

CITY 2
YOGI WELCOMES SC CLEAN CHIT
TO MODI IN GUJARAT RIOTS**WORLD 6**
NORWAY TERROR
ALERT RAISED**SPORT 7**
CHENNAI OPEN CHESS:
NITIN REMAINS ON TOP


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Axe on 16 MLAs! Dy Speaker sets June 27 for show-cause

Rebels say they are part of Sena, name self 'Shiv Sena Balasaheb'

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Five days after they rebelled against Shiv Sena president and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's leadership, the Sena rebel faction, led by senior minister Eknath Shinde, began to face the heat on Saturday as Deputy Speaker Narhari Zhirwal issued notices to 16 Sena rebel MLAs, including Shinde.

The Deputy Speaker has sought explanations from them by the evening of June 27 on the representation made by the parent party seeking their disqualification for violating the party discipline.

Acting on the basis of a letter written by Shiv Sena's chief whip Sunil Prabhu seeking their disqualification under The Members of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (Disqualification on Ground of Defection) Rules, 1986, principal secretary of the Maharashtra Rajendra Bhagwat issued notices to 16 Sena rebel MLAs asked them to submit written response before 5.30 pm on June 27 (Monday) supported by all the necessary documents.

"If the written response to the summons is not submitted in a given period, it would be considered as you have no say over it. The office will initiate necessary action based on the complaint filed by Shiv Sena's chip whip against you," the notice stated.

On a day when the parent outfit Shiv Sena passed five resolutions, including the ones reaffirming confidence in the leadership of Uddhav Thackeray and asking the rebel MLAs not to use the name of late Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray, the rebel Sena group — which claims to have the support of 37 Sena MLAs out of the total 55 Sena MLAs in the State Assembly — floated a parallel Sena group named



Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut interacts with the media outside Sena Bhavan after Shiv Sena's meeting at Dadar in Mumbai on Saturday

PTI

as "Shiv Sena Balasaheb".

Apart from their leader Eknath Shinde, 15 other rebel Sena MLAs who have been issued show-cause notices by the office of Deputy Speaker are: Abdul Satar, Sandeep Bomre, Prakash Surve, Tanaji Sawant, Mahesh Shinde, Anil Babar, Yamini Jadhav, Sanjay Shirsat, Bharat Gogawale, Balaji Kinikar, Lata Sonawane, Sadasarvankar, Prakash Ambedkar, Sanjay Raimulkar and Ramesh Bornare.

These 16 MLAs are among the 37 rebel Sena MLAs who have given a letter to the Deputy Speaker, Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, and secretary to the Maharashtra Legislature, re-affirming their confidence in the leadership of Eknath Shinde and saying that he would continue as the leader of the Shiv Sena Legislature Party till 2024.

The 37 Sena rebel MLAs (who account for more than the requisite two-third strength i.e. 36 MLAs out of total 55 Sena MLAs in the State Assembly) if they move out of the Shiv Sena en bloc will attract penal action under the anti-defection law.

However, if the Deputy

Speaker disqualifies 16 Sena rebel MLAs, including Eknath Shinde, the development will result in the rebel Sena camp — the strength of which will be reduced to 21 MLAs against the earlier 37 MLAs, attracting action under the anti-defection law.

On its part, the rebel Sena camp played down the import of the notices issued to 16 rebel Sena MLAs.

"Yes, we have received notices from the office of Deputy Speaker. There is nothing to worry about. We will not be disqualified. We will respond to the notices. If need be, we will move the court against the notices issued by the Deputy Speaker," rebel Sena MLA Bharat Gogawale said.

Rebel Sena MLA Deepak Kesarkar, speaking on behalf of the Shinde camp, said that the rebel Sena MLAs were very much part of the Shiv Sena and that they would set up a separate block of the party in the State Assembly.

"We are not going to merge with any political party. We will be setting up a separate block of the Shiv Sena in the State Assembly," Kesarkar said.

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My fight is to rescue Sena from clutches of 'python' MVA: Shinde

Mumbai: Rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde late on Saturday evening said Shiv Sena workers should understand that he was fighting to save the party from the clutches of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA).

Shinde's appeal came after Sena workers loyal to party president and Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray staged protests against the rebel MLAs led by him by defacing their banners, hurling stones in some places and vandalising the office of an MLA in Pune. In a tweet in Marathi, Shinde, who is camping in Guwahati with his group of MLAs, said, "My dear Shiv Sena workers, try to understand the machinations of the MVA. I am fighting for rescuing the Shiv Sena and Sena workers from the clutches of



the python of the MVA." "I dedicate this fight to the interest of Shiv Sena workers," he added.

Shinde and his supporters have said earlier that they want the Sena to pull out of the "unnatural" Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition with the Congress and NCP, and revive the alliance with BJP.

PTI

Like Shiva, Modi swallowed poison of riot charge: Shah

HM cites SC verdict, says charges were 'politically motivated'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the Supreme Court upheld the Special Investigation Team's (SIT) clean chit to 64 people, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the 2002 Gujarat riot case, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said Modi endured pain for the last so many years without speaking a word and followed Lord Shiva, who swallowed poison and held it in his throat.

Shah said that allegations against the PM were "politically motivated" and that the truth had come out, "shining more than the gold".

He said "a trio of Opposition parties, ideologically-driven certain journalists, and an NGO was behind false allegations" against the Prime Minister aimed to "tarnish his image" and keep the case going as long as it is possible.

"They had a strong ecosystem so everyone started believing lies to be truth," he said.

Speaking at length in an interview with ANI, Shah said the Supreme Court verdict described the charges as "politically motivated" and "cleared a blot on BJP".

He said the court said the then Chief Minister "did best efforts to control riots" in 2002.

Asked how does it feel, Home Minister said "Satya jab itni lambi ladayi ke baad bahar ata hai, uski chamak sone se bhi zyada hoti hain, bahut achha lagta hain...", he said.

He named civil rights activist and journalist Teesta Setalvad as a person fuelling charges against Modi. Shah said the NGO being run by her had given baseless information about the riots to the police.

"I have read the judgment very carefully. The judgment clearly mentions the name of Teesta Setalvad. The NGO that was being run by her — I don't remember the name of the NGO — had given baseless information about the riots to the police," he was quoted as saying in the interview.

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Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah chairs the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of Ministry of Home Affairs in New Delhi

PTI

Gujarat ATS arrests Teesta, ex-DGP RB Sreekumar

Setalvad taken to Ahmedabad day after SC dismissed plea against SIT clean chit to Modi in Guj riots

PTI ■ MUMBAI/ AHMEDABAD

Activist Teesta Setalvad was Aon Saturday detained by the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) from Mumbai, and taken to Ahmedabad in connection with an FIR registered against her at the Ahmedabad city crime branch, Gujarat former DGP RB Sreekumar too was arrested.

Setalvad, on her part, lodged a complaint with Santacruz police station in Mumbai claiming that the "arrest" was illegal and she apprehended a threat to her life. "Teesta Setalvad has been picked up by the Gujarat ATS from Mumbai," a source in the Gujarat ATS said.

A day earlier, the Supreme Court had dismissed a petition challenging the clean chit given by the SIT to then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi and others in the 2002 post-Godhra riots cases.

Bringing the curtains down on the bid to reopen the probe into the 2002 riots, a bench headed by Justice AM Khanwilkar on Friday had also



Activist Teesta Setalvad at Santacruz police station after being arrested by Gujarat Police ATS, in Mumbai, on Saturday

PTI

spoken of "the devious stratagem to keep the pot boiling, obviously, for ulterior design", and said disgruntled officers of the Gujarat Government need to be in the dock and proceeded with in accordance with law for creating a sensation by making false revelations.

Setalvad's NGO had supported Zakia Jafri, who had filed the petition alleging a larger conspiracy behind the riots, throughout her legal battle. Jafri's husband and former Congress MP Ehsan Jafri was killed during the riots.

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Counter-terrorism, food security, energy on Modi's agenda at G7

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will discuss a range of issues, including counter-terrorism, energy, food security, and the environment with world leaders during his visit to Germany to attend the G7 summit. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the situation in the strategically important Indo-Pacific may also come up for discussion.

Ahead of his visit to Germany starting Saturday, the Prime Minister said he will exchange views with the leaders of the G7 grouping and its partners on issues such as energy, food security, counter-terrorism, environment, and democracy.

He is visiting Schloss Elmau in southern Germany on June 26 and 27 for the summit of the G7. It is a combination of the world's seven richest nations, including the USA, the UK, France, Italy, Germany, Japan, Canada, and the European Union.

The G7 leaders are expected to focus on the Ukraine crisis that has triggered geopolitical turmoil besides fuelling a global food and energy crisis. Modi is attending the G7



summit following an invitation by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. The summit is being hosted by Germany in its capacity as the chair of G7.

"In an effort to strengthen international collaboration on important global issues impacting humanity, Germany has also invited other democracies such as Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa to the G7 Summit," Modi said in a statement ahead of his visit.

"During the sessions of the Summit, I will be exchanging views with the G7 countries, G7 partner countries and guest

international organisations on topical issues such as environment, energy, climate, food security, health, counter-terrorism, gender equality and democracy," he added.

Modi said he was looking forward to meeting leaders of some of the participating G7 and guest countries on the sidelines of the summit.

The Prime Minister said he was also looking forward to meeting Chancellor Scholz again after the "productive" India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC) last month.

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Maya backs Murmu, JMM likely to support NDA presidential candidate

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a further boost to the presidential nominee of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Draupadi Murmu, BSP supremo Mayawati on Saturday extended her party's support to Murmu, giving her a decisive edge against the Opposition candidate and former Union Minister Yashwant Sinha.

Murmu is also expected to gain support from Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, which is under pressure to break ranks from the Opposition and back a tribal leader.

Murmu, a Santhal tribal leader herself, also called up the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) chief and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren seeking his support for her candidature, sources said.

JMM — a constituent of the Congress-led UPA — is in power in Jharkhand in alliance with it. A meeting of JMM parliamentarians and legislators was held on Saturday under the chairmanship of party supremo Shibu Soren, sources said. The Chief Minister will soon visit New Delhi and meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah before the party takes a final



NDA's Presidential candidate Draupadi Murmu with NDA leaders after paying tribute to Bhimrao Ambedkar at Parliament House, before filing her nomination papers, in New Delhi on Friday

PTI

call on support to Murmu. "We have some grievances to be discussed with him. Thereafter, we will take decision on supporting a presidential candidate," JMM MLA

Nalin Soren told reporters after the meeting.

Party spokesperson Supriyo Bhattacharya said various issues, including the presidential election and the polit-

ical situation in the country were discussed in the meeting. "The decision in regard with extending support to a presidential candidate has not been taken yet. When the time comes, we will declare it," Bhattacharya told PTI.

However, well-placed sources said that JMM will finally have no option but to support Murmu. Other Regional parties like the JD(U), the BJD, the YSR Congress have already extended support to the NDA pick.

The BSP's backing to Murmu has further brightened her winning prospect vis-a-vis Sinha as the BJP is still making effort for an unopposed victory for its NDA nominee.

Speaking to reporters at Lucknow, Mayawati, while clarifying that her party's decision to support Murmu is not a support to the BJP, attacked the Opposition for "ignoring" the BSP while deciding their candidate for the presidential polls. "Our decision is neither in support to the BJP nor against the opposition.....it has been taken after having kept in view the ideology of the BSP, which is to support the dalits and tribals," she said.

