

CITY 3

BABASAHEB MADE INDIA FAMOUS BY
GIVING BEST CONSTITUTION: MAYAWATI

OPINION 6

DIGITAL EDUCATION
FOR DIGITAL INDIA

WORLD 10

CHINA BLASTS US REPORT, REITERATES
'NO 1ST USE' NUKE POLICY

LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 7, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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DO-OR-DIE
GAME FOR
INDIA
11 SPORT

Job, price rise, LAC to heat up Winter Session

EWS quota, women
reservation Bill,
collegium system
also in Opp basket

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Winter Session of Parliament beginning Wednesday, the Opposition parties on Tuesday demanded discussion on a slew of key issues, including unemployment, price rise, quota for the EWS sections, and situation at the Sino-India border in the all-party meeting called by the Central Government. The issues are set to be raised by the Opposition during the Winter Session.

In the meeting, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) pitched for the passage of the long-pending women's reservation Bill in the Winter Session. The one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State legislatures was also raised by the TMC, the JD(U) and the SAD parties in the Business Advisory Committee meeting called by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

The session would proceed amid the key poll outcomes of Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh Assembly polls.

Exit polls on Monday pre-



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla holds a Business Advisory Committee meeting with all-party leaders on the eve of the start of Parliament's Winter Session, in New Delhi, on Tuesday PTI

dicted a big majority for the BJP in Gujarat and a dead heat in Himachal Pradesh where most pollsters gave an edge to the ruling party over the Congress. The session which had to be delayed by a month due to the Gujarat election schedule would witness the Government introducing 16 Bills during 17 sittings of the session.

Leaders from more than 30 parties attended the all-party meeting to discuss the legislative agenda and the issues likely that would be taken up during the Winter Session of Parliament.

The meeting was chaired by Union Minister and Deputy leader of the BJP in the Lok Sabha Rajnath Singh. Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha

Piyush Goyal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi were also present.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said, "There are so many issues before the country, such as unemployment and price rise, and the Government owes an answer to the people."

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'Morally wrong': Ukraine slams India's oil import from Russia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

A day after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar defended India's decision to buy oil from Russia during the ongoing Ukraine conflict, the Ukraine Foreign Minister on Tuesday said it is "morally inappropriate."

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba also said, "The opportunity for India to buy Russian oil at a cheap price comes from the fact that Ukrainians are suffering from Russian aggression and dying every day."

Making this assertion in an interview to a private television channel, the Ukrainian Minister said, "If you benefit because of our suffering, it would be good to see more of your help addressed to us."

Jaishankar on Monday said India's decision to buy oil from Russia was largely driven by market forces adding the European Union (EU) has bought more oil from Russia than India during the last few months, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said.

Jaishankar's assertion came during his talks with visiting German counterpart Annalena Baerbock. "The European Unions from February to November have imported more fossil fuel from Russia than the next 10 countries combined. The oil import in the European Union is six times what India has imported, gas is infinite times because we don't import it," he said.



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Presidential Press Office, Ukrainian soldier takes a selfie with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, left, during his visit to Slaviansk, Donbas region, Ukraine on Tuesday AP/PTI

Addressing a joint Press meet with the German Minister after talks, Jaishankar also said, "I would urge you to look at these figures. There is a website called 'Russia Fossil Fuel Tracker' it would give you country-by-country data of who is really importing what and I suspect that might be very very helpful."

Jaishankar also said there is a finite amount of energy resources and Europe cannot make choices to prioritise its energy needs while asking India to do something else.

On economic ties, he said India's trade with Russia is at a very small level- \$12-13 billion,

in comparison to European countries. "We have also given Russians a set of products... I don't think people should read more into it other than the legitimate expectations of any trading country to increase its trade," he said.

Responding to this assertion by Jaishankar, Kuleba said "It is not enough to point fingers at the European Union and say, Oh, they are doing the same thing."

According to Kuleba, India's decision to import cheap Russian oil needs to be seen through the prism of human suffering in Ukraine.

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CAPSULE

ECONOMIST & FORMER
MINISTER YK ALAGH DIES

Ahmedabad: Noted economist and former Union minister Yoginder K Alagh passed away here on Tuesday after prolonged illness, his family said. Alagh (83) was an emeritus professor at the Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research here and was not keeping well for some time, his son Munish Alagh said. YK Alagh was born in Chakwal in present-day Pakistan in 1939 and studied at the University of Rajasthan.

Previous regimes neglected Lko's development: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Criticising the previous governments for overlooking the development of the state capital, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said Lucknow was once replete with filth, disorder and anarchy, but it has completely transformed in the last five years.

During the 'Prabuddhjan Sammelan' in Lucknow, the CM said: "Five years back, the state capital used to be neglected by the then government. Despite the fact that Lucknow is the state capital, people had a different image of the place in their mind on seeing dirt and witnessing chaos and anarchy. After 2017, many of the Centre's plans were implemented in UP, including the Swachh Bharat Mission. A significant improvement in the systematic disposal of urban garbage was made as a result of providing 2.70 crore toilets to poor people in rural and urban areas, banning plastic, and reviving the Mati Kala Board."

During the event, the CM also did 'Annaprasan' of children and gave keys, cheques, certificates to the beneficiaries of various schemes. He also paid tributes to Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar on his Mahaparinirvan Diwas.



Addressing the gathering of intellectuals, the CM said, "Today, the state has become a model for Covid-19 and garbage management. Lucknow, Ghaziabad, Varanasi, Aligarh and Agra are on the list of cities with the cleanest environment."

The CM continued by stating that prior to 2017, the UP cities were also among the worst in the nation in terms of cleanliness. As UP saw success within five years, Lucknow has also expanded fast, he said.

The CM also congratulated the residents on Lucknow's high ranking in the 2022 cleanliness index.

The CM noted that in today's UP, one can witness both the 'smart cities' and 'smart youth'.

"The concept of smart city is being realised. During Covid times, Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS) was adopted for management

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Ensure nobody goes to sleep on empty stomach: SC to Govt

'Foodgrains under the
National Food Security
Act must reach last man'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Central Government to see to it that foodgrains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) reach the last man.

The court observed that it is our culture to ensure nobody goes to sleep empty stomach.

A bench of Justices MR Shah and Hima Kohli directed the Centre to submit a fresh chart with the number of migrant and unorganised sector workers registered on eShram portal.

"It is the duty of the Central Government to ensure foodgrains under NFSA are reach-



ing the last man. We are not saying that the Centre is not doing anything; the Union of India has ensured foodgrains to people during Covid. At the same time, we have to see it continue. It is our culture (to ensure) that nobody goes to sleep on empty stomach," the bench said.

The SC was hearing its suo moto case on the plight of migrant workers during the Covid pandemic lockdowns.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for three social activists Anjali Bharadwaj, Harsh Mander and Jagdeep Chhokar, said the

country's population has increased after the 2011 census and so has the number of beneficiaries covered under the NFSA. He argued that many eligible and needy beneficiaries will be deprived of the benefit under the law if it is not enforced effectively.

Bhushan said the Government claims the per capita income of people has increased in recent years, but added India has slipped rapidly in the global hunger index.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, submitted there are 81.35 crore beneficiaries under the NFSA, a very large number even in the Indian context. He said the 2011 census has not stopped the Government from adding more people to the list of beneficiaries which is growing.

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Appear in person to show sorry for contempt: HC to Vivek Agnihotri

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri tendered a written apology in the Delhi High Court on Tuesday in a criminal contempt case for his remarks against Justice S Muralidhar for granting relief to activist Gautam Navlakha.

However, the HC did not accept the apology affidavit and directed him to appear before it on March 16, 2023 and "show remorse in person."

"We are asking him (Agnihotri) to remain present because he is the alleged contemnor. Does he have any difficulty to appear before this court? He has to be present and show remorse in person. The remorse cannot always be expressed by way of an affidavit," the bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Talwant Singh told Agnihotri's lawyer.

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Brazil dances to FIFA WC quarterfinals

AP ■ DOHA

The joy — and the dancing — are back for five-time champion Brazil at the World Cup.

The big win over South Korea on Monday secured Brazil a berth in the quarterfinals in Qatar. It also restored the team's confidence after a tumultuous start to the tournament in which the Selecao lost Neymar to injury and saw its unbeaten group-stage streak end in a defeat to Cameroon.

But Neymar returned in style, looking fully fit and scoring a goal in Brazil's 4-1 win at Stadium 974. Vinicius Junior, Richarlison and Lucas Paqueta also scored, and after each goal the Brazilians broke out dance moves.

They had promised different celebrations for each goal in Qatar, and were at last able to use many of them, after a group-stage in which Brazil scored only three times. It lost 1-0 to Cameroon in its last group game.

Even coach Tite got in on the act, joining Richarlison for



Brazil's goalkeeper Alisson saves the ball during the World Cup round of 16 soccer match against South Korea AP

his trademark "pigeon" celebration.

The coach and the players got into a circle and put their hands on their hips and started moving their heads back and forth to imitate a pigeon, which is Richarlison's nickname.

After the match, Richarlison showed his dance

to former Brazil star Ronaldo, teaching him the moves.

The Brazil players had already danced after Vinicius Junior's first goal, when he, Neymar, Raphinha and Lucas Paqueta did a few moves together. It was similar after each goal.

All the dancing got some criticism from former Ireland

player and commentator Roy Keane, who said the Brazilian players were "disrespecting the opposition," especially with the manager getting involved.

Tite defended his players. "It just means being happy because of the goal, the performance, the win..." he said.

"It's not about being disrespectful with the opponent."

TMC spokesman Gokhale held at Jaipur airport

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Trinamool Congress on Tuesday claimed that the Gujarat Police has arrested its spokesperson Saket Gokhale, terming it a "political vendetta". In a tweet, TMC national spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien detailed the circumstances under which the arrest was made.

Gokhale took a flight at 9 pm from New Delhi to Jaipur on Monday. When he landed, the Gujarat Police cops who were at the airport picked him up. At 2 am on Tuesday, Gokhale called his mother and told her that the police were taking him to Ahmedabad and he would reach that city by noon, O'Brien claimed.

"The police let him make that two-minute phone call and then confiscated his phone and all his belongings," the TMC leader said on Twitter.

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Newly-laid road as 'wedding gift'

Prayagraj (PTI): As Nukush Fatima of Prayagraj readies for her wedding on Wednesday, the virtually non-existent road in front of her house kept her worried. But her last-ditch effort bore fruit and she is elated now as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, responding to her Twitter appeal, got the road built in a day. Eight days ago, Fatima had tweeted tagging the chief minister: "There has been no roadwork in my area for the last 15 years. Honourable Chief Minister, I have my wedding on 7th December in which you are cordially invited. Please get the road in my locality built so that you and my guests do not have any inconvenience in coming." Two days ago, on the instructions of the chief minister, the municipal corporation cleaned the area and constructed the road in a day, her uncle Jamal Afsal told PTI.

The road in Abubakarpur locality in Dhumanganj in Prayagraj was built in 2002. Some repairs were done 15 years ago and subsequently the road was in a pitiable condition, her uncle said. There is no such department which was not approached for the construction of the road, but none took any interest in it, he said. But her tweet and the chief minister's action changed everything, he said, adding it's like a gift.

Yogi remembers Babasaheb

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday paid tributes to BR Ambedkar, the architect of India's Constitution, on his death anniversary. He said Babasaheb's efforts gave new inspiration to the deprived and downtrodden.

"On his Mahaparinirvan Diwas, I pay homage to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar. His efforts gave new energy and inspiration to the underprivileged. Babasaheb's name will be taken with immense pride whenever and wherever people talk of freedom, equality, justice and fraternity," Yogi said in Lucknow.

He went on to say that despite all the restrictions, Babasaheb dedicated his life to the uplift of the downtrodden and deprived sections. The path shown by him in 1940-50 remains relevant even today, he added.

The CM said it is a matter of pride that Babasaheb was born in India. "Many initiatives are being taken in the country to express gratitude towards the society and nation. PM Narendra Modi developed Dr Ambedkar's Panch Teerths. Memorials have come up at Dr Ambedkar's birthplace in Mhow (Madhya Pradesh), and Delhi where he extended his public life," he said.

Furthermore, Yogi said that the government worked to convert the building in London where he pursued higher education into a hostel and memorial for the underprivileged and downtrodden children. In Nagpur where Babasaheb had taken initiation and where the



CM Yogi Adityanath, Deputy CMs Brajesh Pathak & KP Maurya and Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia among others paid tributes to Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar on his Mahaparinirvan Diwas in Lucknow on Tuesday

last journey took place in Mumbai, grand memorials have also been developed, he pointed out.

The CM said that the schemes of the government were taken to the poor without any discrimination. Houses under PM Awas and CM Awas schemes to 45 lakh poor, toilets to 2.61 crore under Swachh Bharat Yojana, free electricity connections to 1.63 crore families, free ration to 15 crore people in UP and 80 crore poor in the country during Covid have been provided.

The CM further said that the UP government is going to build a grand cultural centre and memorial dedicated to Dr Ambedkar. "The memorial will present his ideals to present and future generations. Babasaheb's photograph has been installed in all the government offices of the state. We have benefitted the deprived sections, including Tharus, Musahars, Kols, and Vantangias. The state government stands with the oppressed and exploited sections," he said.

The CM said that

Babasaheb, while handing over the Constitution after independence, had declared that its basic spirit lies in liberty, equality, justice and fraternity.

"We are all committed to these values," he added. Deputy CMs Keshav Prasad Maurya & Brajesh Pathak, Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Aseem Arun, Lalji Prasad Nirmal, etc were also present.

The chief minister also paid floral tributes to the statue of Dr Ambedkar in Hazratganj.

CM Yogi hails contribution of Home Guards personnel

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday hailed the contribution of the Home Guards personnel not only in maintaining law and order but also in fulfilling social responsibilities. Extending best wishes to all the home guards, volunteers and officers of the state on the occasion of Home Guards Day, Yogi said the Home Guards Raising Day is celebrated every year on December 6. "Home Guards personnel are working to the best standards in the country and the government is determined for their welfare and betterment. At present, about 82,000 Home Guards personnel are working in the state," Yogi said.

The CM said that along with their regular duties, Home Guards personnel are performing their role in social works and cleaning of Ganga along with works related to Amrit Sarovar and tree plantation.

On this occasion, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Home Guards and Prisons Dharamveer Prajapati informed the chief minister that Home Guards personnel have performed their role effectively not only in UP but also in other states during elections. He said that the entire data of the Home Guards department is computerised.

Nagar panchayat member found hanging from tree

Family suspects murder, demands probe

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the local bodies and panchayat elections round the corner, a member of nagar panchayat was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Gosainganj, fuelling speculations of rivalry as motive for murder.

Narendra Rawat aka Rangarao (45) of Rehmat Nagar locality in the area was found hanging from a tree with a *gamchha* tied around his neck in a mango grove on Tuesday morning. The roof if suspicion was his knees touching the ground.

"No one can die by hanging from such a height," villagers said. They suspected that Narendra was hanged from the tree to make it look like a case of suicide. They demanded a thorough investigation into the case.

They said Narendra was a nagar panchayat member and had political rivalry with several opponents. "Panchayat elections are round the corner and candidates have started their preparations. Narendra was popular among people of his sect and community and someone jealous of his popularity hatched a conspiracy to eliminate him," his family members alleged.

The police said they sent the body for autopsy and started further investigation into the case. "We are waiting for the autopsy report," a spokesman said. Initial investigation revealed that Narendra left his house on Monday night and did not return home. Around 7 am on Tuesday, some of the villagers found him hanging from the tree with both his knees touching the ground.

Meanwhile, a caterer was

stabbed by his colleague over a dispute in Gautampalli police station area on November 29 night. The victim, identified as Prince of Martinpurwa, suffered a deep cut wound in his chest and was admitted to Civil hospital where his condition was said to be critical.

On his mother Mamta's complaint, police registered a case of attempt to murder under Section 307 of IPC and launched a manhunt for the accused. As per reports, Prince is a native of Amroha and was friends with Ritik, who is also a caterer and native of Amroha. Around 9 pm on November 29, Prince and Ritik fought over some issue. Ritik allegedly whipped out a knife and stabbed Prince in the chest before fleeing the scene. The accused fled the scene while the victim was admitted to the hospital by other colleagues.

Teacher held for raping minor girl over 2 yrs

Ghaziabad: A 32-year-old computer teacher was arrested for allegedly raping a minor girl over two years, police here said on Tuesday. The girl confided in her parents about the assault after the accused, identified as Saurabh Gupta, threatened that she would meet the same fate as Shraddha Walkar,

who was allegedly killed and dismembered by her live-in partner, they said. DCP (City) Nipun Agarwal said the accused lured the girl when she was a Class 9 student on the pretext of improving her grades in school. The minor started talking to Gupta, who took advantage of the situation and

allegedly raped her. Whenever the girl protested, he threatened to fail her and warned her of dire consequences, he said. After the girl narrated her ordeal to her parents, they lodged a police complaint on Sunday. The accused was arrested from his house in Jaitpur village.

₹15L looted from trader

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Close on the heels of Thakurganj's house robbery in which a trader and his mother were held hostage, another trader was struck by two unidentified bike miscreants at Mawaiya flyover in Alambagh on Tuesday and a sum of Rs 15 lakh was looted from him.

As per reports, Bangla Bazaar (Ashiyana) resident Neeraj Gupta was going to Yahiyaganj market to purchase goods for his shop when the bike-borne miscreants targeted him. In his complaint, Neeraj said he was riding a scooter and carrying the cash bag. "Around 3 pm, I took the flyover in Mawaiya to reach Yahiyaganj market. I was intercepted by the bike-borne miscreants after I moved about 100 metres," he stated in his complaint.

He further said the miscreants picked a fight with him and one of them whipped out a pistol and snatched the cash

bag from him. "The pillon-rider who snatched the bag from me held me at the gun-point till he sat on the bike. Later, they sped off towards Aishbagh," he said.

The victim said he ran to the office of traders' association leader Naveen Gupta in Tilak Nagar and narrated the sequence of events to him. He added that another office-bearer of the traders' association, Amarnath Mishra, also reached out to him and they went to the crime scene.

GIRL HARASSED BY STALKER

A stalker forced a minor girl student to stop going to her school in Para police station area. After a case was registered in this connection, police detained the accused for interrogation. As per reports, the accused, who was identified as Dev aka Divyam Singh of the same area, developed a fancy for the girl and he started stalking her. The accused took advantage of the girl's inno-

cence and lured her into giving him her mobile number. He then started chatting with her. On November 19 night, he convinced the girl to meet her and promised to gift her a wrist watch. He tried to molest her when she reached there.

As the girl offered resistance, he threatened her and later called her parents and threatened to kill them. He challenged the victim's parents to stop him if they could, and said he would run away with her one day.

"He used to call us at odd hours using different mobile numbers. He would abuse us and threaten to kill us. We saw him roaming on a bike outside our house and we feared that he would abduct my daughter one day," the victim's father stated in his complaint.

As the news reached senior officers, they directed the local police to immediately arrest the accused and provide safety to the girl. A team worked on the case and detained him.

LDA seals over 2 dozen unauthorised buildings

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The anti-encroachment squad of the Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) sealed over two dozen fully constructed as well as semi-finished buildings behind Chowk police station here on Tuesday. Vice-Chairman Indramani Tripathi supervised the operation. He was accompanied by Joint Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Piyush Mordia and armed police personnel.

