

**CITY 2**  
CM ASKS YOUTH TO CREATE JOBS  
RATHER THAN RUNNING AFTER IT**OPINION 6**  
GLOBAL 'MISSION' &  
DEMOCRATIC CULTURE**WORLD 10**  
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12 SPORT

# 1st surprise: Shinde CM; 2nd Fadnavis his deputy

BJP sacrifices CM post to stifle public sympathy for fallen Uddhav Thackeray

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After playing a crucial role in the fall of the Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA Government in Maharashtra, in a astute political move, the BJP on Thursday stunned its political rivals by anointing rebel Shiv Sena Minister and Maratha leader Eknath Shinde as the Chief Minister and its own former Chief Minister and senior party leader Devendra Fadnavis, a Brahmin, as the Deputy Chief Minister.

A day after late Sena chief Bal Thackeray's son Uddhav resigned as the Chief Minister after his once-trusted senior party colleague rebelled against him and reduced his Government into a "minority", 58-year-old Shinde staked a formal claim for late Balasaheb's legacy — by invoking the blessings of the late Sena chief during his swearing-in ceremony as the CM and posting his old photo along with late Thackeray on his twitter handle.

Apart from invoking the blessings of late Thackeray, Shinde also invoked the name of late Thane district Shiv Sena chief Anand Dighe who was considered the Bal Thackeray of Thane.

Shinde's reverence to Dighe should be seen in the light of the fact that Shinde, who was an autorickshaw driver in Thane, has come up through the Sena ranks from being a Shakhya pramukh to a senior minister and now the CM.

The Central BJP leadership — which right from the day orchestrated the developments within the ruling Shiv Sena

arising out of Shinde's rebellion that saw him move out of the party with 30-odd rebel MLAs to Surat in the BJP-ruled Gujarat and later to Guwahati and Goa pulled a rabbit out of its hat as it prevailed upon a reluctant Fadnavis to take oath as the Deputy Chief Minister under the rebel Sena leader. Ironically enough, Shinde had earlier worked as a senior minister for five years in the Fadnavis' Cabinet till September-October 2019.

Shinde and Fadnavis were sworn into the office as the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister respectively by Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari at a hurriedly called ceremony at Raj Bhavan in south Mumbai.

By making Shinde the CM instead of its own leader Fadnavis, the BJP wants to take away public sympathy from Uddhav who is being perceived as the victim of machinations of the BJP.

Continued on Page 9



Newly elected Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde claps as Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis is being presented a bouquet by Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari during their oath-taking ceremony at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai on Thursday

PTI

## After plotting Uddhav's fall, Fadnavis bows to BJP call

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Two hours after former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday made it clear that he would not be part of the new Maharashtra Government, BJP president JP Nadda announced that the party's Central leadership has decided that Fadnavis will be part of the new dispensation as Deputy Chief Minister under the Chief Ministership of Eknath Shinde.

Fadnavis is seen as the real architect of the fall of the Uddhav Thackeray

Government and was widely tipped to get the CM post.

The Central BJP leadership changed its mind over the issue and asked Fadnavis to join the Government in the "larger interests" of the State, sources said.

"BJP's Central leadership made a personal request to him and the Central leadership has said Fadnavis should take charge as Deputy CM of Maharashtra," Nadda tweeted. Union Home Minister Amit Shah thereafter said Fadnavis had decided to join the Shinde Cabinet.

Continued on Page 9

## PM congratulates Shinde, Fadnavis

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday congratulated Eknath Shinde and Devendra Fadnavis on taking as Maharashtra Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister respectively and expressed confidence that they will take the State to greater heights.

In tweets soon after they

were sworn in, Modi said, "I would like to congratulate Shri Eknath Shinde on taking oath as Maharashtra CM. A grass-roots level leader, he brings with him rich political, legislative and administrative experience. I am confident that he will work towards taking Maharashtra to greater heights."

"Congratulations to Devendra Fadnavis on taking oath as Maharashtra Deputy CM. He is an inspiration for every BJP Karyakarta. His experience and expertise will be an asset for the Government. I am certain he will further strengthen Maharashtra's growth trajectory," said the Prime Minister.

## Yogi govt extends free ration scheme for 3 more months

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has given a big gift to about 15 crore people of Uttar Pradesh on the completion of 100 days of his government's second consecutive term. The government has extended its free ration scheme for another three months. June 30 was the last day of the scheme. Now it will continue till September 30.

The Yogi Adityanath government 2.0 will complete 100 days of its tenure on July 4. Earlier, the government had given a big gift to the people of the state by extending the free ration scheme for three months from March to June. The Yogi government has again extended it for three months. About 15 crore people will benefit from it.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Thursday that about 15 crore people of Uttar Pradesh would continue to get free ration.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had earlier announced that his government was going to issue an employment 'Parivar Card', under which one member of every family would be linked to government job, employment or self-employment.

## 7 jawans die as landslide hits TA camp in Manipur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/ AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/IMPHAL

A massive landslide hit a town in western Manipur killing seven Territorial Army (TA) jawans and one civilian while 13 others were injured on Wednesday night. Operations continued on Thursday to rescue several people feared trapped under the debris at Tupul yard railway construction camp.

Many of those killed belonged to the TA who guarded a major railway line construction site, officials said. The landslide also obstructed the flow of the Ijje river, creating a dam-like water body that could lead to flooding and environmental disaster if the debris were to be cleared.

Residents have been asked



Rescue operations underway after a massive landslide hit the Tupul railway construction camp in Noney district of Manipur on Thursday

PTI

to take precautions and not let children go near the river. The district administration is in touch with national and State disaster management agencies

for search, rescue and relief operations. Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh held an emergency meeting.

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## ISRO injects 3 foreign satellites in precise orbit, 2nd success in week

PTI ■ SRIHARIKOTA

In its second successful commercial mission in a week, ISRO launched three foreign satellites in precise orbit from the spaceport here on Thursday onboard PSLV C53, with the agency's trusted launch vehicle again living up to its reputation of being a reliable rocket.

PSLV-C53 is the second dedicated commercial mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of ISRO which had on June 23 launched GSAT-24 in its first "demand-driven" communication satellite mission post space sector reforms, leasing the entire capacity on board to



ISRO's PSLV-C53 carrying DS-EO satellite along with two other co-passenger satellites successfully launched from the Sathish Dhawan Space Centre, in Sriharikota on Thursday

PTI

Direct-to-Home (DTH) service provider Tata Play.

On Thursday, the four-stage, 44.4 metre tall PSLV-C53 that blasted off from the second launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre, placed the three Singapore satellites--DS-EO, NeuSAR and SCOOB-1 in intended orbit of 570 km.

ISRO chairman S Somanath said the rocket placed the three customer satellites "in the precise orbit of 570 km with a 10 degree inclination" and congratulated NSIL for accomplishing "yet another major mission this month itself," the earlier one being the GSAT launch last week.

Continued on Page 9

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# CM asks youth to create jobs rather than running after it

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Appreciating the skills of micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) entrepreneurs and handicraft artisans, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Thursday, said that they were getting global recognition which reflected the commitment of the government towards this sector.

"With the government's encouragement, and the positive support from the bankers, the MSMEs have flourished and as a result of this, the government has brought down the unemployment rate from 18 per cent to 2.9 per cent in the state," Yogi asserted.

In a move towards transforming the lives of youths by making them self-reliant, the Yogi Adityanath government dispensed Rs 16,000 crore as loan to as many as 1.90 lakh beneficiaries under the employment initiative of the state government at the MSME loan fair.

The beneficiaries of this loan fair were from various schemes including Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, Chief Minister's Youth Self-Employment Scheme, and One District One Product (ODOP) Scheme.

On this occasion, the chief

minister inaugurated Common Facilitation Centres (CFCs) in Agra, Ambedkar Nagar, Sitapur, Azamgarh and Siddharthnagar districts for branding, packaging and marketing of ODOP products. The chief minister interacted with the operators of the CFCs and discussed their functioning and future action plan.

Along with that, Yogi also launched an annual loan scheme of Rs 2.95 lakh crore for the year 2022-23 at the same event. He also inaugurated the Amazon Digital Centre in Kanpur Nagar district, a unit to help small businessmen in setting up their businesses in the digital world. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Uttar Pradesh government and e-commerce company Amazon.

Speaking at the event held in Lok Bhawan here on Thursday, the chief minister said that this area was neglected prior to 2017. He said MSMEs had completely died before 2017 and UP had the highest level of unemployment. "In 2017, we made an action plan for ODOP and now products worth Rs 1.56 lakh crore are being exported," he added.

The chief minister remarked that when their government assumed office in 2017, the situation was quite



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath giving away a cheque to a beneficiary at a loan fair in Lucknow on Thursday

Pioneer

challenging. "There was no scarcity of funds or lack of support by the Central government. Rather, the previous governments were lacking will power," he said.

Stating that Uttar Pradesh was the most populous state of

India and therefore it also had the maximum number of youths, Yogi said, "There was no main source of employment other than agriculture before 2017. In addition, the condition of agriculture was so bad that more than 200 blocks were

declared dark zones, without any irrigation facility. The schemes of the Central government were not implemented in the state."

He said in 2017, the government worked for strengthening the agriculture sector and

also improved the industrial environment besides starting the ODOP Scheme in 2018 with proper research and planning."

We always believed that this scheme would give new life to our traditional craftsmen as

well as increase the exports of the state. I am happy to inform you that export from Uttar Pradesh, which was merely Rs 80,000 crore annually, has reached Rs 1.60 lakh crore."

Praising the work of MSME entrepreneurs and handicraft artisans, the chief minister said that they showed their skills in front of the world. He said the government gave encouragement to this sector and the bankers offered positive support as a result of which the government got success in bringing down the unemployment rate from 18 per cent to 2.9 per cent in the state.

The chief minister also said that UP was the first state that organised a loan fair with inspiration from the prime minister during the pandemic period.

"As a result of continuous efforts, the CD Ratio has increased from 46 per cent to 53 per cent today," he said.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of AtmaNirbhar Bharat, the chief minister said that the youth in the state should focus on creating job opportunities rather than running after jobs. He pointed out that schemes like ODOP had helped the youth in this direction.

Speaking about the annual loan scheme for the year

2022-23, the chief minister appealed to bankers to aim to increase the cash-deposit ratio from 53 per cent to 55 per cent and take it to 60 per cent in the next five years. He said loan borrowers should be linked to digital banking.

"Our handicrafts/artisans will also have a capital guarantee. We are going to prepare such a plan that if any special situation arises, then the government will be the support for the artisan," he said, adding that the government was soon going to issue family cards to connect at least one member of every family with employment of self-employment and the role of banks would be important in this.

The chief minister also stressed on making people aware of the government schemes so that maximum youth could get the benefit.

"Many eligible people are not aware of the government schemes. The educational/training institutions keep a neutral attitude in this regard. It should be mandatory for them to connect with the public welfare schemes of the Central and state governments. Banks should also have a system to inform the youth about the schemes of their interest. If these two organisations do this work, the youth will benefit greatly," he said.

## Youth beheaded in Azamgarh

**Lucknow (PNS):** In a sensational killing in Azamgarh, the local police found the beheaded body of a youth lying near Basti Ugar-Patti village under Kandharapur police station on Thursday morning.

Soon after being informed about the beheaded body, senior police officials rushed to the spot along with cops from Kandharapur and Rani's Sarai police stations and started investigation. They also summoned the district's Special Operation Group (SOG) and forensic teams to help them in cracking the case.

Superintendent of Police of Azamgarh, Anurag Arya, also inspected the spot.

According to reports, some passers-by

spotted a headless body lying on the Basti Ugar-Patti area under Kandharapur police station area. SP Anurag Arya said the victim appeared to be in his mid-twenties. As no blood stain was found at the spot, it is apprehended that the victim was killed somewhere else and later the body was thrown at the secluded place. The head was chopped off from the body to conceal the identity.

Sources said that some clothes of a woman, sandals and clothes of a man were found in a sack near the beheaded body. The deceased was wearing jeans.

Though the police did not recover any other body it is suspected that a girl and the youth been murdered probably due to

their illicit relationship.

The body was sent for autopsy and efforts are on to ascertain the identity of the victim. For this five teams have been formed under the leadership of additional superintendent of police (city).

Meanwhile in Muzaffarnagar, a 60-year-old woman was hacked to death by unidentified people at her residence, police said on Thursday.

The victim, Urmila, was in the kitchen when she was attacked with a sharp object on Wednesday night and she died on the spot, police said, referring to a complaint by her son Raju. She was alone at her house in Kailash Nagar village at the time of the incident, the police said.

## Six held for cow slaughter, killing monkey in Amethi

**Lucknow (PNS):** Three members of a gang allegedly involved in cow slaughter were arrested after an encounter in Amethi that left two persons, including a policeman, injured, a senior official said on Thursday.

The accused, Shahzad alias Tidda, was shot in the leg while the policeman suffered bullet injury on his hand during the encounter on Wednesday night, Superintendent of Police Dinesh Singh said.

On a tip-off, a police and Special Operation Group

(SOG) team had laid a trap near Bhatmau on Purvanchal Expressway, when the accused opened fire on them. The cops returned the fire. The injured were being treated at a community health centre, the SP said.

Police had been on an alert after a video of cow slaughter in the district surfaced on social media two days ago.

Meanwhile, in another shocking incident reported from Amethi, three people were arrested after a video of them assaulting a monkey went viral on social media.

Inspector in-charge of

Piparpur police station, Dharendra Singh Yadav, said that three youngsters, identified as Sangam, Radhe, and Suraj, were arrested in this connection.

Yadav said that the three youths were charged under Indian Penal Code sections 147, 223 and 429.

The FIR was lodged by one Devendra Singh, who went to rescue the monkey but was chased away by the three youths.

According to police, the incident occurred outside a beer shop in Durgapur market

in Piparpur police circle of Amethi district.

The injured monkey was sitting at the roadside near the beer shop when three drunken youths stepped out and started hurling stones at it. They continued to attack the monkey with stones until it stopped moving.

The police notified the Forest department officials who disposed of the carcass. Officers from the Forest department are also likely to lodge an FIR under relevant provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.



### NOTICE

My correct name spelling to be known as on records as Smt. RUMKEE DAS w/o SWAROOP KUMAR DAS in place of SMT. ROOMKEE DAS. Address-119A/134A Bakshi Kala, Nagvasuki Road, Daraganj, Prayagraj.

### NOTICE

#### Notice

I have severed relationships with my elder sister Radha Singh W/o Randhir Singh and their son R/o Kanpur Nagar and younger sister Ragini Singh W/o Sandeep Singh and their son R/o Gas Chauraha, Pilibhit and all members of their families due to their unethical acts. My family would not be responsible for any of their ethical-unethical acts for which they would themselves be held liable. Kamal Katiyar S/o Late Girish Chandra Katiyar R/o 111/426, 80 ft Road, Ashok Nagar, Kanpur.

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(Athar Nabi)  
Assistant Manager

## Akhilesh targets CM over waterlogging

**Lucknow (PNS):** Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, on Thursday, targeted the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party over waterlogging after the first monsoon showers, particularly in Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's native town Gorakhpur, saying it was the result of rampant corruption in the government.

While taking a jibe at Yogi Adityanath, Akhilesh Yadav shared pictures of waterlogging in Gorakhpur on Thursday on his twitter handle and wrote, "This is the punishment of lack of development under BJP's rule. BJP's scale of corruption: 'Jal Nagar' Gorakhpur. Gorakhpur tourism is inviting you to say: Swim for a few days in Gorakhpur!"

It may be mentioned here that every year UP faces floods during monsoon. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had reviewed the flood management on Wednesday in a meeting with all the district magistrates. He had expressed satisfaction over the feedback from the officials but said that the flood management programme should be started in November-December instead of starting the work in June. He had instructed all the rescue teams including State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force

(SDRF) to be on alert. Despite this, politics started with the first monsoon showers.

According to the Meteorological department, a rain alert has been issued in UP till July 3. There will be torrential rains in many districts. During this, there is a possibility of strong winds and lightning in many places.

The weather in state capital Lucknow is pleasant. Many districts of Purvanchal have also received heavy rains. In many districts, including Azamgarh, Jaunpur, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Basti, Orai, the temperature has come down due to heavy rains. Moderate to heavy rain is likely across the state including western UP.

Meanwhile, a red alert has been issued regarding rain in Budaun, Farrukhabad and Kannauj.

Orange alert has been issued for heavy rain and thundershowers in Lalitpur, Jhansi, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Kanpur Nagar, Kanpur Dehat, Auraiya, Etawah, Mainpuri, Etah and Kasganj in western UP. Apart from this, a yellow alert has been issued for Chitrakoot, Banda, Rae Bareilly, Unnao, Lucknow, Barabanki, Sitapur, Hardoi along with Agra, Firozabad, Hathras, Mathura, Aligarh, Bulandshahr, Amroha and Sambhal in western Uttar Pradesh.

## Nirahua's brother injured in mishap in Barabanki

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Four persons, including Vijay Lal Yadav, the elder brother of Azamgarh MP and Bhojpuri film superstar Dinesh Lal Yadav 'Nirahua', were injured critically when their SUV crashed into a road divider and overturned in Barabanki on Thursday morning.

According to reports, Vijay Lal Yadav was going from Lucknow to Azamgarh with his companions when his Fortuner SUV crashed into the road divider in the Subeha police station area of Barabanki.

The injured Vijay was rushed to a private hospital in Lucknow.

Reports said the Fortuner

was running very fast on Purvanchal Expressway in Barabanki and the driver lost control over the wheels and SUV crashed into the road divider and jumped about 20 metres in the air and overturned. The local police rushed to the spot on getting information and shifted the injured to hospital. Soon after the mishap, Dinesh Lal Yadav Nirahua tweeted about the accident of his elder brother. In the tweet, he wrote that his elder brother Vijay Lal Yadav's car crashed while going from Lucknow to Azamgarh.

## BSP working on Dalit-Muslim formula for 2024 LS election

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati, on Thursday, held a meeting with senior office-bearers of all the divisions of the party and asked them to reach out to the people and tell them about the policies of the party.

She said that it was a cause of concern that public interest and public welfare were constantly being affected by the ongoing political instability, deadlock and money power games to overthrow the government in several states, including recently in Maharashtra.

Mayawati also said that the BSP had not taken the decision to support presidential candidate Draupadi Murmu under pressure from any individual or party, but had decided to back her as Murmu belonged to Scheduled Tribe and support to her was part of the policy of Bahujan Samaj Party.

This decision is neither in favour of National Democratic Alliance nor against United Progressive Alliance, she said and added that the UPA did not even discuss with the BSP while choosing its presidential candidate.

"The situation is deteriorating day by day due to wrong policies and arrogant attitude of the government. To divert the attention of the people from the current situation, the government is adopting an arrest, jail, demolish house policy by repressive methods, which is completely wrong," she said.

Mayawati said instead of appeasement, hate elements should be dealt with strictly. She said it was wrong to demolish the house of any one community and send its

members to jail. "This is constitutionally and humanly unfair. Strict action should be taken against those elements who promote enmity. There should be no discrimination in this," Mayawati said during the meeting.

Mayawati said there was unrest over recruitment in government jobs. "Now the youth are angry due to the recruitment of Agniveers on a temporary basis in the army," she added.

She asked the government to reconsider the Agnipath scheme for short-term recruitment in the Indian Army so that the future of the youth could be secured.

Meanwhile, Mayawati asked party workers to get fully involved in the preparations for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and upcoming civic body elections in the state. She asked them to work at the ground level. At the same time, she said that all BSP workers should try to add more and more people to the party. Mayawati reviewed the work assigned to the office-bearers two months ago.

Sources said that Mayawati was working on the Dalit-Muslim formula for the 2024 Lok Sabha election after her party's Dalit-Brahmin caste combination failed to click in the 2022 Uttar Pradesh assembly polls. The move comes as the support of Muslims, considered the vote bank of Samajwadi Party, in the Azamgarh Lok Sabha bypoll has buoyed the BSP. Party candidate Shah Alam aka Guddu Jamali polled 2.66 lakh votes (29.12 per cent of the votes polled in the constituency) in Azamgarh, finishing third behind Dharmendra Yadav of the Samajwadi Party and winner Dinesh Lal Yadav Nirahua of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Immediately after the Lok Sabha bypoll result, Mayawati had called upon the Muslim community to support the BSP in the coming elections, saying her party had the strength to defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party. The BSP chief is likely to give important positions to Muslim leaders in the party organisation very soon and former minister Naseemuddin Siddiqui might also return to the party fold.

The Muslim bhaichara (brotherhood) committee will be tasked with winning over Muslim support for the BSP. Muslim leaders will be also told to convince their community that the BSP is not a B team of the Bharatiya Janata Party as projected by the Samajwadi Party and Congress.