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Biden signs landmark gun bill, says 'lives will be saved'

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden on Saturday signed the most sweeping gun violence bill in decades, a bipartisan compromise that seemed unimaginable until a recent series of mass shootings, including the massacre of 19 students and two teachers at a Texas elementary school.

"Lives will be saved," he said at the White House. Citing the families of shooting victims, the President said, "Their message to us was to do something. Well today, we did."

The House gave final approval on Friday, following Senate passage on Thursday, and Biden acted just before leaving Washington for two summits in Europe. The legislation will toughen background checks for the youngest gun buyers, keep firearms from more domestic violence offenders and help states put in place red flag laws that make it easier for authorities to take weapons from people adjudged to be dangerous.

Most of its \$13 billion cost will help bolster mental health programs and aid schools targeted in mass shootings.

Detailed report on Page 6

2.5 crore villagers to get Gharauni certificates by Oct next year: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced that around 2.5 crore people residing in the villages of Uttar Pradesh would get Gharauni certificates by October, 2023.

Addressing a gathering, including government officials as well as beneficiaries of the Gharauni scheme at an event organised to distribute Gharauni certificates to 11 lakh villagers here on Saturday, the CM said while 34 lakh people have already benefitted from the scheme, a survey of lands by drones in 1,10,300 revenue villages of the state would be completed by August this year to expedite distribution of certificates to more beneficiaries.

According to the chief minister, 100 per cent population of Jalaun district has got Gharauni certificates.

Expressing his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for launching the Rural Residential Records scheme across the country in April, 2020, Yogi said it would help strengthen the rural economy and make villagers self-reliant in the long run.

“Mahatma Gandhi dreamt of ‘Gram Swaraj’ while PM Modi’s vision is to make the country self-reliant. The Gharauni scheme will help realise these larger goals,” Yogi said. He said it would also help curb land encroachment. He also noted that the UP government has so far freed 64,000 hectares of land illegally occupied by the mafia and criminals since the launch of the scheme with the help of the Land Mafia Task Force. The task force was formed at tehsil, district, commissionerate and state levels. The chief minister also stressed on the importance of digitising land records in



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath giving away Gharauni certificate to a beneficiary on Saturday

Yogi welcomes SC clean chit to Modi in Gujarat riots

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Welcoming the Supreme Court’s decision regarding the 2002 Gujarat riots, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the conspirators who tried to malign the name of the country have been exposed and they should apologise now. “Truth prevails,” Yogi tweeted on Saturday.

“The clean chit given by the Hon’ble Supreme Court to the respected Prime

Minister (Narendra Modi) regarding the Gujarat riots is a declaration of truth and victory. The conspirators should seek a public apology from the country,” the UP chief minister tweeted. The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed the petition filed against the SIT report giving clean chit to the then Chief Minister Narendra Modi for Gujarat riots in 2002. This petition was filed on behalf of Zakia Jafri, the wife of slain Congress leader Ehsan Jafri.

The 3-member bench of Justices AM Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari and CT Ravikumar accepted the investigation report of the SIT as correct. The Supreme Court had reserved the decision seven months ago on December 9, 2021 after completing a marathon hearing on Zakia Jafri’s petition. The SIT formed to investigate the Gujarat riots had given a clean chit to the then Chief Minister of Gujarat Narendra Modi.

speedy disposal of pending land dispute cases and in increasing state’s revenue.

“Earlier, deprived communities such as Vantangia, Musahar and Saharia were targeted by the land mafia and

criminals enjoying political patronage and their lands were captured,” he said.

Expressing concern over the long list of pending land dispute cases in courts, the CM said the scheme would set the

records straight, leaving little room for disputes.

Describing it as a landmark step in the history of Indian democracy, Yogi said that Gharauni certificates would enable villagers to get loans eas-

ily and also facilitate them in establishing as well as expanding their businesses.

The Gharauni scheme seeks to facilitate transfer of ancestral lands and properties to their rightful owners.

UP LS BYPOLLS

Counting of votes to begin at 8 am

Lucknow (PTI): The counting of votes for the by-elections held to the Rampur and Azamgarh Lok Sabha constituencies will begin at 8 am on Sunday, a senior official said.

The bypolls were held on June 23, with Azamgarh recording a voter turnout of 49.43 per cent and Rampur 41.39 per cent.

The counting will begin at 8 am on Sunday, a senior official posted as the office of the chief electoral officer of UP told PTI.

The bypolls were necessitated by resignations of the Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and party leader Azam Khan from Azamgarh and Rampur seats, respectively. Both leaders quit as Lok Sabha MPs following their election to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly in the elections held earlier this year. Over 35 lakh people were eligible to vote in the bypolls to decide the fate of 19 candidates. In Rampur, the BJP fielded Ghanshyam Singh Lodhi, who recently joined the party. Asim Raja, hand-picked by Azam Khan is the SP candidate.

The Mayawati-led BSP is not contesting from Rampur. The Azamgarh seat saw a triangular contest among BJP’s Dinesh Lal Yadav ‘Nirhua’, a Bhojpuri actor-singer, SP’s Dharmendra Yadav and BSP’s Shah Alam, also known as Guddu Jamali.

Woman thrown off 4th floor balcony by husband, dies

PTI ■ AGRA

A 30-year-old woman died after she was allegedly thrown off the fourth floor balcony of her house by her husband and four other people, police here said on Saturday.

Ritika Singh, the deceased, was living in a house in Tajganj Police Station area with a friend she had allegedly met on Facebook, after having separated from her husband, they said.

Police have arrested three people, including the woman’s husband, Akash Gautam, and booked them in sections 302 (murder) and 34 (act done by several persons with common intention) of the Indian Penal Code, they said. “Preliminary investigations have revealed that a married woman identified as Ritika Singh was residing with her Facebook friend Vipul Agrawal in an apartment in Nagla Mewati under Tajganj Police Station limits. The incident took place on Friday at about 11 am,” Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Agra, Sudhir Kumar Singh, said. Ritika was a resident of Ghaziabad and had married Akash Gautam, a resident of Firozabad, in 2014 and had separated from in 2018, he said.

“On Friday, Akash Gautam the husband of Ritika Singh reached the apartment along with two women and two men. There they had an argument with Ritika and her boyfriend Vipul Agrawal and later assaulted both of them, as informed by the Vipul Agrawal to police,” the SSP said.

According to the complaint filed by Agrawal, the accused tied his hands and locked him in the bathroom of the flat. He said the accused tied Ritika’s hands also before throwing her off from the balcony of the apartment, police said. Agrawal escaped by shouting for help from the bathroom window and drawing the attention of the neighbours, they said. “A case has been registered against five persons under sections 302 and 34 of the IPC at Tajganj Police Station in Agra. Three people have been arrested, while two are absconding,” Superintendent of Police (SP City) Vikas Kumar told PTI.

Transport dept to develop 18 bus stands on PPP model

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Transport department is working on an action plan to develop 18 bus stands with modern facilities on PPP model. “This is an important step towards improving passenger amenities. The government is committed to providing the best of facilities to passengers and has thus made many proposals which, when implemented, will transform the department,” Transport Minister Dayashankar Singh said here on Saturday.

He said the e-tendering process for the construction of bus stands would be started soon. “In view of the suggestions of bidders, a proposal will be prepared and sent to the government

soon for approval. Tenders will be invited for this as soon as permission is received from the government,” Singh said.

The minister said the new bus stands would come up in Kaushambi (Ghaziabad), Kanpur Central, Varanasi Cantt, Civil Lines (Prayagraj Vibhuti Khand Gomti Nagar (Lucknow), Meerut, Transport Nagar (Agra), Idgah (Agra), Agra Fort, Aligarh, and Mathura (Old). The bus stands will also come up in Ghaziabad, Gorakhpur, Charbagh Bus Station (Lucknow), Zero Road Depot (Prayagraj), Amausi (Lucknow), Sahibabad, and Ayodhya. All these bus stands would be built on the PPP model and would have high-level passenger facilities, the minister said.



NOTICE

I hitherto known as Sharda Nand Dixit Alias Girdhar Dixit Alias Swami Sharda Nand Dixit S/O Late Ram Das Dixit Residing at 254 E.W.S. Barra-5 Kanpur Nagar have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sharda Nand Dixit.

NOTICE

This is to inform that allotment letter of house no A52,Avas Vikas area, Sitapur is lost. If anyone has any objection please inform within 30 days. Yogendra Nath Mahendra S/o Shri Thiribhuvan Nath Mahendra 237, Battsganj-Sitapur

NOTICE

I have change in 10th Marksheets & Certificate my son's & parents name previously Prassan Uttarani, Mother-Resham Uttarani, Father- Ajit Uttarani, now presently in future we known as Prassan Utrrani, Resham Utrrani & Ajeet Utrrani in all documents.

AUCTION NOTICE

दिनांक 04-07-2022, अपराह्न 12:30 बजे पर्यटन निदेशालय, उ०प्र०, सी-13 विपिन खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ में अग्रयुक्त निष्प्राप्य समितियों की नीलामी, सिखोरिटी रु० 20,000/- नगद जमा प्रातः 10:00 बजे- 12:00 बजे तक, स्क्रैप डिस्पोजल में पंजीकृत फर्म मान्य होंगी। आई०पी० सिंह एण्ड सन्स

NOTICE

To be Informed that in My Passport in My Name is Wrongly Mentioned Kaneez Humairah Noori W/o Mohamed awwal Mohamed Rafi noori While my correct name is Kaneez Humaira Ansari w/o Mohamed awwal ansari. in future we should be known kaneez humaira Ansari.w/o Mohamed awwal ansari. H.N-351 Shekhpura Nayanagar Bhoodhipur Balakampur Uttar Pradesh

Lucknow Commissioner shifted to Agra Development Authority

Lucknow (PTI): The Uttar Pradesh government on Saturday transferred 11 IAS officers, making Lucknow municipal commissioner Ajay Kumar Dwivedi vice-chairman of the Agra Development Authority.

According to transfers list issued by the government, Gorakhpur Chief Development Officer Indrajit Singh is now the new municipal commissioner of Lucknow Municipal Corporation. Akshay Tripathi, who was posted as the vice-chairman of Lucknow Development Authority, has been made the special secretary of IT and Electronics Department and the managing director of Uttar Pradesh Electronics Corporation Ltd. Indramani Tripathi has been made the new vice-chairman of Lucknow Development Authority. Roshan Jacob, who is currently the secretary of Geology and Mining Department and also the Director of Geology and Mining Department, has been given the additional charge of divisional commissioner of Lucknow Division.

Lucknow’s current divisional commissioner Ranjan Kumar has been made secretary in the Urban Development Department.

Govt pushing youth into fire with Agnipath: AAP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) alleged that the government was pushing the unemployed youth into fire by implementing the Agnipath scheme for short-term recruitment in Army.

State president of AAP’s Youth Wing Pankaj Awana said the Union government wanted to keep the youth unemployed and uneducated so that they could be used for their political purposes.

The party leaders expressed their views in a state-level meeting held at the head office in Lucknow on Saturday. Senior AAP leaders, including Mahendra Singh and former state president of AAP Sbhajet Singh, were present in the meeting.

