically used as currency and awards, raisins are dried grapes with an ample number of benefits. It can reduce the risk of heart disease by maintaining blood pressure and blood sugar. The fiber in raisins lowers LDL (bad) cholesterol, which reduces strain on the heart.

It is also a good source of potassium and treats ailments like food poisoning. Raisins are full of nutrients and can make for a great snack option. Although it does not have the water content of regular grapes which makes them less filling than whole fruit and it becomes easy to munch on. Sticking to small portions would work wonders as it would not add much calories to your diet.

Know reason for cardiac failure

According to the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), the annual number of deaths from cardiac diseases is 4.77 million. DR BB CHANANA shares how early diagnosis can be of great help

The term heart failure doesn't indicate that the heart has completely stopped working. In simple terms, heart failure is the heart's inability to pump enough to meet the body's need. The heart pumps the blood at a slower rate which increases the pressure on the heart.

Some common signs and symptoms of heart failure are shortness of breath, fatigue, dizziness, irregular heartbeat, nausea, bloating, swollen ankles and weakness during an activity. Generally, heart failure develops if a person has or had one or more conditions described below.

- **Coronary artery disease** is a disease in which the arteries supplying oxygen and blood to the heart get blocked and the heart receives insufficient oxygen. Plaque builds up due to cholesterol and fats on the walls of the arteries, causing them to narrow, this is known as atherosclerosis.
- **High blood pressure** is a major risk factor for causing heart failure. When the pressure in the arteries is high, it causes the heart to pump the blood harder than normal for proper blood circulation. With time it becomes difficult to pump the blood and makes the heart muscles too weak to function.
- **Diabetes** causes abnormal blood sugar levels in the body. High sugar levels in the blood cause damage to the blood vessels and nerves. People with diabetes may develop other conditions like high blood pressure which increases the risk of heart failure.
- **Cardiomyopathy** is a condition in which the muscles of the heart make it difficult to pump blood. It may be a genetic condition in some cases or might develop due to blood pressure conditions or any other infection in the heart.
- **Abnormal heart valves** can be the result of infections, certain diseases or a birth defect. Due to improper functioning of the heart valves, the muscles of the heart have to work harder for the blood to keep circulating at normal rates. When the pressure on the heart increases, heart failure can occur.
- **Congenital heart defects** are the defects present from birth and can cause deformities in the development of the heart. If the valves and the heart chambers aren't developed correctly, the healthier portions of the heart must work harder for it to function properly. With heart defects, the chances of heart failure increase.
- **Obesity** can make it difficult for the heart to pump blood properly. Obesity causes the buildup of fats and cholesterol inside the arteries, elevates blood pressure and increases the risk of diabetes, all of these are linked to heart failure. Besides this, the chances of developing cardiomyopathy increase.

These underlying conditions can cause the 'wear and tear' of the heart which leads to heart failure.

- **Early diagnosis** can help in timely treatment for heart failure. A physical examination and electrocardiogram (ECG) testing can help in determining potential chances of heart failure. Some lifestyle changes that make an impact on heart health are avoiding high cholesterol food, getting good sleep, giving up smoking and limiting alcohol consumption.
- **Treatment** options for heart failure depend upon the severity of your condition. From lifestyle habits to managing the pumping of the heart through angiotensin-converting-enzyme inhibitor (ACE) drugs, there are various treatment options available today. Patients with increased complications or delayed detection, advanced palliative care is the solution. Depending upon the rhythmic patterns, a doctor can also advise patients to undergo a cardiac resynchronization therapy defibrillator (CRT-D). CRT-D is a special device for heart failure patients. It functions like a pacemaker and implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) to treat heart rhythms. A CRT-D device delivers electrical impulses to the left and right ventricles, helping the heart to pump efficiently.

With technological advancements, come greater responsibility of educating people about them along with symptoms and preventive measures of dealing with heart failure.

The writer is Senior Interventional Cardiologist & HOD, Maharaja Agrasen Hospital, New Delhi

INBRIEF

National Snakebite Awareness Summit

Public health experts, policymakers and administrators gathered at the maiden National Snakebite Awareness Summit, organised by the leading health awareness institution Integrated Health & Wellbeing (IHW) Council, have underlined the need to spread awareness on means to prevent attacks by snakes as well as gather adequate data to formulate the right and better ways to treat the cases at the primary health centers.

Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan, Governor of Telangana and Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry; Ms Vinita Srivastava, Advisor for Tribal Health Cell, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India; Mr. Vishwanath Swarup, COO, Bharat Serums & Vaccines Limited; Dr Priyanka Kadam, President, Founder, Snakebite Healing and Education Society along with others were the key speakers.

"There is an inadequacy of antivenom supply and we need expertise in administering antivenom – following the protocol is important but we may need protocols according to the region.Availability of dialysis facility and antivenoms are important as much as ambulance facility to take the affected person to the healthcare provider," says Soundararajan. She adds, "Walking in accumulated rainwater can be dangerous. We have seen a lot of cases where people dealing with snake carcasses were poisoned through the teeth of dead snakes."

ONE WOMAN, MANY LIVES

With the demise of eminent activist and poet, KAMLA BHASIN, India lost a key icon of the feminist movement. KHUSHBU KIRTI pays a tribute to the pioneer who had been showing the world a new side of feminism since the 1970s

'Ki hawaon si hoti hain ladkiyan,
Unhe behne me maza aata hai,
Unhe manzoor nahi unhe bewajah roka jane.
(Girls are becoming like the wind,
They delight in frolicking freely
They cannot accept being stopped for no reason.)

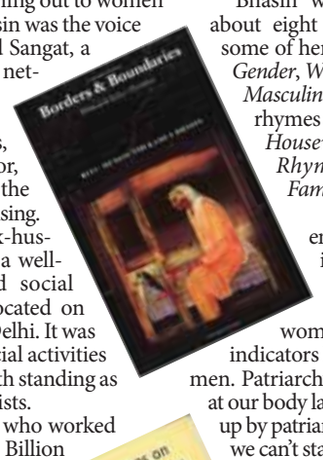
The chants of 'Azadi' wouldn't sound the same anymore. Ever. The weekend brought heartbreak as the news that Kamla Bhasin, the renowned women's rights activist, author and poet, had passed away at 75, or maybe finally found freedom from cancer. Even as the cry that she raised , as a part of the feminist movement, continues to reverberate as it is yet to find its logical conclusion.

Born in Shahidanwali village of Pakistan, Bhasin grew up in a rather progresive household. She rode bikes and played with boys. Having said that, Bhasin expressed sadness for all her female friends who were never allowed to play with boys or even outside, for that matter. The discrimination against men and women was ever since then embedded in her system and she wanted to change that. I can safely say that she did.

Activist Kavita Srivastava who thought Bhasin always celebrated life, no matter how great the adversity was, expressed, on Twitter, "This is a big setback for the women's movement in India and the South Asian region."

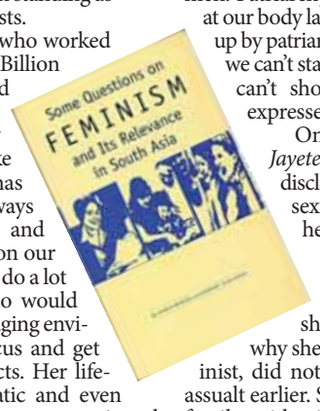
I will tell you just why this is such a huge setback. The seminal feminist is known for popularising and improvising the 'Azadi' slogan in India, and for her poems like *I'm A Girl, I Must Study.*

After studying sociology from Germany, she returned to work with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation. She worked there for 25 years, during which she organised numerous campaigns and participated and led countless protests and movements, while reaching out to women across the country. Bhasin was the voice of change. She founded Sangat, a South Asian feminist network, and co-founded Jagori, a resource centre for women. Besides this, she was the coordinator, from South Asia, of the campaign One Billion Rising.



Her house, with ex-husband late Baljit Malik, a well-known journalist and social activist himself, was located on Bhagwan Das road in Delhi. It was a centre of umpteen social activities and initiatives, along with standing as a refuge for many activists.

One of my friends, who worked with her in the One Billion Rising campaign, shared his experience, "I've visited her home a few times, and it never felt like she's such a senior or has some illness. She was always energetic, encouraging, and instead, made us question our energy levels. She would do a lot of *masti-mazak* but also would create a serious and engaging environment to help us focus and get engrossed in our projects. Her life-journey was so traumatic and even while carrying all that, she was so stoic and dedicated towards her goal to empower women in India and worldwide. She came up with literature to help us, and her songs, and books will always remain inside me to power me up."