Support to the BSP from smaller parties with influence among the Muslims during the Azamgarh Lok Sabha bypoll has given a momentum to Mayawati's plan to woo back the community, the leaders claimed. These smaller parties include All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) led by Asaduddin Owaisi, Peace Party led by Mohammad Ayub and Rashtriya Ulama Council (RUC) led by Maulana Aamir Rashadi. The BSP did not field a candidate for the Rampur Lok Sabha seat as a gesture to Samajwadi Party leader Mohammad Azam Khan whose supporters had criticised the SP leadership for ignoring Azam Khan while he was lodged in jail, the BSP leader said. The BSP leader said the party was also working to win the support of the extremely backward communities (EBC) that was considered its support base before the BJP made inroads in this caste bloc to win the 2017 and 2022 assembly elections as well as the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

### NOTIFICATION

In pursuance of the Notification No. 5.0 2900 (E), dated 24.10.2015 (Clause 13 and 21 of the Fertilizer Control Order, 1985, issued by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, VOEDEN INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED, Shankar Vihar III, Lal Kuan, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201002, hereby notifies that it intend to introduce the following grade of 100% Water Soluble Mixture of Fertilizers to imported in India

Sl.No.	Brand	Name of Fertilizer	N	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	K <sub>2</sub> O	Sec. Nutrients	Total
1	Basfoliar	19-19-19	19	19	19	0	57
2	Basfoliar	13-40-19	13	40	13	0	66
3	NovaTec Solub	21-0-0	21	0	0	0	21
4	NovaTec Solub	14-40-0	14	48	0	0	62



# STF busts blood smuggling gang; kingpin among 7 held

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A team of Special Task Force (STF) on Thursday claimed to have busted a gang smuggling blood mixed with saline water from different parts in Rajasthan and selling it to blood banks and hospitals in Lucknow and neighbouring districts with the help of forged documents.

The STF team arrested seven accused, including the kingpin, and recovered 302 units of blood filled in bags, forged documents of a charitable blood bank in Krishna Nagar, seven mobile phones, Aadhaar cards, ATM cards and PAN cards besides two cars and Rs 19,435 in cash.

Those arrested were identified as Naushad (kingpin) of Kushinagar district, Asad of Chowk in Lucknow, Rohit of Unnao (private hospital employee), Karan Mishra of Madaion (technician at a private hospital), Mohammed Ammar of Bazaarkhala (owner of Midlife Blood Bank and Hospital), Sandeep Kumar of Gudamba (employee of a blood bank) and Ajeet Dubey of Krishna Nagar (owner of Narayani Blood Bank). The accused were arrested from Midlife Blood Bank and Hospital.

The STF was tipped off about smuggling of human blood. A team consisting of STF sleuths besides Assistant Commissioner (Drugs) Manoj Kumar and Drug Inspector Madhuri Singh conducted a



The seven accused arrested by the STF and blood bags recovered from the hospital on Thursday

Pioneer

raid at the hospital. The team found a car laden with blood bags at the gate of the hospital. Two of the accused were found carrying cartons filled with blood bags inside the blood bank at the hospital while two others were sitting in the car. The team rounded them up all and interrogated them. They disclosed the names of their aides and the police arrested them too. In his confession, Naushad said he and his aides supplied two cartons filled

with blood bags to Narayani Blood Bank in Krishna Nagar and two cartons to Midlife Blood Bank. Naushad said he completed DMLT diploma from Ramchandra Institute of Paramedical Sciences in Prayagraj and has also worked as a lab technician at Ambika Blood Bank in Jodhpur.

He said he came to know from his sources that some charitable institutes collect blood bags by organising donation camps and sell the same at

higher rates to smugglers with forged documents. He disclosed that he and his aides supplied blood to Lucknow, Bahraich, Unnao, Hardoi and other districts after procuring it from different cities in Rajasthan.

Naushad said he purchased blood bags at Rs 700-800 apiece and sold the same at higher rates. He disclosed the names of some of the blood banks to which he supplied the blood bags in the last two years.

## Brother of BJP Mahila Morcha leader shot at

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A trigger-happy man opened fire at the brother of a BJP woman leader over an old enmity in Banthra police station area on Thursday morning, sending shockwaves in the locality.

Victim Neeraj Chaurasia sustained bullet injuries in the shoulder while another bullet grazed past his back. He was admitted to a hospital where he was said to be out of danger. His sister Madhu Chaurasia is the zonal president of BJP Mahila Morcha from Sarojiniganj.

As per reports, Neeraj was teaching some students of the

locality in the verandah at his house in the morning. The bike-borne accused, identified as Vishal Kashyap of the same locality, reached the scene and opened fire on Neeraj. A bullet hit Neeraj's shoulder while another grazed past his back as he took evasive action.

Villagers started converging on the scene after which the accused escaped while brandishing his pistol.

It surfaced during preliminary investigation that Vishal had an enmity with Neeraj and his brother had threatened Neeraj in the recent past. The police recovered a bullet shell and said the bullet was fired

from a country-made pistol.

While the investigation was underway, Vishal shot at a woman in Purwa locality of Unnao. The police said they came to know that Vishal attacked the wife of Rajan in Unnao. "Vishal reached the house of the woman in Unnao and knocked the door. He opened fire at the woman soon after she opened the door," sources said. They said Vishal attempted to flee the scene after attacking the woman in Unnao but fell down and was nabbed by the villagers after a brief chase.

Meanwhile, a group of men attacked a woman on being confronted following

their bid to grab her land in Bijnor police station area. Police registered a case two days after the incident was reported.

As per reports, Rama Devi of Garhi Mawaiya locality in the area was informed that some people were attempting to grab her field. "I found Putti Lal, his wife, their son Bablu and Putti Lal's brother Bharat Lal there. When I confronted them, they abused me. As I was scared, I returned home. When I was on my way, they attacked me with sticks. However, local villagers rushed to my rescue after which the attackers fled the scene," she alleged.

## Van Mahotsav to kick off with plantation of 25 cr saplings on July 5

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Under Van Mahotsav, a total of 25 crore saplings will be planted across the state in a single day on July 5. A total of 35 crore saplings will be planted during July by the Forest and other departments.

This was stated by Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Forest, Environment, Animal Horticulture and Climate Change Arun Kumar while addressing mediapersons in Lucknow on Thursday.

As many as 2.5 crore saplings will be planted at the identified sites for Bhakti forest on July 6 while 2.5 crore saplings at the sites identified for food forest on July 7. Besides, 5 crore saplings will be planted on August 15.

"On the occasion of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence, 'Amrit Van' is being established in each gram panchayat and urban body of UP through public participation on August 15," the minister said.

"Seventy-five local species will be planted in the 'Amrit Van'. Preference will be given to species such as banyan, peepal, pakar, neem, bel, amla, mango, jackfruit, drumstick etc," the minister said.

"Shakti Van" is being established in each district with the help of women's leadership and their active cooperation. Saplings will be planted there with the help of dignitaries, distinguished women guests. Twenty-five city forests will be established in 13 districts," he added.

Children's forest and youth forest will be established in higher educational institutes, primary and secondary schools. There are clear-cut instructions by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to take care of all the saplings.

Kumar said preference will be given to plantation along roadside, especially along the expressways, national highways and state highways. Dense Miyawaki forest and 'Nagar Van' are being established to check air pollution and mitigate climate change in cities.

He said that trees improve air quality besides reducing greenhouse effect by controlling global warming by removing harmful gases from the atmosphere.

## Monsoon arrives with a bang



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The southwest monsoon hit the state capital with a bang, making the weather pleasant on Thursday. Lucknow received moderate to heavy showers. The skies were heavily overcast since Wednesday but the rains started on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday. The state capital received 47.4 mm rains throughout the day.

It was a much-needed relief from the hot and sultry weather which had been troubling people for the past several days. Met director JP Gupta said that rains would continue on Friday also. Lucknow recorded the maximum temperature at 33 degree Celsius, which was 2.7 points below normal. The minimum temperature at 27.6 degree Celsius was 1.2 degrees above normal. The forecast for Lucknow and neighbourhood is generally cloudy sky with few spells of rains and thundershowers in some areas on Friday.

Rains and thundershowers are likely at most places over



(Top) Commuters moving amidst downpour. (Above) Waterlogging near Charbagh railway station following intermittent rains

Pioneer

the state while there is warning of heavy to very heavy rains at isolated places over the state. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are also likely at isolated places over the state.

Meanwhile, the perpetual problem of waterlogging gave trouble to commuters in several areas, thanks to potholed roads and digging work by pri-

vate companies, Jal Nigam and other departments. Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia, with a fractured, came out to take stock of the situation. She visited Daliganj, Gomti Nagar, Nishatganj, Niralanagar, Bhaptamau and other areas during the rains. Municipal Commissioner Indrajit Singh also kept an eye on the relief work.

## UPMRC MD relinquishes charge

**Lucknow (PNS):** Managing director of Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Ltd Kumar Keshav relinquished his charge on Thursday after eight years. He handed over his safety helmet to a maintainer, one of the junior UPMRC staff members.

Keshav is an (IRSE officer and a gold medallist engineer from IIT-Kanpur (MTech) and IIT-Roorkee (BE). Under his leadership, UP Metro has achieved the distinction in the execution of the project.

"Lucknow and Kanpur are the fastest-ever executed metro

projects in the country so far. The operations of Lucknow Metro commenced on the entire north-south corridor in just four-and-a-half years while Kanpur Metro commenced in just two years and one-and-a-half months. Both the projects were inaugurated and flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It was an uphill task made possible only by a competent and dedicated team of UPMRC under the guidance and supervision of the managing director," a UPMRC official said.

Talking about his journey, Keshav said: "I joined UPMRC (then LMRC) in August 2014 and that was a big responsibility on my shoulders. It was since that day that I have only lived and worked for UPMRC. Today, I am proud of what we have achieved together. After completing the Lucknow Metro project 36 days ahead of the stipulated time period, UPMRC commenced the operations of Kanpur Metro in just two years and one month despite two severe waves of Covid-19."

## CITYBRIEFS

### DOCTORS' DAY



On the eve of Doctors' Day, Punjab National Bank honored eminent cancer experts Dr Manoj Srivastava and Dr Nishi Srivastava. PNB GM Sanjay Gupta said that at a time when cancer has taken the form of an epidemic, the work being done by doctors is commendable. Manoj Kumar Srivastava, who was the chief guest, said all those who have turned 40 must undergo physical examination once in a year so that diseases can be diagnosed in time. He said cancer is not an incurable disease, if detected in time. Dr Nishi Srivastava said all women should get tested for breast cancer and uterine cancer.

### WORLD ASTEROID DAY

On the occasion of World Asteroid Day, an event called '51° North' was organised by LSF Astronomy Club affiliated to Vigyan Prasara, Government of India, to raise awareness about asteroid impacts, hazards and to educate public about the crisis communication during such events. A comic strip-making contest was held to disseminating scientific knowledge about asteroids. Programme coordinator Pooja Virmani explained the difference between comets, meteors and asteroids.

### AWARD

Prof Dhruv Sen Singh from the Geology department of Lucknow University has been selected for the 'National Geoscience Award-2019', the highest award conferred in the field of earth sciences by the Government of India. The

Union Ministry of Mines select the awardees every year. The award, instituted in 1966 and given annually, is an initiative of the ministry to encourage geoscientists for striving towards excellence. Prof Singh has been selected for his contributions in the field of paleoclimatology, paleoenvironment, climate change and monsoon variability using rivers, glaciers and lakes as proxies.

### FELICITATED

A welcome function for teachers was held at City Montessori School, Gomti Nagar Extension, auditorium on Thursday. The school also honoured its worthy students. The chief guest was Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia, who felicitated the mothers of seven CMS students who have cleared the civil services exam. These students are Yasharth Shekhar, Kritika Shukla, Tarun Kumar Shukla, Anuja Trivedi, Tushar Anand, Ayush Kumar Sheohare and Sparsh Verma. The CMS students selected for admission to top foreign universities, those who bagged scholarships for higher education and those who cracked CLAT were also felicitated as were other achievers.

### ADITYA BIRLA SBI CARD

SBI Card on Thursday announced the launch of 'Aditya Birla SBI Card', a highly rewarding lifestyle credit card, in a strategic partnership with Aditya Birla Finance Ltd (ABFL). The card has been designed to give customers significant reward points on their spending around telecom, fashion, travel, dining, entertainment, and hotels, among others. The rewards-centric credit card has been launched in two variants - 'Aditya Birla SBI Card SELECT' and 'Aditya Birla SBI Card', on the Visa platform. The card provides an added advantage of accelerated reward points on spends in hotels.

## LDA to come up with plots, low-cost houses

**Lucknow (PNS):** Over 305 residential and commercial plots and 200 low-cost houses will be available for sale in the city and the registration will begin in October this year.

LDA secretary Pawan Gangwar said the possession would be handed over to buyers by the end of this year. The low-cost houses are in demand and the LDA administration has decided to plan more such schemes, he said.

There are three categories of plots - 288 sq m, 200 sq m and 112.5 sq m. The cost has not been calculated as yet and accounts department officials are said to be engaged in the calculating the same on the basis of DM circle rates.

The plots are located in Gomti Nagar, Gomti Nagar Extension, and Jankipuram.

Gangwar said there would be a good response to the offer by the middle class section of the society. There are 71 plots in Gomti Nagar, 169 in Gomti Nagar Extension and 68 in Jankipuram. The LDA administration has to work hard to evict the encroachers from the proposed sites.

## Docs go out of their way to help patients

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

It's a common perception that doctors are insensitive in their behaviour towards patients, but the fraternity has a completely different take on this with medical practitioners saying there are times when they go out of their way to help patients and render services over and above their work.

On the eve of Doctors' Day, city doctors said they have rendered medical services onboard trains and air-planes for humanity's sake.

Head of the department of Hospital Administration, SGPGIMS, Dr R Harshvardhan said every person by default wants to do well but at times, there are circumstantial constraints. "When youth enter medical colleges, they are gradually moulded in such a way that it instills in them knowledge, proper temperament and a sense of humanity. I have felt it and been through it. It gradually imbues you to look at things differently. I tend to think that when the patients are in a need of clinical help, I must help them and there are compelling reasons for not doing

so," he said. "Wherever I stayed in the early phase of my professional life, people used to call me at ungodly hours and I would always respond to the calls and reach out to them even as a junior resident. I have served people onboard trains and flights across the Baltic sea. There was an emergency and doctors were called out. I was two of the seven who knew English. There was a child from Patna (Bihar) who was suffering from upper respiratory distress. I briefly took over though there was no compulsion for me to do," he recalled.

Dr Harshvardhan said technology has led to a sort of physical disconnect between the doctor and the patient. "Earlier, collecting the history of a patient used to be a long process along with physical examinations. That kind of emotional bonding and empathy is not there now. However, technology has led to accuracy, precision, better outcome and has also reduced death rate. Everything comes at some cost," he pointed out.

"Covid is the best example as we successfully managed virtual ICUs at SGPGIMS on a daily basis," he added.

**'Medical profession is said to be the noblest because it is directly linked to life and death. Whenever patients come to doctors, it is the sensitivity which compels the latter to have a humanitarian view'**

Head of Paediatrics department, Lok Bandhu Hospital, Dr Arun Tewari said there is no doubt that doctors go out of their way to help patients.

"Medical profession is said to be the noblest because it is directly linked to life and death. Whenever patients come to doctors, it is the sensitivity which compels the latter to have an overall humanitarian view. A lot of patients are poor and cannot afford diagnostic tests or other investigations. In these situations, doctors do provide them financial help going out of their way. During the 30 years of my professional life, I have seen most of the doctors work with sensitivity,

humanity and compassion. However, it is only when they are under stress that the situation can be different," Dr Tewari said.

"It is said that the best pathy which the doctor can give to the patient is sympathy," he added.

Chief medical superintendent, Balrampur Hospital, Dr GP Gupta said one cannot generalise because at times, patients are happy with doctors but their attendants are not.

"The relationship between a doctor and a patient varies with time and place. I can give at least three examples. There was a 12-year-old boy who fractured his humerus (bone) and two forearm bones. He needed to be operated upon. The boy was the only earning member of the family and his mother came with only Rs 6,000. I bore all the cost of surgery and implants. Besides, there was another patient who had broken his radius (bone) and had to go under the knife. We made all the arrangements for the implants. Then there was a patient with fibrosis problem and he was treated even though his mother had no money," he recalled.

## Focus to be on primary schools when vaccination of 5-11 yrs begins

**Lucknow (PNS):** District Immunisation Officer MK Singh said on Thursday that focus will be on primary schools when the Covid vaccination drive for children in the age group of 5-11 years gets underway in Lucknow. He said they are already prepared for the drive and are waiting for the guidelines.

He said they do not have to make any special preparations because they are already vaccinating children in the age groups of 12-14 years & 15-17 years and pregnant women.

He said 87 lakh doses have already been administered in the district and ANMs are well trained in the vaccination of children and adults. Singh said the state government would assign the target for vaccination of children in the age group of 5-11 years. He said there have been no queries from parents of this group but they must understand that the kids need to be jabbed when the drive begins. "In fact, we have been appealing that those who have not got the first or second dose should get it at the earliest," Singh said.

BIJU PATNAIK UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, ODISHA ROURKELA	
<b>KK-78</b>	
<b>Tender Notice No. BPUT/ CS&amp;P/68/2022/4121</b>	<b>Date: 30.06.2022</b>
<b>TENDER CALL NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF FURNITURE, ALMIRACH AND RACK</b> Sealed Tender (two bid System) are invited from the reputed and experienced agencies/ Firms for Supply of Furniture, Almirah and Rack to BPUT. The details of the Tender is available in the website i.e www.bput.ac.in. University reserves right to reject any Tender without assigning any reason thereof. The last date and time of receiving of sealed Tender by Speed Post/ Registered Post addressing to the "Registrar, Biju Patnaik University of Technology, Chhend, Rourkela -769015 is <b>02.08.2022 up to 5.00 pm</b> . The tender received beyond the due date and time shall be rejected summarily.	
Further, the earlier Tender Notice No. BPUT/ CS&P/68/2022/2763, dated 06.05.2022 for the above items stand cancelled, since adequate numbers of eligible bidders for most of the items are not available.	
Sd/- <b>REGISTRAR</b>	
OIPR-11059/11/0003/2223	



# Focus of UP govt on economic uplift: MP

PNS ■ KANPUR

Member of Parliament Satyadev Pachauri, while chairing the virtual programme of Loan Mela and Annual Loan Scheme presided over by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday held at Lok Bhawan said the focus of the UP government was on economic uplift. The CM had sanctioned a loan of Rs 16,000 crore loan to 1.90 lakh handicraft workers, artisans and small entrepreneurs for the session 2022-23. The letters of loans were distributed to the beneficiaries by Pachauri.



MP Satyadev Pachauri chairing the virtual loan distribution mela on Thursday

# Meeting on extension of Chakeri airport held

PNS ■ KANPUR

District Magistrate Visakh G Ayier while chairing the meeting at the Collectorate regarding the extension of Chakeri airport and it was finally decided to sign a MoU between Air Force and the Airports Authority of India. The decision was taken to link the terminal to runway and the work on runway side needs to be started immediately once the MoU was signed. He directed the authorities to ensure that the work should be carried out on a warfooting. The DM directed that AAI officials to ensure that the purchase of the required material like conveyor belt, screening machine and other equipment should be purchased well in advance so that it could be immediately installed without wasting time. He said as and when the civil work was accomplished the installation should also be carried out. He directed the PWD

officials that the remaining work for the construction of road should be completed by acquiring land on priority. He then directed the Kesco SE that the underground cable laying should be carried out without any further delay. He also directed the Kanpur Nagar Nigam officials to ensure that the drainage was highly essential and should be completed on priority. He said the airport work was highly essential as Chakeri airport was one of the most important airport and thus to widen its reach the expansion programme had been proposed by the government. Gp Captain Mohit Chaturvedi, Wg Cdr, KS Sachan, SK Tripathi, Mukesh Chand Upadhyaya, B Pandey, AK Singh, KS Rajput, Suresh Yadav, Harendra Singh Sumant Kumar and many other officials of the departments concerned took part in it.



District Magistrate Visakh G Ayier chairing the meeting for Chakeri airport extension

# Country's progress depends on development of villages: V-C



CSJM University students taking part in village chaupal.