Awana said the government was giving a four-year job to the youth under the Agnipath scheme but was not giving them pension even though MLAs/MPs get lifelong pension.

The youth wing leader asked the youth to remain prepared for an agitation in the protest against the “faulty policies” of the government. He said the party was always with the youth, farmers, women and the poor in their struggle.

“The youth dream of getting a good job since childhood. It is unfortunate that papers get leaked and the exams are cancelled. There are 28 lakh vacancies in different departments and the Union government can give jobs to the youth but it does not have the intent,” he alleged.

Govt bid to bring transparency in PWD functioning

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In an attempt to ensure transparency in the Public Works Department functioning, the government is developing an estimator, monitoring and digitisation application, wherein details of all the PWD projects will be available for tracking.

“With this app, every information about roads under the PWD in UP will now be available online. Real-time monitoring of departmental projects can also be done, for which surveys will be done with the help of drones and satellites,” a government spokesman said here on Saturday. “To start with, the work is already being done under the Srishti, Vishwakarma, Chanakya, Sentinel and Court Case Monitoring System in the department. Now, to facilitate speedy processing of services under PWD, the estimator, monitoring and digitisation app is being developed under an integrated system. The objective is to complete the projects on time,” the spokesman said. As per government directions, to implement the e-office system in the department and expedite the work of

digitisation, PWD will mandatorily implement the system from January 1, 2023. For this, work would be started in a phased manner from July 1 this year at the headquarters level, the spokesman said. It is noteworthy that the estimates formed at the block level in the department through the estimator software can be obtained online at the headquarters. After the app becomes operational, the process of the formation of estimates and revision of tests at different levels will be possible in a time-bound manner and without much effort.

“Through the monitoring app, photographs of any potholes on the roads will be uploaded and will be available on the mobile phones of the respective junior engineers, assistant engineers and executive engineers. After these potholes are repaired by the department, the photos will be uploaded again. It will bring transparency in the work and would add to the convenience of the public,” an official said. “With GIS mapping, each part of the road will be fed co-ordinates. The condition of roads can be seen from those coordinates. The work of GIS mapping will be completed soon,” he added.

Emergency was imposed by a family ‘greedy of power’: Brajesh Pathak

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak on Saturday hit out at the Congress on the 47th year of emergency in India, saying that the special measure was imposed in the country by a family greedy of power in a cowardly attack on democracy.

Pathak said this at a seminar, titled ‘Dark Phase of Democracy: Black Day’, held at BJP headquarters to remember the almost two-year-long period during which the fundamental rights of the citizens were dispensed away with by the Congress-led central government.

The seminar was attended by several senior BJP leaders including Pathak. Emergency was announced in the country on June 25, 1975 when Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister, and was lifted on March 21, 1977. “In the greed of power, a family imposed emergency in the country. The emergency imposed by Congress 47 years ago was the biggest cowardly attack on the country’s

democracy,” Pathak said at the seminar. He went on to say that during the period the citizens were treated worse than they were during the British rule, and those who opposed it were severely tortured.

Lakhs of people were imprisoned for no reason, censorship was also imposed on the courts, and the press, he also said.

“Despite this, lakhs of people not only opposed this immoral decision, but also taught a lesson to the dictatorial government, even as they are subjected to torture,” he said.

“Loktantra ke senani’ (defenders of democracy) who fought against the Emergency have a big contribution in the restoration of democratic values,” Pathak said.

Meanwhile, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday said 47 years have passed since the Emergency was imposed in the country, but even today, the memories of the events that unfolded on June 25, 1975 send a chill down the spine.

Even during ‘Amrit Kaal’ — the 25-year lead-

up to the centenary year of independence in 2047 unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi — “the murder of democracy is going on,” Yadav claimed in a statement issued here.

“Forty seven years have passed since the Emergency was imposed, but the memory of June 25, 1977 sends a chill down the spine. The opposition leaders were arrested overnight and censorship was imposed on the Press. The democratic rights of people were snatched and their freedom was crushed,” Yadav said in the statement in Hindi. The Emergency was imposed by then prime minister Indira Gandhi for a 21-month period from 1975 to 1977, when curbs were imposed on the fundamental rights of people.

Attacking the Union government, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister claimed that the threat of an undeclared emergency looms over the country today and the murder of democracy is continuing even in ‘Amrit Kaal’.

590 Covid cases detected in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After a spurt of Covid cases for some days at a stretch, the figures took a slight dip on Saturday when 590 fresh cases were reported in the last 24 hours, taking the active case tally in the state to 3,607.

Additional Chief Secretary, Medical and Health, Amit Mohan Prasad said 99,279 samples were tested and 590 of them turned out to be positive for coronavirus infection.

“In the last 24 hours, 508 patients recovered while there are a total of 3,607 active cases in the state,” Prasad said.

He said the maximum cases were reported from Lucknow (163), followed by Gautam Buddha Nagar (71) and Ghaziabad (70). There was no Covid death reported from anywhere in the state in the last 24 hours, he added.

The ACS asked people to be cautious and adhere to Covid-appropriate behaviour in letter and spirit.

NOTICE

This is notice to inform all of you that Gata No. 194 Village Pahlia, Pargana Sidhdaur Tahseel Haidargarh Dist. Barabanki related sale deed at date 04-03-2014, paper’s No. 1540 and sale date 18-2-2013. Paper No. 633, Haidargarh Barabanki has been lost somewhere. Against above Land the Land Owner had applied Loan from Bank of Baroda. M.M.I. Branch. If any one have any objection can contact bank or Land Owner within 7 days. Land Owner Aditi Singh, 9670630000

NOTICE

This is to inform that the lost page of the sale deed executed by Shanti Prakash Shirmali S/o late Jai Krishn Das Shirmali and Arvind Shirmali S/o late Hari Krishn Das Shirmali in favour of Mohammad Ishiyag S/o late Fazle Haq vide Book No. 1 Khand No. 14462 on pages 121 to 150 at serial No. 1814 dated 06-03-2021 registered at the office of the sub-registrar Lucknow is respect of residential property 2265 square fit has been lost, if any person finds it or has any claim he may contact my counsel Amit Chawdhry Advocate on mobile No. 9839265630 within 7 days. Mohammad Ishiyag S/o late Fazle Haq 234/70, Thavaltola, near Razzaki Masjid Patanala, Chowk, Lucknow.

Bed-ridden rly contractor shot dead

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Blowing to the tall law and border claims of police to smithereens, three masked assailants shot dead a bed-ridden railway contractor after locking his wife and minor sons in a room at their house in Cantonment police station area on Saturday afternoon. Police suspected the role of insiders in the murder.

The broad daylight incident triggered panic among locals who confined themselves to their homes first after hearing the gunshots and then due to the presence of police force and senior officers, including Commissioner of Police DK Thakur. The policemen conducted investigation and also quizzed those moving on the road.

The deceased was identified as Virendra Kumar Thakur (42) of Neelmatha locality in the area. He was a railway contractor and a native of Bihar.

Virendra had faced a murderous assault in the Charbagh railway station circulating area in 2019. He had sustained injuries in the thigh, rendering him bed-ridden. However, he would move around in a four-wheeler for work related to railway contracts.

After the attack on him, Virendra had beefed up security arrangements at his house considering the might of his rivals. He had installed CCTV cameras at his house and also hired three security guards.

Interestingly, one of the security guards opened the gate when the masked miscreants stormed his house. Virendra's security guards are said to be missing since the incident. As per reports, Virendra, his second wife Khushbu and their sons Ansh (2) and Rishi (8) were at the



Investigation underway at the house of slain railway contractor

Bihar connection in murder

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Lucknow police were believed to have got a Bihar link in the murder of railway contractor Virendra Kumar Thakur during preliminary probe. Commissioner of Police Lucknow DK Thakur said they have got a clue about the involvement of one of the accused in the murderous assault on Virendra in 2019.

“The family has also alleged the role of Virendra's first wife Priyanka in the case. She used to threaten Virendra off and on,” Thakur said.

He said the police got a CCTV footage showing the entry and escape of the assailants. “We are looking for other footage to find out the

escape route of the attackers. There is only one way to reach the house. Apparently, the accused had a definite plan to eliminate Virendra and they also chose the timing of the attack,” the commissioner of police said.

Virendra's wife Khushbu alleged Priyanka's in the murder. “She had deserted Virendra recently and would often threaten him. I have been with Virendra for a long time,” she said.

During investigation, it surfaced that Priyanka was a complainant in the murderous assault on Virendra in 2019.

Circle Officer, GRP, Sanjeev Sinha said more than five accused were named in the case and they were booked after the FIR was registered on

the complaint of Priyanka.

“At that time, the name of Virendra's second wife had not come to light during the investigation. All the attackers named in the case belong to Bihar. The case diary is in the court and we are trying to get details related to the case,” Sinha said.

Sources said that in all likelihood, the murder was executed by contract killers. “It appeared to be a cold-blooded murder and planned out of hatred,” one source said.

“The footage in which the suspects have been spotted has been forwarded to all the police stations and also to the GRP. Vigil is being ensured at railway/bus stations. We hope to nab the accused soon,” Thakur said.

house while elder son Abhishek was in school at the time of the incident. Around 12:30 pm, the miscreants stormed the house and overpowered Khushbu. They then locker her and the minor boys in a room at the house located behind Neelmatha Primary Pathshala. They entered Virendra's room and pumped two bullets in Virendra's chest, before leaving the scene. The profusely bleeding victim was rushed to Civil hospital where he was pronounced brought dead, said Commissioner of Police DK Thakur, who reached the scene to oversee the probe.

He said the police had sought details from the Government Railway Police (GRP) which is probing the 2019 murderous assault case.

“He may have been killed either over his second marriage or due to some contract-related rivalry. We are conducting the probe considering all the angles and are looking for the security guards who are absconding,” Thakur said.

He said the assailants uprooted the DVR of the CCTV camera installed at the house with a view to destroying the evidence. He added that the police were yet to get details regarding the escape route of the attackers.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Virendra suffered mobility issues after he suffered bullet injuries in the attack in 2019 and was bed-ridden since then.

He separated from his first wife Priyanka who left him following the differences which cropped up between them. The deceased was said to have been named in several cases of brawl over railway contracts in the past and was on the hit list of the mafia who were against his mentor.

Write papers based on facts, Yogi to scientists



CM Yogi Adityanath at the 5th National Convention of Vigyan Bharati organised at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee auditorium of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University on Saturday

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Saturday, advised scientists to write their papers continuously based on facts rather than hearsay and make efforts to get them published in national and international journals and also get their works patented.

He said if scientists worked with this mindset, they would be able to give a new vision to society under the guidance of Vigyan Bharati.

The chief minister expressed these views at the inauguration of the 5th National Convention of Vigyan Bharati organised at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee auditorium of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU). Yogi Adityanath said he was happy that Vigyan Bharati, which was associated with the dissemination of Swadeshi knowledge, was conducting the programme in Uttar Pradesh — the heartland of culture and tradition.

The chief minister said the fifth national convention of Vigyan Bharati would hold deliberations on what vigyan (science) was.