Even though Bhasin created a revolution while living, touching innumerable lives, she did not have it easy. A lesser mortal would not be able to put her head above water with the losses she experienced.

She lost her daughter Meeto Malik, a brilliant activist, social worker and alumni of Oxford University, to suicide in 2006. Meeto suffered from manic depression, like her father. "That's been the biggest tragedy of my life and I feel that if I didn't have this work, I would have perhaps collapsed," Bhasin had opened up in an interview. The same year, her marriage fell apart, too.

Jeet Malik or *Chottu*, her younger son, was six months old when they gave him a DPT vaccine. It had a reaction on him which destroyed almost all parts of his brain. He developed celebral palsy and is dependent on caregivers. Even the best treatments and prayers could not reverse the effects. Even with this, Bhasin had decided to learn on every step of the way, still traversing the path with her head held high. "I think *Chottu* has also added a lot to our personalities," she had admitted in a video.

Bhasin wrote over 30 books and about eight children's works. Besides some of her works like *Understanding Gender*, *What Is Patriarchy?*, *Exploring Masculinity*, and so on, she compiled rhymes in books like *Geela Chotu, Housework is Everyone's Work – Rhymes for Just and Happy Families,* and many more.

She often highlighted and emphatically shared her opinion on the double marginalisation that women face. "Amongst the poor, the women were poorer. On all indicators I saw, women were behind men. Patriarchy sits in our bodies... Look at our body language. We've been messed up by patriarchy. We can't stand straight, we can't stand without our *dupatta*, we can't show our breasts," she had expressed in one of the interviews.

On an episode of *Satyameva Jayete* with Aamir Khan, Bhasin disclosed about the time she was sexually assaulted by men in her childhood.

In one of her books called *If Only Someone Broke The Silence,* she said she was always questioned why she, being an extroverted feminist, did not divulge about her sexual assualt earlier. She wrote, "I lived with my family with six brothers and sisters… How come I didn't tell anybody about it? So when people ask now why women are speaking ten years later, I say it took me forty years to speak up. It's because of the women's movement that this is possible. Soon, this 10 will reduce to two, and one, and eventually young women will speak up on the same day and say, 'Stop.'"

"I made a list of these thirteen fellows (attackers), and thought about what I'd do to them all the time. When I grew up and became strong, (I thought about) what I'd do to these fellows, and I still do not know the answer," she added.

I was fortunate to have a candid conversation with Kajri Akhtar, a successful filmmaker and producer from India, who had created a documentary on Kamla Bhasin's life called *Kamla Bhasin — A Woman, By Choice*. Kajri's mother, Tarkeshwari Negi, currently a professor at the University of Delhi, had worked in a feminist movement with Bhasin.

On asking her what it was like working with Bhasin, Kajri noted, "I grew up watching the absolutely inspiring woman that she was. I followed her ideology and even achieving half of the life that she had created for herself would have been sufficient for me. The woman was bold and honest, the most open anybody can be. I was just out of college and I realised that there was no film around such a great person, and I realised it was high time someone did that. So my very first documentary was around her life, merely because I wanted to document it, to give a bit back to so much I had received. I remember she was so welcoming. Meeting her after college made me realise that the living legend was so real. She was extremely honest and vulnerable."

"At first, I did not want to name the documentary anything but later I came up with the name *A Woman, By Choice* because that was literally it. Kamla Bhasin was a woman who lived on her own terms and took pride in being a woman. Not once did she claim that she did something 'like a man', no. She embraced the fact that she was a woman and lived by it," Kajri concluded.

According to Bhasin, the biggest slogan that feminism rendered to the community was 'the personal is political.' She shared in the documentary, "It has various meanings and interpretations. For instance, when my children were born, I, like all mothers, went and looked for rhymes for children and found them either stupid or sexist. So, just playing around with these children, I started writing rhymes. I found that my feminism was coming out."

In one of her feminist rhymes called *Mama Dearest Mama,* she wrote,

'Mama's back, Mama's back
She's brought me books and toys
She'll tell me lots of stories..
She'll teach me many new things...
She knows how rainbows form and how cats see in the dark.
When mama comes from office
I want to shout hurray!...'