The VC remained present at the sites even as the process of sealing unauthorised buildings continued for over four hours. The joint commissioner of police also stayed there to neutralise the protest, if any. The VC told mediaper-

sons that a team has been constituted by senior officers to identify those members of the anti-encroachment squad and staffers who are not taking interest in the ongoing drive.

The VC said there are a handful of staffers who are hand in gloves with the influential lobby hindering the drive.

Zone-7 incharge DK Singh said the anti-encroachment squad sealed a commercial estate being constructed on a land measuring 10,000 square feet because it was in gross violation of the blueprint submitted by owners Mohsin Nawab and Asif Nawab. The squad wanted to pull down the illegal portion but the developers were given a month's time to fix it themselves.

Girl raped, killed; body found in gunny bag

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a suspected case of rape and murder, the body of a girl was found in a sack near a temple in Moradabad on Tuesday morning. Police rushed to the spot soon after getting the information but failed to ascertain the identity of the deceased.

The police also summoned the forensic team and dog squad to the spot to help them in getting some lead. It was suspected that the girl was raped

and killed elsewhere and the body was dumped later near the temple. The incident was reported from Ratupura village of Thakurdwara in Moradabad.

Some passerby saw some dogs scratching a white gunny bag lying near the Naghnath temple close to the bypass leading to Madarpur early Tuesday morning. They also said that the bag was soaked in blood. When the police reached the spot and opened the sack, they were shocked to

find the body of a girl tied with a rope. Thakurdwara SHO said the deceased was aged around 25 years and there were injury marks around her neck.

Meanwhile in Deoria, the body of a woman was found on the banks of Nakata drain in Bardonia village on Monday evening. The deceased was later identified as Archana Devi alias Rani (21), who was the wife of Durgesh Chauhan of Banki village.

On Monday evening, vil-

lagers passing by the Nakata drain spotted the body and raised an alarm. The deceased was clad in a yellow shirt, blue salwar and red shawl. Later, her relatives reached the mortuary and identified the body as that of Archana. According to family members, she married Durgesh Chauhan in Banki village of Gauri Bazar police station area six months ago.

The body was recovered four kilometres away from her house. Inspector-in-charge

Naveen Singh said the family members of Archana filed a case against her husband Durgesh and other family members, alleging she was killed over dowry.

They said that Archana married Durgesh Chauhan on May 12 last. They alleged Archana's in-laws were demanding a motorcycle. They started torturing her and finally killed her, the bereaved kin alleged. The body was sent for autopsy and further probe was started.

Law student, friends duped of ₹1 lakh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Ram Manohar Lohia Law University student and his friends were duped of Rs 10,000 on the pretext of paying guest (PG) services in Ashiyana. As per reports, Ashish Singh, who was looking for PG service providers, clicked a link on his mobile. He was asked to pay Rs 4,000 and he paid Rs 2,000 twice through UPI. He was offered PG services at a government hostel for which the charges were Rs 8,010 for a year. As Ashish ran short of cash, he made the payment using his friend Anshul Patel's UPI account. He was asked to make a payment of Re 1 for confirmation and another of Rs 8,009.

Ashish was told that the money was not credited in the

bank account and was asked to pay Rs 8,010 in one go. Ashish made a payment of Rs 8,010 using the UPI account of his colleague Shikha and was told by the miscreant that the amount was not credited due to his fault. The caller told Ashish to pay another Rs 14,000 and Ashish made the payment again using his another friend Gaurav's UPI account.

However, the miscreant told him that the money was not credited to his bank account. He told Ashish that he would have to pay Rs 24,970. Unmindful of the tricks, Ashish paid Rs 24,970 using UPI account of another friend Janardan. Thereafter, Ashish called the miscreant and asked to cancel his booking. The miscreant told him to pay another Rs 25,000 to

make the total sum Rs 1 lakh so that he could return all the money.

Ashish fell for the bait and used the UPI of another friend Abhishek. The miscreant, however, did not refund the cash. Finally, Ashish lodged a complaint in this regard.

Meanwhile, a woman was duped of over Rs 1.19 lakh in in Gomti Nagar police station area. As per reports, Anupama Singh of Patrakarpuram was duped of Rs 57,372 and Rs 6,255 from two different bank accounts in the name of investment. She said the miscreant, who was identified as Hazel, demanded another Rs 71,000 from her and said otherwise her previous invested sum would be non-refundable.

CITYBRIEFS



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FEST

The fourth day of the five-day International Youth Fest-2022 organised by City Montessori School, Rajajipuram Campus II, saw creativity, originality and brilliance of the participating teams from India and abroad as they made socially beneficial models. The theme of the model-making competition was 'Sustainability and environment-friendly practices'.

SHOOTING BEGINS

The shooting of feature film 'Crushed' Season-2 began in the state capital on Tuesday. The stars of film which will be telecast on Amazon miniTV include Naman Jain, Urvi Singh, Anupriya Kairali, Arjun Deswal and Adhya Anand. The film will be shot at different places in Lucknow. Naman Jain plays the role of a back-bencher in the movie based on school life. Urvi Singh is a resident of Lucknow.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is informed that Original Sale Deed dated 17.02.1997 executed by Uttar Pradesh Avas Evam Vikas Parishad in favour of Smt. Kalawati Mishra, W/o H.N. Mishra R/o 84/5, Firoz Gandhi Nagar, Raebareilly City, Raebareilly which has been registered in Book No.1, Vol. No. 1379 on Pages 207 Addt. File Book No. 1, Vol. No. 1688 on Pages 517-524 at St. No. 1177 with Musanna No. 1178 registered on 03.04.1997 in the Office of Sub Registrar (Regn.) Raebareilly has been misplaced & lost. The same could not be got traced out inspite of best efforts. The property mentioned under above Sale Deed has been purchased by Sardar Swarn Singh and Smt. Manjeet Kaur from Smt. Kalawati Mishra through Sale Deed dated 05.09.2005 & became absolute owner of the property. Use of above mentioned Sale Deed by any other person would be illegal. Sardar Swarn Singh S/o Late Diwan Singh, R/o 80, Firoz Gandhi Nagar, Raebareilly City, Raebareilly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is informed that Original Sale Deed dated 21.03.2003 executed by Uttar Pradesh Avas Evam Vikas Parishad in favour of Sardar Swarn Singh S/o Late Diwan Singh, R/o 80, Firoz Gandhi Nagar, Raebareilly City, Raebareilly as Power of Attorney Holder of Gulab Singh S/o Sri Ladda Singh which has been registered in Book No.1, Vol. No. 2669 on Pages 97-110 at St. No. 1263 registered on 22.03.2003 in the office of Sub Registrar (Regn.) Raebareilly has been misplaced & lost. The same could not be got traced out inspite of best efforts. The property mentioned under above Sale Deed has been purchased by Sardar Narendra Pal Singh from Sardar Swarn Singh S/o Late Diwan Singh, R/o 80, Firoz Gandhi Nagar, Raebareilly City, Raebareilly as Power of Attorney Holder of Gulab Singh S/o Sri Ladda Singh through Sale Deed dated 20.05.2014 & became absolute owner of the property. Use of above mentioned Sale Deed by any other person would be illegal. Sardar Narendra Pal Singh S/o Sardar Swarn Singh, R/o Firoz Gandhi Nagar, Raebareilly City, Raebareilly.

COURT NOTICE

CITATION (BY ADVERTISEMENT)
(Chapter XXX, Rule-211)
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD
ORIGINAL JURISDICTION
TESTAMENTARY AND INTESTATE JURISDICTION
TESTAMENTARY CASE NO. 108 OF 2022
IN THE MATTER OF
THE GOODS OF
Late Pyare Lal S/o Late Bajinath R/o Gram Sararistum, Pargana Mugra, Tehsil Mchhalishar, District Jaunpur.....Deceased.
Rajesh S/o Late Pyare LalPetitioner.
WHEREAS an application has been made by Rajesh S/o Late Pyare Lal R/o Gram Sararistum, Pargana Mugra, Tehsil Mchhalishar, District Jaunpur, for the probate of the will (or Letters of Administration to the estate) of Late Pyare Lal Deceased, who died at Sararistum, on 17.08.2019 AND WHEREAS, the 19th day of December, 2022 has been fixed for hearing of the said application, THIS CITATION is issued calling upon all persons claiming to have any interest to come and see the proceedings if they think fit before the grant of probate (or Letters of Administration).
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 16th day of November, 2022.
DEPUTY REGISTRAR
HIGH COURT, ALLAHABAD
Durga Prasad Tiwari,
Advocate
Counsel for the Petitioner.

'Supplementary grants to fund increased expenditure on dev projects'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh has to aim big for achieving the ambitious target of taking the state's economy to \$1 trillion and to finance the increased expenditure, the government has sought a supplementary budget of Rs 33,769 crore for the current fiscal 2022-23, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Tuesday.

With the supplementary grants, the size of the current fiscal budget has crossed Rs 6.5 lakh crore. The chief minister was replying to the debate on Tuesday on the supplementary budget tabled in the assembly by Finance Minister Suresh Khanna on Monday.

"The opposition has questioned the rationale of the supplementary budget even as the utilisation of the budgeted amount for different grants in 2022-23 is around 40 per cent. The opposition is curious to know about the utilisation of the budget and I welcome their curiosity," the CM said, adding: "The PM has set the target of making India a \$5 trillion economy and UP can make a big contribution in achieving this goal by taking its economy to \$1 trillion. This is the reason for seeking approval of the legislature for supplementary grants to finance the increased expenditure on infrastructure and other development projects."

"The 2018 Kumbh in Prayagraj had made a huge contribution to the image makeover of Uttar Pradesh and over 24 pilgrims had visited the mega event. We have started making preparation for the 2025 Kumbh and made a provision of Rs 521 crore. Moreover, India will host the heads of states of 20 countries for the G20 summit and the heads of states and delegates will visit four places in Uttar Pradesh, and the government made a provision of Rs 4,000 crore for the development of



new cities and Smart City mission," the CM said.

Yogi said that despite the order of the Supreme Court after the Nirbhaya rape incident in Delhi, no city in Uttar Pradesh had been made a 'safe city'.

"The present government is working on making 18 cities, including Gautam Buddha Nagar, safe. In the last five-and-a-half years, more than Rs 4 lakh crore were invested in UP which is becoming a data centre hub. In 2015-16, the exports here were worth 50,000 crore whereas in 2021, commodities worth Rs 1.56 lakh crore were exported," he said.

Yogi said UP is the first state in the country where 18 cities, including 17 municipal corporation towns, will be

linked to the safe city network and for comprehensive development of urban areas, a provision of Rs 4,000 crore has been made in the supplementary budget.

He said Uttar Pradesh has the junction of both the dedicated rail corridors – western dedicated rail corridor and eastern dedicated rail corridor near Dadri in Ghaziabad. With the completion of these two projects, UP would emerge as an important logistic hub in the country, Yogi said.

"UP is the only state to have six expressways, and it has given a big boost to the state's economy. There were only two airports till 2017, but today there are nine operational airports, including three international ones providing connect-

tivity to 77 destinations across the country. The work is in progress for ten other airports. The work on the Smart City mission has been underway for the last five years and 10 cities were chosen for the project where the Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS) system has been implemented. ITMS has been linked to the Safe City, which will tremendously enhance the capability of police to maintain law and order," the CM said.

"UP has made huge strides in enhancing medical and health facilities. There were only 12 medical colleges till 2017 but today 35 new medical colleges are in various stages of completion, and our target is to have one medical college in each district. There were no

intensive care units in 20 districts but today there are ICUs and ventilators in each of the 75 districts. Work is underway to link each primary health centre to tele-consolutions in association with SGPGI," the CM said, adding: "UP has made progress in health parameters with the implementation of National Health Mission and mother & infant mortality rate has come down near the national average."

The CM also referred to the provision of Rs 8,000 crore for the development of industrial clusters along the expressways and Rs 1,200 crore for UP Power Corporation which will benefit the farmers who will pay only 50 per cent of the power bills on private tubewell. The CM also referred to

reforms, modernisation and increase in capacity for training police recruits. "So far, 1.64 lakh police personnel have been recruited and the police commissionerate system has been implemented in seven districts.

Besides, cyber police stations will be set up in each police range. The academic session will commence soon in the Forensic Science Institute coming up in Lucknow," Yogi said.

On governance, the CM said that in ten districts, the district courts are operating from rented buildings, and a provision of Rs 400 crore has been made in the supplementary budget for construction of district court buildings. "My government is sincerely pursuing

SP MLA livestreams assembly proceedings, asked to leave House

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party MLA Atul Pradhan on Tuesday livestreamed proceedings of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly via Facebook while protesting in the well, drawing the ire of the speaker who asked him to leave the House and suspended him for the entire session.

Speaker Satish Mahana said it had come to his notice that a member went live on Facebook while the Samajwadi Party MLAs were protesting in the well of the House over alleged irregularities and police atrocities during the voting in the bypoll to the Rampur assembly seat.

The speaker later said he had verified that it was SP MLA Atul Pradhan, who was asked to leave the House for the entire session.

While the Sardhana MLA immediately left the House, the SP members requested the speaker to review his decision as the first-time legislator was not aware of the assembly rules.

Holding that "ignorance of law is not an excuse," the speaker said: "Pradhan will not be allowed in the House." However, on being insisted, the speaker allowed him to attend the proceedings after 1 pm on Tuesday.

Earlier in the day, as soon

as the House assembled at 11 am, the Samajwadi Party members raised the issue of alleged police high-handedness in Rampur on Monday. SP MLA Manoj Pandey alleged that the police entered the homes of people and beat them up. The SP MLAs entered the well of the House and raised slogans denouncing the government. The SP had given notice under rule 56 of the House seeking adjournment of the proceedings to discuss the Rampur issue.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna denied the charges levelled by the opposition members and claimed that no wrong was committed and polling in Rampur remained peaceful.

Mahana said he was ready to allow the opposition to raise this issue as per rules. He asked the opposition members to restore order and go back to their seats. However, the opposition refused to relent, forcing him to adjourn the proceedings of the House for 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, the state assembly was adjourned sine die on Tuesday. The business advisory committee of the house had approved the agenda of the house for three sittings. However, the House was adjourned only after two sittings.

Babasaheb made India famous by giving best Constitution: Mayawati

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party president and former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Mayawati paid tributes to Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar on his Mahaparinirvan Diwas Tuesday. She said if the successive governments had worked following the principles of the Constitution, crores of poor people would have got freedom from many troubles.

In a tweet, Mayawati said, "Huge respect to Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, who blessed the country by giving a completely people-friendly, welfare and egalitarian Constitution, on his Mahaparinirvan Diwas. He made India famous in the country and the world by giving the best Constitution in every respect. The light he has illuminated is priceless. The country is eternally grateful to him."

In another tweet, the former CM said, "I wish the governments of the country would have worked under the holy principles of the Constitution so that crores of poor people here would have got relief from many troubles. The alienation and failure in converting the ideals of the Constitution into ground reality and bringing good days to the people is sad and worrying."

She further said, "As soon as the name of Babasaheb Dr Ambedkar comes to mind, one remembers the guarantee of people's interest, welfare, protection of their property, religion and right to live with self-respect and self-respect under the constitutional rights. True concern for people who are deprived of livelihood, justice, happiness, peace and prosperity

Meanwhile, Social organisation Bahujan Bharat organised a seminar on the occasion of Mahaparinirvana Diwas



BSP supremo Mayawati paying tributes to Dr Ambedkar on Tuesday Pioneer

of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar on Tuesday and paid floral tributes to the architect of the Constitution.

President of the organisation Kunwar Fateh Bahadur said though all the prominent leaders were paying tributes to Babsaheb, none worked for the welfare of Dalits, backwards and minorities as per the tenets of the Constitution.

"At present, the pro-Constitution forces are struggling to protect the Constitution because the anti-Constitutional forces are trying to deprive the Dalits, backwards and minorities of their rights," he said.

Kunwar Fateh Bahadur said Babasaheb Ambedkar had advocated reservation for Dalits in electoral politics so that their representatives won from reserved seats in the Lok Sabha and legislative assemblies could work for the constitutional rights of Dalits.

"Unfortunately, the elected representatives, instead of talking about Dalits and backwards, always talk on the lines of their parties' agenda. Thus, the spirit of reservation is lost," he said.

"The present government is going for privatisation in a massive way, denying opportunities to the poor and the system of reservation in government services has become irrelevant," he added.

General secretary of the organisation Chintamani said that Babasaheb gave all the rights to the exploited and deprived people, but the Bahujan Samaj would now have to struggle for their rights.

Vice-president of the organisation Nand Kishore, treasurer Ramkumar Gautam, joint secretary Krishna Kanhaiya Pal, Naval Kishore, RR Jaiswar, BD Ahirwar, Indra Vijay Gautam, Anurag Yadav and Kamal Jayant also expressed their views.

RLD MLA raises Tikunia incident in House

Lucknow (PNS): The ghost of Tikunia incident in Lakhimpur Kheri visited UP assembly after RLD MLA from Budhana Rajpal Singh Balian raised the issue seeking information about the number of farmers who died in the incident and the number of farmers injured, amount of compensation given to the deceased farmers' families and government jobs given to their kin.

In the incident, four farmers and a journalist were killed after the jeep of Union Minister for State for Home Ajay Mishra's son ran over them.

The government said a total of four farmers (two belonging to Kheri and two from Bahraich) and their dependents were given compensation (Rs 45 lakh each) while 13 injured farmers were not given any compensation.

The government further said the dependents of the deceased farmers had not been given any government jobs as yet.

National convener of Team RLD Anupam Mishra said the anti-farmer face of the government had come to the fore once again.

"It was assured by a responsible official of the government in front of the media that the injured would be given Rs 10 lakh and one family member of each deceased would be given a government job according to their educational qualification. However, the state government has not given any help to them till date. It shows that the government is not only insensitive, but also considers the farmers unimportant," he said.

ABHM leader held for bid to recite Hanuman Chalisa at Shahi Eidgah

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

An Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha (ABHM) leader was arrested on Tuesday while allegedly going to recite Hanuman Chalisa at the Shahi Eidgah Masjid inside the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi-Eidgah complex in Mathura.

Officials said that seven-eight other leaders of the organisation were also confined to their houses under different police stations. The ABHM had given a call for Hanuman Chalisa recital inside the Shahi Eidgah Masjid to mark the anniversary of Babri Masjid demolition.

Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Martand Singh said the police arrested ABHM's Agra region incharge Saurabh Sharma when he was attempting to go towards the mosque on the complex. He said Mahasabha president Rajshri Chaudhary and treasurer Dinesh Sharma were not among those confined in their homes and that there was no information. The Babri mosque in Ayodhya was demolished by Kar Sevaks on December 6, 1992.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shailesh Kumar Pandey said the law and order situation would not be allowed to be disturbed. A strict watch was also being kept on social media, he said. The orders of the Supreme Court would be followed and the implementation of prohibitory orders

SSP Shailesh Kumar Pandey said the law and order situation would not be allowed to be disturbed. A strict watch was also being kept on social media, he said. The orders of the Supreme Court would be followed and the implementation of prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPC would be ensured in letter and spirit, he said

under Section 144 of CrPC would be ensured in letter and spirit, he said. The organisation had given a similar call last year but their plan was scuttled by the district administration. "No new tradition or ritual will be allowed to be performed," Pandey said.

