

OPINION 8
THE ETERNAL FLAME CAN'T
BE PARTIAL TO OUR SOLDIERS**NATION 10**
LAW MINISTER SLAMS 'ELEMENTS'
TRYING TO 'DISCREDIT' EC**AVENUES 12**
TIME FOR
SUCCESS

LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY JANUARY 26, 2022; PAGES 14 ₹3



HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY

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1st CDS, Kalyan, Gita Press head get Padma Vibhushan

Buddhadev refuses to accept Padma Bhushan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On the eve of Republic Day, the Centre bestowed the Padma Vibhushan award, India's second-highest civilian award, on the country's first Chief of Defence staff, late General Bipin Rawat, and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister late Kalyan Singh. The other two Padma Vibhushan awardees are noted musician Prabha Atre and Gita Press Chairman Radheshyam Khemka (posthumously).

Among the 17 Padma Bhushan awardees, two political leaders from the Congress and the CPI(M) — Ghulam Nabi Azad and former West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee figured in the prestigious award list. However, Buddhadeb refused to accept the award. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Tuesday came out with a list of 128 distinguished personalities from different fields for Padma Awards.

The list comprises four Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan, and 107 Padma Shri Awards. Out of 128 awardees, 34 are women and the list includes 10 persons from the



category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 13 posthumous awardees. Padma Awards are conferred in three categories: Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. Padma Vibhushan is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of high order and Padma Shri for distinguished service in any field.

The Centre also awarded Padma Bhushan to the country's two Covid vaccine makers Serum Institute's founder Cyrus Poonawala and jointly honoured Bharat Biotech promoters Dr Krishna Ella and wife Suchitra Ella. Indian origin CEO of Google Satya Nadella

and Microsoft CEO Sundar Pichai have been awarded Padma Bhushan. Former Home Secretary and CAG Rajiv Mehraishi, actor Victor Banerjee and Gujarati writer and preacher Swami Sachidanad got Padma Bhushan.

Among the 107 Padma Shri awardees Olympic Gold Medalist Neeraj Chopra, late IAS officer and Airports Authority Chairman Guruprasad Mohapatra, noted singer Sonu Nigam figured in the list.

Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh, who died last year, has been awarded Padma Vibhushan for Public Affairs, while late CDS



General Bipin Rawat got the same honour for Civil Service. Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad will be honored with Padma Bhushan for Public Affairs. Rawat hails from Uttarakhand and Kalyan from Uttar Pradesh, the two States which are headed for Assembly polls. The political significance of the Centre's decision to handpick Azad for giving the Padma award is not lost. Azad comes from Jammu & Kashmir, a Union territory, where the Centre is trying its best to win over the masses through the political process. Azad has been of late sidelined in the Congress and has also been in the news for repeatedly praising PM Narendra Modi.

Cong first family loyalist RPN Singh joins BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gandhi family loyalist RPN Singh on Tuesday joined the long line of senior Congress leaders deserting the party. The former Union Minister on Tuesday embraced the BJP dealing a blow to the Congress and giving a psychological leg-up to the saffron party in the poll-bound Uttar Pradesh.

Singh, 57, is a prominent leader and a member of royalty from the Eastern UP. He has been a three-time Congress MLA from Padrauna and a Member of Parliament from Kushinagar.

He joined the BJP shortly after writing a brief letter of resignation to the Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

Singh's exit from the party has come as a massive blow to the grand old party in the run-up to Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. The Congress leadership was apparently caught by surprise because it named Singh as the "star campaigner" only a few days ago.

A section of the party leaders feels that Singh's exit was good riddance because he had been hobnobbing with the BJP for the last one year to topple the Congress-JMM Jharkhand Government. RPN, known within the Congress circle, was Congress general secretary in charge for the Jharkhand for the last three years.



Former Congress leader RPN Singh joins BJP at party office in New Delhi on Tuesday

PTI

Singh, a key Kurmi OBC leader from eastern UP, is the second big exit for the Congress in the State after Jitin Prasad, who is now a Minister in the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP Government in UP.

Addressing the media after joining the party here at the BJP headquarters in the presence of BJP UP in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan, UP party president Swatantra Dev Singh, UP Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dr Dinesh Sharma, and Jyotiraditya Scindia, Singh lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi who, he said, is being "appreciated roundly for linking the ancient Indian civilisation and cul-

ture with the 21st century".

Singh is also seen as BJP's Assembly candidate against OBC leader Swami Prasad Maurya who recently left the BJP to join the SP.

Criticising the Congress, his erstwhile party, Singh said, "I spent 32 years in one political party (Congress). But that party has not remained the same as it was before when I joined it. I will work as a 'karyakarta' towards fulfilling PM Modi's dreams for India," said Singh.

He also praised the double-engine Government and the change in the law and order situation in UP.

Continued on Page 11

SC issues notices to Centre, EC on guidelines on 'freebies' in polls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued notice to the Centre and the Election Commission on framing of guidelines on "freebies" promised by political parties before elections.

Observing that it was a "serious issue", and "freebie budget" was going beyond the regular Budget, the court sought a response from the poll body and the Union Government in four weeks.

The Chief Justice of India said that the Supreme Court, in a different issue, had directed the poll body to frame guidelines on the matter but the poll body held just one meeting whose outcome is unknown.

"Within the limited scope, we had directed the Election Commission to frame guidelines. But subsequently, they conducted only one meeting after our directions. They sought views from political parties and thereafter I do not know what happened," NV Ramana, the Chief Justice of India, said.

A bench of CJI Ramana, Justice AS Bopanna and Justice Hima Kohli was hearing a plea filed by lawyer and BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyay saying public funds were being misused by all political parties, pushing States deeper into debt.

Continued on Page 11

Delhi Govt offices to have only Ambedkar, Bhagat Singh photos

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

All Delhi Government offices will carry photos of Bhimrao Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh, and no pictures of any political leader, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Tuesday.

Kejriwal also made the announcement during the Delhi Government's Republic Day programme that the Government offices will henceforth not even have the Chief Minister's picture.

"The Delhi Government is trying to fulfill the dreams which Babasaheb and Bhagat Singh saw for Indian society. No other Government in the last 75 years tried to walk on the path shown by Dr Ambedkar and Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh. Babasaheb envisioned highest quality of education for every single child of India but no Government could provide that in 75 years, with the education revolution thriving in the State, the Delhi Government diligently working to ensure that we can fulfil Babasaheb's dream," the CM said.

"Both Babasaheb and



Bhagat Singh wanted an independent India wherein success did not depend on one's caste or class and everyone got equal treatment."

Addressing Delhiites on the eve of Republic Day, Kejriwal said the AAP Government increased 25 per cent and worked from starting to transform Delhi schools.

He also mentioned various programmes in Government schools.

"We are not just teaching our students to be good citizens but also inculcating entrepreneurship and Deshbhakti in them. We are establishing the Delhi Teachers' University with the goal of preparing next generation teachers of the highest global standards. Had Dr Ambedkar been here with us in the present, he would have accepted us with open arms and given us his patronage."

Continued on Page 11

Rift in Bengal BJP, party ex-vice prez among 2 suspended

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The rift in the Bengal BJP widened with former State vice-president Jayprakash Majumdar, known for his proximity to former State BJP president Dilip Ghosh and defiant Union Minister Shantanu Thakur, on Tuesday exploded against a section of the State and national leadership hours after he and former State general secretary Ritesh Tewari were suspended from the BJP.

Earlier the two leaders were suspended from the party hours after they were asked to show cause for their alleged anti-party activities. The two leaders were seen attending picnic parties of rebel MLAs organised by Thakur.

Attacking State president Sukanto Majumdar and general secretary Amitava Chakrabarty for making mess of party affairs post its stunning defeat in the last year's Assembly elections, Jayprakash Majumdar said that "about 80 per cent of the functionaries who took BJP from 4 per cent (vote share) to 40 per cent have been removed from their posts and the self-seeking

new comers who had joined the party after 2019, when we got 19 seats, to enjoy the nectar have been placed on top posts... with the result that the party is gradually sinking."

Alleging that "out of 42 district presidents 32 were unknown to their constituencies... even the State president and the organisational general secretary are only about 2-and-a-half years only in organisational politics," the suspended leader said, adding, "the voice was of State leaders were suppressed in the party... and after the electoral debacle all the leaders who came from outside Bengal scurried back leaving the grassroots at the mercy of Trinamool Congress men."

Alleging that "the BJP only resorted to laws suits to counter the violence against the party men as the workers continued to bear the brunt of the ruling party repression... the leadership did not even stand by them... whereas when Mamata Banerjee was the Opposition leader she launched movements against State oppression... she never jettisoned her workers."

and its people."

In the video, Channi can be seen as "Thor" carrying the Stormbreaker, Rahul Gandhi as "Bruce Banner" wearing the Hulkbuster, Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu as 'Captain America', and senior party leader Sunil Kumar Jakhar as "Groot".

The video, which starts with Hulk-Rahul Gandhi announcing "Koi na bachna tussi" (you can no longer be saved) in a warning to the opponents, also portrays Channi in the lead role - in an indication to be the party's choice of CM candidate.

Continued on Page 11

Channi 'Thor', Rahul 'Hulk' take on 'aliens' in Punjab



MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

With the political parties fighting the ballot-battle in the virtual arena amidst restrictions on physical roadshows and rallies for February 20 Punjab polls, Punjab Congress has come up with a latest campaign video - inspired by 2018's Hollywood superhero movie "Avengers" - featuring Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi as the mighty god of thunder "Thor" and Rahul Gandhi as "Bruce Banner".

Through the 34 seconds video, the Congress has virtually declared war against its rival political parties. Sharing

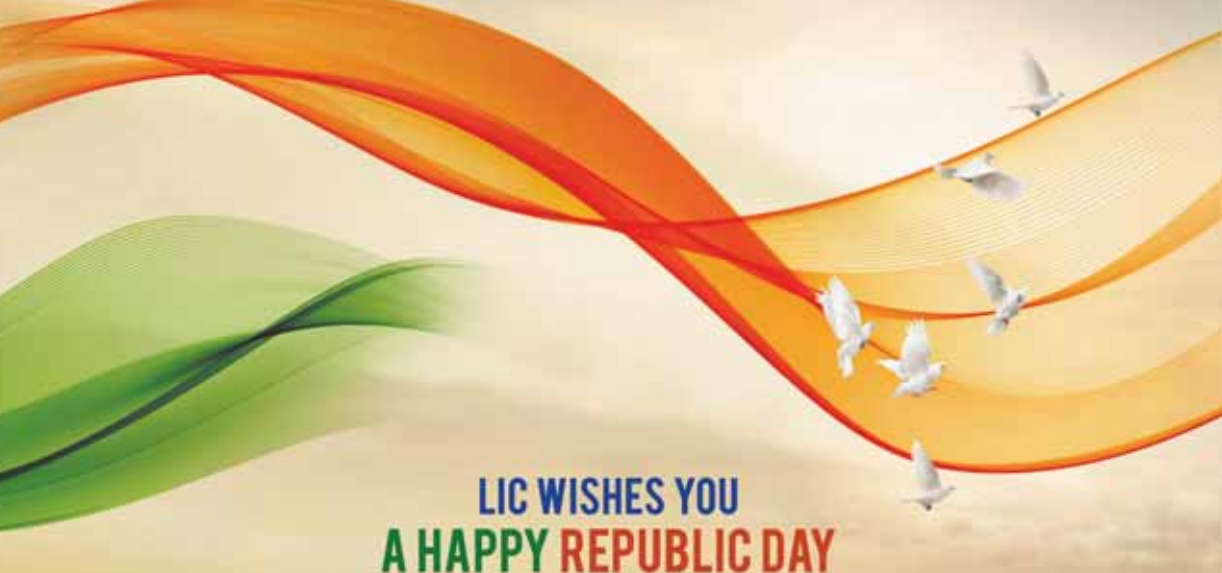


it on its social media handles, the party captioned, "We will do whatever it takes to redeem our beloved State from the clutches of evil forces working against the interest of Punjab




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Notification issued for 3rd phase polls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Election Commission of India issued the notification for the third phase of UP assembly elections on Tuesday.

The third phase polls will cover 59 assembly constituencies spread across 16 districts of Bundelkhand and polling will be held on February 20.

UP Chief Electoral Officer Ajay Kumar Shukla said in Lucknow that notification for the third phase was issued at 11 am on Tuesday.

Shukla said that more than 2.15 crore voters comprising 1.16 crore males, 99.62 lakh females and 1,096 of the third gender would exercise their right to franchise in the third phase.

The chief electoral officer said that candidates could submit their online application through Suvidha web portal and submit the copy of application form to returning officer.

No candidate will be allowed to take out a procession at the time of nomination in view of COVID-19 pandemic. The last date for the third phase nominations is February 1, scrutiny of nominations will be done on February 2 and the last date for withdrawal is February 4.

A total of 59 assembly constituencies will go to polls in the third phase in 16 districts namely Kasganj, Hathras, Firozabad, Etah, Mainpuri, Farrukhabad, Kannauj, Etawah, Auraiya, Kanpur Dehat, Kanpur Nagar, Jalaun, Hamirpur, Mahoba, Jhansi and Lalitpur.

The assembly constituencies going to polls in the third phase are Hathras (SC), Sadabad, Sikandarapur, Tundla (SC), Jasrana, Firozabad, Shikohabad, Sirsaganj, Kasganj, Amopur, Patiali, Aliganj, Etah, Marhara, Jalesar (SC), Mainpuri, Bhogaon, Kishni (SC), Karhal, Kayamganj (SC), Amritpur, Farrukhabad, Bhojpur, Chhibramau, Tirwa, Kannauj (SC), Jaswantnagar, Etawah, Bharthana (SC), Bidhuna, Dibiyapur, Auraiya (SC), Rasulabad (SC), Akbarpur-Rania, Sikandra, Bhognipur, Bilhaur (SC), Bithoor, Kalyanpur, Govindnagar, Sisamau, Aya Nagar, Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur Cantonment, Maharajpur, Ghatampur (SC), Madhaugarh, Kalpi, Orai (SC), Babina, Jhansi Nagar, Mauranipur (SC), Garoutha, Lalitpur, Mehrauni (SC), Hamirpur, Rath (SC), Mahoba and Charkhari.

In the 2017 assembly elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party had swept the polls by winning 50 of these 59 assembly seats while the Samajwadi Party had won seven and Bahujan Samaj Party and Congress one each.

Battle on for non-Yadav OBC votes in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the electoral competition intensifying between the Bharatiya Janata Party and Samajwadi Party, the non-Yadav Other Backward Classes has emerged as a distinct voting class in Uttar Pradesh. The battle for non-Yadav OBC vote bank has ensured that in the coming year this voting bloc will be a significant player in electoral politics of UP.

The BJP in 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections and 2017 UP assembly elections drew rich political dividends as it forged a new social coalition of non-Yadav OBCs, non-Jatav Dalit communities and upper castes. The BJP has been stung by a spate of resignations, including by three non-Yadav OBC ministers Swami Prasad Maurya, Dara Singh Chauhan and Dharam Singh Saini.

The three ministers of the Yogi Adityanath council of ministers along with a couple of other non-Yadav OBC MLAs of BJP also joined the SP. This development has placed the Akhilesh Yadav-led SP, a serious contender for the throne in Lucknow in a good position.

The SP, keen to shed its Muslim-Yadav tag, has increased the representation of non-Yadav OBCs in the ticket distribution for the assembly seats.

Though the BJP was able to draw political dividends from this vote bank in 2014 for the first time, the foundation for this vote bank was laid by BJP Chief Minister Rajnath Singh in 2001.

On June 28, 2001, then Chief Minister Rajnath Singh had constituted a social justice committee headed by then cabinet minister Hukum Singh to devise an equitable policy for distribution of reservations.

The committee recommended quota within quota for the non-Yadav OBCs. The total quota for OBCs is 27 per cent. Both Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party had then vehemently opposed the idea.

The committee recommended that

dominant OBC castes like Yadavs, Kurmi and Lodh be slotted in the first category and assigned five per cent reservation. Eight castes, Sonar, Jat, Kurmi, Giri, Gurjar, Gosain, Lodh and Kamboj, were declared more backward and allotted nine per cent reservation, whereas 70 castes, including Kushwaha, Kashyap, Nishad, Koeri, Teli, Saini, etc were classified as most backward and given 14 per cent reservation. The BJP, however, failed to reap any political dividend in 2002 UP assembly elections and the party finished third in the polls. Mayawati headed the next BSP-BJP coalition government and it scrapped the report.

The electoral contest in UP has remained triangular for the last two decades, with the BJP, the BSP and the SP being the principal power contenders.

These political parties enjoy strong support among the upper castes, scheduled castes and Yadav-Muslim communities, respectively. Voters who comprise a strong social support base of political parties are identified as partisan voters. Such voters play an indispensable role in the surge and decline of political parties, but they do not decide victory in elections.

This is decided by the less partisan voters who do not remain aligned with any political party. In UP, such voters are the non-Yadav OBCs. Till the 2012 UP assembly elections, non-Yadav OBCs decided electoral outcomes heavily due to their alignment largely with the SP and BSP and a small section with the BJP.

The BJP in UP has worked hard to mobilise the non-Yadav OBC voters since 2014 Lok Sabha elections and reaped rich political dividends. In fact BJP has built a coalition of upper castes, non-Yadav OBCs, and non-Jatav SCs in the state. This new social coalition has broken all previous records and the BJP has not only been able to win the highest number of seats, but also increase its vote share. In the upcoming assembly election, it appears that a serious attempt has been made by the SP to dent this social coalition.

Bodies of missing minors found buried in field in Gorakhpur

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Gorakhpur was again rocked by a sensational double-murder after the bodies of two minors who went missing 18 days back were recovered from a field on the fringes of Nauvari Palipa village in Jhanga area on Tuesday.

The hands of both victims were tied and there were injury marks on the head. The bodies were later sent for post-mortem examination.

As per reports, Ganesh Jaiswal (17) and Akash Jaiswal (16) of Nauvari Palipa village of Jhanga area had left home late in the evening of January 7 and later went missing since then. Their family members first assumed that both had gone to work in a factory in Gorakhpur industrial area. But after searching, when they failed to trace them, the new market police outpost in-charge Abhay Pandey was informed about their disappearance and a probe was initiated.

On Tuesday, some stray animals dug up a pit in a field exposing the buried bodies. Some passers-by noticed the concealed body parts and informed the Jhanga police station.

Later, Superintendent of Police (North) Manoj Awasthi and Circle

Officer of Chaurichaura, Akhilanand Upadhyay, reached the spot along with a forensic team. The police dug up the ground and retrieved the bodies.

The hands of both victims were tied with a rope and there were injury marks on their heads.

The family members said that on the night of January 7, four of the victims' friends had come home. They first came to Ganesh's house and took him along and then came to Akash and also took him along with them. Since then Ganesh and Akash were not seen.

The police have now started searching for their friends. Both Ganesh and Akash's father are farmers. Ganesh was a student of Class 11, while Akash was the breadwinner of his family. Meanwhile, one person was brutally beaten to death over a political dispute in Hardoi.

Guddu of village Kinauti was engaged in embroidery work and used to live with his maternal grandmother since childhood. A local villager, Sarvesh, and his father Deepchandra alias Kallu had a fight with Guddu over the election of gram pradhan about a fortnight ago but they were pacified by the villagers.

On Monday afternoon, Guddu

STF arrests Ajit Singh murder case accused

Lucknow (PNS): A team of UP Special Task Force nabbed an accused named in the murder of history-sheeter Ajit Singh in Vibhuti Khand police station area in Gomti Nagar on Tuesday.

The accused, Vipul Singh aka Vipin Kumar Singh of Jaunpur district, was carrying a cash reward of Rs 50,000. The STF was handed over the case of Ajit Singh's murder on January 8 after Lucknow police failed in its efforts. Police said Vipul had driven injured Rajesh Tomar to Sultanpur for treatment. Tomar had allegedly opened fire at Ajit Singh who fired back at him in retaliation.

went to Carpenter Kheda market to buy vegetables, where five people, including Sarvesh and Deepchandra, nabbed him and struck him with a hammer. After the assailants fled the scene, Guddu was rushed to a doctor who referred him to the community health centre in Sandila but he was pronounced dead.

RLD demand ban on opinion polls

Lucknow (PNS): Rashtriya Lok Dal has demanded a ban on opinion polls being aired on different news channels with an immediate effect.

In the statement, RLD national secretary Anil Dubey said he had handed over a memorandum of demand to the chief election officer.

He said the announcement of UP assembly election was made on January 8 and nomination for the

second phase of election was underway despite this some news channels were airing opinion polls related to the election and this way they were affecting the transparency and objectivity of the polls.

Dubey said the news channels were creating confusion among the voters by their opinion polls and this was a clear violation of the model code of conduct.

“The opinion polls shown by the news channels are presenting unethical things and violating the model code of conduct. This may influence the voting trend and the very aim of ensuring free and fair elections will be defeated,” he said.

The RLD leader said the Election Commission of India should immediately ban opinion polls to ensure free and fair polls.



I, Army No. 4190209-X Hav Mahesh Chandra Unit-9 Kumaon C/o 56 A P O hereby declare that in my service record my daughter's name wrongly mentioned as BHAWANA while her correct name is BHAWANA KAPRI may be recorded in service records.

सूचना

सूचित हो कि विजय कुमार एवं विजय कुमार गुप्ता दोनों नाम मेरे स्वयं के हैं। परन्तु भविष्य में मुझे विजय कुमार गुप्ता के नाम से जाना व पहचाना जाए। विजय कुमार गुप्ता पुत्र स्व० लक्ष्मी प्रसाद गुप्ता निवासी फ्लैट नं० 701, ब्लॉक C सातवां तल, ओमोमा ग्रीन पार्क, फैजाबाद रोड, उत्तरखण्ड, चिनहट, लखनऊ।

NOTICE

No14666149P Nk Raju Mali S/O Harihar Prasad Mali Village Gorla Nayan Post Belwa Bagha Nala Thana Chhawani District Basti Pin 272129 Want to declare that my father's name is Harihar Prasad Mali. Father's name on Aadhar card is Harihar Saini of our brothers Rohit Saini, Rahul Saini and Rajan saini. The name Harihar Saini and Harihar Prasad Mali are the same person who is my father and this is true and corre

सूचना

सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि श्रीमती संयुक्ता कुमारी निवासनी- बी 7- कुबेर हाउस, साकेत नगर कालोनी, लंका, वाराणसी का निम्नलिखित सम्पत्ति का मूल दस्तावेज कहीं खो गया है।

1. Ambrosia Apartment Flat No 202 Lanka BHU Main Road Varanasi. First Party (विक्रेता) Kalpadrum Limited Via Sri Shwetabha Vikram Gupta
Second Party (क्रेता) Smt. Sanyucta Kumari And Krishna Deo Singh
दिनांक 26.07.2013 को वही सं० 1 जिल्द सं० 5817 पृष्ठ सं० 197 से 216 पर क्रमांक 6196 रजिस्ट्रीकृत किया गया।

2. Ground Floor of "Shanti Niketan" Phase- 1 Ganesh Bagh, House built up over part of S.M. Plot No. 206/1 First Party (विक्रेता) Smt. Kiran Kejarwal
Second Party (क्रेता) Smt. Sanyucta Kumari
दिनांक 17.10.2012 को वही सं० 1 जिल्द सं० 5466 पृष्ठ सं० 201 से 242 पर क्रमांक 5568 रजिस्ट्रीकृत किया गया।

BJP, SP playing politics of polarisation: Priyanka

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday attacked the Bharatiya Janata Party government and Samajwadi Party for playing politics of polarisation and stressed that it was imperative that elections were fought only on the issue of development.