She saw that her ex-partner was deeply involved in raising the children but she realised that he was an exception. This was because she garnered a lot of criticism for writing gender-neutral rhymes. Many fathers were unhappy with them for they faced the uncomfortable truth and answer to the age-old patriarchy.

I got a recent opportunity to speak with one of the writer's associates and well-wishers, Shanti *ji.*

"For me, Kamala *Didi* was everything. She never backed out, kept supporting us with all that she had in her. We were all in complete awe of her personality. I remember *Didi* would lead protests against violence, and would carry them as if every loss was personal to her. She felt deeply for every cause she stood up for. She has planted such seeds of humanity, feminism, and justice in the hearts of lakhs of people that I am certain these plants would be green till the end of the world. No storm or down-pouring would be able to shake the roots," the 80-year old shared in an emotional message.

Bhasin will, undoubtedly, always live in the hearts of the lives she touched with her heart-rending efforts and revolutionary work.

From countryside to the city

CHRISTY VARGHESE glimpses into artist RAJU BARAIYA's perspective against the backdrop of his solo show, *Social Gathering*

Last year, after the first lockdown, most of us were overwhelmed with the imagery of people walking back to their hometown in distant, rural areas, from the cities where they sought better living conditions. Odds are most of us, even though we were touched by the images and tried to help in some way or the other, forgot their plight. We have no qualms in admitting that we had forgotten all about it, until we witnessed the works on display at Raju Baraiya's latest solo show.

Based out of Baroda, Baraiya was awarded a three-month global art residency programme which he fulfilled at the Glenfiddich distillery in Scotland. We attended his show, titled *Social Gatherings,* to understand that his artworks are based on what emerges from the shift of coming to an urban setup from a rural background. During our conversation, he shared that the works on display were inspired by the incidents following the first lockdown and the widespread sensitisation on social distancing norms.

You can view *Social Gathering* at Gallery Art District XIII, F213A, Lado Sarai, New Delhi, till October 16, 2021. Provided below are excerpts from our interview:

◆What is the underlying theme of your show, *Social Gathering*?

My solo show, *Social Gathering*, is an exhibition of art works that play with the idea of masking and social distancing, with a mixed media on paperwork titled *Remind Me Of My Childhood* drawing parallels between the imageries of the circles in a game of hopscotch and the chalk-drawn ones that ensure social distancing in public spaces now. There are also acrylic paintings titled *Evening Tune* and *A Season Of Plastic* that use the motif of the Indian human body to transfer onto canvas what a regular everyday scene in a rural or semi-urban city would look like.

◆Your work is a commentary on the current social situation; what led you to conceptualise the works on display at the *Social Gathering*?

I was in Baroda when the first lockdown was announced due to Covid-19. In a few weeks, I felt very upset, nervous and worried looking at the images and news reports of migrants walking to their villages. While I kept thinking about them, I also decided to bring to life their circumstances, pain and struggle on canvas.

◆Who would you say are your biggest influences?

My art practice springs out of the shift from a strong rural background to an urban one. Villages, for me, are unique spaces holding their intrinsic character. These spaces demonstrate an inherent belief about 'what they are' in the 'way they are'. Although with easily available technologies and ever-spreading urban boundaries, there has been a gentle merging of the two for the sake of communication and advancement. This nevertheless does not deprive the rural of its rural character. One can easily find rural traits in people migrating to cities for various reasons. This rural character remains intrinsic and contradicts the urban. My inspiration comes from observing, correlating the rural, the urban and vice versa.

◆Which current trends are you in-touch with, from the art fraternity?

My work images are mostly driven by current social and political effects, which I observe in day to day life. We all know about today's contemporary art trends and its prevalence. I feel Baroda has great space for me to continue my art practice. In Baroda there are different regional artists that come together, meet each other at places as simple like at tea stall. My inspiration comes from observing and diagnosing the rural in relation to the urban and vice-versa. The continuous push and pull between the rural and urban is what makes me wonder. I have been deriving imagery from these seemingly ambiguous notions of the urban and the rural. This is the way I am working and I am in touch with art. In my work you will mostly find group of people and animals forms so I should say it's formalistic and contemporary art where I explore my art practice.

◆What do you seek from your art?