PNS ■ KANPUR

Vice-Chancellor (V-C), CSJM University, Kanpur, Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak while addressing village chaupal said it was a unique initiative of the university to fulfil its social obligations. He said the country's progress depended on development of villages and each one must strengthen the roots of this foundation. He said raising awareness of government rural welfare pro-

grammes educated people and also promoted the growth of positive relationships between the university and villages. He said education was an integral part of life and without it one cannot progress. He said human resource was the golden resource of any developed nation. He said educating people helped human beings in becoming useful resources and many countries spend a lot of money every

year on education and health of their people. He said but without the development of a village, a nation was not complete and educating the people of the village, especially girls and women, helped in rural development. The chaupal was an initiative that Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj University, Kanpur, had launched. The Journalism and Mass Communication department

had initiated a village chaupal to arouse interest of students in rural development and raise awareness against social ills and other taboos. In Parapraptap, a village near Chaubepur in Kanpur, the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication students set up the first village chaupal. The students provided thorough information regarding government's rural welfare schemes and programmes. They also made the villagers aware of their legal and constitutional rights. Students performed six street plays. The villagers expressed happiness and thanked them for creatively imparting helpful information. The students holding placards marched in a rally throughout the village to educate and raise awareness on issues such as girl child education, sanitation and hygiene, social and moral responsibility, organic farming and other many other issues. A health camp was also set up in collaboration with the School of Health Sciences in the village where the medical staff checked the patients and gave them medicines.

# KDA seals two premises

PNS ■ KANPUR

The Enforcement Squad of Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) has sealed two premises in Zone 3 on Wednesday for carrying out illegal construction without the approved layout. These included the premises No H-1/19, HIG, Barra-6 and No 673D, HIG, Barra-8 (on the highway). Besides, the squad of

zone 1 sealed the premises No 112/8 old (112/8B New), plot No 98A and 98B, BL Scheme-7, Benajhabar, of Waqar Zafar for carrying out the shuttering work to lay basement slab in around 80 sq yds area. The OSD (Enforcement Squad) of Zone 1 resealed the construction on plot No 61 Part, Block-Central Scheme-26, Purana Kanpur (Shivlok Bhavan No 2/343, Azad Nagar, Kanpur) of

Seema Thakur for violating the terms and conditions mentioned in the affidavit submitted by her. During the drive, enforcement staff, local police force and security guards were present. The anti-illegal construction/plotting drive launched by the KDA Vice-Chairman Arvind Singh will continue in future also, the press release said.



KDA squad sealed a premises in Barra for carrying out illegal construction.

# 2 fall prey to cyber thugs

PNS ■ KANPUR

Two persons fell prey to cyber thugs who managed to withdraw Rs.12.90 lakh from their bank accounts. The victims came to know about the withdrawal of money through the messages received on their cellphones. Thereafter, they lodged an FIR at the Barra police station. According to reports, Jalaz Agarwal of Hemant Vihar Z-1 is a chartered accountant. He said on June 5 evening he received two messages on his mobile phone. The first one was relating to deduction of Rs 1 lakh from his bank account at the Barra branch of Bank of Baroda. After some time he received another message about the deduction of Rs 8.91 lakh from his bank account. The next day, he apprised the bank about the incident and lodged a complaint with the surveillance cell. He then lodged an FIR at the Barra police station on Wednesday. Meanwhile, Vikas Tripathi of same locality is employed as a general manager in a textile company of Punjab. His mother Sushma Tripathi (75) has an account in the Vinoba Magar branch of State Bank of India (SBI).

# AU prepares to evict unauthorised students from hostels

Prayagraj (PNS): Allahabad University has started preparations to weed out the students who are staying illegally in the hostels. The process of eviction of unauthorised students will start from GB Pant Hostel. The AU administration is going to shut down the electricity and water supply of such hostels. The hostel superintendent has issued a notice to all the illegal students to leave the hostel. The university administration said that soon the campaign to drive out illegal students from other hostels will also start. The Academic Council of Allahabad University has

decided to improve the condition of hostels. AU currently has 20 hostels and hindu hostel has just been added to it. Public Relations Officer Dr. Jaya Kapoor said that GB Pant Hostel has issued notice to all the students staying illegally to vacate the hostel at the earliest. The university administration is going to shut down the electricity and water supply of the hostel. Electricity and water supply will be given on the arrival of legitimate students. Last month, a campaign to remove illegal students from Sir Sunder Lal Hostel, Diamond Jubilee and many other hostels started.

# DRM inspects Sarnath Express



DRM NER Ramashrey Pandey inspecting Sarnath Express at Varanasi Junction on Wednesday.

PNS ■ VARANASI

Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of North Eastern Railway (Varanasi Division) Ramashray Pandey conducted a surprise inspection of 15160 Sarnath Express on platform number 5 of Varanasi Junction (Cantt) railway station here on Wednesday. He was accompanied by Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (C&W) Satya Prakash Srivastava, Coaching Depot Officer (Banaras) Pradeep Singh and other senior officers. The DRM first inspected the water refilling, cleanliness of toilets, coach surface, cleanliness of sleeper coaches etc and found everything smooth. Then Pandey interacted directly with the passengers and took cognizance of the facilities available to them in the train. After getting satisfac-

tory answers from the passengers, the DRM also inspected the water, toilets, cleanliness of the coaches and the linen (pillow, sheet, blanket and towel) in the AC II and III coaches. He also interacted directly with the passengers travelling in air-conditioned coaches and asked about the difficulties in the amenities provided to them but no passenger reported any problem. Getting out of the train, the DRM checked the quality of maintenance of vacuum brake, wheelbase and YCH type clamp in relation to safety of train movement and gave instructions to the concerned officers. Meanwhile, under the direction of Pandey, awareness drives were launched at many stations of Varanasi Division including Banaras, Ghazipur City, Mau, Bhatni and Chhapra to ensure proper

implementation of the ban imposed on collection, recycling and use of single use plastic. According to the notification issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, from Friday, the manufacture, import, storage, distribution, sale and use of the single-use plastic items including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene items will be prohibited. Besides, under the leadership of Senior Divisional Security Commissioner Dr Abhishek, various programmes are being organised during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at different stations of Varanasi Division till July 5. In this direction, Run for Unity events were organised at Ghazipur City and Prayagraj Rambagh in which 28 employees participated in the former while 32 in the latter.

# Various contests held for selection of 'gender champions' at BBAU

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Gender Champion Committee of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University organised various competitions for the selection of gender champions for the year 2022-23. Committee chairperson Prof Shilpi Verma said that as per the instructions of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Women and Child Development, the competition was organised on Thursday. This year's gender champion of the university will be selected on the basis of these competitions. The names of the selected students will be sent to the ministry and their names will also be updated on the website of the ministry. She further said that this year, essay writing and extempore competition was organised for the selection of gender champion. The subjects of both the competitions were given on the spot to participants. Two gender champions will be selected based on their writing and speaking skills as well as communication and leadership abilities. Giving information about the responsibilities of the selected participants, she said that gender champions would have to organise programmes on gender equality issues in the university from time to time so that awareness about women's rights and gender equality could be created in the campus. Gender champions will also be given a certificate by the ministry which will prove beneficial for them in future. She said that for the last four years, gender champions were being elected in the university. Vice-Chancellor of BBAU Sanjay Singh conveyed his best wishes for the selection of gender champions and said that the selection of gender champions in the university was very important. These champions will play an important role in sensitising the students towards gender equality and making them sensitive towards

women. Committee member Dr Subhash said that the gender champions selected this time would have to work for gender sensitisation. For this, awareness programmes will have to be conducted not only in the university campus but also in the villages adopted by the university. To bring awareness in the society, it is necessary for the gender champion to have dedication towards the society. In the competition, the participants discussed about the rights of not only women, men but also transgenders. The participants discussed how the education of boys are still kept above when it comes to choosing between girls and boys. Committee member Prof UV Kiran welcomed all the participants in the programme on Thursday. Students from various departments of the university actively participated in this programme. At the end of the programme, Dr Namit Jaisal proposed vote of thanks. Meanwhile, 20 UP Girls Battalion, 67 UP Battalion, Sports Section, Aazadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Committee and EBSB Committee of BBAU organised a 12-day swimming camp in collaboration with The Millennium School, Lucknow. On the closing ceremony on Thursday, the BBAU VC said that swimming is good exercise for health, which keeps our body energetic the whole day. On the occasion of National Statistics Day, Rohtas Bhardwaj, a student of the department of Statistics has been awarded by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Rohtas has made the university proud at national level by winning the third prize in the on-the-spot essay writing competition held on March 13 last. On Thursday, Rohtas was rewarded in a programme organised by the ministry in New Delhi. The BBAU VC congratulated Rohtas on this achievement.

# Fruits excellent source of vitamins & minerals

PNS ■ KANPUR


Fruits are an excellent source of essential vitamins and minerals and they were high in fibre and also provided a wide range of health-boosting antioxidants, including flavonoids. Eating a diet high in fruits and vegetables can reduce a person's risk of developing heart disease, cancer, inflammation and diabetes. Research has proved that adequate intake of fruits form an important part of a healthy diet. This was stated by Head of Department of Horticulture Science Department, Dr VK Tripathi while

addressing a seminar on the eve of Fruit Day and added that scientific evidence indicated that frequent consumption of fruits and vegetables can prevent oesophageal, stomach, pancreatic, bladder and cervical cancers and that a diet high in fruits and vegetables could prevent 20 per cent of most types of cancers. He said according to reports, fruit consumption was influenced by gender, age, income, education and family origin and added that education may influence nutritional knowledge about fruits and vegetables and consequently also influence their intake. He said fruits and veg-

etables were sources of vitamins, minerals and antioxidants and played an important role in human nutrition and health, particularly as sources of vitamin C, thiamine, niacin, pyridoxine, folic acid, minerals and dietary fibre. He said other vital nutrients supplied by fruits and vegetables included riboflavin, zinc, calcium, potassium and phosphorus. Dr Tripathi said childhood and adolescent obesity had reached epidemic proportions and the alarming rate at which this condition continued to increase was of great concern. He said obesity among children and adolescents was also increasing and

in other countries due to western influence, and since behaviour-related attitudes to obesity prevention such as physical activity and fruit and vegetable consumption tend to decline with age, it is important that intervention efforts begin early in life. He said pre-adolescents and adolescents body mass index (BMI) changes were relatively consistent during a three year follow-up study. He said various benefits gained by consuming a diet rich in fruits and vegetables, but it was not clearly understood why a diet rich in fruits and vegetables would prevent obesity or excessive weight gain.

He said fresh fruits were a great option for breakfast, snack or dessert and fruits were sweet and ready for one to eat without cooking or preparing a recipe. He said eating more fresh fruit will help stay away from processed food. He said fruit came from nature not a factory and the closer to nature, the better the health. He said they were fruits naturally low in fat, calories and had key nutrients that child needed to grow. He said fruit helped protect from illnesses. He advised people to consume at least 150 gm of fruits daily.



Bank of India

Relationship beyond banking

HEAD OFFICE, RECOVERY DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Bank has declared the following Borrower and its Directors / Guarantors / Partners as Wilful Defaulter vide Order of Identification Committee of wilful defaulter dated 15.06.2022 subject to confirmation by Review Committee of wilful defaulter. Bank has issued Show Cause notice dated 17.06.2022 of such Order containing the details of such order so as to enable them to either repay the contractual dues or to make their submission against declaration as Wilful Defaulter. These Show Cause Notices were sent by Speed Post at available postal address and the said notices are returned to us as undelivered. The details of the NPA borrower and its Promoter /Directors / Guarantors are as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of Director / Guarantor / Partner of Defaulting Borrower Company M/s. Chandra Proteco Limited	Address
1.	M/s. Chandra Proteco Limited (Borrower Company), CIN : U27109WB2004PLC00708, PAN : AACCE530IK	165, Rabindra Sarani, Room No. 405A, Kolkata-700 007, West Bengal.
2.	Mr. Mukul Gupta (Director & Guarantor), PAN : ACLP66455G	House N-53, Tagore Town, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh-211 002.
3.	Mrs. Aprna Gupta (Director & Guarantor) PAN : ACLP66455G	S. No. 139/2, Umakui road, Athola Silvassa, U. T. of Dadra & Nagar Haveli-396 230.
4.	J. K. Kesarwani (Director & Guarantor) PAN : ABAPK4203E	House N-53, Tagore Town, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh-211 002.
5.	Mr. Ranjeet Gupta (Director & Guarantor) PAN : AAPPG7390C	House N-53, Tagore Town, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh-211 002.

Now, by means of publication of this notice, we once again advise all the above mentioned persons to forthwith approach our **Bank of India, ARMS Branch Mumbai North Zone** to collect the notice and respond **within 15 days** of this publication. In case we don't receive any response within 15 days, it will be treated and deemed that notice has been duly served and they don't have anything to defend and Bank shall continue to proceed further in this matter.

Sd/-  
Assistant General Manager  
Recovery Department, H. O., **BANK OF INDIA**  
Date : 01.07.2022



# Protests against killing of Kanhaiya Lal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Various organisations on Thursday came on the road to raise their protest against the brutal killing of a tailor in Udaipur, Rajasthan and demanded stern action against the killers.

The workers of backward class of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) gathered at Azad Park and paid their rich tributes to tailor Kanhaiya Lal who was brutally killed by two Muslim youths at Udaipur in Rajasthan and observed a silence of two minutes for the lasting peace of the departed soul. Kanhaiya was allegedly killed for sharing a post on social media in favour of a suspended spokesperson of the BJP. Terming the killing as brutal, the BJP workers demanded death sentence for both killers and compensation of Rs 1 crore for the bereaved family. The agitated workers also demanded the government job to the wife of deceased. Anup Jaiswal, Sohan Lal Arya and others were present on the occasion.

The advocates in scores also raised their protest and submitted a memorandum to the ACM-IV Anshika Dikshit to be forwarded to the Union Home Ministry demanding stern action against the accused. They condemned the killing of an innocent tailor. The president of Banaras Bar Association Dharendra Nath Sharma, Sidhharth Srivastava,



Bajrang Dal activists staging a protest against Udaipur incident in Varanasi on Thursday.

Pioneer

Shiv Prakash Singh and others were present on the occasion.

The workers of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal staged a demonstration at the district headquarter and condemned the killing. Before the dharna, they took out a procession from the office of divisional commissioner to the district headquarter. The killers crossed all limits of inhumanity by committing a broad daylight brutal crime and the killers should be given such a punishment which proves an example, they said. They raised

voices against the Rajasthan Government for its failure in checking such an inhuman act and demanded its dismissal. They also demanded death sentence for the killers and handed over a memorandum to the district administration to be forwarded to the Governor.

The activists of Muslim Mahila Foundation staged a dharna in Lamahi and raised their protest against the killing of a tailor in Rajasthan. They said that they would not remain silent and continue raising voices against such brutal act.

The accused should be booked under the anti-terror law and both should be hanged to death, they demanded. The violence in the name of religion should be treated as terrorist act, they said, adding that there is a need to be alert against such mentality which is killing the humanity. We all are with the family of Kanahaiya, the members of the foundation said. Dr Rajive Srivastava, Najneen Ansari, Najama Parveen, Mohd Azharuddin, Archana Bharatvanshi and others joined the dharna.

# PM likely to visit Kashi on July 7

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit his parliamentary constituency on July 7. It is expected that the PM, during his six-hour stay in the city, will give a gift of 45 projects worth over Rs 1,800 crore to the people. In view of this expected visit of the PM, the district administration has already intensified its activities to ensure all the preparations of the projects to be inaugurated or launched. According to sources, the PM may attend four programmes and during his stay he is expected to lay the

foundation stones of 13 projects worth Rs 1,220 crore and inaugurate 32 projects worth Rs 591 crore.

Modi may address a public meeting at Sampurnanand Sports Stadium (Sigra) apart from attending a function of intellectuals at Rudraksha. According to information, though the administration has yet not received any programme of visit of the PM, it is expected as per the programme of ISKCON, Modi may come here on July 7. As per the unconfirmed sources, after landing at Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport,

Babatpur, Modi will reach the Police Lines in a helicopter. From there, he will go to LT College to inaugurate Akshaya Patra Kitchen where recently Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also visited. Then Modi will reach Rudraksh Convention Centre where he will address the intellectuals. He may also address a meeting at nearby Sigra Stadium.

The foundation stones of some new projects expected to be laid by the PM are the construction of six lane road from Lahartara to Vijaya

Cinema via BHU, four lane road from Pandeypur flyover to Ring Road, new block on the ground floor at Circuit House, ROB on Babatpur-Chaubeypur road, widening of road from Kutchery to Sandha and some other projects which are also expected to be launched are Phase II of the Vedic Vigyan Kendra (BHU), new building of Sindhaura police station, fire brigade unit at Pindra, ROB on Babatpur-Kapsethi road, synt Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Sports Complex (Bada Lalpur) and many others.

# Doli Yatra of Jagannath taken out as Rathayatra Mela begins today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

After a gap of two years, Doli Yatra of Lord Jagannath, along with his brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra, was taken out amid traditional gaiety and religious fervour here on Thursday evening. After passing through its traditional routes, the procession reached the in-laws' place of Lord Jagannath at Beniram ke Bagicha near Rathayatra on the occasion of Ashad Shukla Pratipada as per Hindi calendar. With this, the three-day Rathayatra Mela will start from Friday.

During the last two years, this more than two centuries old tradition of Rathayatra Mela could not be maintained as no major programmes were organised due to corona pandemic but this year, it is expected that this fair, started since 1802, would see its real grandeur. During the last two years, only formalities were done by the priest family but this time, a good number of devotees thronged Lord Jagannath temple at Assi and offered prayers and 'parval ka kada' a day ago when after two weeks, the doors of Jagannath temple were re-opened. Lord Jagannath fell sick on June 14 last when the devotees offered jalabhishek with a huge quantity of Gangajal (sacred water of holy river Ganga) on the occasion of Jyestha Purnima. Since then the doors remained closed to help the ailing Almighty take full rest.

Rathayatra Mela is known as one of the lakha melas (in which lakhs of people turn out) of this holy city. According to the history of this fair, in 1780, Pandit Nityanand, the chief priest and manager of Jagannath temple in Puri visited this



Doli Yatra of Lord Jagannath being taken out in Varanasi on Thursday evening.

Pioneer

holy city and then set up a temple of Lord Jagannath near Assi. The Rath Yatra Mela was started in 1802 and since then it continued without any break except the last two years. During the festival the idols are kept on a chariot. After the Mela, the traditional Rath is kept at a room at Shahid Udayan for the last few years as earlier, it was kept near Rathayatra crossing but due to traffic jams, its site had been changed. The chariot is made of wood and kept on 14 wheels near Rath Yatra crossing during the festival. The most popular dish of the fair is Nankatai, a hand-made biscuit.

In view of the fair, the police have imposed several traffic restrictions during the next four days between 12 noon to 4 am from Friday and during the period no vehicle

will be allowed to pass through Rathayatra crossing. The vehicles going from BHU-Bhelupur to Rathayatra will be diverted from Kamachha towards Baijantha and Ashirwad Clinic to Akashvani. Similarly, the vehicles going from Luxa to Rathayatra will be diverted from Gurubagh crossing to Nimamai crossing; Sigra to Rathayatra from Sigra crossing towards Mahmooorganj and the vehicles from Mahmooorganj crossing will be diverted from Akashvani crossing towards Sigra.

**MEETING ON RAJBHASHA HELD IN BLW:** Under the aegis of the Rajbhasha department, Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), a quarterly meeting of Rajbhasha Implementation Committee was organised on Thursday

which was presided over by General Manager Anjali Goyal. In her address, she said that only by doing administrative work in the languages of the people, we can gain the trust of them. 'Hindi is an important medium for increasing public participation in development programmes,' she said. While emphasising on the use of Indian languages in building a self-reliant India, she directed the officers and employees to do the work related to technical research originally in Hindi. The GM directed the officers to write original articles on technical subjects in 'Bareka Darpan' magazine. The progress report of Hindi related to different departments was discussed with their principal heads and officers present in the meeting. They also expressed their views.

# Bajrang Dal, VHP activists express outrage over Udaipur killing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A large number of activists belonging to the City unit of Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) have expressed outrage in Prayagraj district in protest against the brutal murder of Hindu youth Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur, Rajasthan by Islamic Jihadis and the growing communal fanaticism in the country.

Along with this, a massive demonstration by Vishwa Hindu Parishad was also held on Thursday. Addressing the protesters, Vishwa Hindu Parishad's central working president and senior advocate Alok Kumar said that the medieval concepts of jihad are increasing religious hysteria. These are serious challenges to world peace and humanity, which the civilized society of the whole world will have to face, no matter what the cost may be. He also demanded the hearing of the killers of Udaipur in the fast track court and justice to the victims' families by hanging in 6 months.

In this demonstration held at Subhash crossing in Civil Lines he said that the Udaipur incident is the result of religious fervor. The way a section of Islam understands Jihad, it is extremely dangerous. It feels that it is appropriate to attack, kill and loot non-Islamic people. Due to this concept, violence and unrest

# Prayagraj put on high alert

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Prayagraj city has been put on high alert in the wake of Kanhaiyalal murder case took place in Udaipur, Rajasthan. 11 teams of police have pressed into service on 24-hour surveillance. Along with taking precaution in sensitive areas of the district, police teams have started monitoring every tweet, post and message on social media. Along with this, an 11-member team of police has been deployed to watch the activity on social media for 24 hours.