She further said that women should vote as a separate political entity and it was time to understand their rights and demand their rightful place in politics.

Taking a dig at the BJP and SP, Priyanka Vadra said that both parties preferred polarisation ahead of the polls as it strengthened their vote bank.

“To prevent the BJP or SP from taking advantage of polarisation, the people of the state need to be given an alternative to different types of politics,” she opined.

On Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath contesting from Gorakhpur Sadar constituency, the Congress leader said that the BJP leadership wanted to reduce his stature.

Meanwhile, Congress reacted strongly to senior party leader from UP, RPN Singh, joining the BJP on Tuesday.

Reacting to the development, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinet said, “The battle which the Congress has been fighting is a difficult one in nature. This can be fought only with courage, with valor and with bravery. The Congress is fighting this battle against the arrogant BJP government, its arrogance, its agencies, capitalism and all kinds of stigma. This is a fight for the truth. Our party's general secretary and UP Congress in-charge Priyanka Gandhi says that we cannot fight this battle with cowardice. So wherever RPN Singh is going, we wish him luck.”

Shrinet further said that the fight of Congress against the BJP was ideological, theoretical and true.

Maya accuses BJP, SP of criminalising politics

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati charged the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and main opposition Samajwadi Party of criminalising politics in Uttar Pradesh and said that after pushing the state to 'jungle raj', their rhetoric (jumblebaazi) continues unabated.

In response, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath accused the opposition parties of creating turmoil at the time of elections without doing any constructive work while being in power.

Ahead of the assembly elections in UP, Mayawati accused her rival BJP of indulging in jumblebaazi and the SP of patronising anarchic elements.

Without naming the SP and the BJP, Mayawati tweeted on Tuesday, “Except BSP, the governments of all parties criminalising politics and politicising crime, playing with the law



and protecting their party's goons and mafia, etc., pushed UP to jungle raj. They are guilty of troubling the public, but their rhetoric continues.”

On Monday too, the BSP said that fear, corruption, discrimination, life and property, insecurity of religion i.e. poor law and order in UP, unemployment and migration of lakhs were the biggest problems of this huge population of the

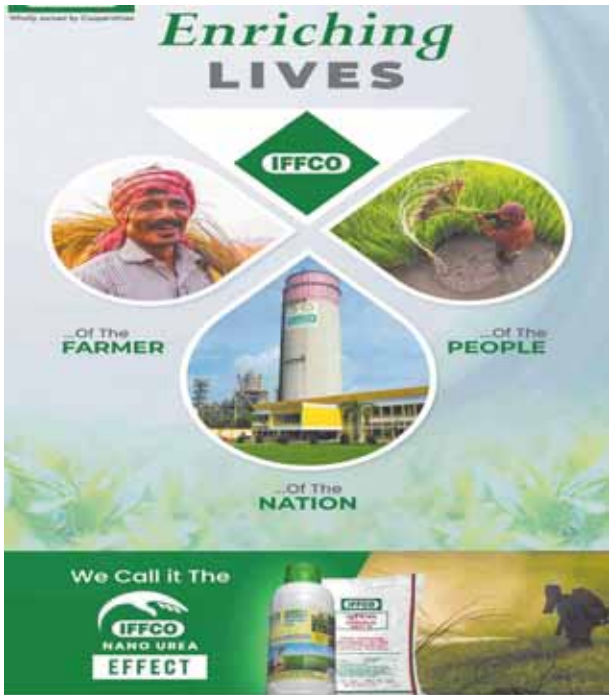
state, which was increasing continuously and causing frustration to people. The society and the state were lagging behind and this was very sad.

“Under the BSP government, two and a half lakh poor families were provided with basic amenities. Apart from this, preparations were on to build 15-20 lakh more houses. This work remained incomplete due to the change of gov-

ernment. The BJP is trying to capitalise on this. What have they done for themselves?” she tweeted.

While launching her party's poll campaign, the BSP chief is scheduled to address a public meeting in Agra on February 2.

On Tuesday, BSP general secretary Satish Chandra Mishra said, “The national president of BSP and former chief minister of UP, Mayawati will address a public meeting in Agra following Covid rules. The time and venue of the public meeting and information about upcoming public meetings will be made available to the media soon.” So far Mayawati has not been as active in the UP assembly elections as other political parties and her political activity has been confined to Twitter. However, considering her strong vote bank, she is still considered to be the one to make a difference.



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Medical experts warn of new Omicron variant

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

Medical experts have warned of a new variant of Omicron in the country which they say is more infectious than the current Omicron variant.

Officials from the Health department, however, say that an unnecessary hue and cry is being raised over the new variant because the number of coronavirus positive cases in Uttar Pradesh is already on the decline.

Piyalli Bhattacharya from Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences said that the new variant of omicron (BA2) was gradually replacing the classical BA1 as per reports from across the country.

"The new sub-lineage (BA.2) does not carry the spike 69/70del deletion and thus is not detectable by SGTf (S-gene target failure). Experts say that there could be more infections and that it will spread rapidly and also it may end abruptly," she said, adding that there were reports that BA.2 was already replacing the original Omicron variant in India.

"What is still not known is whether re-infection occurs if previously infected by BA1 and re-infected by BA.2 and what is also not known is the effect of vaccination on this variant. The protection is proper mask and vaccination though there is no benefit of curfew and lockdown," she said.

State Covid Surveillance Officer Vikasendu Aggarwal said that he found no significance in the issue because the COVID-19 cases in Uttar Pradesh were really going down. Aggarwal said that he had no specific data on the new Omicron 2 variant but infections were definitely going down in UP.

When asked if the COVID-19 figures were an actual projection of the infection, he said that if the numbers were going up it would reflect in the figures and there was no way one could change it.

"Across the state in the 75 districts there are so many labs which are carrying out tests and they are independently reporting the cases," he said.

He admitted that there may be many who may not have taken the test but the crucial thing was that the positivity rate was coming down.

"UPs positivity rate is 6.5 per cent which was earlier 7.8 per cent. This is important even if you consider that some patients are not getting themselves tested," he said.

When asked if UP had crossed the peak, he said that it was difficult as yet to say anything.

Meanwhile, Organised Medical Academic Guild secretary general Ishwar Gilada also said that there was unnecessary buzz about the new variant of Omicron and the only thing which was important was to know that all the sub-lineages of Omicron were not fatal and were less virulent.

He said that the Omicron variant of novel coronavirus had three sub-lineages namely BA.1, BA.2 and BA.3. He said that people had a wrong perception that the new variant BA.2 had emerged now since it was already prevailing.

"In European and Asian countries only BA.2 seems dominant. In a recent round of genomic sequencing in India, 88 per cent of the total COVID-19 positive samples had Omicron and almost 80 per cent had BA.2. BA.1 may be around 5-6 per cent and BA.3 is extremely low. The BA.2 sub-lineage patients have high viral load and so are highly infectious. S-gene drop test which is used as a proxy marker to detect Omicron variant has lit of false negativity with BA.2 sub-variant," he said. Apart from these two differences, there was nothing specific about the sub-lineages as regards to the outcome, he added.

RECOVERIES OUTNUMBER FRESH CASES

As many as 1,854 people tested positive for novel coronavirus infection in the city while 3,103 COVID-19 patients recovered during the last 24 hours.

There were 16,022 active cases in the state capital on Tuesday evening.

Giving this information Yogesh Raghuvanshi from the CMO office said that amongst those who tested positive were 942 males and 675 females.

A 40-year-old COVID-19 patient having chronic liver disease died at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital.

Among those who tested positive, 277 were from Chintah, 212 from Aliganj, 203 from Alambagh, 196 from Indiranagar, 124 from Silver Jubilee, 116 from Sarojinagar, 115 from NK Road, 73 from Red Cross and 60 from Tudiaganj. They included 106 travellers, 539 contacts, 288 with influenza-like illness, 67 pre-surgical cases, 22 health-care workers and 40 admitted in the Command Hospital.




सारे जहाँ से अच्छा गणतंत्र हमारा

गणतंत्र दिवस

की 26 जनवरी, 2022

हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं



सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश







73वें गणतंत्र दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

एनटीपीसी का सपना, उज्ज्वल रहे भारत अपना

एनटीपीसी टांडा सुपर थर्मल पावर स्टेशन: (4x110 MW+2x660 MW)

National Voters' Day celebrated with enthusiasm in city

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

National Voters' Day was celebrated with enthusiasm in the city on Tuesday with programmes being held in various offices and departments to administer pledges to the voters that they would vote in the elections.

The human rights department of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow organised a national webinar on the theme 'Voters' participation in good governance- issues and challenges' on the occasion of National Voters' Day. It was organised under the guidance of Vice-Chancellor Acharya Sanjay Singh.

Chief guest, Prof AK Awasthi, former faculty and head of law department of Lucknow University, while discussing the role of universities in voter awareness said that such issues could be discussed directly with youths in the to make them aware so that power could be handed over to the right person. He said people had to be made aware why it was necessary to vote irrespective of caste, religion, regionalism and communalism. He said only awareness could check people with criminal records from contesting and winning elections.

He said people should understand the difference between 'my government' and 'good governance'.

"good governance".

Special guest, Prof SK Pandey, Head of political science department at BBAU, while calling booth capturing an old thing, appreciated the Election Commission of India for conducting fair and transparent elections while providing complete freedom and security to voters, but said the present system had some drawbacks.

"Voters have the right to choose their candidate, but they do not have the power to expel any wrong candidate who has serious criminal charges against him. They have to choose from the available candidates" he said.

He urged the students to rise above caste, religion and regionalism and cast their vote.

Dean, academic affairs, BBAU, Prof RP Singh said that the ruling political party affected the whole country, the rules

and plans were made by the elected leaders which affected the people of every section of the country. "In such a situation, it is necessary that the process of voting is fair. Academics can play an important role in this, they can find out the problems of the fair voting process through research and try to solve them," he added.

Prof Preeti Saxena said for the protection of democracy, participation of all voters was necessary so that the reins of the country could be given in the hands of capable persons.

Prof Preeti Mishra, dean and head of human rights department, School of Legal Studies, BBAU, said the main objective of Voters' Day was to create awareness among the voters, especially the new voters.

Uttar Pradesh Vyapar Mandal also organised a programme on National Voters Day where it president Sanjay Gupta administered the pledge

Guv appeals to people to vote in maximum numbers

Lucknow (PNS): Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel appealed to the people of Uttar Pradesh to vote in maximum numbers in the forthcoming Vidhan Sabha elections without any fear or greed, She said that they should not vote on the basis of caste, creed or religion.

She was addressing an online programme organised at the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan on the National Voters' Day.

The governor also shared that she had fought elections four times in the past while she was in Gujarat and was also made incharge during the Lok Sabha elections in her native state

She said that she had observed that when the panchayat and the nagar Nigam elections were held then the voting was close to 80 per

cent but when Vidhan Sabha elections were held then the voting was merely 60 per cent and in Lok Sabha polls merely 40-50 per cent.

She also suggested that after the elections were over it was possible to reach out to the people and ask them why they did not cast their votes.

She said that there were a lot of discrepancies in the voters list because of which people did not vote and also there were occasions when people wanted to vote but they expected a conveyance to reach the booths.

The governor said that strict action should be taken against unsocial elements and the social media should be monitored where these elements were most active and could affect voting.

gramme on National Voters Day where it president Sanjay Gupta administered the pledge

to voters to vote At Lucknow Development Authority, Secretary Pawan

Kumar Gangwar administered the pledge to the employees of LDA.

कार्यालय प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक (उत्पादन)
मध्य प्रदेश, सतपुड़ा भवन, भोपाल
दूरभाष एवं फैक्स नं. 0755-2674354 E-mail: pcfcprod@mp.gov.in
क्रमांक/उत्पा./निर्वाचन/विज्ञापन/124/175 भोपाल, दिनांक 20.01.2022

वनोपज के घोष विक्रय की सूचना

मध्यप्रदेश शासन, वन विभाग के विभागीय काष्ठगारों/बाँसागारों में माह फरवरी, 2022 में विभिन्न स्थलों पर विभिन्न तिथियों में ईमारती काष्ठ, जलाऊ चट्टे, बाँस एवं अन्य सामग्री के नीलाम की तिथियाँ पूर्व से अधिसूचित है। Covid-19 संक्रमण के दृष्टिगत भविष्य में शासन स्तर से जारी होने वाले निर्देशों के अनुरूप नीलामी की कार्यवाही की जाएगी। नीलाम की तदर्थ तिथियाँ, नीलाम का प्रकार तथा काष्ठगारों में विक्रय हेतु उपलब्ध वनोपज व अन्य सामग्री की जानकारी मध्यप्रदेश शासन, वन विभाग की वेबसाईट mpforest.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है।

अपर प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक (उत्पादन)
म.प्र. भोपाल
G-21894/21

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
NOTICE

Shri Tej Narayan Kushwaha S/o Shri Bhaiya Lal Kushwaha TM-111 Unit No-174 / MFX is unauthorized absent from duty since 17.08.2021 and Notice was issued by ADEN/NCR/NYN dated-10.01.2022 & 23.09.2021. And concerning office SSE/PW/NYN-II are also issued Notice on dated-01.01.2022, 21.09.2021. Shri Tej Narayan Kushwaha is not reported own duty.

Therefore he is being given last opportunity to represent his case within a week of this notice otherwise ex-party decision for **"Removal from Service"** will be initiated by Railway Administration.

Address:-
Shri Tej Narayan Kushwaha S/o Shri Bhaiya Lal Kushwaha
Trackmaintainer- III Unit No.- 174 / MFX
Vill.- Chhotia Chaka, Nai Basti
Post-Naini, Distt- Prayagraj
State- UP, Pin Code-211008

84/22 (A)
North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRO NCR

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that the work of one No. 132 KV, 3 phase, double circuit Transmission Line has been completed by North Central Railway. This line is starting from 220/132 KV Grid sub- station near Naini station to 132/25 KV Traction sub- station near Bheerpur station and passing from North to South side Naini Tss, Mahaba Patti, Ambedkar Nagar, Mirakhapur, Mahewa east, Madauka Kachhar, Mohabatganj, Sagar Pali, Baswar, Basantpur Kachhar, Bhopatpur Kachhar, Jalapur Bharthi Kachhar, Dandapur, Chak Mohammad Rafi, Chakautha, Chak Ramjan Ali, Muradpur, Narsinghpur, Balapur, Itraura, Patewara, Talakhwar, Kareha, Kathuwa, Chanaini, Hindupur, Bharaha, Thari, Basariya, Pachdevra, Gandhian Tss, Purani, Tenduita, Bastar, Ghonedehh, Virpur and Bheerpur villages and reaching to 132KV/25KV Traction Substation near Bheerpur station.

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that the above mentioned completed section of the 132 KV Transmission Line is proposed to be energized at 132 KV w.e.f. 24/02/2022 or thereafter specified against section given below. On and from the same date, the Transmission Line shall be treated as live at 132KV at all times and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said Transmission Line Wires. North Central Railway or its officials shall not be responsible for any accident taking place due to any un-authorize act of any person. Construction of this Transmission Line has been done by North Central Railway under Ministry of Railway (Govt. of India).

Section
Naini/Grid Sub Station to Bheerpur Traction Sub Station.
No. Dy. CEE/C/ALD/17-18/Tender-156/Public Notification Dated 25.01.2022
Place- Prayagraj.

(Kunwar Singh)
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/C
N.C. Rly. Prayagraj

88/22 (SP)
North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL PROJECT ENGINEER
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, PIU SOUTH CIVIL LINE JALBPUR
NIT No.03/2022/Centralized Tender/G/APD/JBP/ Dated 19-01-2022

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

S. No.	Tender Portal No.	Name of Work	District	Probable Amount Contract (Rs. in lakh)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document (in Rs.)	Period of completion (in months) (in Rainy Season)
1	2022_PWPIU_180420_1	Construction Renovation and Extantion Work of Government Science College Under World Bank Scheme at Distt. Jalapur. (1st Call)	Jabalpur	852.43	852430.00	20000.00	18 Months
2	2022_PWPIU_180424_1	Construction Renovation and Extantion Work of Government Mohanlal Hargovind Das Home Science College Under World Bank Scheme at Distt. Jalapur. (1st Call)	Jabalpur	734.50	734500.00	20000.00	15 Months
3	2022_PWPIU_180434_1	Construction Renovation and Extantion Work of Government Mahakusal art and commerce College Under World Bank Scheme at Distt. Jalapur. (1st Call)	Jabalpur	1133.26	1000000.00	30000.00	18 Months
4	2022_PWPIU_180441_1	Construction Renovation and Extantion Work of Government Mankuwar Bai Arts and Commerce College Under World Bank Scheme at Distt. Jalapur. (1st Call)	Jabalpur	262.07	262070.00	15000.00	12 Months

1 All details relating to the Bid Document (s) can be viewed and downloaded free of cost from the website. <http://mptenders.gov.in>
2 Bid Document (s) can be purchased after making online payment of portal fees through Credit/Debit/Cash Card/Internet Banking.
3 The Bid Document (s) can be purchased only online from 9.00 (time) 20-01-2022 (date) to 18.00 (time) 04-02-2022 (date). Other key dates may be seen in Bid Data Sheet.
4 Amendment (s) to NIT, if any, shall be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

G-21895/21 पहाला डोज़ रक्षा, दुसरा डोज़ पूर्ण सुरक्षा।
DIVISIONAL PROJECT ENGINEER
PWD PIU JALBPUR

NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that Original Sale Deed dated 12.12.2005, executed by Adiluddin, in favour of Ashwani Kumar Gupta and Pritha Gupta, in respect of Land Area 0.1080 Hect, part of Khassa No.298, Village Mishrpur, Pargana Mahona, Tehsil BKT, Lucknow, registered, with Sub Registrar BKT, Lucknow in Book No.1, Volume 1193, Pages 327-344 at Serial No.4940/05 dated 12.12.2005 and Original Sale Deed dated 18.11.2010, executed by Ashwani Kumar Gupta and Pritha Gupta, in favour of Hari Prasad Yadav, in respect of Land Area 0.1080 Hect, part of Khassa No.298, Village Mishrpur, Pargana Mahona, Tehsil BKT, Lucknow, registered, with Sub Registrar BKT, Lucknow in Book No.1, Volume 3451, Pages 311-332, at Serial No.10489 dated 18.11.2010, now owned by Bhaskar Upadhyay s/o Late Bachaspati Upadhyay, rio 1/1, Sector G, Jankipuram, Lucknow has been lost at Jankipuram Market by Bhaskar Upadhyay on 25.12.2021 around 12:30 to 1:00 P.M. while going to shop for getting its photocopy. It is use by anyone is illegal.

Now, above mentioned property is getting mortgage with PNB Housing Finance Ltd against loan. If any one find it please return to under sign or if any person or financial institution has any interest or objection, contact to Advocate mentioned below with objection, under sign, dated within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Mr. Amit Kumar Singh Rathaur Advocate, Chamber No.7, UGF, Krishna Tower, Chakbast Road, Quaiserbagh, Lucknow. Pin-226018 Mobile No.9559811119.

U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. E-TENDER NOTICE

Following E-Tenders are invited from the experienced/reputed Contractors for execution of the following works. For more details login on website www.tenders.upncl.co.in.

1. Very Short Term E-Tender No. 65/AETC/2021-22:- Carriage of 120 kN disc insulators from 220 kV S/s Govind Nagar, Kanpur to 132 kV S/s Machhalishahar for construction of 132 kV Machhalishahar-Mungarabadshapur S/C line on DC tower under ETD, Jaunpur. (Tender Submission date 3.02.2022 upto 17.00 Hrs. and Tender Opening date 4.02.2022 at 13.00 Hrs) Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only. 2. E-Tender No. 66/AETC/2021-22:- Annual grass cutting and spraying of round up/gyceal at 400 kV S/s Azamgarh. (Tender Submission date 01.03.2022 upto 17.00 Hrs. and Tender Opening date 02.03.2022 at 13.00 Hrs) Earnest Money: Rs. 6000.00 (Rs. Six Thousand) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 708.00 (Rs. Seven Hundred Eight) only. 3. E-Tender No. 67/AETC/2021-22:- Maintenance of 5-16.5 Ton AC 22-22 installed at 400 kV S/s Azamgarh. (Tender Submission date 01.03.2022 upto 17.00 Hrs. and Tender Opening date 02.03.2022 at 15.00Hrs) Earnest Money: Rs. 1500.00 (Rs. One Thousand Five Hundred) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only. 4. E-Tender No. 68/AETC/2021-22:- Annual maintenance of lawn at 400 kV S/s Azamgarh. (Tender Submission date 01.03.2022 upto 17.00 Hrs. and Tender Opening date 02.03.2022 at 15.00Hrs) Earnest Money: Rs. 1500.00 (Rs. One Thousand Five Hundred) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only. 5. E-Tender No. 69/AETC/2021-22:- Cleaning of trenches of different size at 220 kV S/s Azamgarh under ETD-II, Jaunpur. (Tender Submission date 02.03.2022 upto 17.00 Hrs. and Tender Opening date 03.03.2022 at 13.00 Hrs) Earnest Money: Rs. 1500.00 (Rs. One Thousand Five Hundred) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only. 6. E-Tender No. 70/AETC/2021-22:- Procurement of different type of hardware fittings at different 132 kV S/s under ETD-II, Jaunpur. (Tender Submission date 02.03.2022 upto 17.00 Hrs. and Tender Opening date 03.03.2022 at 14.00 Hrs) Earnest Money: Rs. 2000.00 (Rs. Two Thousand) only. Tender Cost: Rs. 236.00 (Rs. Two Hundred Thirty Six) only. Earnest money will be in the shape of RTGS/NEFT duly pledged in favour of Superintending Engineer, Ecty, Transmission Circle, UPPTCL, Azamgarh. SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (TRANS.) AZAMGARH No. 114 Date 25.1.2022 Save Electricity in the interest of nation.

