

CITY 2
CM FLAGS OFF HAR GHAR
TIRANGA CAMPAIGN**NATION 6**
SONIA AGAIN TESTS
POSITIVE FOR COVID**SPORT 7**
SERENA TO FACE
EMMA IN CINCINNATI

Established 1864

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PM: Har Ghar Tiranga success shows spirit of national unity

'Power of tricolour was seen in Ukraine during evacuation of foreigners as well'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday hailed the "power of the tricolour" and said it was seen in Ukraine some time ago when the Tiranga became a protective shield not only for Indians, but also for people of other countries in escaping to safer regions.

The Prime Minister was addressing the Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2022 medal winners at his residence on a day the countrywide Har Ghar Tiranga campaign kicked off.

Modi also launched the campaign's anthem on Twitter saying the kind of enthusiasm seen among people towards the Har Ghar Tiranga drive is a symbol of the unwavering spirit of unity and integrity of the nation.

The PM urged citizens of the country to share a photo with the Tiranga on the official website of Har Ghar Tiranga to mark the upcoming Independence Day celebrations. "Overjoyed and proud of the amazing response to the #HarGharTiranga movement. We are seeing record participation from people across different walks of life. This is a great way to mark Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Do also share

your photo with the Tiranga on <https://harghartiranga.com>," he tweeted.

Individuals to large groups of men, women or children organised their ways to celebrate and cheer the Tiranga which found itself fluttering on tall commercial buildings, busy markets, traffic-jammed road signals, innocuous huts, boats, snowy mountains, islands, forest areas, and millions of homes. Even the homeless were seen holding or pitching the tricolour around their humble make-shift beds.

The Prime Minister said it is needless to say that entire nation has come together to make the campaign a success.

Congratulating the CWG award winners and expressing happiness over champions emerging from the "Khelo India" stage, Modi said, "Due to the splendid hard work of the sportspersons, the country is entering into the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal' with an inspiring achievement."

The Prime Minister said the athletes inspire the youth of the country to do better not only in sports but also in other sectors. "You weave the country in unity of thought and goal that was also one of the great strengths of our freedom struggle."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with wrestlers Sakshi Malik and Vinesh Phogat during the felicitation ceremony of the Indian contingent for the Commonwealth Games 2022, in New Delhi on Saturday

BJP leaders, including Union Ministers, participated in the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign on Saturday across the country as the three-day exercise began to mark India's 75th year of independence.

Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president J P Nadda along with their wives hoisted the tricolour at their Delhi residences and urged

the people to "make the campaign a success".

"The country is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Under PM Modi, the whole country has taken an oath to hoist tricolour under Har Ghar Tiranga programme. I request everyone to make Har Ghar Tiranga successful," Nadda said.

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Guj ex-Dy CM Nitin Patel suffers fracture after cow rams into Tiranga Yatra

Former Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel suffered a minor fracture in his left leg after a galloping cow rammed into the "Tiranga Yatra" being led by him in the Kadi town of Mehsana district of the State.

HM chief's son among 4 loses J&K Govt job

All 4 staffers were involved in anti-India activities

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Cracking its whip, the Union Territory administration on Saturday sacked four employees for their involvement in anti-national activities. Son of Syed Salahuddin, the self-styled chief of banned terror group Hizbul Mujahideen, and the wife of Bitta Karata, involved in fatal attack on minority community members also figured in the list of four employees.

All the four have been dismissed under Article 311 of the Constitution which enables the Government to sack its employees without any inquiry.

Syed Abdul Mueed, posted as Manager (Information and Technology) at the Commerce and Industries Department, is the third son of the Hizbul Mujahideen chief to have been sacked from the Government job. Syed Ahmed Shakeel and Shahid Yusuf were dismissed from service last year.

According to the officials, Mueed has allegedly been found having a role in three terror attacks on the Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) complex at Sempora in

Pampore and his presence in the institution has led to increased sympathy with the secessionist forces.

Assabah-ul-Arjamand Khan, the wife of Farooq Ahmed Dar, alias 'Bitta Karate', and a 2011-batch Jammu & Kashmir Administrative Service officer (JKAS), is alleged to have been found involved in providing false information for seeking a passport.

She is alleged to "have links with foreign people who have been indexed by the Indian security and intelligence to be on the payrolls of the ISI". Also her involvement in ferrying consignment of money for funding anti-India activities in Jammu & Kashmir has been reported, the officials said.

Also sacked from the Government service is Dr Muheet Ahmad Bhat, posted as a scientist in the Postgraduate Department of Computer Science in Kashmir university. He is alleged to have been found involved in propagating secessionist-terrorist agenda in the university by radicalising students for advancing the programme and agenda of Pakistan and its proxies.

Majid Hussain Qadri, a senior Assistant Professor in Kashmir University, is alleged to have a long association with terror organisations, including the banned Lashkar-e-Tayyeba. He had earlier been booked under the stringent Public Safety Act and figures in a number of FIRs related to various terror cases.

IAS topper Faesal back in service after abortive bid in J&K politics

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The first Indian Administrative Service exam topper from Jammu & Kashmir Shah Faesal is back into active service after a brief stint in politics. Officials on Saturday said IAS officer Faesal has been posted as a Deputy Secretary in the Union Tourism Ministry over three months after being reinstated.

He was reinstated in the last week of April after the Government accepted his application for withdrawing his resignation.

The order on the posting of 2010-batch IAS officer from erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir cadre was cleared earlier this week. Faesal could not be reached for a comment through calls or messages. He had earlier this year dropped hints about his return to the Government service when he sent out a series of tweets speaking about his idealism letting him down in 2019 when he had resigned.

He had said, "8 months of my life (Jan 2019-Aug 2019) created so much baggage that I was almost finished. While chasing a chimera, I lost almost everything that I had built over the years."

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RSS drops saffron flag, posts tricolour as profile picture on social media

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The RSS has changed the profile pictures of its social media accounts to the national flag from its traditional saffron flag.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier urged people to put the Tiranga as the profile picture of their social media accounts in view of the ongoing celebrations of 75 years of country's Independence.

Social media display pictures of the RSS were changed to tricolour on Friday.

The RSS, the ideological mother of the ruling BJP, has been criticised by the Congress and other Opposition parties over its stand on the national flag and continuing with the "Bhagwa dhvaj".

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh asked earlier this month if the organisation

that did not hoist the national flag for 52 years would comply with the Prime Minister's message to make the Tiranga the profile picture of its social media accounts.

The RSS has already extended its support to Har Ghar Tiranga and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav programmes. The sangh had in July appealed for full support and participation of the people and swayam-sevaks in the programmes to be organised by the Government, private bodies and Sangh-related organisations, said RSS "Prachar Pramukh" Sunil Ambekar.

Continued on Page 6

World largest 'human' national flag



Students form a human chain to resemble a hoisted Indian national flag as they celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations to commemorate 75 years of Indian Independence, in Chandigarh on Saturday. They created a Guinness World Record for their formation of 'World's Largest Human Image of a Waving National Flag'

Rushdie on ventilator, liver damaged, likely to lose an eye: Report

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Author Salman Rushdie is on ventilator and is likely to lose one eye as his liver was "stabbed and damaged" following an attack on him on Friday, his agent said, noting that the "news is not good".

The New York Times (NYT) reported that according to Rushdie's agent, Andrew Wylie, the Mumbai-born controversial author was on a ventilator and could not speak.

"The news is not good. Salman will likely lose one eye, the nerves in his arm were severed and his liver was stabbed and damaged," Wylie said in a statement to NYT.

Rushdie, who faced Islamist death threats for years after writing "The Satanic Verses", was stabbed by a 24-year-old New Jersey resident at an event in western New York State.



Hadi Matar (24) from Fairview, New Jersey has been identified as the suspect who stabbed Rushdie, Major Eugene Staniszwski of the New York State Police told a press conference on Friday evening.

Rushdie (75) was stabbed in the neck as he was on the stage at the Chautauqua Institution, a not-for-profit community on Chautauqua Lake in southwestern New York State, where approximately 7,500 people are in residence on any day during a nine-week season.

CAPSULE

PUNJAB PASSES ONE MLA-ONE PENSION BILL
Chandigarh: The Punjab Government has issued a notification giving pension to former MLAs only for one term following an assent by the Punjab Governor to a Bill in this regard.

SONIA TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 AGAIN
New Delhi: Congress president Sonia Gandhi has tested positive for Covid-19 again. Party MP and in-charge Communications Jairam Ramesh tweeted this and said she was stable and would remain in isolation following all protocols.

LUCK TO 'GAGANYAAN': ITALIAN ASTRONAUT
New Delhi: Italian astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti sent a video message from space wishing success to "Gaganyaan" — India's maiden human space mission which is scheduled to launch in 2023.

Lanka lets Chinese 'spy ship' dock near India days after deferring arrival

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Days after asking China to defer the schedule of its "spy ship" to dock at its port, Sri Lanka on Saturday gave the go-ahead for it to drop anchor at the Hambantota port. Equipped with latest reconnaissance and surveillance equipment, the ship is a threat to India as it can monitor India's military and other sensitive installations.

The Chinese research vessel Yuan Wang 5 will dock at the Hambantota port, about 250 km away from Colombo, on August 16 and will move out on August 22 after refueling and replenishment, officials in Lanka said. The ship was earlier scheduled to arrive at the port on August 11.

However, the arrival date was changed after the Lankan



Government asked China to defer the visit. Beijing blamed New Delhi for pressurising Sri Lanka to defer the visit of its ship. India, however, on Friday denied the charge.

The ship is now about 600 nautical miles (1,000km) away in the east from port. The southern deep-sea port of Hambantota was developed with Chinese loans and the Sri Lankan Government handed

over the port to China on a 99-year lease in 2017.

India has said it carefully monitors any development having a bearing on its security and economic interests. New Delhi is suspicious of Beijing's increasing presence in the Indian Ocean and influence in Sri Lanka, seeing both as being firmly within its sphere of influence.

Continued on Page 6

5th monkeypox case in Delhi, 22-yr-old has no travel history

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The number of monkeypox cases in Delhi has jumped to five with one more person testing positive for the rare virus on Friday. A patient was admitted to Delhi's Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital two days ago and her sample tested positive for monkeypox on Friday.

According to Dr Suresh Kumar, Medical Director of LNJP hospital, the 22-year-old woman has no recent travel history, but she had travelled one month ago. "Her sample tested positive on August 12 and she is currently under observation in hospital," he said.

She is the second woman in the national Capital to contract the infection. "At present, four patients are admitted to hospital, and one has been discharged. Total five cases have so far been reported here.



A team of doctors is treating her," Dr Kumar said. With this, a total of 10 patients of monkeypox have been recorded in India. In a Press statement, the Delhi Government said monkeypox situation is being continuously monitored in the national Capital and there is no need to panic.

With the rising cases of monkeypox in the country, the Union Health Ministry released a list of dos and don'ts to avoid contracting the disease. It also underlined that anyone can catch the virus if they have had prolonged or repeated contact with an infected individual.

NCB officer Sameer gets clean chit in caste certificate forgery case

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a relief to former Zonal Director of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Sameer Wankhede, the Mumbai district caste certificate verification committee — which went into the allegation that he used fake caste certificate to join the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) — has given a clean chit to Wankhede and his father Dnyandeve Wankhede.

In an order passed on Friday, the caste certificate verification committee ruled that Sameer was not a Muslim by birth. "It has not been proved that Sameer and his father Dnyandeve Wankhede had renounced Hinduism to convert to Islam. It is proven that Wankhede and his father in law belong to the Scheduled Caste that is Mahar-37," it ruled.

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CM flags off Har Ghar Tiranga campaign

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Amid chants of 'Vande Mataram' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flagged off the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign -- an initiative to encourage people to hoist the Tricolour at home -- across the state here on Saturday.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also distributed the Tricolour to schoolchildren on the occasion. A mixed expression of pride and happiness was writ large on the faces of children as they received the Tricolour from the chief minister.

The campaign, being held as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to commemorate India's 75th anniversary of independence, will run till August 15.

While handing over the flag, the chief minister also interacted with the children, and explained to them the importance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The chief minister also flagged off the 'prabhat pheri' of schoolchildren. Gifts were also given to all the children on behalf of the chief minister. Under the campaign, 4.5 crore national flags are being hoisted in Uttar Pradesh from August 13 to 15. The government has amended the Flag Code of India to allow the national flag to be displayed in the open and on individual houses, or buildings, day and night.

Later, in a video message, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath



appealed to the people to participate in the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, being held as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit

Mahotsav' to mark the 75th anniversary of India's Independence, and be part of Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's pledge to make India 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.

Yogi said the Tricolour, which is a symbol of India's

magnificence, dignity and pride, also reflects the valour and sacrifices of its people as well as peace.

More properties being registered under CM Daanpatra Scheme

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Taking advantage of Mukhyamantri Daanpatra (Donation) Scheme, over 28,000 families in Uttar Pradesh have got properties transferred in the past one month, as the scheme has reduced stamp duty for registration of properties to as low as Rs 5,000.

"The government has earned a revenue of Rs 100 crore since the launch of the scheme in June this year," a government spokesman said here on Saturday.

According to the Revenue Department, there has been an increase of 329 per cent in ancestral properties' transfer cases since the launch of the scheme on June 15.

The official further said that till now, due to the high cost of registration, few people across the state used to get their ancestral properties transferred. In fact, for many generations, people did not get their ancestral properties transferred due to financial constraints."

"But, now since registration is available at such a low cost, people prefer to settle property issues properly rather than rely on power of attorney. On the other hand, the move is also bringing in revenue for the government," he said.

The Uttar Pradesh government approved a proposal of the Stamps and Registration Department for slashing stamp duty to Rs 5,000 with an additional processing fee of Rs 1,000 for registration of properties, on June 15.

Earlier, people were charged an exorbitant 10 per cent of the circle rate of the property being transferred as stamp duty. So, for a property worth Rs 50 lakh, a person was required to shell out Rs 5 lakh as stamp duty. The exorbitant rate of stamp duty prohibited people from getting ancestral properties divided and transferred.

However, now, a person can get the same property transferred by paying Rs 6,000 only. Therefore, people who shelved their property transfer plans for generations are applying for it. Besides, any married daughter can willingly transfer property in favour of siblings by paying less stamp duty.

The move is also expected to bring down cases of property disputes within families significantly.

Stamp duty is levied on all types of registries under the circle rate. Therefore, people in the past got properties registered only when necessary, so that they could avoid paying the hefty stamp duty.

₹1,000-crore angel fund to boost 10K start-ups in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

For promoting start-ups across the state, the Uttar Pradesh government has set up an angel fund of Rs 1,000 crore to facilitate setting up 10,000 start-ups in all sectors. So far, 6,800 start-up ventures have come up with Noida, Ghaziabad, and Lucknow leading the pack.

The angel fund is a fund that pools capital for investment in new businesses.

According to official sources, incubators in fintech, education, health, agriculture, textile, and information technology/IT-enabled services have been set up.

The incubators aim to boost UP's entrepreneurial talent and provide young entrepreneurs an inclusive start-up ecosystem. They will not only promote start-ups, but also give a push to mass employment opportunities and attract private investment.

Till now, 15 incubators have come up in state universities, engineering colleges and private institutions. In fact, India's largest start-up incubator is in the works in Lucknow.

An innovation hub has also been made operational, which supports more than 200 start-ups even as eight other ventures are being handled by the multi-specialty Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow. At least one incubator will be set up in each of the 75 districts of UP.

Earlier, the government had plans to set up a Fintech City over 100 acres in the Noida-Greater Noida corridor.

Currently, about 240 fintech start-ups are operational in the region dedicated to digital lending, payments, blockchain and digital wealth management.

Some of these firms include Pine Labs, Spice Money, Paytm Payments Bank, Adviosorymandi, DiGiSPICE, OneCode, Wishfin, GramCover, FanTiger, Marquee Equity, Easypolicy, Buddy4Study, Oye Loans, PayMe India, PortDesk, Nivesh.com.

Spectre of drought looms large over parts of Uttar Pradesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The spectre of drought looms large over parts of Uttar Pradesh as so far there is 58 per cent deficit rainfall. According to the Agriculture Department, rainfall shortfall is likely to adversely impact the yield of paddy crops by as much as 35-40 per cent.

The situation in UP is grim, as the state has recorded only 251.7 mm rainfall against the seasonal average of 449.1 mm till August 12. Of the 71 districts in the state,

rainfall in 12 has been 80 per cent below average, while it has been 40 per cent below average in 31 more districts.

The worst affected districts in UP include Farrukhabad (-77 per cent), Jaunpur (-72 per cent), Kanpur Dehat (-70 per cent), Mau (-65 per cent), Chandauli (-63 per cent), Ballia and Bahraich (-62 per cent each), Basti (-59 per cent), Amethi (-57 per cent), Banda (-52 per cent) and Ayodhya (-51 per cent).

According to the Central Water

Commission, UP's reservoirs have filled up to 28 per cent of the total storage capacity of eight dams. In 2021, it was 53 per cent. The current water reserves are 2.15 BCM against a 10-year average of 3.09 BCM.

From June 1 to early August the average rainfall per district has been 125.9 mm whereas it should have been 298.7 mm to keep up with the long-term average. Regions of western Uttar Pradesh have been worst hit by the prevailing weather conditions. In western Uttar Pradesh, from June 1 to July-

end rainfall has been 139.9 mm, which is 58 per cent below average.

Gorakhpur district receives the highest rainfall in UP across the southwest monsoon season. Districts in the northeast of Uttar Pradesh (except Kushinagar and Ballia) receive high rainfall in comparison to districts in the southwest.

During the southwest monsoon season, rainfall between 421-560 mm is common-ly received over Baghpat, Bulandshahr, Aligarh, Mathura, Hathras, Etah, Ayodhya,

Agra, Etawah, Kannauj, Auraiya, Kanpur Dehat, and Kanpur Nagar, Mahoba, Rae Bareli, Kaushambi and Kushinagar districts.

The lowest rainfall during June to August was recorded over Mathura, Auraiya, Rae Bareli and Mahoba.

During the same period, rainfall in state capital Lucknow has been 57 per cent below average. In Kanpur, it was 49 per cent below average, in Prayagraj 39 per cent and in Varanasi 51 per cent below average.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Vinod Patel to Vinod Kumar Katiyar for all future Purpose, Vinod Kumar Katiyar S/o Pyarelal R/o Village Bhainsau Distt. Kanpur Nagar.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Rizwan Akhtar Ansari to Rizwan Akhtar. In future I shall be known as Rizwan Akhtar S/o Javed Akhtar, 614, Faithfulganj, Moosa Shah Mazar, Cantt., Kanpur.

NOTICE

I have changed my Daughter's name from Zoya Barkati to Zoya Danish Barkati. In future she will be known as my Daughter's name Zoya Danish Barkati, Mohd. Danish, 88/421, Humayun Bagh, Chamanganj, Kanpur.

NOTICE

I have changed my Daughter's name from Izna Barkati to Izna Danish Barkati. In future she will be known as my Daughter's name Izna Danish Barkati, Mohd Danish, 88/421, Humayun Bagh, Chamanganj, Kanpur.

NOTICE

The general public is informed that 1/3 of the 167 acreage of 7.026 hectares in Mauja-Basouth Tehsil Charkhari District Mahoba is to be sold. Whoever pays the maximum price will get the land. By the order of the Court of Additional District Judge (FTC), Mahoba



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath giving away a gift to CBSE Class 12 topper Tanya Singh at his residence in Lucknow on Saturday

Boat capsizes toll 11 with recovery of 8 more bodies

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two days after an ill-fated boat ferrying 32 persons capsized in Banda district, eight more bodies were recovered on Saturday, taking the death-toll to 11.

The bodies were recovered from different stretches of river Yamuna between Asotha and Kishanpur areas falling in Fatehpur district.

