

CITY 2
UP MINISTER SANJAY NISHAD IN
TROUBLE; COURT ISSUES NBW**OPINION 6**
PANDORA'S BOX OF
CORRUPTION**WORLD 10**
CHINA KEEPS UP PRESSURE ON
TAIWAN WITH 4TH DAY OF DRILLS

LUCKNOW, MONDAY AUGUST 8, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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11 SPORT

‘Indian federal structure became model for world’

We showed it's possible to overcome challenges, PM tells Niti meet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday asserted that India's federal structure and cooperative federalism emerged as "a model for the world during the Covid crisis" and the country had sent a "powerful message" to the developing nations — that it is possible to overcome challenges with resilience, despite resource limitations.

Chairing the seventh Governing Council meeting of the Niti Aayog at Rashtrapati Bhavan's Cultural Centre in the national Capital, the Prime Minister gave credit to States for delivering on the ground saying "every State played a crucial role according to its strength and contributed to India's fight against Covid. This led to India emerging as an example for the developing nations to look up to as a global leader."

The agenda of the Niti Aayog meeting included crop diversification and achieving self-sufficiency in oilseeds and pulses and agri-communities, implementation of the National Education Policy-school education, implementation of the National Education Policy-higher education, and urban governance.

This was the first physical meeting of the Governing Council since the onset of the pandemic. The 2021 meeting was held via video conferencing.

The meeting was attended by 23 Chief Ministers, three Lieutenant-Governors and two Administrators.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other Ministers and Chief Ministers of States/UTs at the 7th Governing Council meeting of Niti Aayog at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI

Opp makes slew of demands

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

From urging the Centre to increase the share of States in the central taxes and duties to the allocation of funds for disaster management to MSP for farmers, Opposition Chief Ministers on Sunday made a slew of demands in the 7th Governing Council Meeting of the Niti Aayog, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Non-BJP ruled States, such as Chhattisgarh, Kerala, and Rajasthan have in the past also demanded that the compensation regime be extended by five years. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee emphasised that the Centre should look into the demands of the State Governments "more seriously" and no policies should be forced on them.

Banerjee stressed that there

should be a "greater cooperation" between the Centre and the States. The Trinamool Congress supremo also said that State Governments should not be pressurised to implement the NEP. She left the meeting midway citing the cyclone situation in Kolkata.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel reiterated his demand to the Centre seeking a five-year extension for the compensation paid to States for revenue shortfall due to GST implementation and called for revising the rates of royalty for coal and other major minerals from the State. On the occasion the Chief Minister noted that the Niti Aayog has appreciated the better performance of the aspirational districts of the State in the last three-and-a-half years. He, however, added that there are still resource problems in the

State, which should be resolved.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann informed the media that he raised the issues of farmers including Minimum Support Price (MSP) while adding that he was happy with the meeting.

"It was the first for me after becoming the Chief Minister. It is unfortunate that no one has come from Punjab in the last three years. I went with detailed homework today and kept Punjab's issues. The biggest issue was of the variety of crops," Mann said he was satisfied with the Niti Aayog's meeting as all issues were listened to.

Delhi CM and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal could not attend the meeting as he is away in Gujarat. Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Rao boycotted the meeting.

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Golden and silver shower for India on Super Sunday

Eldhose Paul wins first triple long jump gold in CWG

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

It was a Super Sunday for India as it saw a huge haul of gold, silver and bronze medals at the Commonwealth Games. Eldhose Paul won a historic triple jump gold in a 1-2 finish for India as the country bagged four medals on the concluding day of athletics competitions at the Commonwealth Games here. After the mad rush of four medals coming within 30 minutes, India's medal tally from athletics swelled to eight — 1 gold, 4 silver, 3 bronze -- the best in the CWG history outside the country and only second to the haul at the 2010 edition in Delhi.

The 25-year-old Paul became only the sixth Indian to win a CWG gold since legendary Milkha Singh won it in 1958 in 440 yards. The Ernakulam-born Indian Navyman led India's historic 1-2 finish with a best jump of 17.03m in his third attempt after opening with 14.62m. His jump was though wind-assisted and his second best was 16.63m. Before Sunday's jump, he had a personal best of 16.99m. Paul's historic 1-2 finish in men's triple jump at the Commonwealth Games was followed by fellow Kerala athlete Abdulla Aboobacker here on Sunday as he finished at 17.02m, which he managed in his fifth attempt.

Meanwhile, in boxing, the indomitable Nikhat Zareen added a Commonwealth Games light flyweight (50kg) title to her bulging trophy cabinet while Amit Panghal (51kg) began his redemption journey with a much-needed gold winning show Nikhat, who is on a winning spree since the Nationals last year, asserted her dominance over Northern Ireland's Carly Mc Naul as she punched her way to a comprehensive 5-0 win in her maiden CWG appearance.

Panghal, on the other hand, avenged his 2018 Commonwealth Games final loss against Kieran MacDonald by clinching the title with a comprehensive 5-0 win over the favourite. Indian boxers made it three out of three golds on the day as young Nitu Ghanghas (48kg) too reigned supreme on her CWG debut. Sagar Ahlawat will play his final bout later tonight.

The India pugilists will return with seven medals from Birmingham, two less than the previous edition.

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Boxer Nikhat Zareen with the gold medal after winning the final of 48kg-50kg (Light Flyweight) boxing match, at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham, UK on Sunday. PTI

Women win hockey medal after 16 yrs

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Skipper Savita Punia led from the front with a spectacular display as the Indian women's hockey team overcame the stop-watch controversy to beat New Zealand 2-1 in shootout and win the bronze medal at the

Commonwealth Games here Sunday.

This is the team's first medal at CWG in 16 years. Leading 1-0, India conceded a penalty corner with less than 30 seconds to go for the final hooter, as the match went into shootout after Olivia Merry's equaliser. In the

regulation time, India got the lead through Salima Tete in the 29th minute.

Coming off their heartbreaking loss to Australia in a controversial semi-final, India showed the intent to wrap up their campaign with a win and earn a podium finish.



Indian players Vandana Kataria, Lalremliam and Sangita Kumari celebrate their win over New Zealand in the women's hockey bronze medal match at the Commonwealth Games 2022, in Birmingham on Sunday. PTI

Satellites not usable after deviation: ISRO on SSLV maiden mission

PTI ■ SRIHARIKOTA

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Sunday said the satellites onboard its maiden Small Satellite Launch Vehicle "are no longer usable" after the SSLV-D1 placed them in an elliptical orbit instead of a circular one.

The space agency said a committee would analyse and make recommendations into Sunday's episode and with the implementation of those recommendations "SSLV-D1 placed the satellites into 356 km x 76 km elliptical orbit instead of 356 km circular orbit. Satellites are no longer usable. Issue is reasonably identified. Failure of a logic to identify a sensor failure and go for a salvage action caused the deviation," ISRO said in an update on its official Twitter handle. In its maiden SSLV mission, the launch vehicle carried The Earth Observation Satellite EOS-02 and the co-passenger student satellites AzaadiSAT. SSLV had suffered 'data loss' in its terminal stage, after performing "as expected" in all stages. It had earlier after lifted off from the spaceport here on Sunday morning. Screens showed that the satellite was well on its trajectory before suffering 'data loss' as described by Chairman S Somanath. "All stages performed as expected and in the terminal phase of the mission, some data loss is occurring and we are analysing the data and we will come back on the status of the satellites as well as the vehicle performance soon," he said from the Mission Control Centre, minutes after the launch.

CM reiterates resolve to make UP a \$1 trillion economy in five years

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reiterated his resolve to make Uttar Pradesh a \$1 trillion economy in the next five years at the seventh meeting of NITI Aayog held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday.

Yogi Adityanath not only enumerated the development works carried out by his government in UP in the last five years but also presented the outline of his plans for the future of the state.

The chief minister said that the state government was working in a planned manner to achieve this challenging goal, adding that the focus was also on making UP's infrastructure world-class and strong.

"Good and effective gov-

ernance, skill development, rapid decision-making process and targeted policies and rules are proving useful in this direction," he said.

Speaking specifically on his government's plans for farmers, Yogi Adityanath said that work was underway to strengthen the digital agricultural framework to ensure that the benefits of the government's schemes reached the farmers of the state.

He further pointed out that as many as three crore farmers were registered under the Digitised Farmers Database in Uttar Pradesh, and they had received Rs 2,605 crore in the last five years under various schemes.

"Uttar Pradesh is the leading state in the country in terms of distribution of grants through DBT (direct benefit transfer) by developing a digi-

tised database for farmers," the chief minister said.

Yogi Adityanath said that 'Centres of Excellence' had been established in the state for specific agricultural products. He said the government had also started extensive preparations to celebrate 'International Year of Millets' by the United Nations in the year 2023. Besides, he said, intercropping with jowar, bajra and sugarcane was being promoted to enhance the income of farmers.

He said that the state government was taking phased action to promote natural farming. "For example, the scheme of cow-based farming has been approved in seven districts of Bundelkhand region. A target has also been set to practice cow-based farming on 500 hectares in each development block of the seven districts of the region," he said.

"Besides, under the Namami Gange scheme, cow-based farming is proposed in 105 development blocks along the banks of the river Ganga," he said.

The chief minister remarked: "To make Uttar Pradesh an Rs 80 lakh crore (one trillion dollar) economy by 2025, our cities will have to come forward as a growth engine by attracting investments and increasing employment generation. Urban development has to be a growth engine as well as address the challenges of housing/slum, water supply and solid waste management, air quality/pollution, livelihood and public transport. Uttar Pradesh is doing effective work in the field of municipal finance, town planning and administrative structure and citizen-centred

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In a first, US warship arrives in India for repairs, maintenance

This marks major boost to Indo-US ties, 'Make in India' initiative

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian shipbuilding industry achieved a major milestone when a US warship arrived here for the first time for repairs and maintenance. It also marked the growing defence and strategic ties between the two countries.

Providing a huge boost to 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar' in Defence and adding a new dimension to the burgeoning Indo-US strategic partnership, US Navy Ship Charles Drew arrived at Larsen



US Navy Ship (USNS) Charles Drew at L&T's Shipyard at Kattupalli for undertaking repairs and allied services, in Chennai. PTI

and Toubro's (L&T) shipyard at Kattupalli, Chennai on Sunday for undertaking repairs and allied services.

The ship will be at the Kattupalli shipyard for a period of 11 days and undergo repairs in various areas.

This is the first ever repair

of a US Navy ship in India. The US Navy had awarded a contract to L&T's Shipyard at Kattupalli for undertaking maintenance of the ship. The event signifies the capabilities of Indian shipyards in the global ship repairing market.

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TRF to step up terror in Valley

Jaish front gives guidelines to intensify attacks on kin of officials who are not local

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Resistance Front (TRF), a front of the Pakistani terror group Jaish-e-Mohammad, which is responsible for the bulk of violence in Jammu & Kashmir, has issued

a detailed set of guidelines for ratcheting up terrorist actions in the Valley.

The intensity of target and explosive attacks are also to be increased, especially, outside Jammu & Kashmir as part of the latest terror tactic evolved by the terror grouping, according to the guidelines.

The guidelines include implementation of the "indigenous" character of armed resistance and attacks at various installations in the Valley, especially those directly linked to the armed forces besides identifying and targeting the near and dear ones of those non-local officials stationed there.

Non-local officials from administrative departments or police are to be identified and targeted at their native places, according to the latest jihadi tactic of the Pakistan-sponsored terror group.

During the last few years, the TRF has gained notoriety for being responsible for the bulk of violent incidents in the Valley. Anyone who advocates or supports the 'occupation' and 'brutalities' of the Indian regime is to be a prime target residing or stationed anywhere in or outside Jammu & Kashmir, according to the guidelines.

Continued on Page 9

Won't join Union Cabinet: JD(U)

Nitish's party has no presence in Modi Cabinet after RCP Singh was denied RS renomination

PNS ■ PATNA

Amid reports of a widening rift between Janata Dal (U) and BJP, the Nitish Kumar-

led outfit has decided not to join the Union Council of Ministers. After RCP Singh resigned from the Modi Government on being denied a Rajya Sabha renomination by Nitish, there is no representation of the JD (U) in the Union Cabinet.

"We stick to our stand of 2019 when, after the Lok Sabha polls, we had decided not to join the Government at the Centre," JD(U) president Lallan Singh told a Press conference on Sunday. Singh asserted that in 2019 when Nitish decided that the JD(U) will not join the Union Cabinet, he held wide consultation with the

party leaders. However, RCP Singh, as the then JD (U) president decided on his own to join the Modi Cabinet, he said.

"RCP Singh may be claiming that he had the consent of Nitish Kumar to join the Modi Cabinet, but has Nitish ji ever said so?" Lallan Singh asked.

The JD(U) president also said that in the 2109 State Assembly elections, the JD(U) was reduced to the third position in Bihar behind the RJD and the BJP because Nitish became a victim of a conspiracy.

"When the time comes we will expose the conspirators," Singh said. It is widely believed

that Chirag Paswan sabotaged the JD(U)'s prospects on dozens of seats at the behest of the BJP by putting up LJP candidates in the fray. The BJP has denied the charge, but the JD(U) leaders are not convinced by it.

Singh also said that it is not decided that the JD(U) and the BJP will contest the 2024 Lok Sabha poll together. "How can we give that guarantee? When the time comes we will decide," he said.

Incidentally, recently BJP chief JP Nadda announced in Patna that BJP and JD(U) will contest the 2024 LS polls in the alliance.

UP minister Sanjay Nishad in trouble; court issues NBW

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After Rakesh Sachan, another minister in the Yogi Adityanath government, Sanjay Nishad, has landed in trouble as a court has issued a non-bailable warrant against him.

The court in Gorakhpur has ordered the arrest and production of Sanjay Nishad by August 10. The responsibility of compliance with this order has been given to Shahpur police.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Jagannath has ordered the police to produce Fisheries Minister Sanjay Nishad in the court, and if necessary, to take him in custody in compliance with his orders.

It may be mentioned that the NBW against cabinet minister Sanjay Nishad was issued in a 7-year-old case. On June 7, 2015, a movement was going on in Kasarwal under Sahjanwa police station, to press the demand of 5 per cent reservations for Nishads in government jobs. The agitators were sitting on the railway track. Meanwhile, a dispute escalated and the police resorted to lathi-charge in which one person had died while 24 policemen were injured in the violence.

Then it was alleged that the man had died after being shot by the police.

Due to this the movement



became violent and the agitators clashed with the police. Several police vehicles were torched by the agitators. After this, a case was registered against many people, including NISHAD Party chief Sanjay Nishad, for rioting, sabotage, arson and other related sections of the Indian Penal Code.

Significantly, Sanjay Nishad's party is an ally of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. Both the parties had come together before the Lok Sabha elections in 2019. One son of Sanjay Nishad is an MP and the other is an MLA. Apart from this, Sanjay Nishad himself is a member of the UP Legislative Council.

Earlier, a Kanpur court, on Saturday, found UP's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Rakesh Sachan guilty in the 1991 Arms Act case.

Unhappy with the decision, the lawyers and supporters of Rakesh Sachan allegedly left the courtroom after he was found guilty. However, the minister denied the allegation and called it a rumour.

Rakesh Sachan said, "Some cases are pending, the things that are going on are misleading". He added that the court's decision would be accepted.

The court filed a complaint against Rakesh Sachan in the Kotwali police station late at night. The court in its complaint has asked Kanpur police to register a case in this matter.

Kanpur Nagar's Joint Commissioner of Police Anand Prakash Tiwari, after receiving the complaint, started an investigation in this matter. He said, "The statements of all related people will be recorded, the CCTV footage will be checked and then further action will be taken."

He added, "The facts of the complaint will also be examined. The investigation is expected to be completed in a day or two. Further action will be taken accordingly."

Sachan claimed on Sunday that he was currently in Kanpur. He said that he had to talk to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on this issue and after that he could be called to Lucknow.

UP crosses one crore 'Amrit doses' mark

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In what comes as an incredible achievement ahead of the Independence Week celebrations in the state, Uttar Pradesh crossed the major milestone of administering over one crore 'precaution doses' of Covid vaccine on Sunday.

As a result of the successful execution of the ongoing special 75-day 'Amrit Dose' campaign in Uttar Pradesh under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the state achieved another milestone while continuing to conduct one of the most successful vaccination campaigns in the country since the roll-out of the mass immunisation drive.

Committed to providing additional protection to the people against the novel coronavirus, Uttar Pradesh began administering booster shots (precaution dose) from January 10, an official spokesman claimed here on Sunday.

The state, on July 15, launched a special 75-day special drive to administer precaution doses to all aged 18 years and above at public vaccination centres free of cost.

In pursuance of the directives issued by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the authorities concerned are carrying out awareness campaigns regarding the importance of booster doses to encourage every individual above 18 years of age to take the booster doses.

Through these campaigns, information about vaccination centres, where booster shots are being administered, is also being provided.

Uttar Pradesh has so far administered over 35.27 crore total vaccine doses. Out of these, about 17,63,25,382 are first doses, while as many as 16,63,14,727 individuals are fully-vaccinated. Besides, over 2,70,85,700 vaccine doses have been administered to children in the age group of 15-17 and over 1,58,35,391 doses to children in the age group of 12-14 in the state.

It may be recalled that the Uttar Pradesh government has set a target to provide the precaution dose of Covid vaccine to at least 13 crore people who are eligible for it within the 75-day special drive which will continue till September 30.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath pays a courtesy call on the Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Sunday

BJP Minority Morcha to reach out to Muslims

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Bharatiya Janata Party Minority Morcha launched Muslim outreach programme from Sunday under which the party leaders will reach out to the community and apprise them of the welfare measures taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Yogi Adityanath for the welfare of Muslims.

The BJP launched the exercise a month after Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for an outreach programme focusing on Pasmanda Muslims in the party's national executive meet in Hyderabad. The prime minister has called for taking out 'Sneh Yatra' for bringing Muslim into the party fold.

The BJP's minority wing in Uttar Pradesh is planning to reach out to the minority community members who have benefitted from different welfare schemes rolled out by the Centre and the Yogi Adityanath-led state government.

The UP BJP Minority Morcha

has identified over 44,000 polling booths across the state with a significant population of Pasamanda Muslims.

President of BJP Minority Morcha's Uttar Pradesh unit, Kunwar Basit Ali, said, "Usually, when our leaders tour districts, they meet people from the community and beneficiaries of schemes randomly. But, soon such outreach programmes will be held in an organised manner."

He added, "With focus on all 44,000 booths, we will speak to at least 100 beneficiaries from the Pasmanda Muslim community in each polling booth in the first phase of the programme. A schedule of such programmes is being finalised and will be announced very soon."

"During the interactions, the discussions held will be about how the members of the community have benefitted from the schemes launched by the BJP government," he added.

Ali said that there were around 4.5 crore Pasmanda Muslims in Uttar Pradesh who had benefitted from the schemes

of the Central government and Yogi Adityanath-led state government. "With the welfare schemes, the BJP has successfully created a separate section of beneficiaries within Muslims," he said.

"The party hopes that if leaders meet beneficiaries from the Pasmanda Muslim community regularly, they could become a new vote base for the BJP. And if they support the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, that will hamper chances of opposition parties," said another party leader.

Sources said the minority wing will be organising a three-day training camp in Lucknow from August 27 where party workers will learn about how to reach out to the minority communities and convince them to support the BJP.

The party hopes to develop a new vote bank of Pasmanda Muslims after nearly eight per cent of the voters from the community favoured it during the 2022 UP Assembly elections, said a member of the BJP Minority Morcha UP unit.



NOTICE

Be it known to all that earlier my name was MD Suhaib which is now changed to Suhaib Asharf. In future I shall be known as Suhaib Asharf. Suhaib Asharf S/o Mohammad Asharf Begum Bazar, Bamrouli Uparhar, Allahabad.

NOTICE

I, Army no. 2999396-X Hav, Dharmveer Singh Gurjar, S/o Shri Naval Singh, Unit- 4 Rajput, C/o 56 APO. Hereby declare that in the service record my son's name Inadvertently mentioned as YUVRAJ SINGH, while his correct Name is YOYRAJ SINGH, may be incorporate in my Service record.