The continuous push and pull between the rural and urban makes me wonder and trigger the visual intrigue. The nature and complexities between the two spaces give me, innate sense of the vulnerability that I feel being in the city and being away from my native town becomes a matter of the question of my vulnerable existence and to further emphasized by the past year struggling to combat the Coronavirus. I find my effort of locating myself in my paintings as a very synonymous act. There is a constant struggle to redefine and relocate the self in the painting through marks, gestures and superimposing images.

◆Do you explore different mediums?

When I was at the Glenfiddich distillery in Scotland for three-month residency, I used different material for my works — including the stone slate (a fine-grained grey metamorphic rock slide split into smooth, flat piece) used for constructing roofs in most of the houses in the vicinity and the lid of whiskey drums, I like to work on the wooden surface.

During my regular art practice in the studio I always used canvas and paper. But Scotland was uncharted territory and everything was new for me so I got the chance to explore my medium in different environment. During the residency period we visited Glenfiddich and Balvenie distillery, that time Andy took us to a big godown of whiskey drums and I got very excited to use the drums surface for art work. During the residency period I used to go to Dufftown to buy some groceries and I often saw that most of Dufftown village house roofs were done with stone slate. That's how I explored different mediums.

◆How did the Glenfiddich's Artist in Residence programme help you?

The initiative, Glenfiddich Artists in Residence, was launched in 2002. It provides a unique and inspired platform for artists from around the world to showcase their talent and to gain international recognition. I got my first break in 2019 when I got the chance to participate in this programme and won the 'Emerging artist of the year 2019' award. Glenfiddich's Artists in Residence opened a new realm of possibilities and broadened my artistic horizon. During my three month residency, I got a chance to experiment with my art and was closely mentored by Andy Fairgrieve, the curator of the Glenfiddich Artists in Residence programme. I also got a chance to engage with artists from different countries and exchange creative ideas. I am grateful to Glenfiddich for giving me this life changing opportunity.

MUSIC AND DANCE RECITALS at IIC

After a long hiatus, the India International Centre presents a physical performance of dance and music.

The programme will be kickstarted by a Hindustani vocal recital by Dr Rita Dev from Delhi, disciple of Guru Dr Girija Devi. As a vocalist, her skill spans both the Banaras and Gwalior gharana of Hindustani classical music traditions. Dr Dev's repertoire includes both classical and semi classical genres.

Right afterwards, there will be a Kathak recital by Sangita Chatterjee from Delhi, the disciple of Smt Vaswati Misra. She has imbibed within herself the essence of Kathak, its lyrical and sensuous movements, treasure of its scintillating rythmic patterns and subtle abhinaya.

When: September 29, 6:30 pm
Where: CD Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC main building

ART-A-THON

The competition will provide a platform to children to create original artwork on the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, those of peace, non-violence, empathy, and compassion, and share their ideas with the world.

Children are invited to submit their artwork to participate in this competition. Each participant will receive a certificate, and winners stand a chance to win prizes worth ₹1.5 lakhs. Names of the winners will be announced within seven days of the last date of the competition.

When: Last day to submit your artwork is October 2
Where: www.crejo.fun

ARTISTAGRAM 2021

Artistagram is an idea conceived by the Uchaan Foundation to bring together the curated collection of masterpieces from a vast array of artists, with distinct backgrounds and signatures, all under one roof. The annual showcase is an initiative to amalgamate the artists — contemporary and classic — providing them a platform to exhibit their varied forms of art and ideas.

Artistagram 2021 builds upon the new global reality ushered in by the COVID-19 pandemic. In this cultural metamorphosis, each work is a source of inspiration, truly built on the raw emotions of the artists,building perspective for the future. It also reflects the role art and artists play in the process of change.

When: October 1-4, 11 am-7:30 pm
Where: Visual Art Gallery, Indian Habitat Centre, New Delhi

THE PORCELAIN ROSE

Gallery Espace's virtual solo exhibition, The Porcelain Rose, will showcase a new body of work by artist Dr Paula Sengupta.

The exhibition includes drawings which speak of Paula's continuing engagement with chintz, digital photo prints and animation, a medium she works in for the first time.

The works in "The Porcelain Rose" are a space of folly. All flora and fauna are juxtaposed with each other in unlikely and improbable combinations, in which they cannot possibly exist.

As opposed to the forest that abides by the natural order, the works displayed are rife with illogic, unreason and contrariness.