The police said, "Eight more bodies have been recovered in the border district Fatehpur, taking the death-toll to 11.

Seventeen persons were found alive after the boat capsized and four persons are still missing. Massive search operations are still going on in the downstream river near Dadu Ghat of the district along with neighbouring districts also.

Some of the bodies have been identified as of Raju,

Ramprasad, Ajoriya, Jhullu and Maya Devi while three are yet to be identified. All victims belong to Fatehpur district barring one.

The locals still claim that there were over 50 persons in the boat.

The capsized boat is yet to be traced.

MAN KILLED BY WILD ANIMAL

Lakhimpur Kheri: A mutilated body was found from a sugarcane field on Saturday morning here, with officials saying the victim was killed by a wild animal.

The identity of the victim is yet to be identified.

The body was found near Punarbhu Grant village under the Gola range of south Kheri forest division. The area is in close vicinity of the Ambara jungles on the Gola-Aliganj road.

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) president Shivpal Singh Yadav has said that opposition unity in Uttar Pradesh is possible only if their leaders show "maturity" like the one witnessed in Bihar.

On the possibility of any such alliance in Uttar Pradesh, the Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) president said, "Firstly, there should be maturity among leaders. Until and

unless there is maturity among them, nothing can happen."

Asked about the chance of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar emerging as the opposition's face against Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Yadav said, "Nitish became the chief minister for the eighth time. He is senior and along with that he is an old socialist."

When asked whether he would take the initiative to forge unity among political



parties in UP ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, Shivpal Yadav said there was still some time for it.

"We are a small party and at present we are strengthening our organisation," he said.

Of late, Shivpal Yadav has been attacking his nephew and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav for not showing political maturity in handling his alliance partners in UP. Shivpal Yadav, who himself won the recent UP polls on SP ticket, parted ways with the party after

prolonged bickering following the opposition's defeat in the assembly polls earlier this year.

Shivpal Yadav had played an active role some years back when Mulayam Singh Yadav had made an attempt to bring together leaders sharing a common socialist background. Nitish Kumar and Rashtriya Janata Dal president Lalu Prasad as well as former Union minister Sharad Yadav had made an effort to bring the socialists together.

Modi govt has made India a pauper to benefit his capitalist friends: Sanjay

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Aam Aadmi Party's Uttar Pradesh incharge and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government had made the country pauper for the benefit of his capitalist friends.

Singh was speaking at a press conference held at AAP office here to inform news persons that his party would take out the Tiranga yatra on Sunday.

"The AAP will take out Tiranga yatra on Sunday and the programme is aimed at boosting unity, prosperity, fraternity and development in the country," he said.

Singh said that on the occasion of the Tiranga yatra, the AAP leaders and workers would take oath to free the country of corruption, end unemployment, ensure double crop price to farmers and ensure safety of women and girls. The AAP parliamentarian said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should explain why the Union government waived Rs 15 lakh crore loans given to capitalists and why the defence budget was lowered by Rs 63,000 crore.

"Our leader Arvind

Kejriwal had asked these questions from the Union government and exposed their double talk. The Modi-led government imposed taxes on milk, curd, flour, pulses and rice. The most surprising thing is that the Union government has taxed 800 life saving drugs. The cooking gas price has reached Rs 1,100 per cylinder while the fuel prices are skyrocketing. The Union government is doing nothing to keep the inflation under check," Singh said. The AAP leader also spoke on cleaning of the rivers in UP and said it was everyone's responsibility to keep the rivers clean.

"I myself used to take part in the cleaning of river Hindon in Ghaziabad and several of our leaders and workers are cleaning the river," he said.

Head of AAP Tiranga Shakha, Ashutosh Sengar, said everyone should keep in mind that the Tiranga was not insulted in the rush to hoist it at the houses. "We got the Tiranga after the sacrifice of our revolutionaries who fought and gave their lives for the freedom of the country," he said.

Several AAP leaders, including Sabhajeet Singh and Chhavi Yadav were present on this occasion.

| State Bank of India | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| RACPC- SECTOR -B, NEAR RAM RAM BANK CHAURAHA, ALIGANJ, LUCKNOW | | | | |
| POSSESSION NOTICE {for immovable property} | | | | |
| Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized officer of the State Bank of India, RACPC, Lucknow under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice on the date mentioned against account and stated herein after calling upon them to repay the amount, mentioned in the notice plus interest and other expenses within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/ Guarantor and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Property/Vehicle described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Rule on the date mentioned against the account. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of State Bank of India, RACPC for the amounts and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets. Details of properties where possession had been taken is as follows: | | | | |
| S.No. | NAME & ADDRESS OF THE BORROWER / A/C NO./ BRANCH | DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY MORTGAGED | Amount O/S (as per U/S 13(2)) | DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE POSSESSION DATE |
| 1. | BORROWER : Shri Sachin Saxena A/c no. : 30777831619 : 31038366701 BRANCH : Engg. College Chauraha, Lucknow | Property Consisting of House No. 5/163, situated at Jankipuram Extension, Lucknow. (Area: 65.55 Sq.Mt.) BUTTED AND BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS: North : Plot No. 5/164 South : Plot No. 5/162 East : 9 mt wide Road West : Plot No. 5/146 | Rs. 15,60,383/- as on 27.05.2022 + Interest and other charges | 02.06.2022 11.08.2022 |
| 2. | BORROWER : Smt. Manisha Awasthi, A/c no. : 31124604605 BRANCH : Behta Saboli, Lucknow | Property Consisting of House No. E-4/119 Sector-M, Aliganj, Lucknow. BUTTED AND BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS: North : H.No. E4/120 South : H.No. E4/118 East : H.No. E-309/308 West : Road 30 ft. | Rs. 12,41,047/- as on 26.04.2022 + Interest and other charges | 26.04.2022 08.08.2022 |
| 3. | BORROWER : Smt. Satyawati W/o Late Susheel Kumar A/c no. : 65082449468 BRANCH : Aishwarya Plaza, Lucknow. GUARANTOR : Smt. Ketki Devi W/o Sri Someshwar Prasad | Property Consisting of House No. LIG 3/169, H Sector-H, Jankipuram, Lucknow. BUTTED AND BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS: North : H.No. 3/168 South : H.No. 3/170 East : 9 mt Road West : Plot | Rs. 3,96,875/- as on 26.04.2022 + Interest and other charges | 26.04.2022 08.08.2022 |
| Date : 13.08.2022 Place : Lucknow | | | AUTHORIZED OFFICER , STATE BANK OF INDIA | |

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CM pays homage to soldiers for supreme sacrifice



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paying floral tributes at 'Smritika', the war memorial of Surya Command, on Saturday

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paid homage to the unflinching fortitude and supreme sacrifice of soldiers of Indian Army by laying a wreath at 'Smritika', the war memorial of Surya Command, on Saturday.

The CM also paid floral tributes to the sacred wall at the memorial which bears the names of fallen heroes who

made the supreme sacrifice for India. Senior military officers and soldiers were present at the ceremony to honour the bravehearts. The chief minister felicitated 16 gallantry awardees and veer naris in a solemn yet grand ceremony at Lucknow Cantonment.

"As the nation approaches 75 years of independence, every citizen is filled with patriotic fervour and spirit of nationalism. The commitment of our

soldiers to the nation is akin to the spirit of our brave freedom fighters who laid down their lives for independence. Various programmes are being organised throughout the country as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, including the 'Har Ghar Tiranga', Yogi said.

The chief minister hailed the emergence of a new India, which, he said, was the fastest-growing economy in the world. "In defence, India is mak-

ing progress towards achieving the goal of self-reliance. Not only have our brave soldiers protected the sovereignty and integrity of our nation, they have also been ready to protect world peace, if and when called upon to do so," he said.

The chief minister applauded the armed forces for their services during natural disasters. Emphasising on the commitment of the state administration to soldiers and veterans, the chief minister spoke about the various initiatives taken for their welfare such as a defence helpline, felicitation of soldiers and veterans, support to families of armed forces personnel who have sacrificed their lives and building of memorials and naming of roads in the home districts after our bravehearts who have made the supreme sacrifice. While interacting with the gallantry award winners, veer naris and veterans, the chief minister expressed his gratitude towards their sacrifice and service to the nation. General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Surya Command, Lt General Yogendra Dimri reaffirmed the commitment of the army towards the welfare and well-being of esteemed veterans and veer naris. Chief Secretary DS Misra, senior officers of the armed forces and civil administration and families of armed forces personnel and veterans were also present on the occasion.



The high court building in Lucknow illuminated in tricolour on Saturday under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Two men end lives under depression

Lucknow (PNS): Two men ended their lives under a bout of depression which they had been suffering from for the last several years.

A retired employee of Rural Development department ended his life in Saadatganj police station area on Saturday. He was identified as Mohammed Nasim (62) of Chaupatiyan. Earlier too, he had attempted to end his life. He was found hanging from the ceiling with a rope tied around his neck. As per reports, Nasim's wife and son had gone to pay electricity bill and he was all alone. "I got a call that Nasim had locked himself in a room and was not opening the door. I asked neighbours to break open the door. When I reached the scene, I found him hanging from the ceiling," Nasim's wife Rukhsana Begum said.

In another incident, a 55-year-old man, identified as Anand Prakash Jain of Indira Nagar, ended his life at his house around 8 pm on Friday. His daughter Shilpi Jain told police that Anand was depressed.

ARRESTED

A team of STF claimed to have busted a gang selling low-standard tea leaves by the name of branded companies in Thakurganj on Saturday. The accused, identified as Mohammed Daud, Mohammed Zaid and Tarvez Hashmi (all of Thakurganj) were arrested from their workshop in Balaganj locality following a tip-off. The police recovered three drums filled with chemical colours, 200 kg of adulterated tea leaves, 80 kg loose tea leaves, 160 kg tea leaves of a branded company, thousands of packets, a weighing machine and other items.

The STF officials said the accused were into the illegal business for a long time. "The gang used to purchase loose tea leaves from the market and then mix it with tea leaves of branded companies and then sell the same in the packets/wrappers of branded companies. They would mix chemicals and colours in the loose tea leaves. The chemicals they used are injurious to health. We were given specific information and we arrested the accused," an official said.

CM Yogi gets another threat ahead of Independence Day

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Ahead of Independence Day, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was once again threatened through a letter sent to a Hindu leader and gau sevak, who shot to fame for filing PILs demanding closure of illegal slaughterhouses in Uttar Pradesh.

Devendra Tiwari of Cinder Dump Complex in Alambagh lodged a case in this connection. He stated that he found an abandoned bag lying on the staircase of his house around 8:30 pm on August 11.

"It was a typed letter in which insulting language was used against him and CM Yogi Adityanath. The miscreant threatened us with reper-

cussions in a fortnight of the PILs filed for the closure of illegal slaughterhouses in UP," he stated in the FIR.

"Devendra, you have been told several times to stop filing PILs. Your PILs have caused us Muslims to face starvation but you did not mend ways. You are being guided by CM Yogi Adityanath and filing these PILs on his instructions. You escaped being killed in Deoband but this time you won't be that lucky," the accused was quoted as saying by the complainant.

"You and your ilk have caused Asaduddin Owaisi and Maulana Madani to weep. We will take revenge for their tears. We are not cowards. We have severed the heads of oth-

ers who made us suffer but we will blow up both of you," the accused was quoted further.

Police registered a case and started further investigations. ADCP (Central) Rajesh Srivastava, who joined on Saturday itself, said he was yet to go through details of the case.

Earlier on August 8, a miscreant sent a message to the police and threatened to kill Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The Sushant Golf City police registered a case against the accused, Shaheed Khan. Senior police officers and cyber sleuths are trying trace the IP address of the number from which the message was sent to the police control room's WhatsApp number.

IIA welcomes net billing, net feed-in system

Lucknow (PNS): National president of Indian Industries Association (IIA) Ashok Kumar Agrawal and chairman of IIA solar committee Tariq Hasan Naqvi thanked the Uttar Pradesh government and Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission for announcing the net billing, net feed-in system. He said that with this, the installed capacity of rooftop solar system in the state would increase rapidly which would not only benefit the environment but also the entrepreneur fraternity.

He said the system of net billing and net feed-in for industries in Uttar Pradesh was implemented on the demand of IIA. "In the year 2019, the net metering system was abolished for industries other than the domestic and agricultural sector in place of which gross metering system was implemented. It was not beneficial for any industrial or commercial establishment due to which these sectors stopped installing rooftop solar systems. On the one hand, industrial establishments were deprived of the use of clean energy while on the other, the achievement of rooftop solar energy targets of the state and Central government were also affected," he recalled.

KGMU gives new lease of life to pregnant woman with Eisenmenger syndrome

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

King George's Medical University gave a new lease of life to a pregnant woman down with Eisenmenger syndrome. Dr Karan Kaushik from KGMU said it is a very rare (.003%) and fatal disease and becomes extremely fatal in pregnancy with almost no survival. WHO has thus recommended pregnancy to be contraindicated in such women.

"It was the second survival reported till date in Uttar Pradesh and managed by the anaesthesia and critical care department of KGMU under the guidance of Prof GP Singh. The first patient was also managed by the same team," he said. He said the disease involves irreversible damage to pulmonary arteries due to defects in heart, leading to heart failure and sudden death. In pregnancy, mortality is more than 65% (in the western world).

"Giving any form of anaesthesia is associated with deterioration of the disease, leading to hypoxia, sudden hemodynamic collapse and death," he said. Sadaf Fatima (29), a resident of Thakurganj, was 34 weeks pregnant and a diagnosed case of Eisenmenger syndrome. She was admitted to KGMU in a very unstable

condition on July 29.

Obstetric team consulted with the emergency anaesthesia counterparts led by Dr Ravi Prakash and Dr Karan Kaushik and planned for emergency C-section by Dr Sujata Dev in view of the collapsing mother. Advanced life support system was provided to the woman with titrated epidural and general anaesthesia but as she was extremely sick, she was managed by the emergency anaesthesia team in association with the ICU team led by Dr Zia Arshad and Dr Rati Prabha. For 13 days, she was managed for numerous episodes of heart failure, hypoxia and arrhythmias and like the previous case, invasive ventilation was avoided both in operation theatre and in ICU. Finally, she was discharged from the ICU in a stable condition on August 11.

Earlier, Vice-Chancellor Dr Bipin Puri on Friday highlighted the achievements of King George's Medical University in patient care in recent months. Addressing mediapersons, he said that in patient care and mitigating Covid-19 and augmenting oxygen infrastructure, more than 1,000-bed facilities — the largest in north India for a single centre — was set up in which over 40 lakh people

were tested for Covid and over 12,000 patients were treated. "KGMU upgraded Covid testing lab, carried out genome sequencing, managed over 600 mucormycosis (black fungus) patients and vaccinated over 1.6 lakh people. KGMU is the only institute in the region that is still treating Covid patients," Dr Puri said.

"Respiratory ICU and neurology critical care unit ICU have been started along with burn unit facilities with eight ICU beds and four modular OTs. Under the acute obstetric care project, a 6-bed ICU and an 8-bed HDU in obstetrics and gynaecology have been started with a dedicated blood bank and round-the-clock pathological tests," he said. "We are putting SOPs for work processes in teaching, training, research and patient care in place for performance management, operational procedures, safety procedures, administrative processes, infection control procedures, quality assurance procedures as well as redefining central purchase process in dedicated domains, improving medical supply chain management," he pointed out. The KGMU VC said they have rejuvenated the activity cell that conducts CMEs and conferences.

One dead, 28 hurt as bus rams into truck

Lucknow (PNS): One person died while 28 others, including a minor, suffered injuries after a private bus rammed into a truck on Sultanpur highway under Sushant Golf City police station on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday.

The accident occurred around 2:30 am on Saturday and the injured were hospitalised. The condition of four of them was said to be critical.

The bus was heading towards Delhi from Bihar when it rammed into the truck from behind. The bus had started its journey from Muzaffarpur (Bihar) around 3 pm on Friday.

The passenger who succumbed to injuries was identified as Mohammed Wahid (45) of Madhubani, Bihar. He worked with a private company in Delhi. Wahid died on the spot and was pronounced 'brought dead' at Civil hospital. Most of those injured work with private companies in Delhi and other states. Police said the bus rammed with the truck laden with iron rods. The truck was turning back at 'Dharamkanta' when the bus ploughed into it from behind.

Police reached the spot

and got the injured hospitalised. The truck driver escaped, abandoning the vehicle on the spot. The police impounded the truck.

Preliminary investigation suggested that bus driver Raju lost control of the vehicle due to overspeeding. Some of the injured included Shoaib (34), his daughter Mehnaz (11) and his younger brother Kalam (24). Two brother duos also suffered injuries and they were identified as Madan & Ranjeet Rai and Ajay & Jaishankar Kumar.

Elsewhere in Mohanlalganj, an 8-year-old girl was injured in a road mishap and succumbed later at KGMU Trauma Centre on August 11 night. She was identified as Anshu Yadav of Kankaha village in Mohanlalganj. She, along with her father Shiv Aadhar, was going to her maternal uncle's house on a motorcycle. Around 5 pm, a speeding bike being driven by Raj Prakash Yadav of Rae Bareilly hit Shiv's bike and Anshu sustained head injuries as she fell off.

She was rushed to the CHC where doctors referred her to KGMU Trauma Centre. However, she succumbed to injuries during treatment.

'A good book affects our conscience'

Lucknow (PNS): A discussion on a book titled 'Modi@20-Dreams Meet Delivery' was organised by Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University where the chief guest was UP Assembly ex-Speaker Hriday Narayan Dikshit. Speaking on the occasion, he said the importance of words has been discussed in Indian philosophy.

"The word itself is Brahamha. A good book affects our conscience. This book is of a special kind and special purpose. The words enter our mind and inner space, affecting our behaviour. Modi's way of working is different from that of others. Be it demonetisation or health-related facilities, security-related system, problems related to women, at the root of all is Modi's strong will and his sensitivity towards the common man. There should be a book on his commitment as well as a discussion on it," he said. "Modi is a leader who takes his campaign to the core of the society. Modi is working not only for the nation but also for the world. It is not possible to write everything about such a person, it is the culmination of experiences of many scholars, skilled experts in various fields which are found in this book," he added.

CITYBRIEFS



ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE AT CMS

City Montessori School is hosting a five-day CISV Asia-Pacific regional conference from August 12 to 16. Delegates from New Zealand, Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Philippines and different states of India were accorded a warm welcome on their arrival at Lucknow. The conference is being organised to facilitate the exchange of views among the delegates and to give a boost to the CISV activities. This experience and exchange of information will enable the delegates to organise 'Children's International Summer Village' camps.

VIVA CONDUCTED ONLINE

Dr Seema Sarkar from the department of English, Navayug Kanya Mahavidyalaya, got her first research scholar's viva conducted successfully online at 5pm on August 10. Prof Anita Singh of BHU was the

expert who joined from LA, US. Head of English department, Lucknow University, Prof Maitrayi Priyadarshini was also present along with many research scholars and faculty members who congratulated Anjali and Seema Sarkar on becoming the first college teacher to have got this honour.

BIKE RALLY

A bike rally and a debate competition were the key highlights of the day at AKTU under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign. The bike rally was taken out by the university officials and employees under the leadership of Prof MK Dutta. Officials, public representatives, employees and residents participated in the rally which passed through the main gate of the Centre for Advanced Studies, University CDRI Road, Lucknow University New Campus and Atal Chauraha before culminating in the university campus.

Govt letters describe siege of Residency in 1857

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The historical Residency was under the siege of the Indian revolutionaries on June 30, 1857 after the battle of Chinhat in Lucknow. On July 2, Henry Lawrence was seriously injured by the Revolutionaries inside the Residency. The state archives has the full details of the siege of the Residency in 1857 in the form of official government letters

An official from the state archives said that the official letters gave the exact account of the siege. The letter is hand written in free flowing cursive style in English, typical of a British handwriting of those times.