आवश्यकता है

आवश्यकता है
बाबू राधेश्याम गुप्ता कालेज
रामा नगर, देवीगंज-फतेहपुर
(प्रो. राजेन्द्र सिंह (रज्जू भैया)
विश्वविद्यालय प्रयागराज से सम्बद्ध)
प्राचार्य-पद 01
योग्यता—एग्रेसिवेट प्रोफेसर पद पर 15 वर्ष का अनुभव या सेवानिवृत्त
कला संकाय : हिन्दी साहित्य पद—03, अंग्रेजी साहित्य पद—03, समाजशास्त्र पद—03, संस्कृत पद—03, राजनीति शास्त्र पद—03, शिक्षा शास्त्र पद—03, इतिहास पद—03
विज्ञान संकाय : रसायन विज्ञान —पद—03, भौतिक विज्ञान पद—03, जनु विज्ञान पद—03, वनस्पति विज्ञान पद—03, जनु विज्ञान पद—03
योग्यता : परास्नातक 55%, नेट या पीएचडी
वेतनमान : यूजुजीसीओ के मानकानुसार आदानप्रदान डाक द्वारा या स्वयं विज्ञापन तिथि के 15 दिन के अंदर कालेज कार्यालय को प्राप्त हो जाने चाहिये।
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आवश्यकता है

आवश्यकता है
श्रीमती रामा अग्रहरि महिला महाविद्यालय
रामा नगर, देवीगंज-फतेहपुर
(प्रो. राजेन्द्र सिंह (रज्जू भैया)
विश्वविद्यालय प्रयागराज से सम्बद्ध)
प्राचार्य-पद 01
योग्यता—एग्रेसिवेट प्रोफेसर पद पर 15 वर्ष का अनुभव या सेवानिवृत्त
कला संकाय : हिन्दी साहित्य पद—03, अंग्रेजी साहित्य पद—03, समाजशास्त्र पद—03, संस्कृत पद—03, गृह विज्ञान पद—03, हिन्दी भाषा पद—02, अंग्रेजी भाषा पद—03, **विज्ञान संकाय** : रसायन विज्ञान —पद—03, भौतिक विज्ञान पद—03, जनु विज्ञान पद—03, वनस्पति विज्ञान पद—03, गणित पद—03
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Man killed by kin over property related dispute

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 45-year-old man was allegedly shot dead by his relative over a land related dispute in Sultanpur district, an official said on Sunday.

The accused was arrested within hours, he said.

Additional Superintendent of Police Vipul Kumar Srivastava said an argument broke out between victim Moin Ahmed and accused Fayaz Ahmed over a property in Lolepur village on Saturday night.

Fayaz took out his unlicensed weapon and shot Moin dead.

The body was sent for autopsy, Srivastava said and the weapon used in

the crime was recovered.

Further investigation is underway.

Meanwhile, five people, including three women and an Uttar Pradesh Police constable, were arrested for allegedly blackmailing a man after making his objectionable video, officials said on Sunday.

The arrested constable has been put under suspension.

Senior Superintendent of Police in Meerut, Rohit Singh Sajwan, said, "Five persons, including a constable named Dinesh Kumar, have been accused of blackmailing. The accused were arrested on Saturday and a probe is underway."

Kumar was posted at the district's Pallavpuram police station.

The victim owed some money to one of the accused, identified as Swati Rath, police said.

Rathi called the victim to his house and gave him tea spiked with sedatives. She along with her husband Rachit Rathi and her two female friends - Radhika and Neeraj - then made an objectionable video and started blackmailing the man with the help of the constable, police said.

Tired of being blackmailed and getting repeated threats that the video would be uploaded on the internet, the victim finally filed a complaint to the police, officials added.

Maya: Time to get rid of destructive politics

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati on Sunday said that there was a need to get rid of the destructive and divisive political game of bulldozers in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Assam.

She also said that the governments at the Centre and in Delhi should work shunning selfishness. The BSP supremo was holding a meeting with the office bearers of her party unit in Delhi state on Sunday.

Reacting on the bulldozer policy, Mayawati asked why were governments destroying the establishments of the poor? "The intervention of the court in this matter has definitely brought some relief to the people otherwise the people of Delhi would also have been facing the terror of demolition by bulldozer. The country is passing through a period of high inflation, poverty and unemployment and the government is ignoring them," she added.

Mayawati said the constitutional and humanitarian power of the BSP needed proper participation in the politics



and power of the country, otherwise the parties supporting the big capitalists and wealthy people would not allow the poor and working people of the country to live in peace.

"That is why BSP is necessary for the happiness, prosperity, peace and progress of the people of Delhi," she said.

Mayawati said that Delhi was called the mini India as people from different states of the country lived there. "Especially poor migrants from the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Punjab and other states lead a difficult life here in search of livelihood, towards whom reports of neglect, contempt and atrocities

keep coming every day. At the time of COVID-19 and lockdown, the governments here could not even support them, due to which they had to walk hundreds of kilometers to go back to their homes," she said.

Meanwhile, BSP supremo Mayawati congratulated Jagdeep Dhankhar for his resounding victory in the vice presidential election.

She tweeted on Sunday that the BSP had extended its support to Dhankhar, keeping in mind the larger public interest and its movement. "It is expected that they will definitely try their best to fulfill their constitutional responsibilities," she said.

CPI (ML) demands dismissal of Sachan

Lucknow (PNS): The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) on Sunday demanded dismissal of cabinet minister Rakesh Sachan who allegedly fled the court soon after the court awarded punishment to him in an old case against him.

The party said the conduct of the minister was a mockery of the law of land and anti-Constitution. The party demanded a probe into the minister's role in the affairs of the department under him.

In a statement, CPI (ML) state secretary Sudhakar Yadav said Sachan not only fled the court soon after the court's order but also took away the judge's order sheet from the file of the case.

"Sachan's act is akin to bulldozing the court's protocol. The BJP minister had advocated raids of Enforcement Directorate and FIR against the leaders of opposition saying the law should take its course. But when he himself was in the dock, he did not mind violating the law of the land. Sachan is in the cabinet and his act is unforgivable. He should be sacked.

Bijnor police register case in suicide by Indian origin woman in US

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Bijnor police registered a case in connection with the death of a 30-year-old Indian-origin woman in the US who reportedly committed suicide after suffering years of alleged domestic abuse by her husband.

Mandeep Kaur, 30, allegedly committed suicide on August 3 after posting a video online in which she spoke about years of domestic abuse by her husband Ranjodhbeer Singh Sandhu, who works as a truck driver.

Moments before her death, Kaur had released a video in which she narrates the details of the torture she faced during her 8-year-long marriage.

"It has been eight years. I cannot take daily beatings now. Papa,

please forgive me. I am going to die," she said in the video.

The video led to a massive outrage on social media. Kaur left behind two young daughters aged 4 and 6 years.

In the video posted online, Kaur, seen crying and distressed, says she cannot take the abuse anymore and also talks about taking her own life.

According to reports, Mandeep Kaur moved to New York after her marriage but was allegedly abused by her husband Ranjodhbeer Singh Sandhu for not bearing a son and over.

The Indian Embassy in New York expressed grief over Kaur's death and said it was in touch with the US authorities at all levels and would render all kinds of assistance required.

tance required.

Mandeep Kaur's sister Kuldeep Kaur said her sister was married in February 2015 and after the couple went to New York, the husband started torturing her. The sister claimed that the husband wanted a son and Rs 50 lakh in dowry.

Mandeep was found hanging from the ceiling fan of the house in New York where she lived.

The father of Mandeep Kaur said that her husband had been torturing her for years, demanding a son. But Kaur said she won't leave her husband as she couldn't raise her two daughters, the father claimed.

In one of the unverified videos that is widely shared on social media, her husband can be seen beating her while the two

daughters are crying in the background.

Kaur belonged to Taharpur village in Bijnor district, while her husband, Ranjodhbeer Singh Sandhu, is also from Bijnor.

The victim's father, Jaspal Singh, has filed a report of abetment to suicide against the husband at Najibabad police station in Bijnor, also naming his parents, who live in a nearby village.

The suicide has prompted 'The Kaur movement', with people on social media participating to get justice for the Indian-origin woman. Kaur is survived by two daughters, aged four and six. The New York police department is probing the case while the family is trying to bring the body back to India.

Power engineers, employees on war path

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Over 27 lakh power employees across the country will leave their workplace in protest against the tabling of the Indian Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022 in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

The All India Power Engineers Federation reiterated its appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene in the matter and stop the tabling of the bill in Parliament so that this bill is not passed in haste.

The AIEF said the bill should not be rushed through in Parliament and should be referred to the standing committee of Parliament for detailed scrutiny.

All India Power Engineers Federation chairman Shaileendra Dubey said here on Sunday that the Central government has

going to introduce the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022, in the current session of Parliament on August 8, in violation of parliamentary conventions. He said deep resentment prevailed among the power engineers and employees over the move of the government to rush through the bill.

According to the bill, subsidies and cross subsidies will be abolished so that the full cost of electricity can be recovered from all categories of consumers. If the pumping set of 7.5 horse power is run for only six hours, farmers will have to pay a bill of Rs 10,000-12,000 per month. The same will be the case with common domestic consumers as well. Thus this bill is neither in the interest of the general public nor in the interest of the employees, the AIEF pointed out.

KGMU workshop on smile design

Contractor kills labourer

workshop design

Minister reviews preps for 'Harishankari Week'

Man smuggling turtles held from Banthra

reviews preps for 'Harishankari Week'

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preps for 'Harishankari Week'

hbra | **CRIMELINE**

The Mahanagar police on Sunday arrested the man who along with his parents and brothers is accused of abetting his wife to commit suicide and for dowry harassment. The deceased, Madhu Gupta along with her two sons had jumped before a train to end their lives in Nishatganj on Friday morning. The accused was identified as Shashi Bhushan Gupta of Balda Colony in the area. He was at SGPGIMS when his wife took the extreme step.



or 'Harishankari Week'

In the Old city area the low lying places including Chaupatia, Akbari Gate, Budheshwar Mandir trisection, Kashmiri Mohalla, Karbala, Mashakganj, Hazratganj, Narahi, Park road, Dalibagh Colony also faced waterlogging.

included Shakti Nagar, Bhoothnath market, its parking lot, Indira Nagar Central School areas, Patel Nagar,

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Man smuggling turtles held from Banthra

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Field from Banthra

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STATEMENT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2022

(Rs. in Lakhs)

| S. No. | Particulars | STANDLONE | | | | CONSOLIDATED | | | |
|--------|---|---------------|------------|-------------|------------|---------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| | | Quarter Ended | | Year Ended | | Quarter Ended | | Year Ended | |
| | | 30.06.2022 | 31.03.2022 | 30.06.2021 | 31.03.2022 | 30.06.2022 | 31.03.2022 | 30.06.2021 | 31.03.2022 |
| | | (Unaudited) | (Audited) | (Unaudited) | (Audited) | (Unaudited) | (Audited) | (Unaudited) | (Audited) |
| 1 | Total Income | 19.58 | 16.86 | 11.71 | 50.80 | 144.69 | 116.97 | 11.71 | 336.15 |
| 2 | Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional Items and or extraordinary Item) | (5.20) | (8.11) | (7.04) | (33.15) | (49.83) | (7.03) | (7.04) | (108.64) |
| 3 | Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax (After Exceptional Items and or Extraordinary items) | (5.20) | (8.11) | (7.04) | (33.15) | (49.83) | (7.03) | (7.04) | (108.64) |
| 4 | Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after Tax (After exceptional Items and or Extraordinary items) | (5.15) | (8.33) | (6.99) | (33.24) | (50.25) | 2.94 | (6.99) | (99.74) |
| 5 | Total Comprehensive Income (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period and Other Comprehensive Income) | (5.45) | (8.91) | (7.21) | (34.46) | (50.81) | 2.36 | (7.21) | (100.96) |
| 6 | Paid up Share Capital | 399.91 | 399.91 | 399.91 | 399.91 | 399.91 | 399.91 | 399.91 | 399.91 |
| 7 | Other Equity | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 8 | Earnings Per Share from continuing operations (F.V. of Rs.10/- each) Basic and Diluted | (0.13) | (0.21) | (0.17) | (0.83) | (1.26) | 0.07 | (0.17) | (2.49) |

NOTES:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange's website at <http://www.bseindia.com> and also on the Company's website at www.sael.co.in.
- Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items (if any) have been adjusted in the Statement of profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules.
- Chai Thela Private Limited has become a subsidiary of the Company with effect from 23.08.2021 and accordingly, the consolidated financial results include the financial results of Chai Thela Private Limited for the period from 23.08.2021 to 31.03.2022. As a result comparative consolidated financial results for previous year's corresponding quarter and year ended are not available and therefore only standalone results are given for comparison purpose. The Consolidated accounts have been prepared as per IND AS 110 on Consolidated Financial Statements and IND AS 28.
- The above unaudited financial results for the quarter ended 30.06.2022 were approved and taken on record in the Board meeting held on 06.08.2022 after being reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee on the same date and have been subjected to limited review by the statutory auditors of the Company.
- Corresponding figures of the previous period have been regrouped / rearranged, wherever necessary.

For and on behalf of the Board

(T. B. Gupta)

Managing Director

DIN: 00106181

Place: New Delhi

Date: 06/08/2022

KDA launches ‘ready to build’ plots

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) has launched the ambitious 1101 ‘ready to build’ plots for sale through e-auction and lottery under different schemes. Vice-Chairman Arvind Singh launched the sale by pushing the button of e-auction portal on computer. He also inaugurated the helpdesk on the ground floor of the premises by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Member of KDA Board Pramod Agrahari praised the initiative taken by Vice-Chairman Arvind Singh of launching the sale of huge 1101 plots in the interest of general masses. The success of the scheme was gauged from



KDA Vice-Chairman Arvind Singh (second from right) launching the sale of 1101 plots.

the fact that on the first day of its launch over 500 people bought the registration booklet from different branches of the Axis Bank. Of them around 400 people collected informa-

tion about detail of plots of their choice on helpline toll free No.18005725474. At the helpdesk around 250 persons collected information about plots of their choice on the first

day itself. The scheme will remain in force till September 6. Senior officers of KDA and representatives of Axis Bank were also present at the launching ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, vice-chairman highlighted the utility of these plots for general people comparing them with the 24 carat gold. He said each plot was tagged on layout portal with actual picture on Google location to facilitate people to carry out spot inspection prior to buying the plot. They can buy the plot of their choice by staking claim on e-auction portal from their android phone or nearby cyber cafe. For this they need not to visit KDA office, he said and added that KDA was the first in the state to launch such a

facility. The scheme was launched with the theme slogan “KDA Ka Prayas, Aapki Ho Jamin Aapka Ho Awas” to commemorate the 75th years of India’s Independence as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

DISTRIBUTED

KDA V-C Arvind Singh distributed tricolours to officers, employees and security staff in a function organised under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, he apprised the gathering of importance of hoisting the tricolour. He said that the flag should be hoisted with respect in their houses and any other place under the prescribed guidelines.

Two more accused of 1984 anti-Sikh riots arrested

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Special Investigation Team (SIT) has arrested two more accused of 1984 anti-Sikh riots in the city from Armapore police area on Saturday. They were identified as Brijesh Dubey (68), a resident of Awas Vikas-3, Panki and Rajendra Kumar Jaiswal (60) alias Guddu of B Block, Panki. Thus, SIT has so far arrested total 29 accused involved in the killing of 127 Sikhs in the riots after the assassination of the then prime minister Indira Gandhi by her security personnel. SIT, set up to probe the riots raided the Armapore area on Saturday and arrested two accused. DIG SIT Balendu Bhushan Singh said, “Both the accused were involved in the mob attack on two Sikh men who were burnt to death during the riots in Armapore Estate.” It may be recalled that a total of 127 Sikhs were killed in the riots in 1984. Around 40

cases of murder, robbery and dacoity were lodged in which 29 were closed by the police by submitting a final report. When the state government set up an SIT for investigation, all the 29 closed cases were reopened. During investigation SIT got evidence in 14 cases and accordingly started arrests, said the DIG SIT.

TWO INJURED: Two persons were injured when members of two groups taking out Moharram procession clashed over playing an objectionable song in Mangalpur police station area of Kanpur Dehat late on Saturday night. They had a pitched battle and exchanged punches. During stone-pelting two persons were injured. Police immediately rushed to the spot and pacified the matter. In a bid to avert any untoward incident heavy police force was deployed on the spot. Under the supervision of Irfan Khalifa, a Moharram procession was taken out in the

Mangalpur town every year. Around 1am when he was decorating the tomb in Imabara amid the mehndi ritual youth Gulzar reached there and replaced the mourning song with a provocative number playing on music system. When Irfan lodged protest, a duel held between them. Suddenly Gulzar along with his friends, attacked Irfan with stick. Thereafter, members of another group arrived there and exchanged punches. Stones were hurled from both the sides causing injury to one person of each group. Injured were sent to hospital. Mangalpur SHO SK Mishra rushed to the spot with the force and pacified the matter. Police have taken some suspects into custody. SHO said no complaint was received from any side so far by him. In the absence of it, police will initiate action from its own side. However, people were being quizzed in the matter, he said.

National Handloom Day celebrated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Eighth National Handloom Day was celebrated at Indian Institute of Handloom Technology (IIHT), Chowkaghat here on Sunday. Padma Shri Dr Rajnikant, Padma Shri Shribhash Supakar, Joint Commissioner of Handloom and Textile Industries, UP Government, KP Sharma and Naveen Kapoor were present as special guests. The programme started with lamp lighting and a welcome song.

After lighting the lamp, the guests were honoured. After that the weavers who were awarded with National Award and Sant Kabir Award were felicitated. In his remarks, the chief guest Padma Shri Dr Rajnikant highlighted the importance of Geographical Identification (GI) and said that handloom weavers played an important role in making India self-reliant during the corona pandemic period. Naveen Kapoor laid emphasis on the production of modified products such as furnishings, household items from the



Padma Shri Rajnikant presenting certificate to a trainee at IIHT in Varanasi on Sunday.

weavers, which are in great demand abroad. Padma Shri Shribhash Supakar

urged the weavers to prepare new designs so that people can get different

types of clothes in the market. KP Verma informed the weavers about the schemes being run by the state government. IIHT Director P Thennerasu gave information about the schemes run by the center in the previous years. He gave information about handloom promotion assistance scheme, Samarth Yojana, Cluster Development Scheme, India Handloom Band scheme, participation by weavers in various fairs and exhibitions etc. Along with this, he also informed the weavers about the degree course started by the institute and urged the weavers to try to get their children admitted in this course. Ashish Singh, Manager, National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd (Varanasi) informed the weavers about the supply scheme. Brijesh Shukla, Head of Office, Textile Committee informed the weavers about handloom mark registration. During the programme, certificates of competent training and yarn passbook were distributed to the trainees and beneficiaries by the guests.

Excellence centre to be set up

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi said that an excellence centre would be constructed in Chandauli with the collaboration of Israel and its foundation stone will be laid on Monday. Talking to the presspersons here on Sunday, Shahi said that Chandauli district, which is known as a ‘Rice Bowl’ for its high paddy crops, will now also play a big role in increasing vegetable production. According to him, with the cooperation of India and Israel, this proposed research institute will give a lot of benefit to the vegetable growers of this region, especially in all the



UP Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi addressing a press conference in Varanasi on Sunday.

seven districts of Varanasi and Mirzapur divisions. ‘In this

institute, along with the distribution of vegetable seeds

among the farmers, training will also be given about the methods of cultivation in view to help the vegetable growers become financially strong and prosperous,’ he said, adding that the institute would also help the farmer use the latest methods of farming and export their crops to foreign countries by getting better yields. The Minister further said that the government is working hard to help the farmers double their income in the state as the farmers are on our top priority. He also informed that the 11th installment of PM Kisan Nidhi has been released on July 31 last to give benefit to 2.60 crore farmers including more than two lakh farmers of Varanasi. According to him, the Modi government kept

the importance of coarse grains on America’s visit, on which all the countries agreed and efforts are being made to reduce the use of chemical fertilisers in the Indian farming system as well saving water and land apart from promoting natural farming. The Minister further said that the work on eKYC is going on under which agricultural land will be added and so far 1.70 crore farmers have been connected. ‘The farmers who fail to connect with eKYC after the month of August will not get the benefit of the scheme,’ he said, adding that solar pumps are being made available under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Yojana and so far 162 farmers have been given solar pumps under this scheme.

Flipkart signs MoU with UP govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Union Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma said, ‘Today, MSMEs are leveraging the power of technology and wider national market to accelerate their growth. He was speaking on the occasion of MoU signed by Flipkart, India’s homegrown e-commerce marketplace with the district administration of Varanasi and Government of Uttar Pradesh to enable national market access for artisans, weavers, people with disabilities and of Varanasi.

The minister said that through e-commerce customers from across the coun-



Union Minister Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma inaugurating a programme at the cultural complex in Chaukaghat in Varanasi

try can now access the state-specific local iconic goods such as Banarasi sarees, handmade carpets, zardozi craft, metal crafts, and handmade daris.

MSMEs growth and digital transformation are a road to realising the country’s dream of becoming a \$5 trillion economy. Commenting on the part-

nership, Rajneesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Flipkart Group, said, ‘Our efforts are focused on helping them digitise their business and explore growth opportunities through Flipkart’s e-commerce marketplace. We are delighted to continue to deepen our engagement in the state of UP while creating lakhs of opportunities and new jobs through this MoU and expanding e-commerce opportunities to small businesses, artisans, weavers etc in Varanasi on the National Handloom Day.’

The MoU was exchanged at an event held in a cultural complex in Chaukaghat here in the presence of the Union Minister Verma between Umesh Kumar

Singh, Joint Commissioner, Department of Industries, Varanasi Division and Rajneesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Flipkart Group. The Flipkart Samarth provides time-limited incubation, assistance with onboarding, free cataloguing, marketing support, account administration, business insights, and warehousing support to assist these small enterprises in establishing their operations on the Flipkart Marketplace. At the event, artisans, weavers, people with disabilities and craftsmen of Varanasi were recognised by the dignitaries for their contribution towards the society. Divisional Commissioner Deepak Agrawal and others were present on the occasion.