“As per the Indian perspective, any new knowledge can be termed as vigyan. Most of the people must be thinking about the need for Bharatiya Vigyan; this is because most of the people wonder whether the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has a scientific look and vision. The fact remains that the RSS works for the benefit of the country because the founder of the RSS was a scientist himself and doctor and even the conductor of the RSS was a scientist. Many others who have run the organisation are full of scientific vision which highlights the scientific views (of the RSS),” he said. Yogi pointed out the

Indian tradition has always promoted that knowledge should be encouraged from wherever it comes. “Indian vision is in itself a scientific vision and always believes that after a chemical or a physical reaction nothing gets destroyed and only its form changes,” he said, and added that a lot needed to be done.

The chief minister said the Indian calendar, or panchang, was based on precise scientific calculations, unlike the English calendar which lacked a scientific look. He said the English calendar had no mahurats and as per it solar eclipse happened on different dates but when one followed the Hindi panchang, the lunar eclipse occurred only during day time when there was a full moon. “One can see panchangs of 500 years and that itself is a scientific vision,” he said. Yogi Adityanath said it was an Indian philosopher who gave the idea of an atom. He said that 5,000 years back, the Bhagavad Gita had talked about the soul which cannot be destroyed and the lessons given by Lord Krishna were still relevant.

“The problem is that though we have accepted the religious aspect of the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita, we have not been able to accept its behavioural aspect. Even now I observe that things happen around us but we do not note anything and we do not collect data and the institutions have no habit of looking at things in a scientific manner,” he said. The chief minister said that he had repeatedly seen that no scientific vision was used when looking at things.

Referring to the deaths of children due to Japanese Encephalitis which devastated the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh for four decades, the chief minister said the govern-

ment was able to contain the dreaded virus with coordinated efforts.

“There appeared to be no solution to this disease which took hundreds of lives every year. The local organisations were also not able to do anything but the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government prepared a blueprint to control this disease and has been able to prevent 95 per cent of the deaths. We did not have a separate budget for it and so we coordinated with various departments and tried to find out the reason for the spread of Japanese Encephalitis in eastern UP.”

The chief minister said that people seldom went into the depth of anything and any person who got the post of a teacher in a university only thought about how he or she could be promoted without investing in merit.”

Yogi said not many researchers thought about keeping a legacy for the future generations. “Every incident which happens in our life can give us a scientific outlook and can inspire us to move forward,” he said.

He said when a doctor looked at a patient he restricted himself to just carrying out medical investigation. “This brings in a new experience and every patient has a different nature and hence the medicines which are required are also different and the treatment would be different. However, we never try to find out the difference in their nature but Ayurveda understands this and at one time Ayurveda was at the forefront in medical sciences but we have stopped all the work being done in this direction. It was because of COVID-19 that the belief in Ayurveda has returned and people have now started drinking *kadha*.”

Heatwave impacts mango production

SHARMILS KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

The heatwave has affected mango production in a major way in Uttar Pradesh and its production is not even 10 per cent of what should have been this year.

All India Mango Growers' Association president Insram Ali said that this year, mango production was just 7-8 lakh metric ton across the state and one lakh metric ton in Malihabad when Malihabad alone should have produced 7-8 lakh metric ton mangoes.

He said that in usual times the production was 40-45 lakh metric ton of mangoes in the state. Ali said that there were three reasons for the low production. “First, the heatwave conditions; second, the low flowering present on trees; and third, the duplicacy in fertilisers,” he added. He said farmers were really concerned about the fake pesticides in the market. “The heatwave allowed leaves to cover the inflorescence. Climate change has impacted production in a big way,” he said.

Ali said the heatwave destroyed the fruit formation when the fruits were as small as mustard seeds. “The heat wave in April and May caused the fruit to drop down in large numbers. Had the temperature remained at 28-30 degree Celsius instead of 44-45 degree Celsius, this would not have happened. Besides, had rains salvaged the situation, it would have helped,” he added.

He said the southwest monsoon was arriving at a time when the Dussehri season was wrapping up.

The All-India Mango Growers' Association president said the state government should carry out a survey of the mango farmers who suffered losses due to heat waves and give them compensation.

3 youths attempt to set woman on fire

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Three youths attempted to set a woman on fire after thrashing her for stopping them from taking intoxicants near her house in Thakurganj on Friday afternoon. The woman lodged a case in this connection.

As per reports, Prema of Daulatganj in the area found three youths taking intoxicants outside her house. “I found Ram Singh, Sooraj Soni and Hanuman outside my house around 2:45 pm. I gave them a piece of my mind for taking intoxicants outside outside my house and asked them to go

away. They lost their cool and attacked me with sticks and also kicked me. They then poured some inflammable substance on me with an intention to set me ablaze. However, I managed to save my life,” she alleged. She further said that she was also attacked with a knife. Police registered a case

under sections 323/504/506 of IPC. However, the cops did not book the accused for attempt to set the woman on fire.

Meanwhile, a property dealer was attacked by his rivals over an old enmity near Era's Medical College and Hospital in Thakurganj.

Sushant Singh of Thakurganj said the miscreant opened fire with an intention to kill him. However, the police claimed that no bullet was fired. The police said the brawl erupted over a parking issue and initially, Suleman and Ali clashed with Adil and Kamil.

“Sushant sided with Suleman and this irked Adil

and Kamil who attacked Sushant who suffered injuries. Apparently, the injuries were inflicted by a stick,” a spokesman said. The incident took place on June 23 night.

THEFT

Thieves made off with cash and ornaments from a house in Vikas Nagar police station area. Durgesh Pandey of Vikas Nagar had gone to Delhi for some work and the house was locked. “I left for Delhi on June 9 and returned on Friday, only to find the house burgled. The thieves made off with Rs 20,000 in cash and ornaments from the house,” he said.

Man taken into police custody for posing as OSD to chief minister

Lucknow: A man claiming to be a BJP youth leader has been taken into custody in Mau for posing as an Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath over a call to the district magistrate here, police said on Saturday.

District Magistrate Arun Kumar said, “I received a call from a man posing as NKS Chauhan, the OSD to the chief minister. He asked me to act in favour of one Pushkar Yadav in a land dispute case.”

The officer suspected the call and personally called the OSD to the chief minister. “I came to know that the number from which the call was made did not belong to the officer on special duty nor was he aware of any such call,” said the DM. The officer informed the police about the call which sprang into

action. An FIR against an unknown person for fraud and other sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was lodged at Kotwali police station.

While investigating the case, a police team reached the residence of one Pushkar Yadav on Friday night, the latter fainted and was taken to a district hospital.

Yadav later confessed before the police that he made the fraudulent call posing as the chief minister's officer, the district magistrate said, adding that he is currently in police custody.

In a statement which has gone viral on social media platforms, Yadav can be heard stating that he is the regional vice-president of the Bharatiya Janata Party Yuva Morcha—the youth wing of Bharatiya Janata Party. **PTI**

CLAT achievers from city over the moon

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The much awaited CLAT 2022 result for admissions to undergraduate and post-graduate courses in top-notch law universities of the country was declared on Friday midnight.

In the city, those who cracked the examination were on cloud nine.

Apoorva Tayal, who got an All India Rank (AIR) of 20, said her mantra for success was RRR, which meant read, recall and rehearse. Tayal said that this was her first attempt at the competitive examination and she wanted to become a judge and was expecting to get NLS, Bengaluru.

“I had taken humanities in Class 12 and am feeling very nice about having been able to bell the cat,” she said.

Tayal said that she wanted to be a judge because she got a lot of inspiration from judges. “The whole world is based on the justice system,” she added.

Tayal said that she wanted to see India become a developed nation instead of being considered a developing country. She

said that those preparing for CLAT should believe in themselves. “If you have belief in yourself then only you can achieve what you want to achieve,” she said.

Tayal said that she got inspiration to become a judge from her parents who told her about the pros and cons of all professions and then asked her to take the appropriate decision.

Suryansh Singh Chauhan of the city who secured AIR 195, said that he cracked the examination in the first attempt. “My reason for taking up law is that it is a well respected career with a lot of potential,” he said.

Chauhan said that he was looking for a company job at this point. Regarding studies, he said that one should be consistent every day and not take a break anytime and one must prepare all three subjects simultaneously so that it keeps one on track. Son of an Army officer and a homemaker, Chauhan said that he was inspired by a teacher who was a lawyer once. He said that he was able to crack CLAT in one go because of his proficiency in English and



Apoorva Tayal

Suryansh S Chauhan

Dev Singh Gunthar

because he was interested in current affairs.

Dev Singh Gunthar, who got AIR 484, said that he was expecting to get good institutes with this ranking. He said that this was his first attempt at the law entrance examination. “I gave a lot of mocks which helped and I worked hard on the key words and read magazines,” he said.

Gunthar said that his father, a doctor, suggested that he should take this field and something struck him when he started preparing for the law entrance test. “Most probably I will go in for litigation law,” he said. According to Nitin Rakesh,

director of a coaching institute, the paper was moderately difficult, especially the reasoning, GK and current affairs section and legal aptitude section was lengthy and a little time consuming. He added that even though the competition was tough still most of his students were able to secure high marks as they were well prepared for it. Under his guidance, students have been selected for several national law universities this year. Among the top rankers are Uttar Pradesh topper (AIR 20) Apoorva Tayal, Suryansh Singh Chauhan (AIR 195), Arshabh Dev Singh (AIR 484), Sparsh Tiwari (AIR 586), Vinayak

Gupta (AIR 724), Umam Zafar (AIR 1750), Mansi Gaur (AIR 2285), Shivam (AIR 26, SC), Deepti (AIR 88, OBC), Niharika (AIR 133, SC), Vagmi (AIR 253, OBC) and Kaushika Raj (AIR 289, SC).

Rakesh said that national law universities would start their online admission counselling from June 30.

“The seat will be allotted on merit-cum-participation -- scores and the order of preference given at the time of counselling. As per previous trends, there will be five rounds of counselling and students will be asked to deposit Rs 30,000 for securing allotted seats during the admission procedure. The second list is expected to be out on July 7 and the counselling will be held online the same day. The third, fourth and final lists will be out on July 12, 16 and 19 respectively and the counselling will take place on the same day,” he said.

More than 61,000 students appeared in the CLAT nationwide this year out of which 2,500 took the exam from Lucknow.

BBAU VC inspects CIIE

Lucknow (PNS): Vice-Chancellor Sanjay Singh on Saturday inspected the Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) which has been established at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University to promote science and innovation. This newly-constructed centre is equipped with all facilities and is now fully functional. The BBAU VC inspected the product display room, production room, office, etc. He also inquired about the machines installed at the centre and said it would play an important role in promoting innovation and manufacturing of

products of human use. Students of the university will get special support in the field of entrepreneurship. Principal investigator of the centre Naveen Kumar Arora said the budget for the centre was approved by the Department of Science and Technology. “Innovation will be promoted through this centre. Innovative ideas related to science and technology will be incubated here and we will also produce the final product. Along with this, the work of taking the prepared products to the market and end users will also be done through this centre,” he said.

CITYBRIEFS

ABACUS CONTEST

Samarth Tayal, a class VII student of City Montessori School, Rajajipuram Campus I, brought fame to the city by winning the champion's trophy in the abacus competition held at zonal level. The competition was held under the Brainobrain Fest-2022, organised by educational organisation Brainobrain. CMS founder Jagdish Gandhi congratulated Samarth and wished him success in future endeavours. Students from various reputed schools participated in this competition to showcase their analytical skills. Amidst a tough competition, Samarth opted for various abacus



Samarth Tayal

tricks to solve mathematical problems and emerged the champion. He was given away a certificate, a medal and the trophy.