Dr Sengupta is an artist, academic, art writer and curator resident in Kolkata.

When: Can be viewed online till October 24
Where: www.galleryespace.com

EASY WIN FOR SUNRISERS OVER ROYALS

PTI ■ DUBAI

Jason Roy (60) and skipper Kane Williamson (51*) helped Sunrisers Hyderabad register a comfortable 7-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in an IPL match at Dubai on Monday.

Earlier opting to bat first, Sanju Samson (82) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (36) guided Rajasthan Royals to 164/5.

Skipper Sanju Samson produced a well-calculated 82-run knock on a sluggish track to help Rajasthan Royals reach 164 for five in their Indian Premier League match against Sunrisers Hyderabad, here on Monday.

It is second consecutive fifty for Samson after conjuring up an unbeaten 70 against Delhi Capitals on Saturday.

The captain sent the ball seven times to the fence and three times over it in his impressive 57-ball innings, with which he became the leading run-scorer (433) of the season, surpassing Delhi Capitals' Shikhar Dhawan (430).

Yashasvi Jaiswal (36) and Mahipal Lomror (29 not out), who was dropped twice (23 and 29), were the other two batters to provide valuable contributions on a wicket where the ball did not come on to the bat easily for a major part of Royals innings.

Asked to bowl, pace spearhead Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/28) bowled a splendid length ball, on leg stump which worked perfectly for SRH as the dangerous Evin Lewis (6) hit straight to Abdul Samad at deep backward square leg in the second over.

Despite snaring Lewis' wicket early, the Sunrisers bowlers were guilty of bowling wide and short and Jaiswal took the opportunity to counterattack.

The youngster, who smashed four boundaries and a six, played some splendid shots with skipper Samson also slowly finding his feet as the two collected 46 runs in the Samson took over the proceedings.

But Siddharth Kaul (2/36) bowled a great last over, dismissing Samson and Riyan Parag (0) to restrict the Royals to 164 after being hit for 20 runs in his third over.

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	10	4	6	8
7	MI	10	4	6	8
8	SRH	10	2	8	4

'Content' Moeen Ali retires from Test cricket

PTI ■ LONDON

England's spin bowling all-rounder Moeen Ali on Monday announced retirement from Test cricket to prolong his career in white-ball formats, saying he is "content" despite the widespread belief that he could have achieved a lot more.

The 34-year-old leaves the Test arena with 2,914 runs in 64 matches at an average of 28.29.

Besides his five centuries with the bat, Ali has taken 195 wickets with his off-spin bowling at an average of 36.66 since his Test debut in 2014.

"I'm 34 now and I want to play for as long as I can and I just want to enjoy my cricket," Ali said.

"Test cricket is amazing, when you're having a good day it's better than any other format by far, it's more rewarding and you feel like you've really earned it."

Ali had already informed his England captain Joe Root and head coach Chris Silverwood of his decision.

will miss just walking out there with the lads, playing against best in the world with that feeling of nerves but also from a bowling point of view, knowing with my best ball I could get anyone out.

"I've enjoyed Test cricket but that intensity can be too much sometimes and I feel like I've done enough of it and I'm happy and content with how I've done."

Ali, who has not played a lot of Test cricket since the 2019 Ashes, was recalled for the recent home series against India. He was apparently not comfortable with the thought of staying away from family for extended periods.

He had made up his mind even before the COVID-19 protocols were shared with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) for the Ashes tour to Australia.

According to a press release issued by England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), Ali hopes that his Test career will inspire and open the door for other British Muslims to play for England.

Shafali Verm, Radha Yadav sign up for Sydney Sixers in WBBL

IANS ■ SYDNEY

Two-time Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) champions Sydney Sixers have signed up Indian youngsters Shafali Verma and Radha Yadav ahead of seventh season of the tournament. The announcement of Shafali and Radha signing up with the Sixers comes a day after the duo of Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma were announced to join defending champions Sydney Thunder.

On Sunday, Shafali scored 56, her maiden half-century in ODIs as India ended Australia's 26-match winning streak. She is expected to open the batting alongside Australia's Alyssa Healy. Radha, the left-arm spinner, is a part of India's squad for the T20I series against Australia in October.