Cover page of ‘Kashi Ke Aghori’ released

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Principal Secretary, Housing, Nitin Ramesh Gokaran on Sunday released the cover page of the book ‘Kashi Ke Aghori’. The book is written by the manager of Baba Mahashamshan Nath Mandir, Manikarnika Ghat, Gulshan Kapoor.

Releasing the cover page of the book at a function held here Gokaran said that Kashi is a living city and even death is celebrated here like a festival and added that this book presents this unique aspect of this holy city effectively.

This coffee table book has been written with an objective to apprise the people of the importance of ‘Chita Bhasm Ki Holi’, a programme which is held each

year in the auspicious month of Shravan and ‘Nagar Badhuwon Ki Nrityanjali’, a programme which held in each year during the auspicious occasion of Chaitra Navratri, the writer of book Gulshan Kapoor informed, adding that both programmes are held at Mahashamshan Ghat i.e. Manikarnika Ghat. The book is a collection of the unique pictures of the both programmes which were captured by a photographer Manish Khatri. On the occasion of the release of the cover page of this book, many were present including the vice chairperson of Varanasi Development Authority (VDA) Isha Duhan and Chief Executive Officer of the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Mandir Sunil Verma.

Skaters take out rally in BLW

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A group of roller ball skaters took out a rally carrying tricolor flags in their hands and



Skaters taking out Tiranga rally in BLW premises in BLW, Varanasi on Sunday.

Officers Colony, Senior Personnel Officers (SPOs) Rajkumar Gupta and RK Choudhary and Public Relations Officer (PRO) Rajesh

Kumar flagged off the skate rally.

On the occasion, about 100 trainees of Skating Academy participated in the rally along with their parents from BLW.

Distinguished citizens, mainly Akhlaq Khan, Madhav Batwal, Pankaj Srivastava, Sunil Sonkar, Sujit, Rahul Yadav, Madan Kumar, Sadej, Amit Kumar, SK Singh, Sandeep Yadav, Pintu Yadav, Pankaj Rajbhar, Abhishek Gaur, Satish Yadav, Mithilesh and many others also participated. The guests were welcomed by SK Singh, while the vote of thanks was proposed by Alok Kumar Singh, Secretary, BLW Sansthan.

Investiture ceremony organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The student council members of DPS Kidwai Nagar for the current academic session 2022-

23 were sworn in at an investiture ceremony on Saturday. After a traditional welcome, the school choir set the tone for a programme through a melodious song. The students gave an incredible performance which enthralled the audience. Pro-Vice Chairperson Bandana Misra and Director Rachna Mohotra graced the occasion. Incharge of DPS Kidwai Nagar Alka Joshi expressed gratitude towards the

prised Shaurya Awasthi as head boy and Aaradhya Gupta as head girl, along with various house captains, vice-captains etc. Following this was an oath-taking ceremony wherein the newly-appointed lead-



Pro-Vice Chairperson, DPS Kidwai Nagar, Bandana Misra inaugurating the investiture ceremony.

guest. Chief guests Bandana Misra and Rachna Mohotra conferred the badges and sashes to the newly-elected students. This year council com-

ers pledged to uphold the dignity of the school through their untiring service, hard work and cooperation. The students also presented a special assembly on what is leadership and the qualities to be possessed by a good leader. Bandana Misra in her address stressed on the importance of honesty, integrity and hard work as vital qualities for the position of dignity. The student council marched ahead immediately to take on their new office.

SSU V-C holds meeting with minister

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Vice-Chancellor (V-C) of Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) Prof Hareram Tripathi held a meeting with the UP Tourism & Culture Minister Jaiver Singh urging him for the approval of the project of over ₹15 crore sent to his ministry to develop the main building of the university as ‘Gaurav Gallery’ in view of the tourism. The Minister assured of paying consideration to get the proposal passed by the department. The V-C informed that the Indian National Trust for Art & Cultural Heritage (INTECH), New Delhi has chalked out a project of over ₹15 crore to develop the main building of SSU as ‘Gaurav Gallery’ to enhance the glory of the university and attract the tourists. It sent the project to the UP Ministry of Tourism for approval. After the approval by the UP Tourism Ministry, the project is to be forwarded to the Cultural Ministry of the central government for the fund, the V-C added. He held a meeting with the UP Minister of Tourism & Culture Jaiver Singh to discuss the project and urged him for its approval, the V-C informed, adding that during the meeting,

he also apprised the Minister of long history of the varsity main building. The Minister paid serious attention towards this and assured of getting the project approved by the ministry as soon as possible, the V-C informed. A Britisher Jonathan Duncon had submitted a proposal before the British government to establish a Sanskrit college to promote and preserve Sanskrit, the V-C informed, adding that the then Maharaja of Banaras had laid down foundation stone for the construction of the main building of the college on November 2, 1847 and it had completed in four years in 1852. The Architecture Department of the INTECH, New Delhi had taken over the main building of the university some years ago to preserve it, the V-C informed and added that more than 1200 Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya are affiliated with the SSU in the country. After the development of the building as ‘Gaurav Gallery’, the glory of the university will enhance among the common people and it will also be an attraction in view of the tourism because the rich history, artworks and importance of the university will be displayed and the heritage and achievements of the university would

also be displayed as archaeological museum under the project, the V-C said.

DEMANDED: The pensioners of the state government associated with the Uttar Pradesh Pensioner’s Kalyan Sanstha, Varanasi on Sunday demanded the government at Centre to restore the facility of concession to the senior citizen in rail fare which was withdrawn during the COVID-19 pandemic. The office-bearers and members of the Sanstha held a meeting at the office of the Diploma Engineers Sangh in Nadesar, here and discussed the problems being faced by the pensioners. They blamed the district administration and Treasury for not paying their attention to the demand of the allotment of a room for the pensioners to meet and demanded the DM and Senior Treasurer to fulfil the demand immediately. The pensioners demanded the government at Centre to restore the facility of concession in the rail fare to the senior citizen which was withdrawn during the COVID-19 pandemic. They also demanded the state government to implement the facility of 5, 10 and 15 per cent increment in the pension at the age of 65, 70 and 75 years respectively like in other states.

Long queues of devotees at Kashi Vishwanath temple ... on eve of last Monday of Shravan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Long queues of devotees including hundreds of saffron-clad Kanwaris were seen at one of the dwadasa jyotirlingas Kashi Vishwanath (KV) temple amidst tight security arrangements even on the eve of fourth and last Monday in the auspicious month of Shravan here on Sunday. The devotees especially the outsiders including the Kanwaris were seen throughout the day taking a holy dip in river Ganga at Dashashwamedh and its adjoining ghats.

Though the rush of devotees started seen right from the morning hours as thousands of them preferred to offer prayers at KV temple even on Sunday to avoid Monday's rush. However, the rush continued increasing as thousands of devotees were seen in the queues on both sides of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham (corridor) Gate No 4 from Godowlia and Maidagin.

Elaborate security arrangements were made even on the eve of last Monday and no



Long queues of devotees being seen offering prayers in Kashi Vishwanath temple in Varanasi on Sunday.

Pioneer

vehicles were allowed to move between Godowlia and Maidagin throughout the day. The vehicles were diverted from Benia Bagh, Ramapura, Madanpura, Luxa and other sides to reach Godowlia. All the

activities were also watched through various CCTV cameras. To avoid congregation the devotees were instructed to move towards the corridor only through barricading and heavy police personnel were

deployed both inside and outside of the corridor premises. The barricading was also made at all other famous temples to check the rush of devotees and maintain law and order situation.

Holy Kashi Campaign begins

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In view of the sins taking place in Kashi, the saints under the joint banner of Aagman Sanstha and Brahma Sena Kashi began 'Abhiyan Pavitra Kashi' (Holy Kashi Campaign) began with Ganga and Nandi Puja at Dashashwamedh Ghat here on Sunday, demanding a complete ban on sale of meat and liquor in this ancient city of the world and cultural capital of the country. To demand a complete ban on the sale of meat and liquor in this Moksha (salvation), the participants also used conch shells to mark the beginning of the campaign.

The campaign was launched by 11 batuks (Sanskrit students) of Ram Mandir Kashmiriganj. After Shankhnaad, Shodashochar worship of Maa Ganga and Aarti were performed and then symbolic worship of Nandi (bull) was held.

After worshipping with the classical method, the Google 'support letter' related to the campaign was filled from the guests present there.

The chief guest Swami Jitendranand Saraswati said that we fully support this Holy Kashi Campaign and the entire Sant Samaj would give its sup-



Saints offering Ganga Puja to mark beginning of Holy Kashi Campaign in Varanasi on Sunday.

Pioneer

port to the campaign.

Special guest 'Pt Kishori Raman Dubey 'Babu Maharaj' also demanded a complete ban on the sale of meat and liquor in Kashi, the city of Adivisheshwar.

President of Aagman Ruchi Dixit said that this campaign is the need of the day, which should be taken into consideration by the government.

Brahma Sena president Dr Girish Chandra Tripathi asked when there is ban on sale of the meat and liquor in pilgrimage sites like Haridwar and Mathura, why the same is not being done in Kashi.

Mahant Shankar Puri of Annapurna Mandir, Prof Chandramouli Upadhyay, campaign coordinator Dr Santosh Ojha, Dr Girish Chandra

Tripathi, Rachna Srivastava, Dinesh Shankar Dubey, Ram Bharat Shastri, Rahul Gupta, Luv Tiwari, Manoj Pandey, Vinod Tiwari, Vikash Tripathi, Sumit Chauhan, Jitendra, Raj Krishna Gupta, Shivkumar, Sunny Kumar, Sobhnath, Aditya Raina, Shalini Srivastava, Mohit Srivastava and Mohit Pandey were also present.

Minister reviews progress of schemes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Uttar Pradesh Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Horticulture and Agriculture Marketing Dinesh Pratap Singh reviewed the progress of departmental schemes run by the government in depth and detail with the officers at Circuit House here on Saturday. He directed the officers to focus on cash crop to double the income of farmers in the district and to identify land for setting up Centre for Excellence, Pack House, Incubation Centre in the city.

During the review meeting, Singh talked about giving technology to the farmers by ignor-



UP Minister DP Singh reviewing progress of Agriculture department schemes in Varanasi on Saturday.

Pioneer

ing the subsidy so that self-sufficiency can come like a banana

crop. He asked the officers to make the success of strawber-

ry and dragon fruit cultivation in Mirzapur useful for Varanasi also. He promised to give all possible measures to promote flower cultivation in the district and directed the officers to pay special attention to drip irrigation, sprinkler and post harvest management by talking to public representatives.

He also directed the officers to organise camps for the promotion of coarse cereals, medicine farming, cultivation of fruits and flowers and vegetables.

During the meeting, he also expressed his displeasure over not having complete information by the officers. MLC Laxman Acharya and MLA Saurabh Srivastava were also present in the meeting.

Renovated CCU/ICU ward opened

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

For providing better health services and facilities to the patients at a low cost, the management of old Hindu Seva Sadan Hospital decided to reconstruct and renovate the fully equipped CCU/ICU ward which was inaugurated by UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH, Food Safety and Drug Administration Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu' here on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that since childhood, he has been seeing the hospital and after the development of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham, the impor-



UP Minister DS Mishra inaugurating renovated CCU/ICU at Hindu Seva Sadan in Varanasi on Saturday.

tance of this hospital has increased even more. Due to traffic jams and narrow lanes, the Minister himself reached the hospital riding on a motorcycle. Praising the hospital management, Mishra said that due to the renovation of CCU/ICU ward, the local peo-

ple and heart patients will get a lot of facilities and it would prove to be a boon for heart disease patients. 'Patients will be able to get better facilities at low cost and many lives will also be saved,' he said.

Giving detailed information about the new facilities, cardiologist Dr Rajiv Gupta said that the CCU/ICU ward would be equipped with all modern facilities including facilities of beds, side monitor, defibrillator, infusion pump, echocardiography and an availability of 24 hours of trained doctors including Dr Diwakar Mishra, Dr Ram Singh and Dr Rajeshwar. "The patients requiring critical care will be

kept in the CCU/ICU ward and after the patient's condition improves, they will be shifted to the recovery unit where they will get better treatment under the supervision of doctors,' Dr Gupta said. The guests were welcomed by Gaurav Rath, while the vote of thanks was proposed by Rajendra Mohan Shah. Ashok Kumar Gupta, Amitabh Kedia, Dr Vivek Kumar, Sanjeev Shah, Jayaprakash Munda, Dr Manoj Bajaj, Satya Prakash Jalan, Anil Sarraf, Kailash Chandra Rath, Narendra Bhuradia, Anil Rastogi, Santosh Saini, Jitendra Kushwaha, Dilip Yadav and others were also present.

Jagdeep Dhankhar's victory hailed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders and office-bearers expressed happiness and exchanged sweets with each other over Jagdeep Dhankhar being elected as Vice-President. Allahabad MP Dr Rita Bahuguna Joshi said this is a historic victory. Many congratulations to him. He is the first Vice-President of India who represents the backward castes and farmers. Joshi said Jagdeep Dhankhar, a skilled advocate never turned his back on public concerns. He will indeed add to the glory of the office of the Vice-President of our vast country.

BJP Yamunapar district president Vibhav Nath Bharti congratulated Jagdeep Dhankhar on winning the Vice-President's election. Other workers also celebrated by distributing sweets. They said that this is the victory of the common people. Among those who extended their congratulations were MLA Bara Dr Bachaspati, district vice-president Jai Singh Patel, district media incharge Dilip Kumar

Chaturvedi, district IT con-venor Satish Vishwakarma.

On the election of Jagdeep Dhankhar as the 14th Vice-President of the country, the BJP offered prayers at Ma Ganga Mandir in Daraganj and distributed prasad to the people. BJP corporator Pawan Srivastava said democracy has won in the true sense. On the occasion Tirath Raj Pandey, Narendra Pandey, Sandeep Chauhan, Manendra Pandey, Amit, Alok Pandey etc were present. BJP city unit president Ganesh Kesarwani expressed happiness over the victory of BJP candidate Jagdeep Dhankhar. He said that the newly-elected Vice President has long political experience. Awadhesh Chandra Gupta, Kunj Bihari Mishra, Devesh Singh, Varun Kesarwani, Rajesh Kesarwani, Corporator Kiran Jaiswal, Vivek Agarwal etc were among those who congratulated him.

DRIVE: Under the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan, the challenge before the administration is to provide tricolour to as many as 10.28 lakh houses. Although its distribution has

started, but from Monday a massive campaign will be conducted in this regard. For this, the role of other departments including district Panchayati Raj, Municipal Corporation has been decided. Accountants, Anganwadi workers, teachers along with ASHA workers have also been entrusted with this responsibility. Under the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan, a target has been set to hoist the tricolour in 10.28 lakh houses in the district and out of it 4.81 lakh flags will be made available from the government. The rest of the tricolors are to be arranged by the district Panchayati Raj and the Municipal Corporation. An order has been given by the Panchayati Raj Department to women self-help groups to manufacture three lakh flags.

CDO Shipu Giri said about two lakh flags have been received from the groups. Their distribution has been started through pradhan. DM Sanjay Kumar Khatri said that all the departments have been entrusted with the responsibility for the events to be held under the Amrit Mahotsav. The help of

lekhpals, Anganwadi workers, teachers and others will be taken in flag distribution.

Besides, 4.81 lakh flags will be received from the government on Monday. The CDO said after this the distribution will be started. A programme was organised at Ishwardin Chedi Inter College, Jasra, under the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

District Panchayat president Dr VK Singh appealed to students to participate in the campaign to hoist the flag at every house from August 13 to 15. One thousand flags were also distributed on the occasion.

Block Pramukch Ajit Pratap Singh, Suresh Shukla, Ajay Pandey, Jagat Shukla etc. were present in the programme

After withdrawing from the plan to take out the tableau in Civil Lines, the administration is now preparing for a big event at MNNIT. However, the location is yet to be finalised. Under it cultural events, skill demonstrations etc. will be organised on August 15 to honour the freedom fighters, their families.

People tie rakhi to trees

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Although around a week is left for the festival of Raksha Bandhan, but the former garden incharge of Allahabad University, Prof NB Singh of the department of Botany, and his students celebrated the festival on Saturday in a unique way. Giving the message of protecting the environment, a number of people led by Prof Singh tied rakhi to number of trees and promised to protect them. Apart from the teaching faculty member from AU, his students and gardeners employed at AU participated at the event.

Prof Singh said that the idea of tying rakhi to trees and that too a week earlier, was important because although we plant several trees on different occasions, but it is more important to protect them and see to it that they grow properly. For the purpose, the professor selected both old and new trees at the teacher's colony of AU which needed immediate attention. He also performed 'aarti' of some trees and applied 'tilak' before tying rakhi to the trunk of the tree. The problem of global warming and carbon dioxide being released in the air is adversely affecting the environment because of which problems



Women tying rakhis to army jawans on the eve of Raksha Bandhan in Prayagraj on Sunday

Pioneer

such as flood and temperature escalation are being witnessed in the present world, said Prof Singh. There has to be a balance between progress and protecting environment and what better could be the method than to tie rakhi to these trees and promising them protection, he added.

Likewise, the traders of

the city, under the banner of Sanyukt Vayapar Mandal Mahanagar, have decided to tie rakhi to the several trees of the city, this Raksha bandhan. The traders will first decorate the tree in front of their establishments and later, tie rakhi to the tree and take a pledge of protecting them and the environment.

Likewise, the bakers and sweet shop owners too are in an upbeat mood to celebrate the festival.

"We have decided to make several items with the theme of Raksha Bandhan, including gift hampers, pastry and other items," said Mohit Roy, owner of a famous bakery of Civil Lines area.

Woman injured in attack dies

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The elderly woman who had received grievous injuries in an attack also breathed her last while undergoing treatments at Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital (SRNH) here on Sunday. An elderly couple was attacked recently, Prem Prakash Mishra was killed in the attack by armed miscreants while his wife Neerja Mishra was seriously injured. She was admitted to the SRN Hospital and died on Sunday.

In the loot which took place on Tuesday in Judapur Dadu village under Soraon police station area unidentified miscreants barged into the house of an elderly couple and attacked them with a sharp weapon. As a result Prem Prakash Mishra was killed on the spot and his wife Neerja Devi who was seriously injured was admitted to the SRN Hospital. She too died on Sunday morning.

Soraon police station

incharge Ashok Kumar said that since the seriously injured Neerja Devi was admitted to the hospital, she was not in a position to speak. Her statement was crucial for the police to get to the bottom of the matter. So the police was waiting for her recovery.

Meanwhile Ram Prakash Mishra, brother of Prem Prakash (deceased), has accused the police of negligence.

SUICIDE: A 22-year-old youth committed suicide by jumping before a moving train in Pratapgarh. The GRP has identified the youth and the body was sent for the post-mortem examination.

Ravi Patel, son of Ram Asare Patel, a resident of Tikri village here, had left home for Vishwanathganj Mandhata Mor on a motorcycle at around eight o'clock on Sunday morning. He suddenly reached the railway station, parked the motorcycle outside and went to the platform. The Prayagraj-

Ayodhya passenger train was standing at platform No two of the station. As soon as the train left from there, Ravi lay down on the tracks of the railway line and the train passed over him. As a result his neck was severed from the head.

On getting information Shani Dev police outpost incharge Ravi Shankar Tiwari reached with the force. RPF ASI Manjeet and Phaphamau RPF SI Sanjay Kumar also reached the spot. Immediately after being identified, Ravi's uncle Rajkumar Patel, his mother Nirmala Devi along with other family members also reached. RPF inspector Vivekananda sent the body for post-mortem examination.

Ravi's mother Nirmala Devi told the police that he had left the house in the morning to get the vehicle repaired. She could not understand why he took the step, she added. He did not even have any dispute with the family members. Ravi's father works as an electrician in

Delhi. Ravi got married in May this year. Wife Ritu is in her maternal house.

Meanwhile, a 45-year-old Ganesh Prasad, son of late Sunder Lal, a resident of Bambupur of Pinsa area in Kaushambi had an altercation with wife over some issue on Saturday. In anger, he went out of the house. His son Hanuman Prasad launched a search for him when he did not return till late at night. Ganesh's body was found on the side of Delhi-Hawrah railway line in front of Ghataiyapur village under Kokhraj police station area on Sunday morning. On information of railway personnel, outpost incharge Sumit Anand took possession of the body. They said that according to the information of railway employees, the victim ended his life after jumping before Rajdhani Express going from Delhi to Prayagraj at around 12 o'clock at night. This information was given by the loco pilot of the train to the station master.