TRAINING

A 7-day residential training programme on Divya Janani, 'Breast Feeding and Complementary Nutrition' is being conducted at Heartfulness Institute in Lucknow. It will conclude on Sunday with a special session on 'Brighter Minds', designed especially for children aged 5-15 years of age. ICDS director Dr Sarika Mohan, in collaboration with state programme director of Heartfulness Institute Shalini Mehrotra, organised this training programme for 57 supervisors and CDPOs chosen from 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh.

MEETING

A meeting was called by engineer-in-chief and HOD, UPPWD, Manoj Kumar Gupta regarding the use of bitumen and bitumen production in the Public Works Department. The meeting was in continuation with the regular dialogues with experts, technicians, policy advisers brought through the CII infra committee on regular intervals. Representatives from different organisations like Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd, GR Infracore Projects Ltd, Reliance Industries Ltd, BITCOL Ltd & AR Thermosets Pvt Ltd were present in the meeting. Chairman of CII Infrastructure Committee (UP) Manoj Gupta highlighted key benefits of micro-surfacing, crash barriers and ambient temperature mix technology and other various important aspects.



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सार्वजनिक सूचना

भूखण्ड / खसरा संख्या-709, 711, 712, 717, 719, 715 ग्राम-मधुअंठा, व खसरा संख्या-1275, 1278, 1274, 1283, 1248, 1271, 1272, 1280, 1282, 1286 व अन्य ग्राम-सिवलर, न्यू जेल रोड, गोसाईगंज तहसील मोहनलालगंज, लखनऊ पर प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना सबके लिए आवास (शहरी) के अन्तर्गत निजी क्षेत्र की सहभागिता से किफायती आवास (अफोर्डेबल हाउसिंग इन पार्टनरशिप) के अन्तर्गत मेसर्स एस०डी० ग्रीन सिटी द्वारा 432 नग (जी+5) दुर्बल आय वर्ग (ई०डब्ल्यूएस०) फ्लैट का निर्माण किया जाना प्रस्तावित है। उक्त प्रयोजन हेतु डिमांड सर्वे संबंधित नियम/शर्तों एवं डिमांड सर्वे के आवेदन ऑफ लाइन विज्ञापन प्रकाशन होने की तिथि से एक माह तक आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। डिमाण्ड-सर्वे हेतु आवेदक का लखनऊ जनपद का निवासी होना अनिवार्य है। इस योजना में AHP घटक के अन्तर्गत पात्र लाभार्थियों द्वारा ही आवेदन किया जायेगा। डिमाण्ड-सर्वे हेतु आवेदन पत्र एवं विवरण पुस्तिका, यूको बैंक विपिन खण्ड गोमती नगर लखनऊ से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

पवन कुमार गंगवार
सचिव

‘Shahu Ji worked hard for uplift of underprivileged’



Vice Chancellor of CSJM University, Prof Vinay Pathak, felicitates Shambhaji Raje Chhatrapati, descendent of Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj during 149th Birth Anniversary Celebrations on Saturday.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The chief guest to the 149th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj, Shambhaji Raje Chhatrapati, while addressing the anniversary celebrations of Chhatrapati Shahu Ji at the Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University on Saturday expressed his gratitude and said that 102 years ago, when Kurmi Samaj of Kanpur invited Shahu Ji to address them they were impressed to hear his thought and they conferred a title Rajarshi, which meant Raja on him. He said since then there was no looking back and his major contribution was in the field of education. He said Shahu Ji at that time made primary education free and compulsory for everyone and all his life toiled for the unity of the people and society.

He said Shahu Ji was strongly opposed to untouchability and worked hard for the

uplift of underprivileged and depressed classes. He narrated some anecdotes about Shahu Ji and said that Shahu Ji Maharaj was the first to provide reservations to the deprived and depressed classes. He further added that Shahu Ji was a compassionate and kind human being who worked for society and did many reforms such as remarriage for widows. He then donated Rs 10 lakh to the CSJMU for the welfare of widow children's education.

Later addressing the function the Governor Anandi Ben Patel said that despite being a king, Shahu Ji was sensitive to the plight of the oppressed and underprivileged. She added that Shahu Ji Maharaj was a glorious Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj ancestor. She said that Shahu Ji took many proactive steps to eliminate untouchability and other social evils from society. She then inaugurated the Faceless Digital Student Services.

The Vice-Chancellor of the

varsity, said that Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj was a true democrat and social reformer and will always be remembered in history for the revolutionary measures he took towards social changes. He also announced that CSJMU would give a sum Rs 10,000 scholarship to those researching on Shahu Ji Maharaj. The keynote speaker Avinash Bhale of Shivaji University Kolhapur said that Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj assumed control of Kolhapur State in 1894. He added that Shahu Ji introduced reservations throughout the state in 1902, which was a momentous move. He said Shahu Ji made the decision to provide persons from lower castes with 50 per cent job reservations.

He further stated that the constitutional reservation system was made possible by this ruling and under his authority, he outlawed all forms of untouchability in public settings. He said Shahu Ji raised in

support of widow remarriage and inter-caste union. He began the process of providing free education to children from low-income families.

Prof Sudhir Kumar Awasthi (Pro VC) gave a welcome speech and said that Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj worked for the betterment of society and people. He also did many reforms in the field and education and removed many social evils.

Dr Patanjali Mishra addressing the function said this function was based on the life philosophy of Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj, which had been organised by the School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences on this occasion. The students presented a Nukkad Natak. The vote of thanks was delivered by Registrar, Dr Anil Kumar Yadav. Others present on the occasion were Prof Sanjay Swarnkar, Prof Sudhanshu Pandeya and teachers and students from all the departments.

DC unveils logo of Kanpur Boat Club

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The first Boat Club in Uttar Pradesh, the brain child of the Chairman of the Boat Club, Dr Raj Shekhar, became a reality when Dr Raj Shekhar, who is also the Divisional Commissioner, Kanpur Division unveiled the logo of the Kanpur Boat Club at Ganga Barrage in the presence of an august gathering. This addition of water sports was part of the Smart City project and gave Kanpur an edge over other states as Kanpur possessed a natural water pathway in the form of Ganga river.

Releasing the logo, the DC said concerted efforts had been made to ensure that this was given a practical shape and that too in the shortest possible time. He said although the

main grand inaugural event will be held on a future date but a trial run was being launched to ensure a fool proof arrangement.

Praising the natural location at the Ganga Barrage, he said the picturesque surrounding was something which made this Boat Club more exclusive. Unveiling the logo he said the 'logo' of Kanpur Boat Club symbolised the 'Water Sports, River life and the Nature' in totality. He said although efforts had been made to ensure that it was complete yet special features to make it better and impressive will continue in due time. Reviewing the pre-event preparations, the DC said 'First Trial' of Kanpur Boat Club water sports will mesmerise the people of Kanpur.

It may be mentioned here that this Boat Club will provide Kanpurites to go for not only boating but it will also facilitate different watersports for the water sports lovers of Kanpur and surrounding districts. Kanpur Boat club was exclusive mainly because it housed various sports event from kayaking to jet ski riding to sailing, canoeing—and thus one was bound to find something one enjoyed. The flip side of this Boat Club was that it would bring together people who loved water sports and loved to take rides on boats of different kinds which gave them exclusive experience.

Currently the Boat Clubs had just spread its wings and thus gradually it will be putting up terms and conditions for use. In future there may be

membership. The norms of a Boat Club were that once one paid the fees and became member one had access to the club's collection of boats. One can borrow a boat—without paying extra charges—on a reservation basis at one or multiple locations. Boat clubs can often include boating lessons or similar services and Chartered boating excursions may also be part of this Kanpur Boat club in future.

Others present on the logo launch were Visakh G Aiyer (DM), Arvind Singh (VC KDA), Shiv Sharanappa (KMC), Neeraj Srivatava (Secretary Boat Club), Atul Kumar (ADM City), Shatrughan (Secretary KDA), Dr AK Mishra (AD Health), Mudrika (DD Sports) and many others.

NSI adds another feather to its cap

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The popularity of National Sugar Institute was growing with leaps and bounds and to substantiate this the NSI added another feather in its cap by being selected to provide technical know-how to the sugar factories of Tamil Nadu and Telangana for diversification so as to produce specialty sugars and other value added products from the by-products of the sugar industry.

This was stated by the Director of NSI, Prof Narendra Mohan while addressing a function held to finalise the terms and conditions of consultancy on Saturday. A delegation of Ponni Sugars (Erode) Ltd. led by B Chandrasekar, Senior Vice President (Operations) had arrived to take part. He said thus as per



Director of NSI, Prof Narendra Mohan, flanked by delegates from Chennai.

the pact NSI will provide them technical assistance in converting their existing conventional sugar plant into a sugar refinery of 450 metric ton per day and for setting a new unit for producing tableware (cutlery) from bagasse.

He said converting standalone sugar factories to com-

plexes producing multiple products with effective utilisation of the by-products was the only solution to achieve viability in sugar industry. He added that diversifications and integrations with other industries held key to success and the same was discussed during the preliminary meeting at

held at Chennai. He said the institute team shall visit the site in July itself to take the matter forward.

Prof Mohan said another group of sugar factories from Telangana, Gayatri Sugars Ltd., had also sought institute help in producing various biochemicals like Vanillin and Graphene Oxide etc. from bagasse. He said looking to sugarcane and sugar production in the region, with only sugar production, profitability was challenging and thus utilisation of entire sugarcane value chain in an effective manner was considered essential.

He said the NSI had discussions with Saritha Reddy, Managing Director(GSL) and other company officials and hoped to finalise the modalities soon.

Drug addiction is complex neurobiological disorder

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

June 26 is observed as World Drug Day and the objective was to raise awareness among the masses especially the adolescent and young people who were taking to weeds and different drugs in a big way. It was really a matter of concern that Uttar Pradesh reported 10,852 NDPS cases in 2020, which was the highest in India. The highest number of cases were from Lucknow (405) followed Kanpur (312). It was not confined to the general masses but it had inundated the best institutes of our country where the cream students were taking to drugs in a big way and this included the girls as well.

This was stated by Dr Parineeti Chhabra Globus Rehabilitation Centre, on Saturday. She said there was an imperative need to spread awareness the prominent rea-

sons identified were family history of addiction and added that drug addiction was more common in some families and likely involved genetic predisposition.

She said other reasons were mental health disorder, peer pressure lack of family involvement, early use and consuming high addictive drugs. She said it was a matter of great concern that parents ignore the need for counselling or sending their child to drug rehabilitation centre more because of social stigma.

Dr Chhabra said drug addiction was a complex neurobiological disorder, which affected a person's brain and behaviour in a way that they lost the ability to resist the urge to use drugs.

She said it had been identified that drug dependence usually started with an experiment and initially, one took

drugs because one liked the way it made them feel. She said umpteen people start using drugs as self-medication or to cope with stress. She said repeated misuse of drugs physically changed how ones brain worked.

She said it made one lose self-control and messed with ability to avoid the desire to take drugs. Discussing reaction she said the reaction of drugs on a human mind varied widely from person to person. She said each person's body and mind worked differently and some people loved to use drugs, and others hated it after their first try.