In view of the incident in Udaipur, Rajasthan, Prayagraj administration has issued an alert a day before. Heavy force has been deployed in the area of violence in the district. Police have increased activity in Atala, Kareli, Dhumanganj, Kotwali, Shahganj, Attarsuiya of the city. Along with this, the police officers themselves reached the sensitive areas with the force and did a foot march. On the other hand, after the alert was issued, monitoring of social media was also started.

In the SP camp office, 11-member teams

have been deployed to watch on social media. Being posted in different shifts, 24 hours a day, they are keeping an eye on the tweets, posts and WhatsApp group messages in the context of Prayagraj. Officials have informed that this will alert the people who have been messaging on social media by the team and will ask them to remove the post. If it is not accepted, then action will be taken for posting the controversial post.

Prayagraj SSP Ajay Kumar appealed to the people through the video and said that those posting inflammatory and objectionable posts are not only on the radar of the police, action will also be taken against those who like, share such posts. In any case, avoid any objectionable, inflammatory post, tweet, message. Apart from this, avoid liking, sharing, retweeting, or forwarding such posts, tweets and messages.

In doing so, legal action can be taken against the concerned. Along with this, action will also be taken against those protesting with the crowd.

has spread in many parts of the world.

The VHP working president said that some Islamic organizations have condemned the Udaipur incident, but as long as these concepts are being spread regarding Jihad, there will be neither peace nor communal harmony in the world. Alok Kumar also called upon the Muslim society to understand the current flow of time and correct its ideology. He said that Vishwa Hindu

Parishad and Bajrang Dal will continue to be on the forefront for the safety of the society and to face such shocks fearlessly.

The workers of Bajrang Dal Prayagmahanagar protested against the broad daylight murder in Udaipur and the memorandum addressed to the President, State Vice President Ajay Gupta submitted to ADM City and said that the release of threatening videos after the murder is a

challenge to the sovereignty of the country, which the public of India, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal will never tolerate. Bajrang Dal Prayag city unit Convenor Amit Singh said that Bajrang Dal has faced every challenge of terrorism and is committed to the complete destruction of jihadi terrorism, our demand is that the killers should be hanged soon. Our tolerance should not be taken as weakness.

# Demolition as per rules, PDA tells HC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Giving reply to the petition filed by Parveen Fatima wife of Javed Mohammad alias Javed Pump, the mastermind of the June 10 violence in the Atala area, authority of Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA) has told the court on Thursday that the demolition action was as per rules. The building was illegal and it has nothing to do with Atalal violence.

The matter is in the Allahabad High Court against the action of the police and district administration in the violence after Friday prayers in Prayagraj on June 10 in protest against the statement of former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma. The bulldozer action at the house of Javed Mohammad alias Javed Pump, the main accused of violence, has been told by Prayagraj Development Authority as per rules. The Allahabad High Court had

sought a reply from the state government and Prayagraj Development Authority on the plea of Parveen Fatima, wife of Javed Mohammad alias Javed Pump, the mastermind of the June 10 violence in the Atala area.

Accordingly, the reply was filed. Javed Pump's house was demolished on the third day of the Atala violence. The authority has told the demolition action as per rules. The PDA affidavit states that the demolition process was already underway. Notice had been served to them. This action has nothing to do with the Atala violence. The High Court, while giving time to the petitioner's counsel to file the rejoinder affidavit, directed to place the petition for hearing on July 7.

This order has been given by a division bench comprising Justice Anjani Kumar Mishra and Justice Syed Vaiz Mian on the petition filed by Parveen Fatima. Advocate Kamal Krishna Rai along with

Advocate General Ajay Kumar Mishra and Senior Advocate of PDA Ravi Kant etc. appeared on the petition. The petitioner says that the house is in her name. In this case, the house was demolished illegally without following the legal process against her. PDA said that illegal construction of houses has been done. In this case, demolition action has been taken by issuing notice as per rules. The petitioner has demanded action against the guilty officials and compensation for illegal demolition.

**TWO EX-MLAS AMONG 22 SERVED NOTICES:** The investigation into Atala violence after Friday prayers demanding the arrest of Nupur Sharma is increasing. Now the police have sent notices to 22 people, including two former MLAs, for questioning in this case.

Action is being taken to send notices to all those names that have come to light during interrogation of Javed Pump and others taken in police custody.

# Denizens heave sigh of relief as temperature drops

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Incessant rains on Thursday not only lashed the city but inundated several parts of the area. However, the denizens heaved much sigh of relief from the sultry weather conditions which persisted for the last couple of weeks.

For the last two days, it has been raining in the rural areas. But after Tuesday night's brief spell of rains, the temperature dropped and Thursday morning clouds and drizzle have made the weather more pleasant.

In many areas of the city, there was drizzle and at some places it rained downpour. Children and youth were seen enjoying this season. The children kept playing in the drizzle on the roof of the house.

All the youth went out for a walk in this season towards the new Yamuna Bridge and Azad Park. People were also seen enjoying the pleasant weather on the streets of the city.

The temperature was continuously above 40 degrees for the last two months. Except for a day or two, the mercury continued to rise. Even the temperature had reached 47 degrees, making it difficult to get out of the house. But with the arrival of monsoon for two days, the temperature has dropped below 30.

The temperature was 26 degree Celsius at 9 am on Thursday, which provided great relief to the people from

the heat.

The roadside dwellers had to face untold hardship due to waterlogging everywhere. On the other hand, the tall claims made by the Prayagraj Municipal Corporation (PMC) regarding comprehensive cleaning of the various drains of the city fell flat as most of the areas in the city witnessed water logging due to heavy rainfall.

About 32mm of rainfall was recorded in the city. Pumps at the Mori Gate pumping station were also not functional which accentuated the problem of waterlogging.

The old city areas faced more problems due to poor maintenance of the drainage system.

The traffic in different

parts of the city was also affected as people faced problems due to waterlogging. Waterlogging affected several areas including Rani Mandi, Attarsuiya, Lukerganj, Atala, Mohatashimgunj, Clock Tower, Nakhas Kohna, Ahmadgunj, Dara Shah Ajmal, Subzi Mandi, Allahpur, George Town, Tagore Town, Chowk, Bahadurganj, Kotha Parcha, Muthigunj and Batsha Mandi among others.

Denizens blamed the PMC authorities for failing to adopt a comprehensive strategy to solve the menace of waterlogging in the city.

Due to heavy rains in areas like Kheri, Koraon, Meja, Shankargarh etc., the problem of waterlogging has arisen at many places.

# Foot patrolling conducted

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Superintendent of Police (SP) Ajay Kumar Singh conducted foot patrolling along with heavy police force under City Kotwali area on Wednesday. To maintain peace in the area the SP interacted with common people as well as shopkeepers and gathered ground level information. He said the force is active to make common people feel fearless. He said nobody will be allowed to create any panic in the society. During the patrolling from Ghantaghar to Gurahatti Chauraha he was accompanied by Additional Superintendent of Police (City), ADM Shiv

Pratap Shukla, CO (City), SHO (City Kotwali) and a heavy police force.

**MEETING:** Divisional Commissioner incharge Praveen Kumar Laxkar while presiding over the meeting of divisional udyog bandhu on Wednesday directed the LDMs to take personal interest and coordinate with all the banks to achieve the target in job-oriented schemes. He was apprised that under Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana in Mirzapur district against the target of 60, 76 applications had been forwarded to the banks in which the loan had been sanctioned to six and released to one applicant. The progress of

other schemes, including ODOP, was also reviewed and officiating DC became aware with the progress. Besides, matters related to traders were discussed and progress in pending issues were reviewed. The officials concerned were directed to make congenial atmosphere available to the industries.

The bankers were taken to task for tardy progress in government schemes which were on priority. The LDMs were asked to coordinate with the banks properly and review each applications on merit and inform in next meeting. Besides the officials concerned Raj Kumar Singh, Amar Nath

Pandey and Mohan Lal Agrawal were present.

**WORKSHOP:** Under 100-day awareness drive launched by Cyber Crime headquarters, range cyber crime police station Mirzapur organised an awareness workshop on Wednesday. SHO Shyam Bahadur Yadav spoke in detail about cyber crime, its types and precautions to keep one safe from crime. S-I Dr Chandrashekhar Yadav threw light over ways to handle social media account, type of precautions to be taken during its use etc. Besides staff of cyber crime police station, Shubham Agrawal, Abhishek and Sushant Pandey were present.







FIRST COLUMN

YOGA NOW ACCESSIBLE TO ENTIRE HUMANKIND

Yoga seeks to unite human body with mind

ISHWAR V BASAVARADDI

On June 21 the world comes together to celebrate the aspirations of human spirit by hosting Yoga sessions. India, which gave birth to Yoga, is continuously playing a substantial role in making this ancient science of holistic well-being accessible to a large portion of the world's population, keeping in mind India's philosophy of Vasudaiva Kutumbakam, i.e. 'the entire world is one family.'

Yoga is a discipline that seeks to accomplish the union of human body and mind towards the realisation of its infinite potential and elevating the human consciousness beyond the confines of individual mind and ego until it merges with all pervading Supreme Consciousness. The regular practice of various tenets of Yoga aids holistic well-being by improving physical, physiological, psychological, emotional and intellectual health.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 27, 2014, urged the United Nations General Assembly to take cognisance of the universal appeal of Yoga. This is how June 21 became the International Day of Yoga (IDY).

India has also succeeded in impressing upon the world that Yoga is integral to its ancient cultural heritage which goes back to 5,000 years. The proactive efforts by the Indian Government also led to Yoga's inclusion in the Unesco's representative list of intangible cultural heritage of humanity in December 2016.

Today, the knowledge and practice of Yoga has spread beyond the confines of East and South Asia. International Day of Yoga is now celebrated as a festival in almost all countries, by all creeds, race, caste, gender, and age groups making it the biggest global event for humanity's holistic health and wellbeing.



The word Yoga first finds mention in the ancient text of Rigveda which was composed during the Indus-Saraswati Valley Civilisation. It was then developed further by the sages. Raj Yoga (the Yoga of Mind Management) was arranged into a eight-limb treatise, Yoga Sutras, by Patanjali during the 2nd Century BC.

Srimad Bhagvad Gita, the most widely read scripture, discusses mainly four classical forms of Yoga—i.e., Jnana-yoga, Bhakti-yoga, Karma-yoga, and Dhyana-yoga.

Although the Western World is interested in Yoga, its focus is mostly limited to the physical aspect of Yoga. However, in the last few decades, the US healthcare fraternity has been using Pranayama (regulated breathing techniques) and meditation in Yoga for treatment of the autism spectrum disorder. Various research articles in PubMed and research done in India in collaboration with AIIMS, NIMHANS, etc., clearly show the efficacy of yoga in physical, mental and spiritual well-being.

India encourages the daily practice of Yoga among people. The effectiveness of Pranayama was manifest during the outbreak of Covid-19. Records show that millions of healthcare workers and Covid-19 patients in India made a lasting and faster recovery by practicing Yogasana, Pranayama, and meditation.

To increase awareness about Yoga and to encourage its practice among people, the Government has declared Yogasana as a competitive sport. India's efforts to establish it in Asian and Olympic Games are continuing. The Prime Minister has also announced two categories of awards, international and national, to honour individuals and organisations making outstanding contributions towards the promotion and development of Yoga.

Currently, about 1.25 lakh wellness centres teach Yoga across the country. In rural India, Gram Panchayats are continuously being sensitised about the regular practice of Yoga and the Yoga Protocols through various efforts. Prime Minister wrote letters to 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayat Pradhans to promote Yoga-related activities. The Practice of Yoga has also been introduced in uniformed services.

(The author is Director, Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, New Delhi)

Sexist attitude, remarks must be challenged

Normalisation of sexist harassment must cease for gender equality; educational institutions should embrace gender sensitivity



VK KARTHIKA



SEXIST HARASSMENT AND THE PREVAILING MISOGYNISTIC SENTIMENTS AROUND US CERTAINLY DO HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON WOMEN'S PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. IT IS HIGH TIME SOCIETY, ESPECIALLY ITS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, STOPPED OBJECTIFYING WOMEN

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use, worded supposedly for witty and catchy slogans, created by students as part of a competition. These slogans were accredited and enlisted as the best entries from the contest.

"Drug and Death - Couple with No Divorce" topped the rest and the acknowledgment of the nuanced and metaphorical references to the wife and husband never to be divorced appears both compulsorily heterosexual and naive, not to mention the valorised nature of the marital relationship as the ideal and the goal of all youthful relationships. This slogan is an allegory of the conservative reinforcement of the institution of marriage and propagating such ideas in a university campus where youth must engage in critical questioning of institutions that must be condemned. The pamphlet institutionalised the ritual of sexist harassment.

To begin with, why is there a need to gender the drug-use and drug-menace?

'Heroine' being punned with 'heroin' and the appeal to be a 'hero' without the counterpart are all such supposedly 'powerful slogans' that disturbingly equate drugs with women. "Be a hero without heroin" is an index of the masculine construction of heroism where the absence of the female counterpart adds to the glory of being a hero. Thinking in binaries, having a choice of either this or that, encourages irrationality. This is very evident in the immediate one that follows - Heroin will make you loose [sic] Heroine! Although it sounds apparently innocent and jocular, this slogan shows the sheer absence of gender sensitivity.

Secondly, it normalises the

prevalent gender stereotypes and patriarchal prejudices that exist around us. Women connoting drugs, inebriation and destruction being hailed as winning slogans is a reinforcement of unjust gender relations through not-so-veiled metaphors in the minds of the youth.

Benevolent sexism and 'concerns about protecting the rich cultural traditions of India' had been metaphorically showcased when the men students of another central university in northern India covered the university's walls with the picture of a 'caged bird' in which each bar of the cage represented 'faith', 'dignity', 'submission' and 'morality' with an inscription that cancelled any attempts of women to claim their human rights as 'evil' acts. In the same institute, women students were denied access to the library as the head of the institution believed that their presence unnecessarily invited boys to the library! The academic implications of this curfew had already been debated back in 2014.

Thus, the passive consumers of sexist ideology in fact indirectly or intently become its spokespersons later. A woman scholar from an institute of national importance states: "In a recent sports event, our batch won the overall championship. One of the teammates, a boy, said that the girls should go and collect the trophy even though they did not partake in the match. When asked about the reason for this he said that it was a compensation for cheering them which came as an insult for all of us girls. Our gestures of solidarity were misread and our male friends considered us cheer girls."

Despite clearing the UGC

National Eligibility Test (NET) and securing a Master's and a B. Ed. Degree from two different central universities, a woman lecturer was reduced to her clothing by the management of College of Applied Sciences (CAS), Kodungalloor, Kerala. The lecturer refused to meet the management's condition of wearing a saree and had to resign. This incident resulted in the state's higher education department issuing a circular, in November 2021, that clarified that the teachers do not have to adhere to a particular dress code.

It is embarrassing to understand that the statutes of various Central Universities, IITs and NITs carry gendered language. The references in these documents to the principal administrators like the Vice Chancellor, Director, Deputy Director and Registrar have taken the personal pronoun 'he' with its variant possessive forms wherever required. Does it mean that there is a predominant assumption about a woman's incapability to assume positions of power? Or is it mandatory that a woman, if at all fortunate to be in an office, compromises with the male oriented linguistic constructions evident in these documents?

Sexist harassment and the prevailing misogynistic sentiments around us certainly do have a negative impact on women's personal and professional development. It is high time society, especially its educational institutions, stopped objectifying women as pleasing gadgets/substances or as powerless secondary citizens.

Gender equality is one of the development goals that we need to strive towards for a sustainable society.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

HOW I WISH THE GOVERNOR HAD SHOWN DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE AND DUE DILIGENCE IN ACTING ON OUR CABINET'S RECOMMENDATION. —MAHARASHTRA EX-CHIEF MINISTER UDDHAV THACKERAY



(DEVENDRA) FADNAVIS COULD HAVE BECOME CM GOING BY THE NUMBERS BUT HE SHOWED A BIG HEART AND I THANK HIM. —MAHARASHTRA CM-DESIGNATE EKNATH SHINDE

India leads with effective climate change response

Decisive mandate for Modi Government helped India to step up climate change response

In the May 2014 general elections, after a gap of 24 years, a single party won the absolute majority in the Lok Sabha.

PM Modi gave the mantra of 'sabka sath, sabka vikas' for governance. This helped in unveiling the pro-poor and gender sensitive schemes such as Ujjawala and Swachh Bharat, besides enactment of triple talaq legislation. India's international stature also grew significantly. PM Modi retained power after the 2019 elections with BJP and its allies in the NDA winning 335 Lok Sabha seats.

On forest and environment conservation, it is worthwhile to assess the performance of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Policies of the



VK BAHUGUNA

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Environment sector influence the success of several programmes of different Ministries. There is a mixed bag of assessment.

Soon after taking over the reign of administration the first thing the Ministry urgently needed was to ensure transparency in granting forest and environmental clearances. Transparency is the hallmark of corruption free governance. The Ministry apart from other steps had created a mechanism under the 'Parivesh' portal where all user agencies are supposed to apply online for environmental and forestry clearances. It has ensured transparency, accountability, and time bound performance and thus made the clearance process free from delay and red tape. Procedures were simplified for quick and professional examination of proposals. The changes ensured access of services to all sections of the people. While the poor people in the villages got quick clearances at the Regional offices/DFO levels for schools, police outpost, hospitals and other developmental works, the industries and other public utility sectors, necessary for infrastructure and development like water schemes, dams, electricity and mining, got timely clearances, which were earlier delayed for several years.

In a major reform, the Ministry in 2021 re-organized its regional offices by restructuring the manpower, besides constituting regional empowered committees so that interface with people and state governments improves for better governance and cut delays.

The Forest Survey of India recorded an 8021 square km increase in overall forest and tree cover amounting to one percent jump in forest and tree cover during 2015 to 2017. Similarly, the trend continued during 2019 to 2021 when the forest and tree cover in the country increased by 2261 square km, taking the country's forest and tree cover to 80.9 million hectares with 24.62 per cent of the geographic area. The tiger population in the country has witnessed a steady increase from 2226 in 2014 to 2967 in the latest assessment.

The Compensatory Afforestation and Management Authority (CAMPA) Amendment Bill was languishing for a long time. The government brought accountability and streamlined the use of CAMPA funds, amounting more than Rs 80,000 crore. More than Rs 48,000 crore was released by December 2021 to 32 States which will give impetus to increase the forest cover.

The welfare of more than 10 crore tribal people is at the core of the policy making of the government. The Ministry has signed a memorandum with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to sort out the emerging issues between the two Ministries in the implementation of Forest Right Act 2006. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs in 2018 launched the 'Van Dhan' scheme in 2018 through TRIFED. This cross cutting scheme aims at increasing the income of tribal people

engaged in the collection of Minor Forest Products (MFPs) through value addition of the products through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Development of value Chain for MFPs in 340 districts of 27 states through 3225 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras to 10 lakh tribals.

On the international stage, PM Modi has assumed the leadership role in the field of climate change negotiations and India is the voice of developing countries. India has solid achievements in the field of combating climate change. The Prime Minister jointly with French President Emanuel Macron created an International Solar Alliance to combat climate change. India has achieved its voluntary target of reducing emissions

intensity of its GDP by 21 per cent over 2005 levels by 2020 and is poised to achieve 35 per cent reduction well before the target year of 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2070. India is home to 17 percent of the world population but our emission footprint is only 4 per cent compared with the developed world's 60 per cent with 17 per cent population.

However, on the flip side the Ministry has fallen in the trap of a few foreign agencies by promoting certification of government forests. It will compromise the sovereignty of the country on our natural resources and the Prime Minister as well as External Affairs Minister must caution the Environment Minister from 'acting penny wise pound foolish'.



# EC begins revision of electoral rolls in J&K

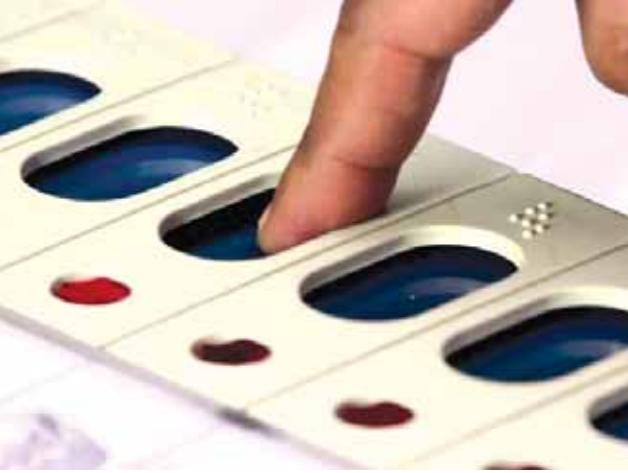
Taking place after a gap of three years, the process is an indication that polls could be held in Valley

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has begun the process of electoral rolls' revision in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) after a gap of three years, in an indication that polls could be held in the Valley post its delimitation exercise. In a letter to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of J&K, the EC has given a timeline to complete various activities before the final publication of the electoral rolls on October 31.