PDA receives 6,071 applications

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The authorities of Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA) for verification as houses will be allotted through lottery system. "Now that the window for the online application for the allotment of these PMAY houses has been closed, PDA has received 6,071 applications and the same would be sent to SUDA for verification. Once we receive the list of eligible applicants, the lottery would be conducted, and the houses would be allotted," said Vice-Chairman, PDA, Arvind Chauhan. PDA has received an amount of over Rs 3 crore

sent to State Urban Development Authority (SUDA) for verification as houses will be allotted through lottery system. "Now that the window for the online application for the allotment of these PMAY houses has been closed, PDA has received 6,071 applications and the same would be sent to SUDA for verification. Once we receive the list of eligible applicants, the lottery would be conducted, and the houses would be allotted," said Vice-Chairman, PDA, Arvind Chauhan. PDA has received an amount of over Rs 3 crore

deposited by the applicants as guarantee money against the applications and those applicants who do not get a flat in the lottery draw would be given back the guarantee money, he added. The houses would be allotted as per the lottery system and the beneficiary under PMAY would have to pay an amount of Rs 3.5 lakh while the rest of the money, incurred as the cost of the house would be shared by state and central government, informed secretary, PDA, Ajeet Singh. PDA V-C has been regularly inspecting the ongoing

construction work at the site and has been issuing necessary instructions to the agency working at the site. "We are constructing two blocks at the land measuring 1,731 square meter and these would be ground plus three-storey building," said Chauhan. Block A would have 36 houses while block B would have 40 houses and these would soon be allotted after lottery, he added. Foundation stone of project, which hogged limelight during this year's assembly elections, was laid by the CM Yogi Adityanath in December 2021.

Making it meaningful

Boycott by any Chief Minister of Niti Aayog Governing Council meeting is not good for nation building

The seventh meeting of the Governing Council of Niti Aayog on Sunday, under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is a good occasion for the political class to thrash out the most important national issues. The Council comprises, apart from the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers of all states and Union Territories with legislature, Lt Governors of other UTs, ex-officio Members, Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman, and Niti Aayog full-time Members. Union Ministers were special invitees. That this was the first in-person meeting of the Council after the pandemic made it even more important. Agriculture, especially self-sufficiency in oilseeds and pulses, topped the agenda. National Education Policy and urban governance were other important subjects discussed at the conference. The Government wanted the Council to finalise a roadmap and outcome-oriented action plans. So, by any reckoning, it was a very important meeting. But, unfortunately, it was politicised. Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao announced



that he would stay away from the meeting as a mark of strong protest against the present trend of the Central government to discriminate against the states and not treat them as equal partners. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, an ally of the Bharatiya Janata Party's, also missed the meeting. It may be mentioned here that Kumar also didn't attend a dinner hosted by PM Modi for the newly elected President Droupadi Murmu.

Political parties will hurl allegations and counter-allegations at each other for the absence of some Chief Ministers, but this will just generate a lot of heat and dust, which already aplenty in the political arena. It is unfortunate that politics has been reduced to petty

politicking, scoring brownie points, and one-upmanship; such things happen in every democracy, but there is also meaningful discussion and informed debate, in legislative chambers and outside them. But, sadly, that is no longer the case in India. Self-righteousness is the disease that afflicts all parties; now political adversaries are not seen as leaders who have a different viewpoint but as enemies. The Niti Aayog Governing Council is a perfect forum where both the Central and state governments can express their views and present the problems they face in formulating and executing policies. The Chief Ministers who refuse to attend it actually lose the opportunity to tell the country that they feel discriminated against; in a way, they banish themselves out of a major national forum. The Centre too must share some portion of the blame; some acts of omission and commission are responsible for the mistrust. All political parties must ponder over a couple of simple questions: Should every interaction between them be marked with bombastic acrimony and self-righteousness? Should they exchange charges all the time? One hopes that all chief ministers attend the next meeting of the Niti Aayog Governing Council or any such gathering.

PICTALK



A ragpicker collects recyclable items from the offerings and idols of Goddess Dashama, left by devotees in Ahmedabad PTI

Address pendency issue

The courts have four crores pending cases; inordinate delays leave lakhs languishing in jails

It is high time to address the issue of pendency in lower courts so that speedy justice can be delivered in a minimum of time. The slow justice has ruined many lives and many people who should have been in jail are out of it thanks to their resources and the slow pace at which the judiciary works in the country.

The issue of pendency of cases in the Indian courts especially the lower ones has once again come to the fore. The Supreme Court A bench of Justices Sanjay KishanKaul and MM Sundresh have appealed to the government to solve this issue else it would haunt the country for the next thousands of years.



This came after the prime minister's contention that more under trials should be released in the 75th year of India's independence and his appeal to the judges of lower courts to expedite the cases. To put things in perspective, there are four crore cases pending in the Indian courts and 75 per cent of people languishing in Indian jails are under trials booked for petty crimes. Most of them are poor, illiterate, hapless, and cannot even afford a lawyer.

It may be a great idea but executing it would indeed be a Herculean task as we all know that courts function at their own pace and takes forever to reach a decision. It is a fact that long delays

in solving cases make the process of getting justice a punishment in itself.

The excruciatingly slow process of getting bail not only ruins the life of an individual but also puts undue pressure on jails and the judiciary. Having said that, it is difficult but not impossible if all concerned make a resolve to solve it. For instance, the suggestion that first-time offenders involved in petty offences could be let off. Far from reforming long stay in jail actually makes them hardened criminals. Moreover, video hearings could be implemented across the country to the lowest court level. Though increasing the number of judges is easier said than done. Besides, making some changes in the Indian penal code could also ease the burden on the judiciary. IPC was passed in 1860 to suit the colonial rulers. Many laws such as sedition law and the like have become archaic and need to be redone. There are phrases that need to be defined properly like 'obscene'. The loose phrases put extra pressure on courts and hence more time. But first of all, a political will and an earnest desire for radical change is a must.

Pandora's box of corruption

The gold worth crores of rupees was unearthed by ED in Bengal from a minister's close confidant, revealing how deep the rut goes



BRIENDER SINGH PANWAR

The recent incident of the unearthing of more than Rs 50 crore in cash, gold jewelry worth crores in flats belonging to a close associate of West Bengal's former Industries Minister, Education Minister, and Secretary General of Trinamool Congress Party (TCP), Partha Chatterjee, as well as disclosure of many properties allegedly jointly owned by them or their families, have opened a Pandora box of corruption. It is not an overnight happening. During his tenure as Education Minister, recruitment scams were a regular occurrence, and the media highlighted the interviews of ordinary people who paid for jobs to local small-time politicians who were authorized to collect the booty for their masters. The public witnessed with apparent indifference the eight-year ordeal of the cheated State Level Selection Tests (SLST) candidates who protested against this grave injustice, but, nobody took notice. Where was the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamta Banerjee, who is now seen distancing herself from tainted Partha Banerjee, when all these malpractices were going on with full impunity right under her nose? This gives credence to the statement of Chatterjee that the money is not his and he will disclose the source at the right time. It is but, obviously, that this practice of monetizing posts in the education system and in other services was carried out in a big way by people who had the patronage of the big wigs and they were individual profiteers as well.

During the tenure of Chatterjee as Education Minister, the clear implication was that the system was manipulated in such a way that all school posts, of teaching and non-teaching staff, were open for sale at a price. From 2016 onwards, the appointment of teachers qualifying for the SSCs had violated the merit list, for reasons of nepotism, money or political clout. Investigation reveals that irregularities in the recruitment by SSC of group D staff in state-aided schools, after the tenure of the original panel of



appointees for 13,000 posts had expired.

It was found that at least 269 primary school teachers in government-aided schools were ineligible for appointment. Considering the facts, the declaration of Additional Solicitor General Suryaprakash V Raju that they were looking for at least Rs 120 crore in the SSC recruitment scam is not out of place. However, the education scams in West Bengal are not something new. The left-party governments started the process. Although the SSC was set up way back in 1997, the prospective teachers were asked to pay a substantial amount before they could join as teachers in schools to which they have been appointed through the SSC. This was true for lower-level jobs in government and public sector industries as well. The scale of demand was not as high as it is now. The saving grace was that college and university posts or those of Vice Chancellors were not sold, though most appointments were guided by political consideration.

At present, under the TMC regime, the system has degraded to such a low level that not only the coffers of the party are filled to the brim,

but, the money is siphoned off at all levels of the political hierarchy. Soon after the controversial minister assumed charge, the rot was extended to the higher education system. As per the information available, lakhs were extorted for college appointments and for vice chancellors. Like the corrupt practices followed in the construction industry, the education sector also passed into the hands of powerful 'syndicates' functioning at the behest of the ruling party. Corruption seeped in even in the admission process in colleges. After taking charge of the Education Ministry, the first decision taken by Chatterjee was to do away with the centralised online undergraduate admission process paving the way of the selling of seats in colleges which was decided by politically affiliated students' and teachers' union's functionaries earning lot of money while the concerned authorities were looking the other way. Imagine the loss of society and the institutions where incompetent teachers are appointed for a period of 30-35 years and an entire generation suffers. Such cases are common in India. Hardly a day passes when we do not hear about

the incidents of "leaking" of examination papers and forging of mark sheets in one state or the other and the practice continues unabated.

No wonder, the report of Transparency International places India at 85 out of 180 countries in terms of the Global Corruption Perception Index (GCPI). The greed of a few people who hold power in connivance of their stooges often highjack the system to further their petty interests and that is the reason why we lose our talent to the developed countries. If we want to emerge as a developed country, this trend needs to be reversed. Corruption, nepotism, and favouritism are the biggest curse that is a hindrance to the development of any society. We should come together to stop such malpractices. Public opinion need to be built to oppose such incidents. The guilty should be identified and punished so that nobody can dare to repeat the mistakes. The law enforcement agencies should be given free hand to deal with the situation so that justice is done.

(The writer is a senior journalist and Chairman, Panwar Group of Institutions, Solan, Himachal Pradesh. The views expressed are personal.)

IT WAS FOUND THAT AT LEAST 269 PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN GOVERNMENT-AIDED SCHOOLS WERE INELIGIBLE FOR APPOINTMENT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHINESE MACHINATIONS

Sir —Following US Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, China recently dispatched 27 fighter planes into Taiwan's airspace. On August 11, a Chinese research and survey ship is anticipated to dock in the southern port of Hambantota, Sri Lanka. Despite the statements made by China and Sri Lanka that the ship is for survey and research, it needs to be closely watched since it might be having hidden weapons since China might aim to vanquish India the same way as they vanquish Taiwan. Now Bandula Gunawardhana, the head of the Sri Lankan government, made a mistake by allowing it to anchor in the port area in the first place despite India's warning. India is helping Sri Lanka in its gravest moment yet it is still inclined toward China. This is not fair and the government of India should ensure that Sri Lanka does not fall into the lap of China.

Vijaykumar H K | Raichur

CASTEISM IS STILL PREVALENT

Casteism is still prevalentSir — The poison of casteism is now seeping into the temples of education. A shocking incident has come to the fore in which children refused to eat the food cooked by a Dalit chef. As reported, in a school in Morbi, many children of the OBC community refused to eat food because the food was prepared by a "Dalit lady" cook. A complaint regarding this has been filed. Allegedly the children of the OBC community, influenced by their parents, refused to eat the food prepared by the Dalit woman. This is so unfortunate that we are still grappling with the problems that we started our journey with. Unfortunately, it does not have a legal solution. It is a social problem that can only be solved by education and creating awareness. The children were doing so at the behest of their parents and guardians. Children are too tender to be punished for it. If punished they would become even more inclined to be discriminatory. So it

TIRANGA IS OUR PRIDE

The country is celebrating 75 years of independence and there can be nothing more significant than to hoist Tiranga to mark the occasion as it symbolises the heritage of India and represents the ethos of independence movement. Tiranga is our pride. As citizens of this great country, we have a responsibility to celebrate the 75th independence anniversary with pride and honour and to dedicate ourselves to the growth and development of Bharat. We need to be stronger from the inside to take on forces that are trying to divide our country and preserve the fraternity of this great nation. National pride has been reborn under the current Government. As we hoist the flag as a part of the Har Ghar Tiranga initiative, these very thoughts will be echoing in every Indian's heart. India is my country and all Indians are my brothers and sisters. I love my country, and I am proud of its rich and varied heritage. I shall always strive to be wor-



thy of it. I shall give respect to my parents, teachers, and all the elders, and treat everyone with courtesy. To add to that the health workers, who did a marvelous job during Covid. Tiranga hoisting is a timely measure on the eve of the 75th year of Independence.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

is the parents who must be convinced about the wrong lessons they are giving to their children. The principal of the school says that she has had two meetings with the school monitoring committee in which the parents were also involved but they are adamant and don't want to give up their casteist thinking. Under Article 17 of the Constitution, untouchability or treating someone, as an untouchable is illegal. In our country, everyone has 6 fundamental rights, one of which includes the right to equality. In which all persons have equal rights without any discrimination, if a person discriminates against any casteism, then it is illegal. I support all irrespective of the caste they belong to, General, OBC, SC, ST, for me they are all same and for everyone, they all must be the same. Let's hope, sense prevails soon.

Garima Shrivaspal | Ujjain

THE FINANCIAL STRAIN OF FREEBIES

Sir — It refers to "Shun freebies". It is a very sensitive issue raised by our Prime Minister and needless to say that every

political party in the country is guilty of revdi culture to some or other extent. Ideally, the apex court should not have been involved in this debate, but now since the ball is in their court, let us see what is the ideal solution for this. No political party would like to lose votes in absence of these freebies, and they are right in their approach because in electoral politics parties go to any length to woo voters. Ideally, all political parties, including the ruling party need to sit together and arrive at a consensus that none of them would offer any freebies and will abide by it in letter and spirit. Unfortunately no political can come clean on it, including the BJP as every political party has used it as an electoral tool to harvest the votes. If it is not addressed now then the financial health of many states will go from bad to worse and they will be responsible for that fiasco. BJP has to walk the talk.

Bal Govind | Noida

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

From one point of view 8 years is less for 80 miracles! In the 8 years of Modi's leadership, India has seen 80 miracles happen on the ground.



Jai Shakti Minister

—Gajendra Singh Shekhawat



As we continue to power healthy jobs growth, Democrats are ferociously fighting back against the global inflation weighing on America's families.

Speaker, US HOR —Nancy Pelosi

Been working the last few days non stop....so needed to indulge in my favourite past time....the love of my own person' & to pamper myself



Actor —Shahrukh Khan



Penalty miss hua Australia se and the Umpire says, Sorry Clock start nahi hua. Such biasedness used to happen in cricket as well earlier till we became a superpower, Proud of our girls.

Cricketer —Virendra Sehrawg

This government has got an uncanny knack of ignoring what's important & concentrating on headlines — instead of GDP govt bothered about our DP.



Mahua Moitra —TMC MP

FIRST COLUMN

SPIRITUAL PROGRESS IS MEASURE OF SUCCESS

Material cravings remain brief; spiritual progress gives better life



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

What are our hopes for near and dear ones when they depart? That they would have gotten a better birth. This actually defines the philosophy of life. Let us critically examine what we consider success in life.

Let me begin with wealth. Practically, everyone wishes to have lots of it in order to obtain everything desirable, because money is the means for acquiring material objects, including ways for comfortable living. The underlying idea is to avoid suffering at any cost and enjoy life.

Sufferings are determined by fate and they are inevitable. Steve Jobs, cofounder of Apple, died at the age of 56 due to a terminal disease. Wealth didn't help him beat the ailment.

Another human craving is for power, because it allows control over others, situations, etc. Do we succeed? Yes and no. Yes, for a limited duration, because power is also a material acquisition. It is a result of pious activities. Once they run out, power is gone. Hitler wanted to control the entire Europe, and maybe the whole world, with the help from his allies. He ruled Germany and some parts of Europe for a brief period and then he was stripped of his power. This shocked him to such an extent that he died by suicide; yes, suicide.



Fame is another human trap. We all crave for attention. There is nothing wrong with such a desire, but when fame becomes the yardstick for success, we go horribly wrong. Michael Jackson desired big success, which would ensure tremendous fame. He did succeed for some time till his insatiable appetite for fame took his life. He had sacrificed his sleep to be able to work more and more. And he had to be administered drugs to help him sleep. Doses kept on increasing till he never woke up.

The fourth yardstick of success is beauty. Models, film stars, etc., are paid huge sums, because beauty sells. Marilyn Monroe found out the dark side of it in a very depressive way, and she too died by suicide.

Fifthly, being independent, i.e. above rules, is another measure of success. What happens to some toppers in All India competitions when they flout all rules for their personal benefits? They are caught and put in jail. Their idea to prolong their sukha ends in lots of dukkha.

All popular notions of success are flawed, and they don't make us big or independent. They don't even prevent suffering or make our sukha permanent. What then should be the yardstick for success? It should be progress in life. Yes, progress is what we should look for. In younger days, it should be mainly material progress, because that will set us up nicely for our later years. Subsequently, it must be spiritual progress, however small it may be, because this will connect us with God, who is everything (The Geeta 7.19) and source of everything superior. (10.41) Then, all our inherent shortcomings won't matter; God will supplement whatever we lack. Fortunately God is ever willing to help; we just have to approach Him in a humble mood, in order to take His shelter.

From experiences of countless fortunate souls, who took shelter in God, we learn that we begin to succeed in all aspects of our lives. Our health in all its manifestations begins to improve. Physically we benefit; mentally we become stranger; emotionally we become mature; intellectually we become wise; and spiritually we advance. Our interpersonal relationships improve; we become more useful; and we get set for a better next life.

(The author is a spiritual teacher)

Defence Atmanirbharta is a real game changer

PM's push for defence Atmanirbharta can bring about a sea change in our armed preparedness



NISHTHA KAUSHIKI

The contemporary battlefield is a complex mix of traditional and hybrid warfare. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has immensely contributed to the national security policymaking by reformulating the security objectives and displaying a political resolve to bring profound changes in security governance.

Modi's approach is purely India-centric. One of his landmark achievements is the initiative of Atmanirbharat Bharat. Launched in May 2020, it seeks India's self-reliance in different sectors. As the Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA) has transformed the nature of wars from mechanical to electronic, the import of different systems makes the security systems prone to various vulnerabilities like hacking.

The issue of spare parts and path dependency creates new complications tactically and geopolitically. The problem gets complicated with the new developments in hybrid warfare involving drones for drug and small arms trafficking, apart from the malicious use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Thus, the policy was well-founded and was the need of the hour.

In 2020, while we were grappling with the Corona pandemic and its impact on the supply chains in different sectors, PM Modi used the problem to find new opportunities and launched Atmanirbhar Bharat. Before officially formulating the policy, in 2018, the PM set up the Innovation for Defence Excellence (IDEX) to create a defence and aerospace ecosystem that engaged the R&D institutes, academia, industries, and promoted start-ups. These sectors could now directly deal with the armed forces via open challenges.

The Army Design Bureau is a facilitator and provides financial support to start-ups and MSMEs. The 100th contract of IDEX was recently signed. Apart from allowing the local firms, it was a stepping stone to India's civil-military fusion.

India's defence exports have increased considerably from a mere ₹2,059 crore in 2015-16 to a whopping ₹13,000 crore in 2021-22, with a rise of 54.1 per cent over the previous year. As the numbers of successful case studies are impressive, it becomes pertinent to highlight some achievements of PM Modi's initiative in the defence sector.

From the development of small equipment like the P7 heavy drop system that helps deliver combat stores in inaccessible areas to aircraft carrier Vikrant for the Navy, Atmanirbhar Bharat is achieving significant milestones. It is important to highlight the contribution of the PM in stopping the payment of royalties to Russia for the technologies that were transferred by the former Soviet Union and were domestically manufactured in India. For example, in the case of the T-72 tank, PM Modi himself brought the issue to the notice of President Vladimir



ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT-II IN THE DEFENCE SECTOR WILL INCLUDE REFORMS REGARDING THE PRODUCTION OF CORE TECHNOLOGIES VIA A PPP MODE. IT WILL ALSO LIBERALISE THE TESTING AND CERTIFICATION OF PRODUCTS, A SHIFT FROM THE PAST PRACTICES

(The author is Assistant Professor, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda)



Putin and the needful was successfully done. This led the PM to bring out a list of banned items for defence imports in August 2020 and May 2021, with the third list announced in April 2022. The positive list currently has banned 310 items from being imported. The Indian army is now equipped with the Ashlesha radar, predominantly a 'Low Level Lightweight Radar' (LLLWR). The radar successfully detects multiple objects of the adversary like helicopters, fighters and UAVs at low and medium altitudes and can be used in diverse terrains like plains, deserts, mountain tops, etc. It is currently helping the country against the Chinese PLA on the Northern and Eastern borders.

Developing the Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar is an important development for the Air Force. The radar enhanced India's technical capability in electronic warfare, making the country fifth in the world to possess such technology. The radar is 95 per cent indigenous, with only one subsystem imported. Other necessary inductions such as LCA (Tejas), Astra Air to Air missile, Akash Surface to Air missile system, and Light Combat Helicopter systems pile up the success stories of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Given the threat of PLAN, attempts are being made to upgrade the naval facilities through Swavlamban (self-reliance), focusing on developing 75 indigenous technologies. The past electronic warfare platforms such as 'Ajanta', 'Kite', etc., have been upgraded and can now successfully detect enemy combatants' presence without dis-

closing our position. The list is impressive, from developing underwater sensors to electro-optical Fire Control System (FCS), a world-class Combat Management System (CMS) and 'Battle Damage Control Systems'.