Earlier, ABHM had sought permission to perform 'Jalabhishek' of Laddu Gopal and recital of Hanuman Chalisa at the Shri Krishna

Janmabhoomi-Eidgah complex in Mathura on Tuesday even as the district administration has banned gatherings and demonstrations there. Nearly 1,500 police, armed constabulary, and paramilitary force personnel were being deployed and traffic restrictions enforced near Shri Krishna Janmasthan temple and Shahi Eidgah Masjid in the temple town, officials had said on Monday.



चौधरी चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, मेरठ

अधिसूचना

(34वाँ दीक्षान्त समारोह)

चौधरी चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय मेरठ का 34वाँ दीक्षान्त समारोह बुधस्तिवार, दिनांक 15 दिसम्बर 2022 को नियत है। दीक्षान्त समारोह की अध्यक्षता माननीय कुलाधिपति महोदय / महामहिम राज्यपाल उ0प्र0, श्रीमती आनंदी बेन पटेल जी द्वारा की जायेगी। समारोह के विशिष्ट अतिथि उत्तर प्रदेश के माननीय उच्च शिक्षा मंत्री श्री योगेन्द्र उपाध्याय जी तथा मुख्य अतिथि पदमश्री जे0न00 बजाज, अध्यक्ष, भारतीय सामाजिक विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद (आई0सी0एस0एस0आर0), नई दिल्ली होंगे। दीक्षान्त समारोह में पदक, प्रमाण पत्र एवं विभिन्न पाठ्यक्रमों की उपाधियाँ प्रदान की जायेगी। समारोह का कार्यक्रम तथा अन्य विवरण विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट www.ccsuniversity.ac.in पर पृथक से अपलोड है।

(श्रीरेन्द्र कुमार)
कुलसचिव

7-year-old boy kidnapped, murdered in Deoria

Lucknow (PNS): In a sensational incident, a 7-year-old boy was kidnapped and murdered in Deoria district. The kidnappers had demanded a ransom of Rs 30 lakh. The SOG recovered the body from Pokhara in Rampur Buzurg village of Hata in Kushinagar.

The accused — Azharuddin of Pipra Madangopal village of Rampur factory, Suraj Bharti of Shahpur Belwa and Aneesh Ansari of Madan Gopal Pipra area — were arrested. Surprisingly, instead of making any call, the kidnappers demanded the extortion by pasting a piece of paper near a tomb close to the

house of the victim.

Reports said that Nasir, son of Eid Mohammed, a resident of Kasya Bypass Road near Universal Public School in Krishna Colony, was a student of Anjuman Islamia, Malviya Road. Nasir was kidnapped on November 4 morning.

When he did not return home, his family members started searching for him and later lodged a missing complaint at the Sadar Kotwali. On Tuesday, the kidnappers made the extortion demand.

The family informed the police, who with the help of CCTV footage, located the youth who pasted the 'notice'

near the tomb. Eid Mohammad sells goods near the tomb, hence the kidnappers pasted the chit there. The cops rounded up the suspect who spilled the beans. Deoria SP Sankalp Sharma said that the body was recovered from Pokhara area of Rampur Buzurg village of Kushinagar and three kidnappers had been nabbed.

Meanwhile, a man died of electrocution while connecting an 11,000-volt line near Chowki Chauraha in Bareilly. Reports said that the deceased, who was a lineman, was working under the preparations of a programme of the chief minister.

BJP cheated people through fake promises: Afzal Ansari

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party MP Afzal Ansari targeted the Bharatiya Janata Party, claiming that if the system of democracy was established, it would lose in Mainpuri, Rampur and Khatauli bypolls.


He alleged that the BJP had cheated people through fake promises. "The Supreme Court had also said that the election commissioner was being appointed in a hurry in 24 hours. BJP is such a tree under which no crop can grow," Ansari said.

On the question of mafia Brijesh Singh, the BSP MP said that the power (government) was standing with the

one who kept running away from the law for 25 years. "Brijesh Singh's name is on the list of mafia, but no action will be taken against him," Ansari said.

He claimed that the Modi government would not win the Lok Sabha elections in 2024. "Even after winning 80 seats in UP, the BJP will not get 200 seats," he said.

"There are crores of people more knowledgeable and capable in this country than PM Narendra Modi. He is a specialist in telling lies," Ansari said when he appeared in a court on Monday. In the year 2001, he was produced in the case of sabotage during the demonstration in Mohammadabad tehsil.



Bank of India

'Relationship Beyond Banking'

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices to below mentioned Borrower/Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest at other charges with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the below mentioned properties in exercise of power conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The borrower/guarantor in particular and public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Bank of India. The borrowers/guarantors 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.

Name of the Borrower/Guarantor	Demand Notice Dt. Possession Date Amount as per Demand	Description of Properties Mortgaged/Owner of the Properties
Branch: Ratan Lal Nagar, 122, Main Road, Ratan Lal Nagar Kanpur -208022		
Borrower: 1. Mr. Saurabh Srivastava S/o Mr. Vimlesh Kumar Srivastava 2. Mrs. Kiran Srivastava W/o Mr. Saurabh Srivastava	Demand Notice Dt. 01.07.2022 Possession Date 01.12.2022 Rs. 22,55,135.77 (Rs. Twenty Two Lakhs Fifty Thousand One Hundred Thirty Five and Paise Seventy Seven Only)	All that part & parcel of Land and Building situated at House No. 20, MIG-1 Block Phase 2 Scheme No. 40, Panki, Ganganagar, Kanpur-208020 admeasuring 58.80 Sqmtr Owned by Mr. Saurabh Srivastava S/o Mr. Vimlesh Kumar Srivastava (Borrower) and Mrs. Kiran Srivastava W/o Mr. Saurabh Srivastava (Borrower) Boundaries: East: 9.00 Mtr. Wide Road, West: Park & 5.00 Mtr. Wide Road, North: Plot No. 21, South: Plot No. 19
Date: 07.12.2022		Place: Kanpur Authorised Office: Bank of India

340 plots allotted



KDA Vice-Chairman Arvind Singh inaugurating the lottery for allotment of EWS plots (Left) in the (Right) KDA team demolishing unauthorised construction on its land in Maswanpur.

PNS ■ KANPUR

As many as 340 applicants were allotted the plots through the lottery system organised by Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) on Monday. The lottery for the remaining 31 plots could not be organised as there were no applicants for the same. The allotment process for these plots will be organised again in due course. KDA had invited applications for allotment of 371 EWS residential plots between August 5 and September 21. Out of 825 applications received against 371 plots, 797 were found eligible. They were allotted the plots through lottery on

Monday. Earlier the lottery was inaugurated by KDA Vice-Chairman Arvind Singh at the Atal Behari Vajpayee auditorium by lighting the ceremonial lamp. These plots were situated in Panki Bhau Singh (Kalindri Nagar), Panki Gangaganj Phase-1, Shatabdi Nagar, Ramganga Enclave and Ratanpur Extension Part-2 Schemes.

KDA GETS LAND WORTH ₹6 CRORE VACATED

The Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) got its 5,000 square metre land worth Rs 6 crore vacated from unauthorised possession in Maswanpur on Monday. Land mafia had unauthorisedly secured posses-

sion on this land of Arazi Nos. 582 Part, 583 Part and 579 and carried out plotting there. On the directives of KDA Vice-Chairman Arvind Singh, the team led by tehsildar Archana Agnihotri reached Mohisinpur alias Maswanpur and found the construction of boundary wall, houses and plotting on this land. Seeing the squad people having unauthorised possession on this land lodged a protest but were chased by the security force. The occupiers said they had purchased the plot on this land and showed relevant documents to officials but the latter held that the entire land of 5,000 square metre belonged to KDA and got it vacated from them.

IIT-K continues to see record number of offers

Kanpur (PNS): The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, continues to see record number of offers in the ongoing placement season 2022-23 which started on December 1. As on date the institute had received a total of 682 job offers from 157 national as well as international companies. Up till now 836 students had secured jobs through campus placement and PPOs (pre-placement offers). Apart from the regular hiring, 207 students had bagged PPOs from

national and international companies, approximately 33 per cent higher than the placement session 2021-22. The highest package so far this year for domestic was Rs 1.9 crore while there were a good number of packages from international recruiters as well. In all 33 offers above INR 1 crore had been received. Last year the highest packages at the end of phase I of placement season 2021-22 were US\$ 287,550 for international and Rs. 1.2 crore for domestic.

Murder case worked out

PNS ■ KANPUR

Vidhnu police have worked out the murder case of a woman and arrested two persons, including her paramour. During questioning the accused said he had given 'supari' of Rs 70,000 for the killing of the woman. Addressing mediapersons at the Police Lines auditorium, ADCP Ankita Sharma said police had recovered the body of Sushila (45) of Bliss Chauraha, Barra, from the bush near Hanuman temple on Kisan Nagar road under

Vidhnu police station area on Friday morning.

Her son Chandan had alleged the involvement of a scrap dealer Prem Kesarwani in the killing of his mother. Police took Prem Kesarwani to forensic lab where he confessed to his crime. The accused informed that due to Sushila he had started distancing himself from his wife and two children.

A fortnight ago Sushila visited his shop and demanded 50 per cent share in business and house. At that time his friend Rajesh Gautam of Mannipurwa, Panki, was also

present. He asked Rajesh to help in eliminating Sushila and expressed his willingness to spend Rs 70000 on this work. As per plan, Prem took Sushila to Hanuman temple on Kisan Nagar Road, Vidhnu, on Thursday evening where Rajesh Gautam along with Ajay, Dinesh and Shani on two bikes were already present. With their help Prem killed Sushila and dumped the body in the nearby bush. At his behest, police have arrested Rajesh Gautam while raids were on to nab the three other accomplices, ADCP said.

Blood donation camp organised

PNS ■ KANPUR

Principal of Government Leather Institute, Dr Richa, while inaugurating the blood donation camp jointly organised by the Institute and Mayanjali Charitable Blood Bank on Tuesday said nothing was nobler than donating blood and saving life. She said the offer to organise blood donation camp was being seen as an honour. She said in future also the institute will organise blood donation camps and appealed to people to donate blood to save precious lives.

The doctor incharge of Mayanjali Charitable Blood Bank said blood donation was a vital part of worldwide healthcare and allows blood transfusion as a life-sustaining



A view of the blood donation camp organised on Tuesday.

and life-saving procedure. She said ironically over the world only a minority of the country's population donated blood. The most important

reason for not donating blood were majorly two — first personal perception of the blood system and blood donation and this was influenced by

misinformation, lack of information, misunderstanding and image. Second, non-donation was related to several practical circumstances, infrastructure, time, distance, sociocultural background, economic level and health status.

She said it was accepted the world over that voluntary blood donation was the foundation of sound, safe and sustainable blood transfusion service. She said motivation had to be an integral part of the blood transfusion service. He said it had not so far received the required attention both in the Centre and state policies and plans. She said the aim of the blood donor service should be to create a system that encouraged individuals in the community to start and then continue donating blood.

She said blood donation in India mentioned the most important reason for not donating blood related to the personal perception of the blood transfusion. She added that 98 per cent people were aware of blood donation mainly through organisers, 55 per cent followed by the colleges, 20 per cent schools and among non-donors 38 per cent feared of infection while 21 per cent feared needle. She said there was need to bring awareness and to encourage individuals in the community to start and then continue donating blood. Later the principal handed over certificates of merit to the blood donors. Satyendra Singh, Shishir Kumar, Naresh Kumar, Yogendra Singh, NK Chaubey and several others were present.

Ethanol production capacity reaches 947 crore litres per annum

PNS ■ KANPUR

National Sugar Institute (NSI), Kanpur, is playing a key role in Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP) aimed at achieving 10 and 20 per cent

blending of ethanol in petrol by 2022 and 2025 respectively. The blending was just 1.53 per cent with 38 crore litres in 2013-14 but after the announcement of National Biofuel Policy, 2018, the programme gathered momentum and more than 10 per cent blending with more than 400 crore litre had been achieved in the Ethanol Supply Year 2021-22.

Director Prof Narendra Mohan informed that it was a matter of pride that technical inputs for providing financial assistance for setting up or expansion of ethanol units were provided by the NSI to Government of India as a result of which ethanol production capacity today had reached 947 crore litre per annum which included 619 crore litre from molasses-based distilleries and 328 crore litres of grain-based distilleries.

Prof Narendra Mohan said the capacity was expected to reach 1,250 crore litre by December 2023 and 1,700 crore litre per annum by 2025.

Narendra Mohan said the 20 per cent blending would result in reduction of green house gases, energy security of the country by reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels as well as saving of foreign exchange of more than Rs 50,000 crore per annum

by ESY 2025-26.

Prof Mohan added that the success of EBP till date had brought multiple benefits for the country ranging from farmers and rural economy to sugar industry and the green initiatives of the Government as committed in COP-26 by Prime Minister of India.

Prof Mohan said previously the country was producing ethanol only through final molasses but now with the positive policy framework and active technical support from NSI, Kanpur, it was being produced from B heavy molasses, sugarcane juice or syrup and grains of rice and maize.

He said during 2021-22 major share, 60 per cent, was estimated from B heavy molasses and approximately 20 per cent each from sugarcane juice and grains.

Prof Narendra Mohan said the damaged food grains were being utilised to a greater extent for the purpose.

He said there were certain initial technical issues, particularly at fermentation and effluent handling stages for which NSI provided solutions. Prof Narendra Mohan said experts of the institute were continuously visiting ethanol units to provide technical support and to validate their processes.

Budding cricketer selected in national squad

PNS ■ KANPUR

Budding cricketer Archana Devi of the city has been selected in national squad which will participate in U-19 World Cup to be held in South Africa next year.

Archana is a right hand off break bowler and presently playing in India's Under-19 team against visiting New Zealand in T-20 series of five matches in Mumbai. Her performance in three matches



Archana Devi of Kanpur selected in national squad to participate in the U-19 World Cup.

played so far there has been satisfactory.

Earlier Archana had hauled six wickets in four matches representing India-A team in quadrilateral series and performed well in Challenger Trophy.

Besides, in U-19 T-20 championship she had hauled maximum 13 wickets by representing the Uttar Pradesh team.

According to Alok Gupta, honorary secretary, Kanpur

Cricket Association, the other three UP players selected in 15-member national squad were Falak Naz (medium fast bowler, Prayagraj), Parshavi Chopra (leg break bowler, Gautam Buddha Nagar) and Sonam Yadav (left hand spin bowler, Firozabad).

KCA Chairman Dr Sanjay Kapoor and other office-bearers congratulated Archana Devi for her selection in the Indian squad and wished her all success.

Postal life insurance scope expanded: PMG

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Postmaster General (PMG) of Varanasi Region Krishna Kumar Yadav said that the Central Government has now extended the scope of postal life insurance, which started as a shield of social security for government and semi-government employees. "Now all the graduates/diploma holders of any university/institution recognised by the central or state governments will also be able to take advantage of postal life insurance. Under postal life insurance, the facility of insurance ranging from Rs 20,000 to Rs 50 lakh is available in post offices across

the country," he said. According to the PMG, the scheme is very popular because of the attractive rate of bonus. The rate of bonus on the policy ranges from Rs 52 per thousand to Rs76 per thousand. At present there are more than 1.50 lakh policies of postal life insurance and rural postal life insurance in Varanasi Region. Yadav said that life insurance is an essential requirement of today's era as well as a safe medium of savings and investment. "Postal life insurance is the oldest insurance scheme in the country, which started in 1884. Eligibility for postal life insurance so far includes employees of central and state

governments, public sector undertakings, government-aided educational institutions, nationalised banks, defence services, para-military forces and private sector professionals such as engineers, doctors, bankers, lawyers, architects, journalists and employees of companies listed on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) were involved," he said.

He further informed that postal life insurance includes Suraksha (whole life insurance), Santosh (Fixed Fund Deposit), Suvidha, Sumangal, Yugal Suraksha and children's policies.

APPENDIX IV A
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 09.01.2023 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 26,35,180/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Thirty Five Thousand One Hundred Eighty only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLLKN00358452, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 30.11.2022 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 01.12.2022 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from Vikrant Tripathi and Shubhi Tripathi.
The Reserve Price of the Immoveable Property will be Rs. 32,50,000/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Fifty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 3,25,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh Twenty Five Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Property being Residential House/Bhavan constructed on Plot No.-A, Kharsa No. 310 Min, Rakhs (area) 1270 Sq. Feet, i.e 118.029 Sq. Mtrs., situated at Village Madiyagaon, Ward Jankipuram, District Lucknow, within the jurisdiction of Sub-Registrar, IV Lucknow. The Plot is bounded as under:-
East :- Property of others
West :- 20 Feet wide road
North:- Sachin Sarawangi Plot
South:- Plot No.-B, Shiv Kumar
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in
Date : 01.12.2022
Place : LUCKNOW
Sd/
Authorized Officer
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LTD.

Plantation drive organised

PNS ■ KANPUR

The Ordnance Parachute Factory (OPF) which is the unit of Gliders India Ltd organised a sapling plantation drive on Tuesday on its premises which was part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. It was inaugurated by General Manager Sushil Sinha. He appealed to the staff and officials to take active part in tree plantation drive. He said the aesthetic appeal of an premises rests more on tree plantation and this not only added a beautiful environment but also has a positive impact on the people closely linked to it. He said trees promoted a strong economy and can provide numerous resources to people that needed them. While cities were getting hotter trees can reduce urban temperatures. He said they provided habitat and food for animals and birds. Sinha said tree planting



OPF organised a plantation drive on Tuesday

was recognised as one of the most engaging environmentally friendly activities that people can take part for the betterment the Mother Earth. He said trees provided a multitude of benefits both long and short term. As well as being attractive aesthetically, they remove and store carbon from the

atmosphere, slow heavy rain and so reduce the risk of flooding, enhance air quality and improve urban heat. He added that trees greatly benefited people living around them by having a positive impact on mental health and well-being, reducing stress and encouraging outdoor exercise.

He said there was also a need to take care of the tree planted so that they grow into big shady ones. Joint General Manager, S Bannerjee, Security Officer, Lt Col Sameer Lamba, DGM, KK Toppo, Administrative Officer, Amar Deep Kumar and all the staff and officials of OPF took part.

Uttarakhand Police Headquarters
12 Subhash Marg Dehradun
Tender No. DG-III-1(Mod)2022
Date: December, 05 2022
EXTENSION TENDER NOTICE
Sealed e-tenders was invited from manufacturer/authorised dealer for the supply and installation of Smart & Intelligent Command and Control Room in three district.
The date of receipt of tender & opening of tender is being extended as follows:-

Sl. No.	Name of the items	Bids Number	Last date & Time for receipt of tender	Date & Time for opening of technical offer
1	Smart & Intelligent Command and Control Room	DG-3(Mod)-1-2022	19.12.2022 11:00Hrs	19.12.2022 12:00Hrs

For more Information of E-tender Please Login <http://uktenders.gov.in>
IG, P&M
Police HQ, Uttarakhand, Dehradun

‘Joint pain one of the major effects of chikungunya’

Kanpur (PNS): Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Alok Ranjan while addressing a meeting at Ursula Hospital on Tuesday said chikungunya is caused by virus and known to be spread by an infected mosquito biting people. He said stiffness and joint pain after chikungunya can persist for up to three years in cases of relapse if evident. He said chikungunya symp-

toms often developed three to seven days after first being bitten and they include fever and joint discomfort but can also have other sensations like chronic fatigue, headache, nausea or redness.