Shafali and Radha will join Healy, Ellyse Perry, Ashleigh Gardner, Stella Campbell, Erin Burns and former Australia batter Nicole Bolton. "This is a very good opportunity for me and my goal is to just enjoy myself, to make some new friends and have fun. I want to play WBBL and back myself and just believe in myself," said Shafali in a statement by the club on Monday.

Stop cursing India for Kiwis, England pullouts, BCCI official to Pakistan

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has recently faced a severe blow after New Zealand and England cancelled their respective tours. The Kiwis cited security as a reason whereas England stated the 'mental and physical well-being' of the players was an issue. The cancellation of the tours has affected Pakistan financially and 'morally' as well. The newly appointed chairman of PCB Ramiz Raja lambasted the two nations for abandoning their respective series.

However, now some of the Pakistan Ministers and former cricketers have started "dragging India's" name in their statements. They are also allegedly blaming BCCI for the cancellation of their tours.

To this, a senior BCCI official told *IANS* that Pakistan has an old habit of 'using' India's name in all their 'big or small news' that too without any proof. "We wish Ramiz Raja good luck…Pakistan cricket reaches new heights under him. We want to clear one thing that the BCCI has no role in the cancellation of England and New Zealand tours to Pakistan."

"We don't have time for all this…And also, I don't know why some ex-Pakistan players are cursing the IPL (Indian Premier League) for no reason? I read somewhere that Raja said that the Aussie players have even changed their DNA for the sake of the money they make by playing in the IPL. He accused Aussies of playing happily against India without their usual aggressive approach. "Now from where the IPL came here? What kind of frustration is that? We understand you are feeling bad but there is no need to drag India everywhere," official added.

Heavy rain, cyclone alert forces BCCI to delay start of domestic season

New Delhi: The start of India's domestic season has been delayed by two days with the Under-19 events for boys and girls pushed back to September 30 due to a cyclone alert in south Odisha and north Andhra Pradesh coasts.

The U19 Boys Vinoo Mankad Trophy and U19 Girls One-Day tournament was scheduled to begin on Tuesday across seven venues. Heavy rain is expected in Hyderabad and Bhubaneshwar, that are among host cities for the matches along with Indore, Vizag, Surat, Rajkot and Nagpur.

"Owing to the incessant rain and the cyclone alert issued by MET, the BCCI is compelled to postpone the start of the group stage from 28.09.2021 to 30.09.2021," wrote Dhiraj Malhotra, BCCI General Manager — Game Development — in his letter to the seven host associations. **PTI**

Mumbai City FC sign goalkeeper Mohammad Nawaz

IANS ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai City FC have signed up goalkeeper Mohammad Nawaz on a three-year contract until May 2024, the franchise announced on Monday. The 21-year-old, a product of AIFF Elite Academy, joins the defending ISL champions from FC Goa.

Nawaz secured a move to FC Goa in 2018, where he featured for the club's reserve team in the I-League 2nd Division and was later handed his first team debut during the 2018-19 campaign, the club informed in a release on Monday. Having played an instrumental role in the FC Goa's successful campaigns in 2018-19 and 2019-20,

winning the Super Cup and the League Winners' Shield, the 21-year-old custodian became a pivotal member of Gaurs' set up. He recorded as many as nine cleansheets in 33 appearances in his first two seasons with the Goan side.

Mohammad Nawaz said: "I would like to thank Mumbai City FC for showing faith in me and giving me the opportunity to play at a club that wants to win games and win trophies. I had a chance to speak to many of my friends who are now my teammates and they spoke highly of the great culture at the club. I'm looking forward to getting started on this exciting journey with my new family and achieve great things along the way."

Arsenal humiliates Spurs, seasons head in opposite direction

AP ■ LONDON

However bad things have seemed for Arsenal over the last decade, beating Tottenham at the Emirates Stadium can usually be relied on.

Just not usually as emphatically as Sunday's north London derby triumph — a 3-1 victory helping to clear the early-season gloom for Mikel Arteta's side.

Never before in the Premier League has Arsenal scored three goals as quickly in a derby.The goals inside the opening 34 minutes from Emile Smith Rowe, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Bukayo Saka rattled Tottenham and gave Arsenal fans an afternoon of gloating in the late September sun.

"It's quite easy when you have boys like this — they always listen, always ready to learn," Aubameyang said. "They feel free when they play. That's why they're doing amazing."