“... In order to update the electoral rolls on the basis of the newly-delimited constituencies, so that all newly-eligible young electors can have the opportunity to get themselves enrolled, the exercise of Special Summary Revision with reference to the next qualifying date is required to be undertaken without further delay,” the letter said.

“Consequent upon amendment in Section 14 of the Representation of the People Act by Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021, as notified vide the Gazette of India notification No. 67, dated 30 December 2021 and corresponding



changes in the Registration of Electors Rule, 1960 notified on 17th June, 2022, four qualifying dates, namely, 1 January, 1 April, 1 July, and 1 October are available in the law. In view of the reason explained in the preceding paragraph, the Commission has decided to order SSR, 2022 with respect to October 1, 2022 which is the next qualifying date for preparation of electoral roll, after conclusion of the ongoing pre-revision activities,”

reads the letter. “Accordingly, the Commission has directed to carry out the revision activity for Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls w.r.t 01.10.2022 as the qualifying date in UT of J&K,” it further states. The revision of electoral rolls couldn't be undertaken in J&K due to August 5, 2019 constitutional changes and delimitation exercise.

“I am directed to state that as per existing policy, revision of

electoral rolls with reference to 1 January of the coming year as the qualifying date is done in later part of each year in all States/UTs (normally in the last quarter of a year) so that final publication of the electoral rolls could be made in the first week of January of the succeeding year.

“However, due to various administrative reasons, this annual revision of electoral roll could not be undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir after SSR, 2019. In the meantime, delimitation exercise of constituencies in the Union. Territory was also in progress and the finally delimited constituencies were notified by the Delimitation Commission on 05th May, 2022,” the letter states. As per schedule announced by the ECI, the integrated draft electoral roll shall be published on September 01, 2019.

According to the poll-body, the claims and objections can be filed between September 01 to September 30 and they shall be disposed of by October 15. The final publication of electoral rolls shall be done on October 31, the schedule states.

Officials said the voters' list will keep getting updated as there are four cut-off dates in a year now when those turning 18 can enrol themselves as voters.

Earlier, those turning 18 on or before the first day of the year, could apply to become voters on January 1. Now, those turning 18 on or before January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 can apply to become voters.

As per existing policy, the revision of electoral rolls with reference to January 1 of the coming year as the qualifying date is carried out in later part of each year in all states and union territories so that the final publication of the electoral rolls could be made in the first week of January of the succeeding year.

However, due to various reasons, the annual revision of electoral rolls could not be undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir after special summary revision, 2019.

In the meantime, an exercise to redraw the boundaries of constituencies in the UT was in progress and the finally delimited segments were notified by the Delimitation Commission on May 5 this year.

# India sees huge jump in Covid cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

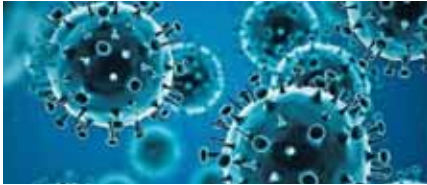
India saw a massive jump in Covid cases on Thursday as it recorded 18,000 new infections, pushing the active caseload to breach the one lakh mark for the first time in the last four months. The country has witnessed a jump of more than 4,000 cases in just 24 hours while death, too, is inching up gradually to touch 39.

As many as 13,827 patients recovered from the infection. The total active Covid cases crossed the one-lakh mark at 1,04,555. The total number of deaths in the country is now at 5,25,116. The country has witnessed a jump of more than 4,000 cases in just 24 hours. On Wednesday, India had logged 14,506 new Covid cases and 30 deaths. Active cases on Wednesday comprised 0.23 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.56 per cent, the Health Ministry said on Wednesday.

There are 43 districts that are recording a weekly positivity rate of 10 per cent or more. Kerala tops the list with 11 districts, followed by Mizoram (6) and Maharashtra (5).

The other states that have been witnessing a noticeable rise include Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Manipur, Mizoram, Goa, Karnataka and Puducherry. While there are 42 districts in India that are recording a positivity rate between 5 and 10 per cent, the 627 others are still below the 5 per cent mark.

Fresh Covid-19 cases in India in the week ending Sunday surged to the highest in nearly four months with close to 80,000 new infections, up 62% from the previous week's tally. Although deaths from the virus remained very low compared to previous outbreaks, at least 93 fatali-



ties were reported in the country during the week, more than the combined toll in the previous two weeks (45 and 41).

INSACOG (Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium) officials said, “Omicron sub-lineages, mainly BA.2 and BA.2.38, and BA.4 and BA.5 in some parts of the country, were behind the current spike”. During this week, fresh cases rose in nearly all states and UTs. The highest numbers were reported from Maharashtra, where the weekly tally crossed the 25,000 mark (25,172), up 45 per cent from 17,380 in the preceding week. Kerala reported a similar spike of 42 per cent, with over 20,500 new cases.

The surge intensified in NCR cities, with weekly numbers more than doubling. Delhi reported 9,291 cases, a rise of 128 per cent from last week's tally of 4,068 while Uttar Pradesh witnessed a 109 per cent surge, reporting 2,711 infections. Haryana's tally rose 94 per cent, from India's weekly Covid cases up 60 per cent to 80k, deaths low but rising.

Among States that reported more than 1,000 new infections during the week, the highest percentage rise was seen in Tamil Nadu — up 169 per cent, from 1,299 last week to 3,492 — and Bengal, where cases rose by 145 per cent from 663 to 1,621. In States where numbers were still relatively low, Assam saw a 4.8-fold increase in cases, Jharkhand 2.5-fold and Chhattisgarh 2.2-fold.

# UN condemns killing of Kanhaiya Lal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The United Nations (UN) has condemned the killing of Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur and called for respect of all religions to ensure different communities live in peace and harmony.

This reaction came from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres who urged full respect of all religions, his spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said late on Wednesday.

Dujarric said this in response to a question on whether the UN chief has a comment on the resurgence of religious tensions in India following the killing of Kanhaiya Lal.

“We very much hope... we call for the full respect of all religions and for ensuring, throughout the world, that different communities can live in harmony and in peace,” Dujarric said at the daily press briefing.

In response to another question on the arrest of Alt News co-founder Mohammad Zubair, he said, “We believe in a fundamental right of expression. We believe in the fundamental right of journalists to express, themselves and we also believe in the fundamental need for people to respect other communities and other religions. We believe those two sentiments are very much compatible.”



# BJP exec committee to hold contact programme in 119 T Assembly constituencies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the July 2-3 BJP national executive meeting at Hyderabad, the party's executive committee members will undertake a 'contact programme' in 119 Assembly constituencies of Telangana, which is to elect a new Assembly next year.

BJP leaders will spend two days in these Assembly constituencies and interact with local party leaders and people there, and give their feedback to the leadership, sources said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with BJP president JP Nadda and other senior central and State party leaders will attend the executive committee meeting.

Besides several national issues, Assembly polls in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat by the year-end as well as next year's poll in Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Tripura would also come up for discussion.

Preparations for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections would also be discussed, sources said.

A huge roadshow is being planned to welcome the Prime Minister from the airport to the national executive venue. Modi will also address a public rally on July 3 after the conclusion of the meet.

An exclusive vegetarian fare is being made ready for the delegates. Around 10,000 banners, 200 hoardings and flexis will be put up on 10,000 poles in the city to welcome top party leaders.

# LS MPs' trips cost Rlys ₹62 cr over 5 years

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Free train travels of sitting and former Lok Sabha members over the last five years have cost the Indian Railways exchequer ₹62 crore, which included nearly ₹2.5 crore in the pandemic-hit 2020-21. While sitting MPs are entitled to use the railways' first class air-conditioned or executive class for free, their spouses, too, can avail free travel under certain conditions. Former MPs are also entitled to travel in any train in AC-2 tier along with a companion or in AC-1 if alone.

In the response to a Right to Information (RTI) application, the Lok Sabha Secretariat said it has received a bill of ₹35.21 crore from the Indian Railways for the travel of sitting MPs and ₹26.82 crore for former MPs during 2017-2018 to 2021-22.

According to the response, the MPs and ex-MPs used the Railway passes even during the pandemic-hit year of 2020-21 when their bill was ₹1.29 crore and ₹1.18 crore, respectively. The Railways' pay and accounts department forwards the bills to the LS Secretariat for processing. The Railways has recently put on hold an array of concessions it offered to certain categories of passengers, including senior citizens. While there was subdued anger among certain sections

over the move, the discontinuation of the subsidy given to senior citizens has drawn a lot of ire. According to official data, between March 20, 2020 and March 31, 2022, the Railways did not offer concessions to 7,31 crore senior citizen travellers. These included 4.46 crore males over the age of 60, and 2.84 crore females over 58 and 8,310 transgender people.

Last year the Rajya Sabha Secretariat also found randomly that 87 per cent of the total cost of journeys have not been undertaken and neither were cancelled but the Secretariat had to reimburse to the Railways. In an advisory the Rajya Sabha noted that from the details of

debit claims raised by the Ministry of Railways, multiple bookings were being made by some members in various trains departing from the same/different stations to different destinations for the same day.

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat has to make payments to the Ministry of Railways even for those bookings which are actually not utilised by the members. In respect of a sitting member too, the analysis done by the RS Secretariat revealed the actual journeys during January 2019 amounted to only 15 per cent of the total claim of Railways, forcing the Secretariat to pay 85 per cent extra for journeys not undertaken.

# Changing geopolitical scenario making Indian Ocean region competitive: NSA

At 1st MAMSG meet Doval calls for synergy among stakeholders for maritime security

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As China asserts itself in the Indian Ocean, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval on Thursday cautioned that the region is becoming “competitive” and the country has to protect its interests. He also called for synergy among all the stakeholders responsible for maritime security.

Making these observa-

tions at the first meeting of the Multi Agency Maritime Security Group (MAMSG) here, Doval said, “In the changing geopolitical scenario, the Indian Ocean, which has been an ocean of peace, is gradually becoming competitive. We see a potential of having a clash of interest, we need to protect it and be vigilant,” he said. The NSA refrained from naming China.

Describing the Indian Ocean as a “great asset” for the country, Doval said the country's vulnerabilities are directly proportional to its assets and that India's responsibility as a premier maritime power is extreme-



ly important.

“The more we develop, the more assets we create, the more prosperous we get, greater would be the vulnerability and the need for security in the maritime domain,” he said. Underlining these key fac-

tors, Doval called for seamless coordination among various agencies involved in protecting India's maritime interests, saying it will not be able to become the power it deserves to be in absence of a very strong maritime security apparatus.

Addressing the top maritime and coastal security brass from all 13 coastal states and Union Territories as well Indian Navy and other central agencies, Doval said security at the high seas and economic well-being is inextricably linked and all stakeholders must work unitedly.

“The trajectory of this nation is well defined. We

know where we are going. And when our time comes... We as a nation have to be strong. India will not be able to become the power it deserves to be unless it has a very strong maritime system,” Doval said.

The meeting was chaired by Vice-Admiral (Retired) G Ashok Kumar, the country's first National Maritime Security Coordinator (NMSC), a post created to ensure coordination among various agencies responsible for overall maritime security matrix. Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar was among the top officials who attended the deliberations.

# Major hope for patients of pancreatic cancer

Scientists show it's possible to reverse key process that allows cancer cells to grow

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a discovery that may come as a boon for the patients of pancreatic cancer, scientists have shown it is possible to reverse a key process that allows pancreatic cancer cells to grow and spread around the body. These findings, published in *Nature*, show that a protein called GREM1 is key to regulating the type of cells found in pancreatic cancer — and manipulating its levels can both fuel and reverse the ability of these cells to change into a more aggressive subtype.

Pancreatic cancer has a notoriously high mortality rate, with just seven per cent of patients surviving for five years or more. Every year, more than 10,000 people in the UK are diagnosed with the disease, with around 9,000 deaths.

Scientists from the Institute of Cancer Research conducted studies in mice and on mini pancreases made in a laboratory, where they manipulated the level of the gremlin protein in the system.

When the gene, and therefore the protein, was eliminated, tumours were rapidly converted into a more dangerous and invasive form.

In a matter of days, every tumour cell had been converted from the more harmless form into the more dangerous mesenchymal cancer cells.

The absence of “gremlin” also meant the cancer was more likely to spread to other organs. In nine out of 10 gremlin-less mice, for example, cancer spread from the pancreas into the liver.

In contrast, when the gremlin protein was working normally, the cancer spread in just 15 per cent of the laboratory animals.

As well as curtailing Gremlin production, the scientists also boosted the concentration of the protein to far beyond the normal level and found this had a beneficial effect.

Gremlin therapy can ‘reverse the fate’ of dangerous cells

Writing in their study, published in *Nature*, the scientists said that in high quantities, the gremlin protein “caused almost complete” reversal of cells that had already morphed into the more dangerous guise.

This, they said, indicated that high Gremlin activity was able to “reverse the fate” of the dangerous cells.



# India, Japan review cyber security, ties during 4th cyber dialogue

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and Japan on Thursday reviewed the entire spectrum of cyber security and bilateral co-operation in this field during the fourth cyber dialogue between the two nations. Giving details of the virtual mode talks hosted by India, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that both sides discussed important areas of bilateral cyber cooperation and reviewed the progress achieved in the areas of cyber security and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) including 5G Technology. The two delegations exchanged views on latest developments in cyber domain and mutual co-operation during cyber consultations at the United Nations and

other multilateral and regional fora. Both sides agreed to hold the next India-Japan Cyber Dialogue in 2023 as per mutual convenience.

The Indian delegation was led by Muanpui Saiawi, Joint Secretary, Cyber Diplomacy Division (MEA) while the Japanese delegation was led by Yutaka Arima, Ambassador in charge of Cyber Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Indian team consisted of officials from the MEA, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, National Security Council Secretariat, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Department of Telecommunications and Indian Computer Emergency Response Team among others.

# Maha events shameful for Indian democracy: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday accused the BJP Government of capturing power “unethically” by the use of money and muscle power, and condemned it for destabilising democratically-elected Governments. In a statement, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said after coming to power at the Centre in 2014, the focus of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been to capture power in the States and bring down the elected Governments rather than serve the people. “We strongly condemn the way BJP is destabilising both democratically-elected governments and democratically-installed governments. This is not only an insult to democracy, but also an insult to the people who voted against the ideology of the BJP,” he said in a statement.

“Through the naked display of money and muscle power, the BJP has undemocratically and unethically captured yet another

State Government. Under the Modi-Shah duo, the BJP wants to capture power at any cost, either directly or through remote control. What happened in Maharashtra is shameful for Indian democracy,” he said.

The party's statement comes on a day rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde was sworn in as the chief minister of Maharashtra. In a move that stunned political pundits and potentially checkmated the Shiv Sena, BJP leader Devendra Fadnis on Thursday announced that Shinde will be the next chief minister of Maharashtra.

Ramesh further alleged that offices of the Governors and Speakers, and agencies like the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) are openly misused, adding that buying MLAs has become so commonplace that the Finance Minister blurted out the truth today, when she suggested imposition of GST on horse-trading. “The BJP can go to any extent to win elections - From misuse of

money power to polarisation and violence. Despite using all these tactics, if the voters reject them, then they start hatching conspiracies to topple elected governments,” he said. The Congress leader said in 2016, the BJP brought down the Congress Government in Uttarakhand in a similar way, where due to Congress MLAs leaving the party, the Government elected for five years was reduced to a minority in four years.

In Arunachal the same year, 43 out of 44 Congress MLAs defected to the BJP-backed People's Party of Arunachal Pradesh under the leadership of Chief Minister Pema Khandu. In the 2017 Assembly elections in Manipur, the Congress party emerged as the single largest party by winning 28 out of 60 seats, he said, adding that the BJP had only 21 seats, but the Congress was not given a chance to prove its majority. A similar game happened in Bihar in 2017 when the BJP toppled the Grand Alliance Government that lasted 20 months.

# People pose as PMO staffers; CBI registers three cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered three separate cases of impersonation and cheating by some persons who posed as staffers of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

In the first complaint, a public grievance dated April 29, 2021 forwarded by the PMO to the CBI, was received from the victim Ravikant Kharb of Faridabad regarding cheating by one Prince (real name not known) posing himself to be a PMO official.

Prince, who claimed to be a Personal Assistant in the PMO, misrepresented to Kharb that he can manage a Government job in the RBI in lieu of a consideration amount of Rs 3 lakh out of which Rs 25,000 was paid in

advance to Prince by him.

In the second case, one Dr Shiva Kumar of Kerala, impersonating as a PMO official was making calls to people from his mobile number 08075994461 claiming to be a Personal Advisor to the Prime Minister.

The third case has been registered against an unknown accused following a complaint from Anil Kumar Sharma, Assistant Director, PMO.

It said that one person claiming to be Rohit Yadav, Joint Secretary, PMO called Manoj Kumar Meena, IPS (2012-batch, AGMUT cadre) posted in Chandigarh and sought transfer of a police Constable. A probe shows that no such call was made by the official and the mobile number was also fake.



# Suvendu, Mukul, Adhir took money from me: Sharada boss

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA**

Triggering a big political controversy, main Sharada chit fund accused Sudipto Sen on Thursday named Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari, TMC vice president Mukul Roy and Congress Lok Sabha leader Adhir Chowdhury for deriving illegal benefits from him.

Moments before being produced before a designated court, Sen mentioned about his letters written to the appropriate authorities in which he had claimed that Adhikari, Roy and Chowdhury had taken money from him.

"I wrote the names of Mukul Roy, Adhir Chowdhury who took money from me ... In the second letter I wrote the name of Suvendu Adhikari who extorted money from me in several tranches ... once he took Rs 90 lakh for the construction of a building at Contai," Sen said.

The TMC has recently upped the ante against the BJP leadership following ED and



Moments before being produced before a designated court, Sudipto Sen mentioned about his letters written to the appropriate authorities in which he had claimed that Adhikari, Roy and Chowdhury had taken money from him

CBI interrogation of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee and his wife Rujira Banerjee. The ED has reportedly asked Rujira Banerjee to explain her links to several crores of rupees parked in a Thailand bank.

Both Abhishek and his better half have been under scanner in cases of money laundering. Junior Banerjee is also being questioned about whether he had a role in the multi-crore coal and cattle smuggling.



Reacting to Sen's statement Adhikari said he would not comment about "rubbish remarks" while Roy said he had no information about regarding whatever had been said.

Chowdhury was more vociferous in his reaction charging the Chief Minister for trying to frame him.

"Didi has been trying to find out allegations to blemish my name ... she failed to do so ... now she is using Sharada scamsters to make these comments ... I have already filed a



defamation against Sudipto Sen," the Congress leader who is also the PCC president said wondering why there was no word about what had transpired between the Chief Minister and the Sen at Dello Bungalow in Kalimpong. "We are eager to know from CBI and ED as to what had transpired between Mamata Banerjee and Sudipto Sen in the Dello Bungalow at Kalimpong ... why is there no word about that," Chowdhury said.

# ‘DIDI IS MOTHER SHARADA REINCARNATION’ ‘Pained’ RK Mission condemns TMC leader’s statement

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**

The Ramakrishna Mission has expressed strong objection to seniorTrinamool Congress MLA Dr Nirmal Maji's comparison of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to Sharada Devi the Holy Mother of the Order.

"Ramakrishna Mission strongly objects to the remarks made by a politician about our Holy Mother Sharada who is the driving force of the Order ... we have been receiving numerous mails, messages and telephone calls from the devotees of the Ramakrishna Mission who have strong faith and reverence for Sharada Devi our Divine Mother. ... we have no word to express our disapproval for the needless remark about Ma Sharada," said Swami Subirananda Maharaj the Secretary of the Math and Mission in a video message, adding the Order hoped "no such remarks will be made in future."

Dr Maji a senior TMC politician had earlier claimed that Chief Minister was the reincarnation of Mother Sharada.

"I have been told by the monks of Ramakrishna Mission who quoted some companions of Swami Vivekananda saying Mother Sharada had once told them before her demise that in her next life she would reincarnate in South Kolkata around today's Kalighat and Harish Chatterjee Street area (the official residence of Banerjee) and get involved in political and social activities," Dr Maji said adding he had "no doubts that Mamata Banerjee is the Holy Mother Sharada ..."