He said since joint pain was one of the major effects of chikungunya, people tend to find an effective post-chikungunya joint pain treatment to

help with the pain.

He said it hindered people's daily routine and added that there were quite a few post-chikungunya joint treatment home remedies to get rid of joint pain after chikungunya to some extent. These can help bring down the body temperature and provide ease to the consistent body aches. He said regular exercising was

the best and most effective solution to joint pain and said it was important to keep patient's joints active.

He advised people to do some movement after the person woke up to get rid of stiffness.

He said one can start with some simple exercises like stretching the arms and legs to promote movement of joints at

least twice a day. He advised that eating proper food can ensure higher level of energy since joint pains and the after chikungunya joint pain treatment can make the patient feel weak and dull.

He said eating good nutritious food while keeping junk foods at bay was one of the best post chikungunya joint pain treatments.

KTS venue glitters with diyas as Tamils celebrate Karthigai Deepam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS) venue at Amphitheatre grounds in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) was illuminated with thousands of diyas (earthen lamps) as the Tamil participants in ongoing month-long KTS celebrated Karthigai Deepam festival with all traditional gaiety and religious fervour here on Tuesday evening. To give the festival a grand shape, the entire venue was decorated with lamps by the students of BHU and guests from Tamil Nadu.

Under the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' campaign, delegations from Tamil Nadu continuously arrived here as the cultural relations between Kashi and Tamil Nadu are centuries old and to attend this grand festival, not only the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and union ministers Niramala Sitharaman and Dharmendra Pradhan but also dozens of central and state government ministers, dignitaries and others arrived here. In the coming days, many more dignitaries are also expected to participate in KTS.

Karthigai Deepam is a famous Tamil festival associated with Lord Shiva and the celebration of the same in this land of Lord Shiva added a new dimension of its religious fervour. According to mythology, Lord Shiva appeared as a flame of light before Lord Vishnu and Lord Brahma, who each believed himself to be supreme. To assert his supremacy, Lord Shiva challenged him to find either his head or his feet. Vishnu took the form of Varaha (Varaha) and went into the depths of the earth but could



KTS venue in BHU being glittered with diyas on the occasion of Karthigai Deepam festival in Varanasi on Tuesday evening.

not be found. Brahma assumed the form of a swan and told that he had identified Lord Shiva with the help of Tajhampu flower. Lord Shiva sensed the lie and cursed that there would be no temple of Brahma in the world and Thazhampoo flower would not be used while worshipping him. It is believed that the day Shiva appeared in the form of a flame before Vishnu and Brahma is celebrated as Karthigai Deepam.

Meanwhile, under the ongoing photo exhibition being organised by the Central Bureau of Communications, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, at KTS venue, a quiz competition on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and Dr BR Ambedkar was conducted. The students of Rising India School (Suswahi) paid rich tributes to Dr Ambedkar on his death anniversary. They also high-

lighted the contribution of Dr Ambedkar in the making of the constitution apart from social reforms for the uplift of the weaker sections of the society. The programme was coordinated by regional publicity officers Dr Lalji (Varanasi) and Tariq Aziz (Azamgarh).

Earlier, on the BHU campus, Sayaji Rao Gaekwad Central Library has displayed rare Tamil books and palm leaf manuscripts. Padma Shri Chamu Krishnashastry, President of Bhartiya Bhasha Samiti and chief convener of KTS inaugurated the exhibition. The library has displayed various Tamil texts since 1890 and 12 manuscripts written in the Tamil scripts in the 17th and 18th centuries. These include the first copies of early Tamil plays, books gifted to Annie Besant, books explaining Tamil musical techniques, books on Saiva philosophy and

books of Subramunia Bharati apart from the translations of Ramayana, Mahabharata in Tamil etc.

The exhibition of these valuable collections will run for 12 days till December 16 every day from 11 am to 7 pm in the manuscript and rare documents section adjacent to the central hall of the Central Library. Inaugurating the exhibition, Krishnashastry said that it is a matter of great pleasure that these ancient and rare documents have been properly preserved in the university library. The function was also attended by Director of Central Institute of Classical Tamil Prof Ira Chandrasekaran and BHU Librarian Dr Devendra Kumar Singh, Deputy Librarian Dr Suchita Singh, Assistant Librarian Dr R Parameswaran, Dr T Jagatheesan and Dr Vignesh Anand.

PDA plans to bulldoze properties of Atique's relatives

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Mafia Atique Ahmed may be imprisoned in Sabarmati jail but his difficulties are not reduced yet. While bulldozers were used on the illegal properties of Atique, now the district administration and PDA (Prayagraj Development Authority) are keeping an eye on the illegal properties of people close to him. Now there is a plan to bulldoze the construction of builders close to Atique and his brother Ashraf.

According to PDA officials, properties worth more than Rs 65 crore have been identified so far. Preparations are on to demolish it soon with bulldozers.

According to PDA Vice Chairman Arvind Chauhan, a list of builders close to Atique who are doing illegal construc-

tion is being prepared. Those who have got the construction done or are getting the construction done without getting the map passed will be completely demolished.

Most of the properties of the people associated with Atique Ahmed and Ashraf are in Jhalwa, Dhoomanganj area. Apart from this, there are illegal properties in Lukerganj, Civil Lines, Shahganj, Chowk, Bahadurganj, Gausnagar, Kareli. Bulldozer action has to be taken on illegal construction in these areas. In this, some builders have erected multi-storey buildings in different areas of the city without passing the map, which are being marked. A notice is being sent to these people by the PDA.

Mafia Atique's brother Ashraf's wife still has properties worth crores. In the Jhalwa area, brokers are working to sell

land by misleading people. Those who go to buy land are told that this Ashraf is someone else and not Atique's brother. This is the reason that most of the people move away from there after knowing the truth and some people are getting trapped.

UPRTOU CONVOCA-TION CEREMONY ON DEC 19: The convocation ceremony of Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University (UPRTOU) is going to be held on December 19. Its preparations have started from the university administration. This time the number of gold medals has increased from 22 to 24 in the convocation ceremony.

This time gold medals have been added to the names of two more donors. State Governor and Chancellor Anandi Ben Patel will give medals to the

meritorious. In fact, the last date for application for amendment or objections in the marksheet was Monday, now the list of toppers will be prepared by the university from Tuesday.

Rajarshi Tandon Open University has 12 regional centers and more than 1300 study centers in the state. Now the date of December 5 was fixed to remove the objections from all the centres. Now the topper list of 24 courses will be made. Soon the list of toppers will also be released. Shivpati Dwivedi Memorial Gold Medal to the Home Science topper and Santosh Kumar Dixit Memorial Gold Medal to the student securing highest marks in any subject in post graduation will be conferred. Preparations are going on fast from the side of the university administration.

DM inspects paddy purchase centre

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

District Magistrate Sanjay Kumar Khatri inspected the paddy purchase center set up at Naribari and Jasra. Giving clear instructions to the marketing inspector and paddy purchase center in-charge, the DM said that farmers should not face any kind of problem in selling paddy.

The District Magistrate received information about the progress of paddy purchase at the Food Department and PCF purchase centers in Naribari. On being asked about any kind of problem in selling paddy from the farmers present at the

paddy purchase center, on the complaint of some farmers about the delay in issuing tokens for selling paddy, the District Magistrate directed the marketing inspector of the Naribari paddy purchase center Shweta Pandey to submit an explanation in this regard.

He has given a stern warning to the in-charge of the center on the delay in the payment of farmers' paddy purchase at the PCF purchase center located there, saying that the price of farmers' paddy purchase should be compulsorily transferred to their account within the prescribed time limit, in this If any kind of complaint is

found, strictest action will be taken against the concerned center in-charge.

The District Magistrate said that the farmers should get the token on time, as well as the date of purchase of their paddy should be fixed and informed to the farmers at the time of giving the token, so that the farmers do not have to come to the paddy purchase center again and again. The District Magistrate observed the register related to the purchase of paddy at the purchase centers, as well as obtained information about the condition of selling paddy on mobile and payment of price from the farmers sell-

ing paddy mentioned in the register. He has also instructed to ensure the delivery of paddy regularly. After this, the District Magistrate also inspected the food department and paddy purchase center of FCI made in Jasra and observed the register related to the purchase of paddy there and got information about the status of paddy purchase and payment of the price of paddy.

Directing the Deputy RMO, the District Magistrate said that there should not be any complaint in the purchase of paddy from the farmers and payment of their price.

Install CCTV cameras at most sensitive polling centres: DM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam on Tuesday directed the officers to make determination of most sensitive, sensitive and general wards as per the present circumstances and ensure the installation of CCTV cameras at most sensitive and sensitive polling centres.

At a meeting of Trans-Varuna and Bhelupur zones relating to the urban local bodies election held at Rifle Club here when the DM was informed by the Ramnagar police that some people of Bengal are living in slum locality in Ramnagar, he directed the concerned police to hold a meeting with all BLOs of the respective area and gather information whether the name of these people is in voter list or not.

To determine the most sensitive, sensitive and general wards as per the present circumstances, he directed, adding that it should also be ensured that the names of voters of the most sensitive and sensitive polling centres are in the voters' lists or not to avoid any dispute on the polling day.



DM S Rajalingam chairing a meeting on Tuesday.

Pioneer

To ensure the installation of CCTV cameras at the most sensitive and sensitive polling centres, the DM directed and added that the persons to affect the election should be identified and action under 107/16 should be ascertained against them before the polling. Information should also be collected about the candidates whether they are accused of any criminal incident or not, he directed further.

The officers of both zones

and others were present in the meeting.

Earlier, while chairing a meeting late Monday evening at Town Hall, the DM directed the zonal and police officers to search the places where Rohingia and Bangladeshi live and keep close vigil on their activities and directed the COs to ensure the deposition of licensed firearms and received written application with reason from those who want relaxation from depositing their

licensed firearms and make the applications available to the screening committee.

The DM directed for constituting teams of ACP, zonal officers and ACM zone wise to ensure the removal of the illegal banners, posters, wall writing, etc. He also directed the officers related to election to visit the polling booths and directed the deputy district election officer to make available the information about the polling booth to the voters.

Tributes paid to Ambedkar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Varanasi Division of NER on Tuesday observed the 67th death anniversary of Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Dr BR Ambedkar at the office of DRM in Lahartara here in which the DRM Ramashray Pandey, ADRM, Infrastructure Gyanesh Tripathi, ADRM, Operation Shiv Pratap Singh Yadav, ADRM, Administration Rahul Srivastava and other officers paid their tribute to him. Speaking on the occasion, the DRM said that Baba Saheb was the great personality not only of India but also of the world and he had searched the way to eradicate discrimination and inequality prevailing in the society and fought for the uplift of women his entire life. It was his efforts that the government launched many welfare schemes for the women, he said and emphasised on contributing in the development of the nation by following the way of Baba Saheb. The divisional personnel officer Vivek Mishra conducted the programme.



The death anniversary of Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Dr BR Ambedkar observed at the office of DRM of Varanasi Division, NER.

Pioneer

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) organised a programme at Shastri Ghat and the party leaders and workers paid their tributes to Baba Saheb. The ex MLC and BSP leader Dr Vijay Pratap while speaking on the occasion said that Baba Saheb gave a new direction to the downtrodden and deprived section of the society and also brought them in the mainstream of the society by educating them. The society based on equality could be developed only by following the way of

Baba Saheb, he added. Virendra Singh Chauhan presided over the programme. The workers of Samajwadi Party (SP) organised a programme at the party office in Orderly Bazar and paid their tribute to Baba Saheb by paying floral tribute before his portrait and discussed his contribution to the nation and society. Dr Ambedkar had fought to get equal right to the deprived section of the society his whole life and he played an important role in improving the condition of the poor and

downtrodden, the SP leaders and workers said adding that Baba Saheb had played an important role in eradicating the social evils such as untouchability. City president Vishnu Sharma, Vijay Jaiswal, Heera Maurya, Mahendra Jaiswal, Shameem Ansari and others were present on the occasion.

BLACK DAY OBSERVED: The Muslims on Tuesday observed Black Day on the anniversary of the demolition of Babri structure and shut down their business establishments to show their protest. The markets in Muslim dominated areas such as Dalmandi, Benia Bagh, Nai Sarak, Gauriganj, Haraha Sarai, Rewadi Talab, etc remained closed as the minority community shut down their business establishments on the anniversary of the demolition of Babri structure to show their protest against the demolition. To maintain law and order situation and avoid any untoward incident, the police force was deployed in these areas.

Volunteers walk for 'Save Soil' movement

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

On World Soil Day, Save Soil movement volunteers walked from Manmohan park crossing to the Bhardwaj Park covering Netram Chauraha and Colonelganj areas bringing attention for saving the dying soil, a calamity of a global scale that poses an existential threat to humanity.

The Corporator of the area Anand Ghildiyal with his son, Utkarsh. Other dignitaries included representatives from the Vyapar Mandal, Pramod Sahu and Subash. Members of the Allahabad Medical Association, Dr Yugantar Pandey, Dr Ashutosh Gupta, Dr Rachna Dwivedi and many

others also joined the awareness campaign. The NSUI State Secretary Abhishek Shukla joined the cause. Rotary club members also joined in the walk.

The global movement to Save Soil was launched by Sadhguru, Founder Isha Foundation, in March this year in an urgent bid to halt and reverse soil degradation. For the past many months Save Soil volunteers from Prayagraj have been doing some or the other activity to bring people's attention to Save Soil, like walking in different areas on every third Sunday of each month.

More than 300 car stickers were distributed and awareness

has been raised among the public about dying soil by the volunteers who were present there. Similar walks also happened in many other places in UP like Lucknow, Kashi, Agra, Muzaffarnagar, Kanpur and Gorakhpur.

According to The Economics and Land Degradation (ELD) Initiative 2015, 52 per cent of our planet's agricultural soil is already degraded and incapable of yield. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) predicts crop yields could fall by 50 per cent in certain regions by 2050 due to climate change and soil extinction. Understanding the urgency, Sadhguru, in March,

undertook a 100-day, 30000 km solo bike journey across 27 nations in Europe, Central Asia, Middle East and 11 Indian states. The movement in a short span of time has met resounding success reaching over 3.91 billion people. As many as 81 nations committed to frame soil-friendly policies. International organizations that are leading ecological action, such as the International Union of Conservation of Nations (IUCN) and United Nations (UN) agencies-United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), World Food Programme (WFP), and many others have come forward to partner with the movement.

Meditation centre at Nishadraj park

PRAYAGRAJ (PNS): Devotees and pilgrims visiting Shringverpur Dham, located on the banks of river Ganga and around 40 kilometers from the district headquarter would soon be able to avail facilities like, Yoga and meditation centre along with clean and healthy cuisines at a cafeteria at the Nishad Park of this tourist spot, famous for its association with Ramayana.

Work for these facilities has begun in the second phase of the development of the Nishadraj park of Shringverpur dham. The spot was recently mentioned by the Prime Minister at Ayodhya.

The commencement of the work of setting up a Yoga and Meditation Centre along with a cafeteria has started and the ambitious project of the government would be completed within the stipulated time frame, said project manager of Uttar Pradesh Project Corporation Limited, Rajesh Kumar Sharma. The work of the second phase is being carried out at a cost of about Rs 15 crores, he added. Moreover, the park is being given a green cover with Ramayana period vegetation and trees being planted so that the tourists can feel the 'Treta Yug'. For this, research has been done by

experts to identify those trees which are useful for health along with greenery. The official further informed that in the first phase of Nishadraj Park, a statue of Lord Ram and Nishad Raj (the boatman who helped Ram to cross Ganga as per Ramayan) has been installed by the culture department with a budget of about Rs three crores. Now in the first phase, the work of making stairs from the entrance to the statue gallery and pedestal will be done. After that the work of stone work, wall lining, ornamental stone work, arch design, granite flooring, stone cladding, makrana stone flooring, gran-

ite cobble etc. will start. The main entrance will be given the form of a temple by making three domes on top of the gallery being built next to the hugging idol of Nishadraj and Lord Ram. The official added that in the second phase of the work, the work of the Meditation Centre has been started first. After this, the park will be equipped by making a huge auditorium, food plaza and a pond on one side. Along with this, the plan to build a store and guardroom for security is also included in the second phase. As soon as this is done, the complete form of the park will be visible.

Stress on increasing income of farmers

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

DM Divya Mittal visited the farming of dragon fruit in Nuaanv village under City block on Monday. During it farmer Ramji Dubey said he had spent about Rs 16 lakh and started farming on four bighas of land and now was earning a handsome amount by selling the fruit at the rate of Rs 200-300 per kg at his field. The DHO apprised the DM that at present farming of dragon fruit was being done at 85 acres of land in the district. He said production of dragon fruit is expected to be 100 tonnes in year 2023. He said Rs 30,000 per hectare subsidy was being given by the government and for irrigation subsidy was provided up to 90 per cent of the cost for drip irrigation. The

DM praised the initiative of the DHO and asked to take all possible steps to increase income of farmers.

SUICIDE: A youth committed suicide under Dehat Kotwali police station on Ajay Yadav (20) of Khutahaan village under Dehat Kotwali police station was preparing for competitive examinations and residing in a rented house in Jamunahiya under Dehat Kotwali police station and was running coaching classes too. In the morning a coaching student entered his room but did not find him. After the search Ajay was found dead on the roof with a countrymade gun in his hand with which he had committed suicide. On information SHO Vipin Singh reached the spot, recovered the suicide note and informed

the family members. After registering the case the police took the body to complete the legal formalities.

IMPRISONMENT: Three accused on Monday were sentenced to one year imprisonment along with Rs 6,000 fine under SC/ST Act and other sections. Shiksha mitra of a school Ramesh Kumar in Raikal village under Lalganj police station had lodged a named case against the accused alleging that they not only manhandled him but abused too mentioning the caste in year 2011. After investigation police submitted the chargesheet. The accused were identified as Gopal Mishra, Rajneesh Mishra and Rajesh Kumar.

ADVERSE ENTRY: For committing irregularity in con-

nivance with rice mill owner in paddy purchase process the incharge of paddy procurement centre was awarded adverse entry along with withdrawal of one annual increment and departmental action on Monday. During the checking of SDM Lalganj the irregularity was found at Babura Kala centre for which an inquiry committee was set up by ADM(F&R) Shiv Pratap Shukla. After inquiry the charge proved. The incharge of the centre and secretary cooperative Babura was removed from the post of centre incharge.

District marketing officer Dhananjay Singh said apart from the action which had already been taken a departmental inquiry also had been recommended.

FIRST COLUMN

EMOTIONS SPOIL LIFE GOAL; AIM SENSIBLY


Lord Krishna counsels a realistic and sensible approach



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Lord Krishna guides in the Bhagavad-Geeta, when He states, "In the bonafide Sankhya philosophy, these five causes have been stated for success in all actions." (18.13) These are, "The place of action, the doer, many different kinds of instruments, many different efforts and the providence." (18.14) The Lord states further, "Whatever action is begun by a man by body, speech and mind, these five are the causes of them." (18.15) Lord Krishna summarises, "This being the case, still, who on account of immature intelligence thinks himself as the only doer, he is foolish; he does not understand." (18.16)

Are we being foolish? Are we aiming too big or too small? Are we being realistic and sensible in setting our goals? Let us see if we are. There should be a fair assessment of the following. What are our abilities? Connected with this is our potential. An example will help us understand. Suppose there is a girl. Unfortunately, she is not pretty. On top of it she has tendency of becoming obese. Should she plan to enter the glamour world? No, she must focus on something to do with intelligence, if she is sharp in studies. Next come resources. What is available to us? Suppose there is a boy from a poor family, focus on getting a good job to begin his professional life. On the other hand, a boy from a rich family can plan to become a businessman. He should study and specialise in management from the best institutions.