She said ones genes may mean a greater predisposition to addiction and ones body and brain reacted to a particular drug the way ones ancestors reacted to it. She said if ones parents or their parents had a history with drug abuse,

chances of being addicted to drugs increased drastically.

Dr Chhabra said environment also played a vital role in developing drug dependence because the environment influenced behaviour, and if a child grew up in a home with a drug addict, it was highly likely that he or she was going to struggle with drugs too. She added that sexual or physical abuse, negligence from parents and peers, domestic violence, everything can lead to psychological stress and people turn to drugs to let off this stress. She advised parents to be on the lookout and if they saw behavioral symptoms like missing work, school, or other important events or engagements or social withdrawal, isolation, or secretive-ness about whereabouts and activities, change in sleep patterns and unexplained spending habits or financial problems.

Boy's body recovered

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The body of a 12 years old boy, drowned near Panki canal bridge under the Vidhnu police station late Friday evening, has been recovered after 22 hours on Saturday afternoon. PAC jawans, with the help of villagers, recovered the body about three km away from the spot of incident. Anshul (12) son of a daily-wager Shiv Shanker of Gosaipurwa, Vidhnu, was student of class V in a village primary school. On Friday evening, he along with his cousin sister Muskan (13) had gone to wash his bicycle in Panki canal passing through the village. During washing the

bicycle near the canal bridge, it suddenly slipped into the water. When Anshul tried to take out his bicycle from the water, he also slipped deep into it and started flowing with the stream. Seeing him drowning, Muskan reached home raising alarm and apprised the family members of the incident. By the time, kin rushed to spot, Anshul had drowned. Local police with the help of villagers continued to trace Anshul in the water till late night but failed to recover him. On Saturday morning, PAC jawans with the help of villagers started searching Anshul on motor boat and recovered his body around 1 pm near Kushalpur canal bridge, 3 km away from

the spot of incident. Seeing the body of her younger son, Anshul's mother Gudiya fell unconscious. SHO Vidhnu Amit Kumar Mishra said the body of Anshul had been recovered. On the basis of autopsy report and complaint, further action would be initiated in the matter, he added.

BEATEN UP: A BJP leader was brutally beaten up by local goons when the former asked the latter for not to play football in the park under the Rail Bazar police station late Friday night. On calling the police control room, assailants escaped from the spot. Police lodged FIR after medical examination of the victim and started investigations. Malik Faisal

of Faithfulganj, Rail Bazar, is treasurer of BJP's Minority Cell, Cantonment Division. Faisal said in the Azad Park near his house, he with the help of local residents had planted flower saplings and grass. On Friday night, over a dozen local youths including Rizwan Ansari, Basar, Shiran and Shahid were playing football in the park. When he protested their move, they abused him. On protest, they beat up him with the sticks and iron rod and escaped with threats of dire consequences if he dared to lodged complaint with the police. SHO Sanjay Kumar Pandey said after lodging FIR, action was being initiated against the assailants.

Chess Olympiad Torch Relay to pass through 9 dists of UP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Uttar Pradesh will extend a rousing welcome to the Chess Olympiad Torch Relay scheduled to commence from Meerut on June 26. President of All India Chess Federation Dr Sanjay Kapoor said the Torch Relay will pass through nine districts of Uttar Pradesh. It had begun from New Delhi and given to the first Indian Grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a grand function organised there recently. He said the relay would cover four district of Uttar Pradesh on June 26. From Meerut, it would visit Agra, then Kanpur and later in the evening in Lucknow. In Kanpur, the relay would arrive around 3 pm and reach the Green Park International Stadium. Around 2,000 sportspersons and officials will welcome the Torch Relay, he added. After a brief stay, the Torch Relay will proceed for Lucknow where it will be extended a warm welcome at the Assembly by the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and others. On June 27, the Relay will cover Prayagraj and Varanasi and on June 28, it will reach Ayodhya and Gorakhpur



Dr Sanjay Kapoor, President, All India Chess Federation, addressing mediapersons on Saturday.

and Jhansi on July 5. It will reach Chennai on July 28 when the Olympiad will be inaugurated, said Dr Sanjay Kapoor and added that he will himself

monitor the welcome ceremony of the Relay at Kanpur and Lucknow. Grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand is likely to welcome the Relay in

Lucknow, he said.

JOB PLATFORM: GoodWorker, a job-matching platform, has launched the country's first-of-its-kind skill enhancement platform — L.earn on Saturday. Currently, the job listing feature is only open for Lucknow and Kanpur, but more cities will be launched soon. Through this new offering, the company hopes to provide its target users with an innovative and technology-based way to earn better by upskilling themselves. Speaking at the launch, Vikram Bhat, Chief Product Officer, GoodWorker said, 'L.earn is modelled on the lines of social media video platforms, featuring short videos focused on skill improvement and life skills such as managing finance, updating resumes, and facing interviews.

The videos are a judicious mix of both job skills and life skills that will empower the blue-collar worker to learn more and thereby earn more. Our aim is to positively change the lives of 1 billion blue-collar workers and with L.earn we have created a platform for them to discover useful content that will help them do more and get ahead in their jobs and lives.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The District Magistrate, City, Visakh G Aiyer, while inaugurating the Mega Health Camp organised by India Medical Association, State Bank of India and Bharatiya Vicharak Samiti on Saturday said in the present times on account of race to materialism every individual was engrossed in some or the other problem be it physical or mental. He said the health camps which was being organised by the IMA-Kanpur were timely and the need of the hour. He said it was a matter of concern a large segment of people were unable to avail themselves of the medical facilities and thus the role of IMA and other charitable organisations were highly essential.

The acting president of the samiti, Ramesh Chandra narrated the past since 1981 and said from Kanpur to SGPGI Lucknow the samiti helped people in case they faced any problem. He said the samiti was also prepared to help in many other ways as well. Dr Girish Kumar addressing the function said it was certainly beneficial for the people that these organisations were ready to help them in



The District Magistrate, City, Visakh G Aiyer, inaugurates the health camp at IMA-Kanpur on Saturday.

their medical needs. He said that in all such programme he would extend all possible help. Prominent others who took

part in the camp were Principal GSVM Medical College, Dr Sanjay Kala, Balram Narula, Dr RK Dwivedi, Ramesh Chandra,

Dr VC Rastogi, Dr Archana Bhaduarai, Krishnendu Hari Gupta, Roopali Saxena, Asif Aquil and Niharika Gupta.

Yogi pays floral tributes to Indumati Singh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Chief Minister reached former minister Mahendra Singh's house in Karmahi village of Pratapgarh district and paid homage by offering floral tributes at the portrait of his mother Indumati Singh. UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reached Pratapgarh district on Saturday afternoon. The CM's helicopter landed on the helipad located in Karmahi village of the district.

From there he boarded the car and left for the house of former minister Dr Mahendra Singh by road. After this he met family members for about 20 minutes. After this he left for Sultanpur from here.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath came to the house

of former minister and MLC Dr Mahendra Singh, resident of Karmahi village of Pratapgarh , to express condolences. Former minister Dr Mahendra Singh died on June 16 in Lucknow. His terahvi ceremony will be performed on June 28. Yogi Adityanath reached here to express condolences.

Earlier , the Chief Minister was welcomed at the helipad . Apart from the helipad and surroundings , police personnel have been deployed on the road leading to the house of former minister Dr Mahendra Singh for the security of the Chief Minister Since morning SP and ASP, CDO, along with DM Dr Nitin Bansal , directed the police and administrative officers and

kept taking stock of the situation.

PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL ADVISOR AWARD FUNCTION HELD: Principal Financial Advisor Award function 2021-22 was organised in the Accounts department of North Central Railway Headquarters. The programme was attended by the Principal Financial Advisor of North Central Railway, Amar Kumar Sinha, Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer / General, Aditya Joshi, Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer / Stores and Workshop Abhinav Gupta and Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer / Construction Chandan Kumar Verma were present on the occasion. During this function, a total of 47 officers and employees of

Group 'B', 'C' and 'D' categories were felicitated.

On this occasion, the Principal Financial Advisor appreciated the excellent work done by all the officers and employees of the Accounts department and stressed upon all the railway employees to work with new thinking while imbibing the new rules in the changing scenario. Abhinav Gupta, Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer/Store motivated the railwaymen were to work, keeping in mind the organisational goals of Indian Railways.

The programme was conducted by Gargi Umrao Deputy Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer / General. Officers of all divisions and headquarters participated in this programme.



CM Yogi Adityanath on the way to the Circuit House after his helicopter landed at a helipad in the Police Lines in Varanasi in the evening on Saturday.

Pioneer

Maurya asks BJP workers to gear up for civic body polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya called upon every BJP workers and office-bearers to get involved in the preparations for the civic body elections. He said BJP's central and state government is continuously working in public interest.

The responsibility of taking the benefits of government schemes to the common people is also on all of us. He said that only if you reach from house to house and listen to the happiness and sorrow of the people, your relationship will deepen. We are not one of those parties which are only concerned with votes. We are all people following the principle of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', 'Sab ka Saath', 'Sab Ka Vikas', 'Sab Ka Vishwas'.

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya reached Prayagraj on Saturday afternoon on a two-day visit. When his helicopter landed in the Police Lines, party officials and workers gave a warm welcome. After that he went straight to the Circuit House. There, he held a meeting with the office-bearers and public representatives of the organisation and took



information about the development works.

Deputy CM Keshav Maurya said that the people of all fronts and cells of BJP have to become active at their booth level. The booths which are of middle class have to be strengthened. Development work is going on at a brisk pace in the city. He asked the officials concerned to immediately inform him about the places where there is any obstruction. That obstruction will be removed immediately.

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya will participate in the mass dialogue programme in the district panchayat auditorium. People's representatives, party workers will all be involved in this.

BJP spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that on behalf of the city unit, democracy fighters would be honoured in the evening in the Mehta auditorium in Medical College premises. During this there will also be a seminar on emergency. The keynote speaker in this programme will be Keshav Prasad Maurya.

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya alights from helicopter during his visit to Prayagraj on Saturday

Mystery shrouds death of S-I

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A sub-inspector of Prayagraj died under mysterious circumstances. The body of sub-inspector (SI) Atul Singh posted at Nawabganj police station was found lying in the washroom of his residence.

Upon getting information, the police reached the spot and launched the investigation. After a while the top brass including SSP and DM also arrived. Intensive investigation is being done in connection with death of the S-I. For the time being, it remains a mystery how the sub-inspector died.



File photo S-I Atul Singh

Atul Singh , a resident of Ghazipur district , was a sub-inspector in the Police department .

These days his posting was as a sub-inspector in the Nawabganj police station in Gangapur area of Prayagraj . Atul Singh used to live in a rented house at Nawabganj crossroads located on Prayagraj - Lucknow highway. The house where he lived belongs to retired railway driver Radheshyam Yadav.

On Saturday morning , S-I Atul Singh died under suspicious circumstances. His body was found in the washroom of the house. People informed the police about this mysteri-

ous death. However, people were stunned when they came to know about the death of the S-I. Within no time the police of Nawabganj police station arrived. The investigation was done by the police.

Shortly after DM Sanjay Kumar, SSP Ajay Kumar, SP Gangapur, CO Soroan along with police of other police stations also reached. Finger print experts and dog squad were also called.