Constable injures self with SLR

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A constable deployed at the residence of a judge for security purpose in Gautam Pali police station area suffered gunshot injuries in his throat under mysterious circumstances in the wee hours of Tuesday. ACP (Hazratganj) Akhilesh Singh denied it to be a suicide attempt and said the constable suffered injuries when he was fiddling with the magazine of the SLR allotted to him.

"In his statement, the constable, Manoj Kumar Maurya, said he was fiddling with the weapon which went off and he suffered injuries," the ACP said. He confirmed that the constable was deployed for security at the residence of a judge in Gautam Pali locality.

Manoj Kumar Maurya, who is a 2018 batch recruit of 30 Battalion PAC in Gonda district, suffered critical injuries and has been admitted to the KGMU Trauma Centre.

"The incident was reported at around 4 am. His fellow constables rushed him to the SPM Hospital but the doctors referred him to the Trauma Centre in view of his serious condition," the police said.

The police said the constable was sitting in a chair when he suffered the injuries.

"THE INCIDENT WAS REPORTED AT AROUND 4 AM. HIS FELLOW CONSTABLES RUSHED HIM TO THE SPM HOSPITAL BUT THE DOCTORS REFERRED HIM TO THE TRAUMA CENTRE IN VIEW OF HIS SERIOUS CONDITION"

The doctors attending on the constable said his condition was serious and they were making efforts to save his life. His family has been informed about the incident.

Soon after the news went viral, a police team led by senior police officials reached the scene to take firsthand information of the incident. The senior police officials talked to the fellow cops and later briefed the media about the incident, saying it was an accident. The police denied that the constable was under stress.

Missing man's body found hanging from tree

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 25-year-old missing man was found hanging from a tree under mysterious circumstances in Basha locality under Gudamba police station on Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Mohammed Farid of Paikaramau village in the area. He was found hanging from the tree with a nylon rope tied around his neck in a vacant plot near the Hans lawn on Kursi Road.

While the police claimed that the man ended his life for some personal reason which was yet to be ascertained, residents of the area sensed foul play, saying the man was hanged to death or he was killed and then hanged to make it look a suicide case.

The body was spotted by some residents in the morning on Tuesday. As the news spread, a crowd gathered at the spot and soon the police too reached there and brought down the body and sent it for autopsy after the deceased's family identified the

body.

Reports said the man had left his house in his car on Monday morning for some work and had not returned since then. The police are yet to find the car.

Deceased's brother, Abdul Rehman, said Farid was a driver and had left the house around 10 am on Monday. He was unmarried.

THEFT: Thieves stole Rs 1.5 lakh in cash and ornaments worth several lakh rupees from a house in Madaion on Monday night. The house owner, Shri Shanker Mishra of Ganesh Vihar Colony, and his family members were attending a birthday party at a relative's house at the time of theft.

"We left the house around 5 pm on Monday and returned home around 8 pm. The locks of the rooms were lying broken while the lock at the main gate was found intact. On entering the house we found household articles strewn across the floor and cash and ornaments missing," he said.

Police are investigating the case.

Prashant Kumar to be awarded Prez Police Medal for Gallantry

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Additional Director General A(Law and Order) Prashant Kumar will be awarded the President's Police Medal for Gallantry this year.

Besides, five officers have been selected for distinguished service and 72 policemen for their long and outstanding services. These medals and commendation discs which will be handed over to the recipients on the occasion of Republic Day were announced on Tuesday.

As per a list released by the Union Home Ministry,

Receptionist accuses doctor of thrashing him, colleague

Lucknow (PNS): A receptionist of a diagnostic centre accused a doctor and his men of thrashing him and his women colleague at the centre in Madaion and threatening to kill him for saving the women staff of the centre.

Police have registered a case of rioting, threatening, abusing and eve-teasing against the doctor and his men and investigation is underway.

The incident took place on January 20.

The complainant, Abhishek Singh of Sector N in Aliganj, said he worked at the diagnostic centre and looked after the work on deployment of ambulances and other expenses of the centre. He alleged that Dr Altaf, who is employed with a private hospital, along with his men reached the centre and talked roughly with a woman staff.

"Dr Altaf used abusive language against the woman staff, misbehaved with her and used obscene language to lower her dignity. We confronted him and this infuriated him further. He and his men thrashed me and other staff also for confronting him. The group later left the scene," Abhishek stated in the FIR lodged with the police.

He further alleged that he was issued life threats and warned against reporting the matter to the police.

ARRESTED: Two fraudsters duping people by promising to send them to foreign countries for work, were arrested in Ghazipur police station area on Tuesday.

The accused were identified as Soljar Singh and Praveen aka Sonu, both of South Delhi. The police recovered nine passports, two cheque books, four bill books, a certificate of a government department and other documents and six mobile phones from them. The accused were arrested by a joint team of crime branch and cops of Ghazipur police.

The police said the miscreants had duped several people of huge sums of money in the past in the name of sending them to foreign countries for work.

A case was registered on the complaint of some of the victims on Monday and a team nabbed the accused from Polytechnic crossing on Tuesday.

The police said the accused used to boast of their links with top level companies in foreign countries to trap the innocents.

An investigation is underway.

M. P. MADHYA KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD.
(Govt. of M.P. Undertaking)
Nishtha Prisar, Bijlaee Nagar, Govindpura, Bhopal-23
Ph. : 0755-2602033-36, Fax : 2589821, 2586636
Ref. : MD/MK/04/Abgd.NIT/2613 Date : 25.01.2022

TENDER NOTICE

MPMKVVCL, Bhopal, invites following bids from manufactures through e-tendering.

Tender Specification Number	Particulars	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Tender Fee inclusive of GST (in Rs.)	Date of Pre-Bid Conference at 3:30 PM	Date of opening of tender at 3:30 PM
MD/MK/04/744	Supply of 132 KV/110 Volt, 0.25 Potential Transformer (PT) & Current Transformer (CT) of various ratio	38.16	5900.00	31.01.22	10.02.22

Other details are available on Company website <https://portal.mpcz.in> & <https://mptenders.gov.in>
M.P. Madhyam/103449/2022
CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (PROC.)

National Voters' Day celebrated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The National Voters' Day was celebrated with enthusiasm in the district here on Tuesday. Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agrawal and District Magistrate / District Election Officer (DM/ DEO) Kaushal Raj Sharma administered oath to the people including officers/employees to use their franchise in large numbers during the upcoming assembly elections. On the occasion, five new voters of each assembly constituency of the district were distributed their voter cards. One BLO and a poll employee who did an excellent job in each assembly were felicitated.

"Today is a special day as a day before the Republic Day, we all are celebrating National Voters' Day," said the DC, adding that earlier due to the atmosphere of fear, people did not come out of their homes to vote, but today they celebrate the polling day as a festival. Praising the Election Commission (EC) for providing various facilities, he expressed confidence that this time, Kashi would set a record by voting more than 90 per cent.

The DEO Kaushal Raj Sharma informed that nominations for assembly polls in the state would start in Varanasi from February 10 and voting will be held on March 7. He informed that Varanasi has been given the state award for the second consecutive year by



DC Deepak Agrawal presenting voter identity card to a new voter on the occasion of National Voters' Day in Varanasi on Tuesday.

Pioneer

the EC and said that such work should be done in the direction of increasing the voting percentage during the upcoming assembly elections so that the district gets a national award for this. He said that on the polling day, more than 40,000 personnel perform election duty and preparations are made by the administration several months in advance, but when 50 per cent voters do not come to the polling stations on the polling

day, they are disappointed. Chief Development Officer Abhishek Goyal and Deputy District Election Officer Ranvijay Singh proposed vote of thanks to the people.

Meanwhile, under the aegis of National Service Scheme (NSS) of Banaras Hindu University (BHU), a function was organised at Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS) in which its Dean Prof KK Mishra was the chief guest. In his address, Prof Mishra called upon the

volunteers to make people aware for maximum voting so that we can help the nation move fast on the path of development. ADM Surendra Bahadur Singh motivated the volunteers for 100 percent voting. NSS coordinator Dr Bala Lakhendra presided over the programme.

The guests were welcomed by programme officer Dr Ashok Sonkar and vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Sutapa Das.

BJP media centre to monitor electioneering of 71 seats

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is making its Media Centre at Hotel de Paris in Cantonment area in view of the ongoing assembly elections which will monitor party's poll campaigning in 71 assembly constituencies of this Kashi regional unit. Regional president (Kashi) Mahesh Chand Srivastava, along with national spokesperson KK Sharma, visited there and held a meeting with party's spokesmen. While giving necessary directions to the party workers asso-

ciated with its media cell, Srivastava said that as this time the assembly elections will be held amidst the restrictions due to Covid pandemic, we have to follow cent per cent guidelines of the Election Commission so all the arrangements should be made at the media centre accordingly.

According to him, although the elections in the Kashi region will be held in the fifth and seventh phase, we have to keep all our preparations complete on time. "The media centre is being modernised at the war room level

as it will monitor the election related preparations of 71 assemblies under Kashi region as well as other assemblies of Purvanchal (eastern UP)," he said, suggesting that a studio should also be made at the media centre so that debates on electronic media etc should be facilitated.

Sharma informed that media in-charges of all the 16 organisational districts of Kashi region will be connected to this media centre and necessary guidelines will also be issued to them from time to time. State co-media in-charge

Dharmendra Singh said that the public welfare schemes and achievements of the central and state government would be displayed at the media centre through big hoardings. Regional spokesman Navratan Rathi said that the media centre is being prepared on the lines of a war room, in which TV, WiFi and internet as well as laptop and computer facilities will be available. In the meeting, regional secretary Rakesh Sharma, co-media in-charge Santosh Solapurkar, Shailendra Mishra, Ganpati Yadav etc were also present.

BHU alumnus brings laurels

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Banaras Hindu University (BHU) is beaming with pride with a shining achievement of one of its brilliant alumni Nikhil Kumar Rai, who is a pass out from Bachelor in Applied Arts from Faculty of Visual Arts in BHU as he has brought further laurels for the university. A logo unveiled by Indian Ambassador Sanjeev Singla and Israeli Envoy Naor Gilon on Monday for the celebrations to mark establishment of 30 years of diplomatic ties between the two nations, has been designed by Nikhil.

A gold medalist from BHU, Nikhil had completed his graduation from BHU in 2020. Currently, he is pursuing his



BHU alumnus Nikhil Kumar Rai receiving Rs 1 lakh as his design picked for logo of India- Israel ties in New Delhi on Monday.

Pioneer

PG from NID Ahmedabad. Nikhil today visited his alma mater and department of

applied arts and sought blessings of his teachers. Nikhil has won a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh

for the design of the logo.

The Logo features the Star of David and the Ashoka Chakra- the two symbols that adorn the national flags of both countries- and forms the numeral 30 depicting the 30th anniversary of bilateral relations. This special logo symbolizes the strong friendship, love and admiration that exist between the people of the two nations.

Prof Hira Lal Prajapati, Dean, Faculty of Visual Arts, has congratulated Nikhil for this major feat. He said that though COVID-19 pandemic has posed many unprecedented challenges before us, the very talented students of the faculty have continued to make the institution proud.

Yoga training being given at SVMH

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Special training of yoga is being given at Swami Vivekananda Memorial Hospital (SVMH), Bhelupur in which yoga instructor Manish Kumar Pandey and assistant Rita Jaiswal are giving physical training to the people apart from apprising them of the importance of a balanced diet. Pandey said that Yoga Sadhaks visit the Yoga Wellness Centre every day, in which there are several Muslim families who also take regular training in various yoga practices including jogging, suryanamaskar, dhanurasana, mandukasana, pranayama etc to avoid diseases like corona and to keep their lungs strong.

He also explained how regular yoga is important to check or prevent diseases like obesity, high blood pressure, low blood pressure, diabetes, backache, bronchitis, knee pain etc. 'Apart from visiting the well-



Yoga practices being done at Wellness Centre of SVMH, Bhelupur in Varanasi.

Pioneer

ness centre, many are also getting online training as facilities of both offline and online training is available," he said, praising the support of Ayurveda and Unani Medical Officer Dr Bhavna Dwivedi and District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma who themselves visited there from time to time.

"I'm inspired to do all these efforts only by the efficient leadership of my guru who is DIG in the Police department and my elder sister Dr Sandhya Dubey," he added.

AP SINGH GETS POLICE MEDAL: Assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Aditya Prakash Singh of Varanasi

Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) is among the 15 Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel who received the Indian Police Medal (IPM) on the occasion of Republic Day this year by the President of India.

He has been awarded IPM for his exemplary service, efficiency, good rapport, honesty and conscientiousness during his clean service period of about 24 years.

Aditya Prakash Singh was appointed in the year 1998 in RPF and posted in NER. He has so far received 40 awards at different levels for various commendable and exemplary works. Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Ramashray Pandey, Inspector General (RPF NER) Atul Kumar Srivastava and Senior Divisional Security Commissioner (RPF) Dr Abhishek and others congratulated Aditya Pratap Singh for getting the prestigious honour.

Students protest against results, block rly tracks for hours

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Candidates of (Railway Recruitment Board)'s NTPC (Non Technical Popular Category) protesting for the job on Tuesday afternoon, stopped the Kanpur Passenger train at Prayag station and raised slogans.

Hundreds of competitive students who reached the railway track stopped the train at 2.20 pm, causing panic in the railway administration. The GRP and RPF immediately swung into action and somehow removed the students from the track. After that the train could proceed. It was going from Kanpur to Prayagraj Sangam. The crowd of competing students went ahead of the station raising slogans. Some protesters have



been detained by the police.

On January 14, the result of NTPC in RRB came. After this result, students are agitating and a strong case is trending on the internet media. Students said that the Railway Board had said in the notification that 20 percent of the can-

didates will be selected in the CBT first examination. But, when the results were declared, the board had selected only five percent of the candidates. Angered by this, the students first protested online on the internet media and took to the road on Tuesday.

Hundreds of students gathered at Prayag station to express their protest.

There was a stir when a crowd of students gathered on the railway track. Students said that the board is doing its arbitrariness.

Students who have qualified for two posts in this exam, when they choose only one post, then the second post will remain vacant.

In such a situation, if more students are selected according to the notification, then all the posts will also be filled and the students will also get jobs. In such a situation, the board should revise the result again. As per the notification 20 times aspirants should get selected for CBT Exam. Otherwise, the protest of the students will continue.

Ayodhya temple spurs Ram Naam Bank movement

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The ongoing construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya has spurred the devotees, who are connecting themselves in large numbers with Ram Naam Bank (RNB) located on Akshayvat Marg through online and offline mode at the ongoing Magh Mela campus.

In just 13 days, as many as 1,321 devotees have joined Ram Naam Bank and majority of them belong to the age group 18 to 35 years.

Ashutosh Varshney, who manages the bank's affairs under the banner of Ram Naam Sewa Sansthan, said, "The number of devotees who have joined the bank this year is far more than the previous year. The list of devotees

includes a section of devotees whose wishes get fulfilled and they show their gratitude towards Lord Ram. They also offer Ram Naam flags once their wishes get fulfilled."

Here, devotees at the Ram Naam camp claim that "they are moved by the divine intervention because of which Ram temple is being built in Ayodhya and this is why they have decided to associate with the bank."

Apart from devotees and kalpwasis writing the name of Lord Rama in booklets and submitting with the bank manually, there is also a section of devotees that continues to send Ram Naam online through a dedicated Ram Naam app.

Varshney is carrying on the

legacy of his grandfather who had set up the Ram Naam bank in early 20th century in the Sangam city. The RNB camp was set up on mela campus on January 10.

"There are over 1.5 lakh account holders of different age groups and religions and hailing from different countries, who keep submitting Ram Naam through online and offline mode," said Varshney, adding, "There are some devotees who have been depositing Ram Naam since 1956."

Varshney said, "The Lord's name is written in red ink as it symbolises the colour of love and devotion. The Ram temple construction in Ayodhya has come as a big boost for the movement."

Kalpwasis, who arrived at

the bank to write the name of Lord Rams, said, "We are here to seek salvation and when we write the name of the Lord, we feel energetic and blessed. Once you start writing Ram Naam, you get involved more and more with an internal energy, which pushes you further to write the name of Lord Ram more and more."

"The Ram temple being built in Ayodhya is a divine indication of good things to come and makes us dedicated to Lord Rama," he added.

All the account holders have a booklet of 30-page containing 108 columns in which they write 'Ram Naam' 108 times daily. Once they complete a booklet, it is deposited in the individual's account and a new booklet is issued.

Cong, SP flay BJP for inadequate facilities at Magh Mela

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Leaders of the Congress and Samajwadi Party (SP) have accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (JP) government in the state and the Magh Mela administration of failing to provide basic civic amenities to the pilgrims and devotees in the Magh Mela.

The criticism comes in the wake of the rise in the level of the Ganga and subsequently water entering the Gang Deep area, affecting tents of kalpwasis, the Mela administration has shifted most of the kalpwasis to other safer places in sector 5 and elsewhere.

The opposition parties have made the 'problems of the kalpwasis' a political issue with the claim that the kalpwasis had to face unwanted troubles due to the apathetic approach of the Mela administration and even their tents got submerged in the river water recently.

UPCC general secretary Mukund Tiwari accused the government and the Mela

administration of ignoring the grievances and plight of the kalpwasis, who continue to suffer due to inadequate facilities. "Inexperienced Mela officials and their incompetence has left the kalpwasis in a Catch-22 situation. Many kalpwasis, who have been shifted far from the Ganga bank areas, are now planning to return to their native places."

Tiwari claimed that it was solely the apathetic attitude of the Mela officials and inadequate facilities that was forcing the kalpwasis to leave the camps.

"I talked to many kalpwasis facing problems on Mela camps and they said that this is the first time they were facing such problems," alleged Tiwari, adding, "Many kalpwasis are planning to return to their native towns after finding them in a helpless situation."

Every year, thousands of kalpwasis camp for carrying out spiritual and religious activities on the banks of Ganga.

Tiwari claimed that "this year mismanagement is of such a scale that facilities are being provided to only those who are close to Mela officials or those in power in the state."

The UPCC leader further demanded a probe into the issue and claimed that he will write to the state governor in this regard.

Meanwhile, Samajwadi Party (SP) spokesman Daan Bahadur "Madhur" told the mediapersons that the BJP-led state government has always failed to organise Magh Mela successfully. When we were in power, Mela had brought praises from all across the country but this time, devotees including pilgrims and kalpwasis, have witnessed pathetic conditions on the Mela campus"

"Officials must be held accountable for the mess, particularly when it comes to the Gang Deep issue," said Madhur, adding "When the Mela administration was well aware about the fact that rising water might enter the camps, why

kalpwasis were allotted land at Gang Deep."

He also accused the BJP government of "false propaganda of holding a grand religious fair on the banks of the Ganga while the fact is that kalpwasis are finding it difficult to stay here in absence of even the basic civic amenities' .

SP leaders also accused the officials posted at Magh Mela of not taking interest in Mela activities, resulting in the Mela turning into a mess.

IIT-A CELEBRATES NATIONAL VOTERS DAY ONLINE: As part of the 12th National Voters Day Celebrations on the theme "Matdan mai shat pratishat Shahbhagita ", the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad celebrated the day in online mode on Tuesday by taking the "Voters Pledge". Prof P Nagabhushan, Director, IIT-A led the pledge ceremony. Several teachers, officers and employees read out the voter pledge.

IFFCO Phulpur: Bringing innovation into agriculture

ALLAHABAD : Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited, is the leader in fertilizer industry not only in India but the world. It was founded on 3rd November, 1967. IFFCO is operating five mega fertiliser complexes all over the country. IFFCO contributes about 32% Phosphatic and 21% Nitrogenous fertilisers demand in India.

Today, IFFCO is a multinational company with its global presence in Senegal, Oman, Dubai and Jordan. IFFCO ranked 1 among the top 300 cooperatives of the world on basis of turnover GDP per capita by World Cooperative Monitor Report. This is significant accomplishment and moment of pride for the society and entire cooperative fraternity of India. We at IFFCO

work towards serving the cooperatives & farmers and strive towards achieving the goal set by our Prime Minister for farmer's income. IFFCO is also committed to PW's vision of 'Sahkar se Samridhhi' and is dedicated towards strengthening the cooperative movement across the country.

IFFCO, under the visionary & able leadership of Dr U S Awasthi, has successfully introduced world's first Nano Urea, which is the innovation of the century for mankind. Nano fertilisersare environment friendly with high nutrient efficiency and their usage will give a huge positive impact on the quality of underground water and will promote significant reduction in the global warming. Commercial production of Nano Urea has

already started at Kalol Unit till date production is 1.97 crores 500 ml bottle (equivalent 8.85 Lakh MT Urea) and the similar plants have been proposed to be installed at various locations all over India including Phulpur at Prayagraj. As COVID-19 continues to challenge food security all over the world, IFFCO has taken steps to ensure that its plants remain fully operational during this period following the guidelines issued by Government. IFFCO's Managing Director Dr US Awasthi has always contributed for the welfare of the community to the maximum possible extent and continuing with the same spirit under his guidance IFFCO has commissioned four oxygen plants at its different operating units. Oxygen plant at IFFCO

Phulpur has been commissioned in the month of August-2021.

Phulpur Unit has produced around 12.81 lakh MT Urea till date. Since its inception in 1981, IFFCO's Phulpur Unit has produced more than 448 lakh MT of Urea fertiliser. IFFCO Phulpur Unit has won prestigious awards from various institutions every year in the field of Production, Energy Conservation, Environmental Conservation and Safety.

Followingawards have been received in 2021-22. Phulpur Unit has been awarded as "Energy Efficient Unit" by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Phulpur Unit has been awarded as Winner of 'Greentech Energy Conservation Award2021' by Greentech Foundation.

DM urges people to vote

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The District Magistrate, City, Neha Sharma lighted the ceremonial lamp to declare open the Voter Awareness Day function at Green Park stadium and later released tricolour balloons on Tuesday. She made a fervent appeal to the people to ensure they exercised their franchise and advised people to ensure they mandatorily voted as it was their Fundamental Right. She said the whole exercise was to create awareness among the electorate so that they cast their votes on February 20. She appealed to the maiden voters who had just stepped into 18 years of age to ensure they must grab this opportunity to cast their vote for the formation of strong government in Uttar Pradesh and its progress.