The third criterion must be circumstances and opportunities available. A boy born to a yogi couple can think of becoming a yogi himself, blessed as he is. He has a tremendous start for making good spiritual progress in the present life. The fourth yardstick must be 'yukta cheshta' (appropriate efforts), as instructed by Lord Krishna in verse #6.17. Too much is counterproductive like a student appearing for an important exam studying all night. Too little is sick because all of us are expected to help ourselves as much as possible.

What does the Bhagavad-Geeta teach us in this connection? What did Lord Krishna promise Arjuna? In verse #2.37, He told Arjuna that if victorious he will enjoy the earth and if slain will achieve heaven. God did not even mention liberation because Arjuna was not an advanced devotee; he was just thinking of getting started, as he expressed in the verse #6.38. Lord clarified that a yogi, which Arjuna was not, achieves perfection due to practice of many births. (6.45) The creation works on the karmaphala principle, and mostly what we bring from our previous births come to fruition in the present life. Therefore, it is futile to imagine that we can achieve almost anything by our present efforts. This is not the way the creation works. For the present life, He counsels a realistic and sensible approach, when He states, "Be satisfied with any benefit, which comes of its own accord due to acts done earlier." (4.22)

If we continue to harbour unrealistic desires, we will only get frustrated and waste a valuable human life. This is a materialistic way of thinking, in which God and His rules are ignored. One violates the 'maryada' (limit) of thinking and goes very far from reality. Lord Krishna has clearly warned that we have right in action, not ever in pre-determining fruits. (2.47) 'Ahankar' (ego) prompts it and should be shunned. We will be well served.

(The author is a spiritual teacher)

Amrit Mahotsav: Saga to tell untold stories



ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL

Yesterday was the death anniversary of Ambedkar, which gave us the opportunity to remember the unsung heroes of India

The dawn of the historic 76th Independence Day has marked the beginning of the era of 'Amrit Kaal'. The valorous saga of struggle against the British Raj and subsequently earned freedom is the outcome of the immeasurable sacrifices of unsung heroes.

Amrit Mahotsav is celebrated to mark the 75th Birthday of the sage in mythology. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has conceptualized 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' by drawing a similar parallel to Independent India's 75th year journey. The ever-increasing public participation in Amrit Mahotsav events further pushes for the amalgamation of everything that aids in strengthening the political, social, and economic uplift of a value-driven India.


After the birth of Independent India, the pages of history remained knowingly and unknowingly skewed to celebrate specific Ideas and ideals that have shaped the India we breathe in today. The political aspiration and increasing groves of nepotism had hugely hampered the cause for crediting recognition to builders of the Nation. This opaque idealism towards their contribution might have been addressed in the short-term agenda of the then decision makers, but it became a sentimental hurt for many for a long time.

One such tallest nation builder, Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, had a similar fate as the subsequent regimes didn't heed the wholeness of Ambedkar's deed and the subsequent psychological undercurrent among his well-wishers and followers. It is a crystal clear fact that it took 34 years to posthumously award him Bharat Ratna, similar is the fate of the installation of his portrait in the Central Hall, a place where he drafted the Constitution of India. The echo of Ambedkar in the Central Hall was an echo of social, political and economic justice for newly budding independent India. The journey for installing a life-size portrait in Parliament's Central Hall is very heartening commentary for every fellow Ambedkarite.

A brief account of the record tells a grim picture of the happenings. As Dr Ambedkar breathed last on December 6, 1956, then onwards demand for installation for the Central Hall portrait was raised by his followers.

Despite the need, Jawaharlal Nehru rejected the demand for Dr. Ambedkar's portraits, and Moti Lal Nehru's portrait was installed on 30 March 1957. J.L. Nehru's intentions and deep-rooted superiority complex visibly come out in his remark dated July 23, 1957 on the portrait demand of Prantiya Jatav Sabha, Gwalior, wherein he says: "So far as Dr Ambedkar's portrait is concerned, I would have no objection to its being put up in the library or somewhere else provided it is relatively small or otherwise good."

Later, the same demand was declined again by the then Jawaharlal Nehru Portrait



THE LIFE-SIZE PORTRAIT, MADE BY ARTIST ZEBAMROHAWI AND DONATED BY 'THE BR AMBEDKAR VICHAR MANCH', WAS UNVEILED BY PRIME MINISTER VPSINGH ON APRIL 12, 1990, AS PART OF THE CENTENARY YEAR CELEBRATION OF AMBEDKAR'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

(The author is Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs, and Lok Sabha MP from Bikaner)



Parliamentary Committee on August 26, 1965, citing the unavailability of vacant panels in the central Hall. Ironically, the same unavailability turned to availability on May 5, 1966, when the Central Hall witnessed Pt Jawaharlal Nehru's portrait.

It was time when the nation was marking the 75th birth anniversary of Dr Ambedkar. This eager demand for a central hall portrait was pacified by issuing a mere 15th paise commemorative stamp. This indifferent attitude of the Congress government's insensitivity towards the aspiration of Dr Ambedkar's followers further intensified their demand.

Diluting from the core idea, Dr Ambedkar's bronze statue, received from Dr Baba Saheb Memorial Committee, was installed at Iron Gate No. 3 on 2nd April 1967. The Then Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi did not attend the statue unveiling ceremony.

Meanwhile, on November 19, 1987, the portrait of Indira Gandhi was installed in the Central Hall. At this stage, the demand for duly recognizing Baba Saheb's portrait gets further impetus, and more and more Dalit MPs call the attention of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to confer him Bharat Ratna and Central Hall portrait. Under this pressure, the Rajiv Gandhi-led government consented to the portrait installation, and then Lok Sabha Speaker Balram Jakhar installed the central Hall portrait on August 9, 1989, which the B.R. Ambedkar Vichar Manch donated. These dynamics made it clear that this step resulted from compulsion and not by choice. It is ironic to learn that the installed portrait of Dr Ambedkar was withdrawn by succumbing to the ill-will agenda of congress leaders.

The portrait was removed from the Central Hall and found its new home in the Parliament museum along with other freedom fighters. This whole episode made a severe dent in the feelings of fans and followers of Baba Saheb. Many ambedkari associations and Dalit MPs protested against this unruly gesture of the congress government. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a reasoned voice of opposition, was a keen observant figure of the whole portrait dynamics.

The widely held precedent that the Central Hall portrait can be displayed only for the person whose portrait/statue/ bust not already installed in Parliament estate was contravened for the Nehru family by subsequent congress regimes. It was ironic that despite these exceptions, the same precedent was argued during the consideration and delaying of Ambedkar's Central Hall portrait.

The awakened conscience of the followers of Dr. Ambedkar remained fully intact to check the long-drawn insensitivity of the congress-led dispensation. It was in 1989 that VP Singh's government, externally supported by BJP, came to power, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee proposed to address this long pending grievance. A genuinely justified decision showed a path of light to the dark-ridden aspirations of fellow Ambedkarite, with the return of Dr Ambedkar's Portrait in the Central Hall.

The life-size portrait, made by artist Zeba Amrohawi and donated by 'The BR Ambedkar Vichar Manch', was unveiled by prime minister VP Singh on April 12, 1990, as part of the centenary year celebration of Ambedkar's birth anniversary.

Notably, the earlier regimes' exhibited biases and insensitivities in recognizing the founding father's significant contribution compelled us to reflect on the time scale for much-needed course correction. It carries a mammoth task to unearth the harsh realities as an outcome of indifference to the aspirations of a downtrodden section of society. The phenomenon of duly recognizing effort and sacrifices is a gesture that presents a better understanding of our past and adds dimensions to rational reasoning for bringing out the best in the future generation.

The ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is a righteous initiative of the Modi Government to express our sincere gratitude to the noble souls and all stakeholders whose unaccounted and undivided efforts are fulfilling the aspiration of the masses, enabling them to realize their full potential. It is a journey of building a value-driven India for nurturing upcoming generations. This festive occasion has brought up the spirit of independence alive again on a massive scale. Today on the death anniversary of Baba Saheb, let's seize the opportunity by crediting due recognition to the unsung heroes of India by bringing out their hitherto untold stories. Let the spirit of 'Amrit Mahotsav' take everyone to scale new heights for the Nation.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

I HAVEN'T READ THE CONSTITUTION, BUT, FROM WHAT I'VE BEEN TOLD, MOST OF IT IS A WASTE OF PAPER, QUITE FRANKLY. — FORMER US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP




THE CONSTITUTION IS GREATER THAN ANY PRESIDENT. — TWITTER CHIEF ELON MUSK



How to check cheque bounce? Don't issue cheques

With the advancement of technology of digital transfer, there is no reason to accept cheque as a payment instrument at all



S KALYANASUNDARAM

As there is a large number of pending cases relating to cheque bounces in Maharashtra, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and Rajasthan, the Supreme Court in May 22 has directed to constitute special courts in these states with retired judges.

Before the introduction of Section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act in 1989, bouncing of cheque for want of funds was not straightaway a criminal offence. It was considered only as a civil dispute. There was a possibility to invoke Section 420 of Indian Penal Code to treat the cheque bounce as cheating. But in such cases, the beneficiary of the cheque had to prove the intention of the issuer of the cheque to

cheat him. But after introduction of Section 138 of NI Act, if the cheque has been issued for clearance of liability and if the cheque is returned for insufficient balance in the account, it becomes a criminal offence. Of course, there are procedural aspects as to the need to give notice to pay, etc. This was made to enhance the acceptability of cheques in the country.

Now it is reported that many suggestions were made at a high-level meeting recently called by the Government to deal with the high incidence of cheque bounce cases and the government is contemplating to introduce some of the suggestions.

One suggestion is to dip into other accounts of a

cheque issuer in case of insufficient balance in one account which results in return of cheque. It is strange that the suggestion has been made without understanding the legal relationship between a banker and a customer. Banks open and operate accounts for customers as per the contract between the bank and the customer and it is subject to various provisions of Indian Contract Act.

Bankers cannot be made a party in the dispute between the drawer and payee of a cheque. The banker is there to execute the order of the drawer as the contract is between the banker and its customer. Making the banker help the beneficiary of a cheque will be patently illegal.

Banks can debit a cus-

tomer's account only as per mandate and not otherwise. There is Section 31 of NI Act which states as follows: Liability of drawee of cheque — The drawee of a cheque having sufficient funds of the drawer in his hands properly applicable to the payment of such cheque must pay the cheque when duly required to do to, and, in default of such payment, must compensate the drawer for any loss or damage caused by such default.

The Government is looking at another suggestion that is to prohibit opening of new accounts to offenders of cheque bounce cases. It is possible to implement this suggestion just with an administrative order from Reserve Bank of India. But the judiciary may look into such direction as discrimination as until an offence is proved and the person is convicted.

The issuer of the cheque bounce case cannot be considered as a person who has committed the offence until convicted by the court.

Yet another suggestion is to treat the cheque bounce similar to loan default and to inform credit information companies for necessary downgrade of score.

Industry body PHDCCI has suggested to the Finance Ministry to take measures like compulsory suspension of bank withdrawals for a few days to make cheque issuers accountable for their action in cheque bounce cases. Again patently it is illegal to stop

operation in bank accounts for such a reason. Operations in bank accounts can be stopped only when there is a court order like Garnishee order, or where there is attachment order from Income Tax department, etc. Or there can be a banker's general lien over the balance.

The industry body has also suggested enacting a law that from the date of dishonouring of cheque, the dispute between the two parties must be settled within 90 days through mediation. Enacting such a law may be easier. But how to implement the time line? Even in mediation there is scope to drag the case endlessly.

The best way to check cheque bounce cases is to

‘Af shouldn’t be safe haven for terrorists’

India pitches for collective efforts to combat terror in India-Central Asia NSAs’ meet

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and Central Asian countries on Tuesday cautioned that Afghanistan must not become a safe haven for terrorist activities and called for collective action to combat challenges like terror financing, radicalization and use of terror proxies for cross-border terrorism. National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval said monetary resources are the “lifeblood” of terrorism and countering it should be a priority.

This appeal was made here at the first meeting of the National Security Advisors (NSA) of India and Central Asia hosted by Doval. The high-profile conclave also emphasized the need for respecting Afghanistan’s sovereignty, unity and territory and urged non-interference in its internal affairs. Doval said the meeting was taking place at a time of “great churn,” in international relations.

The NSAs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are attending the conclave while Turkmenistan is being represented by its ambassador to India.

Addressing the meet focusing on combating terrorism in the region and situation in Afghanistan, Doval pitched for giving greater priority by countries of the region to counter terror financing, saying monetary resources are the “lifeblood” of terrorism.

Doval also said all United Nations(UN) member states should refrain from providing any form of support to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts and fulfill the obligations enshrined in relevant counter-terror



National Security Adviser Ajit Doval with Afghanistan’s Ambassador to India Farid Mamundzay Farid Mamundzay and other delegates during the first India-Central Asia meeting of National Security Advisers and Secretaries of Security Councils, in New Delhi on Tuesday

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conventions. He described Central Asia as India’s “extended neighbourhood,” and said New Delhi accords “highest priority” to this region.

“Afghanistan is an important issue concerning all of us. India’s concerns and objectives with regard to immediate priorities and the way forward are similar to those of many of us around the table,” he said.

Doval said connectivity with Central Asian countries remained a key priority for India and that New Delhi stands ready to cooperate, invest and build connectivity in the region.

“While expanding connectivity, it is important to ensure that connectivity initiatives are consultative, transparent and participatory, with respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all

countries,” he said, seen as an oblique reference to China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Doval hosted the conclave with a focus on evolving a common framework to deal with challenges of terrorism in the region including Afghanistan and ways to bolster overall security cooperation in sync with a decision taken at the first India-Central Asia summit in January.

He said the meeting is taking place at a time of “great churn” in international relations and uncertainty about the future, noting a peaceful, secure and prosperous Central Asia is in “our common interest”.

“Today’s meeting, therefore, assumes importance as it provides us an opportunity to discuss matters which

require greater cooperation and coordination amongst the regional countries,” he said

A joint communique said the officials agreed that the expansion of terrorist propaganda, recruitment and fund-raising efforts have serious security implications for the region, and therefore, a collective and coordinated response is essential.

“The misuse of new and emerging technologies, arms and drugs trafficking, using terrorist proxies for cross-border terrorism, abuse of cyber space to spread disinformation and unmanned aerial systems present new challenges in counterterrorism efforts and call for collective action,” it said.

The mentioning of cross-border terrorism is seen as a reference to Pakistan’s support to various terror groups which have been targeting India. The meeting also strongly called for an early adoption of the UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism to effectively deal with the menace.

It also reiterated that greater connectivity could be a force multiplier for enhancing trade and commerce as well as for ensuring closer interactions between India and Central Asian countries. Doval also referred to the first India-Central Asia virtual summit in January that was hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

“Your presence is a testimony to our cohesiveness and it will enrich the discussions. Central Asia is our extended neighbourhood with which we have civilisational linkages and we accord highest priority to this region,” Doval said.

HC nod for rare 33-week pregnancy termination

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a rare instance, the Delhi High Court on Tuesday allowed termination of a 33-week pregnancy by saying that the “ultimate decision” in matters of abortion ought to recognise a woman’s choice to give birth and the possibility of dignified life of the unborn child.

Justice Prathiba M Singh observed that while the right of a pregnant woman to terminate her pregnancy has been the subject matter of debate across the world, India recognises the choice of a woman in its law.

In the present case, the petitioner, a 26 year old married woman, sought to terminate her 33-week pregnancy after she found out that the foetus was suffering from certain cerebral abnormalities. Normally, termination is not allowed after 24 weeks of pregnancy.

The petitioner had said during her ultrasounds till the 16th week of gestation period, no abnormalities were found in the foetus but on November 12, an abnormality was observed in the foetus. The court clarified that prior to undergoing termination, the informed consent of the petitioner would be



taken and she would undergo the procedure at her own risk.

The judge, while permitting the woman to immediately undergo medical termination of pregnancy, noted that the medical board unfortunately did not give a “categorical opinion” on the degree of handicap or the quality of the life of the foetus after birth and thus opined that “such unpredictability ought to weigh in favour of the woman seeking termination of pregnancy”.

“In conclusion, the court holds that the ultimate decision in such cases ought to recognise the choice of the mother as also the possibility of a dignified life of the unborn child...This court holds that medical termination of pregnancy ought to be permitted in the present case,” the court ruled.

“The right of a pregnant woman to terminate her pregnancy or abort her foetus has been the subject matter of debate across the world. This right gives the woman the ultimate choice as to whether she wants to give birth to the child

she has conceived. India is among the countries which recognises this choice of a woman in its law,” the court said.

The court said that in the present case, it was able to gauge the mental trauma affecting the parents as well as their economic and social condition, and the petitioner was taking an informed decision to terminate her pregnancy after weighing all factors. “The court comes to the conclusion that the mother’s choice is being made in a bonafide manner”, it added while allowing the petitioner to undergo medical termination of pregnancy immediately at LNJ, GTB or any other approved medical facility of her choice as per law.

The woman represented by advocate Anwesh Madhukar and Prachi Nirwan had approached the High Court last week after the GTB Hospital declined her request for termination of pregnancy on the premise that the process required judicial intervention since the current gestational age of the petitioner was beyond the permissible limit, that is, 24 weeks as per the amended Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act which came into effect from September 24, 2021.

Cong calls for like-minded Opp parties’ meet to mull Winter Session strategy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha M Mallikarjun Kharge has convened a meeting of all the ‘like-minded’ Opposition parties on Wednesday before the Winter Session of the Parliament begins.

Party sources said that Kharge has requested almost all the opposition leaders to be part of the meeting which will formulate a strategy to take on the Modi government in both the Houses of Parliament.

Representatives of SP, TMC, Shiv Sena, RJD, DMK, JDU and few others have con-

firmed their participation in the meeting which will happen at 9.45 am just before the Session begins at 11 am. They have been briefed to raise the common issues like economic condition, unemployment, border and security issues, attack on constitutional freedom, sale of certain government establishments and few other agenda which are likely to be discussed in the meeting to be chaired by Kharge.

Meanwhile, accusing the Centre of having “betrayed” the farmers, the All India Kisan Congress wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, highlighting the “plight” of the tillers and reiterating the demand of legal guarantee for MSP for all crops.

The Congress’ unit for farmers also reiterated the demand for dismissal of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra Teni over the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, release of “innocent” farmers imprisoned in the case, withdrawal of “fake cases” registered against farmers in various states during the farmers’ agitation and compensation to families of the deceased farmers.



President Droupadi Murmu with Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Virendra Kumar at a ceremony to pay homage to Babasaheb BR Ambedkar on his Mahaparinirvan Diwas, at Parliament House Complex in New Delhi on Tuesday

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CBI to question K Kavitha in Delhi Excise Policy case on Dec 11

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has issued a fresh notice to TRS MLC K Kavitha for questioning on December 11 at her Hyderabad residence in connection with the Delhi Excise Policy scam case.