The letter reads: "The Right Honourable Earl of Canning Viceroy and Governor General of India expressed his admiration of the defence of the Residency of Lucknow in the following words. 'Thou does not stand recorded in the annals of war in achievement more truly heroic than the defence of the Residency of Lucknow.'"

The document further states, "On June 30, 1857 AD, the day after the battle of Chinhat the siege began. On the second July Sir Henry Lawrence was mortally wounded by a shell which burst within the Residency building. The command

An official from the state archives said that the official letters gave the exact account of the siege. The letter is hand written in free flowing cursive style in English, typical of a British handwriting of those times

devolved to Brigadier JEH Inglis. The force within the defences consisted of 180 British and Native officers, 740 British and 700 Native troops and 730 civilian volunteers. There were 237 women, 260 children, 50 boys of La Martiniere College, 27 non-combatant Europeans and 700 non-combatant natives -- being a total of 2,994 souls at the Residency."

The letter reads, "From June 30 until September 25 they were clearly subjected to heavy artillery fire day and night from all sides and had to sustain several general attacks on the position for 86 days. On September 25, 1857 AD Generals Outram and Havelock with a large force endeavoured to release the garrison after

having with great loss affected a junction with them. They were however unable to withdraw the whole combined force and the whole combined force was besieged for a period of 53 days until finally relieved by Sir Colin Campbell on November 25, 1857 AD. There remained of the original garrison when reinforced on September 25, a total of 979 souls including sick and wounded of which 577 were Europeans and 402 natives."

It may be noted that the Residency complex was set up on the bank of the river Gomti in 1775 by Nawab Asaf-ud-daula (AD 1775-1795) for the British residents, after the shifting of capital from Faizabad to Lucknow. The main Residency building was three-storeyed, having an underground chamber under its main block. It was constructed during the reign of Nawab Saadat Ali Khan (AD 1798-1814) and used by the Resident and the Chief Commissioner of Awadh till 1857.

The ruins of the Residency remind of the historic seize of the British stronghold by the Awadh forces in 1857 under the leadership of Begum Hazrat Mahal (wife of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah), Maulvi Ahmadulla Shah and several taluqdars with the full cooperation of the people of Awadh.

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| Name & Address of Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) and Name of Related Branch | Description of Property & Possession Date | Balance O/S (Rs.) & Demand Notice Date |
| Borrower(s): Mr. Ravindra Pratap Singh S/o Late Shri Roshan Lal Bharti and Co-Applicant Shri Mani Pratap Singh S/o Late Shri Roshan Lal Bharti and Mrs. Sheela Devi W/o Late Shri Roshan Lal Bharti and Shri Surya Pratap Singh S/o Late Shri Roshan Lal Bharti All R/o: 192 Sector-9 Behind of Saint Malviya School Avas Vikas Colony Sikandar, Agra -282007 Mrs. Sandhya Gaurav W/o Shri Kumar Gaurav R/o: House No. 310, Sector 8, Avas Vikas Colony Sikandar, Agra-282007 | All that part and parcel of the property consists of land and building measuring 152.24 sq. mtr. as per Bahi No. 1, Zild No. 2627 Page No. 71 to 92 Sl. No. 3973, registered on 24.09.1999 at Sub-Registrar Sadar Agra, situated at 192 Sector-9 Behind of Saint Malviya School Avas Vikas Colony Sikandar, Agra-282007 Legal Heirs of Late Shri Roshan Lal Bharti, "are 1.) Mr. Ravindra Pratap Singh S/o Late Shri Roshan Lal Bharti, 2.) Shri Mani Pratap Singh S/o Late Shri Roshan Lal Bharti, 3.) Mrs. Sheela Devi W/o Late Shri Roshan Lal Bharti, 4.) Shri Surya Pratap Singh S/o Late Shri Roshan Lal Bharti, resident of 192 Sector-9 Behind of Saint Malviya School Avas Vikas Colony Sikandar, Agra-282007 5.) Mrs. Sandhya Gaurav W/o Shri Kumar Gaurav resident of House No. 310, Sector 8, Avas Vikas Colony Sikandar, Agra-282007 Details of Boundaries (As per Deed) East: House No. 193/Sector 9, West: House No. 195/Sector 9, North: House No. 36/Sector 9, South: 9 Mtr. Wide Road and exit Date of Possession : 08.08.2022 | Rs. 40,07,126.13 (Rupees Forty Lakh Seven Thousand One Hundred Twenty Six and Paise Thirteen Only) as on 01.05.2022 (inclusive of interest upto 31.12.2021) with further interest and incidental expenses, costs etc. till date of payment. |
| Branch Name: Rawatpara (30301) | | Date of Demand Notice: 25.05.2022 |
| Date: 14.08.2022 | Place: Agra | Authorized Officer (UCO Bank) |

DM flags off Tiranga rally

PNS ■ KANPUR

The Kanpur District Magistrate, Visakh G Iyer, while flagging off the 'Tiranga Rally' under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav which began from Green Park Stadium and finally ended at Kailash Bhawan, CSA University, on Saturday. A total of 400 home guards took part in the rally. The DM praised the role of Home Guards especially in the times of crisis and said the objective was to whip up patriotic feeling. He said the role of Home Guards was to serve as an auxiliary force to the police in maintenance of internal security situations, help the community in any kind of emergency such as an air-raid, fire, cyclone, earthquake, epidemic etc., help in maintenance of essential services, and to promote communal harmony and assist the police.



The District Magistrate, City, Visakh G Iyer flags off the rally of Home Guards on the occasion of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' at Green Park Stadium on Saturday.

Indo-German innovators connect tandem programme launched

PNS ■ KANPUR

IT Kanpur and German Centre for Research and Innovation (DWIH) jointly launch Indo-German Innovators Connect Tandem Programme for cross-cultural entrepreneurial collaboration. It is a fully funded programme for young researchers, entrepreneurs, and early-stage start-up founders from Germany and India. The technology business incubators from Germany and India have collaborated to mentor the innovators from the two countries and have paired up to jointly work on common problems, statements and to develop solutions. Prof Amitabha Bandyopadhyay, Professor-In-charge, SIIC IIT Kanpur said, 'The DWIH programme, allows Indian startups and

ecosystem enablers to interact with German startups. This presents an interesting opportunity for both the sides to learn about the thought process of the other side. I am sure this will be beneficial for the Indian and the German teams.' One of the objectives of the programme is to identify the best practices of startup ecosystem established in the two countries and create a template that can further augment the overall capacity of the entrepreneurs from the two countries in developing ground breaking innovations. Prof Ankush Sharma, Co-Professor In charge, SIIC IIT Kanpur said IIT Kanpur and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (CCAMP) were partner institutes from India and the International

collaboration had always played a crucial role in giving a competitive edge to research, innovation and businesses. He said Covid-19 reminded the world once again of the immense value of international cooperation and collaboration. He said realising the need, DWIH conceived the Innovators Connect Tandem Programme in collaboration with Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) IIT Kanpur, and Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms-CCAMP to enable international collaborations among Indian and German early stage entrepreneurs working in Life Sciences, Health-tech, Digi-tech, Agri-tech, Sustainability and Energy disciplines. Prof Bandyopadhyaya said Innovators Connect Tandem

Programme was a fully funded programme for young researchers, entrepreneurs, and early-stage start-up founders from Germany and India. He said it was a two weeks long hands-on programme where innovators from both the countries will be working in tandem (pair) on a specific problem statement and will jointly develop a solution. He said during the programme, the innovators were being mentored on different topics such as validating problem statements, developing business plans, pitching business ideas, awareness on funding opportunities in both the countries etc. He said a demo-day on August 18, 2022 had been organised in Bangalore and the tandems will present their business plans to the jury.

Fire breaks out in factory

PNS ■ KANPUR

A shoe manufacturing unit caught fire under the Jajmau police station on Saturday afternoon. Due to blast in chemical drums, the fire assumed ugly turn and soon spread in other parts of the unit. Seeing the devastating fire, adjacent factory workers and residents also came on the street. Immediately, fire brigade rushed to spot and carried out rescue operation. Usman Akhtar of Jajmau owns a shoe manufacturing unit under the name of Adiba International in Chhabile Purwa who runs it in partnership with his brother Guddu. On Saturday afternoon, the sole department of the unit suddenly caught fire which soon spread into other parts of



Shoe manufacturing unit caught fire in Jajmau on Saturday afternoon.

the factory after the blast in chemical drums. All the unit workers saved themselves by escaping out from there and panic prevailed among the neighbouring factory workers and residents. Local police also rushed to spot and safely res-

cued people residing in neighbouring houses. Fire Brigade arrived on the spot and carried out rescue operation. SHO Pawan Kumar said efforts were on to extinguish the fire. The cause of incident was not ascertained, he said.

CSJMU students take out Prabhat Pheri

PNS ■ KANPUR

Hundreds of students of Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, holding a huge Tricolour trudged all over the campus to celebrate the 75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on Saturday. They were part of the 'Prabhat Pheri' along with several other cultural and social programmes held on the varsity campus to honour and remember the freedom fighters and to pay homage to those who sacrificed their lives for Independent India.. The Vice-Chancellor of the varsity, Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak, flagged off the 'Prabhat Pheri' at 7:30 am from Deendayal Shodh Kendra to Vishweshwar temple and ended at Saraswati temple. He then motivated every student



The Vice-Chancellor of CSJM University, Kanpur, Prof Vinay Pathak flags off the Tiranga rally on Saturday.

through his patriotic speech. He said India has more youth power, and we should convert this power into skilful resources to help our country's progress and people's welfare. The Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof Sudhir Kumar Awasthi, Dean of Student Welfare Prof. Sanjay

Swarnkar, Dr Pravin Bhai Patel, Dr Vishal Sharma, and all the students, teachers, and officials and employees participated in the Prabhat Pheri. This was followed by a street play performed by the students of School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences who per-

formed a street play 'Azadi Ke Matwale' in the seminar hall of the Department of Social Work. Along with this, Rashtravadi Kavi Sammelan was also organised at Deendayal Shodh Kendra. Pro V-C Prof Sudhir Kumar Awasthi praised the poets for their beautiful poems. In the Sammelan, poet Gopal Pandey (Auraiya), Shivam Shukla (Kannauj), Lokesh Shukla, Dr Anjana Kumar (Kanpur), Abhishek Sahaj (Lucknow), Mukesh Srivastava (Kanpur) and Shivam Kumar Azad (Aligarh) won the hearts of the audience with their patriotic poems. Media incharge Dr Vishal Sharma said that Department of journalism and Mass Communication presented a documentary on Vibhajan vibhiska in the programme.

Electricity deptt contractor's house burgled

PNS ■ KANPUR

The locked house of an Electricity department contractor was burgled in Gopalpur colony under the Naubasta police station late Friday night. Miscreants took away cash and jewellery worth around Rs.7.50 lakh from there. On Saturday morning, neighbours found the locks of his main gate broken and informed the contractor. After some time, contractor's relatives and Naubasta police reached the spot and took stock of the situation. Contractor's brother-in-law Rahul lodged complaint with the police. Rahul said around 11 pm on Friday, brother-in-law Ram Swarup along with wife Anshika and son Ishant had proceeded for Kedarnath pilgrimage. Thereafter, miscreants broke into his house and removed jewellery worth around Rs 6 lakh and Rs 1.50 lakh in cash from the almira. Rahul informed the police that as the incident took place immediately after Ram Swarup proceeded from house for Kedarnath, it appeared as if the miscreants were aware about his outstation trip. SHO Naubasta Manvendra Singh said investigations were on after lodging the FIR.

SMS distributes national flags

Varanasi (PNS): (SMS) on Saturday organised various programmes under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The national flags were distributed among villagers of Khushipur, Bandepur and Bhadwar villages under the campaign of Har Ghar Tiranga. An awareness programme about the environment was also organised under which the saplings were planted. The volunteers of NSS distributed national flags among the teaching and non-teaching staff of the institute. The bike rally and foot march were also taken out by the institute which were flagged off by the institute Director Prof PN Jha. A debate contest was also organised to mark the Vibhajan Vibhishika Diwas, which subject was 'Far-reaching impact of division of India on the development.



National flags were distributed among teaching and non-teaching staff of SMS

District Panchayat member thrashes Lekhpal, held

PNS ■ KANPUR

Vidhnu police have arrested the district panchayat member on Saturday morning. He was involved in beating up the Lekhpal and snatching documents from him over a dispute of land measurement in Pipargawa village on August 4. The accused was alleged for pressing the Lekhpal to carry out the measurement of a fake plot. On the orders of the district magistrate, the police have arrested the accused from his house on Saturday morning. According to reports, Lekhpal

Vinod Kumar Umrao is posted in Narval tehsil. Pipargawa village of Vidhnu also falls in his area. He said one Laxmi Devi had purchased a plot from Binu Kushwah in Gata No.31 in Pipargawa village. The deal was executed through the Pali district panchayat member Raviraj. On August 4, when Lekhpal Vinod Kumar Umrao was inspecting the Gatawise land in Pipargawa village, Laxmi Devi managed his talk with Raviraj on phone when the latter asked the Lekhpal to carry out the measurement of former's plot also.

As in the registry, the plot was sold in Gata No.31 but Raviraj was pressing the Lekhpal to carry out the measurement of a plot in Gata No.33. When the Lekhpal Vinod Kumar Umrao informed to carry out measurement of the plot in Gata No.31 only on the basis of details available in registry papers, Raviraj abused him on phone. On protest, Raviraj reached the spot with his over half-a-dozen car-borne accomplices and started beating up the Lekhpal. Raviraj also snatched the important Khasha records from the Lekhpal.

| ASIAN FERTILIZERS LTD. | | | | | |
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| Corporate Office : PWD Officer's Colony, Near Sahara Press, Gorakhpur Pin-273009 | | | | | |
| E-Mail : af@asianfertilizers.com , investor@asianfertilizers.com , WEBSITE: www.asianfertilizers.com | | | | | |
| STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR QUARTER ENDED 30 th JUNE, 2022 | | | | | |
| (Rupees in Lacs) | | | | | |
| S. No. | Particulars | Three Months Ended | | Year Ended | |
| | | 30.06.2022 | 31.03.2022 | 30.06.2021 | 31.03.2022 |
| 1. | Total Income | 2,134.91 | 1,175.99 | 1,376.97 | 7,399.90 |
| 2. | Net Profit before interest, depreciation, exceptional item and tax | 90.15 | (2.45) | 95.81 | 357.52 |
| 3. | Net Profit for the period before tax (before Exceptional and Extraordinary items) | 78.15 | (16.80) | 83.81 | 307.17 |
| 4. | Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and Extraordinary items) | 78.15 | (16.80) | 83.81 | 307.17 |
| 5. | Net Profit for the period after tax (before Exceptional and Extraordinary items) | 58.90 | (8.87) | 61.61 | 230.19 |
| 6. | Total Comprehensive Income for the period | --- | 1.28 | --- | (0.43) |
| 7. | Equity Share Capital (Face value of Rs. 1/- per share) | 790.15 | 790.15 | 790.15 | 790.15 |
| 8. | Basic and Diluted Earning Per Share (of Rs. 1/- each) (Not Annualized) | | | | |
| i) | Before Extraordinary Items (in Rs.) | 0.75 | (0.11) | 0.78 | 2.91 |
| ii) | After Extraordinary Items (in Rs.) | 0.75 | (0.11) | 0.78 | 2.91 |
| Notes: (1) The above is an extract of the detailed format of un-audited Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarter ended financial results are available on the Stock Exchange websites:- www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website www.asianfertilizers.com . | | | | | |
| for Asian Fertilizers Limited | | | | | |
| Sd/- Ashok Kumar Matanhelia | | | | | |
| Managing Director (DIN No. 01763776) | | | | | |
| Place : Gorakhpur | | | | | |
| Date : Aug 13, 2022 | | | | | |

House painted in Tricolor

Kanpur (PNS):The Goldiee Group has painted its residence in Tricolor, to celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The house looks like the Indian flag and had been illuminated aesthetically to give an exclusive look. The house became the centre of attraction in the city. The Director, Som Goenka said this year we were celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of Indian Independence and said the whole India will be decorated with saffron, white and green colors. He said the top band is of Saffron color, indicating the strength and courage of the country. The white middle band indicates peace and truth with Dharma Chakra. The last band is green in color shows the fertility, growth and auspiciousness of the land. He said the purpose to paint the house in Tricolour was to reflect patriotism and that the Goldiee Group realises the sacrifices made by the Indians so that we can be independent. He said it was in fact a colourful tribute to the war heroes and freedom fighters who laid down their lives for the nation.



National flags were distributed among teaching and non-teaching staff of SMS

IIIT-A celebrates 24th Foundation Day

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The 24th Foundation Day of Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad was celebrated on Friday evening with enthusiasm and galore. Several colourful programmes were presented by students under the aegis of Student Gymkhana. Inaugurating the function in the main auditorium, the Chief Guest and Chairman of Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission, Sanjay Srinetra called upon students to blend the education with learning. Learning gives you Sanskar in life. He gave several tips to students on how to remain happy in life despite several oddities.

He advised students to create values such as ever evolving, patience, concentration and curiosity to achieve greater success in their lives. Prof R S Verma, Director, IIITA gave a clarion call to IIITA fraternity for working hard to get patents and copyrights. The institute is now 24 years old and completely mature for getting several patents and IPR every year. Students, faculties and infrastructure are the three pillars of any institute. He also laid emphasis on learning rather than seeking job placements. He congratulated all and hoped IIIT-A would score many milestones in coming years. Prof Vijayashree Tiwari, Registrar

threw light on the journey covered by the institute so far. The institute would strive hard for its betterment as well as society. Prof Vijrendra Singh, Dean, Students Affairs presented a detailed overview of the last two decade journey of the IIITA. He said several aspects of the new education policy were already implemented at the institute in 2018. All heads of departments including, IT, Applied Science, Management and electronic communication engineering presented their one year annual report before the audience. Earlier , the programme began with lighting of lamp by the chief guest and Sarswati Vandna.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL PROJECT ENGINEER

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, PIU, PANDAVNAGAR DISTRICT- SHAHDOL(M.P.)

E-mail:- piushahdol@gmail.com

NIT No.16/2022/CENTRALISED TENDER/APD/PIU/1275

REWA, DATE 05.08.2022

Online bids for the following works are invited from registered contractors and firms of repute fulfilling registration criteria:

| S. No. | Tender Portal ID | Name of Work | District | Probable Amount Contract (Rs. in lakh) | Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.) | Cost of Bid Document (in Rs.) | Period of completion (in months i/c Rainy Season) | 90% Incumbrance Free Land Available And MOU Signed |
|--------|---------------------|--|----------|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1 | 2022_PWPIU_216313_1 | CONSTRUCTION OF C.M. RISE SCHOOL (IN GROUND FLOOR, FIRST FLOOR AND SECOND FLOOR) AT GOVT. HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL MAU BLOCK BEOHARI DISTRICT- SHAHDOL (M.P.) (FIRST CALL). | SHAHDOL | 2491.97 | 12,45,985.00 | 50000.00 | 18 Months (Including rainy season) | Land Available |

1. All details relating to the Bid Document (s) can be viewed and downloaded free of cost from the website. <https://mptenders.gov.in>

2. Bid Document (s) can be purchased after making online payment of portal fees through Credit/Debit/Cash Card/Internet Banking.

3. The Bid Document (s) can be purchased only online from 10:00 Am (time) 10.08.2022 (date) to 06:00 PM (time) 24.08.2022 (date). Other key dates may be seen in Bid Data Sheet.

4. Amendment (s) to NIT, if any, shall be published on website only, and not in newspapers.

Divisional Project Engineer

G-15433/22

अब किस बात का इंतजार, टीका से क्यों कोरोना पर वार।

P.W.D. P.I.U. Shahdol (M.P.)