She said Voter Awareness Day was celebrated on January 25 majorly because the Election Commission of India was formed on January 25, 1950. She said the electorate had the power to decide on the quality of life they wanted for themselves and future generations. She said voting was a chance to stand up for the issues one cared about. She said it was a matter of concern that the voting percentage was always low and said not voting tanta-



District Magistrate, City, Neha Sharma lights the ceremonial lamp to inaugurate Voter Awareness Day at Green Park Stadium on Tuesday.

Pioneer

mounted to giving up ones voice. She said elections were decided by the people who go out and vote. She advised voters to take some time and learn about the candidates and said ones power was in ones vote.

She said the people need to realise that as they paid taxes

they had the right to vote so that the hard earned money was spent for the uplift of the state. She said voting was in fact an opportunity to make a positive impact. She later administered oath to the people who had assembled at Green Park for the grand event. She later felicitated a large number of

people who had taken part in various contests held at the venue and specially gave prizes to the top three winners of the contest. Prominent others present on the occasion were Dayanand Prasad, District Probation Officer and large number of officials of various departments.

ADM: Aim to hold VAD is to make electorate aware how to vote

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Deputy Election Officer and Additional District Magistrate, Finance, Dayanand Prasad, while addressing a meeting at the Collectorate auditorium on Tuesday said the true features of democracy were aware voter and moralistic voting and together then one can celebrate democracy in real terms. He said keeping this in mind the Voters Awareness Day can be truly effective and meaningful. He said the objective to hold VAD was to make the electorate aware how to vote for the right candidate and contribute towards development and progress of the nation.

He said the process also aimed at sensitising voters about the importance of participating in the electoral process as a way to ensure a responsive, accountable and democratically elected government. He said in democracy, a free and fair vote was the fundamental tool through which citizens can express their political preferences and devel-



ADM Finance, Dayanand Prasad, administers oath on Voters Awareness Day at Collectorate on Tuesday.

Pioneer

opmental wishes. He said keeping all this in mind this day helped instill in the minds of the electorate information on the electoral process, political parties and their manifestos, poll antecedents of the candidates. He expressed hope that the exercise will help create better informed, more motivated citizens and, ultimately, result in a more responsive, transparent and accountable government.

He said the facts which were apprised to the voters

were the modes of participation, the procedure to become eligible for voting and to actually cast ones vote, ways to assess the poll-worthiness of the candidate and help create an environment for free and fair elections, and to encourage in particular, the participation of marginalised groups such as women, the minorities, special ethnic communities and the poor. He then administered the oath to the officials and staff present in the auditorium by

asking the people to repeat the oath 'We the citizens of India, having faith in democracy, hereby pledge to uphold the democratic traditions of our country and the dignity of free, fair and peaceful elections and to vote in every elections fearlessly and without being influenced by considerations of religion, race, caste, community language or any inducement'. Prominent present on the occasion were ADM(LA) SK Singh and dozens of other officials.

Childhood obesity contributes to risk of numerous health problems

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Noted Yoga expert, Dr Shalini Vaidya and head of Sadhak Anshit Yoga Institute, while addressing a webinar on 'Childhood Obesity' said childhood obesity contributed to the risk of numerous health problems. She said study carried out by the Institute showed that in obese students the cognitive functions were significantly weakened. She said significant impairments in their cognitive functions, especially attention, retention, intelligence, and cognitive flexibility, were observed. She said this was necessary that the school adolescents were involved in physical activities to reduce body weight in order to have cognitive functions within normal range.

She said obesity in childhood and adolescents was a serious community concern and the magnitude of the problem was progressively affecting low, middle and high-income sections mainly the urban population. She said the obese children were likely to stay obese into their adolescence and later part of their life. She said school age was a period of strenuous growth because of a greater amount of activity and the development of physical and cognitive functions, required a balanced nutrition.

She added that from the approach of neuropsychology, ample nourishment with physical activity was compelling for healthy brain growth, optimal

learning, and scholastic performance. She said the major change in lifestyle of families with eating habits and increasing hours of inactivity because of video games, social media, and computer had played a noteworthy role in enhancing obesity in school-going children who are overweight. She said as a result childhood obesity led health-associated risks at adulthood.

She said thus yoga asanas need to be taught to school children which will help burn calories, tone muscles, boost metabolism and also prevent the child from emotional eating. She said yoga brought about mindfulness that will help child maintain a disciplined lifestyle and make healthy lifestyle choices. She said yoga will not only boost metabolism but it will also help the child steer clear of emotional eating and overeating and thus they need to practice these asanas. Dr Vaidya said Vinyasa Flow was a series of yoga poses that one needed to move through quickly and the sequence increased the heart rate, tones the body and brought along mindfulness. She said similarly Surya Namaskar or sun salutation had many benefits from boosting metabolism to toning body and 18 minutes of sun salutation done at a fast pace can be enough to give a good cardio workout and reap all its other benefits. She said next was Virabhadrasana or the warrior

pose series that can help tone muscles and enhance muscle growth and development. She said next was Kumbhakasana or plank pose which was excellent to burn fat from the entire body. She said in this pose, one needed to use upper body and core muscles simultaneously, making it especially great to strengthen the core muscles.

She said next was Halasana or plough pose which toned the muscles of buttocks and strengthened the shoulders. She said it stretched out the hamstrings and the muscles of the abdomen. She said apart from concentrating on the core, this asana also toned the muscles of the thighs and arms.

She advised parents to ensure they put their children under the tutelage of yoga trainers to ensure they grow in a healthy manner.

VOTERS' AWARENESS DAY: The Principal of Kanpur Nagar Nigam Balika Inter College, Kidwai Nagar, Lakshmi Tripathi addressing the students on the Voters Awareness Day on Tuesday said the goal of voter education was to make information available and accessible to all constituents. She said voter education campaigns should seek to achieve universal coverage of the electorate. She said for this to be carried out effectively required reaching out to disadvantaged groups as well as mainstream voters.

She said voter education should take into account fac-

tors such as high rates of illiteracy or the use of different languages in a country, even if there was only one official language. She said minority groups, internally displaced persons and other marginalised segments of society should be specially targeted. She said young adults eligible to vote for the first time may need special messages explaining how to register and cast a ballot.

She said today's students were the future and they will take over the reins of the nation and thus there was a need to ensure they understand what is voters awareness. She said voter education should specifically target women as well as men and also should make clear that suffrage was universal and should help create a culture in which women were encouraged to participate and were welcomed into the electoral process.

She said it was important to launch special educational campaigns aimed at women, highlighting the fact that they had the right to vote.

Later the students took part in poster making and slogan writing and the winners were given first, second and third prizes. She also gave consolation prizes to a few girls as well.

A poetry writing contest was also organised on the topic in which a large number of girls took part and won prizes as well.

'No nation can progress unless its girl child is educated'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Principal of DG Girls PG College, Dr Sunanda Dubey addressing the National Girl Child Day celebrations said it was celebrated every year in India which was in fact an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development to spread awareness about the gender based discriminations that girls faced in society and to bring about change in the attitude towards girls. The day marked various events and campaigns on 'Save the Girl Child', child sex ratios, and creating a healthy and safe environment for every girl child. She said no nation can progress unless its girl child was educated, healthy and safe.

She said social conditions and cultural norms that limit girl's access to health services, education, and economic opportunities were at the root of their health disparities and exacerbate the feminisation of poverty as measured by the higher percentage of female-headed households who were poor. She said the prevalence of gender-based violence was another often hidden determinant of girl's excess morbidity and mortality.

Addressing the session the Head of Department of LLR Maternity Wing, Dr Kiran Pandey while addressing the students said at every stage of women's life, nutrition and regular exercise were the cornerstones of good health and optimal energy. She said the onus rested on the parents to ensure they provide healthy diet to their daughters which included fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat dairy products and lean sources of protein. She advised that parents need to encourage girls to be more physically active while reducing high-calorie foods can help balance the energy equation and by starting early, they set a pattern of healthy eating that will carry them through their life.

She said girls also need health care more and access the health care system due to their reproductive and sexual health needs, they also have more chronic non-reproductive health issues such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, mental illness, diabetes and osteoporosis. She said hygiene especially menstrual hygiene was a hygienic practice during menstruation which can prevent girls from the infection in reproductive and urinary tract. She said hygiene-related practices of women during menstruation were of considerable importance, as it may increase vulnerability to Reproductive Tract Infections (RTIs).

'Venture capital investment' explained

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Dr Mahesh Ramachandran, while addressing the virtual ongoing e-Summit at IIT-K on the topic 'Venture capital investment' explained that it was a type of private equity investing that involved investment in a business that required capital. He said the business often required capital for initial setup or expansion. He said venture capital investing can be done at an even earlier stage known as the 'idea phase' and the venture capitalist may provide resources to an entrepreneur.

He said private equity investments were equity investments that were not traded on public exchanges. He said institutional and individual investors usually invested in private equity through limited partnership agreements, which allowed investors to invest in a variety of venture capital projects while preserving limited liability.

He said the projects were usually run by private equity funds which were pools of capital to be invested in companies that represented an opportunity for a high rate of return.

NCL crosses 100 MT coal despatch mark

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

Northern Coalfields Limited, Singrauli-based flagship subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL) crossed the 100 million tonne (MT) coal despatch mark on Saturday. This feat assumes significance considering the dependency of Indian economy on coal, steep rise in coal demand and the Covid pandemic situation. This spectacular achievement comes along with 16 per cent y-o-y growth in coal despatch. NCL has sent 100.38 MT of coal to its consumers till date. NCL Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) Bhola Singh and FDs have congratulated the team NCL. NCL's coal supply to powerhouses also grew remarkably by 17 per cent in this fiscal and has supplied 88.24 MT of coal. Moving beyond commitment, NCL has supplied 109 per cent of its Annual Contract Quantity (ACQ) to power consumers. In the FY 2021-22 NCL has produced 95.14 MT of coal



posting positive growth over the last fiscal in spite of Covid pandemic. NCL is a minoratna company of the Government of India excavating coal from its 10 opencast coal mines based out of Singrauli and Sonbhadra districts of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh respectively. The company is moving ahead towards sustainable mining and has taken vast initiatives like FMC projects, coal corridor and others.

CCSU V-C stresses on quality research

CORRESPONDENT ■ MEERUT

Vice-Chancellor of Chaudhary Charan Singh University (CCSU), Professor Sangeeta Shukla, on Monday while giving an account of her one month tenure before media said in university many such decisions have been taken for quality research, innovation, educational environment and academic encouragement which will prove to be very important and for it from far-reaching point of view historical and useful. In these, most of the focus will be on implementing the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020. For implementing NEP-2020 in a holistic manner the V-C has constituted six cells. These include Research and Innovation Policy, IT Policy, Environmental Policy, Moral and Ethics Policy, Incubation Centre and Centre for Vocational Education and Skill Development. All these cells along with promoting academic, research, skill development, innovation in the



university will fulfil the objectives of National Education Policy. Promoting quality research, V-C said was her priority. Prof Shukla said that after observing the progress of NAAC evaluation, many necessary works have been done in this process. After review-

ing the various committees constituted in this process, the commitment was shown that the university should get 'A' grade by NAAC. Along with this, the university is also preparing itself for the ranking of NIRF and all necessary work related to it is in progress. She expressed the hoped that the university will get good rank in NIRF also. After taking charge Prof Shukla first of all tried to understand the problems of students and directed all officers and employees concerned that by making Grievance Cell Management System smooth their problems should be solved within a fixed time frame.

One arrested with illicit liquor

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Chunar police arrested one person and recovered 30 litres of illicit liquor from his possession on Monday. During the drive to control crime and illegal trade of liquor police intercepted a suspect at railway underpass near Kailahat market and recovered 30 litres of liquor and registered a case under relevant sections of Excise Act. After completing

legal formalities police sent the accused to jail.

RESCUED: Chilh police saved one person's life who had tried to commit suicide by jumping into Ganga river from Shastri bridge on Monday night. On being informed about it police team led by SHO reached the spot, launched a search by boat and found the victim stuck in mud. The police rescued the victim and called his family members.

SEIZED: During the checking drive flying squad team-3 recovered ₹3,48,800 cash from a Bolero under Madihan police station on Monday whose owner could not give a satisfactory reply. The team informed the officials concerned and the Madihan police station. Incharge flying squad, Neetu Singh Sisodiya, said action against translocation of undeclared cash will continue.

Netaji's birth anniversary celebrated

CORRESPONDENT ■ SONBHADRA

NTPC Vindhyachal celebrated 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose under the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav on Sunday. A programme was organised on the occasion by following Covid protocol at Lake Park located in township premises. Project Head (Vindhyachal) Subhash Chandra Nayak and senior officers and employees present paid floral tribute to freedom fighter Netaji SC Bose. After that under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav on 125th birth anniversary of SC Bose the township-situated Lake Park was named 'Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Lake Park' whose naming and inauguration was done in the presence of head of Project SC Naik, all General Managers, Additional General



Managers, chairperson of Suhasini Sangh Shrotaswini Nayak, Senior Commandant CISF JP Azad, Deputy Commandant CISF Shiv Kumar, office-bearers of Union and Association and other senior officials.

As part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav several activities/competitions like painting, essay writing, poem recitation through virtual mode highlighting Netaji's life and contribution were organised for students of DPS, De Paul and SSM and simultaneously an online quiz on Netaji's life and his contribution was also organised for employees. All the winners were felicitated on the birth anniversary of SC Bose by CGM (Vindhyachal) Naik, all GMs, HoDs and Suhasini Sangh chairperson Shrotaswini Naik.

Annual inspection of SJAB held

PNS ■ VARANASI

The annual inspection of the Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) St John's Ambulance Brigade (SJAB) concluded on Monday with a spectacular and attractive parade and salute presented by the members at the local BLW Central Sports Ground (Stadium). On the occasion Principal Chief Medical Officer (PCMO) Dr Devesh Kumar who was the chief guest inspected the parade presented by the Brigade after hoisting the flag. Encouraging the members of the brigade at the function, the chief guest said that the main duty of the brigade is to serve the suffering humanity, for this, its every member should be dedi-



cated towards the sacred duty of social service. During the inspection, the members of the brigade successfully demonstrated first aid to the victims in times of crisis and to transfer the injured and the victims from the accident site to another place for medical treatment by various methods like stretcher drill, fire man ect along with artificial breathing to the victim. It was appreciated by the guests and the audience. Earlier ambulance officer of the brigade and

Girl Child Day observed

PNS ■ VARANASI

On the occasion of Amrit Mahotsav being celebrated on 75th anniversary of India's independence, National Girl Child Day was observed at the North Eastern Railway auditorium on Monday. Senior Divisional Personnel Officer (SDPO) Sameer Pal, DPO Vivek Mishra and others were present on the occasion. Starting the programme Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM) Gyanesh Tripathi called upon the girls that with their hard work, devotion and dedication they should prove to the society that women/girls are not less than anyone.

Public Relations Officer (PRO), Rajesh Kumar, presented in detail the remarkable work done by SJAB members during the Corona period which was appreciated by all the officers present. The programme was conducted by PRO Rajesh Kumar.

CELEBRATED: On 75th anniversary of India's independence, National Girl Child Day was celebrated with great fanfare at BLW under the guidance of General Manager Anjali Goyal. While addressing 248 girls of BLW Inter College and Technical Training Centre through virtual medium, GM wished them a bright future and also encouraged and guided them. A selfie point was set up at Surya Sarovar located in BLW campus where a large number of its officers and employees enthusiastically took selfies with their daughters. A patriotic song and poetry competition was organised through virtual mode in which 25 girl students gave a beautiful presentation through their educative poetry, PRO said.

‘Kerala logs 50K new Covid cases in 24 hrs’

People in 20-30 age group getting infected more, says Health Min

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

More than 50,000 persons were diagnosed with Covid-19 on Tuesday in Kerala, said Veena George, Minister of Health. Addressing a specially convened media conference at capital city, the minister said the transmission of the pandemic was more in the youth (those in the age group of 20 to 30).

With many doctors, nurses and paramedical staff testing positive in the State, the minister said the situation was a challenge. Test Positivity Rate was 49.4 per cent as on Tuesday evening, said the minister.

Later in a media release, the minister said that 55,475 persons were diagnosed with

Covid-19 in Kerala out of the 1.12 lakh samples tested during the last 24 hours. Veena had said last week that the number of patients would peak by January 23 and then there would be a respite.

The death toll till date due to the pandemic reached 52,141, said the minister. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who is undergoing treatment in a US hospital asked the people in the State not to panic. “There is nothing to panic about. All you need is a little bit of caution. We have the best medical health care system which is always at your finger tips,” said the chief minister in a message sent from the US to the people in Kerala.

The Chief Minister also asked the people not to crowd the hospitals if they were diagnosed with Covid-19. “All you have to do is to stay indoors and be safe,” said Vijayan.

Minister Veena said the Department of Health would launch a massive awareness programme across the State to remove all kinds of reservations and apprehensions from the

mind of the people. She also disclosed that district health officials would get in touch with private hospitals which refuse to admit Covid-19 patients. The minister said the sudden spurt in the number of cases was on account of the Omicron variant.

Doctors in Government service told The Pioneer that people planning to visit Kerala should postpone their travel plans to another date as it was not safe to be in the State at this time. “I am not confident of the safety assured by face masks and sanitizers. Think seriously before you embark on a journey to the State as there are Covid-19 afflicted persons walking freely along the roads and frequent hotels and restaurants,” said a senior Government doctor.

Conceding to the demand made by the Government doctors to appoint more health workers, Veena George said the administration would soon launch a Covid Brigade of more than 4,000 workers across the State to tackle the pandemic.

4 injured in grenade attack in Srinagar

PNS ■ JAMMU

On the eve of the Republic Day celebrations in Srinagar, unidentified terrorists targeted a security vehicle by lobbing a grenade at the highly secured Hari Singh High Street, injuring four persons, including a police officer, on Tuesday. The grenade attack was reported around 3.30 p.m.

Moving swiftly the security personnel cordoned off the entire area to track down the foot prints of the terrorists who might have lobbed a grenade taking advantage of the heavy rush in the area.

Window panes of several shops located in the area were broken while chaos prevailed in the area till security personnel

restored order by channelising smooth movement of vehicles.

Confirming the total number of injuries, a Twitter handle of Srinagar police advised local residents to remain vigilant and inform nearest security personnel on noticing any suspicious movement.

“All civilians are advised to be vigilant in view of today’s grenade attack that caused minor splinter injuries to four locals. Please bring any suspicious movement/person to the notice of nearest Security personnel. Let’s spoil the nefarious designs of anti-social elements”.

Meanwhile, the security personnel continue to maintain round the clock vigil across vital installations to prevent any terrorist attack.

J&K admin orders training, placement of 60K youth under ‘Himayat’ scheme in next FY

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday directed the Rural Development Department to ensure training and placement of 60,000 unemployed youth under livelihood mission ‘Himayat’ during the next financial year.

Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta passed the directions at a meeting convened to review the Himayat scheme - a skill development programme for the youth which is under implementation since 2011 and will close on March 31, 2023.

In its latest report, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has flagged poor implementation of

Himayat in Jammu and Kashmir and said only 4,494 aspirants were given skill training under the scheme as against a target of 53,547 between 2016-19. Mehta said the training and consequent job placement of 60,000 youth under Himayat and other self-employment initiatives launched by the government would further its objective of driving down unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir to below five per cent.

The chief secretary said as the scheme will close on March 31, 2023, the department should target short-term skill-based courses spanning three to nine months.


**भैंक ऑफ इंडिया**
Bank of India

**BOI**



FINANCIAL INCLUSION DEPARTMENT, ZONAL OFFICE:
STAR HOUSE, 2nd FLOOR, VIBHUTI KHAND, GOMTI NAGAR, LUCKNOW-226010, PH. 0522-2721547

BUSINESS CORRESPONDENTS REQUIRED
Applications are invited from suitable firms/companies for engagement as Corporate Business Correspondents with Branches of Bank of India, Lucknow Zone, purely on contract basis for implementation of its Financial Inclusion Plan. The prescribed form, eligibility norms and terms of engagement will be available with our Zonal Office Lucknow zone. Duly filled in applications supported by necessary copies of certificates must be submitted to the Zonal Office by **01.02.2022** for any query contact on 0522-2721547.
Dy. Zonal Manager, Lucknow Zone



**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ**

E-Tender Notice No. SIG/WS/Contract/556 **Date: 10.01.2022**

Tender Notice
Dy Chief Signal & Telecomm Engineer/Construction/North Central Railway/ Prayagraj, GM Office, Betwa Building, Subedar Ganj, Prayagraj for and on behalf of President of India invites E-tenders on the prescribed form upto 15:00 Hrs. on 02.02.2022 for the under noted work, which will be opened on the same day at 15:30 Hrs.

Tender No.	SIG/WS/Contract/556
Name of work	Design, Manufacturing, supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Electronic Interlocking System with all Indoor & Outdoor signaling gears at Rooms, Chakeri and Chandari stations in connection with Rooma-Chakeri-Chandari 3rd line work of Prayagraj division of N. C. Railway.
Approx Cost of Work (Rs)	₹ 14397'1005.34/- (Fourteen Crores thirty nine lacs seventy one thousand five and thirty four paise only)
Earnest money (Rs.)	₹ 869900.00 (Rs. Eight lakh sixty nine thousand nine hundred only)
Cost of Tender form (Rs.)	₹ 0.0
Completion period	12 months
Date & Time of closing/ opening of tender	Upto 02.02.2022 15:00 Hrs. and will be opened at 15:30 Hrs. on the same day.

Web site particulars and Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen. Web site www.ireps.gov.in. Notice Board provided in the office of the Dy Chief Signal & Telecomm Engineer/Construction/North Central Railway/Prayagraj, GM Office, Betwa Building, Subedar Ganj, Prayagraj

 North Central Railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in  cprnocr@ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

National award for BOC official

New Delhi: Satyendra Prakash, Principal Director General, BOC was on Tuesday honoured with the National Award for enhancing electoral participation by the Election Commission of India for activities conducted towards voter awareness and education during the period 2021-22.

The award was given to Satyendra Prakash, by the Commission on the occasion of National Voters Day 2022 in the presence of Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister of Law and Justice, Chief Election Commissioner, Sushil Chandra and other senior dignitaries in the National Award function Ceremony at Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi.

The award has been given for his contribution in educating and creating awareness for enhancing the people's participation in casting vote during present challenging time of Covid-19. Post Covid-19 when direct interaction with the masses is a challenge, his con-

tribution in devising new techniques to reach the people is very significant. It is to be noted that such efforts have led to increase in percentage of voter's participation to 67.47% in 2019 which was 58.19 % in the year 2009.