The move comes after Kavitha expressed her inability to appear before the agency on Monday (December 5) and told the agency that she was available for recording her statement from December 11 to 15 (except December 13).

In response to the first notice issued on December 2, Kavitha had said she went through the contents of the FIR copy as well as the complaint available on the website in connection with the case and her name did not figure anywhere in any manner whatsoever.

The fresh notice issued by the agency states, “...CBI team will visit your residence at 1100 hrs on December 11, 2022 for your examination and recording of your statement in connection with investigation of aforesaid (Delhi Excise scam) case. Kindly confirm your availability on the said date and time at your residential address at Hyderabad...”

Kavitha, in a statement on Monday, had said she informed the authorities that they can meet her at her Hyderabad residence.

“I am a law-abiding citizen and will cooperate with the investigation. I will meet you on any of the above said dates to cooperate with the investigation. It is made clear that this is without prejudice to my legal rights available under law,” she had said.

The CBI has already filed a charge sheet against seven individuals in connection with



TRS MLC K Kavitha’s residence at Jubilee Hills, in Hyderabad on Tuesday

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the excise scam.

“Further investigation is continuing to investigate the role of FIR named accused and other persons on various allegations including conspiracies with other licensees, money trails, cartelization and larger conspiracies in the formulation and implementation of the Excise Policy,” the CBI had said after filing the charge sheet late last month.

The Enforcement

Directorate that is probing a connected money laundering case has alleged, “...Vijay Nair, on behalf of leaders of AAP has at least received kickbacks to the tune of Rs 100 crore from a group, called south group (controlled by Sarath Reddy, Ms K Kavitha, Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy) by various persons including Amit Arora.”

Officials identified Kavitha as the daughter of Telangana CM K Chandrashekhar Rao.

CBI arrests Railway DCE for taking bribe, seizes ₹2.51 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has recovered cash to the tune of ₹1.38 crore cash and ₹1.13 crore in bank accounts of Deputy Chief Engineer of Railways, Arun Kumar Mittal, who was arrested for allegedly taking a bribe from a contractor.

Immediately after Mittal’s arrest last week, the CBI had seized ₹38 lakh cash and about ₹1 crore was recovered during searches at his premises. Kumar was posted as Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction), Northern Railway, Lucknow.

Out of the ₹1.13 crore recovered from the bank accounts of the accused and his family members, majority of the amount was allegedly deposited in cash in various bank accounts, the CBI said. A case was registered on a complaint against Mittal on the allegations of demanding bribes from the complainant in lieu of passing the bills of his firm engaged in project work at Charbagh, Lucknow. The arrested accused was produced on December 2 before the Competent Court, Lucknow which remanded him to CBI custody.

IN SHORT

PM TO LAUNCH 3 AYUSH INSTITUTES ON DEC 11

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on December 11 dedicate to the nation three national Ayush institutes — All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Goa — a satellite centre of the Delhi-based AIIA — National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM), Ghaziabad; and National Institute of Homoeopathy (NIH), Delhi. Union Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said on Tuesday.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL GOVT IN MAHA: UDDHAV SENA TO SC
New Delhi: The Uddhav Thackeray-led faction of the Shiv Sena on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that a “completely unconstitutional government is being run” in Maharashtra.

NITISH GOVT ANTI-DALIT: UNION MIN PASHUPATI

New Delhi: BJP ally and Union Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras on Tuesday accused the Nitish Kumar-led Bihar Government of acting with a sense of revenge against Dalits, particularly Paswans, and raised the issue of “rising” crimes against the community’s members at a meeting of the ruling NDA.

ED ATTACHES ₹1.58 CR OF ANUBRATA’S CONFIDANT

New Delhi: Thirty-two properties worth more than ₹1.58 crore belonging to a person who is a “close confidant” of TMC leader Anubrata Mondal have been attached in connection with a money laundering probe linked to a cattle smuggling case of West Bengal, the ED said on Tuesday.

TN GOVT FOR JALLIKATTU, BACKS BULL-SPORT IN SC

New Delhi: The Tamil Nadu Government on Tuesday defended in the Supreme Court the law allowing bull-taming sport “jallikattu” in the State, saying it is an “incorrect notion” that an activity, which is in the nature of a sport or entertainment, cannot have a cultural value.

How long can Christian Michel be kept in custody, asks SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

AGUSTA WESTLAND CHOPPER SCAM

The Supreme Court said on Tuesday just because Christian Michel James, an alleged middleman in the AgustaWestland chopper scam, is a foreign national, how long can he be kept in custody and does his not being an Indian justify “complete deprivation” of his liberty.

James is a United Kingdom national and was extradited from Dubai in 2018.

A Bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha

said, ordinarily, if the accused had been an Indian national, the court would have been willing to grant him bail, especially if he had spent more than four years in custody for the offences the maximum punishment for which is five years.

“Merely because he is a foreign national, how long can we keep him? Can that justify complete deprivation of his liberty? Had he been an Indian national, the

court would have been willing to grant him bail,” the Bench told Additional Solicitor General SV Rau, appearing for probe agencies CBI and the ED.

The bench said what is worrying the court is the complexity of trial as there are over 250 witnesses in the case and the co-accused government officials have been granted bail for want of sanction for prosecution. “It’s an important issue for consideration, especially the construct between the treaty and the statute (Extradition Act, 1962).

‘Most Asian countries fail global biodiversity target’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Most countries in Asia have failed to achieve a global minimum target of protecting at least 17% of land by 2020, according to a study based on data from 40 countries.

Under the current trends, the outlook for achieving the UN Global Biodiversity Framework’s 2030 target to protect at least 30 per cent of land is bleak, with Asia set to miss this by an even greater margin, the researchers said in a study published in the journal Communications Biology.

To counter the global biodiversity crisis, at the 2010 UN Convention on Biological Diversity, almost 200 countries pledged to protect at least 17 per cent of their terrestrial environments by 2020 (known

as Aichi Target).

To investigate whether they achieved this, researchers from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge in the UK, with collaborators in Asia, analysed data from official reports submitted to the World Database on Protected Areas.

In particular, very few countries in West and Central Asia achieved the target. Overall, Asia was the most underperforming continent, with just 13.2 per cent of land being designated as a terrestrial protected area in 2020 — compared with a global average of 15.2 per cent protection, the researchers said.

Asian countries also tended to have a slower year-on-year increase in the amount of land protected for conservation, at just 0.4 per cent per year on average, the study said.

For 241 highly at-risk

mammal species across Asia, on average 84 per cent of their ranges fell outside protected areas, the researchers said.

They calculated that almost all Asian countries will fail to meet the 2030 target unless their rate of establishing protected areas increases by up to six times faster. Under the current trajectory, Asia would only achieve 18% coverage by 2030 — far below the target of 30 per cent protection.

The outlook was worse for West and South Asia, projected to achieve 11 per cent and 10 per cent coverage respectively by 2030.

“Asia is a challenging continent for setting targets for protected areas, since areas of high biodiversity typically conflict with dense human populations and rapid economic growth,” said study lead author Mohammed Farhadinia.

DCGI OK’s 1st ‘Made-in-India’ TB kit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With Mylab’s PathoDetect kit patients can with a single test know their active TB infection as well as drug resistance to 2 most common drugs - Isoniazid and Rifampicin - so that they take treatment that will actually work.

The first ‘Made in India’ kit recently approved by the DCGI, TB expert panel under the ICMR has been developed by Mylab. The kit is a RT-PCR based kit for accurate detection and will be used with Mylab Compact device systems — which will allow completely automated testing of multiple samples within 2 hours.

This will be instrumental in supporting the Prime Minister’s vision to eliminate TB by 2025 from India, said Hasmukh Rawal, the MD of Mylab.



He explained that the device will help address several problems simultaneously. It can not only do multiple tests at one time but also does not need highly technical people which we are already short of to handle samples and reagents, he added.

The kit has been approved

after rigorous and large scale field trials and recommended by the TB Expert Committee under ICMR.

“Multicentre centre evaluation study and field feasibility testing studies were carried out for the “PathoDetect MTB RIF and INH drug resistance kits” & Compact device sys-

tems. The centres of trials included the most reputed Tb research centres of India, which evaluated the performance of the kit against the currently used diagnostic assays for Tuberculosis,” said Rawal.

He further said, “There is a huge problem of resistance to drugs when it comes to TB. Until now, India had to conduct 2 tests: one to detect TB first and to check drug resistance — that against only one drug (Rifampicin). But with Mylab’s PathoDetect” kit, the test pattern will be changed.”

Also, the test kits have been designed to work in ambient temperatures compared to existing PCR options which need 2-8 degree cold storage. Mylab Compact” device systems do not require special infrastructure for operations and feasibility studies done on mobile vans in rural areas indicate them to be very robust.

TMC SPOKESPERSON SAKET GOKHALE ARRESTED BY GUJARAT POLICE FOR TWEET AGAINST MODI, ALLEGED FAKE NEWS

Didi cries vendetta, TMC calls it super emergency

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress (TMC) national spokesperson Saket Gokhale was being interrogated on Tuesday after he was detained by the Gujarat Police from Rajasthan late at night. The TMC leader was arrested allegedly for writing fake news as also for tweeting against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Morbi, where a bridge collapse killed over 130 people in October. The TMC has called the arrest of Saket Gokhale by the Gujarat Police an act of vindictiveness. Hours after the Gujarat Police arrested Gokhale at Jaipur Airport Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday called the arrest a result of the "BJP's vindictive attitude."

While her party's Rajya Sabha MP Shantanu Sen said, the arrest itself proved that there was a "super emergency going on in India," Banerjee said the act was "very bad and sad." Banerjee who was on a swift trip of Rajasthan —where she visited the Bramha Temple at Pushkar and the shrine of Khwaja Moinudding Chisti at Ajmer Sharif — said "I heard about his arrest ...



Saket Gokhale is a bright man and is very popular in the social media ... he has been arrested for no wrong. "It is very bad and sad ... I condemn this vindictive attitude ... he was arrested because he tweeted against the Prime Minister," on Morbi bridge collapse incident. Gokhale had allegedly written fake news on the Morbi incident and later went on to write that the Prime Minister's visit to Morbi cost more than the compensation provided to the kin of the victims of Morbi.

"The party has been trying to contact him since midnight ... but the police have confiscated his mobile and he is thus

incommunicado," Sen adding, the Chief Minister had directed TMC Rajya Sabha Leader Derek O' Brien to proceed to Ahmedabad to inquire into the matter and arrange for any legal help for the arrested leader. "Anyone who speaks the truth against the BJP and its government is arrested and sent to jail," Sen said while Bengal Minister Sobhandeb

Chatopadhaya said how "about 450 journalists all over the country are languishing in various jails of the country,"

The BJP was prompt to hit back showing how a number of opposition people and journalists had either been arrested or served with notices by the police for writing against the Mamata Banerjee Government.

"Gujarat is not Bengal ... if someone has been arrested for writing untrue stories about the Prime Minister and action has been taken by the police ... if he is to be found innocent he will be released but how about Bengal where every journalist gets a notice or the police knock at his door in the midnight for doing stories on the government."

CBI court discharges former IGNOU, PTU V-Cs in graft case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

After a protracted legal battle of nearly 10 years, former IGNOU Vice-Chancellor VN Rajasekharan Pillai has come out clear after a special CBI court here discharged him in a corruption case, officials said on Tuesday.

Former Vice Chancellor of Punjab Technical University Rajneesh Arora and Joint Registrar RPS Bedi were also discharged from the case related to alleged corruption and forgery in allowing the university to run certain courses through distant mode from the academic year 2007.

"Criminal prosecution has been sought of very high-level dignitaries but the CBI just presented the charge sheet without

bothering to see whether the ingredients of the alleged offences are present in this case," Special Judge Naresh Kumar Loka noted.

The CBI, which started the probe in 2011 with a preliminary enquiry, filed an FIR followed by a charge sheet.

The central agency had alleged that the University Grants Commission, All India Council for Technical Education and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on May 10, 2007, which stipulated to set up an expert committee to visit the particular institution to verify the norms and standards of education before approving recognition.

3 hurt in yet another blast in West Bengal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

It is exploding bombs in Bengal. Barely four days after the Bhupatinagar blast that left three persons dead and an unspecified number of victims injured three persons including a woman and two children were severely injured at Ramnagar area of Basirhat sub-division in North 24 Parganas district some 50 miles north of Kolkata.

The incident happened on Tuesday forenoon when a child brought home a round-shaped object taking it to be a ball ... the ball-like object that the child found in the fields exploded inside the kitchen of his house injuring another child and his mother, sources said. All have been admitted to the Basirhat district hospital, police said.

The incident occurred four days after the blast at Bhupatinagar in East Midnapore district where a Trinamool Congress leader's house literally caved in after a stockpile of explosive went off while the victims were allegedly making bombs. While Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah seeking an NIA investigation into the Bhupatinagar incident, a Public Interest Litigation petition too was filed in Calcutta High Court demanding a similar order.

About a dozen people have lost their lives and tens of them have received grave injuries in bomb blasts and gun fights in the past little more than a month in Bengal. Such incidents were likely to go up at next year's panchayat elections draw nearer, experts say.

Babri demolition anniversary: Little extra security, but just another day in Ayodhya

PTI ■ AYODHYA

It was business as usual in the pilgrim city on Tuesday, the day that marked the 30th anniversary of the Babri mosque demolition.

In a break from the curfew-like situation on some past occasions, life remained normal in the city with schools, colleges, offices and public institutions remaining open. Police, however, remain on alert.

Like any other day, local people were seen queuing at the Ram temple complex for a 'darshan' while traffic remained heavy during morning rush hour.

Unlike in the past, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad is not celebrating any 'Shaurya Diwas' (bravery day) and there are no plans by the Muslim community to observe a Black Day. With the Supreme Court judgement in 2019 ending the Ram Janmabhoomi land dispute, people from both the communities appear to be



yearning for peace.

In past years, Ayodhya used to be turned into a fortress ahead of the Babri mosque demolition anniversary. Not this time, though.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Ayodhya, Muniraj G said "routine arrangements" have been made in the city as precautionary measures.

"We are also continuously monitoring social media platforms, while hotels are also being checked," Muniraj G, who was recently appointed as the SSP of Ayodhya, told reporters.

"All vehicles coming into

Ayodhya are being thoroughly checked. Nothing unusual has been reported so far, however, we are keeping a strict vigil," the SSP, who inspects the city markets on Monday night, said.

VHP spokesperson Sharad Sharma told PTI on Tuesday that no event is lined up for the day on the occasion. Sharma had earlier said events organised to mark December 6 were toned down after the Supreme Court decision "in favour of the Hindu side".

"The 'Shaurya Diwas' which used to be celebrated on December 6, it has been called off completely as our main 'sankalp' (vow) was fulfilled. And after that, all we wanted was a peaceful environment. "So it was unanimously decided that no event that triggers any tension or hurts anyone should be organised", he has said. He said the organisation didn't want to do anything that damages trust and communal harmony".

However, many Muslims

still feel that families of those killed in the aftermath of the Babri demolition are yet to get justice. In two mosques of the city, recitation of the Quran was held after early morning prayers peacefully in small gatherings on Tuesday.

Babri petitioner Haji Mehboob said, "We organised Quran Khani (recitation of Quran) in remembrance of those who lost their lives in Ayodhya after demolition of Babri Mosque. No other programmes have been planned."

Another petitioner, Iqbal Ansari said, "After the Supreme Court judgment, Muslims have forgotten everything. Ayodhya is dharam ki nagri (City of Dharma)... We have left behind what happened 30 years ago and are now talking of development."

Three decades after the demolition of the Babri mosque, people in the city seem to have moved on and appear to be treating its anniversary on Tuesday almost like any other day.

Lakhimpur Kheri killings: Charges framed against Ashish Mishra, 12 others for murder, criminal conspiracy

PTI ■ LAKHIMPUR KHERI (UP)

A court here on Tuesday framed charges against Union minister Ajay Kumar Mishra's son Ashish and 12 others for murder, criminal conspiracy and related offences in the case of mowing down of protesting farmers in October 2021 in Lakhimpur Kheri, paying the way for the start of the trial.

Additional District Judge Sunil Kumar Verma has now fixed the next hearing on December 16, District Government Counsel (Criminal) Arvind Tripathi told PTI.

Tripathi said that 13 accused, including Ashish Mishra, have been charged under IPC sections 147 and 148 related to rioting, 149 (unlawful assembly), 302 (mur-



der), 307 (attempt to murder), 326 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means), 427 (mischievous), 120B (punishment for criminal conspiracy), and section 177 of Motor Vehicle Act. Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra, is the main accused in the case. The other 12 accused

are Ankit Das, Nandan Singh Bisht, Latif Kale, Satyam alias Satya Prakash Tripathi, Shekhar Bharti, Sumit Jaiswal, Ashish Pandey, Lavkush Rana, Shishu Pal, Ullas Kumar alias Mohit Trivedi, Rinku Rana and Dharmendra Banjara. All of them are in jail.

The 14th accused, Virendra Shukla, who is out on

bail, has been charged under section 201 of IPC which is related to causing the disappearance of evidence of an offence or giving false information to screen the offender.

The primary object of framing of charge is to tell the accused person precisely about what the prosecution intends to prove against him. Charges under various sections of the Arms Act were also framed against Ashish Mishra, Ankit Das, Nandan Singh Bisht, Satyam alias Satya Prakash Tripathi, Latif Kale and Sumit Jaiswal, Tripathi said.

On October 3, 2021, eight people were killed in Tikunia in Lakhimpur Kheri during violence that erupted when farmers were protesting against Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to the area.

FROM PAGE 1

JOB, PRICE RISE, LAC TO HEAT UP WINTER SESSION

Chowdhury alleged that the Government did not "properly" inform the Opposition about the stand-off at the Sino-India border.

"In the House, we demand a discussion on it and also on the killings of Kashmiri Pandits," he added.

Congress leader Naseer Hussain demanded discussions on the appointment of Election Commissioner in just one day and the Economically Weaker Section quota. The Congress list of issues to be raised during the session also include "Centre's attack on judiciary and refusal to accept Supreme Court collegium's recommendation. The party will also take up the Supreme Court's judgement on 10 percent reservation for Economically Weaker Section and Morbi bridge collapse in Gujarat.

Trinamool Congress leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay said he, along with party colleague and Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien, sought discussions on price rise, unemployment, alleged misuse of agencies and economic blockade of States. O'Brien also told the Government that the Opposition should be allowed to raise issues of importance.

The BJD demanded passage of the women's reservation bill in the Winter Session of Parliament.

"On behalf of my party, the BJD, I demanded that the women reservation bill be passed in the winter session," Patra told reporters after the meeting. BJD leader and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and the party are committed to the cause of women empowerment, the MP said.

The Bill which seeks to reserve one-third of seats in Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies for women could not be passed by the 15th Lok Sabha. While the bill was pending in the Lower House of Parliament, the term of the 15th Lok Sabha ended and the constitution amendment bill lapsed.