Seminar on 'spinal muscular atrophy'

PNS ■ KANPUR

Spinal Muscular Atrophy is an inherited neuromuscular disease that killed more infants worldwide than any other genetic disorder. In India, one study put its prevalence at one in every 7,744 live births, or about 3,200 Indian babies each year. This engendered the need to create awareness among the masses. The most common form of SMA is caused by defects in both copies of the survival motor neuron 1 gene (SMN1) on chromosome 5q. This gene produced the survival motor neuron (SMN) protein which maintained the health and normal function of motor neurons. This was stated by noted neurologist, Dr Ashfaq Alam while addressing a seminar on 'spinal muscular atrophy' on

Saturday. He said August was observed as Spinal Muscular Atrophy Day. He said very little awareness was there related to the disorder in the people and thus it was a major cause of concern. He said there were four types of SMA Type I, is sometimes called infantile onset SMA or Werdnig-Hoffmann disease. He said it begins to affect infants from birth up to 6 months of age, with most babies showing signs of the disease by 3 months. He said this was the most severe form of SMA. He said the second one begins to affect children between 7 and 18 months old and added that children can sit independently, but cannot walk. The next was type III, also called Kugelberg-Welander syndrome or juvenile SMA,

which begins to affect kids as early as 18 months of age or as late as adolescence. He said in this children can walk independently, but have weakness in their arms and legs and may fall often and this was the mildest form of SMA in children. The fourth kind was adult form usually begins after age 35 and slowly gets worse

over time as it developed slowly, many people with type IV SMA don't know that they have it until years after symptoms begin. Dr Alam said this is the most common way to test for SMA as testing checked for a deletion or variation in the SMN1 gene, a muscle biopsy and this was when doctors took a small sample of muscle to check under a microscope. He said there was no cure for SMA. He said research showed that kids with SMA did best with a team approach to their care. He said parents, doctors, nurses, therapists, counselors, and a dietitian were all important members of the team. He said this approach and recent medical advances had improved the outlook for kids with SMA.

Spinal Muscular Atrophy is an inherited neuromuscular disease that killed more infants worldwide than any other genetic disorder

Minister appeals to people to hoist national flags at homes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush, Food Safety and Drug Administration Dr Daya Shankar Mishra 'Dayaloo' on Saturday appealed to the people to hoist the national flag at their homes under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

He took part in a bike rally taken out under the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign which began from Sigra and culminated Bharat Mata Mandir by passing through the areas of Rath Yatra, Bhelupur, Lanka, Godoulia, Lahurabir and Maldahiya. He appealed to the people to hoist the national flags at their homes.

The former state minister and MLA from City South assembly constituency Dr Neel Kanth Tiwari participated in Tiranga yatra. He also took part in a cleanliness campaign



UP Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush, Food Safety and Drug Administration Dr Daya Shankar Mishra 'Dayaloo' (on pillion seat) participating in bike rally.

Pioneer

in Tiranga yatra and appealed to people to hoist the national flags at their homes.

The District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma flagged off the Tiranga yatra rally which was taken out by school children from Queen's Inter College in Lahurabir. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the new generation should remember the sacrifices given by our martyrs to get the country free from British Rule and added that the next generation would lead the nation in future and so there is a need of generating a sense of respect to the nation among them. India helped other countries in COVID-19 pandemic apart from saving the lives of its citizens and it shows that the nation proved its power at global level and we should be proud of it, he said, adding that now, India is invited to settle the dispute of other countries.

Amrit Mahotsav Park dedicated to people

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Amrit Mahotsav Park, constructed in the premises of Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Babatpur here under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, was dedicated to the people by Chairman of the advisory committee of the airport and Member of Parliament from Machhlishahr parliamentary constituency BP Saroj in a function organised on Friday. The UP Minister Ravindra Jaiswal, local MLA Dr Awadhesh Singh and Chairman of Sunbeam Group of Educational Institutions Deepak Madhok were also present on the occasion. The park was constructed by the Sunbeam group in collaboration with the airport authority.

The aim behind developing this mark in the airport



The MP and Chairman of the advisory committee of Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport BP Saroj dedicated Amrit Mahotsav park to people developed in the airport premises.

Pioneer

premise is to give a pleasant experience to the tourists. On the occasion, a painting competition was also organised in which more than 200 students from 20 schools of the district participated. The artist Anil

Sharma and Sumit Ghosh of Fine Arts department, MGKV were the judges of the competition. The guests gave away prizes to winners of the competitions organised in various categories.

Speaking on the occasion, the MP Saroj said that when the students are associated with any work which is in the development of the nation, itself becomes great because these are the students who will extend the thoughts of the present time in the future like trees. The Minister Jaiswal said that it is not just a park and it is rather a school to realise the moral values and responsibilities by connecting us with our roots and culture.

The Sunbeam Group is celebrating its golden jubilee year and the family of the group is always determined for the progress of society and nation. The students also presented a cultural programme. The Director of group Bharti Madhok, Deputy Director Amrita Berman and honorary director Harsh Madhok were among those present to grace the occasion.

S-I awarded Home Minister's medal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In a great honour to the Varanasi Commissionerate Police, a police Sub-Inspector (S-I) Suraj Kumar Tiwari, posted in the city, was conferred with the Award of "Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation" for the year of 2022 to conduct the successful investigation of an interstate NEET Solver Gang and the gang kingpin and others were arrested and sent to jail on the basis of investigation. The Commissioner of Police (CP) A Satish Ganesh on Saturday honoured the S-I Suraj and in-charge of Crime Branch Anjani Kumar Pandey, who had played an important role in the arrest of the accused, at a function organised in the Police Lines here.

A case had been registered against an interstate NEET solver gang was registered in Sarnath police station in September, 2021 and on November, 18, 2021, the kingpin of gang Neelesh Singh aka PK and his accomplice Ritesh Singh were arrested. Some



Commissioner of Police A Satish Ganesh honouring S-I Suraj Kumar Tiwari who was conferred with the Award of "Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation" for the year of 2022.

Pioneer

gang members were also arrested in connection with using solvers in the place of original candidates in All India level National Eligibility-cum Entrance Test (NEET), 2021 conducted for the admission in MBBS. The gang had made a deal of Rs 40 lakh with each

candidate to use solver in his/her place in the examination.

After registering the case, the S-I Suraj was assigned the job to conduct an investigation into the matter. The name of Neelesh Singh aka PK came to fore during the investigation

who was the kingpin of the solver gang active in other states too besides UP.

With the help of electronic surveillance and other scientific methods the gang members were identified and ultimately, the police succeeded in arresting the kingpin and some members of the gang.

The in-charge of crime branch Anjani Kumar Pandey had played an important role in the arrest of the gang kingpin and members.

For the excellent job in identifying the gang during the investigation, the S-I Suraj was conferred with the Award of "Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation" for the year 2022. Overwhelmed with this great achievement, the CP Ganesh honoured S-I Suraj and crime branch in-charge Anjani at a function held in the Police Lines here.

This is the great achievement of Varanasi Commissionerate Police, said the CP, adding that the accused are behind the bars under Gangster Act.

NSS volunteers take out prabhat pheri

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the National Service Scheme (NSS) units of various universities took out prabhat pheri and held seminars under the campaign of Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan on Saturday. Under the joint auspices of National Service Scheme (NSS) and National Cadet Core (NCC) units of the Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU), a prabhat pheri was taken out from the statue of Chandra Shekhar Azad in varsity premises to the statue of this great martyr at Azad Park in Lahurabir here. During the prabhat pheri, the volunteers of NSS and cadets of NCC were holding national flags and raising slogans like Bharat Mata Ki jai and Vande Matram. The SSU Vice-Chancellor Prof Hareram Tripathi flagged off the prabhat pheri and said that to hoist the national flag at the houses

establishes the personal relation with the tricolor and added that the objective behind the campaign of Har Ghar Tiranga is to generate a feeling of patriotism in the people and also generate consciousness about the national flag. The varsity registrar Keshlal, coordinator of NSS Dr Dinesh Garg, NCC Coordinator Dr Satyendra Kumar Yadav and others joined it.

The prabhat pheri was taken out by the NSS unit of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) from Assi Ghat to the birthplace of Queen of Jhansi Lakshmibai at Tulsi Ghat here. The Chancellor of Swami Vivekananda Yoga University, Bangaluru Prof Nagendra HR flagged off the prabhat pheri. The prabhat pheri began from Assi Ghat and culminated at the birthplace of Rani Lakshmibai through Ganga Mahal Ghat, Rewa Ghat and Tulsi Ghat where the volunteers of NSS paid their floral tributes to the great martyrs who gave

their supreme sacrifice for the cause of nation. During the prabhat pheri, the volunteers were holding the national flags and rented the air with the slogans of Bharat Mata Ki jai and Vande Matram. Under the joint auspices of Institute of Tourism Studies and NSS of Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith (MGKV), a seminar was organised at the auditorium of the institute on varsity campus here. The topic of the seminar was 'Role of women in the national freedom struggle.'

The key speaker and coordinator of NSS Dr KK Singh said that the women belonging to any caste or religion played their active role in getting the country free from the British Rule and added that at the same time, there are several women who contributed a lot during the freedom struggle but their names were not figured in the history. But we cannot forget their contribution and the nation will always be grateful of their dedication to the nation.

The Director of the institute Dr Nisha Singh welcomed the guests. Dr Neeraj Dhankad conducted it and Dr Kiran Singh proposed the vote of thanks while many were present including Dr satish Kushwaha and Dr Ashwani Singh. Meanwhile, the Philosophy Department of the university organised an essay writing competition on the subject of "Concept of Vishwaguru and Bharat Varsh and also slogan writing. The chief guest Prof Sabhajit Singh threw lights on the importance of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and informed that the names of winners of both competitions would be announced on the Independence Day on August 15. Prof Shashi Devi Singh presided over it. Dr Ashutosh Tripathi conducted it and Prof Rajesh Kumar Mishra proposed the vote of thanks while many were present including Dr Nandini Singh and Dr Pitambar Das.

Tricolour Yatra taken out under Smriti Irani's leadership

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Union Minister Smriti Irani was in Prayagraj on Saturday. Under her leadership, the Tricolour Yatra was taken out from Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad Park. The Union Minister reached Subhash Crossing while driving a scooter. Along with her, a large number of women on scooter also joined this journey.

The tricolour was waving in everyone's hands and they were full of enthusiasm. During this, special security arrangements were made at all the intersections. Wherever the tricolour yatra passed, people raised their hands and greeted them.

Union Minister Smriti Irani at Azad Park said that not only sacrifices have been made for this tricolour, but efforts have also been made to make India stronger. Our martyrs embraced death but did not betray Maa Bharati. She remembered the sacrifice of Chandrashekhar Azad and said that if you have a daughter in your womb, it should be like Lakshmi Bai, if a boy, it should be like Bhagat Singh or Chandrashekhar Azad.

Addressing the people, Smriti Irani said that can we take a pledge to move forward with a resolution to make the coming 25 years a golden India. She further said that when India became independent, no one had thought that one day



such a calamity would come when the whole of India would have to be shut down. When India was closed during the Corona transition period, Indians were delivering food grains to each other's homes. PM Narendra Modi delivered ration to 80 crore people. No one had ever imagined about this country that we would ever be able to reach the moon or Mars. We made Mangalyaan and sent it to Mars.

Union Minister for Women and Child Development and Minority Affairs Smriti Irani arrived in Prayagraj on Saturday afternoon. Under her leadership, a tricolour yatra was taken out by scooter from All Saints' Cathedral to Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad Park. The event was organized by the

Territorial Defense Team. Irani reached the Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad Park and garlanded the statue of the immortal revolutionary Chandrashekhar Azad, who was martyred in the country's independence.

Union Minister Smriti Irani chose Scooty for herself by joining the Tricolour rally. She herself wore a helmet while driving the scooter and advised others involved to wear a helmet. On both sides of the routes through which the tricolour yatra took off, the people of the city were welcomed by the people involved in the yatra. There was also a crowd of people watching Smriti Irani.

In Civil Lines, Smriti Irani bowed to the statue of Subhas Chandra Bose from a distance. The rally stopped there for

some time and then proceeded with the announcement of Vande Mataram. PRD personnel, scouts, employees of District Panchayat Raj Department and a large number of women participated in this rally. Everyone was seen in the colors of patriotism. The whole atmosphere was resonating with the chanting of Bharat Mata.

When the Union Minister expressed her intention to walk on scooter to participate in the tricolour yatra, she was immediately given a vehicle without a number. On this, she denied that she would not drive a vehicle without the number-plate. Immediately after this another scooter was arranged.

Along with Union Minister Smriti Irani, both the MPs of Prayagraj also participated in the tricolour yatra. Dr. Rita Bahuguna Joshi, MP from Allahabad parliamentary seat and Keshari Devi Patel, MP from Phulpur parliamentary seat also participated in the rally.

An exhibition related to the freedom movement has been put up in Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad Park. It also includes a letter written by Chandrashekhar Azad. Chandrashekhar Azad's letter demanding two dhoti four langots is kept here. Do dhosis meant two pistols and four langoti meant four cartridges. The exhibition was visited by Union Minister Smriti Irani.

President approves appointment of nine additional judges in Allahabad HC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The President has approved the appointment of nine additional judges in the Allahabad High Court. All these are judicial officers of the higher judicial service cadre of the district judge level. See the names of Additional Judges in this news.

Allahabad District Judge Nalin Kumar Srivastava also appointed: Additional Judges to

be appointed in Allahabad High Court include Mohammad Azhar Hussain Idrisi, Ram Manohar Narayan Mishra, Mayank Kumar Jain, Surendra Singh I and Allahabad District Judge Nalin Kumar Srivastava. All of them have been appointed for a period of two years from the date of taking oath. Similarly, Renu Agarwal, Jyotsna Sharma, Shivshankar Prasad and Gajendra Kumar have been

appointed as Additional Judges till they complete the age of 62 years. His term will end in 2024. High Court open for common people in Amrit Mahotsav: Allahabad High Court has been decorated with special lighting to commemorate the Amrit Mahotsav organized by the Government of India in the 75th year of independence of the country. The historic building is bathed in colorful lights. This arrange-

ment has been made as per the order of Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal. Selfie points have also been set up at two places within the campus. Registrar Etiquette Ashish Srivastava said that the High Court complex has been opened for the general public for the next four days. Now common people will also be able to take selfie by entering the premises without passing a security check.

BHS organises Investiture Ceremony

PRAYAGRAJ (PNS): The Investiture Ceremony of the Boys' High School (BHS) and College was held in the Saint Patrick's auditorium at the school premises on Saturday. Col Balbir Jha, Infantry Officer, 20 Kumaon Regiment, Prayagraj was the chief guest. The function is of great importance as the school confers ceremonial ranks to the students to inculcate in them values of leadership and responsibility. At the outset, the BHS Principal, Mr. D. A. Luke, Academic Supervisor, Mrs. C. B. Luke and the Headmistress of HTS, Mrs. R. Mandal welcomed the chief guest. The function started with the open-

ing prayer and reading from the Holy Bible by Mr. J. Lawrence. Thereafter, the chief guest, Col Balbir Jha presented coveted school colours and badges to the newly elected cabinet. On behalf of the newly elected cabinet, Col Balbir Jha turned nostalgic when he recalled his school days and praised the school for imparting quality education to the students to ensure their all round development. He said that 'A healthy mind rests in a

healthy body' and motivated the students to take part in sports and games. He gave a concept of 'C', 'C' and 'D' that is 'C' - Choice, 'C' - Confidence and 'D' - Discipline, which is the key to success. Elaborating it further to choose a right career at the right time, have confidence to achieve the same and work hard in a disciplined manner to achieve your goal. The function came to an end with the vote of thanks by L.A.M. French The newly elected office-bearers are as follows: College Captain: Tejas Pratap Singh, 12-B, College Vice Captain: Subraanshu Pratap Singh, 12-C, College Sports

Captain: Vinayak Pratap Singh, 12-B, Sports Vice-Captain: Anurag Singh, 12-E, Cultural Captain: Bharat Vyas, 12-B, Cultural Vice-Captain: Aaryaman Chaturvedi, 12-D, Blue House Captain: Shivansh Chandra Mathur, 12-D, Vice Captain: Kabir Krishnan, 12-B; Green House Captain: Kovid Dubey, 12-A, Vice Captain: Aditya Sahu, 12-B; Red House Captain: Aditya Vaibhav, 12-C, Vice Captain: Amruti Raj Singh, 12-E; Yellow House Captain: Ayush Sharma, 12-C, Vice Captain: Mohammad Rehan Raza, 12-C; Cultural Prefects: Sanskar Sharma, 12-A, Aditya Arora, 12-B.

15 mobile phones, mobike recovered

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

GRP arrested three persons and recovered 15 mobile phones and 1 motorcycle from their possession of total value around Rs 3,22,000 on Thursday night. As per the received reports, the GRP personnel were on routine patrolling intercepted a suspect and recovered four mobile sets from his possession. During interrogation he confessed that he was a member of a gang involved in theft in the trains. At his identification two more were nabbed with more 11 mobile sets and 1 motorcycle. The accused were identified as Raju Gupta the resident of Markundi under Chopan police station in Sonbhadra, Azad resident of Chhota Mirzapur under Adalahaat police station in Mirzapur and Nishant resident of Darharam near Padari Bajar in Mirzapur. After completion of the legal formalities the accused were sent to jail.

CULTURAL PROGRAMME: ADM(F&R) Shiv Pratap Shukla has said 'Lest we forget a nation which does not respect its heroes is doomed. These views were expressed by him as chief guest while inaugurating a cultural programme under freedom week at City Club on in the series of the programmes under Amrit Mahotsav on Friday.

Speaking more at the occasion he said that the different programmes under Amrit Mahotsav including Har Ghar Tiranga were being held to pay respect to our freedom fighters who struggled against the foreign rule and sacrificed their lives. About the week long programme which was being organised by Information department he said that all the presentations were dedicated to our freedom fighters and through it the purpose was to make aware the coming generation that it was the outcome of the sacrifice of our ancestors that we were living in independent country which remained under foreign rule since the centuries.

He said that all the programmes being organised under Amrit Mahotsav to realise the value of independence and keep the nation as intact by our deeds. He praised

the performers who performed patriotic stage shows during the programme. At the occasion the magic show performed by Nagendra Pratap in which he highlighted the spirit of nationalism. The folk song Kajali performed by Shiv Lal Gupta and party and the group of Bechan Bind also provided the feast to the audience. The programme was convened by Om Prakash Upadhyay the Additional Information Officer.

SEMINAR: Divisional Commissioner Yogeshwar Ram Mishra has opined that it was the duty of the influential persons to exercise their status for the betterment of the deprived class through the government schemes and for very that noble cause Bharat Sewak Samaj had been founded in year 1952. These views were expressed by him while addressing a seminar organised at the foundation day of BSS in the auditorium of Zila Panchayat on Friday.

Speaking more as chief guest he said that it was a fact that the credibility and status was a must to pursue or mount the pressure and in very that

view the organisation was founded by the veteran freedom fighters to pay the role of a conduit between the people and the government. He appealed to the organisation to come forward to expose the corruption and find out the ways to implement government schemes in better way and he assured to give full support.

The seminar was addressed by the others too drew the attention of the authorities about some anomalies and gave the suggestions to improve it.

The programme started with lighting the ceremonial lamp and garlanding the portrait of Maa Vindhyavasini. The programme was conducted by Rajendra Tiwari, presided over by all India general secretary of the organisation ID Tripathi and vote of thanks was proposed by Narendra Gupta. The prominent among those who also graced the seminar were divisional president BSS Chakrapani Tiwari, OP Singh, Uma Barnwal, Rachna Gupta, Rameshwar Gupta, Gupta, Gupta, Gupta and the others.