Under the leadership of Satyendra Prakash, BOC with its 23 Regional Outreach Bureaus (ROBs) and 148 Field Outreach Bureaus (FOBs) are using new techniques viz. messaging through WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Tweets/Re-tweets, SMS, Telephonic Calls and organizing webinars. These social media platforms have been used as significant tools for reaching the people. Awareness activities by audio announcement using the Branded Mobile Vans are also used as a major tool for reaching the people in present situation.

Various Voter awareness / Education programmes as part of the SVEEP activities have been carried out through

Cultural programmes, Digital Exhibitions, Photo exhibitions, Door to Door campaigns, Magic shows, Nukkad Nataks, Demonstrations, Rallies etc. While organizing such campaigns BOC identifies mainly the low voter turnout areas and make the outreach activities more focused in such areas to disseminate the message of 'No Voter to Be Left Behind' of uphold Hon'ble Central Election Commission's and thereby strengthening the democratic process of the nation.

Satyendra Prakash was earlier awarded with the 'Rajat Kamal' for the Best Documentary Film Producer at the National Film Awards 2018. 6 films produced by him when he was Director General of Films Division of India were awarded with Rajat Kamal. He was also honoured with the Swachh Bharat Award in the year 2019 and 2020 for his exemplary work in Swachh Bharat Mission.

Tamil actor gets relief from Madras HC in car import fine case

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Joseph Vijay, Tamil film industry's reigning 'mega' star got a major relief from Madras High Court on Tuesday as a division bench ordered the expunging of certain critical comments made by a single bench judge against the former in July 2021. The judge's scathing comments on him had pained the actor and he had approached the court with a plea to remove the same.

S M Subramaniam, the judge of the Madras High Court, while hearing a plea

filed by the actor seeking exemption from paying entry tax for a Rolls Royce Ghost car which he had imported from England had slapped a fine of ₹1 lakh and gave him a piece of his mind which hogged national headlines.

The public consider you as a role model- a real hero. You should have promptly paid the entry tax the moment the authorities asked you to pay it. Actors who portray themselves as champions of social justice and against corruption should not evade tax. Super stars are not expected to behave like reel

heroes. Tax evasion is to be construed as an anti-national habit, attitude and mindset and unconstitutional,” Judge Subramaniam has observed in this verdict.

Vijay, who was pained by these comments filed a petition seeking its expunging. A Division Bench consisting of Pushpa Sathyanarayana and Mohammed Shaffiq on Tuesday allowed the appeal filed by Vijay and ordered the removal of the “scathing remarks” made by the single bench judge in paragraphs 7,8, 9 and 12 of the order dated 13 July 2021.

66-yr-old swims for 5 hrs with hands, legs chained; sets record

Mangaluru: Swimming 3.5 km in the Arabian sea for five hours and 35 minutes with his hands and legs chained, a 66-year-old man from Udupi has entered the Golden Book of World Records.

Gangadhar Kadekar, who entered the sea from Padukere beach shore in Udupi at 7.50 am on Monday, completed his swim by 1.25 pm.

The representative from the Golden Book of World Records Manish Vishnroy, who watched the feat, issued a provisional certificate to Kadekar.

“The swimmer's achievement at an age when people retire and remain at home is really great,” Vishnroy said. Kadekar said he swam like a dolphin as both his hands and legs were chained. “The record was created to make children to draw inspiration from it and I am happy,” he said.

Kadekar had earlier entered the India Book of Records by swimming 1.4 km in 73.7 minutes by chaining his legs in the ‘Padmasana’ posture at Padukere

Gangadhar Kadekar, who entered the Arabian Sea from Padukere beach shore in Udupi at 7.50 am on Monday, completed his swim by 1.25 pm

on January 24, 2021. He also created a record by swimming with his 41 students at St Mary's Island on February 14, 2021.

Kadekar, who took to swimming at the age of 50, founded the Jai Durga swimming club in Udupi and has been providing training to youths for the last two years. More than 1,000 students are under training under him at present. He had taken part in state and national level aquatic championships and won 31 gold, 16 silver and nine bronze medals at the senior level. *PTI*

MLA's son among 7 killed in car accident

Wardha: Seven MBBS students, including the son of an MLA, were killed in Wardha district of Maharashtra in the wee hours of Tuesday when the car they were travelling in fell off a bridge, police said.

The incident occurred around 1.30 AM near Selsura village in Wardha district, 77 km away from Nagpur, in east Maharashtra.

An official said that all seven students died on the spot. One of the seven students, Avishkar Rahangdale, was the son of Tirora BJP MLA Vijay Rahangdale. He was a first-year MBBS student of the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College at Sawangi (Meghe) in Wardha. Police said the SUV was being driven by one of the students who all were returning from neigh-

bouring Yavatmal district after celebrating the birthday of a student. Due to the impact of the crash, the SUV was reduced to pulp. All the deceased were students of the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, OSD of the Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences Dr Abhyuday Meghe told PTI.

“One of the deceased students was a medical intern. Of the rest six, two each were studying in the final year, third year and first year,” he said. Other six deceased are identified as Niraj Chauhan, who hailed from Daudpur in Gorakhpur, Pratyush Singh, Shubham Jaiswal from Chandauli (Uttar Pradesh), Vivek Nandan and Pawan Shakti (both from Gaya in Bihar), and Niteesh Kumar Singh from Belapur in Odisha. *PTI*

PM expresses grief over deaths

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday expressed pain at the loss of lives in a road accident at Selsura in Maharashtra.

He also announced Rs 2 lakh each from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to the next of kin of those who died in the accident and Rs 50,000 for each of the injured.

“Pained by the loss of lives due to an accident near Selsura in Maharashtra. In this hour of sadness, my thoughts are with those who have lost their loved ones. I pray that those injured are able to recover soon,” he said.

**भारतीय स्टेट बैंक**
State Bank of India

POSSESSION NOTICE
(FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)


Branch- Bilgram
Distt. Hardoi

[Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002]
Whereas,
The under signed being the authorised officer of the State Bank of India Bilgram Branch, Distt. Hardoi U.P. under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (No. 3 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notices, Calling upon the respective borrowers to repay the amount as mentioned in notice been loan amount plus interest and other expenses within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to borrowers, guarantors and the public in general that the under signed has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said act read rule under 8 of the said rules, on the date mentioned. The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with property will be subject to charge of the State Bank of India Bilgram Branch, Distt. Hardoi U.P. for an amount and interest and other charges thereon mentioned against each account here in below.

Sl. No.	Name of Borrower / Guarantor	Description of Mortgaged Property and Boundary	Over due Amount
1	M/s Siddhi Rice Mill Udyog, Proprietor : Sidh Nath Mishra S/o Sri Narayan Mishra, Vill & Post Barauna Pargana Mallawan Distt. Hardoi	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of situated at Vill & PO- Barauna Pargana Mallawan Distt. Hardoi Owned by : Shri Sidh Nath Mishra. Boundaries : East: Road West: Plot of Sattar North: Plot of Pintu South: Plot of Mohd. Hasan	Rs. 9,76,481.00 + Interest + Other Charges Date of Notice 07.08.2020 Possession Date : 24.01.2022

Date: 26.01.2022 **Authorised Officer, State Bank of India, Branch Bilgram, Distt. Hardoi**

**लोक आयुक्त तथा उप लोक आयुक्त, उत्तर प्रदेश**



प्रदेश को भ्रष्टाचार/कुप्रशासन मुक्त बनाने हेतु जनता से अपील

उत्तर प्रदेश शासन के समस्त विभाग, सरकारी कम्पनियों, सहायक सरकारी कम्पनियों, निगम, सोसाइटियों व परिषदों (जो अधिसूचित की गईं) से संबंधित शिकायतों के मामले उदाहरणार्थ – लोक सेवकों के कुप्रशासन, भ्रष्टाचार एवं पद के दुरुपयोग आदि से संबंधित मामले तथा सेवानिवृत्त देयकों के भुगतान, मूलक अंशित सेवायोजन, विकास प्राधिकरण एवं आवास विकास परिषद, निराश्रित एवं वृद्ध महिलाओं के पेंशन, अनुसूचित जाति एवं जनजातियों के आरक्षण (सेवा) संबंधी मामले।

उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य के समस्त अधिकारीगण एवं कर्मचारियों के साथ-साथ मंत्रीगण, विधायक, विधान परिषद सदस्य, महापौर, महापालिका, अध्यक्ष, नगर पालिका परिषद, नगर पंचायतें तथा अध्यक्ष, जिला पंचायत भी सम्मिलित हैं। शासकीय लोक सेवकों के सेवानिवृत्त/सेवाकाल में मृत्यु से संबंधित देयकों के प्रकरण शिकायत की श्रेणी में आते हैं।

अभिकथन/शिकायत की प्रक्रिया


प्रदेश के लोक आयुक्त तथा उप लोक आयुक्त को अभिकथन तथा शिकायत सम्बन्धी परिवाद निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर तीन प्रतियों में (स्थासम्भव राजभाषा हिन्दी में) टंकित कराकर धारा-9(2) के अनुसार नोटरी शपथ पत्र एवं धारा-9(3) के अनुसार परिवाद, शपथ पत्र, संलग्नक/अनुलग्नक का सत्यापन परिवादी स्वयं के द्वारा निर्धारित प्रक्रिया के अनुसार करके एवं अभिकथन रूपी परिवादों में रु० 2000/- प्रतिभूति निर्धारित लेखा शीर्षक “8443 सिविल निक्षेप-00-103 प्रतिभूति निक्षेप-00-00” के अन्तर्गत भारतीय स्टेट बैंक अथवा कोषागार में चालान के माध्यम से जमा करके मूलप्रति सहित प्रस्तुत किया जा सकता है। साथ ही यह स्पष्ट किया जाता है कि यदि प्राप्त परिवाद मिथ्या/फर्जी पाया जाता है तो ऐसे परिवादियों पर लोक आयुक्त प्रशासन द्वारा 50,000/- तक की धनराशि का हर्जाना लगाया जा सकता है एवं प्रतिभूति की धनराशि जब्त की जा सकती है।

नोट- राज्य सरकार द्वारा ई-पेमेन्ट से भुगतान किये जाने के कारण, परिवादी अपना राष्ट्रीय बैंक का बचत खाता अख्त्या, बैंक व शाखा का नाम, जिला एवं आई0एफ0एस0सी0 कोड के साथ-साथ पासबुक की स्वप्रमाणित छायाप्रति, परिवाद दाखिल करते समय प्रतिभूति की धनराशि के मूल चालान के साथ उपलब्ध करायेंगे तभी उनको प्रतिभूति की धनराशि वापस किया जाना सम्भव होगा। परिवादी को अपना पूरा नाम, पता, मोबाइल नम्बर, ई-मेल के साथ अंकित करना चाहिए।

वर्तमान पता-टी0सी0-46/वी-1 भूमि खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ-226010 अथवा पोस्ट बाक्स नम्बर-172, जी0पी0ओ, लखनऊ, फ़ैक्स नं० – (0522) 2306647

फोन नं०: (0522), 2728660, 2306088, 2728086, 2306412, 2306717, 2728865, 2306160 (पी0बी0 एक्स), Web site - www.lokayukta.up.nic.in, E-mail - lokayukta@hotmail.com

अनिल कुमार सिंह, सचिव, लोक आयुक्त, उत्तर प्रदेश, लखनऊ

**Bandhan Bank**

Regional Office: Netaji Marg, Nr. Mithakhali Six Roads, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-6. Phone: + 91-79-26421671-75

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorized Officer issued demand notice on the date mentioned against the account stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The borrower(s), having failed to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules 2002 on the date mentioned against the loan account. The borrower(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank for the amounts, interest, costs and charges thereon. The borrowers /borrowers' attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

Name of borrower(s) & Loan Account No.	Description of property mortgaged (Secured Asset)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Symbolic Possession Notice	Outstanding Amt. as on Date of Demand Notice
Mrs. Asha Kumari Sinha (Deceased Borrower) Mr. Rakesh Kumar Sinha (Deceased Borrower) All Legal Hers of Deceased Borrower Mr. Naresh Babu B/o Rakesh Kumar Mr. Kamlesh Babu B/o Rakesh Kumar 755/215	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property situated at 127/1, Domari, Pargana Ralhupur, Tehsil and District Varanasi, UP and bounded by: North: Rest Part of Arazi, East: Rest Part of Arazi, West: House of Rakesh, South: Kachha Rasta 16 Feet Wide Road	08.11.2021	19.01.2022	Rs.9,38,587.54
Mr. Rakesh Kumar Sinha (Deceased Borrower) Mrs. Asha Kumari Sinha (Deceased Borrower) All Legal Hers of Deceased Borrower Mr. Naresh Babu B/o Rakesh Kumar Mr. Kamlesh Babu B/o Rakesh Kumar 755/208	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property situated at 127/1, Domari, Pargana Ralhupur, Tehsil and District Varanasi, UP and bounded by:North: Part of Arazi, East: House of Mrs. Asha Kumari Sinha, West: Land of Bachmuna Devi, South: Kachha Rasta 16 Feet Wide Road	08.11.2021	19.01.2022	Rs.9,71,688.90
Mr. Santosh Kumar Mrs. Suneeta W/o Shivpujan Gaur Mr. Sushil Kumar 755/180	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property situated at Arazi No. 288/1, Min Area 1/6 Hect and Arazi No. 289/2, Min Area 0.0-3/4 Hect, Total Gata, Total Area 1-11/12 Dismil i.e., 800 sq. ft., Mauza-Mugalchak, Pargana-Dhoos, Dist. Varanasi, UP and bounded by: North: G.T. Road, East: Land of First Party, West: Land of Malti Devi, South: Land of Badan	08.11.2021	19.01.2022	Rs.8,53,711.60

Place: Varanasi
Date: 26/01/2022

Authorised Officer
Bandhan Bank Limited

FIRST COLUMN

ADULT MARRIAGE ISN'T THE GOVT'S BUSINESS

How will increasing the marriageable age empower women or make them self-reliant?



S KALYANASUNDARAM

The Government is considering to change the eligibility of Indian girls getting married from 18 to 21. The intent of the Bill isto “make them self-reliant and to enable them to take decisions themselves”. An amendment seeks to define a child as a male or female who has not completed 21 years of age. How will increasing the marriageable age empower women or make them self-reliant? Gender equality per se is achieved with 21 becoming the marriageable age o men and women. But this stipulation for men itself is totally arbitrary and to make gender equality, men’s marriageable age should have been brought down to 18. Parity does not mean taking away the right or privilege from one group. When the government wants to decide the minimum age for marriage, strangely it claims that it is going to empower girls to decide on their own. As per Indian Majority Act, 1875 18 is the age for attaining majority. But,as per the same Act, a child appoint-



ed with a guardian by the court attains majority after completion of 21 years. Through Indian Majority (Amendment) Act 1999, Section 3 has been replaced with the following: “Age of majority of persons domiciled in India. — (1) every person domiciled in India shall attain the age of majority on his completing the age of eighteen years and not before.” So, whoever completes the age of 18 years the person is a major and cannot be treated as a child. Hence the proposed amendment with the nomenclature Prohibition of ‘child’ marriage act is a misnomer. Our law permits 18-year-olds, without representation by a guardian, to enter into any contract, own properties, pursue jobs, drive heavy vehicles in most states, and vote in elections. But the government wants to prescribe an age limit for marriage that too by branding the persons attaining majority as children. While introducing the Constitution (Sixty first Amendment) Act, 1988, the government stated as follows: ‘The present-day youth are literate and enlightened and the lowering of the voting age would provide to the unrepresented youth of the country an opportunity to give vent to their feelings and help them become a part of the political process. The present-day youth are very much politically conscious. It is, therefore, proposed to reduce the voting age from 21 years to 18 years.’ Is it not ridiculous to suddenly change the gear and say that girls of 18 years cannot decide on their own and hence should not marry?

UNICEF, also known as the United Nations Children’s Fund, is a United Nations agency responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide. Even UNICEF regards only the marriage of a minor (a person below the adult age) as child marriage and a violation of rights. It is a different matter that most of the girls and boys are not getting married even after they are eligible as per the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. As per a survey conducted with a sample of 10,005 respondents by YouGov-Mint-CPR Millennial Survey, one in four young adults in India do not want to marry. As norms and values around marriage and family life change, the Indian youth too are being influenced by recent trends. Compared to a decade ago, youth are now marrying later in life. This has been again brought out by Lokniti-CSDS Youth Studies in 2016 and 2007 which show the proportion of married youth decreased by eight percentage points from 55 per cent in 2007 to 47 per cent in 2016. The government must drop this amendment bill which is retrograde.

(The writer is a retired banker. The views expressed are personal.)

The US is in the grip of inflation

The American policy makers are diverting attention from the real cause of inflation — excessive expansion of money supply



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

Although inflation is a common phenomenon in most countries of the world including India, many past generations of Americans have never suffered the brunt of inflation. But in the last one year, the rate of inflation in America has reached around seven percent, and that has started affecting the lives of ordinary Americans. Ruling Democrats are fearing the consequences of the same in the 2022 mid-term elections. On the one hand, Covid-19, which has destroyed the jobs of 22 million Americans, has also caused a 30 percent drop in annual production, while on the other, Americans are facing further hardships due to rising inflation.

The question is, how America was saved from inflation in the past, and how it will come out of the grip of current. Inflation has been registered in almost every item of daily needs — eight percent increase in the price of eggs, 58 percent in the price of petrol, 14 percent increase in the prices of other groceries.

Some American economists believe that due to US Government’s bailout packages to revive the economy from the effects of COVID-19, there was an unprecedented increase in demand in the country. However, due to supply disruptions, the prices of goods are increasing fast. Economists believe that due to rising inflation, wage rates are also increasing, which may lead to a spiral effect on inflation. Experts believe that the pent-up demand of the Covid-19 period is also retuning back now.

During the pandemic period many people with permanent income also could not spend their incomes fully. Now, with return of normalcy, they are spending more on tourism, fuel, food items, restaurants, entertainment, etc. It is believed that as supply conditions improve, it will be possible to control inflation. But there is almost a consensus that there is no immediate relief from it.

US policy makers are trying to blame this record inflation on supply chain problems and shortage of raw materials, but most economists are citing the rising money supply as the main reason. It is true that the sudden spurt in consumer demand after the temporary relief from COVID-19 has led to a shortage of goods, but this is not the main reason for inflation in America.

Many policy makers in the US are saying that due to the shortage of goods, sellers have started raising prices. Therefore, inflation can also be curbed by price controls. But we must understand that one of the disadvantages of price control is that it reduces the incentive of producers to produce more. There is an apprehension that due to this (price control), the consumers may face shortage of goods.

But one area where price controls



AMERICAN POLICY MAKERS ALSO RECOGNISE THAT THEIR PEOPLE HAVE HUGE SAVINGS AND THEY WANT TO MAKE UP FOR THE GOODS AND SERVICES WHICH THEY COULD NOT ENJOY DURING COVID-19. BUT IT HAS TO BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE REAL REASON FOR THE SURPLUS FUNDS LEFT WITH PEOPLE IS THE DISTRIBUTION OF HUGE AMOUNTS OF FINANCIAL BAILOUT PACKAGES BY THE US ADMINISTRATION

(The writer is Professor, PGDAV College, University of Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)



can play an effective role is the pharmaceutical sector. It is well known that American pharmaceutical companies charge high prices for drugs in the name of reward for intellectual property. Controlling drug prices can certainly give a huge relief to the consumers.

American policy makers are trying to cover up their past mistakes with a variety of arguments to divert attention from the real causes of inflation; and that mistake is the excessive expansion of money supply. It is a historical fact that the main reason for inflation all over the globe had been the expansion of money supply.

Irvig Fisher’s quantity theory of money has been used for centuries to explain the phenomenon of inflation. According to modified version of this theory, if the total output of goods and services or ‘the volume of transactions’ in the economy remains the same, then the price level increases in proportion to the increase in the quantity of money. It is worth noting that first in the name of ‘quantitative easing’ (QEs) for a huge bailout package to overcome the financial crisis starting from 2007-08 and to compensate for the impact of the decline in the economy due to COVID-19 in the last almost two

years, the US Administration has been expanding quantity of money. Many economists believe that due to this huge increase in the quantity of money, inflation is now becoming uncontrollable.

American policy makers also recognize that people in America have huge savings with them and they want to make up for the goods and services, which they could not enjoy during Covid-19. But it has to be understood that the real reason for the surplus funds left with the people is the distribution of huge amounts of financial bailout packages by the US administration. Due to the limited income of the government due to the pandemic, the increase in inflation has become inevitable due to printing of the amount of currency in circulation by the Government and consequently a large increase in the money supply. Significantly, between November 2020 and November 2021, the total currency with the public in USA increased by \$1.56 trillion, i.e., an increase of 7.6 percent. But the increase in the supply of M1 money was even more, that is, 15.7 percent.

Bailout package by the US government to create additional currency is nothing new; however, in recent times there has been some decline in the popularity of

the dollar as global currency, which is being fast replaced by the Chinese currency yuan. Further, in order to give boost to US manufacturing, the US administration has been becoming more and more protective, resulting in fall in export of dollars. In such a situation, the supply of dollars outside the US is decreasing, due to which the fear of inflation in the US have increased due to increasing amounts of dollars with the public in US. It seems that if this trend continues in the future, then the increasing money supply in the US will continue to cause inflation in the future as well.

Manufacturing output in the US had been declining for a long time and most of the GDP in the US is derived from services. In that too, a large part of America’s GDP is the income earned abroad by American companies, due to which America has been receiving a huge amount of taxation. But for some time now, American companies have been trying to avoid this taxation in various ways. These companies are mostly e-commerce and tech companies. For this reason, the US government may have to resort to the creation of additional currency to meet its expenses in the future also, which may lead to further inflation.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THIEVES DON'T LIKE A MOONLIT NIGHT. THOSE WHO ARE PROMISING FREE ELECTRICITY KEPT PEOPLE IN DARKNESS FOR YEARS.
—UP CHIEF MINISTER
YOGI ADITYANATH



WHAT DOES THE CHIEF MINISTER KNOW ABOUT ELECTRICITY FACTORS? THERE IS NO BIGGER A LIAR THAN THE CM.
—SAMA JWADI PARTY CHIEF
AKHILESH YADAV

Tableau politics mars Republic Day preparations

The Centre and the States should together evolve a fair tableaux selection process without any heartburn to any stakeholder

Petty politics ought not to ruin the solemn atmosphere in celebrating the Republic Day or Independence Day. Unfortunately, more avoidable controversies arise between the ruling party and the opposition. For instance, while there is a well-established system for selecting the tableaux, the process always becomes a flashpoint for regional politics. This year too, there is furore in the opposition-ruled states as the Centre rejected the tableaux of West Bengal, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, among others. Chief Ministers like Mamata Banerjee and M.K. Stalin have written to the Prime Minister to reconsider the decision but in vain.