Moreover, 'Project 75-India' aims to build a series of future aircraft carriers and submarines that will qualitatively increase the stealth of the Indian Navy. The tactical importance of the submarine project can be ascertained from the fact that even our closest partners like Russia and France have refused the technology transfer of Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) technology that allows the submarines to stay underwater for a longer duration. So, one can ascertain the financial and strategic interests of the countries with a war-based economy.

Some critical but lesser known indigenous productions in Artificial Intelligence (AI) are Face Recognition System under Disguise, AI-Based Intercept Management System (IMS) for the western theatre, iSentinel threat detection and tracking system and finally, the swarm drones. These indigenous productions will redefine how we respond to the threats of hybrid warfare. Using such technologies for counter-terrorism will help bring peace to the country. Space has been added as a new battlefield domain, and in 2019, DRDO successfully conducted the Anti-Satellite (ASAT) test by accurately hitting a target. Further, under the Defence India Start-up Challenge 5.0, 35 areas such as cyber security, quantum technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), and

augmented reality (AR) have been identified as focus areas.

In 2021, two Defence Industrial Corridors (DICs) were established in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to boost Defence manufacturing to attract investment of Rs 10,000 Crore in each DIC.

Creation of Defence Space Agency and Armed Forces Special Operations Division apart from the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) with Department of Military Affairs (DMA) to conduct joint operations will ensure that the next 25 years would be an 'Amrit Kaal' for the Ministry of Defence. New challenges have been accepted. For instance, Bhoomi, a hackathon initiative of the BSF, contributed to finding solutions in tunnel detection and an anti-drone system.

The objective of the PM is to ensure that we are battle ready for the next war, be it conventional, electronic or even on two fronts. Soon, Atmanirbhar Bharat II in the Defence sector will be unveiled, which will include reforms regarding the production of core technologies via a public-private partnership (PPP) mode. It will also liberalise the testing and certification of products, a shift from the past practices.

The aforementioned case studies are just a few contributions of the policy that the upcoming generation needs to be told. Such achievements of the country should be incorporated into the school textbooks at different levels to inculcate a feeling of nationalism and pride apart from encouraging the scientific temper amongst the budding scientists.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

ON THIS DAY MODIJI HAD LAID THE FOUNDATION STONE OF SHRI RAM TEMPLE, SO CONGRESS IS OPPOSING IT. ED AND INFLATION ARE JUST EXCUSES.
—HOME MINISTER
AMIT SHAH



THE ONE WHO INFLECTS PAIN ON THE WEAK BY INCREASING PRICES, ATTACKS LORD RAM & MISREPRESENTS THOSE AGITATING AGAINST INFLATION, INSULTS LOKNAYAK RAM.
— CONGRESS LEADER
PRIYANKA GANDHI

Countering radicalisation in Assam with long-term vision

Elimination of Ayman al-Zawahiri is an opportunity for Assam administration to counter radical elements

The precision strike against Ayman al-Zawahiri will have far reaching implications for India. Indeed, the eliminated Al-Qaeda Emir's gaze had already been on India ever since 3 October 2014 when he proclaimed the formation of the Al-Qaeda in the Indian subcontinent.

The 'shadow of Zawahiri' had encompassed the Rakhine province of Myanmar, Bangladesh, West Bengal and most of Assam. Moreover, Zawahiri had made controversial statements when the Hijab controversy broke in Karnataka. Although the recent arrests of several cadres of the Al-Qaeda affiliated Ansarullah Bangla Team from different places in Assam has not come as a surprise, the matter of concern is



JAIDEEP SAINIA

(The author is a conflict analyst)

the state's inability to fathom the extent to which the radicalisation efforts have taken place.

Indeed, the state has witnessed subterfuge by Islamists since the late 1990s when Pakistan-trained radical elements were arrested from the heart of Guwahati. However, the threat had all but weakened with en masse surrender of cadres after their return from places such as Batrasi in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). Indeed, by their own admission, the wayward group had realised that the motivation for which they had gone to train alongside tanzeems such as the ISI chaperoned Lashkar-e-Toiba were at variance with their local objectives to garner aspects such as reservations for Muslims in the legislature. Nizam-e-Mustafa, which

has become the primary goal for almost all Islamist groups that have a global bearing, was not in their agenda. The syncretism that characterised Assamese society of the time ascertained it and got disenchanted with the alien exhortation by the ISI, which had included assassination of political leaders and engineering of pogroms against the Bodo community, which sat cheek-by-jowl with the Muslims, and the belligerence dissipated.

However, there were some who, eschewing attention, continued with their sinister endeavours. Indeed, for a time it was felt that Assam was rid of the radical threat. But quite clearly they were silent, "not by the absence of activity but by the presence of non-activity".

However, the present

apprehensions of the Islamists that have brought back the limelight of the Islamist intimidation to Assam are not indicative of a turnaround in the Assamese Muslim psyche. While it is true that the target group for the Islamist minders have undergone a sea change and are directed primarily on the educated class, the fact of the matter is that an important constituency among the Muslim population of Assam ignored the overtures of the Islamists.

The atmosphere that prevails in the rest of the country, too, has had a sobering effect on the Muslim community, and it was evident that the quam sought no truck with the Islamists. In any event, the chaperons that are seeking to radicalise the Muslim commu-

nity are exclusively from Bangladesh and have very little to do with the manner in which an indigenous Assamese Muslim identifies himself with the state's inclusive character.

But the fact of the matter is that there is a clear move by the Islamists from Bangladesh to make inroads into the Muslim community of Assam. An alert Special Branch of the Assam Police has been able to pre-empt the attempts and, to a considerable extent, thwart at least the opening moves of the Islamists.

However, marshes and warrens are plentiful in the Lower and Middle Assam and it would be less than prudent to lower the vigilance that

has characterised the manner in which the Special Branch has, albeit temporarily, halted

the march of the radicals. The porosity of the border with Bangladesh coupled with the pressure that the Islamists are facing in the country dictate greater watchfulness. After all, one of the primary motivation for the Bangladesh-based Islamists is to utilise the demographic jungle of Lower Assam as a safe haven and construct a "doorway" to metropolitan India in order to perpetrate terror which would be visible to a global audience.

Indeed, therein lies their intent. The fact that Ayman al-Zawahiri had mentioned Assam during his televised statement on 3 September 2014 when he announced the creation of the Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent must be seen in the light of the fact that that Assam and thereabouts

had been in the Islamist radar with clearly such a purpose in mind.

Bangladesh, of course, is a crucial midpoint between the Islamist hotspots of South East Asia and West Asia. Bangladesh was the receptacle for the cross pollination between groups such as Jemaah Islamiyah and Jaish-e-Mohammad.

In any event, the accent of the present must be to ferret out the guest-radical elements that have entered Assam and stem the tide before it begins to mimic the flood waters that are upon the state. The establishment must also immediately psychologically segregate the Muslim community of Assam, co-opt them in its battle against the divisive agenda and announce resolve to root out the menace.

Monkeypox: 2 UAE returnees found infected with strain A.2 of virus

NIV conducts study on two patients, finds they had been infected with a less seen variant of current strain of infection

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

As India's Monkeypox tally continues to rise, the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune on Sunday said that after analysis of the two cases pertaining to travellers who had returned from the UAE and subsequently tested positive in July, it has been found that they were infected with virus strain A.2. They said it is related to the lineage of hMPXV-1A clade 3.

In other words, the two patients had been infected with a less seen variant of the current strain of infection and bears similarity to cases that have cropped up in several Western nations earlier this year. Clade 3 is various 'branches' of monkeypox, each of which have unique genomic signatures and varying severity. Mentioning the details, the study also showed that the 35-year-old male and 31-year-old male from UAE -- tested positive for Monkeypox -- had no traces of sexual contact.

The development came soon after the country reported two fresh cases on Friday. "Phylogenetic analysis revealed that the two cases were infected with Monkeypox virus strain A.2 which belong to hMPXV-1A lineage of clade 3...The complete genome sequences obtained from skin lesions of cases 1 and 2 showed similarity of 99.91% and 99.96% respectively with MPXV_USA_2022_FL001 West African clade," said the



ICMR-NIV study.

The term 'hMPXV' is an abbreviation for 'human monkeypox virus'. While scientists have traditionally classified monkeypox cases based on location - clade 1 for Congo Basin as it was the first to be detected and 2 for West African - many argue that the new strain (akin to the typically milder West African strain) deserves a fresh categorisation as clade 3.

Genetic data from other parts of the world however have indicated that there are at least two 'separate' monkeypox outbreaks underway outside of Africa at present, with a majority of the genomes across the world which belonging to the B.1 lineage. The A2 strain meanwhile has been detected in several Indian cases includ-

ing a Kerala man who returned from the UAE who had succumbed to the virus last week.

"Case 1, a 35-year, male, resident of UAE had developed low-grade fever and myalgia on July 5 2022. On the next day, he developed multiple vesicular rashes in the oral cavity and lips followed by a single lesion on the genital organ. The lesions were umbilicated with the size 0.5 to 0.8 cm," the study explained.

Another case pertained to a 32-year-old male from Dubai who travelled to his hometown Kerala on July 13, 2022, and tested positive for Monkeypox.

According to the study, he had developed dysuria and genital swelling on July 8. The next day he developed fever with chills, myalgia, backache and headache followed by mul-

multiple vesicular rashes on the genital organ and both hands on July 10. The lesions progressed and later spread to the face, back, neck and forearm with cervical lymphadenopathy by July 15, 2022. "He did not have any co-morbidity and denied any sexual or physical contact with suspected or confirmed MPXV case," it added.

The Niv on 6 August analysed two monkeypox cases of travellers who had returned from the UAE.

According to the study, the two cases were infected with monkeypox virus strain A.2 which is related to the lineage of hMPXV-1A clade 3.

"The complete genome sequences obtained from skin lesions of cases 1 and 2 showed similarity of 99.91 and 99.96 per cent respectively with MPXV_USA_2022_FL001 West African clade," read the ICMR-NIV study.

"Phylogenetic analysis revealed that the two cases were infected with Monkeypox virus strain A.2 which belong to hMPXV-1A lineage of clade 3," it added.

Both the cases' samples from multiple sites -- lesion fluid, lesion roof and lesion base -- were collected on the ninth post-onset day of illness i.e. 13 July, 2022, and July 16, 2022, respectively. They referred to the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for emerging and re-emerging diseases, ICMR-National Institute of Virology, Pune, India for the MPXV diagnosis.

Health Min renews facilities for nurses

Annual health check-ups, creche facility, 40/W working hours in list



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Annual health check-ups, a creche facility and work hours not exceeding 40 in a week are among the measures that the Union Health Ministry has proposed in a recently released draft guidelines with an aim to improve the working conditions of nurses in all healthcare institutions.

It has also recommended that all healthcare establishments may, as far as possible, provide accommodation to their nursing staff within or near their premises.

The healthcare establishments will have to establish internal complaint committees in accordance with the provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at

Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 and should also take necessary measures to ensure the security of nurses during night shifts. Appropriate measures may be taken to ensure proper lighting in and around the work settings to promote the safety of nurses.

The draft guidelines have been released on the ministry's website for comments from the public and the stakeholders within 30 days from the date of issuance. The document stated that the WHO Global Strategy on "Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030" calls for upholding "the personal, employment and professional rights of the health workforce, including safe and decent working environments free from all kinds of discrimina-

tion, coercion and violence".

Conducive working conditions would enhance patient care and contribute substantially to the overall healthcare outcomes. A safe and healthy work environment for nurses is imperative in order to envision quality nursing care. "Therefore, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has drafted the guidelines to give effect to the resolution towards improving working conditions of nurses in various healthcare establishments," it said.

According to the draft guidelines, all healthcare establishments have to ensure adequate infrastructure and well-equipped work stations in all units or wards to enable efficient functioning of the nursing staff.

It also mandates that all

healthcare establishments will have separate washrooms and changing rooms (including drinking water, pantry facilities, lockers, clean uniforms etc.) for the nursing staff and should identify designated resting rooms for nurses working for a prolonged hours.

The guidelines said the healthcare facilities should take initiatives to recognise outstanding nurses and take measures to upkeep the morale and motivation of the nursing staff. All healthcare institutions should provide paid maternity leave in accordance with the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017 and other authorised leave or allowances and facilities in accordance with the government's guidelines or existing policies.

Parliament has become dysfunctional, democracy gasping for breath: PC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister P Chidambaram on Sunday said he was veering to the conclusion that Parliament has become "dysfunctional" and alleged that democracy is "gasping for breath" in India with almost all institutions tamed, emasculated or captured.

He also said Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu "failed" to protect Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge last week from being summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) when the House was in session.

The senior Congress leader also dismissed Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks linking the Congress' demonstration against price rise on Friday to the Ram temple foundation day, saying the anniversary of the 'shilanyas' was "far from our mind" when the date for the protest was fixed.

It was fixed taking into account that all the MPs will be in Delhi on Friday because the voting for the vice presidential poll was on Saturday, he said, adding that one can always twist logic to blame someone.

"Moreover, it was on August 5, 2019 that the illegal dismembering of Jammu and Kashmir took place! Let's leave

these aside when discussing a serious issue," Chidambaram said.

Shah had linked Congress leaders' protest in black clothes over the issues of price rise, unemployment and GST hike to what he said was the party's "appeasement" politics to convey its opposition to the Ram temple foundation stone laying by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 5 in 2020.

Chidambaram also rejected BJP leaders' charge that the Congress' protest on August 5 was an attempt to save the party's top leadership that is facing questioning by the ED in the National Herald case.

"We had announced and

made it clear that the protests on August 5 were exclusively on inflation, unemployment and Agnith. If people pretend to be deaf and blind to the announcement, what can we do?" he said.

On about Kharge's summoning by the ED during the working hours of Parliament last Thursday, he said it was a "sad day" for Rajya Sabha when the Chairman "failed to protect" the Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge from being summoned when the House was in session.

On ED probes against several Opposition leaders, Chidambaram refused to comment on any particular case but



asserted that it was increasingly and abundantly clear that the powers of investigation and the laws were directed only at members of the Opposition.

"Institutions have been tamed or emasculated or captured. Democracy is gasping for breath. We may have the shell of democracy, but inside, the shell has been hollowed out. This applies to almost all institutions, which is what Rahul

Gandhi alluded to in his reply (at a press conference Friday)," he said talking to a section of news agency.

With Parliament unable to transact much business during the Monsoon session due to frequent adjournments amid logjam between the Opposition and Treasury benches over a host of issues including price rise, Chidambaram said he is "veering to the painful conclusion that Parliament has become dysfunctional".

He asserted that the single big reason for this was that the Treasury bench had "no interest" in dialogue, discussion and debate.

"Let me ask, what calamity

could have befallen if the government had agreed to a debate under Rule 267 on price rise on the first day? The debate would have been concluded in one day. Instead, we wasted two weeks," he said.

The BJP seems more comfortable with governing without debate and without an Opposition, he alleged.

Chidambaram also hit out at Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for her reply to the debate on price rise in Parliament in which she said that India did not face any risk of either recession or stagflation as its macroeconomic fundamentals are "perfect".

No one from the

Opposition hinted at an impending recession or stagflation and these were set up by the government like "straw men" so that the government can shoot them down, he said.

"Our concerns were rising prices and rampant unemployment. The twin factors have placed an unbearable burden on the poor and the middle class. The finance minister was obliged to spell out the steps that the government intended to take to moderate prices and to create jobs. The FM did not," he said.

Chidambaram also criticised Sitharaman's comparisons with other countries, saying they were "odious".

NIA arrests Delhi man for collecting funds for ISIS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested an active ISIS member from the Batla House area of the national Capital.

The "radicalised" individual Mohsin Ahmad, hailing from Patna, was collecting funds for the global terror group and was arrested during searches here in connection with the ISIS module case.

"Yesterday (06.08.2022), the NIA conducted a search in the residential premises of accused Mohsin Ahmad, son of Mohd. Shakil Ahmad presently residing at F- 18/27, Japani Gali, Jogabai Extension, Batla house, New Delhi and permanent resident of New colony,



ITI women, Digha, Dinapur cum Khagaul, Patna, Bihar and subsequently arrested him in the case pertaining to online and on ground activities of ISIS," the agency said in a statement on Sunday.

The case was registered suo-moto by the NIA on June 25.

"Accused Mohsin Ahmad is a radicalised and active

member of ISIS. He has been arrested for his involvement in collection of funds for ISIS from sympathisers in India as well as abroad. He was sending these funds to Syria and other places in the form of cryptocurrency in order to further the activities of ISIS. Further investigations in the case are in progress, it said.

On July 31, the anti-terror agency had carried out searches at 13 premises of suspected persons across six states -- Bhopal and Raissen in Madhya Pradesh, Bharuch, Surat, Navsari and Ahmedabad in Gujarat, Arariya in Bihar, Bhatkal and Tumkur City in Karnataka, Kolhapur and Nanded in Maharashtra and Deoband in Uttar Pradesh.

HAL developing long-endurance drone for vigil over LAC

New Delhi: State-run aerospace behemoth Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) is working on an AI-driven multi-role, advanced and long-endurance drone for strategic missions in high-altitude areas including the frontiers with China, people familiar with the development said on Sunday.

The rotary-wing drone will have the capability to carry a load of 40 kgs, including missiles and sensors, and it is being developed considering the requirement of the armed forces to keep a strong vigil over the mountainous areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), they said.

The HAL has set a target

of conducting the maiden test-flying of the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) by the middle of next year and plans to produce 60 such platforms in the first phase of the project, the people in the know told PTL.

They said the operating system of the long-endurance drone will feature applications of Artificial Intelligence and the armed forces will be able to use it for multiple purposes including transporting essential supplies. "The drone is being developed in such a way that it can carry a wide range of vital military systems including sensors, missiles and various other weapons," said one of the people cited above.

Climate change making prediction difficult for weather agencies across world: IMD

New Delhi: Climate change has hampered the ability of the forecasting agencies to accurately predict severe events, and weather bureaus across the world are focusing on augmenting the observational network density and the weather prediction modelling to improve predictability, India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said.

He also said that though the monsoon rainfall has not shown any significant trend in the country, the number of heavy rainfall events has increased and that of light rainfall events has decreased due to climate change.

"We have got the digital data of the monsoon rainfall since 1901. Parts of north, east

and northeast India show a decrease in rainfall, while some areas in the west, such as west Rajasthan, show an increase in precipitation.

"Thus, there is no significant trend if we consider the country as a whole -- the monsoon is random and it shows large-scale variations," the IMD chief said when asked about the impact of climate change on the Indian monsoon.

On July 27, the government had told Parliament that Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Meghalaya and Nagaland have shown significant decreasing trends in the southwest monsoon rainfall during the recent 30-year period (1989-2018, both years included). The annual rainfall over these five states, along

with Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh, has also shown significant decreasing trends, it said.

Mohapatra said an analysis of the day-to-day rainfall data since 1970, however, shows that the number of very heavy rainfall days has increased and that of light or moderate rainfall days has decreased.

"That means if it is not raining, it is not raining. If it is raining, it is raining heavily. The rainfall is more intense when there is a low-pressure system. This is one of the most important trends found in the tropical belt, including India. Studies have proved that this increase in heavy rainfall events and decrease in light precipitation are due to climate change," he told PTL.

Nocturnal lizard endemic to Eastern Ghats on verge of extinction

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Endemic to India's Eastern Ghats, Jeypore ground gecko (Cyrtodactylus jeyporensis), an enigmatic nocturnal lizard, is on the extinction path due to deforestation, mining, rapid urbanization and forest fires coupled with huge pet trade demand fuelled by booming social media amongst reptile breeders and keepers.

India has now sought its inclusion in the Appendix II species of the Convention on International Trade In Endangered Species of Wild Fauna And Flora (CITES) to be

held in November in Panama. Enlisted Appendix II species means they are not necessarily threatened with extinction but could become so if their trade is not regulated.

The proposal is likely to be taken up at the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties CoP Panama City (Republic of Panama) to be held mid-November.

India, in its document submitted to the Convention, that on the basis of available trade data and information on the status and trends of the wild population, it can be inferred that the regulation of trade in the species is necessary to

avoid it becoming eligible for inclusion in Appendix I in the near future.

Once thought to be extinct and then discovered again in 2010, C. jeyporensis is endemic to Eastern Ghats of India and has been recorded from very few localities in southern Odisha and northern Andhra Pradesh. The species is listed as Endangered in the IUCN Red List.

India expressed concerns that C. jeyporensis is or may be affected by trade because it is an attractive species and could become the target of commercial collection. "The species is handsome looking and docile,



which makes it vulnerable for the pet trade and there appears to be demand for it amongst reptile breeders and keepers outside India.

Live specimens of the species are in trade outside India as evidenced by advertisements on social media," as per the document. To corroborate its apprehension, the Government has attached annexures giving proof of details of the sale offers of the lizard on Facebook and Instagram.