HAR GHAR TIRANGA CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF



Union Home Minister Amit Shah, along with his wife Sonal Shah, hoists the national flag at his residence as part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, in New Delhi on Saturday



Film actor Mohanlal hoists the national flag at his residence on the occasion of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, in Kochi on Saturday



ITBP hoists national flag at high altitude borders as part of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman participates in a 'Tiranga Yatra' as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations for 75 years of Independence, in Bengaluru, on Saturday

Congress likely to hold meet with Nitish, Tejashwi over Cabinet berth

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI/PATNA

One of the partners in the Mahatman Government in Bihar, the Congress is likely to hold meetings with JD(U) leader and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and RJD leader and Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday over the party's share in the alliance new Council of Ministers.

Party's Bihar incharge Bhakta Charan Das said he has already spoken to party chief Sonia Gandhi and former president Rahul Gandhi on the issue.

He claimed that Congress is a big party and that many have joined it so the leadership expects a respectable presence



in the Bihar Cabinet.

Das' arm-flexing statement comes a day after a party MLA wrote to Sonia and Rahul that the grand old party should fight for a good number of Ministerial berths based on caste equations.

Das asserted that a "major exercise" for finalising ministerial berths has been completed and he has spoken to Nitish Kumar and would meet

him personally to share him the high command's thinking on the subject.

The AICC Bihar in-charge also announced that the Cabinet expansion and oath ceremony will be on Tuesday.

He, however, refused to divulge the number of ministerial berths the Congress would be getting and said it would be "respectable" and according to the party's strength in the House.

"It has been finalised. The numbers would be as per our strength in the House. We have not yet finalized the names. We are a big party and many have joined us. Keeping in mind everything, it (the number) will be respectable," he said.

Das had met Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad on Friday in the national Capital for the first time after the formation of the new government in Bihar and held discussions with him.

He had said Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav also met Congress chief Sonia Gandhi on Friday and had a discussion with her on the cabinet expansion.

Earlier, Congress sources had indicated that the party was likely to get four ministerial berths in the new government in Bihar.

The cabinet, which at present comprises only Chief Minister Kumar and Yadav as his deputy, is due for expansion early next week.

Sonia again tests positive for Covid, to remain in isolation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Over two months after contracting the coronavirus infection, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Saturday tested positive for Covid-19 again and will remain in isolation. Earlier this week, her daughter and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had also tested positive.

"Congress President Sonia Gandhi has tested positive for Covid-19 today. She will remain in isolation as per Govt. Protocol," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a tweet Saturday.

Sonia Gandhi had tested positive for COVID-19 in early June as well. Days after she had

tested positive, the 75-year-old leader was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here on June 12. She was discharged on June 20.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and host of several leaders had wished for good health of the Congress chief when she caught Covid in June days before she was summoned by the ED to join a probe in National Herald matter.

"Congress President Sonia Gandhi has tested positive for Covid-19 today. We wish her speedy recovery and good health," the party said on its official Twitter handle.

Several leaders including Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister



Bhupesh Baghel, wished Sonia Gandhi a speedy recovery. Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said, "Concerned to hear that Smt Sonia Gandhi ji has tested positive for Covid. Wishing her a speedy recovery and good health."

Congress leaders Sachin Pilot and Srinivas BV, among others, also wished her a speedy recovery.

Several Congress leaders have contracted Covid recently including Kharge, party general secretary Ajay Maken, communications department head Pawan Khera and party MP Abhishek Manu Singhvi.

FROM PAGE 1

IAS TOPPER FAESAL BACK IN SERVICE AFTER ABORTIVE BID IN J&K POLITICS

"Job. Friends. Reputation. Public goodwill. But I never lost hope. My idealism had let me down," he had said.

"But I had faith in myself. That I would undo the mistakes I had made. That life would give me another chance. A part of me is exhausted with the memory of those 8 months and wants to erase that legacy. Much of it is already gone. Time will mop off the rest in believe," he had tweeted.

"Just thought of sharing that life is beautiful. It is always worth giving ourselves another chance. Setbacks make us stronger. And there is an amazing world beyond the shadows of the past. I turn 39 next month. And I'm really excited to start all over again," he tweeted in April this year.

Faesar, who had submitted his resignation in January 2019 and floated the Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement (JKPM) party, was detained under the stringent Public Safety Act immediately after the abrogation of the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

However, after his release, Faesar gave up on politics and gave indications he was willing to rejoin government service. His resignation had not been accepted.

The doctor-turned-bureaucrat formed his party to "revive democratic politics" in Jammu and Kashmir but his political career ended abruptly.

The Home Ministry, which is the cadre controlling authority for the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre, had asked for an opinion of the Jammu and Kashmir administration about his plea for withdrawing his resignation.

Hailing from the remote village of Lolab in north Kashmir, Faesar, whose father was killed by terrorists in 2002, had topped the UPSC examination in 2009.

Faesar was vocal about the "unprecedented curbs" on the people of Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of the operative provisions of Article 370.

He was detained at Delhi airport on the intervening night of August 14-15, 2019, and sent back to Srinagar and placed under detention. After spending six months in preventive detention, first at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) and then at Srinagar's MLA hostel, he was booked under the draconian Public Safety Act in February 2020 which was revoked four months later.

In an interview with PTI in 2020, Faesar had said his decision to join politics had done more harm than benefit as his "innocuous act" of dissent was seen as an "act of treason".

About his decision to form a political party, Faesar had said he wanted to revive democratic politics in Jammu and Kashmir.

"But soon after quitting (IAS), I realised that my innocuous act of dissent was being seen as an act of treason. It had done more harm than benefit," he had said, adding his act had discouraged a lot of civil services aspirants and his colleagues felt betrayed by him. "It upset me a lot."

RSS DROPS SAFFRON FLAG, POSTS TRICOLOUR AS PROFILE PICTURE

He said RSS workers were actively participating in the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.

The Central Government has urged people to hoist or display the national flag from their homes during August 13-15 as part of its programme.

The BJP has maintained that under the Modi-Government the tricolour has been flying high in Lal Chowk and Dal Lake in the Kashmir Valley where earlier it was "inconceivable" to unfurl it there.

The Congress has criticised the BJP for appropriating the grand legacy of the Tricolour and "politicizing" it.

As against it, the BJP has asked all parties to see Har Ghar Tiranga as a national programme beyond party politics.

Opposition parties did not participate in the "Tiranga Bike rally" organised by Union Culture Ministry on August 3 from Red Fort to Parliament, flagged off by then Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu.

LANKA LETS CHINESE 'SPY SHIP' TO DOCK NEAR INDIA DAYS AFTER DEFERRING ARRIVAL

"We are aware of reports of a proposed visit by this vessel to Hambantota in August," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had said in New Delhi when asked about the reports of a proposed visit by a Chinese vessel.

"The Government carefully monitors any development having a bearing on India's security and economic interests and takes all necessary measures to safeguard them," he said last month.

India has traditionally taken a stern view of Chinese military vessels in the Indian Ocean and has protested such visits with Sri Lanka in the past. New Delhi had lodged a protest with Colombo in 2014 when it allowed Chinese submarine to dock at one of its port then.

On Monday, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said it was "completely unjustified for certain countries to cite the so-called 'security concerns' to pressure Sri Lanka.

In response, India on Friday said, "We reject the insinuations in the statement about India. Sri Lanka is a sovereign country and makes its own independent deci-

sions."

Reiterating this point, Bagchi also said as regards India-China relations "we have consistently emphasized the necessity of mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interests as a basis for the development of ties."

"With regard to our security concerns, this is the sovereign right of every country. We will make the best judgment in our own interest. This naturally takes into account prevailing situation in the region especially in the border areas," he said.

According to reports, the Yuan Wang 5 could be employed for space and satellite tracking, and has specific uses in inter-continental ballistic missile launches.

India had expressed its security concerns over the docking of the vessel at Hambantota as it was shown as a research vessel while the spy ship can map the ocean bed which is critical to anti-submarine operations of the Chinese Navy.

Designated as a research and survey vessel, Yuan Wang 5 was built in 2007 and has a carrying capacity of 11,000 tonnes. During this visit, the ship could conduct satellite research in the northwestern part of the Indian Ocean region thereby posing a security risk.

NCB OFFICER SAMEER GETS CLEAN CHIT IN CASTE CERTIFICATE FORGERY CASE

The caste committee also said the complaints filed by Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik and others regarding the caste claim of Sameer and regarding the religion of the caste certificate were not substantiated, following which complaints were rejected due to lack of the facts in the complaint, the order said.

Soon after the Mumbai district caste certificate verification committee's order became public, Sameer tweeted - "Satyameva Jayate" - signifying 'victory of truth', and said he and his family had undergone a lot of trauma due to the matter.

It may be recalled that on November 30, 2021, the District Caste Scrutiny Committee, Mumbai city had launched inquiry proceedings against Sameer.

Alluding to Sameer's marriage to Dr Shabana Qureshi through a nikah ceremony, the advocate stated that if the NCB officer was not a Muslim, he could not have married a girl from the community.

It may be recalled that Sameer, the then Zonal Director NCB, had come into limelight after the anti-drug body arrested Aryan Khan, Arbaaz Merchant, Munmun Dhamecha and five others on October 3, 2021, a night after its officials busted a rave party and seized 13 grams of cocaine, 5 grams of MD (Mephedrone), 21 grams of Charas, 22 pills of MDMA (Ecstasy) and

Rs 1.33 lakh in cash from Goa-bound Cordelia Cruises' Empress ship, off the Mumbai coast.

PM: HAR GHAR TIRANGA SUCCESS SHOWS SPIRIT OF NATIONAL UNITY

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan attended a Tiranga bike rally at Rourkela in Odisha while another Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav visited Ballia in Uttar Pradesh to pay tributes to freedom fighter Chittu Pandey while hoisting the tricolour. Their Cabinet colleague Anurag Thakur hoisted the flag at his residence.

Party leaders were seen attending different programmes, including "Prabhat Pheri" and Tiranga rallies in various cities.

Celebrating the tricolour hoisting, Central Minister Piyush Goyal said, "Modi has given a new direction to country. Crores will hoist tricolour flag on Independence Day. This will give a message to the world about India's growing strength, unity & its dedication to becoming a developed country in the next 25 years."

The BJP made light of the Congress' criticism of the Government for not holding any function in Parliament to mark the 75th year of Independence, and asked it to share pictures of its leaders hoisting the Tiranga as part of an ongoing official campaign. The BJP said celebrations of the 75th anniversary of independence should not be a matter of politics.

In UP, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flagged off the Har Ghar Tiranga yatra along with schoolchildren at his residence in Lucknow.

The Kashmir Valley entering the third-year of revocation of article 370 witnessed a unique Tiranga rally by women on the banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar, organized by the district administration. A massive walkathon rally was also organised by CRPF in Budgam in Kashmir.

In an interesting aside, the family of two fugitive terrorists hoisted tricolour at their residence in Doda, Jammu, under the campaign. "We always hoist the Tiranga on Independence Day. My brother is a terrorist in Pakistan. He was underage when he went. We want him to come back," said one of the family members.

Prime Minister's mother Hiraba, who entered the 100th year of her life in June this year, distributed national flags to children at her residence on the outskirts of Gandhinagar city in Gujarat.

In the national Capital, the Delhi Metro hoisted the national flag at its 23 stations.

The Prime Minister had on July 22 appealed citizens to hoist tricolour at their homes. The idea behind the campaign is to connect with the masses and infuse a sense of nationalism and patriotism.

4th phase of CUET-UG deferred to Aug 30

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Universities Entrance Test-UG for over 11,000 candidates who were scheduled to appear in the fourth phase of the exam has been deferred to August 30 to accommodate their choice of city for centre.

The fourth phase of the CUET for admission in undergraduate courses was scheduled from August 17-20 and a total of 3.72 lakh candidates were set to appear. According to the initial plan, all phases of the exam were scheduled to conclude on August 20. The National Testing Agency (NTA), which is responsible for conducting the exam, had later announced that all phases of the exam will conclude on August 28.

However, now the schedule has been further deferred and the exam split into six phases.

"The exam for over 11,000 out of 3.72 lakh candidates has been postponed to August 30 to accommodate their choice of city for exam centre. The NTA (National Testing Agency) has increased the capacity at centres and also added

more exam centres besides making efforts to ensure the quality of the centres is enhanced," UGC Chairman M Jagadeesh Kumar said.

"It has also been decided to station additional technical manpower by deploying the facility of Associate Professor level as technical observer at every centre to ensure smooth conduct of examination," he added. The second phase of Common University Entrance Test (CUET) was marred with glitches prompting the agency to cancel exams at various centres.

Kumar had last week said the exam was cancelled at various centres following indications and reports of "sabotage".

"The NTA has also received some e-mails regarding digital glitches faced by individual candidates during previous phase as well as requests for change of date, centre, city and re-examination. Such requests are being examined on case-to-case basis using audit trail of individual candidates and report of the centres. If found feasible, the candidates will be appearing on August 30," the UGC Chief said.

DGCA issues directives to curb aircraft's collision with birds

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday issued a fresh set of directives for airport operators to check incidents of collision of planes with birds and other animals, in the wake of such incidents recently.

As per the circular, aerodrome operators are required to deploy a wide range of methods and techniques to minimize the collision between wildlife and aircraft which includes carrying out routine patrols in random patterns, informing pilots whenever there is any wildlife activity, regular surveillance to spot hazardous wildlife and to record and monitor wildlife/bird movement data.

Regularly monitoring of buildings and other infrastructure for nests and roosts along with regular pruning to get rid of dense growth has been recommended. The DGCA has sought a report from aerodrome operators on a monthly basis.

The circular Titled, "management of potential wildlife hazards at licensed aerodromes"; "The activity of birds and animals in and around an aerodrome is a potential source of hazard to safe operation of aircraft... possibility of collision between an aircraft and birds/animals. Wildlife

strikes pose a significant threat to flight safety and have caused a number of accidents and incidents in India."

There have been various incidents of bird hits during the last few weeks. On August 4, Go First's flight to Chandigarh returned to Ahmedabad on Thursday after suffering a bird hit. On June 19, an engine on a SpiceJet Delhi-bound aircraft carrying 185 passengers caught fire soon after it took off from the Patna airport and the plane made an emergency landing minutes later. The engine malfunctioned because of a bird hit.

Aircraft Rules prohibit dumping of garbage and slaughter of animals that may attract wildlife within 10 km of an airport. "At aerodrome, the main objective is to bring about a change in wildlife behaviour so that they do not enter the critical safety zones where the aircraft operates.... habitat management is probably the most important method of preventing or reducing wildlife strikes on and around an aerodrome. Modifications to the aerodrome's habitat / environment to eliminate or exclude food, water and shelter can limit the attractiveness of birds and other wildlife at aerodrome," it said.

The airports must have a procedure to monitor and record wildlife movement data, it said.



PM Modi hosts India's CWG 2022 contingent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The golden period of Indian sports is knocking on the door, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday as he hailed the gutsy show of the Indian contingent which returned with 61 medals from the Commonwealth Games.

Modi on Saturday hosted the Indian contingent at his residence to felicitate the players here.

The Indian athletes produced a sensational show in Birmingham, claiming 61 medals, including 22 gold, 16 silver and 23 bronze.

"The real assessment of this performance can't be made with just number of medals, our athletes

competed neck-to-neck. There may have been a difference of 1s or 1cm but we will make that up I am confident of that," Modi said during his speech.

"It is just a start and we are not going to just sit quietly, golden period of Indian sports is knocking on the door."

"We have the responsibility of making a sporting system which is the best in the world, inclusive, diverse and dynamic. No talent should be left out as they are all assets."

While India produced a dominating show in badminton, wrestling and weightlifting, the athletes also did well in athletics, judo and lawn bowl, where they won

India's first-ever medal in the Games.

"Not only are we strengthening the sports that we have been strong in but have also left a mark in new sports. In hockey we are trying to get our legacy back," Modi said.

"Since the last time, we have won medals in four new sports, from lawn bowls to athletics, our performance has been spectacular. This performance will help increase youth's interest in new sports. We have to improve our performance in new sports."

The Indian team also won a silver in women's T20 cricket which was introduced for the first time at the CWG.

"Under Harmanpreet's (Kaur)

leadership, India has produced a fantastic performance in cricket. All players have done well but no one had the antidote to Renuka's (Thakur) swing bowling. It is not a small feat to be the top wicket taker among the greats."

Modi also noted that the achievements of the athletes coincided with the celebrations of India's 75th independence day.

The felicitation program was attended by most of the CWG-returned athletes, including the wrestlers, weightlifters, boxers, shuttlers and table-tennis players.

Modi also congratulated the chess players who competed and won medals at the Olympiad which was hosted in Chennai.

IOA felicitates CWG medal winners with cash awards

NEW DELHI: The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Saturday felicitated the Birmingham Commonwealth Games medallists and presented them with cash awards at a function here.

While the gold medallists were awarded a cash reward of ₹20 lakh each, the silver and bronze winners got richer by Rs 10 lakh and Rs 7.5 lakh, respectively.

The event was attended by IOA acting president Anil Khanna, secretary general Rajeev Mehta, treasurer Anandeshwar Pandey, and India's chef de mission of the Birmingham Games Rajesh Bhandhari among others.

During the function, Khanna lauded the performance of the Indian athletes, who bagged a rich haul of 61 medals to finish fourth in the standings, despite shooting's absence from the multi-sport event.

PTI

‘There’re better fast bowlers in Indian T20 cricket than Shami’

PTI ■ DUBAI

Australian legend Ricky Ponting feels Mohammed Shami's strength lies in the longest format and there are better quick bowlers in India's T20 set up, weighing in on his absence from the Asia Cup squad.

India have picked Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Avesh Khan and Arshdeep Singh as the three specialist fast bowlers with all-rounder Hardik Pandya being the fourth pacer in the 15-member squad.

"He's (Shami) been a very, very good bowler for India for a long time now. If you look at his strengths, his Test cricket is probably where he thrives the most,"

Ponting, a two-time World Cup-winning captain, said in the latest episode of The ICC Review.

"I think there are better fast bowlers in Indian T20 cricket than Shami and they've only named three (for the Asia Cup). So if there's potentially four named in the squad he might be the fourth man in."

With Jasprit Bumrah and Harshal Patel nursing injuries, many felt Shami might be included to share the new-ball duties during the Asia Cup.

"I would think they'll probably only have the four quicks coming to Australia. They'll still want to bring a lot of spin here even though the wickets are probably not that conducive," Ponting said.

The Asia Cup will be held in Dubai and Sharjah from August 27 to September 11 and Ponting picked India as the favourites to win the tournament.

"It's always hard to go past India in any tournament, not just an Asia Cup, but I think every time we talk about the T20 World Cup which is coming up, I think that India will be right in the thick of it there," the 47-year-old said.

"Their depth is definitely better than the other teams and I think India will win the Asia Cup."



New Zealand cruise past WI in 2nd T20I

AP ■ KINGSTON

New Zealand pulverised a demoralised West Indies by 90 runs in the second T20I at Sabina Park on Friday to take an unbeatable 2-0 in the three-match series.

In a one-sided encounter which magnified the rapid decline of the two-time World T20 winners over the past 12 months, the Black Caps piled up 215 for five.

They then limited the home team to just 125 for nine in reply to hand the Caribbean side a sixth defeat in their last seven matches in the format.

Glen Phillips' blistering 76 off 41 balls with six sixes and four fours highlighted the tourists' dominant batting performance and earned him the man of the match award after captain Kane Williamson chose to take first strike.

He received excellent support from Daryl Mitchell (48) in an 83-run fourth-wicket stand while opener Devon Conway again made a

useful contribution in getting to 42.

Needing victory to keep the series alive going into the final match at the same venue on Sunday, West Indies crumbled to spin for the second time in six days.