Meanwhile, the Trinamool Congress, JD(U) and the Shiromani Akali Dal demanded convening an all-party meet to build consensus on the women's reservation bill at a meet convened by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, TMC leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay said. The

TMC raised the issue at the meeting of the Lok Sabha Business Advisory Committee, while it was supported by the JD(U) and the SAD. The BAC meet was convened by the Speaker ahead of the Winter session of Parliament beginning Wednesday. This will be the first session when Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar will also chair as Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

The Winter Session is also likely to be the last session to be held in the existing Parliament House as the new Parliament building would be ready for use in the budget session.

UKRAINE SLAMS INDIA'S OIL IMPORT FROM RUSSIA

The Ukrainian Foreign Minister also said India, specifically Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has a key role to play in helping to end the war.

"India is a very important player in the global arena and the Prime Minister of India, with his voice, can make a change." At the same time, New Delhi, he believes, needs to be direct in referring to the situation in Ukraine.

"We are waiting for the moment when Indian foreign policy will call spade a spade, and name the conflict - not 'war in Ukraine', but what it is, a 'Russian aggression against Ukraine'," he said.

Asked if New Delhi's intervention could realistically make a difference in the thinking of Russian President Vladimir Putin, Kuleba said it was important to make a concerted effort. "If you don't try, nothing can change," he said.

"We have seen some encouraging messages coming from your Prime Minister - when he said this is not the time for war. We hope that (there) is more active, even if it is quiet, behind-the-scenes diplomacy (that) will take place in the coming weeks. It's worth trying (in) any way to end the war," he said.

TMC SPOKESMAN GOKHALE HELD AT JAIPUR AIRPORT

"The cooked up case is filed with the Ahmedabad cyber cell about Saket's tweet on the Morbi bridge collapse. All this cannot silence the All India Trinamool

Congress and the Opposition. BJP taking political vendetta to another level," he alleged. When contacted, Jaipur airport police station SHO Diggpal Singh said he had no such information.

"I have no information. Nobody informed us," he said.

TRAINS TO ZIP AT 75KM/HOUR TO CUT FOG DELAY

The work of repainting for their proper visibility should be completed before onset of the foggy season. Lifting barriers at busy level crossings, where necessary, to be provided with yellow/black luminous indication strips.

"The new existing Seating Cum Luggage Rakes (SLRs) are already being fitted with LED-based flasher tail lights, therefore, the existing SLRs with fixed red lights should be modified and fixed with LED lights. This will be a very important step to ensure safety in foggy weather," the Railways said.

"During fog, when the loco pilot in his judgement feels that visibility is restricted due to fog, he shall run at a speed at which he can control the train so as to be prepared to stop short of any obstruction; this speed shall in any case not be more than 75 kmph (km per hour). It has also directed loco pilots to whistle frequently to warn the gatemen and road users of an approaching train at level crossings," it said.

ENSURE NOBODY GOES TO SLEEP EMPTY STOMACH: SC TO CENTRE

Bhushan countered that 14 States have filed affidavits stating their quota of foodgrains has been exhausted. The matter is posted for resumed hearing on December 8. The top court had earlier asked the Centre to ensure the benefits of the NFSA are not limited by the 2011 census figures and more needy people should be covered under the Act, terming the "Right to Food" a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The per capita income in India has increased in real terms by 33.4 per cent since the enactment of the National Food Security Act (NFSA)

in 2013, the Centre had earlier told the apex court, insisting a large number of households have transitioned to the higher income group.

APPEAR IN PERSON SHOW REMORSE FOR CONTEMPT: HC TO VIVEK AGNIHOTRI

His lawyer submitted that the filmmaker has tendered an unconditional apology in an affidavit in which he has also stated that he deleted his tweets against the judge himself. However, the court was informed by the amicus curiae that the submission was wrong and it was Twitter which deleted his tweets. "All of this submission you can make once he is present before this court," the bench told Agnihotri's counsel.

Agnihotri had, in a tweet in October 2018, accused Justice Muralidhar, who was then a sitting judge of the Delhi High Court and is currently the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court, of bias after he granted bail to Navlakha, an accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case, and ordered his release from house arrest.

The application was filed in the pending criminal contempt case in which the court had in September this year decided to proceed ex-parte against Agnihotri and other alleged contemnors, Anand Ranganathan and Swarajya magazine, an online news portal, after noting that they were not represented.

The court had initiated on its own the contempt proceedings after receiving a letter from senior advocate Rajshekhar Rao who alleged the tweet was a deliberate attempt to attack a sitting High Court judge. The contempt proceedings were also initiated against S Gurumurthy, noted financial analyst and editor of the Chennai-based weekly 'Thuglak' magazine, for his tweets against the judge.

PREVIOUS REGIMES NEGLECTED LKO'S DEVELOPMENT: YOGI

via the Integrated Command and Control Centre. Today, ITMS also handles traffic management along with Safe City. Honourable Supreme Court stated that we

should act to convert cities into 'safe cities'. By connecting it with the Smart City mission, all the municipal corporations, including Gautam Buddha Nagar, are also being provided security. Criminals believe they will flee after committing a crime, but this won't happen as "Trinetra" (CCTV cameras) would keep an eye on them and they will be caught immediately," Yogi said.

He claimed that before 2017, there was no electricity in the cities. "Urban areas now have a common building code that mandates that all localities and homes be of the same colour. Drainage and sewage systems will be properly organised, and LED street lights will illuminate the city. Every home now has tap water supply, electricity and cooking gas connections while public transportation (electric buses and metro service) is telling a new tale," the CM said.

Stating that about 45 lakh poor people have got the benefit of PM Awas Yojana in urban and rural areas, the CM said that the list of 10 lakh is being prepared.

"Under the PM Swanidhi scheme, the double-engine government has given the benefit of interest-free loans to 9 lakh street vendors in UP. Work on smart cities, smart facilities and distribution of smartphones and tablets to 2 crore youth is going on. This tells us the story of New India, New UP," the chief minister said.

He remarked: "Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is the MP from Lucknow, which is a blessing. His leadership is well-liked. During Atalji's reign, Rajnath Singh oversaw the construction of Shaheed Path. Today's Outer Ring Road, which includes Kisan Path, provides the best connectivity."

He pointed out that Lucknow would soon receive a world-class convention centre. "We tried to give Lucknow a new identity. Lucknow is both a historical and mythological city. It has had an unforgettable contribution in the freedom movement," he added.

"Lucknow is now changing and BrahMos missiles will soon be manufactured here," he added.

"From February 10 to 12 next year, Lucknow will host the Global Investors Summit, attracting more than 10,000 business people and investors from all around the world. Lucknow has its own pride," the CM said.

Giriraj lauds Lalu's daughter for donating her kidney

Patna: RJD president Lalu Prasad's daughter Rohini Acharya, who donated a kidney to her father, has earned the praise of Union minister Giriraj Singh, one of the most strident opponents of the former Bihar chief minister. Singh, who represents the Begusarai Lok Sabha seat of the state, expressed his sentiments on Twitter, sharing a picture of Acharya fast asleep on her hospital bed after the surgery in Singapore.

"Beti ho to Rohini Acharya jaisi (Rohini Acharya is the kind of daughter one should have)," Singh tweeted in Hindi, adding that the Singapore-based daughter of Prasad, in her early 40s, "shall serve as an

example for the future generations".

The RJD supremo, who is serving sentences in a number of fodder scam cases, has been granted bail and allowed to travel abroad by a court for medical reasons.

His eldest daughter Misa Bharti, who is by the side of her father and younger sister, posted a video of the ailing septuagenarian on her Twitter handle wherein he can be heard muttering words of thanks to his well-wishers back home.

"All of you prayed for me. Now I am feeling better. I am feeling well," the charismatic leader can be heard saying in the video clip, barely 10 seconds long. **PTI**

Two girls of Lapierre-funded home to represent India in Special Olympics

PTI ■ ULUBERIA (WB)

As newborns, Priyanka and Rani brought despair to their parents but a home for children with special needs in West Bengal's Howrah, set up with funds provided by French author Dominique Lapierre, helped them to qualify for the Indian handball team that will participate in the 2023 Berlin Special Olympic Games.

They secured their berths in the team at the national coaching camp held at Sonapat in Haryana in October, their coach Tamal Chatterjee told PTI.

Besides their physical challenges, they also have a disadvantaged family background.

Born to an autorickshaw driver father and housewife mother of Hatgacha village in Howrah, Priyanka was admitted to the CCI Home for Children With Special Needs (CWSN) Girls at Kathila when she was four years old. Now 16, she has an intellectual disability and total hearing impairment but overcame the odds to be a champion handball striker. Spotting her talent, the coach introduced Priyanka to various sports and she later proved her mettle in handball, said Johnmary Barui, the director of Asha Bhavan Centre which runs the CCI Home said.

With the help of an intervention programme for overall development, Priyanka is now fully independent in her daily life and also helps her roommates, Barui said. Lapierre was a regular visitor to the CCI Home for CWSN Girls. He would also interact with the girls, Barui said, adding that the famous French author helped with funds in setting up the institute.

Priyanka's teammate Rani was born to hearing-impaired parents. She was rescued from Howrah station by Childline as a runaway child when she was very young and was sent to Asha Bhavan Centre. Rani, now 13, is a student of class 8 at Karat Beria High School. She has a 75 per cent intellectual disability and her IQ level is as low as 44, Barui said.

Noticing her love for sports, she was introduced to various sports under the supervision of coach Chatterjee and later she excelled in handball. Priyanka and Rani told PTI, through an interpreter, in sign language that they are excited to participate in the special olympics, scheduled to be held from June 17 to 25 next year.

"I want to win a gold medal for India in handball," Priyanka said. Rani said, "I will try to give my best in the special olympics and practicing very hard for it."

China reiterates ‘no 1st use’ nuke policy, blasts US report

AP ■ BEIJING

China strictly adheres to its policy of no first use of nuclear weapons “at any time and under any circumstances,” its Defence Ministry said Tuesday in a scathing response to a US report alleging a major buildup in Beijing’s nuclear capabilities.

The Pentagon last week released an annual China security report that warned Beijing would likely have 1,500 nuclear warheads by 2035, and that it has provided no clarity on how it plans to use them.

That report “distorts China’s national defence policy and military strategy, makes groundless speculation about China’s military development and grossly interferes in China’s internal affairs on the issue of Taiwan,” ministry spokesperson Tan Kefei said in a statement.

Tan accused the US of being the “biggest troublemaker and destroyer of world peace and stability,” and repeated that Beijing has never renounced the use of force to conquer self-governing Taiwan, a US ally that China considers part of its ter-

ritory.

Tan did not directly address the report’s allegations about a Chinese nuclear buildup, but blamed the US for raising nuclear tensions, particularly with its plan to help Australia build a fleet of submarines powered by US nuclear technology, which the French president has described as a “confrontation with China.”

Australia has said it will not seek to arm the submarines with nuclear weapons. Tan also accused the US of having the world’s largest nuclear arsenal, although that title is actually held by Russia, a close Chinese military, economic and diplomatic partner.

As of 2022, Russia possesses a total of 5,977 nuclear warheads compared to 5,428 in the US inventory, according to the Federation of American Scientists. China currently has 350 nuclear warheads, according to the federation.

China has long adhered to what it calls a purely defensive national security strategy, including a claim that it will never be the first to use nuclear weapons in a conflict. That



stance has frequently been challenged at home and abroad, particularly if it comes to a confrontation over Taiwan.

“What needs to be emphasized is that China firmly pursues the nuclear strategy of self-defense and defense, always adheres to the policy of no first use of nuclear weapons at any time and under any circumstances, and maintains its nuclear force at the minimum level required for national security,” Tan said in the statement, which was posted on the ministry’s website.

His remarks came days after US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said the US is at

a pivotal point with China and will need military strength to ensure that American values, not Beijing’s, set global norms in the 21st century.

Austin’s speech Saturday at the Reagan National Defence Forum capped a week in which the Pentagon was squarely focused on China’s rise and what that might mean for America’s position in the world.

China “is the only country with both the will and, increasingly, the power to reshape its region and the international order to suit its authoritarian preferences,” Austin said. “So let me be clear: We will not let that happen.”

North Korea fires artillery again over South Korea’s drills

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea on Tuesday fired a barrage of artillery rounds into waters near rival South Korea for the second consecutive day in a tit-for-tat for ongoing U.S.-South Korea live-fire drills in an inland border region.

South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected North Korea firing around 90 artillery rounds from the eastern coastal town of Kosong around 10 am and another 10 rounds from the nearby town of Kumkang around 6 pm.

It said the shells landed in the northern side of a maritime buffer zone the Koreans established in 2018 to reduce border tensions.

The South said it communicated verbal warnings to North Korea and urged it to abide by the military agreement.

The South Korean assessments were slightly different from details announced by North Korea’s military, which said it fired 82 shells from multiple rocket launchers.

An unidentified spokesper-

son of the North Korean People’s Army’s General Staff said the firings were meant as a warning against “enemy side” artillery exercises in a region near the inter-Korean land border.

The spokesperson said South Korea was being hypocritical in criticising North Korea for breaching the 2018 agreement, saying the South’s unspecified past actions in violation of the agreement must be “calculated first.”

“The (Korean People’s Army) seriously warns the enemy side once again to stop at once the irritating military actions in the area close to the front,” the spokesperson said. “Our military counteraction against the continued provocative actions of the enemies will be more offensive as the days go by.”

North Korea also on Monday fired around 130 artillery rounds into waters inside the maritime buffer zones with South Korea, while accusing the South of raising unnecessary tension in front-line areas.

The latest North Korean



military action has worsened animosity between the rivals, whose relations have sharply declined amid a prolonged pause in nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang.

The South Korean army had earlier issued a public notice about live-fire exercises involving multiple rocket launch systems and howitzers in two separate testing grounds in the Cheorwon region this week.

South Korea’s Defence Ministry on Tuesday confirmed that the exercises, which began on Monday and continue through Wednesday, are part of combined training with U.S. Troops.

The ministry said that the exercises did not run against the 2018 inter-Korean military agreement, because they are being conducted outside the ground buffer zone set within 5 kilometers of the military demarcation line separating the Koreas.

“We sternly warn that North Korea will be solely responsible for any outcome produced by the North’s unilateral and consistent violations” of the 2018 agreement, the ministry said in a statement.

North Korea’s military said it ordered Monday’s artillery fire after detecting dozens of South Korean projectiles flying southeast from the Cheorwon region.

South Korean lawmakers raise concerns over Chinese voters



AP ■ SEOUL

Members of South Korea’s ruling conservative party have proposed a bill that would place tighter restrictions on the voting rights of foreign permanent residents in local elections, which they insist is necessary to protect the country’s democracy from being undermined by Chinese voters.

Critics say the efforts to pass the bill could exacerbate racism and hatred toward Chinese people living in South Korea and would be a step back in an increasingly multicultural society that needs to embrace immigration to make up for an aging and shrinking population.

People Power Party lawmaker Kweon Seong-dong, a close ally of President Yoon Suk Yeol, said Tuesday it has become crucial to prevent the voting system from being exploited as a “maneuvering tool” by other governments.

Chinese Prez Xi to visit Saudi Arabia to blunt US influence

PTI ■ BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping will make a three-day-official visit to Saudi Arabia starting Wednesday during which he will attend the China-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) meeting.

While there is no official announcement here about his visit, Saudi state media reported on Tuesday that President Xi will arrive in the Gulf Kingdom on Wednesday for a three-day visit to the world’s largest oil producer.

The visit will include a bilateral summit chaired by Saudi King Salman and attended by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom’s de facto ruler, according to the Saudi state media reports.

Xi will also attend a summit with rulers from the six-member GCC and talks convening leaders from elsewhere in the Middle East, the report said.

The GCC is a regional, intergovernmental, political, and economic union comprising Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Xi’s arrival coincides with heightened tensions between Saudi Arabia and the US over issues ranging from energy policy to regional security and human rights.

His visit also comes in the backdrop of assertions by US President Joe Biden that Washington will not cede the Middle East to Beijing.

“We will not walk away and leave a vacuum to be filled by China, Russia, or Iran... The US is not going anywhere,” Biden told the assembled Arab leaders when he visited Riyadh in July.

The US and Saudi Arabia are still embroiled in a heated spat over oil production. In October, OPEC+ slashed output by two million barrels per day in an effort to “stabilise” prices. The decision was taken despite heavy US campaigning against it.

The Chinese president’s visit, which comes as he faces mounting pressure at home over opposition to his “zero Covid” strategy, underscores China’s desire to boost links in a region that is traditionally seen by Washington as falling under its sphere of influence, the Financial Times reported.

Officers to receive Congressional Gold Medals for Jan 6

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Top House and Senate leaders will present law enforcement officers who defended the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, with Congressional Gold Medals on Tuesday, awarding them Congress’s highest honour nearly two years after they fought with former President Donald Trump’s supporters in a brutal and bloody attack.

To recognize the hundreds of officers who were at the Capitol on Jan. 6, the medals will be placed in four locations — at U.S. Capitol Police headquarters, the Metropolitan Police Department, the Capitol and the Smithsonian Institution. President Joe Biden said when he signed the legislation last year that a medal will be placed at the



Smithsonian museum “so all visitors can understand what happened that day.”

The ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda comes as Democrats, just weeks away from losing their House majority, race to finish a nearly 18-month investigation of the insurrection.

Democrats and two Republicans conducting the probe have vowed to uncover the details of the attack, which came as Trump tried to over-

turn his election defeat and encouraged his supporters to “fight like hell” in a rally just before the congressional certification.

Awarding the medals will be among House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s last ceremonial acts as she prepares to step down from leadership. When the bill passed the House more than a year ago, she said the law enforcement officers from across the city defended the Capitol because they were “the type of Americans who heard the call to serve and answered it, putting country above self.”

“They enabled us to return to the Capitol,” and certify Biden’s presidency, she said then, “to that podium that night to show the world that our democracy had prevailed and that it had succeeded because of them.”

Trump Organisation tax fraud trial in jury’s hands

AP ■ NEW YORK

Jurors started deliberating Monday in the Trump Organization’s criminal tax fraud trial, weighing charges that former President Donald Trump’s company helped executives dodge personal income taxes on perks such as Manhattan apartments and luxury cars.

The deliberations follow a monthlong trial that featured testimony from seven witnesses, including long-

time Trump Organization finance chief Allen Weisselberg and Senior Vice President and Controller Jeffrey McConney. An outside accountant who spent years preparing tax returns for Trump and the company also testified.

About 40 minutes into deliberations, jurors sent a note asking the judge to reread the elements of one of the charges, conspiracy to defraud in the fourth degree.

Iran officials sentence 5 to death for killing Basij officer

AP ■ CAIRO

Iranian authorities sentenced five people to death for allegedly killing an officer affiliated with Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard, state media said Tuesday. Eleven others received lengthy prison sentences.

The 13 men and three minors had been charged with killing Ruhollah Ajamian, an official from the Basij, a paramilitary volunteer branch of Iran’s elite Revolutionary Guard, according to the report from IRNA, Iran’s state news agency.

The five sentenced to death Monday were charged by Iran’s Revolutionary Court, along with

eight others. Three boys were charged by Iran’s Criminal Court, according to the report. Iran’s judiciary spokesman, Masoud Setayeshi, who is cited in the report, provided no evidence to support any of the accusations.

The alleged killing took place in Karaj, near Tehran, on Nov. 12 when the 16 encircled and attacked Ajamian with knives and stones, the report said. IRNA did not disclose the identities of the 16. It said their sentences can be appealed.