It was a month ago as August was drawing to a close that Arsenal had opened the season with three losses — including at defending champion Manchester City — without scoring while Tottenham was top with a perfect start.

Arsenal's Bukayo Saka, centre, celebrates after scoring his side's third goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur at the Emirates stadium in London, Sunday AP

The captain wanted to put things right.

"After the game after City, we needed to have a chat between players," Aubameyang said. "We're doing really well right now."The only thing consistent this month for Tottenham has been losing all three games and conceding three in each. Arsenal, meanwhile, has won all three games since the international break.

But in a sign of recent inferiority for the neighbors, they aren't challenging at the top but midtable with Arsenal 10th on goal difference and Tottenham 11th in the standings.

Spurs haven't won at Arsenal in the league since 2010, and they did everything to ensure that dismal run wouldn't end.

Just look at how much space was gifted to Arsenal to launch the attack that ended in the opening goal in the 12th minute.

Smith Rowe wasn't tracked by the visitors as he found space in the penalty area to get on the end of Saka's cross, evading a futile late tackle by Davinson Sanchez to net.

"I've always wanted to score against Tottenham in a derby," the 21-year-old academy graduate said. "It's just the best feeling ever."Arteta will be feeling relieved.

"He just tells us to keep calm," Smith Rowe said, "and he encourages us."

A couple of months into the job, Tottenham manager Nuno Espirito Santo was unable to have any impact in preventing this humiliation.

"I am very honest," he said. "If the game plan didn't work out the way you wanted, it's because you didn't decide it well."

Not even Harry Kane, stopped from joining Manchester City, could come to the rescue.

In fact, the striker managed to give away the ball inside Tottenham's half to Thomas Partey that led to Arsenal scoring again on the break.

Kane did try to recover the situation as Arsenal advanced, but his tackle on Saka could not prevent him from getting the shot away to add the third.

Although Son Heung-min turned in a cross from Sergio Reguilon in the 79th, there would be no late Tottenham comeback. Especially not after Lucas Moura had a strike tipped onto the crossbar by goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale.

"It is one of the nicest things I have experienced in this stadium," said Arteta, who has finished eighth in both of his seasons in charge of Arsenal.

It was at Arsenal in November 2020 that Raúl Jiménez suffered a head injury from a clash with David Luiz that might have ended the Wolverhampton striker's career.

He's back this season and now scoring again. It was a moment of magic that clinched a 1-0 victory over winless Southampton.

Wearing protective head gear, the Mexican breezed through the defense in the 61st minute before striking past goalkeeper Alex McCarthy.

AIBA WORLD BOXING C'SHIPS TO ALLOW SPECTATORS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Spectators will be allowed at next month's men's world boxing championships in Serbia, the International Boxing Association (AIBA) announced on Monday, making it the first major event in the sport to welcome back fans since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The AIBA, in a statement, said that tickets have gone on sale for the October 24 to November 6 showpiece, where India will be represented by a full-strength 13-strong squad featuring Asian medal-winners like Deepak Kumar (51kg), Shiva Thapa (63.5kg) and Sanjeet (92kg).

"Spectators are allowed at the 2021 AIBA men's World Boxing Championships at Stark Arena in Belgrade, Serbia. Tickets for the main AIBA event went on sale via official tickets partner eFinity on the website efinity.Rs," the AIBA said.

AIBA President Umar Kremlev said he is eager to see fans back in the arena after COVID-19 health safety protocols forced many sporting events to become made for television in the last year and half.

"We are waiting for boxing fans from Serbia and around the globe to attend AIBA World Boxing Championships," Kremlev said.

"For us, it will be the first major event with spectators after the start of the pandemic. We are happy to welcome everyone in Belgrade at Stark Arena. I expect tough fights, beautiful victories and bright emotions from the tournament. Our boxers will deliver a great show for everyone," he added.

CHAMPIONSHIPS SCHEDULE	
October 24:	Opening Ceremony
October 25-November 2:	Preliminaries
November 3:	Rest Day
November 4:	Semi-finals
November 5-6:	Finals

For the first time in AIBA's 75-year history, the medal winners at the championships will be rewarded with significant prize money.

The prize money fund has been set at USD 2.6 million.

The prize for first place is USD 100,000. The silver-medallists will receive USD 50,000 and both bronzes in each weight category will walk away with USD 25,000.