Mitchell Santner and Michael Bracewell returned identical figures of three for 15. Ish Sodhi made it seven wickets to spin when he removed Rovman Powell for 21.

PRETORIA CAPITALS SIGN SA PACER ANRICH NORTJE

New Delhi: Pretoria Capitals on Saturday announced that they have signed South African pace duo of Anrich Nortje and Migeal Pretorius for the inaugural edition of Cricket South Africa's T20 League.

Parth Jindal, owner of Pretoria Capitals said, "Anrich Nortje has been an integral part of the growth and success of Delhi Capitals. So when we decided to expand our cricketing footprint to his country, he was always going to be an automatic choice for us.

Shakib appointed B'desh T20 captain for Asia Cup, T20 WC

PTI ■ DHAKA

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Saturday appointed premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan as the skipper of the T20 team for the upcoming Asia Cup, the New Zealand tri-series and the T20 World Cup.

While the Asia Cup will be held in the UAE, Australia will host the T20 showpiece in October-November.

He was appointed Test captain in June after Mominul Haque stepped down.

The BCB also announced a 17-member squad for the Asia Cup, which will be played from August 27. Bangladesh made several changes in their T20I squad for the Asia Cup, with



Liton Das ruled out of the tournament due to injuries.

Middle-order batter Sabbir Rahman, who last played a T20I in 2019, returns to the squad, while Mushfiqur Rahim, who was rested for the T20I series against Zimbabwe, is also back.

Sindhu pulls out of World C'ships

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's star shuttler P V Sindhu on Saturday pulled out of the upcoming BWF World Championships owing to a stress fracture on her left foot.

In a statement which she shared on Twitter, the double Olympic medallist confirmed that she will be missing the 2022 World Championships.

Sindhu has won the World Championships gold in 2019, along with two Silver medals and two Bronze.

"While I am on the high of winning a gold medal at the CWG for India. Unfortunately, I have to pull out of the world championships. I felt pain and there was an injury scare at the quarter-finals of the CWG, but with the help of my coach, physio and trainer, I decided to push as far as I could," Sindhu said in the statement.

"The pain was unbearable during and post the finals. Hence I rushed for an MRI as soon as I got back to Hyderabad. The doctors confirmed a stress fracture on my



left foot and recommended rest for a few weeks. I should be back to training in a few weeks. Thank you all for your support and love," she added.

Messi misses out on Ballon d'Or nomination

AP ■ PARIS

Seven-time Ballon d'Or swinner Lionel Messi paid a high price for an underwhelming first season with Paris Saint-Germain when he was left off the 30-strong list for this year's coveted football award.

Lucy Bronze, who was runner-up in 2019, is one of three members of England's Euro-winning squad to be short-listed for the women's award.

Messi, who won the title last year, had been an ever-present amongst the nominations since 2006 and a regular feature in the top three since 2007 with the exception of 2018.

But Messi, 35, has missed out on the 2022 award following his switch from Barcelona to the French capital.

A change in the format has also worked against the Argentine superstar with the Ballon d'Or no longer acknowledging the best player over a calendar year.

Instead, it is based on a season's record highlighting "the individual performances" and the "decisive and impressive character" of the nominees, according to the criteria.

After leaving Barcelona in the summer of 2021, Messi was unable to stamp his genius on a PSG team desperate for a Champions League title.

In total, Messi scored only



11 goals for PSG with his relatively indifferent club form failing to impress France Football magazine, the organisers of the Ballon d'Or

which will be awarded in Paris on October 17.

PSG teammate Neymar also misses out after a season where he scored 13 goals in 28

matches.

French international striker Karim Benzema is the overwhelming favourite after being the architect of Real Madrid's 14th Champions League title.

Benzema is likely to become the fifth French winner after Raymond Kopa (1958), Michel Platini (1983, 1984, 1985), Jean-Pierre Papin (1991) and Zinedine Zidane (1998).

In the 2021/2022 season, Benzema scored 44 goals in 46 appearances for a Madrid side who also won the Liga title.

His goal in Wednesday's 2-0 victory over Eintracht Frankfurt in the European Super Cup took the 34-year-old to 324 goals for the Spanish

giants.

Manchester United's Ronaldo, a five-time Ballon d'Or winner, is nominated again this year.

Benzema is joined on the 30-man list by teammates Thibaut Courtois, Casemiro, 2018 winner Luka Modric, Vinicius and former Chelsea player Antonio Rudiger.

Beaten Champions League finalists Liverpool have seven players nominated, the most of any club.

There is a 20-strong list for the women's Ballon d'Or including English stars Bronze, Millie Bright and Arsenal forward Beth Mead who won the Golden Boot at the women's Euro.

LOCAL EVENTS

JUDO CHAMPIONSHIP

UP Judo Association is organising the Senior National Judo Championships at KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium from August 16. Over 600 judokas and officials are expected to take part in the event. The participating states in this championship are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himanchal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Rajasthan, Maharashtra - A, Maharashtra - B, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Orissa, Tripura, Telengana, Delhi, West Bengal, Punjab, Kerala, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Pondicherry, Madhya Pradesh, Chandigarh, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, CRPF, CISE, BSF, ITBP, Railways, All India Sports Control Board and SSCB.

CYCLE RALLY

Lucknow Cycling Association is organising a cycle tiranga rally on August 14 from KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium. Around 250 cyclists will take part in the rally.

Hurkacz ends Kyrgios streak in Montreal

AP ■ MONTREAL

Hubert Hurkacz overcame 53 winners from Nick Kyrgios to halt the Australian's nine-match win streak with a three-set quarter-final victory on Friday at the ATP Montreal Masters.

The Polish eighth seed managed 43 winners of his own in a rapid-fire 7-6(7/4), 6-7(5/7), 6-1 triumph that put him into his fourth semi-final at the Masters level.

Hurkacz will next face Norway's fourth-seeded Casper Ruud, who crushed home hope Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-1, 6-2, in 74 minutes. Ruud will play his third Masters semi-final this season on Saturday, having defeated Hurkacz in their previous meeting in May at Roland Garros.

At the bottom of the draw, Dan Evans completed a comeback to defeat American Tommy Paul 1-6, 6-3, 6-4, needing two match points to overcome Paul in two and a quarter

hours. But the chance of an all-British semi-final at this elite level fell away as Jack Draper lost 7-6 (7/4), 6-1 to Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta after saving a pair of match points.

The 39th-ranked Evans, who managed only 15 winners, was decisively out-hit by Paul with 40.

Not surprisingly he said reaching his second career semi-final in Masters tournament was a hard slog.

HALEP DOWNS COCO

Toronto: Simona Halep served twice for her match against Coco Gauff without success on Friday before finally securing a 6-4, 7-6 (7/2) quarter-final victory at the WTA Toronto Masters.

The former number one, a two-time winner in Canada, made hard work of her triumph over the rising American teenager who just missed a chance at cracking the world ranking top-10 for the first time.

Halep needed a second-set



tiebreaker to advance into the semi-finals in just under two hours. Double Grand Slam champion Halep earned her leading 183rd match win at the Masters 1000 level. She now owns 36 victories in 2022.

NO DJOKER

Novak Djokovic pulled out of next week's hard-court tournament in Cincinnati because he has not gotten any COVID-19 vaccine shots and so is not allowed to travel to the United States.

That is also why Djokovic is not expected to be able to enter the US Open, the year's last Grand Slam tournament, which begins in New York on Aug 29.

Djokovic is a 35-year-old from Serbia who owns 21 major championships, one behind Rafael Nadal for the men's record. Djokovic has said he won't get vaccinated against the illness caused by the coronavirus, even if that prevents him from playing in certain tournaments.

Serena to face Raducanu in Cincinnati opener

AP ■ CINCINNATI

Serena Williams will face a challenging first-round clash with reigning US Open champion Emma Raducanu when the US tennis great's farewell tour continues at Cincinnati next week.

Williams, a 23-time Grand Slam champion, revealed this week that the "countdown has begun" to her retirement, with the 40-year-old expected to bid farewell after a final major campaign at the US Open starting later this month.

Williams won her first singles match in more than a year when she defeated Spain's Nuria Parrizas Diaz in the first round at Toronto last week.

That was before she revealed in an article in Vogue and on Instagram that she was "evolving away" from tennis.

In her first match after the announcement, Williams fell in straight sets to Switzerland's Tokyo Olympic gold medallist Belinda Bencic in the second round. Williams faces another tough path in Cincinnati, where she is a two-time champion.

The winner of Williams-Raducanu will face either 20th-ranked Victoria Azarenka or 31st-ranked Kaia Kanepi of Estonia.



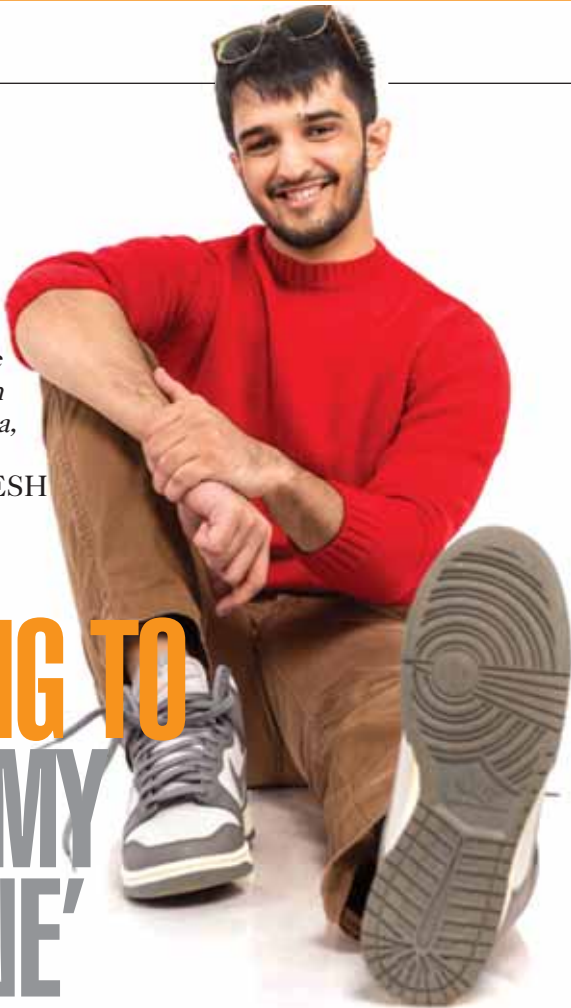


talktime

MARKAND SONI

The actor, who has been acting since the age of 3, has done more than 400 ads pan India for brands like Surf, Tide, Britannia, Coca Cola, Burger King, Jinaam, among others. He speaks with SUPRIYA RAMESH about his role in Brahmastra: Part One—Shiva, how he landed the role and more

I AM WORKING TO STEP OUT OF MY COMFORT ZONE



■ How did it feel to work alongside a few of the biggest names of the Indian Cinema? It's an amazing experience! There's so much to learn. They're all really sweet. Working on the project taught me things that will make me good at what I do but most importantly, it taught me how to stay grounded. Amitabh sir, Ranbir, Ayan and Alia are the people with so many achievements in life, yet so grounded. Working on *Brahmastra: Part One—Shiva* was truly a magical experience.

■ How did you land the project? Were you skeptical to take up this role? I got a call for an audition and I auditioned twice. Later, I got a call informing me that I have landed a role. I was told that Ayan Mukerji is going to direct it and I'll be acting alongside Ranbir Kapoor, Amitabh Ji and Alia and that it's going to be a fantasy, action and fiction sort of a superhero film. It was an instant 'I have to take up this role' moment for me and I could not be skeptical about it.

■ You have a lot of scenes with

Ranbir and Amitabh ji. How was the bonding on the set? Ranbir is one of the sweetest people I've met. He's someone anyone can instantly vibe with. Even Amitabh sir is very sweet and amazing to work with and the zone was always a really fine balance of seriousness when it was needed and then super fun and chill and light during the breaks.

■ Tell us something about your role. My character is the smart guy. He has no powers, but he's the smartest in his group. I'm basically the nerd in the group who knows things.

■ What is your fondest memory of the set of *Brahmastra*? I have a lot of memories from the set. I made some really good friends. There are three other really amazing actors and people along with me in the film and I'm so happy to now have them as friends and have worked with them. All the places we shot at were some of the most beautiful places I've ever been to in my life.

■ Having been working since the age of 3, which was the

I HAVE SORT OF SEEN THE INDUSTRY CHANGE—TRENDS AND CULTURE. I THINK THIS PHASE, THE CURRENT ONE, IS THE MOST INTERESTING BECAUSE WE'RE DOING THINGS AS AN INDUSTRY THAT WE'VE NEVER

most interesting phase for you? I have sort of seen the industry change—trends and culture. I think this phase, the current one, is the most interesting because we're doing things as

an industry that we've never. And I am also working to step out of my comfort zone and do something I've never done.

■ You have done 400+ ads. Any anecdote that you remember and would like to share? I as a child, have done a few ads with Shah Rukh sir. And I think most memories that stand out are with him. I remember the time I walked up to him and asked him to quit smoking and he very politely put the cigarette out and stopped and wouldn't smoke in front of me the entire time we shot. And the other time when he got a gift for me, it was a board game, a really nice fun board game. It's just a board game but it's a sweet gesture and for a 8-9 year old kid, I mean he didn't have to but he did at the end of the shoot.

■ What's next? I am releasing my music in September. I am so fortunate that I got to work with Hriday Gattani, who works with A R Rahman sir. I also have a few singles that I've co-written with him and he has produced and I've sung. That's the next major, big project in life.

Master Strokes '22



phases of aesthetic formulations: from being chronicles, appropriating the roles of narrator, illustrator, image makers and activists to being myth-shapers.

Different techniques, mediums and configurations have been used by the artists to constitute the presentation.

Dr Suryasnata Mohanty's abstract titled *Juggernaut* painted in multiple layers and free flows of colours showing a huge structural frame with a sublime giant wheel in motion, is a post-modern depiction of the unstoppable force of the cosmos.

Anita Dinesh's painting is on the light, warm and protective nature of Shiva. Ashima Mehrotra brings out the turbulence of the city with a golden heritage, while child artist Anmol Labar paints abstracts with a mature sense of colour and texture.

When: Till Aug 16, 2022
Where: Visual Arts Gallery, IHC, Lodhi Road, ND

Read a lot, knowledge never goes waste: Faraaz Kazi



The recipient of the YCOF National Excellence Award and the winner of the National Debut Youth Fiction Award 2013, Faraaz Kazi is also called as the Nicholas Sparks of India. A certified soft-skills trainer and a triple post grad, Kazi previously an entrepreneur, now helps brands scale their digital presence.

Kazi has authored seven books—Truly Madly Deeply, The Other Side, LOVE, More Than Just Friends, 14 Shades of Love, Meant To Be Together and The Sun, The Moon & The Love In Between.

Kazi is a fellow member of the esteemed Film Writers Association of India and a former member of The International Horror Writers Association. Truly Madly Deeply, his debut mainstream romance novel is the only Indian book to have been nominated in seven categories of the Good Reads Choice awards, apart from being the first Indian novel to win the Best Debut in Romance in the same awards. It is also the only Indian book in the Top 100 YA Global Fiction list.

His second book, The Other Side that was co-authored with Dr Vivek Banerjee remains the most successful commercial horror title in India. Felicitated by numerous institutions and bodies, Kazi has also been featured in the SBJ Legends of Tomorrow calendar and is the recipient of the Karmaveer Chakra (Bronze) medal for his contributions in the field.

What inspired you to take up writing?

I started reading at the age of five and have since been fascinated by books. By the age of seven, I was writing. At eight, I wrote my first book. It was a mix of fantasy and reality. As I grew up, I travelled a lot and I had the privilege of observing & being a part of many interesting events. My reading appetite grew more and I consumed thousands of literary works, which shaped my consciousness.

How has your journey been so far?

In one word—exhilarating! I have been in the industry for almost 12 years and though I have been selective in releasing my works, I have been a keen observer of the publishing industry and have seen its growth and saturation. I have rubbed shoulders with the best of people, made some amazing friends and learnt a lot with each launch.

Will we see a sequel of Truly Madly Deeply or The Other Side? Also, what's next?

I believe one should not force the muse. If the story has been told and the journey is over, the ways must part, however hard it may be. I would love to write a sequel to TMD but it would be a gross injustice to the story. With TOS though, a sequel is definitely on the cards. It's just a matter of when, not if.

Right now, I am excited for my next, which is a co-authored romantic thriller that deals with a sensitive subject.

MAKING A MARK

With the advent of the internet, many Indian artists have been able to reach the global audience while also sticking to their roots through art. SONALI CHAUDHARI delves deeper

The twentieth century has ushered in a lot of change, one of the most important being the internet or the world wide web and globalisation. It is also the century in which India finally got its freedom after centuries of British rule. As the name suggests, the world wide web connects people on every level, from every section of society. It gives everyone a bird's eye view of the world through a screen in front of them. This has had a huge impact on every field including arts. Before the advent of the internet, only artists who were truly lucky, who had the means or had supportive patrons could make it beyond the borders of India. The treasure trove that is the Indian art fraternity was to some extent hidden from the world

India is a country whose strength lies in its diversity. I do not think there is any other country in this world with such diversity throughout its history. This has a huge impact on the artworks by Indian artists. Some are ultra modern like in the west, some merge tradition and modernism, some are purely traditional following old forms of Indian art, like the Bengal school or Tanjore paintings. This results in a truly exotic and eclectic mix for the mind and senses.

The impact of Indian art on the global art scenario is substantial. From auctions at renowned auction houses to exhibitions in the best galleries in the world, Indian artists are making their mark. The way world cricket can no longer be imagined without the Indian cricket team, the global art scenario can no longer be imagined without Indian artists. That is not to say that Indian artists have to emulate others. As mentioned earlier, India has its own rich culture



and heritage, which is reflected in the work of Indian artists. That is our major strength I feel. No other nation in this world has the diversity that India has. It is an advantage and our strength as artists. The best example is the work of HS Raza, who incorporated the *Bindu* or circular dot into his work. It was a purely Indian concept remarkably translated upon the canvas. Of course, there are many well known western artists who have travelled to India and you can see it reflected in their artworks too.

The world wide web has played a huge role in giving Indian artists direct access to good galleries and auction houses abroad, which in turn opens up a world of opportunity. Good online art platforms also help. Indian artists are now exhibiting their works in every place imaginable, across the globe. Even before the advent of the internet, works of senior artists like the late MF Husain, unarguably one of India's best known artists, commanded huge prices in



the international market. However, as I stated earlier, the internet has truly opened up the world not just for artists but for buyers of art as well. One click on a good art website and voila, you have a masterpiece!



Indian art contains the same appeal that brought people from the west to India centuries ago. Where we come from is bound to be reflected on our canvas or whatever form we express ourselves in. Needless to say, this applies to all artists too, including the ones from India. I

remember viewing the works of some renowned Indian artists recently; a deluge of colour reminiscent of a plate containing exotic spices and flowers found only in India. Regardless of whether a shape or form is depicted, it touches our innermost being, it touches our soul. It has the same impact on the world. One cannot imagine India without thinking about colour. It is almost synonymous with our country and as an artist, I am proud of it.

No matter where Indian artists go in this world, regardless of whether they live in India or abroad, as long as they stay connected to India through that invisible thread of the soul, India will continue to be reflected in their work. It is a boon not only for Indian artists but for the global art fraternity as well, in which India plays an important role. I look forward to Indian artists achieving even greater heights on a global scale in the years to come.

The writer is a visual artist

QUIRKY TALE

Chick flick *New York Se Miami* is a fun watch

From *Dil Chahta Hai* to *Zindagi Na Milega Dobara*, we have seen many Hindi films set against the backdrop of adventurous road trips. And all these films had one thing in common—male protagonists. But the recently released *New York Se Miami* has come as a breath of fresh air. It explores the relationship and bonding between four female friends. The girls decide to take a road trip from one American city to another before one of them ties the knot soon.