The place where the body of the sub-inspector was found has almost been sealed. The police is investigating thoroughly. As of now, there is no information about getting any clues.

Preparations on to give a face-lift to Maharishi Bharadwaj's ashram

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Preparations are on to give a face-lift to Maharishi Bharadwaj's ashram before Mahakumbh - 2025. This complex will be given a huge and grand look. Prayagraj Development Authority and Tourism department have completed the survey. The design of the gate has also been done. The Divisional Commissioner has directed the SDM Sadar to start the work in harmony with the local people.

There is an ancient ashram of Maharishi Bharadwaj in front of Anand Bhawan in Katra Mohalla of the city. This park is made in five acres, while there is a temple in two acres. There are temples of

Bharadwajeshwar Mahadev, Bharadwaj Muni, Yagyavalkya, Tripurari Mahadev, Atri Muni, Sati Anusuiya, Brahmaji, Lord Shri Ram , Hanuman ji, Satyanarayana, Tulsidas, Valmiki, Ma Kali etc.

About one hundred Goswami families are associated. They worship here. This ashram, a very holy place for the followers of Sanatan Dharma, is neglected. Temples have been built near the entrance and in the houses. Most of the people are unaware about which is the real temple. There is no proper arrangement for cleanliness, worship and yoga in the premises .

A grand and huge gate will be built outside Bharadwaj Ashram. Worship, yoga place, satsang bhawan, meditation

centre will be constructed inside the premises. Paintings will be made based on the personality of Maharishi Bhardwaj. A museum centred on Prayagraj and Maharishi Bharadwaj will be built through slides. There will be article garden to enhance the beauty. There will be excellent arrangement of drinking water and toilets.

Acharya Vidyakant Pandey, Director of Parashar Jyotish Sansthan, said that in Treta Yuga, more than 20,000 students used to acquire Vedic knowledge in Maharishi Bharadwaj's ashram. He is called the first Chancellor. He is credited with establishing Prayagraj. It is also believed that Ganga ji used to flow in front of Bharadwaj Ashram. Lord

Shri Ram had come to meet Bharadwaj Muni while going to exile. At the behest of Maharishi, it went into exile in Chitrakoot. Even while going to Ayodhya after the victory of Lanka, Shri Ram had taken the blessings of Maharishi Bharadwaj. It is mandatory for those coming to Prayag on a religious journey to visit Bharadwaj Ashram, but most of the people are unaware of this fact.

Divisional Commissioner Sanjay Goyal said that the work of giving a grand look to Maharishi Bharadwaj Ashram has started. The work of making the design is in the final stages, those who offer prayers in the ashram, they will continue to do their work. They will not be removed.

Gharauni certificates distributed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Divisional Commissioner Deepak Agrawal and District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma on Saturday distributed the 'Gharauni Certificate' (residential rights record) to the villagers through digital medium. The distribution programme of Gharauni Certificate launched by the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow was also telecast live, here.

In a programme organised in the auditorium of the office of the divisional commissioner, here, the DC Agrawal and the DM Sharma distributed the Gharauni Certificates (residential rights record) to as many as 30 beneficiaries of Sadar, Pindra and Rajatalab tehsils (10 from each tehsil). The distribution programme of Gharauni Certificates to the villagers launched by the CM



DM Kaushal Raj Sharma handing over digital gharauni to a beneficiary. The Divisional Commissioner Deepak Agrawal was also present on the occasion.

Adityanath in Lucknow was also telecast live, here. Additional District Magistrate (ADM - Administration) Ranvijay Singh was also present on the occasion.

The distribution programmes were also held at tehsils and villages where the public representatives and officers distributed Gharauni Certificates of 407 revenue vil-

lages to as many as 14,322 beneficiaries including 4,738 beneficiaries of 138 revenue villages in Pindra tehsil, 5,243 beneficiaries of 143 revenue villages of Sadar tehsil and 4,341 beneficiaries of 126 revenue villages of Rajatalab tehsil. So, the Gharauni Certificates were distributed to a total of 14,355 beneficiaries in the district.

The DC Agrawal informed that three beneficiaries Ramlakhan of Sadar Tehsil, Basant Lal Patel of Rajatalan Tehsil and Rakesh of Pindra tehsil received Gharauni certificate from the CM in Lucknow.

A total of 40,155 rural residential rights records have so far been made digital and out of them, a total of 25,800 Gharauni certificates had been distributed earlier. The rest of the certificates were distributed on Saturday, he added.

UBI launches Union Nari Shakti Scheme in Chandauli

VARANASI (PNS): Union Bank of India (UBI) launched its Union Nari Shakti Scheme in Chandauli, an aspirational district of the Government of India for the overall development of women.

Launching the scheme, the regional head of the bank Sunil Kumar informed that the bank provides loan to the company or self-help group owned by women at the concessional interest rate and minimum margin amount and added that loan from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 10 crore is approved under this scheme.

The District Magistrate of Chandauli Sanjeev Kumar Singh said that it is a matter of fortune that the scheme to be implemented in the entire nation, was launched in Chandauli, an aspirational district of Government of India and added that the overall development of women could be made only by strengthening



Union Bank of India distributing loans on the launching occasion of UBI Nari Shakti Scheme.

Pioneer

their financial condition and this scheme is beneficial in this direction. This scheme would prove a milestone in the direction of self-reliant and economical empowerment of women, the DM said, adding that the development of women means the progress of

family and the progress of family would lead to the development of Chandauli district.

The bank provided the facility of term and credit loans of Rs 225 lakh to 312 women entrepreneurs of 26 self-help groups and 31 individual women entrepreneurs, the

office head of the bank Rajesh Nagvanshi informed.

KASHICON: The Association Physician of India (API), Varanasi Chapter is going to hold an annual conference of doctors 'KASHICON' on Sunday at a hotel in Cantonment area here in which the doctors would discuss diseases such as diabetes, arthritis, etc. Conveying this information, the Chairman of API Dr Gulab Shankar Singh, Secretary of Varanasi Chapter of API Dr Alok Kumar Singh and ex-Chairman of API Dr Manoj Kumar Srivastava informed that around 100 physicians of Varanasi and adjoining districts will participate in the proposed annual conference in which the Life Time Achievement Award would also be conferred on the ex-Director of Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Prof VP Singh.

Ambassador of Denmark visits Saadi Bankat village

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Ambassador of Denmark Fredi Sawane visited the Saadi Bankat village, under the block City on Friday. On the occasion the ambassador became aware with the progress of ongoing project Jal Jeevan Mission and discussed about the impact of the project with the officials. ADM (Namami Gange) Amarendra Verma briefed about the project how the potable water was to be available to each house in the rural area of the district. A group of the women also narrated how the project was targeted to make the life easy and hygienic. The ambassador was welcomed by the team of the authorities led by Divisional Commissioner Yogeshwar Ram Mishra. The ambassador visited the pipelines, overhead

tanks and the other arrangements and expressed his satisfaction with the planning.

DEATH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED: Rani Durgavati was the epitome of good governance who succeeded to make the Gondavana empire as the mighty state. These views were expressed by veteran BJP leader in a programme as keynote speaker organiaed to observe the death anniversary of the queen at a lawn located at Anagarh Road locality on Friday.

Throwing light over the struggles of the late queen the BJP leader said that it was strong will power of Rani Durgavati that she succeeded to thwart not only the onslaughts over her Gondvana state but she expended the limits of empire by defeating the enemies. Raju Kanaujia the chair-

man Zila Panchayat appealed to the community to follow the path of the brave lady who was filled with the spirit of nationalism and sacrificed her life fighting against the Mughals. As the woman what Rani Durgavati did for her subject by the popular welfare schemes became an example, the chairman added. The programme was attended by a large gathering from the each section of the society. On the occasion Zila Panchayat member KK Singh, BJP leader Ravi Sahu and others also expressed their views. The programme was convened by Ramesh Gond and presided over by Shankar Singh Srodiya. Programme was conducted by Ram Pyare Gond.

AYUSHMAN CARD: With the purpose to make available the Ayushman Card at

doorstep a private agency has been involved in the district. Giving more details about the new plan of the government CMO Dr Rajeev Singhal told that at the initiative of National Health Authority Government of India the directives had been issued and under the compliance the state government had also written the letter to the districts. He further informed that through the Arogya Mitras the cards were being made in the district at 16 CHC and 53 PHCs.

Dr Gulab the ACMO and nodal officer of Ayushman Card has informed that 3,04,036 cards had been issued within the period of April 2018 to May 2022. District Manager Ayush Pandey has said that till the date 32,856 beneficiaries had availed the facility of medical treatment free of cost.

Russia pushes to block 2nd city in eastern Ukraine

AP ■ KYIV

Russian forces are trying to block a city in eastern Ukraine, the region's governor said Saturday, after their relentless assault on a nearby city forced Ukrainian troops to begin withdrawal after weeks of intense fighting. Russia also launched missile attacks on areas far from the heart of the eastern battles.

Serhiy Haidai, governor of the Luhansk region, said on Facebook that Russian forces are attempting to blockade the city of Lysychansk from the south. That city lies next to Sievierodonetsk, which has endured relentless assault and house-to-house fighting for weeks.

After Haidai said Friday that Ukrainian forces had begun retreating from Sievierodonetsk, military analyst Oleg Zhdanov said some of the troops were heading for Lysychansk. But Russian moves to cut off Lysychansk will give those retreating troops little respite.

Russian bombardment has reduced most of Sievierodonetsk to rubble and cut its population from 100,000 to 10,000. Some Ukrainian troops are holed up in the huge Azot chemical factory on the city's edge, along with about 500 civilians.

Sievierodonetsk and Lysychansk have been the focal point of the Russian offensive



aimed at capturing all of eastern Ukraine's Donbas region and destroying the Ukrainian military defending it - the most capable and battle-hardened segment of the country's armed forces.

The two cities and surrounding areas are the last major pockets of Ukrainian resistance in the Luhansk region - 95% of which is under Russian and local separatist forces' control. The Russians and separatists also control about

half of the Donetsk region, the second province in the Donbas.

Some 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) to the west, four Russian rockets hit a "military object" in Yaroviv, Lviv regional governor Maksym Kozzytsky said. He did not give further details of the target, but Yaroviv has a sizable military base used for training fighters, including foreigners who have volunteered to fight for Ukraine. That base was hit by Russian

rockets in March, killing 35 people. The Lviv region, although far from the front lines, has been hit by other rockets during the war, destroying fuel storage areas.

About 30 Russian rockets were fired on the Zhytomyr region in central Ukraine on Saturday morning, killing one Ukrainian soldier, regional governor Vitaliy Buchenko said.

In the north, about 20 rockets were fired from Belarus into the

Chernihiv region, the Ukrainian military said.

A senior U.S. defense official, speaking in Washington on condition of anonymity, on Friday called the Ukrainians' move out of Sievierodonetsk a "tactical retrograde" to consolidate forces into positions where they can better defend themselves.

This will add to Ukraine's effort to keep Russian forces pinned down longer in a small area, the official said.

Following a botched attempt to capture Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, in the early stage of the invasion that started Feb. 24, Russian forces have shifted their focus to the Donbas, where the Ukrainian forces have fought Moscow-backed separatists since 2014.

After repeated Ukrainian requests to its Western allies for heavier weaponry to counter Russia's edge in firepower, four medium-range American rocket launchers have arrived, with four more on the way.