Ramakrishna Mission's official rebuttal of Dr Maji's remarks came after about two days during which the Trinamool Congress leadership maintained conspicuous silence.

Mother Sharada was the wife and Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa the Master and



Guru of Swami Vivekananda who founded the Ramakrishna Mission in order to spread his ideas of unity of religion and service to mankind. While Maji would not comment TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said that his statement was uncalled for as "Mamata Banerjee is a name to reckon with while Mother Sharada needs no introduction ... the two cannot be and should not be compared because they

belong to different fields."

BJP leader Samik Bhattacharya too scoffed at the TMC leadership saying "syco-phancy has reached such levels in the Trinamool Congress that tomorrow no one will be surprised if someone claims that Swami Vivekananda has reborn in the same Banerjee family." Bhattacharya would not however name TMC general secretary and the Chief Minister's nephew Abhishek Banerjee.

# Patience of Kashmiri Pandits on dharna for past 50 days, wearing thin

**MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU**

Patience of Kashmiri migrant employees, sitting on a dharna for the last 50 days in support of their one point demand of relocation to the safer areas outside the Kashmir valley, is fast running thin.

Coupled with this the Union Territory administration is not leaving any stone unturned to pressurise these employees to resume their duties in the safer zones.

On June 29, the office of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar directed one dozen Kashmiri employees to report to the office of the Camp Director, Panthachowk to ensure smooth conduct of the Amarnath yatra.

In addition several employees, especially teachers, have been served show cause notices

by their school authorities to explain the reasons behind unauthorised absence from duties for a long time. So far the majority of these employees have not resumed their duties. At the same time they are a worried lot as many of them have been handed over relieving orders by their superior officers while directing them to resume their duties.

These migrant employees have launched a peaceful agitation soon after Rahul Bhat, a Kashmiri migrant employee deployed in the Kashmir valley under Prime Minister's package, was shot dead in cold blood inside the office of Tehsildar Chadoora in the central Kashmir district of Budgam on May 12.

So far the initiatives announced by the Union territory administration have not

enthused these employees and they continue to hold their ground in support of their demand. These initiatives included a promotion scheme for the PM package employees, transfer to safer zones in the district headquarters, and adequate security cover across their transit camps.

Even a high level meeting convened between the representatives of the Kashmiri migrant employees and the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha failed to break the impasse last month.

In the last 50 days these migrant employees held several rounds of discussions with the visiting bureaucrats, police officers, local politicians, took out candle light marches in the heart of Srinagar city near Lal Chowk but no major headway was achieved.



As per rough estimates around 70 percent kashmiri migrant employees have

already shifted to Jammu while rest of them have been camping inside their transit camps

and not stepping out as they continue to live under the shadow of guns.

## FROM PAGE 1

### MAHA TWIST: SHINDE CM, FADNAVIS HIS DEPUTY

At a media interaction he held jointly with the rebel Sena leader earlier in the afternoon, Fadnavis had taken the entire State by surprise that Shinde would take oath as the next Chief Minister at 7.30 pm and the BJP would support the Shinde Government.

Apparently not happy with the prospect of working under Shinde, Fadnavis had also announced that he would not be part of the Shinde Government. "We have submitted a list of the entire BJP 106 MLAs, the lists of MLAs by Shinde, 16 Independents and others to the Governor. Accordingly, Shinde will be sworn-in alone as the CM this evening at 7.30 pm at Raj Bhavan. I wouldn't be part of the Government. After the swearing in of Shinde, the Cabinet will be expanded to include Ministers from both the Shinde camp and the BJP," Fadnavis said.

The BJP leadership, which felt that the absence of Fadnavis in the new Government would send a wrong signal to the people in the State, persuaded him to join the Shinde Cabinet as a deputy Chief Minister. BJP national president JP Nanda spoke to Fadnavis and requested him to join the Shinde Cabinet as the Deputy Chief Minister, a request that the senior BJP leader and former chief minister accepted.

Later, a pleased Union Home Minister Amit Shah tweeted, "On the behest of BJP President Shri @JPNadda ji, Shri @Dev\_Fadnavis ji has taken a big heart and decided to join the government in the interest of the state of Maharashtra and the people. This decision is a sign of his true loyalty and service towards Maharashtra. For this I heartily congratulate him."

On his part, Shinde - who has claimed that he enjoys the support of 51 MLAs in the State Assembly - drove straight to "Sagar" bungalow, Fadnavis' official residence as the leader of the Opposition. From there, he and Fadnavis headed to Raj Bhavan and staked claim to form the next Government in the State. After receiving a go-head from the Governor to form the next Government, both Fadnavis and Shinde interacted with the media jointly.

Shinde profusely thanked Fadnavis for graciously handing over the post of the Chief Ministership to him. "By way of the strength of the MLAs that the BJP has, Fadnavis could have easily become the Chief Minister. But, he has graciously handed over the post to the Shiv Sainik and a loyal soldier of late Balasaheb Thackeray. I am very grateful to him. I had never seen any such person with

such a large heart".

"I will never betray the confidence that Fadnavis has reposed in me. I will fulfil the expectations of the people of the State. You will get to see a stable Government in the State," Shinde said.

Taking a pot shot at former Chief Minister and parent Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray, Shinde said, "If 50 party MLAs are taking a stand different that of him means he (Uddhav) will have to self-introspection. On several occasions, I had conveyed to him that the people were unhappy with him. But, he ignored my advice. It is nice that Balasaheb's Shiv Sainik (that is me) is becoming the Chief Minister. I will give a strong and stable government to the state.

Shinde said would work for the progress and development of the State which had practically halted since the past 30 months of the previous government and reiterated that he would follow the ideals of Balasaheb Thackeray's Hindutva.

Shinde's elevation as the Chief Minister came a day after Uddhav resigned from his post at the end of nine-day-long drama that saw Shinde - apparently working in tandem with the Opposition BJP - move along with 30-odd Sena MLA out of Mumbai to land at a Surat Hotel, from where his he flew them to Guwahati where more Sena MLAs joined the rebel MLAs at another five star hotel. The rebel group's strength swelled to 39 when they flew from Guwahati to Goa on Wednesday night en route to Mumbai.

After announcing his resignation both as the Chief Minister and also an MLC, Uddhav had said, "I am not interested in seeking a trust vote tomorrow. Let them (the rebel MLAs) take credit for bringing down the son of Balasaheb Thackeray. I do not want to take away that happiness from you... I will henceforth sit in the Shiv Sena Bhavan (Party headquarters). You cannot snatch away the Shiv Sena from me."

### CONG FEARS BJP MAY DO A MAHA IN JHARKHAND

The BJP always gave a clean and development oriented Government ever since Jharkhand was created, and it will continue to strive for good governance, he said.

Incidentally, several Congress leaders and State office bearers have been doing the rounds of AICC often complaining about the resentment within the coalition led by Soren. None from the Congress offered to comment on the series of differences except for remarking "the high command is well aware and taking care".

Soren's meeting with Shah raised eye-

brows, particularly in the Congress camp which suspects that the BJP might try to repeat Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra in Jharkhand, too. The Jharkhand CM was in Delhi to appear before the Election Commission in an office-for-profit case from allegations levelled against him by the BJP.

By fielding Murmu the BJP, which is facing difficulty in getting tribal votes in regions comprising Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal, has played a masterstroke.

The JMM-Congress combine in Jharkhand had won 25 of the 28 seats in the tribal belt in 2019, while the BJP managed only two seats. Overall, the JMM has 30, the Congress 16 and the BJP 25 MLAs in Jharkhand's 81-member legislature.

### FADNAVIS TO PLAY 2ND FIDDLE

"After BJP chief Nadda's direction, Fadnavis has shown large-heartedness by deciding to join the Government in the interests of the people. The decision reflects his true dedication to the State. I congratulate him for the decision," the Home Minister tweeted.

Earlier, when Fadnavis in his Press briefing said, "Shinde will be Chief Minister," and "I will not hold any post in the Government. I will ensure its smooth running with full support."

The surprise move that has virtually stunned Fadnavis backers, is seen as the BJP not wanting to give the impression to the public that the entire exercise (breaking of Shiv Sena) was not aimed at bringing back Fadnavis as CM of the State.

On Fadnavis accepting a junior post, party sources pointed out the example of Babulal Gaur who became Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh in 2004 after Uma Bharti's resignation due to a court case and later accepted Minister's post under new CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Similarly, they cited the example of Kailash Joshi working under Sunderlal Patwa. Secondly, the party believes that having Fadnavis as number 2 would work as a good check on the untested Shinde.

The BJP leadership is looking at 2024 Lok Sabha polls in projecting Shinde, an OBC, a major caste in Maharashtra. Fadnavis, though the first Brahmin CM of the State, is having a limited caste constituency. Party sources said in the situation backing a Shiv Sainik right now would go a long-way in appropriating "Bal Thackeray legacy" as long as the experiment lasts.

Notwithstanding the brave-face put by

Fadnavis, senior BJP State leaders loyal to ex-CM had openly expressed "deep disappointment" when Shinde's name was announced first as CM.

Reacting to the development, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP ) Sharad Pawar said Fadnavis was not happy and his face showed that. Addressing a Press conference, after the BJP leader was sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister in Shinde's Government, Pawar said, "In BJP, once the order comes - either from Delhi or Nagpur - it is followed without any compromise."

### 7 JAWANS DIE AS LANDSLIDE HITS TA CAMP

"Called an emergency meeting to assess the situation of the landslide in Tupul today. The search and rescue operation are already underway. Let's keep them in our prayers today. Ambulances along with doctors have also been dispatched to assist in the operation," Singh tweeted. He also visited the mishap site. Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to the Manipur Chief Minister and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw regarding the mishap.

The Army said its troops, along with Assam Rifles and Territorial Army, continued the rescue operations throughout the day in and around Tupul railway station in the Noney district despite the inclement weather. Teams of Indian railways, civil administration, NDRE, SDRF and locals of Noney district are also actively contributing in the search. So far, 13 soldiers of the Territorial Army and five civilians have been rescued, while the mortal remains of seven soldiers and one civilian have been recovered.

Relentless search operations will continue during the night. Engineering equipment, including bulldozers, have been pressed into service for creating access to the incident site and help in the rescue efforts.

### ISRO'S SECOND SUCCESS IN A WEEK

"With today's mission, all these three satellites are placed in the right orbit," Somanath said in his post-launch address from the Mission Control Centre.

After the primary mission, the PSLV 4th stage is going to "write some poems in orbit," he said, referring to the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM).

POEM is going to be functional after this, taking over the control of the primary mission computer to another one and the fourth stage will be powered, generating

power on board and will be stabilised with altitude control and host some experiments by some of young startups enabled by InSpace, Somanath, also Secretary, Department of Space, said. Mission Director SR Biju described the launch as "wonderful" and said the launch vehicle injected the three "precious" satellites in the desired orbit.

He also said PSLV was in a different configuration this time, the core alone version, "and we are coming back with this variant after a pretty long time." "We had to introduce some changes to improve the productionisation of PSLV so that we can meet the growing demand of customers and all those changes which we have implemented have yielded results," he said. The idea for this mission was conceptualised in a record time of three months and "it is effectively two missions rolled into one mission," he added.

D Radhakrishnan, CMD, NSIL, said their association with Singapore customer has been quite long. It was a national mission that NSIL was undertaking and in the coming months and years, there will be many more dedicated missions for its customers, both national and international, he said.

Earlier, the launch vehicle lifted off at 6.02 pm at the end of the 25-hour countdown.

This is the 55th mission of PSLV, often described as ISRO's trusted workhorse and the 15th one using the PSLV-Core Alone variant. It also marks the 16th PSLV launch from the second launch pad.

The mission, which is designed to orbit DS-EO satellite along with two other co-passenger satellites from ST Electronics, Singapore, proposes to demonstrate the utilisation of the spent upper stage of the launch vehicle as a stabilised platform for scientific payloads subsequent to the separation of the satellites, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said. DS-EO is a 365 kg satellite while NeuSAR weighs 155 kg. Both belong to Singapore and are built by Starac Initiative of the Republic of Korea, while the third satellite is a 2.8 kg SCOOB-1 of Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. POEM DS-EO carries an Electro-Optic, multi-spectral payload that will provide full colour images for land classification, and serving Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief needs. NeuSAR is Singapore's first small commercial satellite carrying aR payload, which is capable of providing images in day and night and under all weather conditions. SCOOB-1 is the first in the Student Satellite Series (S3-I), a hands-on student training programme from the Satellite Research Centre (SaRC) at Singapore's NTU School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

## Swamy seeks Governor sanction to prosecute DMK leader

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI**

The controversy over the call made by DMK spokesman R Rajiv Gandhi to Dravidians to subject the Brahmins to genocide took a curious turn on Thursday as Dr Subramanian Swamy, president, Virat Hindustan Sangham and former union minister for law and justice, writing to Governor RN Ravi seeking permission to prosecute the former. Gandhi had made a speech on June 3 exhorting the Dravidians to annihilate the Brahmins as demanded by E V Ramasami Naicker, founder of the Dravidian movement. The DMK spokesman had reiterated the demand made by Naicker (addressed as Periyar by Dravidian activists) in the 1960s that there should be an ethnic cleansing of Tamil Nadu by finishing off the Brahmins.

"This is a blatant violation of the Representation of People's Act (RPA) and the Election Commission of India should derecognise the DMK," Dr Swamy had asked the ECI in a letter.

But his letter to Governor Ravi seeking his sanction to prosecute the DMK leader for his controversial speech has evoked interest in Tamil Nadu. Though Gandhi is neither an elected member of assembly or parliament nor holding any position in Government, Dr Swamy chose to approach the Governor for permission to drag the DMK spokesman to court. The former union minister has sought permission under Section 196 of the Criminal Procedure Code to prosecute Gandhi for offences against the State and for criminal conspiracy to commit such an offence.



# 48% Americans want Trump charged for 1/6, says survey

AP ■ WASHINGTON

About half of Americans believe former President Donald Trump should be charged with a crime for his role in the US Capitol attack on Jan. 6, 2021, a new poll shows. The survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that 48% of US adults say the former president should be charged with a crime for his role, while 31% say he should not be charged. An additional 20% say they don't know enough to have an opinion. Fifty-eight per cent say Trump bears a great deal or quite a bit of responsibility for what happened that day.

The poll was conducted after five public hearings by the House committee, investigating Jan. 6, which has sought to paint Trump's potential criminal culpability in the events that led to deadly insurrection. But it was taken before Tuesday's surprise hearing featuring former Trump White House aide Cassidy Hutchinson. Her explosive testimony provided the most compelling evidence yet that the former president could be linked to a federal crime, experts say.

Views on Trump's criminal liability break down predictably along party lines, with 86% of Democrats but only 10% of Republicans saying Trump should be charged with a crime. Among Republicans, 68% say he should not be charged and 21% say they don't know. Still, the fact that nearly half the country believes he should be prosecuted is a remarkable position for the former president, pointing to the difficulties he could face if he makes another run at the White House in 2024.

For Ella Metz, a South Carolina Democrat, Trump's culpability has been clear from the beginning, when he urged his supporters to march to the Capitol on the morning of Jan. 6 and "fight like hell." "It was meant to provoke violence because he kept encouraging them," the 86-year-old told The Associated Press. "As it happened, I



watched it all and I just thought why doesn't somebody stop this? Why doesn't he stop this?"

Chris Schloemer, a Texas independent, agreed Trump holds responsibility for egging on the crowd with his baseless claims of election fraud. But, the 61-year-old doesn't lay the blame solely on Trump. Schloemer feels Republicans in Congress have a hand in what happened that day, too: "I feel like people were afraid of Donald Trump, especially Republican politicians, and so they wouldn't rein him in, and I think that just emboldened him."

And he's not alone. While views of Trump's role have not changed since December, Americans are somewhat more likely now than they were then to say Republicans in Congress were significantly responsible for the events of Jan. 6. Forty-six percent say that now, up slightly from 41% in December. An additional 21% say GOP lawmakers had some responsibility and 30% say they were not responsible. The change in the share saying Republicans in Congress have a large amount of responsibility was driven mostly by Democrats and independents.

Ulysses Bryant, a Democrat from Florida, said while he always believed Trump and the rioters should be charged with a crime, he hadn't known of the involvement of congressional Republicans until he began to follow the hearings.

Close to 6 in 10 Americans — 56% — say they followed news about the congressional hearings. A smaller but still sizeable share — 42% — say they watched or listened.

The nine-member panel, comprised of seven Democrats and two Republicans, has worked around the clock for the past year to investigate the connection between Trump and his allies and the violence and chaos that ensued on the Capitol. The public hearing phase of their investigation is meant to put all of that investigative work on display to the American public in an effort to create a historical record of what occurred.

Seventy-five percent of Democrats and 42% of Republicans say they followed news about the hearings. More Democrats than Republicans also say they tuned in, 58% to 27%. The first of the public hearings, which began in

early June, received high ratings for TV viewership, though subsequent hearings have received more modest ratings.

Kathlyn Keller, a retired investment banker from San Francisco, is one of the GOP voters who has tuned into the hearings and still believes Trump holds no responsibility for the events of that day.

The 83-year-old thinks the only people who should be charged are those who brought weapons to the Capitol, or anyone who got into the building and caused damage inside. Trump "absolutely shouldn't be charged with anything," she told AP.

Nonetheless, the committee plans to continue its congressional probe and present new evidence in the coming weeks to its many viewers, including the most important one: Attorney General Merrick Garland. Regardless of public opinion about Trump's likely criminal involvement, lawmakers continue to face a stark reality: While they can investigate Jan. 6 and issue subpoenas to gather information, only the Justice Department can bring criminal charges.

But there are clear signs in recent weeks that the Justice Department appears to be escalating its probe of pro-Trump efforts to overturn the 2020 election. Federal agents on Wednesday seized the cell phone of Trump lawyer John Eastman, who was the architect behind a plan to pressure then-Vice President Mike Pence into rejecting the electoral college results.

Last week, authorities searched the Virginia home of Jeffrey Clark, who was known at the Justice Department to champion Trump's false claims of election fraud. Agents also served subpoenas to the Republican Party chairmen of Arizona, Nevada and Georgia, three states that went for President Joe Biden and where Trump allies created slates of "alternate electors" intended to subvert the vote. And Republicans in two other states — Michigan and Pennsylvania — disclosed they had been interviewed by the FBI.

# 26/11 main handler declared dead now being grilled by Pak

PTI ■ LAHORE

Sajid Majeed Mir, one of the most wanted terrorists and the main handler of the 2008 Mumbai attacks who was once declared dead by Pakistan, will be interrogated by authorities here for his role in the deadly carnage, an official said on Thursday.

Mir, 43, a member of the banned Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) terrorist group, was jailed for over 15 years in a terror-financing case by an Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Lahore earlier this month as part of Pakistan's bid to exit from the grey list of the FATF.

"A Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) team will interrogate Mir in Gujranwala jail for his alleged role in the Mumbai Attack case," a senior FIA officer associated with the probe of the 26/11 case, told PTI. He is imprisoned in the Central Jail Gujranwala.

Mir has been convicted in a separate terror financing case that has nothing to do with the Mumbai attack case. The FIA official said Mir was earlier declared a proclaimed offender in this case. "Mir, who allegedly had directed the attackers from Lahore during the siege in Mumbai, will also be quizzed for his links with Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed and LeT operation commander Zakir Rehman Lakhvi and financing the attack," the official said. The 26/11 case has been pending in the anti-terrorism courts in Rawalpindi/Islamabad since 2009. Six arrested suspects — Abdul Wajid, Mazhar Iqbal, Hamad Amin Sadiq, Shahid Jamil Riaz, Jamil Ahmed, and Younis Anjum — are facing charges of abetment to murder, attempted murder, planning and executing the Mumbai attacks

and they are detained at the Adiala Jail Rawalpindi.

The FIA said since India has refused to send its 24 witnesses to Pakistan for recording their statements and other evidence, the case cannot proceed further. Mumbai attacks mastermind Hafiz Saeed and Lakhvi are detained at Kot Lakhpatti jail in Lahore, serving a term of several years in terror financing cases registered in the Punjab province. In November 2008, ten LeT terrorists had sailed into Mumbai from Karachi and carried out coordinated attacks, killing 166 people and injuring over 300. Nine of the attackers were killed while lone survivor Ajmal Kasab was caught and hanged after a trial. Meanwhile, Mir's 15.5 years conviction in a terror-financing case registered in the Counter-Terrorism Department in Gujranwala has been made on three counts and the sentence will run concurrently.

According to the ATC order, a copy of which is available with PTI, Mir was sentenced to six months, seven years, and eight years respectively under the Anti-Terrorism Act. Interestingly, Pakistani authorities had earlier claimed that Mir had died, but Western countries remained unconvinced and demanded proof of his death. This issue became a major sticking point in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)'s assessment of Pakistan's progress on the action plan late last year.