Only 12 states eventually made it to the list, including



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

poll-bound states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, and Goa. The selection criteria was that the R-Day parade must reflect the cultural diversity of India and the role of various communities in building modern India. Why shouldnot every State get an opportunity to display things it wants to?

This year Republic Day is important because the theme is India@75 and getting a place in the parade is a matter of prestige for the states. It is also amidst the Covid pandemic which has shattered the globe.

On the 75th Republic Day on Friday, one must recall the first Republic Day in 1950. It was a simple affair. The then last Governor-General of India, C. Rajagopalachari, read out the proclamation of the new Republic and the election



of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, as the first President of India, at 10.18 AM on a chilly Thursday morning.

The Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution of India on November 26, 1949, and came into effect on January 26, 1950. Historically it was on January 26, 1930, Congress committed the nationalist movement to Purna Swaraj (total independence). Delhi held the first

Republic Day at the Irwin Amphitheatre (now Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium). There were no performances and floats. It was a simple function with the Army band, flag hoisting, and national anthem. The tradition of a parade began only from the next Republic Day. It is the main attraction of India’s Republic Day celebrations, which last for three days since then.

The Parade is primarily a military affair. The might of our defence services, including the latest tanks, missiles, radar systems, air force planes, defence communications systems, etc., mounted on trucks, are paraded, followed by a cultural pageant comprising tableaux. It is here that the participant states showcase their

unique culture and achievements to the nation. The selection depends on a combination of factors, including visual appeal, idea, theme, music, and micro detailing.

From 1950 and 1954, the parades were held at the Red Fort, National stadium, Kingsway Camp, and the Ramila ground. It was from 1955 that Rajpath became the regular venue. It was discontinued in 1963 when the country was engaged in war with China, and was replaced by a procession of leaders led by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, his cabinet members, political representatives from states, students and teachers from Delhi University, etc. The Parade was restored the following year.

Although they were disap-

pointed with the Centre’s rejection of tableau, the concerned opposition chief ministers have gone to the media to showcase their themes in their states. They feel the Centre was playing politics in the selection. Mamata Banerjee raised a point that their tableau commemorated the contributions of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 125th birth anniversary and carried portraits of other leaders like Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. She has decided to come out with the same tableau during the Republic Day parade on Red Road in Kolkata.

Tamil Nadu’s Stalin also proposes showcasing the rejected tableau in Chennai in the Republic Day parade and also taking it to other districts in Tamil Nadu.

It does not behove to follow petty politics. While it is truth that the sombre ceremony should not be disturbed by this kind of petty politics, one option could be to give a chance to all states. India is, after all, a Union of States. If there is a time constraint for some reason, the authorities could adopt the lottery system. The other option for the rejected states is to follow Mamata and Stalin to show off in the state R-Day celebrations.

The display of the unique culture of each state brought to Delhi parade with their floats and dances might create the sense of the new nation in the Union of States. It is time that the Centre and the states come together and evolve a good selection process without any heartburn.

Celebrate Indian-ness this Republic Day: Prez to people

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday said India has shown an unmatched resolve in the face of the extraordinary challenge to humankind posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. A strong and sensitive India is now emerging, he pointed out even as he asked people to celebrate “Indian-ness” this Republic Day.

In his address to the nation on the eve of 73rd Republic

Day, Kovind noted that democracy, justice, liberty, equality and fraternity form the bedrock of India and stressed that the observance of Fundamental Duties mentioned in the Constitution creates the proper environment for the enjoyment of Fundamental Rights.

This year’s celebrations may be muted due to the pandemic, but the spirit is as strong as ever, Kovind said.

Doctors, nurses and paramedics have risen to the chal-



lenge, working long hours in difficult conditions even at the risk of their lives to attend to patients. Others have kept the

nation moving, managing supply chains and utilities, he said.

Hailing the timely interventions by the leadership, policy-makers, administrators and others at the central and state levels during coronavirus pandemic, Kovind said it is a testimony to India’s spirit in the face of adversity that the economy is on the move again and is projected to grow at an impressive rate in this fiscal, after going through contraction last year.

“The impressive economic performance is made possible due to improvement in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. I am happy to note that our farmers, especially young farmers with small holdings, are enthusiastically adopting natural farming,” the President said.

As the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, Kovind said he was glad to note that it has been a watershed year for women empowerment

in the armed forces.

“Our daughters have broken a glass ceiling, and the permanent commission has now been allowed for women officers in new areas,” he said, adding that “consequently, our armed forces will benefit from better gender balance”.

Also, the talent pipeline for the forces will be strengthened with women coming through Sainik Schools and the prestigious National Defence Academy, the President said.

“I am confident that India is better placed today to meet the challenges of the future,” Kovind said, adding that new opportunities await the next generation.

Invoking Mahatma Gandhi, Kovind said he would have liked us to celebrate Republic Day by striving to become better human beings and contributing towards the making of a better India and a better world.

“Two days ago, on 23rd

January, all of us observed the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, who had adopted the energising salutation of ‘Jai-Hind’. His quest for independence and his ambition to make India proud inspire all of us,” the President said.

Referring to a visit to his village in Kanpur, he also urged the people to remember their roots and work for the development of their native village, city and country.

Neeraj awarded Param Vishisht Seva Medal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Twelve security forces personnel from the Army and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were awarded Shaurya Chakra by President Ram Nath Kovind on the eve of Republic Day on Tuesday. Olympic javelin gold medal winner in the Tokyo Games Neeraj Chopra was awarded Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM). He is a Subedar in the Rajputana Rifles.

This gallantry medal is the third-highest during peacetime. Five of the six awardees of the Army this year were conferred the medal posthumously. Most of them sacrificed their lives fighting militants in Jammu & Kashmir. Similarly, four of the six CRPF personnel were also awarded the medal posthumously.

Giving details here on Wednesday, Defence Ministry officials said the President has



approved awards of 384 Gallantry and other Defence decorations to Armed Forces personnel and others on the eve of 73rd Republic Day celebrations.

These include 12 Shaurya Chakras, 29 Param Vishisht Seva Medals (PVSM), 04 Uttam Yudh Seva Medals, 53 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals (AVSM), 13 Yudh Seva Medals, 03 Bar to Vishisht Seva Medals, 122 Vishisht Seva Medals (VSM), 03 Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 81 Sena Medals (Gallantry), 02

Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry), 40 Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), 08 Nao Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), and 14 Vayu Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty).

The Shaurya Chakra awardees are Naib Subedar Sreejith M (posthumous), Havildar Anil Kumar Tomar (posthumous), Havildar Kashiray Bammannalli (posthumous), Havildar Pinku Kumar (posthumous), Sepoy M Jaswanth Kumar Reddy (posthumous), and Rifleman Rakesh Sharma.

The CRPF Shaurya Chakra awardees include Commandant Dilip Malik, Assistant Commandant Anirudh Pratap Singh, Head Constable Ajeet Singh (posthumous), Constable Vikas Kumar (posthumous), Constable Puranand (posthumous) and Head Constable Kuldeep Kumar Urawan (posthumous).

939 service medals announced on eve of R-Day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday announced a total of 939 service medals, including 189 for gallantry, for personnel of various Central and State police forces on the eve of Republic Day. However, no one has been awarded the topmost president’s police medal for gallantry (PPMG) this time.

Among the 189 gallantry awards, 134 personnel are being awarded for their gallant action in the Jammu and Kashmir region, 47 for their bravery in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas and one personnel for similar conduct in the north-east region.

The highest number of bravery medals, 115, have been awarded to the Jammu and Kashmir Police, followed by 30 to the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), 10 to the Chhattisgarh Police, nine to the Odisha Police, seven to the Maharashtra Police, three each to the border guarding forces of Indo-Tibetan Border Police



(ITBP) and the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), and two to the Border Security Force (BSF), among others.

Eighty-eight personnel have been awarded the distinguished service medal while 662 have been given the meritorious service medal. 42 fire service medals, 37 correctional service medals for police personnel and 51 ‘Jeevan Rakshak Padak’ were also announced. The ‘Jeevan Rakshak’ series of medals are given for meritorious act of human nature in saving the life of a person.

Sanjeev Kumar Yadav IPS of Delhi Police Cell is among the Gallantry Medal winners. 53 personnel of the Border Security Force (BSF) have been decorated with various police service medals including gallantry decorations. Constables Anand Oraon and Sunder Singh have been awarded the PMG for thwarting smuggling bids by armed smugglers along the India-Bangladesh international border in West Bengal.

18 personnel of the India-China LAC guarding force Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) have been decorated with various police service medals including gallantry decorations.

The PMG has been given to the team of Assistant Commandant Ashok Kumar, Inspectors Suresh Lal and Neela Singh for neutralising two wanted Maoists during a fierce encounter in the left wing extremism-affected area of Chhattisgarh’s Rajnandgaon district in February, 2018. A huge assortment of arms and ammunition was also recovered after the operation.

Among the distinguished service medal awardees is DIG Ajay Pal Singh who joined the mountain-warfare trained force as an officer in 1990. DIG Ramakant Sharma and GC Upadhyay have also been awarded the distinguished service medal.

CBI officers probing post poll violence cases in West Bengal besides the one who busted big bribery cases in Railways are among 29 agency sleuths awarded police medals. Joint Director Rannish Geer, who led the probe in cases like housing scam allegedly involving the then Union minister Sheila Kaul, Naval war room leak case, kidnapping of an NRI businessman and his release besides other high profile anti-corruption cases, received the coveted President’s Police Medal for Distinguished Service.

He was among the four CBI joint directors rushed from Delhi to West Bengal to oversee post poll violence cases reported in the state last year.

75% ICU Covid survivors grapple with health problems

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At least 75 per cent of the Covid-19 survivors, who were treated in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), experience physical, mental and/or cognitive problems one-year post ICU, according to a large-scale MONITOR-IC study published in the journal JAMA.

The study was led by Radboud university medical center, in which the health status of ICU survivors is monitored with questionnaires up to five years after ICU admission.

The study regarding long-term health problems was conducted among 246 Covid-19 patients (176 men/70 women) who were treated in the intensive care unit (ICU) in the Netherlands. Their mean age was 61 years. Using questionnaires, they were asked how they were doing one-year post ICU. Worldwide, this is the first scientific research regarding long-term problems among Covid-19 ICU survivors. Patients in this study were admitted to the ICU during the first Covid-19 surge between March and July 2020.

Majority of patients experience health problems one-year post ICU. This study shows that three quarters of the Covid-19 ICU survivors experience problems one-year post ICU. These are primarily physical problems, whereby half of the patients experience feelings of fatigue. Other physical problems are e.g. a reduced condition, pain, muscle weakness and shortness of breath.

Also, mental symptoms are common; one in five Covid-19 ICU survivors experience feelings of anxiety or post-traumatic stress. Furthermore, one in six have cognitive problems such as memory or attention problems. These various problems negatively affect former ICU patients’ daily lives.

Over half of them indicate that they have work-related problems because of the health problems; they reduced their working hours; they are still on sick leave or have even given up their job.

Yet another study has said that about 50 per cent of people infected with Covid-19 during the first wave of infections in 2020 may have long-term and even permanent changes to their sense of smell.

Scientists at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm found this after they ran comprehensive tests on 100 individuals who caught Covid in the first wave of infections in 2020.

Extended FCRA registration of 11,594 NGOs which applied within cut-off date, Govt tells SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registrations of 11,594 NGOs, which applied within the cut-off date, have already been extended. Taking note of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta’s submission, a bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar refused to pass an interim direction that FCRA registrations of all organisations that were valid as on September 30 last year ought to be continued until further orders.

The bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and CT Ravikumar, said the petitioners are free to make representation to the concerned authorities which may be considered on its merits in accordance with law. The FCRA registration is mandatory for any association and NGO to receive foreign funding. Mehta told the top court that 11,594 NGOs had applied within the cut-off date and their registrations have been extended for the time being.

The apex court, which is seized of a plea filed by a US-based NGO seeking quashing of the Centre’s alleged decision by which 5,789 entities lost their FCRA registration, was dealing with arguments regarding interim relief in the matter.

While referring to Mehta’s submission, the top court said that in light of the stand taken by the authorities, it doesn’t intend to pass such interim direction as prayed. The bench said the petition would be listed after the

judgement is pronounced on a batch of pleas, including those which have raised issues concerning the Foreign Contribution Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2020.

Senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, appearing for the US based NGO said they have the information which is available in public domain as per which there are around 6,000 NGOs whose registrations have not been extended for whatever reasons.

The bench told Hegde that the Solicitor General has submitted that those who have applied, there registration has been extended. “If those 6,000 NGOs have chosen not to apply for registration, that means they do not want to continue in the present regime,” the bench observed.

There were 22,762 FCRA-registered organisations till December 31, 2021. On January 1, the number came down to 16,829. These are considered “live” organisations. The officials had said the FCRA licences of 18,778 organisations were expiring between September 29, 2020 and December 31, 2021. Out of them, as many as 12,989 organisations have applied for renewal of the FCRA licence between September 30, 2020 and December 31, 2021. Since 5,789 organisations did not apply for the renewal of the FCRA licence, they were deemed to have ceased to be registered organisations, an official had said. In addition to them, renewal application of 179 organisations were also rejected by the Home Ministry due to different reasons.

As home isolation cases up, Mandaviya tells States, UTs to bolster teleconsultations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the majority of Covid-19 patients recuperate in home isolation, the Union Health Ministry is banking on teleconsultation services to provide timely care to them. On Tuesday, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya asked states to adopt the hub and spoke model and open additional teleconsultation centres.

“This will enable beneficiaries to access advice from experts stationed at district hubs,” it said. He said the government’s e-Sanjeevani telemedicine system has provided services to more than 2.6 crore beneficiaries where people can seek medical advice from the confines of their homes,” he said during an interaction with health ministers, senior bureaucrats and administrators of nine states and union territories.

These were Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Delhi, Ladakh and Uttar Pradesh, according to a statement from the health ministry. Mandaviya also urged the health ministers and state authorities to plug the existing gaps by efficiently utilizing the amount sanctioned for various infra projects

On the importance of teleconsultation services, Mandaviya urged them “This will prove to be a game-changer and will be of immense value and importance for the hard-to-reach and far-flung areas, and especially in the northern regions in the current winter season,” he highlighted.

He advised the states and union territories to ensure that those in home isolation are efficiently monitored in line with the national guidelines. This will ensure that the vulnerable categories of active cases in home isolation get the required medical help in a timely manner, the statement said. The virtual meeting was held to review public health preparedness for containment and management of Covid and the progress of the national Covid 9 vaccination campaign.

UP ELECTIONS Star campaigner RPN's exit a massive blow to Congress

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister and a Congress leader for over three decades, RPN Singh’s exit from the party has come as a massive blow for the grand old party just few days before the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections and just a day after he was named a star campaigner of the party.

A section of the party leaders felt that the exit of Singh, who was in charge of party affairs in Jharkhand, is ‘good riddance’ since he was allegedly working against the Congress-JMM combine in the State. However, another section termed it as yet another alarm bell for the party leadership to wake up from slumber to put the house in order.

The Congress late in the evening appointed Avinash Pandey as the AICC general secretary in place of Singh.

Singh, a key Kurmi OBC leader from eastern UP, is the second big exit for the Congress in the state after Jitin Prasad, who is now a minister in the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government in UP.

He had been giving enough



indications to leave the Congress since the run up to 2019 General Elections.

AICC sources said he had not been attending the party meetings in the last several months though he was full time incharge for the Jharkhand Congress. Soon after Singh announced his resignation from the party, Jharkhand Barkagaon MLA Amba Prasad alleged that Singh had since several months been attempting to dislodge the Congress-JMM coalition government and that there were reports about him being in touch with BJP leaders.

“The party leadership had been cautioned on several occasions about his anti-party activities. Every true member of Congress is happy with him (RPN) going to BJP,” Amba Prasad tweeted.

RPN posted his resignation

letter addressed to Congress president Sonia Gandhi. “Today, at a time, we are celebrating the formation of our great Republic, I begin a new chapter in my political journey. Jai Hind.”

Kunwar Ratanjit Pratap Narain Singh, popularly known as Raja Saheb of Padrauna, was a former Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs in Congress-led UPA government.

Jyotiraditya Scindia’s exit was among the triggers for a big churn in the party that led to 23 leaders writing to Sonia Gandhi asking for ‘visible and full-time’ leadership and collective decision-making.

Scindia, Prasad, and Singh, all Doon school pals, were Rahul Gandhi aides and were in the Council of Ministers of the Manmohan Singh Congress led UPA governments.

As the media was abuzz with RPN switching over to BJP, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate at a Press conference quoted Priyanka Gandhi as saying that the ‘battle which Congress party is fighting can be fought only with bravery’ and ‘cowards can’t fight it’.

Law Minister slams ‘elements’ trying to ‘discredit’ EC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday called for increasing the voter turnout to at least 75 per cent in the next Lok Sabha elections while Union Minister for Law and Justice, Kiren Rijiju said “elements” trying to discredit the Election Commission (EC) were actually trying to discredit the democratic process of the country. The minister also said the courts have a right to make observations on the Commission but the judges will also have to think about the language being used.

In his message at an event on the occasion of the 12th National Voters Day, Naidu said as a nation we must think and arrive at a consensus to have simultaneous elections to all the three tiers of federal set up and move towards better governance by focusing on all-round development of our peo-

ple. Naidu was the chief guest at the event but could not attend the function as he is in home isolation in Hyderabad after testing positive for COVID-19.

The event was also attended by Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and Election Commissioners Rajiv Kumar and Anup Chandra Pandey and representatives of recognised political parties, including Trinamool Congress, BSP, BJP, CPI, Congress and National People’s Party.

Naidu’s message was read out in Hindi and English. The vice president said the country has come a long way from the first general elections of 1952 when only 44.87 per cent of the eligible voters turned up to vote. In the last general elections in 2019, 67.40 per cent or more than two-third of the eligible voters exercised their franchise, he noted.

Rijiju said, people who want to challenge democracy have found a way of doing so by challenging the poll panel. The minister said the way EC has handled challenges from time to time, there is little scope to criticise it. He, however, did not name the ‘elements’ he was referring to. In a democracy, people are free to criticise the EC, but the criticism should be based on logic, he said, adding that the language used should be within civic norms.

“If the courts says on EC, it can. Courts have a right. But the judges will have to think about what language they are using. Under what circumstances EC is working has to be understood,” he said.

Referring to the recent passage of a bill on electoral reforms, the minister said due to “ruckus” in the House he felt “handicapped” as he could not explain in detail the reforms being ushered in.

Court discharges Shilpa Shetty in ‘kissing’ case, calls actress victim of Richard Gere’s act

Mumbai: Fifteen years after Hollywood star and AIDS awareness campaigner Richard Gere created sensation by kissing her in public, a Mumbai court has discharged Shilpa Shetty in an obscenity case filed against her.

While clearing the actress of the charges against, Ballard Pier Court Metropolitan Magistrate Ketaki M Chavan observed in her order that after perusing the complaint lodged against her, she had found that Shilpa Shetty was the victim of the alleged act by Gere.

After going through the police report and documents presented to the court, the Magistrate held that the accusations against Shilpa Shetty was “groundless” and ordered her discharge from the case.

“Not a single element of any of the alleged offence is being satisfied in the complaint. Moreover, none of the papers annexed with the final report discloses the act of the present accused so as

to bring her within the purview of Section 34 of IPC (common intention),” the Magistrate observed in her order.

The controversial incident – in which Gere held a surprised Shetty in tight embrace arching over her and kissing her a couple of times in full public view at the AIDS awareness event – took place during a promotional event in Rajasthan in 2007.

In all three cases were filed against Shilpa in 2007 in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh for publicly kissing Gere.

The complaint filed before a Judicial Magistrate First Class in Mundawar, Rajasthan seeking registration of an FIR against Shilpa Shetty and Richard Gere, was allowed. The actress and Gere came to be booked under Sections 292, 293, 294 (obscenity) of the Indian Penal Code, along with provisions of the Information Technology and Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act. **PNS**

Govt imposes curbs on export of human hair

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a sharp rise in instances of hair smuggling to China that has squeezed raw material supplies for Indian exporters of hair products, the government on Tuesday put restrictions on the export of human hair.

Earlier, hair exports were allowed without any restriction. As per the new norms, now an exporter would have to seek permission or licence from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce to ship hair outside India.

Last year, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence busted a scam involving Chinese nationals in exporting human hairs from Bengaluru to China via Myanmar. Bangladesh has now emerged as the new transit hub for human hair smugglers. While high quality locks go for anywhere between Rs. 4,000 to

Rs. 15,000 per kg, the lower quality human hair ‘waste’ starts at a comparatively measly Rs. 4 per kg. In a notification, the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Sarangi on Tuesday said, the export policy of human hair, unworked, whether or not washed or scoured; waste of human hair or any other form of raw human hair...Has been put under restricted category, with immediate effect.

The hair export market in India is worth Rs 6,000-8000 crore — 5 percent of the hair comes from donations at temples and rest through collection of comb waste across villages. China, Hong Kong, Brazil and Italy are among the top five markets for India, when it comes to human hair exports.

It is used for making wigs, false beards, eyebrows, extensions and also in extraction of a protein used in the baking

industry. It’s used to make calligraphy brushes, wig making, cloth making, soy sauce, suit linings, and furniture. It’s enlisted to clean up oil spills. It’s even a part of the bagel-making process at Dunkin’ Donuts.

A large chunk of the hair exported comes from the ritual of hair tonsuring at the famous Tirumala Venkateswara Temple in Andhra Pradesh where thousands of devotees offer their hair to Lord Venkateshwara every day. It is estimated that over a ton of hair is collected at the temple on a daily basis.

Welcoming the move, member of Human Hair and Hair Products Manufacturers and Exporters Association of India Sunil Eamani said that it was their long-pending demand. “Now with this restriction, only genuine exporters will be able to export the product,” he said.

Rohit fit to lead India against WI

Bhuvneshwar and Ashwin, after their indifferent performance against SA in their 0-3 ODI series defeat, will come under scanner

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's white-ball captain Rohit Sharma is "fit" and ready to lead the side against the West Indies in a six-match white-ball series starting February 6 with the three ODIs in Ahmedabad. However, the team selection meeting, which is set to happen this week, will be an interesting one as some senior players like Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Ravichandran Ashwin, after their indifferent performance against South Africa in their 0-3 ODI series defeat, will come under the scanner.