Presented by Prishsa Films and produced by Raakesh U Saakat, the road trip turns out to be a life changing experience for the girls. Director Joy Augustine has wonderfully woven his magic throughout the film. Some of the visuals in the film are breathtaking and the lyrics of the songs in the film and Viju Shah's music is quite meaningful and hummable. *Stars: 4 out of 5*



Another milestone for Vuram

Vuram grabs the 61st position among more than 1,500 applicants worldwide in the list of 100 Best Workplaces for innovators by Fast Company. The fourth annual list honours organisations and businesses demonstrating a steadfast commitment to encouraging innovation at all levels. Also, Vuram is the only applicant representing India.

"This is yet another milestone for Vuram and varamites. The recognition reflects company's strong people-centric culture that encourages every individual to question the status quo, think from the customer's shoes, upskill based on the individual's needs, and explore multiple ways to solve problems, thereby fostering a culture of innovation. Teamwork has helped us achieve this today," says Balasanjeevi Balasubramaniam, Director of Marketing, Vuram.

"These leaders and teams continue to spur innovation," says Brendan Vaughan, Editor-in-chief, Fast Company.

Be the best version of yourself: Dr Amit Talukdar

To be able to step foot into one's desired industry is no cakewalk. People take years to realise their dreams and aspirations in life and work around the same to achieve success, while others may recognise their true purpose much early in life and start building a robust career. In any case, people need to first understand what they seek in life and then give it their all and surrender themselves to their goals; points out a self-made success story, who first aced the medical game by becoming a doctor and now has stunned people by winning two medals at Mr Universe 2022.

Dr Amit Talukdar hails from Guwahati, Assam, and as a cosmetic surgeon, he has already proved his tenacity and skills as a doctor. However, he says that he could make it huge at Mr Universe, held in Bangkok, Thailand, under the auspices of the World Fitness Federation, winning two medals—silver in the Classic Physique category and Bronze in the Open Bodybuilding category—because he never lost focus of his sight and his goals in life.

He explains how people often tend to lose hope, easily underestimating their innate skills, knowledge, and talents; however, they should only focus on what they can do best and keep walking their path, no matter what, just like he did. Dr Talukdar also speaks about the importance of health and fitness in life, saying that being physically fit isn't the only goal people need to have, but they should think beyond and focus on improving mental health as well, as he considers both to be of great importance in an individual's life.

The winner of Mr Assam Gold in 2020, Dr Talukdar, can't emphasise enough how essential it is for people to try and be their best versions in all that they choose to do in their careers and lives as this helps them to be consistent on their journeys and learn each day to refine their talents and become more accomplished as professionals.



Harry Harding chooses to go against the trend

A "global propaganda push", as the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), a think tank based in Canberra, puts it, began to gain traction in or around 2019 to push forward what it calls "pro-CCP narratives" on the likes of Twitter and YouTube.

Alongside Chinese state media, these social media posts, which were found on many of the most visited Western platforms, were tailored to portray a wholesome view of China to the rest of the world.

But one Australian journalist who has worked in the country for over a decade has posted content to YouTube and Twitter for years, despite ramped-up criticism, while avoiding much scrutiny.

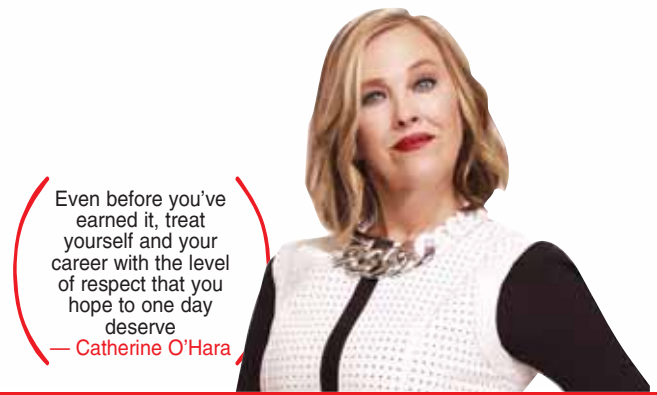
"I don't pretend that China is perfect and I don't think the most effective way to address certain problems is to talk about them on social media platforms inaccessible in China," says Harry Harding aka Hazza.

The 32-year-old Australian has been working in China as a news anchor and television host for twelve years. He is the foreign face of little-known Guangdong Radio and Television's international channel, GDTV World, effectively South China's answer to CGTN, the state-funded English arm of CCTV.

"Social media, especially overseas social media, was just a way for me to have something of my own, something that I have control over. People often accuse me of being paid to run [these] social media accounts, but I just laugh it off. If I were being paid, those accounts wouldn't be my own, and I would stay very far away," Hazza says.

He stands out from the other primarily caucasian foreigners involved with state-run media for his ability to remain somewhat neutral, a stance that even some of the world's largest multinationals struggle to maintain.





Even before you've earned it, treat yourself and your career with the level of respect that you hope to one day deserve
— Catherine O'Hara

Before Nitish divorced the RJD and shifted to the BJP camp in 2017, similar talks did the round about him squaring up with Modi in the electoral ring. But during the last five years the political scenario of the country has changed completely, and chances of Nitish's acceptance as the Opposition face has increased proportionality, writes NAVIN UPADHYAY

WHY NITISH BEST BET AGAINST 'MIGHTY' MODI

After Nitish Kumar dumped the BJP and embraced the RJD-led Grand alliance comprising Congress and the Left, speculations have once again gained ground that he could be the joint Opposition face to take on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the 2024 general elections.

Sources in the know of the agreement arrived between RJD and JD(U) claim that Nitish will contest the Lok Sabha election and move to national politics vacating his chair for Tejashwi Yadav.

Nitish may have denied that he harbors any ambition of occupying the PM's office, but his warning shot to the BJP that the party may not be in power after the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, is a clear indication that, as far he is concerned, the development in Bihar should not be seen in isolation and he could play a vital role in galvanizing the opposition across the nation.

Before Nitish divorced the RJD and shifted to the BJP camp in 2017, similar talks did the round about him squaring up with Modi in the electoral ring in 2019. But during the last five years, the political scenario of the country has changed completely, and the chances of Nitish's acceptance as the joint Opposition's face have increased proportionality.

For once, Congress has done little to claim the leadership of any such Opposition formation. Rahul Gandhi may be at the forefront of fighting a verbal duel with the BJP, but on the ground, the party has gained little result. In public perception, Rahul Gandhi lacks the ability to turn the tide of public opinion against Modi. Several opposition leaders such as West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, TRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao, and Samajwadi Party Chief Akhilesh Yadav are unlikely to endorse any move to anoint Rahul Gandhi as the face of the Opposition.

The recent raids by the CBI and Enforcement Directorate against TMC leaders and Ministers and the discovery of huge sums of money from them have considerably dented Mamata Banerjee's image. Mamata's refusal to back the candidature of Margaret Alva in the Vice-Presidential contest has also raised eyebrows. Her pow wow with Narendra Modi during her last visit to Delhi and her decision to attend the Niti Ayog meeting, which she always boycotted, has left tongues wagging in the political circles.

In such a scenario, Nitish could be one of the best bets to take on Modi for a variety of reasons.

First, he is someone with a clean track record who need not worry about the ED or CBI. Even his political rivals agree that Nitish Kumar is a stickler to rules and attempts to question his probity and integrity could very well bounce back on the BJP. At a time when the majority of the Opposition leaders are hounded by the central

IN SUCH A SCENARIO, NITISH'S POSSIBLE PROJECTION AS THE JOINT OPPOSITION CANDIDATE AGAINST MODI WILL HAVE FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES ON BRINGING TOGETHER YADAVS AND NON-YADAVS OBCS UNDER ONE UMBRELLA. INDIA MAY HAVE MOVED, BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY, WAY AHEAD FROM THE DAYS OF MANDAL EUPHORIA, BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT IN THE HINDI HEARTLAND CASTE REMAINS A REALITY IN THE ELECTORAL FIGHT. NITISH HAS ALWAYS FROWNED AT BEING IDENTIFIED AS A KURMI LEADER, BUT THAT IDENTITY, MAY BECOME HIS STRONGEST WEAPON AGAINST THE BJP AND TURN THE 2024 LS BOUT INTO A TITANIC CLASH BETWEEN VOTARIES OF MANDAL AND KAMANDAL POLITICS AND IDEOLOGIES



probe agencies, Nitish's image is the strongest shield for them against the onslaught of the probe agencies. JD (U) national president Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh put this in perspective, saying, "The party was "not scared of ED and CBI!"

Secondly, the charges of dynastic politics often hurled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi against the Gandhis will not stick to Nitish Kumar. His son has never been seen in the public space; no other member of his family has anything to do with politics.

Third, Nitish is one of the most experienced leaders in the Opposition rank. He has been Chief Minister for 17 years. He will also be remembered as a successful railway minister at the center. His stint as agriculture minister was also noteworthy.

Fourthly, and most importantly, Nitish Kumar can take on Modi on the caste turf as well, because like Modi he too belonged to an OBC caste. Modi's persona as an OBC leader is one of the most important factors in the emergence of the BJP as an unbeatable force on the pan-India level and the saffron outfit's deep penetration among non-Yadav voters. That's where Nitish could be counted on to stop the BJP juggernaut. His Kurmi caste has a sizeable presence across India. If Nitish could end the traditional rivalry between the Yadavs and non-Yadav OBCs, then his Kurmi card could be a game changer in national politics.

It will be interesting to note that in the recently concluded Uttar Pradesh assembly polls, as many as 41 Kurmi candidates were elected to the assembly. Of them, SP won 13 seats, up from two they won in 2107 assembly polls. Kurmis population is pegged at nearly 8 percent in UP, and if Nitish chose to contest from one of the Kurmi-dominated seats in Eastern Uttar Pradesh bordering Bihar, it could galvanize the entire OBC rank in UP just as Modi's decision to shift to Varanasi did for the BJP. A Kurmi-Yadav-Muslim axis backed by whatever upper caste votes Congress drew in, could become a potent formulation in UP where the Ram Mandir issue will be certainly the BJP's trump cards in 2024.

Nitish's projection as PM's candidate could have strong repercussions in states such as Chhattisgarh (20 pc Kurmi population), Jharkhand (10-12 pc), Maharashtra (7 pc), Gujarat where Patidars are seen as Kurmis (14 pc), Odisha (7 pc). Kurmis also have a sizeable presence in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan besides West Bengal.

In West Bengal's Maoist-dominated Jangalmahal which comprises Jhargram, Purulia, West Midnapore, and Bankura, Kurmis make up nearly 40 percent vote share.

In such a scenario, Nitish's possible projection as the joint opposition candidate against Modi will have far-reaching consequences in bringing together Yadavs and non-Yadavs OBCs under one umbrella. India may have come a long way, both economically and politically, from the days of Mandal euphoria, but the fact remains that In the Hindi heartland caste remains a reality in the electoral fights. Nitish has always frowned at being identified as a Kurmi leader, but that identity may become his strongest weapon against the BJP and turn the 2024 LS bout into a titanic clash between votaries of Mandal and Kamandal politics and ideologies.

Except for Mamata whose party sees her as a rightful claimant for taking on Modi as the joint opposition candidate after the TMC thrashed the BJP in the state assembly polls, the majority in the non-Congress Opposition rank may not have any reservation in accepting Nitish Kumar's leadership. The silence of the Congress' top leaders, especially the Gandhis, on the Bihar development is significant. While Nitish rang up Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi after quitting the NDA, so far the Gandhis have not publicly welcomed his decision or congratulated him.

For the opposition, there could be two possible scenarios in the run-up to 2024. First, Congress gives its nod to accept a non-Gandhi as the face of the Opposition to take on Modi. Secondly, if Congress refuses to do so, hoping against hope that Rahul Gandhi could mobilize the congress to defeat the BJP, then the opposition could revive the Third Front. In both cases, Nitish is in with a chance to emerge as a consensus candidate.

Before he shifted to the BJP camp in 2017, in private conversation Nitish would argue that to defeat the BJP the opposition must stop reacting to the discourse set by BJP and set its own narrative and present a comprehensive economic plan before the nation. Someone who has worked with the BJP for more than two decades, Nitish Kumar is more familiar with the BJP's way of contesting polls and its stratagem. Whether or not he is the face of the Opposition in 2024, Nitish has certainly injected some interest in the battle of 2024, which looked hopelessly one-sided before he dumped the BJP and shifted to the opposition rank.



Nitish Kumar could be one of the few people, including Sharad Pawar and Mamata Banerjee, who could be seen as prime ministerial challengers in 2024.

NCP leader MAJEED MEMON



Nitish Kumar will be more of an acceptable face for a joint opposition candidate compared to Mamata Banerjee in 2024. To defeat BJP, you have to either change the rules of engagement or beat them at their own game.

Suspended Congress leader SANJAY JHA



If you assess the personalities in the country, Nitish Kumar is eligible to become prime minister. We are not making any claim today, but he has all the qualities of a prime minister

UPENDRA KUSHWAHA, president of the Janata Dal (United) National Parliamentary Board



Nitish Kumar is one of the most experienced Chief ministers of our time. If Narendra Modi can become PM, why not Nitish Kumar?

Bihar's deputy CM TEJASHWI YADAV



Nitish could be a prime ministerial candidate for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Veteran RJD leader SHARAD YADAV



The JD(U) leader has given the BJP a taste of its own medicine after it dislodged the governments of opposition parties in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Due to his bold decision, Kumar today stands in the front row in the opposition camp along with Mamata Banerjee and others to lead the downfall of 'Modi raj' in the next Parliamentary election.

Bihar's Babu SHATRUGHAN SINHA



Nitish will not be PM even in seven lives.

Former JD(U) leader RCP SINGH

Tough anti-tobacco law for Healthy Nation

At a time when a string of countries such as Ireland, Sweden, Finland, the UK, the US, Australia and Canada and a few others have set “tobacco endgame” targets to get rid of the lethal product by a certain year, India is still sitting over the COTPA (Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act) Amendment Bill having stringent tobacco control provisions. It was expected to see the light of the day this Monsoon session of Parliament. But it couldn’t, as the session was adjourned sine die last week, four days ahead schedule. Tobacco endgame goal is generally defined as a smoking prevalence of 5 per cent or less.

A battery of anti-tobacco advocates and health experts tells The Health Pioneer that the passage of the progressive legislation could be a way forward towards achieving endgame goals whenever announced by India.

They also pinned hopes on the Government’s assurance to many Parliamentarians on at least seven different occasions in Parliament for the introduction of the Bill.

Drafted by the Union Health Ministry, the long-awaited Bill has provisions such as:

- Disallowing retail sale of loose sticks of cigarettes.
- Prohibiting sale of tobacco products to persons below 21 years.
- Restricts advertising and promotion of tobacco products at Point of Sale (PoS).
- Ban on smoking designated zones at places like hotels, airports and restaurants.

SHWETA SHALINI

BJP Leader from Maharashtra



There is an urgent and immediate need for action to eradicate tobacco menace, given that in India, over 13.5 lakh individuals per year face death due to the deadly product.

This is not a small number. If we want to make India, a world leader we must have healthy youth. But I feel that there’s strong lobby working against the Government’s dream of becoming world leader. If our youth and kids have ill health, India can never become a world Guro.

It’s good that smoking is completely banned in many public places and workplaces. The law, however, permits the establishment of smoking areas or spaces in airports, hotels having 30 or more rooms, and restaurants having seating capacity for 30 or more. This gap needs to be plugged.

A total ban on smoking in indoor public places will protect men and women from the harms of second-hand smoke, help smokers quit and reduce smoking among youth. Let’s have healthy parents and children for better India.

Over five and a half thousand teenagers in the country are getting addicted to tobacco products daily. It is time to strengthen the COTPA Act to end the conspiracies targeting these youth.

DR SHALINI SINGH

Director, ICMR-National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research, Union Health Ministry



There is a need to spread awareness about not only tobacco related cancers but also a plethora of diseases caused by the harmful carcinogens in the nicotine laden product. The tobacco lobby is every next day coming up with new product to lure the youth and kids. For instance, now synthetic nicotine is being launched, which is as equally addictive as the nicotine, but does not fall under the purview of the COTPA Act.

Also, there is a need to design gender-sensitive cessation centres so that men or women are encouraged to quit the deadly habit while doctors should take the cudgel on behalf of their patients to save them from life-threatening products.

DR JAGDISH KAUR

Regional Adviser, Tobacco Free Initiative, WHO Regional Office for South-east Asia



India’s tobacco control journey has been long and arduous. From enforcement of CORPA 2003 to implementing WHO FCTC strategies, there have been success on several fronts. India is likely to achieve NCD



Action Plan target on 30 percent relative reduction in tobacco use prevalence by 2025. Country is preparing for the third round of Global Adult Tobacco Survey. Having said that, Endgame is still a distant goal. Gaps in COTPA 2003 requires to be addressed to improve WHO MPOWER score. Best buys for tobacco control including raising tax on tobacco and enforcing bans on tobacco advertising especially indirect and surrogate ads need urgent attention.

PRIYANK KANOONGO

Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)



There is a need to increase taxes on tobacco products as well as on films, OTT platforms and other media that display use of such items in any form. This will not only make these products earned can be used for the treatment and rehabilitation of those suffering from tobacco-related diseases.

Imposition of greater taxation on media that displays use of tobacco will require people to pay more and help discourage glorification of tobacco products. There is a psychological warfare by the tobacco companies. They are targeting young children by positioning tobacco-related ads at their eye-level at points of sale and promoting sale of tobacco products such as gutkha and beedi, alongside sweets, candies, and toys.

PROF (DR) UMA KUMAR

Head of Rheumatology Department, AIIMS, Delhi



The number of tobacco users is rising and it is scary to note that children between 13 and 15 years of age constitute 8.5 per cent of them. People generally think that smoking affects lungs only, but the case is different, it affects every parts and is one of the important risk factors for growing numbers cases related to autoimmune diseases. The first-hand smoke and second-hand smoke both are equally harmful for health. There is a rising smoking habits among women who think that it is in the fashion. But they must know that it may result into infertility, cases of which is also rising these days. Also, smoking may lead

ing affects lungs only, but the case is different, it affects every parts and is one of the important risk factors for growing numbers cases related to autoimmune diseases. The first-hand smoke and second-hand smoke both are equally harmful for health. There is a rising smoking habits among women who think that it is in the fashion. But they must know that it may result into infertility, cases of which is also rising these days. Also, smoking may lead

SCARY FIGURES

After China, India has the second largest consumers (over 26 crore adults (15 years and above)) of tobacco, according to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey India, 2016-17. It leads not only to loss of lives but also has heavy social and economic costs. The total economic costs attributed to tobacco use from all diseases in India in the year 2017-18 for persons aged 35 years and above amounted to

₹177,341 crore (USD 27.5 billion), as per the WHO. According to the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)-2019, nearly one-fifth of students aged 13-15 years are using tobacco products in India. The nationwide survey of students revealed that 38% of cigarettes, 47% of bidi and 52% of smokeless tobacco users picked up the habit before their 10th birthday [GYTS-4].

TOBACCO HAS NO BENEFITS

The most prevalent form of tobacco use in India is smokeless tobacco and commonly used products are khaini, gutkha, betel quid with tobacco and zarda. Smoking forms of tobacco used are bidi, cigarette and hookah. Smoking can lead to cancer, heart disease, stroke, lung disease, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease including emphysema and chronic bronchitis. SLT also increases risk of tuberculosis, certain eye conditions, problems of the immune system including rheumatoid arthritis.



to premature birth. Tobacco companies that make products like cigarettes and gutkha are specifically targeting teenagers and kids. They prominently display their advertisements near school and colleges so that they are visible to the impressionable minds. These should be completely banned. Doing away with Designated Smoking Areas (DSA) can be a game changer in the direction of health of the vulnerable population and making India’s public places 100 per cent smoke-free.