The sentences come amid months of anti-government demonstrations that have been violently suppressed by Iran’s security forces.

Taliban allow high school graduation exams for Afghan girls

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

Afghan girls will be allowed to take their high school graduation exams this week, an official and documents from the Taliban government indicated Tuesday — even though they have been banned from classrooms since the former insurgents took over the country last year.

According to two documents from the Taliban ministry of education, obtained by The Associated Press, the decision applies to 31 out of Afghanistan’s 34 provinces where the winter school break starts in late December.

AP ■ KYIV

A fire that broke out at an airport in Russia’s southern Kursk region that borders Ukraine was the result of a drone attack, the regional governor said Tuesday, a day after Moscow blamed Kyiv for drone strikes on two air bases deep inside Russia and launched a new wave of missile strikes on Ukrainian territory.

Kursk Governor Roman Starovoy said in a Telegram post that the drone attack ignited an oil reservoir in the area of Kursk airport and the blaze was being contained by crews at the scene.

Ukrainian officials have not formally confirmed carrying out the drone attacks, maintaining their apparent policy of deliberate ambiguity as they have done in the past when it comes to high-

profile attacks on Russian targets.

Presidential adviser Mikhail Podolyak taunted Moscow in comments on Twitter.

“If something is launched into other countries’ airspace, sooner or later unknown flying objects will return to the point of departure,” Podolyak wrote. “The earth is round.”

The unprecedented attacks in Russia — more than 500 km (300 miles) from the border with Ukraine — threatened a major escalation of the nine-month war. One of the airfields houses bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

The attacks also exposed the vulnerability of some of Russia’s most strategic military sites, raising questions about the effectiveness of their air defences.

Russia’s Defence Ministry

AP ■ TIRANA (ALBANIA)

EU leaders and their Western Balkan counterparts gathered Tuesday for talks aimed at boosting their partnership as Russia’s war in Ukraine threatens to reshape the geopolitical balance in the region.

The EU wants to use the one-day summit in Albania’s capital to tell leaders from Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia that they have futures within the wealthy economic bloc and give them concrete signs, rather than just promises, that they will join one day.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February, the EU’s top diplomat, Josep Borrell, has been repeating that stepping up the bloc’s engagement with the six nations is more crucial than ever to maintaining Europe’s security.

As Europe’s relationship with Russia deteriorates further because of the war, tensions have also mounted in the

Balkans and the EU wants to avoid other flashpoints close to its borders.

In the Western Balkans, several crises are looming, and partners feel the immediate damaging impact of Russia’s aggression against Ukraine,” Borrell said last month. “The shockwaves of this war are hitting the Western Balkans. To counter that, we are stepping up our engagement as the Western Balkans remain our geostrategic priority — the closest and most important geostrategic priority.” According to a draft of the declaration to be adopted at the summit, the EU will repeat “its full and unequivocal commitment to the European Union membership perspective of the Western Balkans” and call for an acceleration of accession talks with the incumbents.

In return, the EU expects full solidarity from its Western Balkans partners and wants them fully aligned with its foreign policies.

That particular point has



been problematic with Serbia, whose president, Aleksandar Vucic, claims he wants to take Serbia into the European Union but has cultivated ties with Russia.

Although Serbia’s representatives voted in favor of various U.N. Resolutions condemning Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Vucic has refused to explicitly condemn Moscow. His country has not joined Western sanctions against Russia over the war.

Although the progress of

mid-air refuelling.

In a daily intelligence update on the war in Ukraine, Britain’s Defence Ministry said Russia was likely to consider the base attacks as “some of the most strategically significant failures of force protection since its invasion of Ukraine”. It said the bombers would likely be dispersed to other airfields.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Russian authorities will “take the necessary measures” to enhance protection of key facilities in view of the latest Ukrainian attacks.

Speaking in a conference call with reporters Tuesday, Peskov said “the Ukrainian regime’s course for continuation of such terror attacks poses a threat.”

Peskov reaffirmed that Russia sees no prospects for peace talks now, adding that

“the Russian Federation must achieve its stated goals.”

Russia, meanwhile, maintained intense attacks on Ukrainian territory, shelling towns overnight near the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant that left more than 9,000 homes without running water, local Ukrainian officials said.

The towns lie across the Dnieper river from the nuclear plant, which was seized by Russian forces in the early stages of the war. Russia and Ukraine have for months accused each other of shelling at and around the plant.

The head of Ukraine’s northern Sumy region, which borders Russia, said that Moscow launched over 80 missile and heavy artillery attacks on its territory. Governor Dmytro Zhvyvitsky said the strikes damaged a monastery near the border town of Shalyhne.

Nepal polls: Rise of two new parties ends monopoly of traditional forces in Madhes region

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

The recently concluded election in Nepal has witnessed two new parties - Janamat Party and Nagarik Unmukti Party - entering into Parliament from the Terai or Madhes region, ending the monopoly of the two traditional parties in the southern plains bordering India.

In fact, the combined strength of both the traditional forces of Terai - Janata Samajwadi Party (JSP) led by

Upendra Mahato and Lokatantrik Samajwadi Party (LSP) led by Mahantha Thakur — has been reduced by 50 per cent in the just concluded polls.

Five years ago, the two Terai-based parties had a combined strength of 33 in the House of Representatives. However, their combined strength has been reduced to just 16 seats, with the emergence of two new political parties in the region.

In the recent election, JSP has bagged seven seats under

direct voting and it will get five more seats under proportionate voting. Similarly, LSP has won just 4 seats but it would not get any seat under proportionate voting as the party failed to get national recognition.

Political analyst Rajesh Ahiraj, who closely monitors Madhesi politics, said that corruption, communalism and provocative politics are the main factors that made these traditional Madhesi parties weaker and tarnished their image in the Terai region.

of the way the nation is run.

Kosovo has only started the first step, with the signing of a Stabilization and Association Agreement. It said it would apply for candidate status later this month.

Among the concrete measures to be adopted in Tirana, a deal involving telecommunications operators that will bring down data roaming charges will be announced. Discussions will also focus on the negative effects for energy and food security from Russia’s war in Ukraine. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has already announced financial support to help countries in the Western Balkans cope with shortages and higher prices.

The EU last admitted a new member - Croatia, which is also part of the Balkans - in 2013. Before that, Bulgaria and Romania joined in 2007. With the withdrawal of the United Kingdom in 2021, the EU now has 27 member nations.

DO-OR-DIE GAME FOR INDIA

Big guns face heat as India meet Bangladesh in must-win 2nd ODI

PTI ■ MIRPUR

Trying to pick up pieces after a demoralising defeat, India's decorated top-order will be desperate to change the narrative and give a better account of itself against slow bowling in the do-or-die second ODI against Bangladesh here on Wednesday.

Having failed to take the last wicket when Bangladesh needed more than 50 runs, Indian bowlers could not deliver but there is no denying the fact that a star-studded batting line-up needs to show more responsibility.

The last time India played a bilateral series in Bangladesh was back in 2015 when under Mahendra Singh Dhoni, the team lost the three-match series 1-2 and the only win came in the dead third rubber.

History could repeat itself at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium if spinners Shakib Al Hasan and Mehidy Hasan Miraj can once again keep the Indian batters under wraps between overs 11-40.

That was the real period of struggle for all Indian batters, save KL Rahul (73 off 70 balls) who was the best player on show in the opening game.

While there are still 10 months left for the ODI World Cup, it is not yet clear what exactly will be Indian team's approach.

The talks around adopting a "fearless approach" has been going on for some time but its implementation has only been sporadic. At times, adapting to conditions and reacting to situations has got more prominence.

The track at Mirpur wasn't exactly a batting beauty but it also didn't



Dhawan focusing on his sweeping skills



PTI ■ MIRPUR

Battling indifferent form, veteran India opener Shikhar Dhawan is working on his sweep shot and reverse hit as part of his preparation for the ODI World Cup at home later this year.

Having scored just one half-century in his last nine innings, the 37-year-old left-hander faces the heat in the build up to the ODI showpiece.

Shubman Gill, who is not part of the

series in Bangladesh, has emerged as a strong contender to open alongside skipper Rohit Sharma in the World Cup.

Team India head coach Rahul Dravid had a special session with him ahead of the second ODI on Wednesday.

"It's good to practice more. These shots will come handy in these conditions. Even in the World Cup in India where spinners will make an impact, those shots will be helpful. I always enjoy playing them.

warrant a score of 186.

The erstwhile selection committee's decision to rest both Shubman Gill and Sanju Samson for this series has been equally baffling.

The logic given by the former chairman of selectors Chetan Sharma was that due to a short turnaround from New Zealand, they have picked a fresh bunch of players for the series.

Gill wasn't a part of T20 World Cup and also didn't play the T20 series in New Zealand (he was part of the squad though) and hence leaving him out was baffling.

One of the problems with the Indian top order players is that they are accelerating the run-rate but at the same time consuming way more dot deliveries than they should.

In the match against Bangladesh, dot balls worth more than 25 overs were consumed even as they batted for less than 42 overs.

If the eight overs that they couldn't bat is taken into account, the team missed out on scoring off almost 200 balls.

In modern-day cricket, when England is changing the rules of engagement across formats in every sense, the Indian team is taking one step forward and four backwards.

The idea of handing the gloves to KL Rahul wasn't about increasing flexibility in the team but to ensure that both Rahul and Dhawan could be fitted in the same playing XI, going into the World Cup.

Samson, one of the most flamboyant players, wasn't even picked for this series and Ishan Kishan, who scored a 93 in his last ODI series, despite being a specialist keeper-batter was benched.



Stokes hails 'special' win in Pakistan

AP ■ RAWALPINDI

Skipper Ben Stokes hailed England's nail-biting victory in the first Test against Pakistan as "one of the best" of his career -- particularly given the state of the lifeless Rawalpindi pitch.

With just minutes to spare in dying light after five days of enthralling cricket, England finally halted a heroic last stand by Pakistan's tailenders to win the first Test by 74 runs.

It was only the third time England have won a Test in Pakistan, although they haven't visited since 2005 because of security issues.

"To be able to get a result on this type of wicket is mind-blowing," Stokes said ahead of the second Test starting in Multan on Friday.

"I think it's probably one of the best. The effort that everyone has managed to put in this whole week is just incredible."

England have "Bazball" to thank for their victory -- the free-wheeling brand of cricket coined from the nickname of new head coach Brendon "Baz" McCullum, a New Zealander.

McCullum was an aggressive batter in his playing days -- he holds the record for the fastest individual Test century -- and under him, and skipper Stokes, the English have brought one-day cricket to the five-day game.

Records tumbled in Rawalpindi with England becoming the only team in his-

tory to score 500 runs on the first day of a Test -- courtesy of four individual centuries, another record.

Overall, some 1,768 runs were scored in the match -- the third-highest aggregate since Test cricket began.

Still, Pakistan did well to peg back England's daunting 657-run first-innings total to trail by just 78 runs.

England again turned on the fireworks in their second innings before a bold Stokes declaration left Pakistan seeking 343 runs for victory.

For a while, it looked as if the home team would do it -- but a devastating last session saw England shine as the light dimmed for a famous victory. "We're pretty lost for words," said Stokes, who now has seven wins in the last eight Tests.

"I feel very honoured and feel a very privileged position to be able to lead these guys.

"Jimmy Anderson was saying he felt a bit emotional, so having a bloke with near enough 180 Test matches (176) feeling like that at the end of this is proof that we've achieved something very special."

Stokes suggested "Bazball" was here to stay.

"Test cricket is generally exciting when England are playing," he said. "That's what we set out to do from day one."

And he praised the fighting spirit of his players in dealing with a mystery virus that threatened the start of the first Test.

Youth will play pivotal role in making India a developed nation by 2047: Thakur

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur says that the youth will play a pivotal role in making India a developed nation by 2047.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set sight on India becoming a developed nation by 2047.

"For the country to progress in Amritkal, the role of young volunteers will play a pivotal role in attaining honour Prime Minister's vision of India at 2047," the

Sports Minister said on the occasion of International Volunteer Day on Monday.

"The Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs along with its partners and stakeholders remain dedicated to promoting youth action and youth volunteerism in India.

"To optimally engage the constructive and creative energies of the youth, the department of youth affairs will pursue the twin objectives of personality building and nation building," he added.

Women's cricket: BCCI transfers head coach Powar to NCA; Kanitkar appointed batting coach

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With only two months left for the Women's T20 World Cup, the BCCI on Tuesday shunted head coach Ramesh Powar to the National Cricket Academy as a part of its 'restructuring module'.

While no head coach was named, former India batter Hrishikesh Kanitkar, who has been a part of Indian men's pathway teams (A and U-19), has been appointed as the new batting coach ahead of the home series against Australia, starting December 9 in Mumbai.



"Ramesh Powar, former Head Coach of the senior women's team will join VVS Laxman, Head Cricket, National Cricket Academy and will switch to men's cricket as part of the restructuring module of the BCCI," the BCCI stated in a release. "The BCCI on Monday (Tuesday) announced the appointment of Hrishikesh Kanitkar as the Batting Coach of the Senior Women's cricket team. Mr. Kanitkar will join the team from the upcoming five-match T20I series against Australia starting 9th December in Mumbai," it further stated.

Handscomb hopeful of earning ticket for India tour

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

In-form batter Peter Handscomb is aware it will be difficult to find a spot in an "impressive" Australian Test squad but said he is still hoping to earn a place for the India tour with his 'weight of numbers'.

The 31-year-old, who last played red-ball cricket almost four years back, amassed 562 runs at 93.66 in this summer's Sheffield Shield. He notched a pair of fifties for the Prime Minister's XI against West Indies last month.

Handscomb will look to push his case when he leads a



Cricket Australia XI against South Africa, starting in Brisbane on Friday.

"I'm thereabouts ... So the conversations (with Test selectors) are promising," Handscomb was quoted as saying by 'The West Australian'.

"But you've also got to look at the Test squad as well and there are guys that are in front of me and there are batters doing pretty impressive things.

"I can score as many runs as I want but there still needs to be a spot at the next level, and at the moment they're playing pretty good cricket."

Handscomb is known for his ability to play spin but he will face competition from Travis Head when it comes to finding a place in the team for the India tour.

Head had tough tours of Sri Lanka and Pakistan this year.

"All you can do as a batter is force your way in through weight of numbers," said Handscomb, who will join Melbourne Renegades for the upcoming BBL season.

"I pick up the gloves just to make sure that they also know that I'm still available as a back-up keeper, or can take them if need be.

"That's also an important skill to have in your bag."

Australia will tour India for a four-Test series for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy early in February-March next year.

LOCAL EVENTS



EASY WIN FOR SAI 'A'

Sports Authority of India 'A' crushed Smart Hockey Academy Raipur 11-0 in a pool A match of Khelo India Women's Hockey League on Tuesday. Kajal scored four goals while Sonali and Binati netted a brace. Earlier, Har Hockey Academy Haryana thrashed Ghumanhera Riser's Academy 11-0. In pool 'B', Pritam Hockey Academy and Sports Authority of Gujarat defeated Salute

Hockey Academy and Bhai Bhelo Hockey Academy respectively.

TEAM ANNOUNCED

The Lucknow team for state-level senior men's handball championship was announced on Tuesday. Regional sports office Ajay Sethi gave away the kits to the players.

THE TEAM: Sachin, Vimal, Bittu, Gora, Ankit Chaudhary, Pradeep, Shubham, Rajneesh,

Mahendra, Arun, mohit, Suyash.

NATIONAL SOFT TENNIS

Amateur Soft Tennis Association, Uttar Pradesh is organising the 17th Atal Junior National Soft Tennis Championship at Vijyant Khnad stadium from December 13. 450 players from 26 states will take part in the championship.



UP TEAMS: (Boy's) Pranav Mishra, Om Yadav, Sanidhya Dwivedi, Aryan Barnwal, Rishi Yadav, Awas Yadav, Pankaj Yadav, Yash Patel, Raj Pandey, Ankit Kumar, Anuj Babu Pandey and Aditya Dwivedi; **(Girl's)** Ankita, Sanskriti Gautam, Alisha, Lehar, Neha Gupta, Zoya Aziz, Shakti Mishra, Sanskriti Gautam, Tanushri Pandey and Khushi Chaudhary.

Prannoy eyes glory at maiden World Tour Finals

PTI ■ BANGKOK

Star Indian shuttler HS Prannoy will look to display fearless brand of badminton against the best in the business in his quest for glory on his maiden BWF World Tour Finals appearance, here from Wednesday.

With double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu skipping the event due to an injury, Prannoy will be the lone Indian at the year-ending tournament, which was moved from Guangzhou, China, due to the rise in COVID-19 infection cases.

One of the most consistent Indian players in the circuit this season, Prannoy has been clubbed in Group A along with Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark, Japan's Kodai Naraoka and China's Lu Guang Zu.

"I am excited to start my BWF World Tour Finals campaign. It's my first time in the



Manisha wins BWF Female Para-Badminton Player of the Year award

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Young Indian shuttler Manisha Ramadass has claimed the BWF Female Para-Badminton Player of the Year award for her stellar run this season.

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) on Monday named Manisha as the winner after the 17-year-old won the gold in the World Championships in the SU5 section. Overall, she claimed 11 gold and five bronze medals in 2022. Other contenders in this section were India's Nithya Sre Sumathy and Manasi Joshi, Sarina Satomi, Giuliana Poveda Flores, and Pilar Jauregui.

Paralympic champion

Pramod Bhagat and Thomas Cup winner HS Prannoy, however, missed out on the prestigious award.

Bhagat, who claimed his fourth world championships singles gold this year, was among those short-listed for the BWF Male Para-Badminton Player of the Year but the award went to WH2 world champion and reigning Paralympic champion Daiki Kajiura, winner of 10 gold and four bronze medals overall. In the award for able-bodied shuttlers, Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen and Zheng Si Wei/Huang Ya Qiong's extraordinary dominance this season was honoured as they won the BWF Player of the Year Awards.

year-ending championships and I hope I can perform well," said the third-seeded Prannoy, who was recently conferred with the Arjuna award.

While Prannoy has got a decent draw and will fancy his chances of making it to the semifinals from the group stage, it will not be an easy task as he doesn't hold a good record against his group opponents.

Prannoy has a dismal 1-5 record against the world No. 1 Axelsen but he would take confidence from the fact that he had defeated the Dane in their last meeting last year in Indonesia Masters.

Against the 21-year-old new sensation Kodai Naraoka, Prannoy had suffered a defeat in their only meeting in Singapore Open in July.

The Indian had lost to China's Lu Guang Zu too in his only meeting at French Open. However, Prannoy is

known to raise his game in big-ticket events and has been a revelation this year.

He played a stellar role in India's epic Thomas Cup win in May and also produced a runner-up finish at the Swiss Open Super 300, besides reaching the semifinals at the Indonesia Open Super 1000 and Malaysia Masters Super 500 event.

His fine run in the world tour events earned him a direct qualification to the season finale for the first time in his career and he would look to make the most of the opportunity this week.

While defending champion Axelsen is certainly the most difficult hurdle on his way, Prannoy can ill-afford any slip-ups against the other two opponents.

For India, Sindhu is the only one to win the prestigious title, while Sameer Verma reached the last four stage in the 2018 edition.

Fittingly, Bellingham returned the favour by providing the assist for Henderson to put England ahead.