But Rohit is ready to lead the side after a left hamstring injury ruled him out of the South Africa tour. The T20 matches against the Caribbean team are set to be held from February 16 to 20 in Kolkata.

"Rohit is fit and available for the series against the West Indies," a senior BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"By the time, the West Indies series starts, it will be more than seven and half weeks of rehabilitation and recuperation for Rohit.

"He is already training in

Mumbai and is expected to be in Bangalore for the fitness test and get a formal okay from the National Cricket Academy," the source informed.

ROHIT SET TO BE NAMED TEST CAPTAIN TOO

It is almost certain that for the time being, Rohit will be named the Test captain although BCCI will be looking at other options considering his workload and the responsibility that comes with leading India in two back-to-back World Cups in 2022 and 2023.

It is understood that KL Rahul's first stint as captain hasn't gone as per expectations and for now, he will have to remain an apprentice under Rohit till he is seen to be ready to lead the national team in near future.

Under Rahul, India lost all four international games in South Africa and for men who matter in Indian cricket, he hasn't exactly come across as a proactive captain.

It is understood that Rahul's performance as Lucknow Super Giants captain will be keenly monitored

during this edition of the IPL.

HARDIK PANDYA'S COMEBACK



Hardik Pandya has been bowling in the nets and even though it is not clear whether he can bowl full tilt but Venkatesh Iyer's relative

ROHIT WILL BE NAMED THE TEST CAPTAIN ALTHOUGH BCCI WILL BE LOOKING AT OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERING HIS WORKLOAD AND THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT COMES WITH LEADING INDIA IN TWO BACK-TO-BACK WORLD CUPS IN 2022 AND 2023



BUMRAH MIGHT BE RESTED

Jasprit Bumrah's workload management is paramount for this current Indian team and there is a possibility that he might be rested for the six matches.

This is after Bumrah played all six games in South Africa which, which included three Tests and three 50-over games, and sent down the highest number of overs (104.5 overs in Tests and 30 in ODIs).

However, Bhuvneshwar, whose form has tapered off, might be dropped while Ashwin might get one more series as the South Africa white-ball leg was his comeback in ODIs.

The likes of Avesh Khan and Harshal Patel could once again make it to the T20 team.



You can't win every game, it's a temporary phase for Team India, says Ravi Shastri

PTI ■ MUSCAT

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri does not see any reason to press the panic button after the team's shocking Test and ODI series loss to an under-strength South Africa as he believes it is a "temporary phase" and the side will tide over it soon.

In the backdrop of Virat Kohli's departure as captain from all formats, India, under stand-in skipper KL Rahul, were blanked 0-3 in the ODIs to cap a forgettable tour to South Africa.

India had earlier suffered back-to-back defeats in Wanderers and Cape Town to lose the Test series 1-2. At the end of that series, Kohli stepped down from captaincy in the

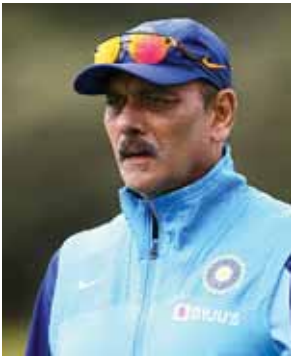
longest format, marking the end of an era in Indian cricket.

"If you lose one series, you people start criticising... You can't win every game, there will be wins and losses," Shastri, who ended his tenure after the T20 World Cup in UAE last year, told PTI on the sidelines of the ongoing Legends League Cricket.

The ODI series defeat in South Africa was their first after Kohli was sacked as skipper in the 50-over format in December last year.

Shastri said he did not follow a single ball of the South Africa series but refused to believe that the standard has dropped.

"How can the standard go down suddenly? For five years,



you have been number one side in the world," he asserted.

Keeping in mind the T20 World Cup in Australia in October, India have a packed white-ball calendar and will be hosting West Indies, Sri Lanka and South Africa this year.

With IPL being a 10-team affair this time, the home season would stretch till June before the Indians leave for England to play the final Test of a series that was halted midway last year due to a COVID-19 outbreak, followed by three T20Is and 3 ODIs.

Shastri maintained that there's nothing to worry about and dismissed the recent setbacks as a temporary phase.

"When you have a win ratio of 65 per cent over the last five years, what is there to worry about? What is there to worry about, our rival teams should worry," he said.

Kohli announced his decision to quit as Test skipper a day after the team lost 1-2. Shastri such decisions should be respected as it boils down to

individual choice.

"It's his choice. You have to respect his decision. There is a time for everything. A lot of big players in the past have left captaincy when they felt they wanted to focus on their batting or on their cricket.

"Whether it's (Sachin) Tendulkar, (Sunil) Gavaskar or (MS) Dhoni. And, it's Virat Kohli now."

Asked whether his body language has changed following the captaincy saga, Shastri said: "As I said, I've not followed a single ball in the series. But I don't think there will be too much change in Virat Kohli."

"I took a break after seven years in the game, been part of the team, One thing is very clear, I do not wash dirty linen in public.

Focussed on winning Asian Games to qualify for Paris Olympics: Sreejesh



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran goalkeeper PR Sreejesh on Tuesday said the Indian men's hockey side's main focus is qualifying for the Paris Olympics by winning the Asian Games this year besides giving opportunities to youngsters.

He said that a lot of youngsters will be given opportunities in a hectic year for the team in which it will compete in marquee events like the Commonwealth Games and Asiad.

The Tokyo Olympic bronze medal-winning side will begin the year with the FIH Hockey Pro League, starting next month.

"After every Olympics we plan for next four years. So after Tokyo we have already started planning for the Paris Olympics," Sreejesh said during a virtual media interaction.

"There are a lot of changes that are going to happen in the team (for Paris), lot of new comers are going to be added into the core group," he added. Sreejesh is a part of the International Institute of Sports Management's initiative in which 18 of the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics medallist have come together to recite the national anthem in a video, which was released on Monday. Asked if it is the right time to groom youngsters with the Paris Olympics only two years away, Sreejesh said with several fixtures line up, it will be good to give the junior players a chance.

"I didn't say we will get a lot of the youngsters straight into the team but their addition in the core group will give them more opportunity. We are starting this year with the Pro League before Asian Games and CWG."

"We will get almost 16 matches and most probably Asian Cup will be there and that is the platform where we can try out the youngsters, give them opportunities to play tournaments," Sreejesh added.



Made the announcement too soon: Sania Mirza on her retirement

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Indian tennis star Sania Mirza, who recently announced that 2022 would be her last season, says she had made the announcement too soon and was "regretting" it since she was being asked about it all the time.

Mirza's swansong appearance at the Australian Open ended with a quarterfinal loss to local pair Jaimee Fourlis and Jason Kubler in the mixed doubles event here.

"I am not actually thinking about that at every match to be honest very, I think that I made the announcement too soon to be very honest, I am kind of regretting it because that's all I am being asked right now," Mirza said when asked whether her outlook towards tennis and the Tour has changed considering it was her last season.

The 35-year-old, who is India's most accomplished woman tennis player, having won six Grand Slam titles, including three mixed doubles trophies, was speaking on "Extraa Serve" on Sony Sports Network.

Mirza, who hails from Hyderabad, maintained that she plays tennis to win matches.

"I am playing tennis to win matches and until I play, I am going to try and win every match I play, so it (retirement) is not something that is on my

mind constantly.

"I enjoy playing tennis, I have always enjoyed it, win or lose, and I still have the same outlook to it, I give my 100 (per cent), sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't but I am still in it 100 per cent for the rest of the year and I don't want to really think about what's going to happen at the end of the year....," elaborated Mirza.

On the game, which she and Ram lost, Sania said that it wasn't the best of their matches.

"It happens, you don't have a great day once in a while and it is unfortunate when it happens in a (Grand) Slam.

"But I guess we were not able to string it together, both of us and in the end, we were in it in the second set but we didn't take our chances and that's it, at least I could have played better, but that's how it goes, it happens sometimes," said Mirza.

Mirza on January 19 had announced that she will hang up her racquet at the end of 2022 season as her body was "wearing down" and the motivation and energy for everyday grind was not the same anymore.

She had made the retirement announcement after losing the Australian Open women's doubles first round with partner Nadiia Kichenok. They lost to Slovenia's Tamara Zidansek and Kaja Juvan.

Barty beats Pegula to reach semis in Australia

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Top-ranked Ash Barty moved into the Australian Open semifinals with a 6-2, 6-0 win over No. 21 Jessica Pegula.

The 2021 Wimbledon champion is aiming to become the first Australian woman to win the Australian Open since 1978.

She will next face 2017 U.S. Open runner-up Madison Keys for a place in the final. It's Barty's second trip to the semifinals at Melbourne Park — she lost to eventual champion Sofia Kenin in 2020.

She says "I've grown as a person. I've grown as a player. I feel like I'm a more complete player."

Keys is back in the last four for the second time after losing to Serena Williams in the semifinals in 2015.

Barty saved the only break point she faced against Pegula and converted five of the nine chances she had to break serve.

Keys beat French Open champion Barbora Krejickova 6-3, 6-2 in the opening match on Rod Laver Arena on Day 9.

Lack of red-ball cricket hampering players' skills already: Jaydev

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Saurashtra skipper Jaydev Unadkat feels the players' skills against the red ball have started diminishing and potential cancellation of a second consecutive Ranji Trophy season will be a "great loss" for domestic cricket in India.

After the COVID-19-forced cancellation of Ranji Trophy last year, a first in the tournament's rich history, the postponement of the current season due to the third wave of the pandemic has left many players worried. The premier tournament was supposed to begin on January 13 and lead pacer Unadkat and the rest of the Saurashtra players had started their preparations to defend the maiden title they won back in March 2020.

'Players' skills are being hampered' It felt like a different ball game altogether at the camp with players only used to white ball cricket for the last two seasons.

"Two years in a row would be a great

loss. One year itself was a great loss. When we started our pre-season camp before the eventual postponement, it felt like a whole new game," Unadkat told PTI.

Leaving the ball, bowling with pace and bowling long spells. All that had gone out of the picture. It is going to be difficult if it doesn't happen this year too.

"I hear that BCCI is keen on staging it. If the virus situation doesn't become threatening, we can have it in February with a stricter bubble and more vigilance," said the left-arm pacer who picked a record 67 wickets in a memorable 2020 season. If February is not possible, then the BCCI must start the next season with Ranji Trophy, feels the pacer who has played one Test, 7 ODIs and 10 T20Is for India.

"For batters, even when I was batting I left the first ball alone it felt very different to be honest. I had not left a ball in two years of my batting practice. Probably the same for all batters barring the openers who were doing it even in one-dayers.

Djokovic could play in France under latest vaccine rules

AP ■ PARIS

Top-ranked player Novak Djokovic could be allowed to defend his French Open title under the latest COVID-19 rules adopted by the French government, even if he is still not vaccinated when the clay-court Grand Slam starts in May.

Djokovic was deported from Australia and barred from playing in the Australian Open this month for not meeting the country's strict COVID-19 vaccination rules.

It initially appeared that the Serb tennis star would not be welcomed at Roland Garros either under a new law intended to exclude the unvaccinated from stadiums, restaurants, bars and other public places.

As questions quickly arose about Djokovic's status in France following his deportation from Australia, Sports Minister Roxana Maracineanu previously said that as soon as the law was passed the country's vaccine pass would become compulsory to enter



stadiums, theater or exhibitions, "for all spectators, practitioners, French or foreign professionals."

But the vaccine pass is not restricted to vaccination.

Under the law that took effect on Monday, anyone who has proof they tested positive within the previous six months is exempt from having to show

a vaccine pass. That suggests Djokovic could play in the French Open in May and June, the next Grand Slam tournament, because he has said he tested positive in mid-December.

The French sports ministry was not immediately available to answer questions from The Associated Press on Djokovic.

French Open organizers have previously said it's too early to comment since virus restrictions can change between now and May depending on the virus situation.

Djokovic's team also declined to comment Monday. Djokovic said earlier he would not give public statements until the end of the Australian Open.

Cafe owners in Paris largely welcomed the new law, which is central to the Government's anti-virus strategy.

"Personally, it reassures me in the sense that I know the people I have around me," said Parisian Charles Tuile.

"We want to be in a place where we can be safe in terms of health. And if you can see that the waiter checks vaccine passes and even ID cards, then it's reassuring in many ways," France is registering Europe's highest-ever daily coronavirus infection numbers, and hospitals are continuing to fill up with virus patients, even though the number of people in intensive care units has dropped in recent days.

FROM PAGE 1

CONG FIRST FAMILY LOYALIST RPN SINGH JOINS BJP

"For many years, people had been telling me to join BJP. Today, I can only say 'better late than never'," he added. Singh, a close loyalist of Rahul Gandhi, is among several leaders like Scindia, Jitin Prasada, Tom Vadakan, and Priyanka Chaturvedi who quit the party to seek greener pastures outside it.

"This is a new beginning for me and I look forward to my contribution to nation-building under the visionary leadership & guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP president JP Nadda & Home Minister Amit Shah," Singh said.

Describing UP as the "heart of India", Singh said the State has seen massive development over the past seven years. "Everyone can attest to that. UP has benefited from double engine sarkar," said Singh. After admitting Singh into the BJP, Pradhan said Singh is the right person in the wrong party.

SC ISSUES NOTICES TO CENTRE, EC ON GUIDELINES ON 'FREEBIES' IN POLLS

The plea, filed ahead of Assembly polls in five States, said there should be a total ban on such populist measures to gain undue political favour from voters as they violate the Constitution and the EC should take suitable deterrent measures. The bench took note of submissions of senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for Upadhyay, that a law needs to be framed on the issue and steps like the seizure of party symbols or taking back the registration of parties or both may be thought of as ultimately it is the citizens who have to pay up.

CHANNI 'THOR', RAHUL 'HULK' TAKE ON 'ALIENS' IN PUNJAB

Interestingly, Channi was seen exhibiting his fighting skills in the clip swinging the iconic Stormbreaker - Thor's weapon - to take on his opponents.

That was not all! The video also features Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal, and former Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh as "alien-enemies" with their faces superimposed on it.

Sidhu, who has all along been eyeing the Chief Ministerial berth and insisting on the high command to declare the party CM nominee, has somewhat been sidelined in the clip as a warrior fighting alongside the "hero" Channi.

Another contender for the CM post - State's former party chief Sunil Jakhar - is also portrayed as another warrior who sprints along with Channi fearlessly straight into the enemy territory to kill them. Even as the Congress leadership is building up the narrative of fighting polls under "collective leadership" of Channi-Sidhu-Jakhar combine, the video - attracting nearly 5,000 likes - has, it seems, given some indications. Earlier also, the Congress had shared a video clip indicating Channi being the party face for the elections.

The video came about a week after the Aam Aadmi Party released a video promoting their Chief Ministerial candidate Bhagwant Mann by taking an inspiration from Bollywood movie.

DELHI GOVT OFFICES TO HAVE ONLY AMBEDKAR, BHAGAT SINGH PHOTOS

Delhi Government offices will no longer have the photos of politicians but instead the portraits of Dr Ambedkar and Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh will inspire everyone. Delhi Government will walk the path shown by Babasaheb and Dr Ambedkar and their vision will forever inspire us," said Kejriwal.

TIME FOR SUCCESS

Stepping into 2022, the role of HR professionals is more critical now than it was before. They are the ones who will reconsider the basic tenets of their company, says SONICA ARON



It wouldn't be wrong to say that companies, to a great extent, be it in any industry, have met or are gradually meeting the challenges of the current global health crisis situation. However, as we move towards the post-pandemic era, their strategies and policies of the past will no longer meet the needs of the evolving workforce.

The last two years have changed a lot. Not just the way we work, though it has become evident that remote and hybrid working models can be as effective as erstwhile physical/ in-person working models if managed effectively. The changes go deeper. People have changed in the way they think of work, work-life balance, their expectations from employers, their growth and job satisfaction.

Hence, organisations will need to evolve and adapt management styles that are flexible, responsive, and established around employee speak, including more connection, simplification and automation, demographic shifts, and much more.

Stepping into 2022, the role of HR professionals is critical than ever before as they are the ones who will reevaluate the basic tenets of their company in order to support the right shift, balancing between business growth needs, employee experience and retention.

Role of HR in organisational success

♦ **Establish a healthy culture:** It is one of the most important predictors of how effectively a company achieves its goals. Employees that are glad to come to work will be more

driven to move the company forward in the long run. It's possible that a company's culture could use a makeover. Connecting with people to understand what they expect in today's times is key. Is it Real time communication? Is it transparency? Is it real time feedback? Is it about owning their own learning?

After determining the workforce expectations, it is important to act on it and ensure that everyone in the business is on the same page so that everyone can contribute to moving the new corporate culture forward. It will require a holistic approach and not just reprinting slogans. It will need changing processes, policies, ways of working and embedding key behaviours in day-to-day transactions.

It will require being receptive to new ideas and opinions, on how to do things differently, deploying new processes and practises.

♦ **Change with the times:** The world has changed and will continue to evolve over time. Employees' needs will also vary because of this. We will need to take chances and adapt – not be hesitant to implement new processes and solutions to fulfil your employees' ever-changing demands. Offering customised perks and ways of working could be one way to meet such needs.

Depending on where they are in life, employees may seek different benefits and work arrangements. An employee who is responsible for a family of four will most likely want and desire a different benefits package and work environment than a

HR will continue to be the driving force behind many new strategies and policies, as we have witnessed over the last two years, such as improving employee experience, developing new organisational models, creating a more flexible workforce, and much more

recent college graduate who is just starting out in their profession. Before making any decisions, It would be critical to understand the demographic landscape of the organisation in detail and understand employee life stages and needs.

♦ **Map skill gaps:** Every company probably requires specific expertise as business models and markets have evolved. By speaking with several departments, one may get a good idea of which functional and behavioural competencies individuals, teams, managers, and leaders require right now and which they will require in the future. Then, to address those needs, plan the capability building agenda, and talent acquisition agenda accordingly.

♦ **Target employee retention:** We have all witnessed the big quit and we are all aware of the tangible and intangible costs associated with voluntary attrition. It is not always easy to find a replacement on time, leading to productivity loss; loss of tacit knowledge, experience, clients; added extra responsibilities for existing employees, resulting in overwork, burnout and more attrition. Creating a culture where employees feel valued, included, where their contribution is recognized and appreciated, where they feel happy and have fun is critical. A holistic approach to employee retention goes beyond fun Fridays, zero meeting hours and birthday celebrations. An employee experiences an organisation each day, each moment through their managers and their peers, and building psychologically safe team envi-

ronments is key to retention. This would be a key role of the HR function in 2022, given that most businesses would be on an ambitious growth path, they should not lose sight of this goal.

♦ **Understand business strategy:** End of the day, People are the business's most important asset, and the HR function is the custodian of this asset. The deeper the HR function understands the company's business plan, the more effectively they can leverage the human potential in the organisation through the right policies, processes, structures, and culture.

HR function is like the arterial system that runs across the organisation, across C-suite leaders, departmental managers, and employees, disseminating the purpose, main objectives, and cultural values of your company. Possessing sound knowledge of both business tasks and of employees' needs, expectations, skills, competencies, and aspirations, they have the lethal combination of making businesses succeed.

The world of HR is constantly changing, and new trends will emerge. HR will continue to be the driving force behind many new strategies and policies, as we have witnessed over the last two years, such as improving employee experience, developing new organisational models, creating a more flexible workforce, and much more. 2022 is going to be yet another exciting year for the HR function!

The writer is Founder and Managing Partner, Marching Sheep

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Real education should consist of drawing the goodness and the best out of our own students.

— Cesar Chavez

LLB AND LLM

The University of Manchester's law programme is recognised by the Bar Council of India and offers a distinctive approach to legal education that brings together a research-informed and practice-led approach to the study of law.

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For the September 2022 intake, February 26th, 2022.

College Board's UniTalk India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

UniTalk India, an event for the Indian students wishing to study in India or abroad, was held virtually on January 20, 2022. This special UniTalk helped with the needs of students during the pandemic. College Board brought together a few of its top member uni-

versities from India and the US. They provided insight into admissions processes and policies to facilitate student applications. Admissions professionals will talk about how undergraduate programs in India and the U.S. are changing, as well as the career opportunities these programmes lead to.

Social campaigns to eliminate child labour

Awareness campaigns are most commonly used to create effective communication skills and listening skills. Being aware is extremely important and there are many methods to create awareness. You need to check your thoughts as well and see if they are positive or negative. Circulating positive thoughts is most important to grow in life. There are huge benefits of self-awareness, firstly developing empathy, better communication & listening skills, better leadership qualities, affluent decision-making skills, increased creativity and seeing the perspective of others. It also leads to better decision making. Spreading the word about something important, Mohammed Rashid Khan has planned many such awareness campaigns. One of the things that need attention in India is child labour. This is a grave



problem and causes a huge impact on the future of the nation.

Cryptork makes a mission to let people aware of child labour and this will help in leveraging the thoughts. In this, people have started many social media campaigns to make people aware of child labour and make all the people aware that children are meant to study and make the future. They are not the tools for earning.

Economics, a master discipline

It is hard to imagine a world where economics becomes irrelevant, for it is in the very nature of human beings to strive for a better life, says

DR ADITYA KUVALEKAR

With global vaccination efforts and tackling new variant waves, the world is learning to live with the COVID-19 pandemic. This has arguably been the greatest challenge humanity has faced since World War-II, and just like WWII, this pandemic will fundamentally alter aspects of our lives. From the possibility of permanent remote work to a radical shift to the service-based, online nature of businesses, we are facing unfathomable and unpredictable changes to how we live, work, eat and travel. Businesses will, and already have, shut down, new industries will arrive and thrive, old and established jobs will disappear, jobs that were once thought to be niche will suddenly show an exponential rise. It is very hard for anyone to predict what changes will be witnessed over the next few years.

Therefore, this is, perhaps, a very good time to invest in skills for the future. What makes the current climate special are two factors. First is that COVID-19 led to restructuring of the economy and demand for previously popular industries may be suppressed for a long time. Second, while the economic recovery has begun, it may take a while before it is nearly complete. Therefore, now is a good time to invest in skills that are likely to be in demand when the market is hot.

This is particularly relevant for students deciding what to study at university. While the idealistic view of doing what you are passionate about may sound romantic in the-

ory, there are many who, justifiably, view education as a means of attaining a good lifestyle, and therefore wish to choose a subject that is likely to be rewarded in the subsequent labour market.