This was where things finally started moving in Mir's case, leading to his arrest and prosecution. Before the last meeting of the FATF, Pakistan reportedly told the Paris-based agency that it had arrested and prosecuted Mir in order to seek its removal from the FATF's grey list.

# Calls for Georgia chief to resign after Black man's shooting

AP ■ SAVANNAH (US)

Religious leaders and others in Savannah, Georgia's oldest city, called Wednesday for the police chief's resignation and a federal investigation into local officer-involved shootings, including one last week that left a Black man dead.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation said it is independently investigating Friday's fatal shooting of a man who officers spotted walking around midday in the middle of a street. The man, Saudi Arai Lee, 31, of Savannah, lived in the neighbourhood where the shooting occurred.

"Family after family are crying because of sons or their daughters shot down by this police department and it must stop," Elder James Johnson, founder of the activist group Racial Justice Network, said at a news conference Wednesday.

"I don't know if it's the training or a fear of a Black man, but seems like they shoot and ask questions later, and we cannot and will not tolerate this," he said.

Officers approached Lee to speak with him, the GBI said. The agency said Lee immediately showed them his wallet, saying it contained his weapons permit, and then lifted his shirt and removed a weapon from a holster. Authorities said a short chase followed and that Lee was shot by Savannah Police Officer Ernest Ferguson, who is white. Officials said emergency medical aid was rendered but Lee was later pronounced dead at a hospital.

"This man had a legal concealed weapons permit and still was shot down. It should never be a death sentence (for) a Black man for carrying a weapon," Johnson said.

# Marcos takes helm in Philippines, silent on father's abuses

AP ■ MANILA (PHILIPPINES)

Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the namesake son of an ousted dictator, praised his father's legacy and glossed over its violent past as he was sworn in as Philippine president on Thursday after a stunning election victory that opponents say was pulled off by whitewashing his family's image.

His rise to power, 36 years after an army-backed "People Power" revolt booted his father from office and into global infamy, upends politics in the Asian democracy, where a public holiday, monuments and the Philippine Constitution stand as reminders of the end of Ferdinand Marcos Sr.'s tyrannical rule.

But in his inaugural speech, Marcos Jr. defended the legacy of his late father, who he said accomplished many things that had not been done since the country's independence.

"He got it done, sometimes with the needed support, sometimes without. So will it be with his son," he said to applause from his supporters in the crowd. "You will get no excuses from me."

"My father built more and better

roads, produced more rice than all administrations before his," Marcos Jr. said.

He praised the infrastructure projects by his predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, who ended his six-year term also with a legacy of violence, strongman rule and contempt for those who stood in his path.

The new president called for unity, saying "we will go farther together than against each other. He did not touch on the human rights atrocities and plunder his father was accused of, saying he would not talk about the past but the future.

Activists and survivors of the martial law era under his father protested Marcos Jr.'s inauguration, which took place at a nighttime ceremony at the steps of the National Museum in Manila.

Thousands of police officers, including anti-riot contingents, SWAT commandos and snipers, were deployed in the bayside tourist district for security.

Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan and US Vice President Kamala Harris's husband Doug Emhoff were among foreign dignitaries who attend-



ed the event that featured a 21-gun salute, a military parade and air force jet fly-bys.

"Wow is this really happening?" asked Bonifacio Ilagan, a 70-year-old activist who was detained and severely tortured by counterinsurgency forces during the elder Marcos's rule. "For victims of martial law like me, this is a nightmare."

Marching in the streets, the protesters displayed placards that read, "Never again to martial law" and "Reject Marcos-Duterte".

Such historical baggage and antagonism stand to hound Marcos Jr. During a six-year presidency beginning at a time of intense crises.

The Philippines has been among the countries worst-hit in Asia by the two-year coronavirus pandemic, after more than 60,000 deaths and extended lockdowns sent the economy to its worst recession since World War II and worsened poverty, unemployment and hunger.

As the pandemic was easing early this year, Russia's invasion of Ukraine

sent global inflation soaring and sparked fears of food shortages.

Last week, Marcos Jr. Announced he would serve as secretary of agriculture temporarily after he takes office to prepare for possible food supply emergencies.

He also inherits decades-old Muslim and communist insurgencies, crime, gaping inequality and political divisions inflamed by his election.

Congress last month proclaimed his landslide victory, as well as that of his running mate Sara Duterte, the daughter of the outgoing president, in the vice-presidential race.

"I ask you all pray for me, wish me well. I want to do well because when the president does well, the country does well," he said after his congressional proclamation. Marcos Jr. Received more than 31 million votes and Sara Duterte more than 32 million of the more than 55 million votes cast in the May 9 election — massive victories that will provide them robust political capital as they face tremendous challenges as well as doubts arising from their fathers' reputations. It was the first majority presidential victory in the Philippines in decades.

# Xi arrives in Hong Kong for 25th anniv of handover



AP ■ HONG KONG

Chinese leader Xi Jinping arrived in Hong Kong on Thursday ahead of the 25th anniversary of the British handover and after a two-year transformation bringing the city more tightly under Communist Party control. It is Xi's first trip outside of mainland China in nearly 2 ½ years.

Supporters waving Chinese and Hong Kong flags chanted "Welcome, welcome! Warm welcome!" as Xi's train pulled into the train station.

Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, were welcomed by city leader Carrie Lam as they alighted the train. Xi waved at supporters who welcomed him on the platform, and later greeted John Lee, the city's incoming leader, and Leung Chun-ying, a former chief executive of the city, along with other officials.

"I'm very happy to be in Hong Kong," Xi said in a speech at the Hong Kong West Kowloon train station. "It's been five years since I last visited, and in the past five years I've been paying attention to and thinking about Hong Kong."

Under Xi's leadership, China has reshaped Hong Kong in the past two years, cracking down on protest and freedom of speech and introducing a more patriotic curriculum in schools. The changes have all but eliminated opposition voices and driven many to leave.

Hong Kong and nearby Macao are special administrative regions that are governed separately from the rest of China, known as the Chinese mainland.

Xi has not left China since the COVID-19 pandemic took hold. China has maintained a strict "zero-COVID" policy that aims to keep the virus out. Xi's last overseas trip was to Myanmar in January 2020.

At the train station, Xi said Hong Kong has overcome many challenges over the years and had been "reborn from the ashes" with "vigorous vitality."

"As long as we stick to the one country, two systems' framework, Hong Kong will certainly have a brighter future and will make new and bigger contributions to the great rejuvenation of the Chinese people," he said.

Later Thursday, Xi is expected to visit the Hong Kong Science Park before meeting with pro-Beijing politicians and tycoons, and then attend a closed-door banquet hosted by Lam, the outgoing chief executive, according to local newspaper South China Morning Post.

Both Xi and Peng are likely to spend Thursday night in the Chinese city of Shenzhen — 15 minutes away from Hong Kong by high-speed train — and return to the city on Friday morning to attend the July 1 events. On Friday, Xi will attend a ceremony marking Hong Kong's return to Chinese rule on July 1, 1997 and officiate an inauguration ceremony for the new government led by incoming leader Lee.

Ahead of his arrival in Hong Kong, thousands of guests — including top officials, lawmakers and diplomats — checked in to quarantine hotels earlier this week and have been taking daily nucleic acid tests as part of coronavirus precautions.

# Israel's experiment with diverse coalition Govt comes to end

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

Israel's experiment with the most diverse political alliance ranging from the Left, Centre and Right to even an Islamist Arab party finally came to an end on Thursday with the Knesset voting to disperse itself in an overwhelming 92-0 vote, clearing the way for fresh polls — the fifth in less than four years. The "anti-Netanyahu" glue (the resolve to keep former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu away from power) that kept the diverse partners with sharp ideological differences together for a little more than a year finally gave in under the weight of its incompatibility.

Uncomfortable members kept the government on its toes all through its stint and chose to go with "their conscience" finally making it untenable while the Netanyahu bloc remained loyal to him, blocking the government even on issues which otherwise gelled along with their ideology.

The decision to dissolve the 120-member Knesset (Parliament) came right up to the wire, as Israel stood on the threshold of entering an



unprecedented and chaotic legal situation on the West Bank.

Israel set up Israeli legal status for settlers in the West Bank, while creating separate legal treatment for Palestinians living in the same locations, through emergency regulations that were put in place in 1967 and must be renewed every five years.

The current regulations were to expire Thursday at midnight and in one of the events that precipitated the coalition's demise, the government was unable to muster support to pass the renewal against an opposition determined to block even laws it ide-

ologically supports in order to bring about the government's end. Israel's Knesset voted to disband itself on Thursday morning, sending the country reeling toward its fifth election since 2019. The last general election was held in March 2021. Parliament voted to disperse 92-0, setting the next round of elections on November 1.

The coalition agreement paves the way for Foreign Minister and Alternate Prime Minister Yair Lapid, 58, to formally succeed as Prime Minister at midnight when Naftali Bennett, 50, assumes the role of an Alternate Prime Minister.

# Iran-US nuclear talks end without making progress

AP ■ DUBAI

Indirect negotiations between Iran and the US over Tehran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers ended Wednesday in Qatar after failing to make significant progress amid a growing crisis over the Islamic Republic's atomic program, diplomats said.

The Doha talks broke up after two days without any sign of a breakthrough, months after talks in Vienna among all of the deal's parties went on "pause."

In the time since, Iran shut off surveillance cameras of international inspectors and now has enough high-enriched uranium to potentially fashion into at least one nuclear bomb if it chose.

And with Iran and the US blaming each other for the talks' failure, it remains unclear when — or if — there will be another round of negotiations.

European Union mediator Enrique Mora on Twitter described as "intense" the two

days of talks in Doha.

"Unfortunately, not yet the progress the EU team as coordinator had hoped-for," Mora wrote. "We will keep working with even greater urgency to bring back on track a key deal for non-proliferation and regional stability."

Mora's comments came hours after the semiofficial Tasnim news agency, believed to be close to Iran's hard-line Revolutionary Guard, described the negotiations as finished hours before they ended and having "no effect on breaking the deadlock in the talks."

Tasnim claimed that the American position did not include "a guarantee for Iran benefiting economically from the deal," quoting what it described as unnamed "informed sources."

"Washington is seeking to revive the (deal) in order to limit Iran without economic achievement for our country," the Tasnim report claimed. A key sticking point has been American sanctions targeting the Guard.

# R Kelly sentenced to 30 years in sex trafficking case

AP N NEW YORK

Disgraced R&B superstar R. Kelly, were sentenced Wednesday to 30 years in prison for using his fame to sexually abuse young fans, including some who were just children, in a systematic scheme that went on for decades.

Through tears and anger, several of Kelly's accusers told a court in New York City, and the singer himself, that he had misled and preyed upon them.

"You made me do things that broke my spirit. I literally wished I would die because of how low you made me feel," said one unnamed survivor, directly addressing Kelly, who kept his hands folded and his eyes downcast. "Do you remember that?" she asked.

Kelly, 55, didn't give a statement and showed no reaction on hearing his penalty, which also included a \$100,000 fine. He has denied wrongdoing, and he plans to appeal his conviction. The Grammy-winning, multi-platinum-selling songwriter was found guilty last year of racketeering and sex trafficking at a trial that gave voice to accusers who had previously wondered if their stories were being ignored because they were Black women.



# PLISKOVA OUT OF WIMBLEDON

AP ■ LONDON

Petra Kvitova has plenty of experience on the grass courts of Wimbledon. After all, she's a two-time champion at the All England Club.

But that doesn't mean everything is easy for her once she steps onto the green courts in southwest London.

She has spoken about being nervous when she comes to Wimbledon, and she showed some of those nerves on Thursday when she beat Ana Bogdan 6-1, 7-6 (5).

It was a straight-set victory, but the second set wasn't straightforward.

Kvitova was leading 5-1 when Bogdan started to reel off game after game. Then Kvitova had a match point while serving at 5-4, but failed to convert that chance and then the game itself, eventually leading to the tiebreaker.

"Especially a few games on my serve, it was really long games, and mentally very tough," the 25th-seeded Kvitova said. "I think maybe even this took some energy from my serve and I just couldn't make it."

She still pulled it out in the end, like she has done so many times in the past at Wimbledon. She won her first title in 2011, and added the second in 2014. But she was attacked in her home in 2016 and suffered knife injuries to her playing left hand. She later had surgery and needed more than five months to recover.

Last week, she won the fifth grass-court title of her career at a tournament in Eastbourne, England.

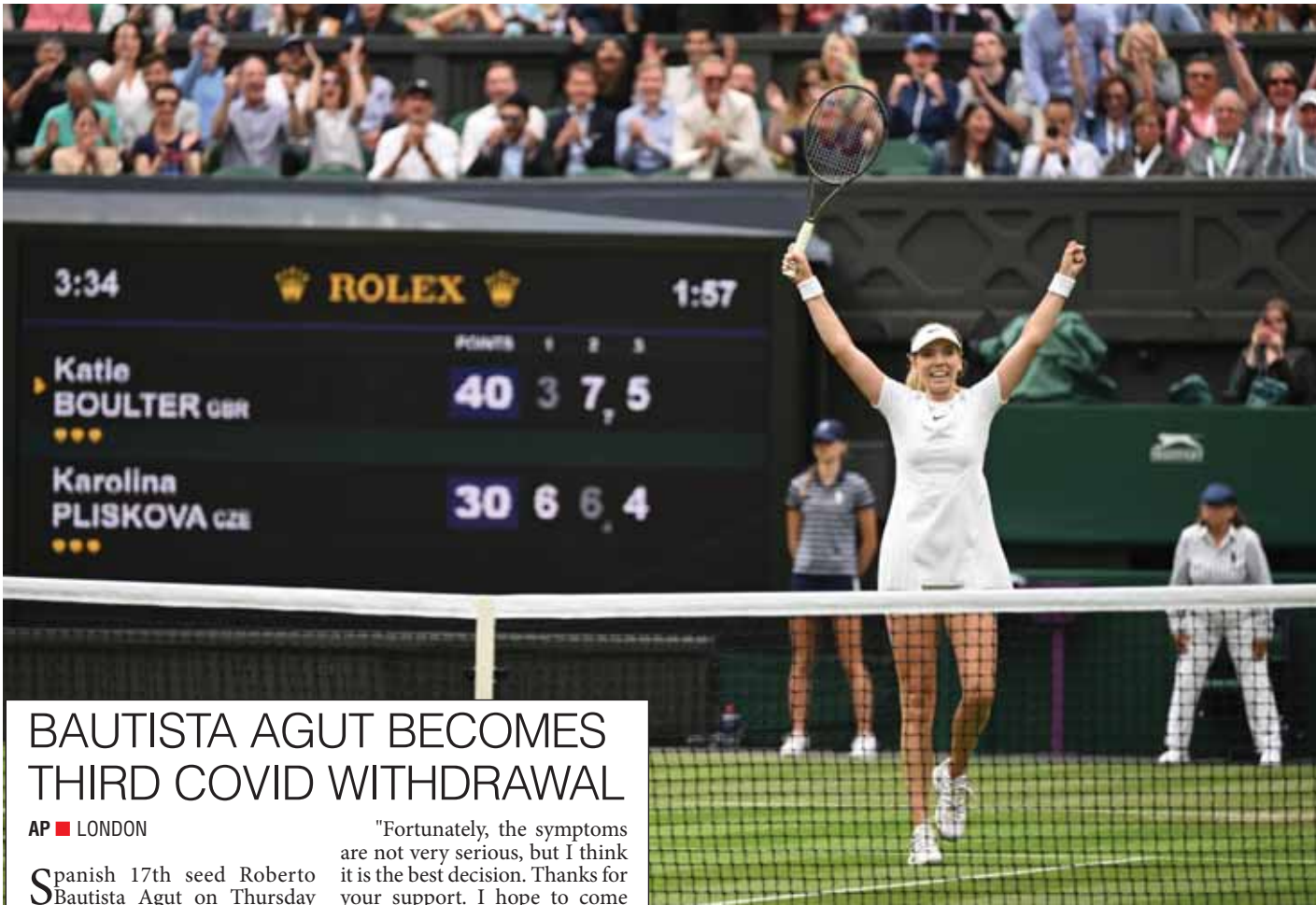
That should have given her plenty of confidence heading into this tournament, and this match.

"Somehow I made it," Kvitova said on court. "I don't know how, but I did it."

Kvitova will next face Paula Badosa. The fourth-seeded Spaniard defeated Irina Bara 6-3, 6-2.

Sixth-seeded Karolina Pliskova, who reached the Wimbledon final last year, was eliminated on Centre Court. The Czech player lost to British wild-card entry Katie Boulter 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-4.

The 25-year-old Boulter also beat Pliskova last week at a warmup tournament in Eastbourne for her



## BAUTISTA AGUT BECOMES THIRD COVID WITHDRAWAL

AP ■ LONDON

Spanish 17th seed Roberto Bautista Agut on Thursday became the third player to withdraw from this year's Wimbledon with Covid-19 in a fresh blow for the tournament, which has returned to full capacity this year.

"Today I have notified @Wimbledon of my withdrawal. I have tested positive for Covid-19," tweeted the 34-year-old.

"Fortunately, the symptoms are not very serious, but I think it is the best decision. Thanks for your support. I hope to come back soon."

The 2019 semi-finalist joins 2021 runner-up Matteo Berrettini as well as 2017 finalist Marin Cilic in pulling out of the event in the first week due to coronavirus.

Bautista Agut's withdrawal means that Colombia's Daniel Elahi Galan receives a walkover into the third round.

entry Paul Jubb.

"Getting over the line in that first round was massive," Kyrgios said. "Today I was kind of in my zone. I just wanted to remind everyone that I'm pretty good."

Kyrgios will next face Stefanos Tsitsipas. The fourth-seeded Greek beat Jordan Thompson 6-2, 6-3, 7-5 on No. 1 Court.

Tsitsipas will be playing in the third round at the All England Club for the first time since 2018. He lost in the first round last year and 2019. His best Wimbledon result was reaching the fourth round in 2018.

No. 11 Taylor Fitz of the United States also advanced, along with No. 21 Botić van de Zandschulp of the Netherlands and Richard Gasquet of France.

## COVID-19 hits indian men's hockey team

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The Indian men's hockey team's preparations for the Commonwealth Games was on Thursday hit by a COVID-19 outbreak as five people, including striker Gurjant Singh and head coach Graham Reid, have tested positive for the virus, here.

The RT-PCR tests were conducted on Wednesday morning. The infected, who are suffering from mild symptoms, have been placed under isolation.

"Two players and three members of the Support Staff of the Indian Men's Hockey team, currently preparing for the Commonwealth Games 2022 have tested positive for Covid-19," Hockey India said in the media release without naming anyone.

However, a team source told PTI, "Gurjant and Graham Reid have contracted the infection. Ashok Kumar Chinnaswamy, the video analyst of the side has also tested positive."

Besides Gurjant, the other player to have tested positive is midfielder Ashish Kumar Topno.

PR Sreejesh, Manpreet Singh, Pawan, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Harmanpreet Singh, Varun Kumara and Amit Rohidas are among the 31 players training in the camp being held at the SAI campus here.

The players had assembled for the camp after competing at the FIH Hockey Pro League double-headers against Belgium and the Netherlands.

The camp is set to conclude on July 23 ahead of the team's departure for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

## Prannoy stuns world No.4, joins Sindhu in quarters

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Two-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu and Thomas Cup star HS Prannoy secured contrasting wins to enter the quarterfinals of the Malaysia Open Super 750 badminton tournament here on Thursday.

Unseeded Prannoy, who won all his matches during India's historic Thomas Cup triumph this year, registered the biggest upset of the day when he eliminated world No 4 Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei 21-15, 21-7 in contest that lasted more than 30 minutes.

Fresh from his semifinal finish at the Indonesia Open last week, the 29-year-old was a slow starter in both the games. But once he gained his ground, there was no stopping the Indian, who sealed his last-eight passage with 12 points on the trot.

The world No 21 Indian will next face seventh seed Jonatan Christie of Indonesia, against whom his head-to-head record is 3-5.

Former world champion



Sindhu took some time to adjust to the game of Thailand youngster Phittayaporn Chaiwan as the world No 7 Indian lost the opening game before pulling off a 19-21, 21-9, 21-14 win in a 57-minute duel.

Sindhu, seeded seventh, will next face her nemesis Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei, against whom she has a lopsided 5-15 head-to-head record including a string of five losses on the trot.

Facing the Thai 21-year-old

for the first time, Sindhu took some time to assess her opponent's deceptive style of play.

Sindhu didn't let the opening game slip away and kept things close before the 21-year-old produced a straight smash to pocket the first game.

Sindhu got her acts together after the change of ends and drew level, winning the second with a breeze.