DR. RIJO M JOHN

Researcher, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences and Economist and Health Policy Analyst



With more than 100 million smokers in India, non-smokers are exposed to second-hand smoke at home, at work, and in public places. There is no known safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke, a deadly mix of

more than 7,000 chemicals that are known to cause premature death and disease in children and adults who do not smoke.

Our recent study has shown that the annual direct economic costs attributable to Second-Hand Smoking in India amounted to Rs 567 billion. This accounts for 8 per cent of total annual health care expenditures on top of the staggering Rs 1773.4 billion (\$27.5 billion) in annual economic burden from tobacco use.

Against such scary scenario, India needs to take strong measures to reduce its large number of smokers and the economic burden of treating tobacco-related diseases. Increasing tobacco taxes is one of the most effective ways to reduce smoking, yet India has not had any significant tax increase on any tobacco products for the past four years. The current tobacco tax collected in India from all tobacco products combined is less than the Rs 567 billion in health care costs caused by exposure to second-hand smoke.

Second-hand exposure continues to be high in India because of the gaps in India’s

smoke-free law that still allow Designated Smoking Areas in public places like restaurants, bars, hotels, and airports.

DR ARCHANA DHAWAN BAJAJ

Gynaecologist and Fertility Expert



Tobacco-induced infertility among couples is increasing at a disturbing pace in the country. Smoking and smoke-less tobacco use can have a serious impact on the fertility of both men and women, and consequently the quality of life in pregnancy as well as negative health on the unborn child, miscarriage, and death. If a woman is a regular smoker, then it has a double adverse impact on a woman’s fertility. Smoking can harm both the eggs and the uterus. It not only affects her egg quality, but can also have endometrial effect. Many studies too have shown that smoking can also affect sperm (which reduces fertility) and increase the risk of miscarriage and birth defects.

Smoking during pregnancy can put a would-be-mom at a higher risk of pregnancy complications, such as preterm labor and delivery. Smoking or passive smoke during pregnancy can also result in negative health outcomes for the unborn baby. From the male’s perspective, the carcinogen quality of cigarettes in general affects the motility of the sperm and excessive smoking can lead to the poor sperm count and other fertility problems.

Hence, if the couple is planning to conceive, it’s better for them to shun the tobacco butt as early as possible.

DR VISHAL RAO

Oncologist and Member of Karnataka Government’s High-powered Committee on Tobacco Control



Majority of the long-term tobacco users commence tobacco use while they are adolescents. Every individual has the right to health and the right to smoke-free public places. Article 21 of the Indian Constitution guarantees this. So when a smoker ‘smokes’ in public places, he or she is not only spoiling his/her health but also threatening the lives of all those who are in that public place. This infringes the right of non-smokers to have a healthy lifestyle. We have to amend COTPA to make our public places 100 percent smoke-free.

DR G K RATH

Oncologist and Former head, National Cancer Institute, AIIMS



Tobacco products are the major contributors for various cancers and other diseases. In India, tobacco-related cancers contribute nearly half of the total cancers in males and one-fifth in females. Cancers caused by tobacco can affect lungs, mouth, pharynx (upper throat), nose and sinuses, larynx (voice box), oesophagus (food pipe), liver, pancreas, stomach, kidney, ovary, bladder, cervix, and some types of leukaemia. It is very disappointing that while tobacco firms are targeting through various marketing strategies to children as young as ten years old, some Bollywood celebrities are “engaged in surrogate advertisements of health hazardous items like gutka.

DR ALOK THAKAR

Professor of Otolaryngology & Head Neck Surgery, AIIMS, New Delhi



There has been rising oral cancer cases due to unabated sale and consumption of tobacco products like cigarette, beedi, khaini, tambaku, gutka and zarda. Since these are yet to be regulated in true sense and not many people are aware about its ill-effects, it will increase the country’s health burden dramatically.

DR RAHUL BHARGAVA

Head of Heamotology Department, Fortis Hospital, Gurugram, Haryana



As long as tobacco products are easily available and affordable for poor and children, achieving ‘Tobacco Free India’ mission will remain a dream. A lot of recent cancer cases are from rural India. Cigarettes form just one component. The bulk of tobacco addiction in rural India is due to chewable tobacco also.

DR RAMBHA PANDEY

Additional Professor, Radiation Oncologist, AIIMS, Delhi



Women are increasingly taking up tobacco consumption, viewing it as a ‘fashion symbol’. This is a very disturbing trend. The habit of smoking and chewing start at the age of 10-12 years among kids, and once they get into the habit, it is difficult to shun. We hope that the stringent COTPA amendments having provisions such as ban on designated smoking zones will help in cutting down tobacco consumption among the public and thus suffering from cancer. People must be told that tobacco has no single benefit.

DR RAKESH GARG

Additional Professor of Anaesthesiology, Critical Care, Pain and Palliative Medicine, AIIMS, Delhi



The link between tobacco consumption and cancer is very clear. There is a need to look into the financial toxicity caused by tobacco consumption resulting in cancer. A multi-pronged strategy focussing on awareness, higher taxes and stringent laws is needed to make these killer products unaffordable and inaccessible to make India healthy.

Anemia rate among our children and adults has gotten worse in the country, putting a question mark on the efficacy of the Government’s Anemia Mukta Abhiyaan or Anemia-Free Campaign. Latest data shows that prevalence of anemia among children aged six months to five years has increased by more than nine per cent in about five years from 58.6 per cent in national family health survey (NFHS) 4 to 67.1 per cent in NFHS-5, conducted during 2019-21. The HEALTH PIONEER reports.

Anemia is a condition in which the number of red blood cells or the haemoglobin concentration within them is lower than normal. The World Health Organization (WHO)

Rising Cases of Anemia in Kids a Concern

defines anaemic individuals as children under five with haemoglobin levels less than 11.0 grammes per deciliter (g/dL) and women in the reproductive age range with haemoglobin levels less than 12 g/dL.

The Government recently revealed this disturbing fact in Parliament saying that Ladakh topped the list with 90 per cent anemic children followed by Gujarat (80 per cent), Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (76 per cent). Situation was similar in Madhya Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir (73 per cent), and Punjab and Rajasthan (71 per cent) too.

This decline, despite a string of measures taken by the government in last several years, is a cause of concern.

Responding to a question, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in a written reply in Parliament had said that the Anaemia Mukta Bharat (AMB) strategy is being launched under POSHAN Abhiyaan (Prime Minister’s Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) with the target of reducing anaemia in the six population groups - children (6-59 months), children (5-9 years), adolescent girls and boys (10-19 years), pregnant women, lactating women

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and women of reproductive age group (15-49 years) in lifecycle approach.

In fact, Anemia rate among youth and women is also not impressive.

Health experts have raised concern at the rise in the cases given that anemia has many harmful effects on children’s lives as it reduces learning capacity, attentiveness and intelligence.

Studies show that education and ethnicity of the community has played a key role in cutting down anemia rate. For instance, a research ‘Prevalence and risk factors of anemia among children 6–59 months in

India: A multilevel analysis’ published in journal Clinical Epidemiology and Clinical Health, said that “some aspects of the community influence the anemia risks of children. For instance, a 1 percent increase in the proportion of mother education in the community decreased the likelihood of anemia by 9 per cent among children.

“Northeast region was the only region at lesser risk of anemia. Higher community level ethnic and religious homogeneity is associated with decreased odds of anemia among children. Children aged 12–35 months, girl child, children having diarrhoea, mothers of age group 15–24, high parity and low exposure to mass-media were the high risk individual factors

of anemia among children,” it said.

Dr Rahul Bhargava, Director, Haematology, Haemato – Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram called for increasing awareness about this deficiency which can be at times life threatening.

The doctor pointed out that no doubt most common causes of anemia include nutritional deficiencies, particularly iron deficiency. But deficiencies in folate, vitamins B12 and A are also important causes. Also, diseases like thalassemia or sickle cell disease and aplastic anemia may result in severe anemia or cancer. “Such patients need regular blood transfusions,” he said.

“We need a dedicated day to raise awareness about normal range of hemoglobin in females,” Dr Bhargava added.

Some of the major interventions by the Government under AMB, include prophylactic iron and folic acid supplementation, deworming, intensified year-round behaviour change communication campaign, testing of anemia using digital methods and point of care treatment, addressing non-nutritional causes of anemia in endemic pockets with special focus on malaria, hemoglobinopathies and fluorosis. But given that anemia continue to remain a major public health problem, its time for the authorities to re-evaluate its strategy for better outcome.

Afghans in a terrible predicament

The Taliban snatched power from the West-backed Ashraf Ghani in Afghanistan in August last year after two decades of their ouster by the US troops. The Islamist group ruled Afghanistan from 1996-2001 under the leadership of Mullah Omar, but were thrown out from Kabul in 2001 when the US launched an onslaught to avenge 9/11 terror attacks and to smoke out al-Qaeda terrorists, including Osama Bin Laden, holed up in the country.

Decimated by the mighty US Army, the rag-tag Taliban took shelter in the mountains and countryside to regroup over years during the US occupation, adopting guerrilla warfare. And, finally, the radicals tactfully occupied power by mobilising both physical and diplomatic support with years of back-room negotiations with the Americans in Qatar.

And then on August 15, 2020, the mullahs succeeded in usurping power from the US-backed legitimate government of President Ghani, who ruled the country from September 2014 till August 2021.

Fearing for life and meeting the same fate as that of Mohammad Najibullah Ahmadzai (former president of Afghanistan who the Taliban executed after seizing power in 1996 for the first time), Ghani left the war-torn country, leaving behind embattled soldiers and residents at the mercy of the Taliban.

Though no massive protest rally came out in Kabul, the fear among residents, mostly those who had sided with the Americans, was such that there was a mad rush to leave the country for safety. There was chaos at the Kabul airport on August 16 and some seven people, including some who fell from a departing American military transport jet, died.

Thousands succeeded in leaving the country thinking that they might have to face the Taliban's extreme brutality. However, many Afghans chose to stay on as they never wanted to leave their motherland and also, they were used to such heinous treatments at the hands of the Taliban in the past.

As the chaos was unfolding in Afghanistan, the US under Joe Biden simply dumped the democratically elected Ghani Government without showing any commitment for the future of Afghanistan. Shockingly, Washington has never realised that it has handed over the baton to those monsters against whom it fought the so-called "War on Global Terrorism" (GWOT). In fact, America's withdrawal from Afghanistan was planned during the administration of President Barack Obama.

The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan is a grim signal for a country that may not return to democracy very easily in the near future. The Taliban is predominantly a Pashtun Islamic fundamentalist group, operating mainly in



Afghanistan. It was formed in 1994 as a resistance force against the invading Soviet forces in the 1980s.

In their heyday of the movement, the Taliban promised to impose stability and rule of law after four years of conflict (1992-96) among rival Mujahideen groups. It was in November 1994 when the Taliban entered Kandahar to pacify the crime-ridden southern city, and by September 1996 they seized the capital, Kabul, from President Burhanuddin Rabbani, an ethnic Tajik whom they viewed as anti-Pashtun and corrupt.

The Taliban wanted to impose their interpretation of repressive Islamic rule. They banned television, imposing ultra-strict rules governing the conduct of women. These measures soon made them an international pariah. Their act of destroying the 1,500 years of Buddha statues in Bamiyan province further isolated them. And sheltering the masterminds of 9/11 terror attacks proved to be the last nail in their coffin as the US destroyed the Taliban.

However, the Taliban regrouped and collected enough strength to make a comeback. And hence the group's swift move came as the US planned for the final withdrawal of troops as per the peace deal signed in 2020. Although the Afghan Government forces were well-funded and well-equipped, they could not put up enough resistance when the Taliban seized power. Also, the US

officials openly admitted that they miscalculated the speed at which the Islamists grabbed power.

A year after the Taliban takeover, what the international community can witness is nothing but chaos. Some of the areas that draw global attention are worth mentioning here.

First of all, the Taliban have broken multiple global conventions to respect women's rights and human rights. They are hell bent on destroying the fundamentals of universal human rights accepted by civil society. The mullahs in power have imposed the most severe restrictions over women rights and media freedom. Protest against Taliban rule results in certain death.

Second, unlawful killing has increased manifold. There is absolutely no control over such brutalities and anarchy. In fact, the Taliban are simply concentrating on holding Kabul and managing to survive. So they can hardly afford any time and resources for controlling mafias across the country.

Third, the country is in the grip of the worst economic downturn with stories like people forced to sell their children to earn the means to stay alive.

However, this economic breakdown has not started right now. For a long time, the country has been suffering an economic crisis as it could not properly utilise its massive natural resources.

Fourth, large scale deaths are

taking place because of a severe food crisis in the country. Barely two per cent of the Afghan people have enough food to survive their daily lives.

Fifth, the Taliban have barred girls from attending educational institutions. It displays their extremely patriarchal mindset that denies girls basic right to livelihood.

Sixth, the Taliban have refused to get engaged with international human rights and financial institutions. The foreign governments should ease restrictions on the country's financial organisations specially the banks so as to facilitate development initiatives and daily needs of the people. But at the same time, the international actors also must press the mullahs to allow basic rights and punish those responsible for abuses.

Seventh, finally, the Taliban will not be able to move away from their terror tag though they are working hard to do so. Recently, al-Qaeda chief Aiman-al-Zawahiri was killed by the US drone attack in Kabul itself. It clearly shows how the Taliban are covertly sheltering the terror heads so as to keep their hardcore cadre intact and also to spread the terror networks as far as possible.

Biden's quick exit from Afghanistan had an international impact as well. This withdrawal is a total collapse of the GWOT once launched against the Islamic radicals. However, today's global power equations are entirely different from that

of the 1970s. The allies of Washington in this GWOT in Afghanistan went clueless as the US took its decision to withdraw from the war theatre.

Many of the British ministers came out openly against Biden's move in Afghanistan. It was very clear how the UK and other European allies of the US were dependent on Washington. In fact, their opinions hardly mattered for Biden when the latter wanted to take a crucial decision.

Definitely, Beijing and Moscow are quite content to see the US leaving a two-decade old war field by creating a power void. But how long the smiles in Beijing, Moscow and lately in Islamabad will continue is a matter of concern.

Simply, the Taliban pose an immediate threat not only to the Afghan people but also for the entire central Asian region. Their coming to power has fuelled the ambitions and offensives of other Islamic jihadists like al-Qaeda, Islamic State and especially, the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), mainly operating in the Afghan-Pakistan border areas.

There is a vast difference between the Taliban 1.0 and 2.0. Earlier, it was out and out a jihadist outfit. Today it has transformed itself into an organisation that can equally run diplomacy and terror together. They have learnt their lessons in the last two decades of their fighting with the US-led forces.

The future of Afghanistan, known as the graveyard of empires, hinges more on whether the Taliban rule the country as a unified force and less on the reactions of external powers like the US... Conventional wisdom is that it's really difficult for such terror groups to sustain for long in public governance



MAKHAN SAIKIA

For sure, Kabul will soon turn into a war zone. If the Taliban deny the fundamental rights to its people and go on abusing the same, the international actors could snap ties with them, accompanied by suspension of financial aid.

This could be catastrophic for a country that barely has anything to survive. Again, it is a big challenge for the Taliban to maintain cohesion among its own military ranks. Conventional wisdom is that it's really difficult for such terror groups to sustain for long in public governance. Therefore, the future of Afghanistan, known as the graveyard of empires, hinges more on whether the Taliban rule the country as a unified force and less on the reactions of external powers like the US.

It's an uphill task for the Taliban to keep the pace and peace in a country full of problems and with ISIS splinter groups fanned out in villages trying to come into power using the same guerrilla tactics which the Taliban used to topple the US-led Ghani Government.

(Dr Makhan Saikia has taught political science and international relations for over a decade in institutions of national and international repute after specialisation in globalisation and governance from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He is the chief editor of the Journal of Global Studies, an international research journal)

PERSPECTIVE

Urgency of revisiting unregulated populism

Are freebies any different from the tax concessions given to corporate entities? States are well within their rights to use public funds for public purposes. But that doesn't mean they can't be made accountable for their fiscal profligacy



PIYUSH KAMAL

Even after witnessing respectable economic growth during the post-reform period, India has somehow struggled with the equitable distribution of her wealth. The top 10 per cent of India's population hold 74 per cent of the total national wealth, while the bottom 90 per cent have to manage itself with the rest of the crumbs.

As a mature democracy, we cannot afford to ignore the existing disparity of this magnitude. Yet, all political parties despite their differences in ideologies have historically tried to ostensibly tackle this grave issue by doling freebies and sops to this vulnerable and marginalised section, especially during election periods.

For instance, free electricity, free water supply, waiver of agricultural loans, unemployment doles, and giving away gadgets like television, smartphones, laptops, and tabs have gained widespread acceptance among political stakeholders for making competitive bids for votes. And the sad part is: This indulgence in competitive bidding is rarely done keeping in mind the financial health of the States.

Is it a corrupt practice?

There is a section of diehard ideologues that sees these freebies as furtherance of Directive Principles. They think as long as public funds splurged on freebies are spent after getting proper clearance from the legislature, these populist measures can't be termed corrupt practices.

However, in our enthusiasm to sound rational, are we neglecting an important issue of moral hazard, where the beneficiaries of these freebies are as guilty as political parties dispensing these inducements? Isn't this the job of the social intelligentsia to help beneficiaries make an informed decision, where the long-term cost is rationally weighed against the immediate gains from freebies?

Is it a welfare measure?

There is another section of ideologues that fails to see any problem with freebies. For them, it is another form of welfare measure targeted at the bottom of the pyramid. There is some grain of truth in their contention as quite a handful of national welfare schemes like Mid-day Meal, National Food Security, and



PM Kisan Samman Nidhi started as freebies in different States.

However, that doesn't mean every freebie has an equal chance of becoming a welfare scheme. The distribution of free power is a case in point. In fact, the unabated culture of free power has created

an unprecedented threat to India's energy security; where State discoms are incurring an annual loss of more than ₹75,000 crore.

Is it a failure of governance?

Both eras of the post-independence economic regime (the planned as well as the mar-

ket) have failed us majorly on the social sector front. Most indicators of health, education, and employment are not yet strong enough to establish themselves as the keystone of development.

Political dispensations (both at the Centre and States) are, in fact, aware of their

inability to resolve the long-lasting challenges on these fronts. Hence, the political class rarely shies away from playing Robinhood politics. As a result, the root cause of the issue often remains unresolved. For instance, MNREGA as a job guarantee scheme is mostly a sign of failure on the part of the Government to create a conducive and long-lasting ecosystem for widespread job creation.

Is it equivalent to revenue forgone?

Are these freebies any different from the tax concessions given to corporate entities? How the revenue forgone on the pretext of concessions given to corporates often fails to qualify itself for a mainstream discussion?

States are well within their rights to use public funds for public purposes. But that doesn't mean they can't be made accountable for their fiscal profligacy. While mechanisms to keep populist schemes under restraint can be implemented as per recommendation by the finance commission, it needs to ensure that essential public services don't get affected by these restraints.

Is it possible to regulate them?

The role of electoral democracy in India's economic growth is something that should never be underestimated at any cost. It has always played a critical role in shaping and reshaping the undefined contours of the nation's polity, economy, and society. And being an integral part of this ongoing churning, the political stakeholders can afford to make numerous mistakes as long as they are allowed by their voters.

The Supreme Court's decision to examine this complicated issue by taking recommendations from the body of different key stakeholders raises an important question of whether it is right to bypass the legislature while trying to resolve such a politically sensitive issue. Because, all said and done, the issue of pre-poll freebies in the name of unregulated populism is essentially a political question that can't be outsourced to any other institution of democracy.

(The writer is a former IRS officer & author of the book 'Current Perspectives on the Indian Economy')