Due to the restricted area of occurrence of the species, the ongoing decline in the species' population and continued

threats to the species, any collection of the species for the international pet trade is very likely to have a detrimental impact on its status.

"While the species may actually qualify for inclusion in CITES Appendix I, an Appendix II CITES listing as a start would provide regulation of international trade in the species and penalties for breach thereof, thereby helping to control illegal export of the species from India; and generate trade data regarding international trade and demand for the species.

Surveys indicate that the population of the species may

be declining at a fast rate. In the Galikonda and Aaraku valleys, Andhra Pradesh, the population spotted by a team of researchers from IISC was revisited by a team of scientists and research scholars of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in 2021, which resulted in no observation during the same month in October.

Similarly, Paderu hill, where this species was found in good numbers (6 individuals) during a survey conducted by IISC team, was revisited by the ZSI team in October 2021 and only one individual was observed, said the document.

Maha Cabinet expansion likely before August 15

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde is likely to expand his Cabinet this week by inducting at least 15 Ministers and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis is expected to keep the crucial Home portfolio, sources said on Sunday.

Top Government sources also said the civic polls in the State, delayed due to the OBC reservation issue being heard by the Supreme Court, are likely to be held in October after getting a clarification from the apex court.

Shinde and Fadnavis were sworn in as Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister respectively on June 30 after the resignation of Uddhav Thackeray due to a rebellion in the Shiv Sena ranks.

The duo have been functioning as a two-member cabinet since then, inviting criticism from opposition leaders, including NCP leader and for-



mer Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

"Ajit Pawar is leader of the opposition. He will have to say such things. Ajit dada conveniently forgets that when he was in the government there were just five ministers for the first 32 days," Fadnavis told reporters here on Sunday.

The expansion of the Maharashtra cabinet will take place "before you can even imagine", Fadnavis said in response to repeated questions from reporters.

Sources said the exercise will be carried out before August 15.

On Saturday, Chief

Minister Shinde said the functioning of the state government has not been affected in any way due to the delay in the expansion of the council of ministers and that more ministers will be inducted soon.

"The work of the government has not been affected in any way. The decision making process has not been affected. I and the deputy chief minister have been taking decisions and there is no impact on the working of the government," the chief minister told reporters here.

Fadnavis said the BJP has embarked on a mission to improve its footprint in Maharashtra in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections by identifying 16 parliamentary constituencies where opposition parties have had a consistent winning streak.

He said these constituencies included those held by Shiv Sena leaders who have now joined the Shinde camp.

"Since Shiv Sena and BJP

will contest the Lok Sabha elections as a coalition, the BJP will work to ensure the victory of the sitting Lok Sabha members from these constituencies," Fadnavis said.

He said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has been given the responsibility to coordinate efforts to better the BJP's performance in Baramati, where the party had polled a good number of votes in the previous elections.

Fadnavis said Sitharaman is likely to tour Baramati in September and travel programmes of other central BJP leaders and Union ministers tasked with responsibilities for Lok Sabha polls will be finalised soon.

"In these 16 constituencies, the central BJP will concentrate its energies to better the party's performance," Fadnavis said.

Baramati is currently represented by Supriya Sule, the daughter of NCP chief Sharad Pawar. The seat is considered a bastion of the Pawar family.

Security beefed up at Kolkata's Indian Museum after shooting

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Security was heightened at the Indian Museum in Kolkata on Sunday after a CISF personnel killed a colleague and injured an assistant commandant of the force in indiscriminate firing.

CISF head constable Akshay Kumar Mishra, who fired around 15 rounds

from an automatic rifle on Saturday evening, was arrested, a senior Kolkata Police officer said.

An official at the state-run SSKM Hospital said that the injured assistant commandant of CISF, who suffered a bullet wound in one hand, was in a stable condition.

Security arrangements at the Indian Museum, the oldest and largest in the country, were increased following the incident, officials said.

Mishra has alleged that he was subjected to "harassment" by a superior for over two months, which led him to resort to the indiscriminate



firing that killed one CISF personnel and injured another.

The firing incident took place at the CISF (Central Industrial Security Force) barracks at the Indian Museum situated near Esplanade here. CISF has been in charge of security at the museum since December, 2019.

In June, a city police constable had fired several rounds outside the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata before shooting himself dead. A woman travelling pillion on a two-wheeler died after being hit in the firing.

ITBP jawan held for raping, impregnating Sikkim teenager

PTI ■ GANGTOK

An ITBP jawan was arrested in Sikkim for allegedly raping a 13-year-old girl multiple times at his official quarters after which she became pregnant, police said on Sunday.

The incident happened in Rangpo town in Pakyong district, they said.

In her complaint, the girl's mother alleged that a teenaged local boy also sexually assaulted her for months. Police said they have detained the boy as well.

The girl's mother alleged that the paramilitary personnel, an assistant sub-inspector, raped her multiple times at his residential quarters in Raj Bhavan's Winter Camp in Rangpo since April.

Police booked the jawan, a native of Dharchula in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district, under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act's section 4 (punishment for penetrative sexual



assault) and section 6 (punishment for aggravated penetrative sexual assault).

In the same complaint, the girl's mother alleged that the local boy was also sexually assaulting her since February.

Police said they have nabbed the boy and taking legal action against him.

The girl was medically examined at the primary health care in Rangpo, they said.

Police said they are investigating the case, and trying to ascertain if the local boy and the ITBP jawan had any connection. The sequence of events is being established, they said, refusing to divulge details about how the alleged rapes and assaults continued for so long.

Ahead of Gujarat polls, Kejriwal promises sops for tribals

PTI ■ VADODARA

Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday promised implementation of the Constitution's Fifth Schedule and the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act in tribal regions of Gujarat if the AAP is voted to power in the State.

Kejriwal also promised that Gujarat's tribal advisory committee would be headed by a person from the community instead of the chief minister, as has been the case in the state.

He claimed the Gujarat Assembly elections, due later this year, will be a direct contest between the ruling BJP and the AAP.

Talking to reporters in Vadodara before addressing a rally in tribal-dominated Chhota Udepur district, Kejriwal also said that if AAP comes to power in Gujarat, each tribal village will get a



good government school and a mohalla clinic".

Multi-speciality hospitals will also be set up in the region for free treatment of tribals, the Delhi chief minister said.

He also promised simplification of the caste certificate issuance process and houses to those who do not own one.

The government will also connect tribal villages with roads, he said.

The Fifth Schedule of the

Constitution deals with provisions related to the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes.

The PESA Act was enacted by Parliament in 1996 to ensure self-governance for people living in scheduled areas. The states were required to formulate rules for the effective implementation of the Act to strengthen gram sabhas in scheduled areas.

Kejriwal said despite 75

years of independence, tribals have remained backward.

"They are remembered before elections and have only been exploited by all. The Constitution provides for a separate system for tribals because the community has a different culture and is very backward," he said.

No government is ready to implement provisions made for them in the Indian Constitution because they are always eager to usurp their natural resources, Kejriwal claimed on the second day of his two-day visit to Gujarat.

"We will implement provisions of the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution word to word. We will also strictly implement the PESA Act which says no government can take action in a tribal area without the gram sabha's consent," he said.

"There is a tribal advisory committee. Its work is to oversee the development of tribal

regions, how to utilise funds. The law says the tribal advisory committee chairman will be a tribal. In Gujarat, the chief minister heads the committee. This will be stopped," he said.

Kejriwal said tribals will also be provided employment and free electricity which he has guaranteed for everyone in Gujarat.

He claimed the forthcoming Gujarat Assembly election will be a direct contest between the BJP and AAP.

"So many Congress leaders have joined the BJP, many more will flock the saffron party, and the remaining will join the BJP after the election. It is more or less a merger of the Gujarat Congress into the Gujarat BJP," he further claimed.

"The ILU (I love you) politics between the two parties has come to an end. Now it will be politics of people, which is what the AAP does," he said.

Kejriwal said while on one hand is the BJP's "misgovernance" of 27 years (in the state), corruption and incidents of spurious liquor, on the other hand is a "new politics (of AAP) with new faces and new hope".

"I guarantee you that we will make the future of your children. But if you vote them to power, they will offer you spurious liquor," he said.

"Because they (BJP) are worried (of the outcome) in Gujarat, they harass us (AAP leaders) in Delhi," he alleged.

Asked about the AAP's chief ministerial face in Gujarat, Kejriwal said every person is his party's CM face.

"Every Gujarati will be the CM. We have come up with a new hope, new politics. Ours is the first party that talks of honesty," he said.

Can any other party talk about honesty, promise to construct schools? he asked.

FROM PAGE 1

'INDIAN FEDERAL STRUCTURE BECAME MODEL FOR WORLD'

Union Ministers Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari and Nirmala Sitharaman also attended while, the moderation of the meeting was done by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar are two big leaders who skipped the meeting.

KCR had earlier written a letter to Modi saying that his decision was a mark of protest against what he termed as the Centre's alleged blatant discrimination against States including Telangana. Nitish Kumar, who just recovered from Covid-19, is skipping an event led by the Prime Minister for the second time in a month with the reports of a 'widening rift' between the two NDA allies.

In his inaugural address, the Prime Minister highlighted that the seventh meeting was a culmination of months of rigorous brainstorming and consultations between the Centre and States to identify national priorities.

"For the first time in India's 75 years of Independence, all of India's Chief Secretaries met together in one place and deliberated issues of national importance for three days. This collective process led to the development of the agenda for this meeting," he said.

Modi highlighted the importance of all of the issues taken up by the Governing Council, especially the need for India to focus on modernised agriculture, animal husbandry, and food processing to become self-sufficient and a global leader in the agriculture sector.

He said rapid urbanisation can become India's strength instead of weakness by leveraging technology to ensure the ease of living, transparent service delivery, and improvement in the quality of life for every citizen of urban India.

On the agriculture sector, the Prime Minister asked States to focus on crop diversification expressing the importance of agriculture diversification and the need to be self-sufficient, especially in edible oils.

"We're meeting nearly half of our total demand for edible oil from imports. Overall, states were quite cooperative and are working on this aspect," said.

Modi underscored the importance of all of the agenda issues, especially the "need for India to focus on modernized agriculture, animal husbandry, and food processing to become self-sufficient and a global leader in the agriculture sector. Rapid urbanization can become India's strength," he said.

There were presentations on NEP 2020, G20, and the importance of exports.

The Prime Minister spoke about India's G20 presidency in 2023 and called it a unique

opportunity to show the world that India is not just Delhi — it is every State and Union Territory of the country.

He said we should develop a mass movement around G20. This will allow us to identify the best talent available in the country.

Modi also said there should be a dedicated team for G20 in the States to derive the maximum possible benefit from this initiative.

While highlighting several initiatives undertaken to boost learning outcomes, capacity-building of teachers, and skilling, Union Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan, thanked and requested further support from the States for the successful implementation of the National Education Policy.

Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Suman Bery, said India's transformation has to take place in its states. He reaffirmed the need for the combined efforts of the Centre and States to realize the vision of a resurgent India post the pandemic.

Every Chief Minister and Lt Governor present at the meeting addressed the meeting, highlighting the priorities, achievements, and challenges of their respective States and Union Territories with a special focus on the four key agenda items.

In his closing remarks, the Prime Minister said that each state should "focus on promoting its 3Ts, Trade, Tourism, Technology, through every Indian Mission around the world."

He said the States must focus on reducing imports, increasing exports and identifying opportunities for the same in every state.

"We should encourage people to use local goods wherever possible," he said. "Vocal for local" is not the agenda of an individual political party but a common goal, he said.

The Prime Minister said even though GST collection has improved, our potential is much more. "Increasing GST collection requires collective action by the Centre and States. It is crucial for strengthening our economic position and becoming a USD 5 trillion economy," he said.

Modi said the National Education Policy has been formulated after considerable deliberations. He said, "we should involve all stakeholders in its implementation and develop a clear, timebound roadmap for the same."

Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to the CMs and LGs for participating in the meeting and sharing their views and experiences saying "NITI Aayog will study the states' concerns, challenges, and best practices and subsequently plan the way forward."

He said the issues discussed in this meeting will define the national priorities for the next 25 years, adding that "the seeds we sow today will define the fruits reaped by India in 2047".

KCR's absence from the meeting was

criticised by Union minister and senior BJP leader Piyush Goyal as "his unconcern for the people of Telangana and that the state CM was feeling ashamed after repeat electoral defeats" at the hands of the BJP.

CM REITERATES RESOLVE TO MAKE UP A \$1 TRILLION ECONOMY

administration, as suggested in the field of urban development at the national conference."

Yogi Adityanath further said that the work of GIS survey in 16 municipal corporations was in progress to improve the financial condition of the municipal bodies, due to which doubling of house tax was possible by the end of this financial year. He said work was also underway to rationalise different types of user charges.

The chief minister said that municipal bonds worth Rs. 200 crore had been issued in Lucknow and Rs 150 crore in Ghaziabad. "This amount is being used for the construction of residential complexes and STPs (sewage treatment plants), which will also generate revenue in future. The goal is to have partnership with international finance agencies and the formation of Urban Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation, which will also generate employment and encourage investment in small local bodies," he said.

The UP chief minister said that the National Education Policy-2020 was the biggest campaign for comprehensive reforms in the field of education after independence. He said this policy was the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the National Education Policy laid emphasis on improving the talents of children and making them efficient and confident. He said special efforts had been made by the state government for the development of basic infrastructure in the schools. He said that the government had started transfer of Rs 1,200 each to the bank accounts of parents of 1.91 crore students studying from Class 1 to 8 in state government schools for the purchase of uniforms, sweaters, schoolbags, shoes and socks, and stationery.

Yogi Adityanath added that 5,000 model schools were being developed in the state under Operation Kayakalp Phase-II. "Besides setting up of 2,500 smart classes in government secondary schools, e-mails of one crore secondary students have been developed and Wi-Fi facility has been made available in 2,273 schools," he said.

The chief minister said that like aspirational districts, it had been decided to select 100 aspirational development blocks in the state and develop them to the prescribed standards. "In all, 100 researchers will be selected for aspirational develop-

ment blocks through the Chief Minister's Fellowship Programme. With the implementation of this scheme, youth will get a special opportunity to participate in policy-making, management and implementation etc, while the blocks will benefit from the new, innovative approaches of the youth," he said.

OPP MAKES SLEW OF DEMANDS

However, his counterpart in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh YS Jagan Mohan Reddy highlighted the initiatives of his government in the two sectors and presented a note on host of issues post the bifurcation of the State in 2014.

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan said the Centre should not go against the federal structure of the Constitution and legislation on subjects listed in its concurrent list should be carried out in consultation with the States. Besides telling the Centre, not to 'challenge' federalism, Vijayan said steps should be taken to raise Kerala's credit limit as it has not yet recovered from the economic problems caused by COVID-19.

He further said the southern State has entrusted matters related to panchayats and municipalities, mentioned in the 11th and 12th schedules of the Constitution, to the local self-governing bodies as part of the decentralisation of power.

Noting that Odisha is impacted by natural disasters almost every year, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik urged the Centre to make it a special focus state and allocate funds for disaster proofing.

"As regards my state, historically we have been neglected in the subjects in the central list viz telecom, railways and banking. We have the lowest density in all these crucial infrastructures and I would urge the central government to give special focus to Odisha," he said.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren sought a special package from the Centre to deal with the drought-like situation in the state. He pointed out that the state faces drought every three to four years due to lack of irrigation and this year, too, the state so far registered 50 deficit rainfall, with less than 20 percent of the paddy sowing target achieved.

TRF TO STEP UP TERROR IN VALLEY

Non-locals coming to Jammu & Kashmir with the intention to reside and help/strengthen the Indian occupation are to be targeted. Kashmiri Pandits who are settled outside Jammu and Kashmir and "spread venom" against the so called resistance struggle of the terror group are

to be considered as prime targets, the guidelines have outlined. Non-locals and Kashmiri pandits residing in Jammu & Kashmir are also to be identified and targeted. Tourists who are encouraged to travel to the Valley to show normalcy and demonise the so-called Kashmir resistance struggle are also to be targeted.

They are to be targeted wherever they are spotted, the outfit has underscored.

The outfit has further highlighted that targets are to be selected and executed even outside Jammu & Kashmir. This is an indicator that it plans to expand its terror footprint in the Indian hinterland through the sleeper cells of the Pakistani terror group Jaish-e-Mohammad, experts said.

The outfit also plans to undertake awareness campaigns regarding Jammu & Kashmir outside the Valley and also at the international level. As part of the awareness drive, it plans to hold protests and seminars through every part of the world where Kashmiris are stationed. Periodic protests outside Indian embassies are also part of the agenda and will be carried out by Kashmiris living or working in any part of the world in conjunction with the Pakistani spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and its fronts, the experts said. The outfit has also identified local media outlets like Greater Kashmir, Rising Kashmir and Kashmir News Observer for targeting them and seeking a ban on them.

IN A FIRST, US WARSHIP ARRIVES IN INDIA FOR REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE

Indian shipyards offer wide-ranging and cost-effective ship repair and maintenance services, using advanced maritime technology platforms.

Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar, Vice Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral SN Ghormade, Flag Officer Commanding Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Naval Area Rear Admiral S Venkat Raman, and other senior officials of the Ministry of Defence visited the shipyard to welcome the vessel. Consul General of US Embassy in Chennai Judith Ravin and Defence Attaché at the US Embassy at New Delhi Rear Admiral Michael Baker were also present.

Terming the event as a red-letter day for the Indian shipbuilding industry and the Indo-US defence relationship, the Defence Secretary said, "We are indeed pleased to welcome US Naval Ship USNS Charles Drew to India, for making her voyage ready. India's initiative also assumes special significance in furthering the strategic partnership between India and the US. It marks the beginning of a new chapter for deeper engagements."

He described the arrival of the US ship for repairs as a sign of maturing Indian

shipbuilding industry and said at present India has six major shipyards with a turnover of nearly \$2 billion.

"We are making ships not only for our own requirements. We have our own design house capable of making all kinds of state-of-the-art ships. The country's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier Vikrant is a shining example of the growth of the Indian shipbuilding industry. Under the new innovation ecosystem, vessels capable of undertaking autonomous missions have been built by Goa Shipyard Limited and some of our start-ups. The shipbuilding industry today is not just carrying out conventional things, but is also amalgamating the latest technologies with it," he said.

The Defence Secretary also asserted that the ties between India and US have been expanding in scale and scope and are based on common values and beliefs of an open, inclusive, and rule-based order in the Indo-Pacific and the rest of the global common systems. He said there has been a tremendous amount of traction in the defence industry cooperation over the last couple of years between the two countries.

The Defence Secretary also said Indian defence exports have seen a massive increase in the last four-five years. Exports, which were worth about Rs 1,500 crore in 2015-16, have now grown by 800 per cent to around Rs 13,000 crore.

A major destination for Indian exports is the US, he said thanking the US partners for their cooperation and support to the Indian defence industry. He hoped that the defence exports will increase further in the times to come.

GOLDEN AND SILVER SHOWER FOR INDIA ON SUPER SUNDAY

Meanwhile, Annu Rani scripted history as she became the first Indian female javelin thrower to win a medal, a bronze, in the Commonwealth Games. Rani sent the spear to a distance of 60m in her fourth attempt to finish third. World champion Kelsey-Lee Barber of Australia stole the gold with a final round throw of 64.43m from compatriot Mackenzie Little (64.27m) who was leading at the end of the penultimate round. Before Rani, Kashinath Naik and Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra had won a bronze and a gold in the men's javelin throw, respectively. Naik had won the medal at the 2010 Delhi Games while Chopra won the gold in Gold Coast in 2018.

India's Sandeep Kumar won a bronze in the men's 10,000m racewalk event with a personal best time as he clocked 38:49.21m to finish behind gold winner Evan Dunfee (38:36.37) of Canada and Declan Tingay (38:42.33) of Australia.

China keeps up pressure on Taiwan with 4th day of drills

AP ■ BEIJING

China said Sunday it carried out its fourth consecutive day of military drills in the air and sea around Taiwan in the wake of US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to the self-ruled island, despite international calls to calm the tensions.

The People's Liberation Army said the exercises focused on testing its long-range air and ground strikes. It did not say if it will continue the drills after Sunday.

Taiwan said that it continued to detect several batches of Chinese aircraft, ships and drones operating around the Taiwan Strait, which separates the island and mainland China, and "simulating attacks on the island of Taiwan and our ships at sea."

Taiwan's official Central News Agency meanwhile reported that Taiwan's army will conduct live-fire artillery

drills in southern Pingtung County on Tuesday and Thursday, in response to the Chinese exercises.

The drills will include snipers, combat vehicles, armored vehicles as well as attack helicopters, said the report, which cited an anonymous source.

China set up no-go areas around Taiwan for the four-day drills it announced immediately after Pelosi's trip to Taipei on Tuesday and Wednesday that infuriated Beijing, which saw it as a violation of the "one-China" policy.

China claims Taiwan and has threatened to annex it by force if necessary.

The two sides split in 1949 after a civil war, but Beijing considers visits to Taiwan by foreign officials as recognizing its sovereignty.

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence emphasised that its military was surveilling the situation and had dis-



patched aircraft and ships to respond accordingly.

Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen has called on the international community to "support democratic Taiwan" and "halt any escalation of the regional security situation."

China has so far conducted missiles strikes on targets in the seas around Taiwan, and sent warships across the Taiwan Straits median line. It has also cut off defense and climate talks with the US and imposed sanctions on Pelosi in retaliation for

her visit.

The Biden administration and Pelosi say the US remains committed to the "one-China" policy that recognises Beijing as the legitimate government but allows informal relations and defense ties with Taipei.

US, Australia, Japan urge China to immediately cease military exercises around Taiwan

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The United States, Australia and Japan have urged China to immediately cease its military exercises launched following US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei, as they reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

Pelosi, 82, was the highest-profile US official to visit Taiwan in 25 years. Pelosi's visit on Wednesday and her meetings with President Tsai Ing-wen and other leaders has infuriated China, which views the self-governed democratic island as its territory that should be reunified with the mainland, even by force.

China fired a barrage of ballistic missiles into the waters around Taiwan as it launched large-scale military exercises in response to her visit to Taipei.

A joint statement was issued by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong,



and Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa after their in-person meeting in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, on the margins of the 55th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

"The Secretary and the Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," the statement said on Saturday.

Sharing the region's desire for diplomacy to avoid the risks of miscalculation, they expressed their concern about

the People's Republic of China's (PRC) recent actions that gravely affect international peace and stability, including the use of large-scale military exercises.

"They condemned the PRC's launch of ballistic missiles, five of which the Japanese government reported landed in its exclusive economic zones, raising tension and destabilising the region. The Secretary and the Foreign Ministers urged the PRC to immediately cease the military exercises," said the joint statement.

Biden leaves White House for 1st time since getting Covid-19



AP ■ REHOBOTH BEACH

Ending his most recent COVID-19 isolation, President Joe Biden on Sunday left the White House for the first time since becoming infected with the coronavirus last month, settling in for a reunion with first lady Jill Biden in their home state of Delaware.

The president had tested negative Saturday, clearing the way to emerge from an isolation that lasted longer than expected because of a rebound case of the virus. The White House physician, Dr. Kevin O'Connor, had said in his last update that Biden, "in an abundance of caution," would continue his "strict isolation measures" pending a second negative test. The White House on Sunday did not say whether the president had a second negative test and had not provided a new report from O'Connor since midday Saturday.

"I'm feeling great," Biden said before boarding Marine One outside the White House.

The Bidens were expected to spend the day in Rehoboth Beach, a popular vacation destination.

Israeli airstrike kills 2nd top Islamic Jihad commander

AP ■ GAZA CITY

Israel said Sunday that it killed a senior Islamic Jihad commander in a crowded Gaza refugee camp, the second such targeted attack since it launched its high-stakes military offensive against the militant group just before the weekend.

The Iran-backed militant group has fired hundreds of rockets at Israel in response, and the risk of the cross-border fighting turning into a full-fledged war remained high.

Gaza's ruling Hamas group, which fought an 11-day war with Israel in May 2021, appeared to stay on the sidelines for now, possibly because it fears Israeli reprisals and undoing economic understandings with Israel, including Israeli work permits for thousands of Gaza residents, that bolster its control.

The Islamic Jihad commander, Khaled Mansour, was killed in an airstrike on an apartment building in the Rafah refugee camp in southern Gaza late Saturday.

Two other militants and five civilians were also killed in the attack, bringing the



Palestinian death toll to 31 since the start of the Israeli offensive on Friday. Among the dead were six children and four women. The Palestinian Health Ministry said more than 250 people were wounded since Friday. Israel says some of the deaths were caused by errant rocket fire, including one incident in the Jebaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza in which six Palestinians were killed Saturday. On Sunday, a projectile hit a home in the same area of Jebaliya, killing two men. Palestinians held Israel responsible, while Israel said it was investigating whether the area was hit by an errant rocket.

Mansour, the Islamic Jihad commander for southern Gaza, was in the apartment of a member of the group when the missile struck, flattening the three-story building and badly damaging nearby houses.

"Suddenly, without warning, the house next to us was bombed and everything became black and dusty with smoke in the blink of an eye," said Wissam Jouada, who lives next to the targeted building.

Ahmed al-Qaissi, another neighbour, said his wife and son were among the wounded, suffering shrapnel injuries. To make way for rescue workers, al-Qaissi agreed to have part of his house demolished.



UNSC to address Gaza airstrikes as toll reaches 24

IANS ■ TEL AVIV/GAZA

The UN Security Council (UNSC) is to discuss Israel's airstrikes on Gaza in a closed doors session in New York on Monday, as the death toll continued to rise, with 24 people confirmed dead and 203 injured, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry.

The UN's most powerful body agreed to address the attacks following requests for it to do so made by the United Arab Emirates, Ireland, France, Norway and China on Saturday, dpa news agency reported, citing diplomatic sources.

Israeli forces launched Operation Breaking Dawn on Friday, a series of targeted airstrikes on Gaza that resulted in the killing of Taisir al-Jabari, a senior leader of the

Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant group, among many others.

Palestinian Islamic Jihad, which is classified as a terrorist organization by both the European Union and the United States, is closely linked to Israel's arch-enemy Iran and is the second most powerful militia in the Gaza Strip after the ruling Hamas militant group.

Fearing reprisals for al-Jabari's killing, Israel closed its border with Gaza causing a fuel shortage at Gaza's sole power plant that forced it offline on Saturday.

As a result, Gaza residents are now limited to just four hours of electricity a day, compared to the previous 12, in what an energy company official described as a "catastrophic situation."

Gunmen kill 4 in attack targeting lawmaker in NW Pakistan

AP ■ PESHAWAR

Gunmen shot dead four people including two police in northwestern Pakistan in an attack targeting a provincial lawmaker from former Prime Minister Imran Khan's political party, police said.

Lawmaker Malik Liaquat Khan — no relation to Imran Khan — of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party was wounded in the attack late

Saturday along with three others and was hospitalized in the provincial capital of Peshawar, police said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

The assault took place in the Maidan area of the Lower Dir district of conservative Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which is governed by Khan's party.

Police officer Zar Badshah said among those killed were the



nephew and brother of the PTI lawmaker, who was returning home after attending a funeral late Saturday.

The area has been a stronghold of late religious leader Sufi Mohammad, who preached a strict version of Islam in the 1990s and later led his followers in fighting in Afghanistan against the US and allied forces. It remained under the influence of the Pakistani Taliban until 2009.

9 wounded in shooting outside Cincinnati bar, say police

AP ■ CINCINNATI (US)

At least nine people were wounded — none critically — in a shooting outside a Cincinnati bar early Sunday, police there said.

Most of the victims suffered wounds to their lower halves, Lt. Col. Mike John of the Cincinnati police told news outlets. A police officer fired at a suspect who fled the scene,



but it was unclear if that person was actually shot. The sus-

pect was not in custody as of Sunday morning. "It is a little unusual when we do not know for certainty whether the individual the officer fired on was struck or not," John said.

John said police used what he called two "bang balls" — a "percussion instrument" with a "very loud noise" — to disperse a crowd they said had gathered around officers trying to provide aid to the wounded.

Bangladesh seeks China help to repatriate Rohingya refugees

AP ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh on Sunday sought cooperation from China to repatriate Rohingya refugees to Myanmar during a visit by Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who promised better trade ties, investment and support for infrastructure development in the South Asian nations.

China had used its influence in Myanmar to broker a November 2017 agreement to repatriate about 700,000 Rohingya Muslim refugees who fled persecution in Myanmar in August that year. Despite attempts to send them back, the refugees refused, fearing danger in Myanmar, which was exacerbated by the military takeover last year.

Yi arrived in Dhaka on Saturday evening and met with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister A K Abdul Momen. They discussed bilateral and global issues before his departure on Sunday



morning, said Shahriar Alam, Bangladesh's junior minister for foreign affairs.

Bangladesh has strong relations with China, which is a major trade partner mostly for raw materials. But maintaining close ties with Beijing is challenging for Bangladesh, which also balances diplomatic and trade relationship with both India and the United States, China's main rivals.

More than 500 Chinese companies are active in Bangladesh. China is involved in the country's all major infrastructure projects such as sea-

ports, a river tunnel and highways, and helped built its largest bridge over the River Padma at a cost of \$3.6 billion.

Amid recent tensions between China and Taiwan, Bangladesh issued a statement reiterating its support for the "one-China" policy.

After winning elections in 2008, Hasina's administration closed the Taiwanese business representative office in Dhaka in response to a request from China, and since then China has increased its engagement in Bangladesh.

US Democrats climate, energy Bill clears initial Senate hurdle

AP ■ WASHINGTON

US Democrats pushed their election-year economic bill toward Senate approval early on Sunday, starting the sprawling collection of President Joe Biden's priorities on climate, energy, health and taxes on a pathway that the party hopes will end in final congressional passage by the end of this week.

The evenly divided Senate voted on Saturday to begin debating the legislation 51-50, with Vice President Kamala Harris breaking the tie and overcoming unanimous Republican opposition.

A dwindled version of earlier multitrillion-dollar measures that Democrats failed to advance, the package has become a partisan battleground over inflation, gasoline prices and other issues that polls show are driving voters.

The House, where Democrats have a slender majority, could give the legislation final approval next



Friday.

"The time is now to move forward with a big, bold package for the American people," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-NY.

"This historic bill will reduce inflation, lower costs, fight climate change. It's time to move this nation forward."

Republicans said the measure would damage the economy and make it harder for people to cope with sky-high inflation. They said the bill's business taxes would hurt job creation and force prices

upward and urged voters to remember that in November.

"The best way to stop this tax and spend inflationary madness is to fire some of the 50 so they can't keep doing this to your family," said South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, top Republican on the Senate Budget Committee.

Nonpartisan analysts have said the legislation, which Democrats have named the Inflation Reduction Act, would have a minor impact on the nation's worst inflation bout in four decades.

Ex-rebel sworn in as Colombia's president in historic shift



AP ■ BOGOTA (COLOMBIA)

Colombia's first leftist president was sworn into office on Sunday, promising to fight inequality and heralding a turning point in the history of a country haunted by a long war between the government and guerrilla groups.

Sen. Gustavo Petro, a former member of Colombia's M-19 guerrilla group, won the presidential election in June by beating conservative parties that offered moderate changes to the market-friendly economy, but failed to connect with voters frustrated by rising poverty and violence against human rights leaders and environmental groups in rural areas.

Petro is part of a growing group of leftist politicians and political outsiders who have been winning elections in Latin America since the pandemic broke out and hurt incumbents who struggled with its economic aftershocks.

The ex-rebel's victory was also exceptional for Colombia, where voters had been historically reluctant to back leftist politicians who were often accused of being soft on crime or allied with guerrillas.

A 2016 peace deal between Colombia's government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia turned much of the focus of voters away from the violent conflicts playing out in rural areas and gave prominence to problems like poverty and corruption, fuelling the popularity of leftist parties in national elections.

Petro, 62, has promised to tackle Colombia's social and economic inequalities by boosting spending on anti-poverty programs and increasing investment in rural areas.

India win final T20I by 88 runs

PTI ■ LAUDERHILL

Shreyas Iyer roared back to form with a stroke-filled 64 while the spinners picked up all the 10 wickets as India recorded yet another one-sided 88-run victory over West Indies to wrap up the five-match T20 International series by a comprehensive 4-1 margin here.

It was Iyer's half-century and useful contributions from Deepak Hooda (38 off 25 balls) and stand-in skipper Hardik Pandya's (28 off 16 balls) cameo that propelled India to 188 for 7 in 20 overs after being put in to bat.

Then, Pandya handed the new ball to Axar Patel (3-1-15-3), who quickly removed makeshift opener Jason Holder (0), Shamara Brooks (13) and Devon Thomas (10) with three arm balls on a track where balls stopped and gripped off the surface.

West Indies were all out for 100 runs inside 16 overs as one of the most lopsided T20I bilateral series came to an end even though India won't be complaining having ticked most of the boxes.

Once Kuldeep Yadav (4-1-12-3) caught rival skipper Nicholas Pooran (3) plumb in-front with a flighted delivery, there was no way that the West Indies could have made a comeback on a track which wasn't easy for batting. It started getting slower with the passage of time and despite Shimron Hetmyer's (56 off 35 balls) resistance, it was never going to be enough as the Caribbean batting line-up never had the wherewithal to cope with the quality of Indian spinners. Ravi Bishnoi (2.4-0-16-4) also got into the act and snapped his share of wickets as India's spin trio varied their lengths and pace with ease to keep the Windies batters on tenterhooks.

But the day belonged to Iyer, who was able to release the pressure piling upon him with a blistering knock as the Indian team, even without its regular top-order, scored above par on a slowish track.



'Turned to slowers to unsettle WI batters'

PTI ■ LAUDERHILL

India pacer Avesh Khan's redemption, after being whacked around the Caribbean grounds with strong wind and short boundaries, came about after he slowed down his pace following skipper Rohit Sharma's advice.

Khan said he has received "enormous amount of confidence" from Rohit and coach Rahul Dravid when he was struggling to come to grips with the strong wind and short boundaries.

The bowler's match-winning performance (2/17 in 4 overs) helped India seal the T20I series against West Indies with a 59-run victory in the fourth match here on Saturday.

"They have given me an enormous amount of confidence, despite the fact I did not perform well in my last two games.

However, Rohit bhai and Rahul Sir's support have given me the confidence both on and off the field... And told me that rough patches do happen," Khan told reporters after the match.

Khan had leaked 54 runs in six overs on his ODI debut in Port-of-Spain last month. In the ensuing first two T20Is in St Kitts, he continued to bleed runs but Rohit, regardless of his pacer's struggles, had tasked Khan with defending nine off the final over in the second T20.

Khan failed to deliver, but the

team management kept backing him.

"They also backed me by saying that an average performance in two matches do not make anyone a bad bowler, especially in T20s, given how the format is.

"I was backed the same way in this match too and I am happy that I performed well. They provided me necessary support during the South Africa tour as well.

"When a player is constantly encouraged by the captain and coach to perform well, it automatically motivates him to give his best. Rohit bhai is a fantastic leader. Not only me, he always backs and supports everyone in the team," Khan added.

Stand-in skipper Hardik Pandya played a nice little cameo to beef up the score in the end with 18 runs coming off the penultimate over bowled by Jason Holder.

Due to lightning in the vicinity of the stadium, the match was halted for 15 minutes after 14.3 overs, when India were nicely placed at 135 for three.

Having failed in the first three games and dropped from the fourth, not only did Iyer perform admirably in an unfamiliar position as an opener but also won his little 'battle

within battle' with Deepak Hooda, who was equally impressive during his stay at the crease.

The Iyer-Hooda pair added 76 runs in only 7.1 overs and their partnership was nothing short of breathtaking with as many as four sixes (two each) hit between them apart from a flurry of fours.

The innings played a day before the Asia Cup team selection will certainly leave Iyer in a far better mind space although he is certainly going to miss out in the first XI berth when all the 'big boys' turn up.

The bulk of his eight fours and two sixes were all sweetly timed strokes. Ishan Kishan (11 off 13 balls) failed to make it count and opportunities will be rare in the next two months for the pint-sized Jharkhand dasher. Iyer teed off against Dominic Drakes with a couple of boundaries while Hooda played a cute little ramp shot over the keeper off Keemo Paul.

It was the eighth over bowled by Odean Smith where Iyer launched into the bowler with back-to-back sixes -- a slash over point and a lofted drive over extra cover.

Off the first delivery by leg-spinner Hayden Walsh's very next over, Hooda hit a picturesque inside-out six over extra cover.

However, the shot of the Indian innings was Hooda's lofted drive over Obed McCoy's bow for a maximum.

In fact, the Baroda man would be trifle disappointed as he showed right intent while trying to deposit a Walsh half-tracker into cow corner stands but it was the string winds blowing from the opposite direction that became his undoing. Iyer departed soon after while trying to drag a low wide full-toss from Jason Holder but in the end only managing to offer a simple return catch.

BRIEF SCORES:

India: 188 for 7 in 20 overs (Shreyas Iyer 64; Odean Smith 3/33).

West Indies: 100 all out in 15.4 overs (Shimron Hetmyer 56; Ravi Bishnoi 4/16, Axar Patel 3/15, Kuldeep Yadav 3/12).



Zimbabwe beat B'desh by 5 wickets, seal ODI series

AP ■ HARARE

Zimbabwe trounced Bangladesh by five wickets in the second ODI. With that, the hosts clinched an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. Batting first, the Bangla Tigers hoarded 290/9, courtesy of the fifties from Tamim Iqbal (50) and Mahmudullah (84*). Chasing 291, the hosts stumbled at the start, but centuries Sikandar Raza (117*) and Regis Chakabva (102) steered them home (291/5).

Raza has been a man possessed in the limited-over duels played this year. This series has been no different for the all-rounder. In addition to picking three wickets, Raza brought up his fifth ODI ton (10 to seal the series for the hosts. Notably, it's his fifth fifty-plus score in a span of seven innings in ODIs, including a 135* in the last outing.

Chakabva had class written all over him in the pivotal duel. The wicket-keeper batter clobbered a hostile-look-

ing 102 off 75 deliveries, studied with 10 fours and two sixes. It was his maiden ODI ton. He has breached the 1,000-run mark (1,057) while averaging 21.57. He also fetched a colossal 201-run stand alongside Raza to put Zimbabwe back in the chase.

Mahmudullah Riyad and Tamim Iqbal hit half centuries as Bangladesh scored 290-9.

Coming in at 127 for three in the 24th over Mahmudullah was unbeaten on 80 at the close of the 50-over innings.

Captain and opener Tamim followed up his half-century in a five-wicket loss on Friday by making 50 before becoming the first Bangladesh batter to fall, with 71 runs on the board.

Mahmudullah scored his runs off 84 balls with his knuck including three sixes and three fours at Harare Sports Club.

Tamim, who on Friday became the first Bangladeshi to score 8,000 ODI runs, was equally brisk, reaching his total off 45 deliveries.

LOCAL EVENTS

DOUBLE DELIGHT FOR SHIVAM

It was a double delight for Shivam Yadav as he emerged victorious in the boy's U-19 and U-15 category in the Lucknow District Badminton Championship on Sunday. Shivam defeated Bhumesh Utrani 21-19, 21-15 to lift the U-19 boy's singles trophy. He drubbed Akshay Pandey 21-15, 21-14 in the final of U-15 boy's event. Neha Mittal beat Shagun Gupta 21-19, 21-15 to claim the U-19 girl's title. Dhara Gupta beat Aadhy Seth 21-15, 21-14 for the U-15 girl's trophy. Vandana Sehgal, Akhilesh Kalra, Sudharma Singh and Arun Kaccker gave away the prizes.

OTHER RESULTS:

Boy's (U-11) Kushagra Dwivedi bt Shaurya Pandit 21-12, 21-17; **Boy's (U-13)** Prajjawal Pathak bt Pradyumn Mishra 21-17, 21-17; **Girl's (U-13)** Priyanshi Gola bt Shanvi Singh 21-8, 21-17.

SHANI SONI EMERGES WINNER

Shani Kumar Soni emerged victorious in the 6th Lucknow District Open Chess Tournament at Precision Chess Academy on Sunday. Soni and Prithvi were tied at 5.5 points each after the completion of 6 round but Soni was adjudged winner on better tie-break. Sanvi Agarwal and Shubh Srivastava walked away with best female and best U-11 trophies respectively.

UP MARATHON ON AUGUST 28

Suvidha Foundation Trust is organising UP Marathon on August 28. The seven lakh prizemoney marathon will witness participation of many national and international runners. The organising secretary Samir Sharma said that the winners of men's and women's category would be given a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh each while the runners-up and second runner-ups would get richer by Rs 75,000 and Rs 50,000 respectively.

LUCKNOW SPORTS HOSTEL OVERALL CHAMPION

Lucknow Sports Hostel bagged 87 points to win the overall championship in the 63rd Senior State Championship on Sunday. Varanasi claimed the men's championship with 95 points. Anurag R Singh and Disha Bhandari won the men's and women's individual championship respectively. Anurag claimed five gold medals with three new records while Disha drowned five records for as many golds. Raja Jai Pratap Singh gave away the prizes to the winners.

Medvedev ends ATP title drought

LOS CABOS: World number one Daniil Medvedev won his first ATP title of 2022 on Saturday, roaring past defending champion Cameron Norrie 7-5, 6-0 in the final of the hardcourt tournament in Los Cabos, Mexico.

Medvedev snapped a five-match losing streak in finals — a stretch that included his agonizing five-set loss to Rafael Nadal in the Australian Open final in February.

He also came up short this year in 's-Hertogenbosch and Halle. He didn't get a chance at Wimbledon, where Russian and Belarussian players were banned because of

Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

His first trophy since he won the US Open last year — denying Novak Djokovic a calendar Grand Slam — comes just as he launches the final build up to his title defense in the final Grand Slam of 2022. Next he'll defend his Canadian Open title before tackling the Cincinnati Masters.