In the third game, the youngster showed some fight and held the fancied Indian 10-10, before she displayed the best rally of the match to take it 11-10 at interval.

A fine rally closer to the net gave Sindhu a slender 13-10 lead, before she made it 18-14 and then sealed the contest.

### SATWIK-CHIRAG PULL OUT

Parupalli Kashyap, however, failed to make the last-eight round, going down to Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn 19-21, 10-21. Meanwhile, men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty gave a walkover to the local pair of Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin.

"Satwik pulled a muscle in his core. He was better today but not enough to play and with Commonwealth Games around, the coaches and physios advised him to not play. Hence, Satwik-Chirag pulled out," said an official.

## Davis Cup 2022: India to face Norway on September 16-17

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hosts Norway have confirmed that they will host the Indian Davis Cup team on September 16 and 17 in their next World Group I tie, the All India Tennis Association (AITA) announced on Thursday.

The hosts have a choice playing either on Thursday-Friday or Friday-Saturday and Norway have chosen the first option.

India will face Norway for the first time in the prestigious event.

"There is a lot of hope and anticipation amongst the fans as India and Norway will face each other for the first time in the history of the Davis cup and we look forward to observe some scintillating Tennis from the Men in Blue," the AITA said in a statement.

## AIFF general secretary Kushal Das resigns

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The controversial All India Football Federation (AIFF) general secretary Kushal Das has resigned from his post on "health grounds", ending his 12-year tenure which was often marred by allegations of financial improprieties.

Das, who was appointed to the top post in 2010, has been on leave since June 20 on health grounds, though many in football circles said he was kept out of his job by the Committee of Administrators (COA) after a Comptroller and Auditor General audit found multiple financial anomalies, which are being currently probed.

"Kushal Das, General Secretary of All India Football Federation has resigned from his post citing medical reasons. The All India Football Federation respects his decision, and thanks him for his contribution and guidance during his tenure in office. We wish him good health and luck in his future endeavours," AIFF stated.

## LAFC 'perfect for me', says Chiellini

AP ■ LOS ANGELES

Veteran Italy and Juventus defender Giorgio Chiellini on Wednesday said he's looking forward to bringing a high level of play and a wealth of experience to Los Angeles FC as they pursue the Major League Soccer crown.

"I am fully convinced that this club is perfect for me," Chiellini said in his first official press conference for LAFC, flashing his new No 14 jersey. Since announcing the acquisition of Chiellini two weeks ago, the club have confirmed the imminent arrival of Wales captain Gareth Bale on a 12-month contract that features options through 2024.

Chiellini, 37, said he believed he had plenty to contribute to the young side, and that his homework had convinced him that he would find MLS a worthy occupation.

"I spoke with Andrea (Pirlo) and Alessandro (Nesta) and they always talk very well about this league," he said.



"Surely there are some differences.

"It's a different football from the Italian (league) but every team has its own style.

"This team is perfect for me because it's full of young players and they can also help me," he said. "It's impossible for me to have the same physical characteristics I had 10 years ago, but I can bring something to them. We have to create a good mix of experience and enthusiasm to become a winning group."

## Neeraj to spearhead 22-member Indian team in World C'ships

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will headline a 22-member Indian athletics team at the World Championships to be held in Eugene, USA from July 15 to 24.

The selected team includes 17 men and five women athletes.

Race walker Bhawana Jat and veteran discus thrower Seema Punia has withdrawn from the elite championships.

Just like Bhawana, Seema gave the event a miss as she too wanted to focus on the Commonwealth Games, an event where she bagged medals in the last four editions.

"She wants to concentrate on the Commonwealth Games, where she won four medals. She feels she has better chance there and we also feel the same," Athletics Federation of India (AFI) president Adilee Sumariwala said while announcing the team.

Besides Chopra and Rohit Yadav is the other javelin thrower in the team.

3000m steeplechaser Avinash Sable, shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor, long



jumpers Murali Sreeshankar and Muhammed Anees Yahiya, triple jump trio of Abdulla Aboobacker, Praveen Chithravel and Eldhose Paul, all of whom have qualified, Sandeep Kumar (20km Race Walking), MP Jabir

(400m Hurdles), Noah Nirmal Tom, Muhammed Ajmal, Naganathan Pandi, Rajesh Ramesh and Muhammed Anas Yahiya (4x400m) have found a place in the team. The squad also includes

Amoj Jacob (4x400m) but his participation is subject to fitness. In case he is not fit, Arokia Rajiv will replace him in the relay squad.

Among women, S Dhanalakshmi (200m), Aishwarya Kailash Mishra (400m), Parul Chaudhary (3000m Steeplechase), Annu Rani (Javelin Throw) and Priyanka Goswami (20km Walk) have made the cut.

The only surprises in the squad are the inclusion of Parul and Jabir.

Jeswin Aldrin, who had already qualified for the championships, however missed the cut.

Aishwarya Mishra, who evaded from dope testing agencies last month but was allowed by AFI to compete in National Inter-State Championships, has been selected with a rider. "She will be subject to trails in 400m and if she qualifies she will go. She will undergo electronic timing as well NADA testing," Sumariwala said.

Asked if she was tested in the National Inter-State Championships, the AFI president said: "As far as I know she

was tested."

On what explanation Mishra gave after evading dope tests, Sumariwala said: "She went to visit her ailing grandmother and lost her phone. That was her explanation."

Sumariwala said the team will head to Chula Vista, California for a short stint before heading to Eugene for the event.

"The team has been selected on the basis of world ranking and qualification standards laid down by the World Athletics," he said.

"The team will leave for Chula Vista soon where it will have a short stint before World Championships."

The contingent will for the USA in three batches with the first group scheduled to leave on Saturday, followed by the next on Monday and the third and final by July 5.

The decision to send the team in batches was taken due to time taken for getting US visa.

Indian athletics chief coach Radhakrishnan Nair informed that 11 visas have already been granted and the next set of interviews are lined up for Friday.



# India ready to face England 2.0

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Never before has he navigated the choppy waters of leadership but Jasprit Bumrah will certainly like to showcase his captaincy acumen while leading a slightly under-prepared India against a vastly improved England in the rescheduled fifth Test, starting here on Friday.

India were leading the five-match series 2-1 when multiple COVID-19 cases in their camp led to the postponement of the final game which was a part of the World Test Championship.

Nine months have passed since and a lot of water has flown through the Thames with the then captain Virat Kohli relinquishing Test captaincy. His successor, Rohit Sharma, is missing out on this game after testing positive for COVID-19.

Worse, Rohit's designated deputy KL Rahul is also out after having undergone a surgery for sports hernia.

In this backdrop of musical chair of Indian captaincy, the gauntlet has been thrown at Bumrah, arguably one of the finest fast bowlers in the history of Indian cricket and now set to be the 36th man to lead the



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SONY TEN 3, 4 & SIX

extended net session and Indian teams, since Mahendra Singh Dhoni took over as captain, has hardly played official first-class games as a pre-cursor to the Test matches.

James Anderson might be a month short of his 40th birthday but those magical wrists can still make the ball dart around and it will be a different experience for Shubman Gill or Shreyas Iyer.

Cheteshwar Pujara has scored a bagful of county runs but that psychological disadvantage of facing the very first ball of an innings, if he is asked to open, could clutter his mind.

Hanuma Vihari is a solid player but would need support from the other end, considering he has a defensive game.

It remains to be seen who will be India's bowling all-rounder. Will it be Ravichandran Ashwin, who isn't an automatic choice in overseas conditions or Shardul Thakur, who hasn't done his chances any harm with some big-hearted efforts in SENA countries.

Edgbaston hasn't exactly been a happy hunting ground for India where they have lost most of their Test matches but as it often happens with new beginnings, a new captain can always try to buck the trend.

## Change in opposition doesn't change our approach: Ben Stokes

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

England skipper Ben Stokes says they know what it takes to beat India but insisted it's more than just winning a game since they are looking to reshape Test cricket with their style of play.

Under Brendon McCullum's guidance and Stokes' aggressive captaincy, a 'new-look' England swept New Zealand 3-0 in their last series at home, just days back.

India are leading the series 2-1 and the 31-year-old all-rounder expressed confidence of squaring the series.

"We still obviously know that we need to win this game to draw the series. But you know as I said at the end of last week that, at the moment it is bigger than results, it is bigger than you know, what happens on the field, there is more to it. We obviously want to win every game we play but it is bigger than that," Stokes said on the eve of the rescheduled fifth Test.

The match was postponed last September owing to a COVID outbreak in the touring squad.

"I think what we managed to do over the last three weeks is just reshape Test cricket with the way we played.

"We want people to enjoy us watching play. I think people are enjoying watching us play because they don't know what they are going to get because they don't know how it is going to turn out but they know how we are going to play. I have sort of likened it to the ODI thing we started after 2015 World Cup, everybody wanted to watch us play," he added.

Stokes begs to differ that India are a "step up" than New Zealand, saying the change in opposition won't alter their playing style.

"Well, we just beat the best team (New Zealand) in the world 3-0. India are obviously a completely different opposition, different dynamic of a team but we are concentrating on ourselves," Stokes said at the pre-match press conference at Edgbaston.

"We understand what we do well but we have also taken into account who we are playing against. Just because the opposition changes doesn't mean we change."

## Biggest achievement of my career: Bumrah

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Accidental India captain Jasprit Bumrah feels leading the Indian team is the biggest achievement of his career and he would go into the rescheduled fifth Test remembering the wise words of Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who had no captaincy experience but went on to achieve phenomenal success as leader.

Bumrah only got to know that he will be captaining the Indian team on Thursday morning after Rohit Sharma returned another positive test for COVID-19, ruling him out of the game.

Taking on an in-form England side will be a big challenge but Bumrah is up for it.

"The taste of success feels good when there is pressure. I am always up for responsibilities and I love to be in

tough challenges. As a cricketer, you always want to test yourself in deep waters. I have spoken to many cricketers. Everybody improves and keep getting better," he said on the eve of the game.

"I remember speaking to MS (Dhoni), and he told me that he never captained any side before he led India for the first time. Now, he is remembered as one of the most successful captains of all time.

"So, I am focusing on how I can help the team and not focusing on what I have done before or how the cricketing conventions or the rules have been set."

It is rare for a fast bowler to lead the Indian team and Bumrah said it was a massive honour and responsibility. The pacer has experienced meteoric rise in international cricket, including the five-day version in which he is

only four seasons old, having made his Test debut in January 2018.

"Representing India in Tests was always a dream for me and this opportunity to lead the side is the biggest achievement of my career. I'm very happy that I've been given this opportunity. I have had immense faith in myself.

"In every scenario, I have trusted my instincts that have taken me to this level in cricket and I will keep doing that, going forward. Nothing changes for me, especially my role. That's what I am going to do as the captain of the side," Bumrah said.

"I only came to know that I would be leading the side after Rohit Sharma tested COVID positive once again on Thursday. I first broke the news to my family when I came to know that I would be leading the side."

national Test team.

He has been acknowledged widely as the undisputed leader of the fast bowling group but come Friday, the challenge against Ben Stokes' side will be very different when he walks out for the toss at the Edgbaston.

While this arrangement is a stop-gap one, Indian cricket establishment might have an idea of what can be expected of Bumrah when the time comes for the next change in baton.

### NEW TEMPLATE

The 3-0 demolition of New Zealand with three tricky chases completed in style has shown that England, under new coach Brendon McCullum, have deconstructed their style-sheet as far as Test matches are concerned.

Their batters are plundering opposition attack while there are lesser number of five-wicket hauls from the pacers if one goes by the statistics of the New Zealand series. It was Jack Leach, who had two five-wicket hauls and neither James Anderson nor

Stuart Broad got their names on the various 'Honours' Board'.

The pitches have become a tad flatter, which is helping the batters and thus Bumrah, along with Shami and Mohammed Siraj will have an onerous task of tackling a batting line-up bubbling with confidence.

Joe Root, after relinquishing captaincy, has found the touch that had deserted him and Jonny Bairstow, with the confidence of IPL, has scored nearly 400 runs at a strike-rate of 120 plus, unheard of in Test matches.

### TEAM COMBINATION

India will have to bat well and in absence of regular opening pair of Rohit and Rahul, who were fantastic during the four Tests played last year.

Coach Rahul Dravid expects a match-winning performance if not a hundred from Virat Kohli, who looked good in the practice game but the Test match will be a different beast altogether.

The practice game against Leicestershire was more of an

## Buttler replaces Morgan as white-ball captain

AP ■ LONDON

Jos Buttler said he had been given the "great-jest honour" after being named as England's new white-ball captain in succession to "inspirational" World Cup-winning skipper Eoin Morgan.

Buttler's appointment was confirmed by the England and Wales Cricket Board on Thursday, just two days after Morgan announced his retirement from international cricket.

Buttler has been a member of England's white-ball teams for over a decade, serving as Morgan's vice-captain since 2015.

The dynamic 31-year-old wicketkeeper-batsman has already led England 14 times across both ODI and T20 formats, including their most recent ODI against the Netherlands when Morgan was ruled out with a groin injury.

World Cup winner Buttler is set to take charge of 12 games in July, with T20 and ODI



series against India and South Africa.

But his first words on being named as skipper were to thank Morgan for his "outstanding leadership" in overseeing England's white-ball revival following their embarrassing first-round exit at the 2015 World Cup.

## My job is to make impact in absence of main bowlers: Shardul

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Fast bowler Shardul Thakur cherishes his role in the Indian Test side and said his job is to make an impact when the main bowlers are on a break.

Shardul, who generally bowls third or fourth in a Test match, said he loves to deliver in crunch situations.

"Our pace bowling attack at the moment, everyone is doing well including (Mohammed) Shami, (Jasprit) Bumrah, Umesh (Yadav) whenever he gets a game. Ishant (Sharma) was there and usually they start with the new ball and a lot of times it happens that they take two-three wickets in the first spell and I get opportunity to bowl later," Thakur told BCCI.TV.

"Opportunity is created when there is partnership and the main bowlers have to be given rest and the third and fourth bowlers are used more in the spell. In that moment, there is an opportunity for me to take a wicket and do something for the team.

"I think it is my job to bowl in those situations and I like it because if I deliver with a good performance it creates an impact in the game," added the Palghar-based right-arm pacer, who played a pivotal role in India's 157-run win over England in the fourth Test at Oval.

Thakur is a member of the Indian squad that will play England in the rescheduled fifth Test beginning here on Friday.

The 30-year-old said he loves bowling in English conditions. "I think England is a bowler's paradise, they say because the ball swings a lot and at times you end up taking a lot of wickets in one spell itself. So, I think England is one of my favourite places to play cricket and to bowl as well," Thakur said.

"(In) England there is lot of lateral movement and off the pitch moment, it is up to you how to you want to make use of that."

Thakur, who is no mean with the bat, played a key role in the fourth Test at the Oval, slamming two crucial half-centuries and also took crucial wickets in both the innings.

In the first innings he slammed a 36-ball 57, which helped India score 191. In the second innings, Thakur bettered his score, scoring a 72-ball 60.

Recalling his performance, Thakur said, "It was an important innings. Like I said before England could have got a big lead, but that got cut down and because of that we could stage a comeback in the third and the fourth innings.

"When you play such an innings, it motivates the teammates that we have got a good opportunity to make a comeback into the game. The good performance of teammates, it will reflect when you are bowling, it will also reflect in your fielding," he said.



# India W aim for improved show against SL



PTI ■ PALLEKELE

Starting a new era in 50-over cricket without the peerless Mithali Raj, the newly-appointed skipper Harmanpreet Kaur will seek an improved performance across departments from his players as Indian women eye a winning start against hosts Sri Lanka in a three-match series, starting Friday.

India will be without their two pillars — Mithali, who retired from cricket earlier this month, and Jhulan

Goswami, who is nursing a side strain.

The absence of international cricket's most prolific duo is just one of several concerns for captain Kaur ahead of the ODI series opener.

The Indians made a positive start to the tour of the island nation by winning the T20I series 2-1 but their performance was far from perfect and while the format will change, the regulars in the side would be keen to put up a dominant display against the lowly-ranked (ninth) Sri Lanka.

## Harman wants to set example in fitness

PTI ■ PALLEKELE

Harmanpreet Kaur, who begins her reign as a full-time skipper of the Indian women's team with the ODI series against Sri Lanka, is seeking drastic improvement in fitness and fielding from her teammates.

Kaur, who was already leading the Indian T20 side, was handed the ODI captaincy after veteran Mithali Raj retired from international cricket earlier this month.

"I have set some goals for us. Fitness is very important for a player.

Skills wise we have coaches but I want to set an example where the players can see me and get motivated to become fit," Kaur said on eve of the first ODI against Sri Lanka.

"Fitness and fielding are two things I want my team to improve. If these two aspects are covered then you are the best side," Harmanpreet, who is among the fitter players said.

Having led India in T20s for a while, the 33-year-old said she is enjoying her captaincy stint and feels no additional pressure now that she has become a full-time skipper.

"When I'm leading, I feel I am more involved in the game. It always gives me a lot of confidence. Captaincy is something that comes naturally to me when I'm on the field.

"After leading for a few years, things become easier. Right now, I don't feel the extra pressure, if I enjoy as captain the rest can also enjoy. I am enjoying more now as I feel I'm free to do what I want to do."

"When you give players freedom, you can improve more. That is my motive, to give the players freedom so they can express themselves."

Kaur herself has been in good touch. After finishing as the highest run-getter for her side in the T20 series, it will auger well for India if the skipper can continue her top form alongside all-rounder Pooja Vastrakar.

Young wicketkeeper Richa Gosh, who shone in the in the series against New Zealand earlier this year, will be on the look-out for a good show even though team management used Yastika Bhatia as a stop-gap keeper in one of the T20I games.

With the seasoned Jhulan not in

the side, the young and relatively inexperienced fast bowling unit comprising Vastrakar, Simran Bahadur, Meghna Singh and Renuka Singh will be tested by the Lankan batting lineup, headlined by Chamari Athapaththu.

The spinners have been largely on the mark but struggled in the third game. Poonam Yadav and Rajeshwari Gayakwad will have their task cut out in the longer format. Kaur and Harleen Doel, with her leg breaks, too can pitch in with some useful overs.

## Khawaja, Green help Oz build lead in 1st Test

AP ■ GALLE

Usman Khawaja on Thursday praised Cameron Green for handling the Sri Lankan spinners with aplomb after the two batsmen helped Australia to a 101-run first innings lead on a weather-hit day two of the opening Test.

Replying to Sri Lanka's 212 all out on the opening day, the tourists reached 313 for eight when bad light stopped play.

It was a bonus to get any play at all after storms and ferocious winds had caused a stand to collapse, with no injuries, and delayed the start until the afternoon. Skipper Pat Cummins, on 26, and Nathan Lyon, on eight, were batting at close of play after the tourists dominated the two sessions on a turning pitch.

The left-handed Khawaja



made 71 before 23-year-old Green, who top-scored with 77, was involved in an attacking stand of 84 with wicketkeeper-batsman Alex Carey.

"He (Green) batted beautifully," said Khawaja. "(It) took a lot of courage the way he batted.

He came out and played a sweep shot straight away. That's not easy. That wicket is extremely tough, it's one of the toughest I have played on."

Khawaja, 35 and a veteran of 49 Tests, said Green's game is "well beyond where a lot of us

Sri Lanka vs Australia  
Live from 10:00am IST  
SONY TEN 2

were on the sub-continent at 20".

"It's great, a lot of the things we have learned as senior batters around the group. It's great to see that knowledge being passed on."

Ramesh Mendis removed Carey for 45 to break the stand and claimed his fourth wicket of the innings when he trapped Green lbw, finishing the day with four for 107.

Mitchell Starc fell next to debutant leg-spinner Jeffrey Vandersay, who took two wickets, but Cummins smashed the bowlers around in his 16-ball blitz that included one four and three sixes with the last one going out of the ground.

## KL undergoes successful surgery in Germany

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Senior India opener and regular vice-captain KL Rahul has undergone a successful surgery for sports hernia in Germany and is expected to be out of competitive cricket for another couple of months.

Rahul, who was forced to opt out of the home T20I series against South Africa earlier this month, has over the years had recurrent lower abdominal related fitness issues, including groin strains and hamstring injuries.

"It's been a tough couple of weeks but the surgery was successful. I'm healing and recovering well. My road to recovery has begun. Thank you for your messages and prayers. See you soon," Rahul tweeted.



The 30-year-old has played 42 Tests, 42 ODIs and 56 T20Is for India in the last eight years.

Once he is back in India, his rehabilitation would be monitored by the NCA Sports Science team headed by Dr Nitin Patel.

Although it is difficult to put a timeline on his comeback, sources in the know of things believe that it could take another couple of months before Rahul dons the India 'Blues' again.