Career opportunities

Economics already offers immensely lucrative career opportunities. The range of job opportunities includes consulting firms, financial firms, government organisations, international organisations such as the World Bank and the IMF, NGOs for those interested in working in the development sector, to industries such as big tech and financial journalism.

For example, leading technology giants such as Google, Amazon, Facebook and Microsoft recruit economists every year with large salaries. It is harder to think of a career path that can offer as diverse opportunities as economics.

There are many universities that have designed the undergraduate and master's programs keeping these options in mind. As a result, an economics student can learn from a wide range of experts specialising in development economics, macroeconomics, to even FinTech and Big Data, the new buzzwords. In fact, considering the growing importance of understanding the concepts of economics and proficiency in programming, universities started to offer a BSc Economics with Computing.

Economics, a master discipline

Pursuing such courses are likely to be intellectually and materially rewarding. For



WHAT MAKES THE CURRENT SCENARIO SPECIAL ARE TWO FACTORS. FIRST IS THAT COVID-19 LED TO RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMY AND DEMAND FOR PREVIOUSLY POPULAR INDUSTRIES MAY BE SUPPRESSED FOR A LONG TIME. SECOND, WHILE THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY HAS BEGUN, IT MAY TAKE A WHILE BEFORE IT IS NEARLY COMPLETE



101 lessons on leadership and mentoring

Author Mainak Dhar's book *Leadership in 100 words* published by Bloomsbury India is all about leadership and mentoring. The book is inspired by a series of Dhar's LinkedIn posts *#leadershipin100words*. These were sparked by conversations the author was having with people he was mentoring, which made him realise that while he had been blessed with many great mentors throughout his career, many others did not have access to mentors to help guide them in life and career choices. These posts sought to address common questions people have about careers, through simple, straightforward advice – one hundred words at a time.

He says that the book does not seek to provide answers, but rather provokes thought and introspection. A good mentor does not tell you what to do, but makes you think of issues differently, to ask the right questions instead of giving you the answers. He hopes that readers find thought-starters to how they may approach common career and leadership challenges through this book. He has tried to distil not only his personal experiences, but a lot of what he learned and observed in the many great mentors he have had in his life and career. "There are many people out there who feel the need for mentors, but don't have access to one, either because they don't have broad enough networks or feel that senior leaders are not accessible to them. I hope that my book does its bit to change that status quo by making



mentoring accessible to many," he says.

His *#leadershipin100words* posts on LinkedIn had become a great way to engage with people, respond to questions he got and more than him providing the answers, it became a great way to dialog with people on common leadership and career challenges. "To be honest, I hadn't planned on a book emerging from these, but several people began asking me on LinkedIn why I didn't pull this thinking together in the form of a book, which would give readers these thought starters in an accessible form whenever they needed advice to common challenges. That was the spark which led to the idea for the book," he says.

Dhar is an alumnus of IIM-Ahmedabad with twenty-five years of experience at blue-chip multinationals. In addition to being a senior business leader, he is also a prolific author.

4th edition of ICEIL at Amity University

PNS ■ UTTAR PRADESH

The Amity University organised the Valedictory Ceremony of 4th Edition of International Conference on Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Leadership (ICEIL 2022). Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Minister of State, MSME was the Chief Guest while renowned Film Maker Subhash Ghai was the Guest of Honor.

Verma said, "I'm extremely delighted to be present here today and would like to congratulate Amity for organizing such a wonderful conference which promotes and encourages entrepreneurship, innovation and leadership amongst the youth of our country."

"I'm glad to be present here on this occasion and remember my meetings with Dr. Aseem Chauhan in Mumbai and also with

Honourable Founder President of Amity Education Group, Dr. Ashok K. Chauhan, when I started my Film Institute, Whistling Woods. He has been my first Guru and mentor for starting this institute. It is only by following his principles that I could establish Whistling Woods successfully," Ghai said.

Dr Aseem Chauhan, Chancellor, Amity University, Haryana, said, "The

Conference aimed at bringing the start-ups, SMEs, Incubates, Academicians, Researchers, Bankers, Venture Capitalists, Accelerators, Investors, Financial Experts, Corporate Leaders etc., from varied fields, on a common platform to promote Entrepreneurship & Innovation and exchange of best Business Practices, Trends, etc.

VIT-AP's international conference ICAMEMS

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

The first International Conference on Advances in Mechanical Engineering & Material Science (ICAMEMS) was held virtually at VIT AP University, Amaravati from January 22 to 24, 2022.

Chief guest S Balchandran, Executive Chairman and CEO, Buimerc Corporation Ltd, Dubai, UAE emphasised the role of mechanical, civil and electrical engineering in building blocks of current technologies development. The recent years of pandemic has started a new era of reflection and technologies play a vital role with the uni-



versities efforts in developing technologies for the needs of society.

Dr Mohammad Younis, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering,

Binghamton University, State University of New York, USA motivated students to make use of the conference to develop technologies based on the challenges the society faced.

Dr S V Kota Reddy, Vice Chancellor, VIT-AP highlighted the role of multidisciplinary research and innovation for development of technologies with patent filing. The participants are going to present the research findings in the areas of materials and mechanical engineering for the benefit of the scientific community.

Dr C L V Sivakumar, Registrar, faculty, scholars and staff were also present.

Ukraine urges calm, saying Russian invasion not imminent

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine's leaders sought to reassure nation that a feared invasion from neighbouring Russia was not imminent, even as they acknowledged threat is real and prepared to accept a shipment of American military equipment Tuesday to shore up their defences.

Russia has denied it is planning an assault, but it has massed an estimated 100,000 troops near Ukraine in recent weeks, leading United States and its NATO allies to rush to prepare for a possible war.

Several rounds of high stakes diplomacy have failed to yield any breakthroughs, and this week tensions escalated further. NATO said it was bolstering its deterrence in Baltic Sea region, and US ordered 8,500 troops on higher alert to potentially deploy to Europe as part of an alliance "response force" if necessary.

The State Department has ordered families of all American personnel at US Embassy in

Kyiv to leave country, and it said that nonessential embassy staff could leave.

Britain said it, too, was withdrawing some diplomats and dependents from its embassy. In Ukraine, however, authorities have sought to project calm. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said late Monday that situation was "under control" and that there is "no reason to panic". Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov said that, as of Monday, that Russia's armed forces had not formed what he called battle groups, "which would have indicated that tomorrow they would launch an offensive." "There are risky scenarios. They're possible and probable in future," Reznikov told Ukraine's ICTV channel on Monday. "But as of today...Such a threat doesn't exist."

Oleksii Danilov, the secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defence Council, echoed that sentiment, saying that movement of Russian troops near Ukraine's border "is not news."

On Nuclear talks, Iran says 'ready' as US asserts 'direct meeting'

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

Iran for the first time Monday said it was open to direct nuclear negotiations with the United States, which declared itself ready to hold talks "urgently" -- in a possible turning point in efforts to salvage the 2015 nuclear accord.

Tehran has been engaged since last year in talks with the five other world powers still part of the agreement, which offered sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program.

After unilaterally withdrawing in 2018 under then-president Donald Trump, Washington has been taking part indirectly in the Vienna negotiations, which seek to bring the United States back into the nuclear accord and ensure Iran returns to its commitments.

But Washington has said on multiple occasions it would prefer to hold direct talks, and on Monday Iran's foreign minister said his country would consider doing so if it

proved the key to a "good agreement" to salvage the floundering deal.

"If during the negotiation process we get to a point that reaching a good agreement with solid guarantees requires a level of talks with the US, we will not ignore that in our work schedule," said Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.

A US State Department spokesperson reiterated after the Iranian comments that the United States is "prepared to meet directly."

"We have long held the position that it would be more productive to engage with Iran directly, on both JCPOA negotiations and other issues," the spokesperson said, referring to the nuclear deal, known formally as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

"Given the pace of Iran's nuclear advances, we are almost out of time to reach an understanding on mutual return to full implementation of the JCPOA," the official added.

US child abuse report: Deaths of Black children up in pandemic

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The latest national child welfare report shows an increase in the number of Black children who died, even though fewer abuse-related fatalities were investigated in the yearlong period that included the first several months of the pandemic.

The findings were released in the 2020 Child Maltreatment Report, issued Friday by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The report covers data from October 2019 to September 2020 and only partially reflects how COVID-19 disrupted the work of child welfare. "Disparities that were present before the pandemic were intensified, and COVID-19 exposed gaps in our human services delivery system," Aysha E. Schomburg, of the department's Children's Bureau, said in a statement.

The report noted an overall 10per cent drop in the number of child protective services cases handled by states in the early days of the pandemic. That's a troubling trend that the Associated Press first reported

last year with an analysis of state child welfare data.

The federal data confirm a drop by hundreds of thousands in documented cases of child abuse reports, investigations, substantiated allegations and support for at-risk families. But experts say that's not necessarily good news - children were out of the public eye during the pandemic, and some cases likely weren't reported until they became more severe, if at all.

The numbers on fatalities in particular are concerning, because such cases are notoriously underreported, said Amy Harfeld, of the Children's Advocacy Institute. Social workers often investigate a child's death only if the family had already been involved with a child welfare agency.

"The numbers that we know of are not reflective of the numbers that are experienced," Harfeld said.

Federal officials highlighted a 4per cent decrease in child abuse and neglect-related deaths, though the data also show a roughly 17per cent increase in the number of Black children who died when compared with the previous year's report.

Pakistan slips further on Corruption Perceptions Index, ranks 140 out of 180 countries: Transparency report

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has dropped 16 spots on the global Corruption Perceptions Index for 2021 and is ranked 140th out of 180 countries, Transparency International said in a report.

on Tuesday, in a major blow to Prime Minister Imran Khan's government which came to power on the promise of introducing a clean governance system.

The report released by the Berlin-based non-profit organisation formed to combat global corruption said that corruption levels remain at a standstill worldwide, with 86 per cent of countries making little to no progress in the last 10 years.

In its 2021 edition, the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption on a scale of zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean), drawing on 13 expert assessments and surveys of business executives.

In 2020, Pakistan's CPI was 31 and it was ranked 124

out of 180 countries. According to Transparency International, the country's corruption score has now deteriorated to 28 while it is ranked 140 out of the total 180 countries on the index. Comparatively, India's score stands at 40 and is ranked 85, while Bangladesh's CPI is 26 and stands at 147th position. Explaining the causes of low score of Pakistan, the report said the absence of the "rule of law" and "state capture" were the main reasons. The report comes at a time when Prime Minister Khan is under pressure to improve the performance of his government which came to power in 2018 on the promise of introducing a clean governance system.

His advisor on accountability, Shehzad Akbar, stepped down on Monday amidst reports of his poor performance to bring the corrupt elements under the law.

To add to Khan's woes, Justice (retd) Nasira Iqbal, Vice-Chair of Transparency International Pakistan, said that the ranking of Pakistan under the PTI government has gradually come down.

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UK PM Johnson hit with new row as Scotland Yard opens 'partygate' probe

PTI ■ LONDON

Britain's embattled Prime Minister Boris Johnson is on Tuesday facing fresh allegations in ongoing "partygate" scandal as details emerged of a surprise 56th birthday cake "party", organised for him at peak of first COVID lockdown in June 2020.

The scandal continues to spiral out ahead of an internal Cabinet Office inquiry report, expected this week, as Scotland Yard confirmed that Metropolitan Police will investigate potential lockdown breaches

related to alleged parties at Boris Johnson's office-residence at 10 Downing Street, as well as other government offices in London.

"As a result firstly of information provided by Cabinet Office inquiry team and secondly by officers own assessment, I can confirm that Met is now investigating a number of events that took place at Downing Street and Whitehall in last two years," Met Police Commissioner Dame Cressida Dick told London Assembly Police and Crime Committee at Mayor of London's office.

"I should stress that we are now investigating does not mean fixed penalty notices will necessarily be issued in every instance and to every person involved.

We will not be giving a running commentary on our current investigations but I can assure you we will give updates at significant points," she said.

Earlier, Downing Street said Johnson, who turned 56 on June 19, 2020, was present at an event "for less than 10 minutes" as his staff "gathered briefly" to wish him a happy birthday.

Soldiers declare military junta in control in Burkina Faso

AP ■ OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO

More than a dozen mutinous soldiers declared Monday on state television that a military junta had seized control of Burkina Faso after detaining the democratically elected president following a day of gunbattles in the capital of the West African country.

The military coup in a nation that was once a bastion of stability was the third of its kind in the region in the last 18 months, creating upheaval in some of the countries hardest hit by Islamic extremist attacks.

Capt. Sidsore Kabre Quedraogo said the Patriotic Movement for Safeguarding and Restoration "has decided to assume its responsibilities before history." The soldiers put an end to President Roch Marc Christian Kabore's presidency because of the deteriorating security situation and the president's inability to manage the crisis, he said.

It was not immediately known where Kabore was, and the junta spokesman said only that the coup had taken place "without any physical violence against those arrested, who are being held in a safe place, with respect for their dignity."

MILKOMORE
Pashu Aahar

26 January Republic Day

“दूध बहेगा मुनाफा बड़ेगा..”

कपिला कृषि उद्योग लि. MILKOMORE Pashu Aahar

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Republic Day honours the date on which the Constitution of India came into effect on January 26, 1950. The date was chosen because it was on this day in 1930 when the Declaration of Indian Independence (Purna Swaraj) was proclaimed by the Indian National Congress as opposed to the Dominion status offered by the British Regime.

While India gained independence from the British Raj in 1947, it wasn't until January 26, 1950, that the Indian Constitution came into effect, and India became a sovereign state, declaring it a republic. A committee was created a few days later, on August 29, 1947, to draft a permanent constitution for independent India. Dr BR Ambedkar was made chairman of the committee.

On November 4, 1947, the committee drafted the constitution and



Massed Bands, and at the same time, the Tricolour is unfurled. Military bands, pipes and drums bands, buglers and trumpeters from various Army regiments perform during the ceremony. Besides, there are bands from each of the Navy and Air Force.

'Beating the Retreat' has emerged as an event of national pride when the colours and standards are paraded. It traces its origin to the early 1950s when Major Roberts of the Indian Army indigenously developed the unique ceremony of display by the massed bands. It is reminiscent of a centuries-old military tradition when the troops ceased fighting, sheathed their arms, withdrew from the battlefield and returned to the camps at sunset at the sounding of the Retreat. Colours and standards are cased and flags lowered. The ceremony creates a longing for the times gone by.

EMBODYING THE IDEALS

The entire country comes together as one to celebrate the adoption of the Constitution

submitted it to the Constituent Assembly. The Assembly met in numerous sessions for nearly two years before finally adopting the Constitution. The Constitution was adopted by the Indian Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949, and on January 24, 1950, the 308 members of the Assembly signed two handwritten versions of the agreement — one in Hindi and one in English — after much deliberation and a few changes.

The Constitution came into effect two days later, on January 26, 1950, with a democratic government system, completing the country's transition towards becoming an independent republic. Dr Rajendra Prasad began his first tenure as President of the Indian Union on that day.

India's Constitution, which was formally adopted in 1950, replaced the British colonial Government of India Act (1935) as the country's governing text. It established fundamental rights that should be enjoyed

by all citizens of this country, regardless of their political beliefs. It also establishes some fundamental duties for all citizens of the country to abide by.

Republic Day is one of three national holidays in India, the other two being Independence Day and Gandhi Jayanti.

On Republic Day, flag hoisting ceremonies and parades by Armed Forces and school children are held in different parts of the country. The grandest and most important of these parades is held at Rajpath in New Delhi. It showcases a multi-hued image of the country's rich cultural heritage and military prowess. These are a tribute to India's unity in diversity and rich cultural heritage.

This parade is presided over by the President of India. One of the main functions of the Republic Day parade is to pay tribute to the martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the country. Before the National War Memorial was constructed, the

Prime Minister of India used to lay a wreath at the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate, in memory of all members of the armed forces who gave up their life for the country. This was followed by the 21 gun salute, unfurling of the National Flag and singing of the National Anthem. Bravery awards are conferred on military persons, citizenry and children for showing courage in the face of adversity.

Additionally, the President of India distributes Padma awards to the deserving civilians of the country to honour their contribution to the nation. Brave soldiers are also awarded Paramvir Chakra, Ashok Chakra and Vir Chakra. Live webcast of the Republic Day Parade is also made accessible every year to millions of people who wish to view the parade over the Internet or TV.

The parade begins with winners of gallantry awards saluting the President in open military jeeps, followed by the display of various tanks, missiles and other equipment added



to the arsenal of the military. After this, is the march-past of different regiments of the armed forces, police, Home Guards and National Cadet Corps. The President of India, being the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Armed Forces, takes the salute. This is followed by a vibrant parade comprising tableaux from different States and cultural dances by patriotic school children.

Children who have won

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar ride past the spectators on colourfully decorated elephants. These children are honoured and awarded by the Indian Council for Child Welfare for performing outstanding deeds of bravery and selfless sacrifice.

The Republic Day parade is concluded by daredevil motorcycle riding and a flypast by Indian Air Force fighter jets over Rajpath as spectators look on with their hearts filled with pride.

In 2022, the country is celebrating its 73rd Republic Day. Republic Day is celebrated with much pomp all across the country.

REMEMBERING THE MAHATMA

January 30 is marked as Martyrs Day to honour and pay homage to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom, welfare and progress of our beloved country. It was on January 30, 1948, when Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated. And, since then every year the

nation pays homage to the Mahatma and other martyrs on this day.

The President, the Vice President, the Prime Minister, the Defence Minister and the three service Chiefs gather at Rajghat and lay wreaths on the *samadhi* of Mahatma Gandhi. The inter-services contingent reverses arms as a mark of respect to the martyrs. A religious prayer ceremony is held and Gandhiji's favourite *bhajans* are sung.

BEATING RETREAT CEREMONY

The ceremony at the Vijay Chowk on January 29 every year marks the culmination of the four-day-long Republic Day celebrations. The Chief Guest of the function is the President of India who arrives in a cavalry unit escorted by the 'President's Bodyguards' (PBG). When the President arrives, the PBG commander asks the unit to give the National Salute, which is followed by the playing of the Indian National Anthem, *Jana Gana Mana*, by the

DID YOU KNOW

- Between 1950 and 1954, the Republic Day parade was held at Irwin Stadium (now National Stadium), Kingsway, Red Fort, and Ramlila grounds.
- Republic Day celebrations have been held at Rajpath since 1955. Rajpath was once known as the Kingsway, in honour of India's then emperor, George V. The road was renamed Rajpath after independence, which also means King's Way in Hindi.
- Every year, the leader of a particular nation is invited to be the chief guest for the Republic Day parade. President Sukarno of Indonesia was the first to attend India's Republic Day celebrations as chief guest in 1950.
- The parade starts after the arrival of the President of India. The President's cavalier bodyguards salute the National Flag first. The National Anthem is played, followed by a 21-gun salute. The firing is, however, not done using 21 canons. It is done with seven canons of the Indian army known as '25-Ponders' that fire three rounds each.
- Each member of the army who takes part in the march must go through four layers of investigation. Aside from that, their arms are extensively inspected to ensure they are not carrying live bullets.

BRAHMOS

A strategic defence asset

The potent supersonic cruise missile has time and again demonstrated its usefulness for the Indian Armed Forces

The strategic nature of threats has underscored the importance of technology in expanding defence capabilities. In this context, the Indian Armed Forces are making extraordinary strides in the development of combat capabilities even as the government strengthens its resolve to have a leaner and meaner military.

India faces unprecedented security challenges across land, sea and air from hostile neighbours to its east and west, from the Western Pacific to the Indian Ocean. Hence, the Indian Armed Forces play a crucial role in protecting sovereignty, integrity and national interests. One of the most unique weapon systems boosting India's strategic capabilities is the BRAHMOS supersonic cruise missile. The powerful missile system is already a part of the defence arsenal of all three arms of the Indian Armed Force.

BrahMos Aerospace — a joint venture between India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Russia's rocket design bureau NPO Mashinostroyeniya — is the designer, developer and producer of the BRAHMOS weapon system.



destroy the enemy target. The Block-III version has advanced guidance and upgraded software incorporating high manoeuvres at multiple points and steep dives from high altitudes.

Modern-day naval assets are required to swiftly adapt to an unprecedented range of roles and scenarios when survival hinges on a matter of seconds. It goes without saying that they must be equipped with rapid and flexible weapon systems that enable a lightning-fast response. The speedy BRAHMOS is vital to naval warfare in this age of long-range anti-ship weaponry. The missile has been designed to elude shipboard defences, combined radar and fire-control system found onboard destroyers and cruisers. The potent missile can be launched in solo or salvo mode from a warship and destroy single or multiple targets

within a fraction of a second. The vertical launch configuration of the missile enhances the stealth capabilities of the ship. Meanwhile, BRAHMOS installation in submarines will increase manifold the 'offensive power' of the vessels without compromising 'defensive power' as the torpedo tubes can be fully utilised for protection.

The Mach 2.8 BRAHMOS travelling with such velocity means that it would be difficult for air defence systems utilising surface-to-air missiles to intercept the missile while making it easier for it to target and neutralise targets. The BRAHMOS equipped with inertial navigation and global positioning systems can effectively engage ground targets from an altitude as low as 10 m for surgical strikes. The air-launch variant is a 2.5 tonne, air to surface cruise

missile. The BRAHMOS has given the Indian Air Force a much-desired capability to strike — from large stand-off ranges — any target at sea or on land with pinpoint accuracy by day or night irrespective of weather conditions.

The BRAHMOS missile has been successfully tested with numerous indigenously-developed systems proving the prowess of the indigenous technology development programme for tactical missiles. The launchers for the air, naval and land platforms — including all ground support equipment — were also developed locally realising the government's "Make in India" and "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" campaigns.

"Today BrahMos is the weapon of choice for our armed forces and will be the first strike weapon in case of any misadventure from any hostile nation. Its fast reaction time, the precision of attack and easy operability has been time-tested numerous times," says Atul Dinkar Rane DG BrahMos DRDO & CEO & MD BrahMos Aerospace and adds, "We are committed to continuously enhancing its capabilities and fulfilling our user requirements."

The advanced BRAHMOS air-launched cruise missile (ALCM), after undergoing a series of successful launches from the front-line Su-30MKI platform, was successfully inducted into the IAF's Tigersharks Squadron. The Sukhoi-30s armed with BRAHMOS missiles act as a key tool of strategic deterrence to hostile neighbours across land borders as well as India's ocean waters. BrahMos Aerospace has also conceptualised a much sleeker and stealthier system named BRAHMOS NG. The lighter and smaller projectile is expected to raise the missile's speed to approximately 3.5 Mach.

The BRAHMOS thus play a crucial role in the terrestrial, aerial and oceanic domains.

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