Shelby Rogers, ranked 45th in the world, qualified for the WTA hardcourt tournament final in San Jose, California, on Saturday with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over 19th-ranked Veronika Kudermetova.

OPENERS: Even though since the end of last year's T20 World Cup, India have tried as many as eight players as openers, Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul are almost certain to be picked. And with Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, and Virat Kohli also capable of batting at the top in case of any mishap, there are almost negligible chances for a reserve opener.

MIDDLE ORDER: Virat Kohli will make his comeback for India in the Asia Cup after taking a break from the West Indies tour. He will bat at his usual number three position, and in the middle, joining him will be Suryakumar Yadav. The Mumbaier has established himself in the white-ball format of the game.

WICKETKEEPER: Even though there are options in the form of Ishan Kishan, Sanju Samson, and Dinesh Karthik, Rishabh Pant is almost certain to be picked up as India's first choice wicketkeeper-batter. His numbers in white-ball cricket are not as high as they are in Test cricket, but he cannot be dropped.

ALL ROUNDERS: Hardik Pandya and Ravindra Jadeja are two of the best all-rounders in world cricket at the moment, and both of them are almost certain to be picked. Apart from contributing with the bat and ball, both are excellent fielders and now also have the experience of leading an IPL side, which will come in handy as the tournament progresses.



AP ■ CLERMONT

Lionel Messi scored twice in the second half, including with a stunning overhead kick, as Paris Saint-Germain began their defence of the Ligue 1 title with a 5-0 demolition of Clermont on Saturday.

Neymar was also in outstanding form for a PSG side who did not miss the injured Kylian Mbappe, with the Brazilian opening the scoring in Clermont before setting up Achraf Hakimi and Marquinhos for further goals before half-time.

Messi then exchanged passes with Neymar before sidefooting in the visitors' fourth goal with 10 minutes left. Yet Messi saved the best for last,

Ten Hag loses 1st game as Man Utd manager

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Erik ten Hag's reign as Manchester United manager got off to a nightmare start as Brighton registered their first ever victory at Old Trafford with a 2-1 win on the opening weekend of the Premier League season.

Any hope of a fresh start for United after a miserable 2021/22 season was wiped away within 45 minutes as Pascal Gross struck twice to put Brighton in command.

Alexis Mac Allister's own goal gave United a foothold in the game, but they rarely looked like getting back on level terms, showing the scale of the task lying ahead for Ten Hag.

The former Ajax boss left Cristiano Ronaldo on the bench after he only returned to pre-sea-



son training last week.

Ronaldo is reportedly seeking an exit from Old Trafford to play CL football this season.

But without the five time Ballon d'Or winner, United had no focal point for their attack as Christian Eriksen started in an unfamiliar role as a false nine.

The outcome could have

been very different had Bruno Fernandes not blazed over a glorious chance on six minutes.

The nadir of a nightmare campaign for United last season as they finished sixth in the Premier League came in a 4-0 defeat to Brighton in May, and the Seagulls quickly settled into their passing rhythm.

Messi, Neymar combine to script PSG's 5-0 win

darting into the box four minutes from the end to control a Leandro Paredes pass on his chest with his back to goal, before converting with an acrobatic overhead kick.

That goal had the crowd at Clermont's Stade Gabriel-Montpied singing the name of the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner, who endured a difficult first season in Paris.

PSG's victory in new coach Christophe Galtier's first league game

in charge was achieved despite Mbappe missing the trip due to an adductor injury.

Mbappe also missed last week's 4-0 defeat of Nantes in the season-opening Champions Trophy due to suspension.

Messi had opened the scoring in that game, while Neymar netted a brace.

The duo therefore already have six goals between them this season, with PSG looking in ominous form.

Rahul & Virat set to return for Asia Cup T20

The 2022 edition of the Asia Cup T20 tournament will take place in the United Arab Emirates from August 27. The tournament was initially supposed to take place in Sri Lanka, but due to the ongoing political and economic crisis there, it was shifted to the UAE, but Sri Lanka will remain the host. This year, in preparation for the T20 World Cup, which will be held in Australia from October 16 to November 13, the Asia Cup will be played in the T20I format, making the upcoming matches, in which India will face Pakistan at least twice, crucial. Ahead of the team selection in Mumbai on Monday for the multi-nation event, **DRITI ATRI** takes a look at the 15 players who can find a place in the squad.

OPENERS: Even though since the end of last year's T20 World Cup, India have tried as many as eight players as openers, Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul are almost certain to be picked. And with Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, and Virat Kohli also capable of batting at the top in case of any mishap, there are almost negligible chances for a reserve opener.

MIDDLE ORDER: Virat Kohli will make his comeback for India in the Asia Cup after taking a break from the West Indies tour. He will bat at his usual number three position, and in the middle, joining him will be Suryakumar Yadav. The Mumbaier has established himself in the white-ball format of the game.

WICKETKEEPER: Even though there are options in the form of Ishan Kishan, Sanju Samson, and Dinesh Karthik, Rishabh Pant is almost certain to be picked up as India's first choice wicketkeeper-batter. His numbers in white-ball cricket are not as high as they are in Test cricket, but he cannot be dropped.

ALL ROUNDERS: Hardik Pandya and Ravindra Jadeja are two of the best all-rounders in world cricket at the moment, and both of them are almost certain to be picked. Apart from contributing with the bat and ball, both are excellent fielders and now also have the experience of leading an IPL side, which will come in handy as the tournament progresses.



FINISHER: There's no one better than Dinesh Karthik in the world at the moment as a number seven batter. The veteran Indian stumper made a sensational comeback to the Indian shortest format side and is now on his way to the big events.

PACERS: Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah are definite starters, and with Hardik Pandya to support them with the ball in hand now, India is likely to stick with the duo for the Asia Cup.

SPINNER: Even though Yuzvendra Chahal wasn't included in the Indian team for the five T20Is against West Indies, he is still India's first choice white-ball spinner, and despite competition from

Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravi Bishnoi, Axar Patel, and Kuldeep Yadav, he will get the nod.

RESERVES: Since the squad for the Asia Cup is almost likely to be the one that India will field in the T20 World Cup later this year, it becomes interesting to see which other four players get the selectors' nod. Since Harshal Patel is out of the Asia Cup due to an injury, there are question marks over his availability for the T20 World Cup as well. But India have enough options to replace him and the likes of Deepak Chahal, who will return to action for the first time since February 20 against Zimbabwe this month, Avesh Khan, Arshdeep Singh and

Mohammed Shami will be in the fray. As far as a back-up middle order batter is concerned, Shreyas Iyer is likely to get the nod of selectors over Deepak Hooda, who has also impressed in the limited chances he has had so far. And in the back-up spinner category, Axar Patel is likely to pip Ashwin, Ravi Bishnoi, and Kuldeep.

India's likely squad for the Asia Cup: Rohit Sharma (Captain), KL Rahul, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wk), Hardik Pandya, Dinesh Karthik, Jadeja, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Yuzvendra Chahal, Shreyas Iyer, Axar Patel, Deepak Chahal, Arshdeep Singh

1-2 FINISH FOR INDIA IN MEN'S TRIPLE JUMP



PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Eldhose Paul won a historic triple jump Gold in a 1-2 finish for India as the country bagged four medals on a Super Sunday on the concluding day of athletics competitions at the Commonwealth Games here. After the mad rush of four medals coming within 30 minutes, India's medal tally from athletics swelled to eight — 1 Gold, 4 Silver, 3 Bronze — the best in the CWG history outside the country and only second to the haul at the 2010 edition in Delhi. The 25-year-old Paul became only the sixth Indian

to win a CWG Gold since legendary Milkha Singh won it in 1958 in 440 yards. The Ernakulam-born Indian Navyman led India's historic 1-2 finish with a best jump of 17.03m in his third attempt after opening with 14.62m. His jump was though wind-assisted and his second best was 16.63m. Before Sunday's jump, he had a personal best of 16.99m. Paul's Kerala statement Abdulla Aboobacker was second with a fifth round jump of 17.02m. Aboobacker, who has a season's and personal best of 17.19m, was at fourth spot at the end of the fourth round but soared to 17.02 in

his next attempt to jump to second. Jah-Nhal Perinchief of Bermuda won the Bronze with his best jump of 16.92m. The other Indian in the fray, Praveen Chitravel, who came to the CWG as the second best Indian with a season's best of 17.18m, finished at fourth with 16.89m. India has won four triple jump medals in the past editions but this is the first time two athletes from the country have got podium finishes. Mohinder Singh Gill had won a Bronze and a Silver in 1970 and 1974 editions while Renjith Maheswary and Arpinder Singh had finished



third in 2010 and 2014 editions. The experienced Annu Rani also scripted history as she became the first Indian female javelin thrower to win a medal, a Bronze, with a best effort of 60m in her fourth attempt. The 29-year-old was well below her season's best and national record of 63.82m but that was enough for a third-place finish behind two Australians -- world champion Kelsey-Lee Barber (64.43m) and Mackenzie Little (64.27m). Rani's medal came on a day the country was celebrating National Javelin Day to mark Neeraj Chopra's his-

toric gold in Tokyo Olympics on the same day last year. Before Rani, Kashinath Naik and Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra had won a Bronze and a Gold in the men's javelin throw respectively. Naik had won the medal at the 2010 Delhi Games, while Chopra won the gold in Gold Coast in 2018. The other Indian in the fray, Shilpa Rani was seventh with a best of 54.62m. Veteran race walker Sandeep Kumar added another Bronze in men's 10,000m event with a personal best time of 38:49.21. The other Indian in the fray, Amit Khatri finished ninth with a season best time of 43:04.97. Kumar's medal was the second in this edition after Priyanka Goswami's Silver in the same event on Saturday. He also became only the second Indian male race walker to win a medal in CWG after Harminder Singh, who won a Bronze in 20km event in the 2010 edition.

Australia beat India to win gold in cricket

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

World champions Australia beat India by nine runs in a thriller to win the gold medal in the women's cricket event at the Commonwealth Games on Sunday. Batting first, Australia scored 161 for 8 in 20 overs with Beth Mooney scoring 61 off 41 balls while Renuka Singh taking 2 for 25. In reply, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur smashed 65 off 43 balls but India's lower-order caved in meekly to get all out for 152 in 19.3 overs. After losing openers Smriti (6) and Shafali Verma (11), skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (65) added 96 runs for the third wicket, before latter was cleaned bowled by Schutt. The Southern Stars took the last five wickets for 13 runs. Spinner Ashleigh Gardner was the most successful bowler with 3 for 16.

BRIEF SCORES:
Australia Women: 161 for 8 in 20 overs (Beth Mooney 61, Meg Lanning 36; Renuka Singh 2/25, Sneha Rana 2/38)
Indian Women: (Harmanpreet 65, Jemimah 33, Gardner 3/16, Schutt 2/27).

Kumar also holds national record in both 20km and 50km race walk events. But, he was competing in 10,000m as the 20km event was not there in the Birmingham CWG.



Gold Rush in Boxing

Nikhat Zareen, Amit Panghal, Nitu grab maiden CWG yellow metals

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

The indomitable Nikhat Zareen added a Commonwealth Games light flyweight (50kg) title to her bulging trophy cabinet while Amit Panghal (51kg) began his redemption journey with a much-needed Gold winning show, here on Sunday. Nikhat, who is on a winning spree since the Nationals last year, asserted her dominance over Northern Ireland's Carly McNaul as she punched her way to a comprehensive 5-0 win in her maiden CWG appearance.



Panghal, on the other hand, avenged his 2018 Commonwealth Games final loss against Kieran MacDonald by clinching the title with a comprehensive 5-0 win over the favourite. Indian boxers made it three out of three Golds on the day as young Nitu Ghanghas (48kg) too reigned supreme on her CWG debut.

Sagar Ahlawat will play his final bout later tonight. The India pugilists will return with seven medals from Birmingham, two less than the previous edition. Nikhat started off the year by clinching a Gold at the prestigious Strandja Memorial tournament before going on to become a world champion. The Telangana boxer, who dropped from 52kg to 50kg for the CWG, glided around the ring, landing hooks and tight jabs at will. Her defence was equally impressive. Such was her dominance that when the nine minutes ended there was no

doubt which way the decision would go. Having lost to a Briton four years ago at the same stage in Gold Coast, the 26-year-old Panghal was at his aggressive best against MacDonald as he clinched the yellow metal with a 5-0 verdict. With the Gold, Panghal also put his disappointing Tokyo Olympics outing where he made a round of 16 exit, behind. Nitu, on the other hand, upstaged 2019 world championships Bronze medallist Demie-Jade Resztan of England by a 5-0 unanimous verdict. The first Indian boxer to take the ring, Nitu, competing in her first CWG, looked completely in control throughout the nine minutes, giving the home boxer no chance. "I am so happy, I can hardly breathe," Nitu told reporters. The legendary MC Mary Kom had won the coveted yellow metal in the same category at the 2018 Games.

Srikanth wins bronze; Sindhu, Sen one step away from Gold

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

World championship silver medallist Kidambi Srikanth signed off with a bronze but double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and debutant Lakshya Sen stayed on course for maiden gold medals at the Commonwealth Games here on Sunday. Srikanth prevailed over Singapore's world number 87 Jia Heng Teh 21-15 21-18 to claim a bronze medal to go with the silver that he had won four years ago in Gold Coast.

The Singaporean grimaced in pain after suffering cramps on his left thigh in the second game but still kept fighting till the end. Earlier, Sindhu, who has a silver and a bronze from the 2018 and 2014 editions, rode on her technical superiority to outwit Singapore's Yeo Jia Min 21-19 21-17 in a 49-minute contest to reach her second successive final. The Indian had also beaten Min in the team event. In the following match, world number 10 Sen, making his CWG debut, seemed to have lost his way after a dominating start against Jia but recovered in time to complete a 21-10, 18-21, 21-16 win in the men's singles semifinals. Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty ensured a third gold medal match for India on Monday when they downed Malaysia's Chen Peng Soon and Tian Kian Men 21-6, 21-15 to reach the men's doubles final. The world number 7 pair, who had claimed a silver at Gold Coast, was too good for the Malaysians. It could

have been an all-Indian men's singles final but an error-prone Srikanth squandered a first game advantage to lose to lower-ranked Tze Yong Ng 21-13, 19-21, 21-10 in the semifinals. It was his second successive defeat to the Malaysian, having lost to him in three games in the mixed team final as well. The world number 42 Tze had shocked reigning world champion Yew Kean Loh of Singapore in the quarterfinal and would face Sen in the summit clash on Monday. After winning the opening game, the 13th ranked Srikanth made too many unforced errors to go down in the semifinals. From 4-4 in the decider, errors rained from Srikanth's racket, leaving him frustrated on court. With the Malaysian leading 17-9, there was no point of return for the Indian who netted a forehand on match point. The Indian women's doubles pairing of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, who lost to the seasoned Malaysian combine of Thinnah Muralitharan and Pearly Koon Le Tan in the semifinals in straight games, will play for bronze later in the day. In the first men's singles semifinal, Sen was stretched by his Singaporean opponent. He relied on relentless attack to put his Singaporean opponent on the backfoot and he was able to do that in the first game. A couple of forehand smashes on the Singaporean's right helped him take a 1-0 lead in the match.

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Star Indian para table tennis player Bhavina Patel won a Gold medal in the women's singles class 3-5 at the Commonwealth Games here on Saturday. The 35-year-old from Gujarat, who had won a Silver at Tokyo Paralympics, prevailed 12-10, 11-2, 11-9 over Nigeria's Ifechukwu Christiana Ikpeoyi to cap off a superb show at the quadrennial event. Bhavina reached the world No. 2 ranking by winning the Silver medal in the individual category at the 2011 PTT Thailand Open.

Bhavina wins Gold, Sonalben bags Bronze medal in para TT



Besides, she also won a Silver medal in the women's singles class 4 at the Asian Para Table Tennis Championships in Beijing in 2013. In 2017, Bhavina bagged a Bronze in the Asian Para Table Tennis Championships in Beijing. Sonalben Manubhai Patel also gave India a medal, claiming a Bronze in women's singles class 3-5.

If I am training right I become my own psychologist: Vinesh

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

A drastic change in training regimen and the extra push that her family gave enabled Vinesh Phogat to turn the tide after a forgettable last 12 months during which she "hit rock bottom mentally". A premature exit from the Tokyo Olympics, where she went in as the top seed, injury issues and run-ins with the wrestling federation pushed her into an abyss. The 27-year-old's existing training methods were not yielding results. She had to go back to the drawing board. After undergoing an elbow surgery in September, Vinesh only wanted to get her training right. "If my training is going right, I feel fine mentally as well," she said after easing to a 53kg Gold at the Commonwealth Games on Saturday. "Only I know what I have done to win this medal. It feels a lot more special considering what I have gone through over the past 12 months," said Vinesh who is now a three-time CWG Gold medallist. Vinesh, who had to really dig deep to win the trials to make the CWG squad, was struggling for sparring partners in her category. The women were not strong enough so she decided to train with the U-15 boys. "She was not getting the required training earlier, now she is. That is the difference according to me," said national coach Jitender Yadav on Vinesh's victorious comeback.

Sharath-Sathiyan settle for Silver

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

The seasoned Indian pair of Sharath Kamal and G Sathiyan was outsmarted by familiar foes Paul Drinkhall and Liam Pitchford of England in the men's doubles final at the Commonwealth Games here on Sunday. The Indian duo had to settle for Silver for the second successive edition after losing 11-8, 8-11, 3-11, 11-7, 4-11 to the English combine. It was a repeat of the 2018 final in Gold Coast and to the disappointment of the Indians, it was the same result. The Indian contingent has been getting tons of support from the crowd here but at the NEC table tennis arena on Sunday, English fans outnumbered the Indians. With very little separating the two pairs, the Indians began well with Sathiyan hitting a crisp forehand winner to go 1-0 up in the gold medal match. Drinkhall and Pitchford fought back in the second game. A down the line backhand from



Pitchford made it 5-1 for England. The Indians were having a tough time retrieving the serve with their opponents mixing things up. Sharath's returns from the backhand were yielding mixed results. Pitchford's cross court winner after a long rally gave England a 7-5 lead before they levelled the tie. The English pair ran away with the third game which had the best rally of the match which Indians won after trading a series of booming forehands far away from the table.

The Indians were able to take the final to the decider after course correction in the fourth game. However, Drinkhall and Pitchford took a huge six point lead from 4-4 to gain six gold medal points in the fifth game. They converted the very first one drawing a huge roar from the crowd. The Indian pair shook hand with its opponents who once again proved better on the day. With the Silver, 40-year-old Sharath increased his CWG medal count to 11 with the



Sreeja misses Bronze by whisker

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

India's Sreeja Akula suffered a heartbreaking loss at the Commonwealth Games here as she went down to Australia's Yangzi Liu 3-4 in a close Bronze medal play-off. Sreeja went down 11-3, 6-11, 2-11, 11-7, 13-15, 11-9, 7-11 after staging a slew of comebacks in a match that lasted more than one and a half hour. mixed doubles Gold medal match scheduled later on Sunday.

Women's hockey team win medal after 16 years

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Skipper Savita Punia led from the front with a spectacular display as the Indian women's hockey team overcame the stopwatch controversy to beat New Zealand 2-1 in shootout and win the Bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games here Sunday. This is the team's first medal at CWG in 16 years. Leading 1-0, India conceded a penalty corner with less than 30 seconds to go for the final hooter, as the match went into shootout after Olivia Merry's equaliser. In the regulation time,

India got the lead through Salima Tete in the 29th minute. Coming off their heart-breaking loss to Australia in a controversial semifinal, India showed the intent to wrap up their campaign with a win and earn a podium finish. The Indians were done in by a horrendous timing faux pas in the shoot-out against Australia. In the shootout on Sunday, India captain and goalkeeper Savita showed her class, pulling off three spectacular saves to give her side its third CWG medal. After Megan Hull put New



Zealand ahead, an agile Savita denied Rose Tynan, Katie Doar and Olivia Shanon, while Sonika and Navneet scored for India to register a famous win. "We knew it wouldn't be easy, so before we came, we worked every minute and every second. I am so proud. We fought as a team," Savita said. On the pressure of being a goalkeeper in the shootout, she said, "The pressure is always there, but all credit goes to my coach (Janneke Schopman) who told me 'you are good, so just believe in yourself and watch the ball'."

Viswanathan Anand becomes FIDE deputy president

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Indian chess legend Viswanathan Anand was on Sunday elected deputy president of FIDE, the sport's world governing body, while incumbent president Arkady Dvorkovich was re-elected for a second term. Five-time world champion Anand was part of Dvorkovich's team. Dvorkovich received 157 votes as against 16 by his rival Andrii Baryshpolets while the number of invalid votes was 1 and abstentions stood at 5. The elections to the world

chess body were held during the FIDE Congress which is being conducted here alongside the 44th Chess Olympiad. After an illustrious career during which he won numerous titles and honours, the Chennai-based Anand has in recent times cut down on his tournament play and focussed on coaching. He shot to prominence as a teenager and became India's first ever Grandmaster after winning the world junior title and have since led the country at the global level in chess. He also won five world titles with the last being the world rapid title in 2017.