The senior U.S. defense official said Friday that more Ukrainian forces are training outside Ukraine to use the High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS, and are expected back in their country with the weapons by mid-July.

The rockets can travel about 45 miles (70 kilometers). Also to be sent are 18 U.S. coastal and river patrol boats.



Biden signs landmark gun bill, says 'lives will be saved'

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden on Saturday signed the most sweeping gun violence bill in decades, a bipartisan compromise that seemed unimaginable until a recent series of mass shootings, including the massacre of 19 students and two teachers at a Texas elementary school. "Lives will be saved," he said at the White House. Citing the families of shooting victims, the president said, "Their message to us was to do something. Well today, we did."

The House gave final approval Friday, following Senate passage Thursday, and Biden acted just before leaving Washington for two summits in Europe. The legislation will toughen background checks for the youngest gun buyers, keep firearms from more domestic violence offenders and help states put in place red flag laws that make it easier for authorities to take weapons from people adjudged to be dangerous.

Most of its \$13 billion cost will help bolster mental health programs and aid schools, which have been targeted in

Newtown, Connecticut, and Parkland, Florida, and elsewhere in mass shootings. Biden said the compromise hammered out by a bipartisan group of senators "doesn't do everything I want" but "it does include actions I've long called for that are going to save lives."

"I know there's much more work to do, and I'm never going to give up, but this is a monumental day," said the president, who was joined by his wife, Jill, a teacher, for the signing.

He said they will host an event on July 11 for lawmakers and families affected by gun violence.

Biden signed the measure two days after the Supreme Court's ruling Thursday striking down a New York law that restricted peoples' ability to carry concealed weapons.

While the new law does not include tougher restrictions long championed by Democrats, such as a ban on assault-style weapons and background checks for all gun transactions, it is the most impactful firearms violence measure produced by Congress since enactment a long-expired assault weapons ban in 1993.

Norway terror alert raised after deadly mass shooting

AP ■ OSLO

A gunman opened fire in Oslo's night-life district early Saturday, killing two people and leaving more than 20 wounded in what Norwegian security service called an "Islamist terror act" during the capital's annual Pride festival.

Investigators said the suspect, identified as a 42-year-old Norwegian citizen originally from Iran, was arrested after opening fire at three locations in downtown Oslo.

The PST security service raised its terror alert level from "moderate" to "extraordinary" - the highest level - after the attack, which sent panicked revelers fleeing into the streets or trying to hide from the gunman.

PST acting chief Roger Berg called the attack an "extreme Islamist terror act" and said the suspect had a "long history of violence and threats" as well as mental health issues.

Upon the advice of police, organizers canceled a Pride parade that was set for Saturday as the highlight of a weeklong festival. One of the shootings happened outside the London Pub, a bar popular with the city's LGBTQ community, just hours before the parade was set to begin.

Police attorney Christian Hatlo said the suspect was being held on suspicion of murder, attempted murder and terrorism, based on the number of people targeted at multiple locations. "Our overall assessment is that there are grounds to believe that he wanted to cause grave fear in the population," Hatlo said.

Police said two of the shooting victims died and 10 people were being treated for serious injuries, but none of them was believed to be in life-threatening condition. Eleven other people had minor injuries.

Olav Roenneberg, a journalist

from Norwegian public broadcaster NRK, said he witnessed the shooting.

"I saw a man arrive at the site with a bag. He picked up a weapon and started shooting," Roenneberg told NRK. "First I thought it was an air gun. Then the glass of the bar next door was shattered and I understood I had to run for cover."

Another witness, Marcus Nybakken, 46, said he saw a lot of people running and screaming and thought it was a fist fight.

"But then I heard that it was a shooting and that there was someone shooting with a submachine gun," Nybakken told Norwegian broadcaster TV2. Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre said in a Facebook post that "the shooting outside London Pub in Oslo tonight was a cruel and deeply shocking attack on innocent people." He said that while the motive was unclear, the shooting had caused fear and grief in the LGBTQ community. "We all stand by you," Gahr Støre wrote.

Christian Bredeli, who was at the bar, told Norwegian newspaper VG that he hid on the fourth floor with a group of about 10 people until he was told it was safe to come out.

"Many were fearing for their lives," he said. "On our way out we saw several injured people, so we understood that something serious had happened."

TV2 showed footage of people running down Oslo streets in panic as shots rang out in the background.

Investigators said the suspect was known to police, as well as to PST, but not for any major violent crimes. His criminal record included a narcotics offense and a weapons offense for carrying a knife, Hatlo said.

Hatlo said police seized two weapons after the attack: a handgun and an automatic weapon, both of

which he described as "not modern" without giving details.

He said the suspect had not made any statement to the police and was in contact with a defense lawyer.

Hatlo said it was too early to say whether the gunman specifically targeted members of the LGBTQ community. "We have to look closer at that, we don't know yet," he said.

Still, police advised organizers of the Pride festival to cancel the parade Saturday.

"Oslo Pride therefore urges everyone who planned to participate or watch the parade to not show up. All events in connection with Oslo Prides are canceled," organizers said on the official Facebook page of the event.

Inge Alexander Gjestvang, leader of FRI, the Norwegian organisation for sexual and gender diversity, said the shooting has shaken the Nordic country's LGBTQ community.

"We encourage everyone to stand together, take care of each other. We'll be back later, proud, visible but right now it's not the time for that," he told TV2. King Harald V offered condolences to the relatives of victims and said the royal family was "horrified" by the attack. "We must stand together to defend our values: freedom, diversity and respect for each other. We must continue to stand up for all people to feel safe," the monarch said.

Norway has a relatively low crime rate but has experienced violent attacks by right-wing extremists, including one of the worst mass shootings in Europe in 2011, when a gunman killed 69 people on the island of Utøya after setting off a bomb in Oslo that left eight dead.

In 2019, another right-wing extremist killed his stepsister and then opened fire in a mosque but was overpowered before anyone there was injured.

Iraqi PM to head to Saudi Arabia, Iran for new dialogue

AP ■ BAGHDAD

Iraq's caretaker prime minister is set to fly to Saudi Arabia, followed by Iran, carrying a new initiative aimed at renewing talks between the two regional arch foes, an official said Saturday.

The official said Mustafa al-Kadhimi was scheduled to travel to Riyadh later in the day for meetings with Saudi officials. He will then travel to Tehran on Sunday.

Al-Kadhimi's visit seeks to open new avenues that would reactivate Baghdad-mediated dialogue between Saudi Arabia and Iran, according to the official, who is privy to the Iran-Saudi dialogue track. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to divulge the information to the press.

The talks aimed at defusing yearslong tensions between the regional foes began quietly in Iraq's capital in 2021 as Saudi Arabia sought a way to end its disastrous war against Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen. The conflict has spawned one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters and brought bombs from rebel drones and missiles raining down on Saudi airports and oil facilities.

A fifth and last round of talks was held in Baghdad in April before they were suspended again amid soaring Middle East tensions.

Iran, the largest Shiite Muslim country in the world, and Sunni powerhouse Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic ties in 2016 after Saudi Arabia executed prominent Shiite cleric Nimr al-Nimr. Angry Iranians protesting the execution stormed two Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran, fueling years of animosity between the nations.

Iraq borders both Iran and Saudi Arabia and is often caught in the middle of the two nations' proxy wars.

Al-Kadhimi has stressed he wants balanced relations with the two neighbors. Improving relations with Saudi Arabia was a key policy of his administration when he took office in May 2020.

Hasina opens B'desh's longest bridge, calls it symbol of country's pride

PTI ■ DHAKA

The landmark Padma Bridge is not a pile of brick and cement but a symbol of Bangladesh's pride, capacity and dignity, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said on Saturday as she inaugurated the country's longest bridge entirely built with domestic funding.

The 6.15-km-long road-rail four-lane bridge is built over the Padma river connecting southwestern Bangladesh with the capital and other parts of the country.

The multipurpose road-rail bridge, which is fully funded by the Bangladesh government, has been constructed at a cost of USD 3.6 billion.

The inauguration of the Padma bridge carries a lot of significance as the structure was built entirely with domestic financing, defying skepticism from some financial analysts if Bangladesh, which will only graduate from the UN's Least Developed Countries (LDC) list in 2026, could mobilise the fund depending on domestic resources.

Hasina expressed deep gratitude to the people involved with the construction of the Padma bridge.

"I have no complaints against anyone, but I reckon those who opposed the Padma Bridge construction plan and called it a 'pipe dream', lack self-confidence. I hope this bridge will boost their confidence," the prime minister said. "This bridge is not just bricks, cement, iron, and concrete... This bridge is our pride, a symbol of our capaci-

ty, our strength and our dignity."

This bridge belongs to the people of Bangladesh," she said.

"The bridge belongs to the people of Bangladesh. It encapsulates our passion, creativity, courage, endurance and perseverance," she said.

She said the much-cherished bridge stands on the turbulent Padma River overcoming many obstacles and breaking the web of conspiracy.

"Today, I am happy, proud, and overwhelmed along with millions of people of the country," said Hasina.

The Padma Bridge project witnessed several engineering wonders as well as technological challenges. It emerged as the wonder structure for Bangladesh and saw the use of state-of-the-art machinery and know-how.

The project was initially expected to be funded by a consortium led by the World Bank.

In 2012, it cancelled the proposed credit saying it had "credible evidence" of high-level corruption among Bangladeshi officials.

Bangladesh has all through denied these allegations and preferred not to approach the international global lender for funding.

Meanwhile, India has congratulated the Bangladesh government on the completion of the massive project.

"Felicitations to Government and people of Bangladesh on completion of the landmark Padma Bridge project, from India!" the Indian

High tweeted ahead of the inauguration.

"The completion of this long-awaited project is testimony to the courageous decisions and far-sighted leadership of HE Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. This success vindicated the Prime Minister's decisions and also our conviction..., as expressed through our steadfast support when Bangladesh decided to proceed with the project alone," the Indian High Commission said in a statement.

The Padma Bridge would not only help improve intra-Bangladesh connectivity, but it will also provide much-needed impetus to logistics and businesses connecting India and our shared subregion, it said, adding the bridge will play an important role in fostering greater bilateral and sub-regional connectivity.

"The people of India once again congratulate the fraternal people of Bangladesh on the momentous occasion of inauguration of Padma Bridge, on the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's Liberation," it added.

Prime Minister Hasina said that the foundation of the Padma Bridge is still the deepest in the world.

She said that the piles of this bridge have been laid up to a maximum depth of 122 metres while sophisticated technology has been used for earthquake prevention.

"Because of some of the more special features, the construction of this bridge will be included in engineering textbooks around the world - that's for sure," she said.

FROM PAGE 1

AXE ON 16 MLAS! DY SPEAKER SETS JUNE 27 FOR SHOW-CAUSE

Meanwhile, a meeting of the Shiv Sena's national executive held under the chairmanship of Uddhav Thackeray adopted five political resolutions in the wake of a massive rebellion staged by senior party leader Eknath Shinde.

In the first of the resolutions, the Shiv Sena reposed full confidence in the leadership of Uddhav Thackeray and it authorized to take all necessary decisions relating to the party. In other resolutions, the Sena functionaries present at the meeting empowered him to take the sternest possible action against the party rebels, and asked the party rebels not to misuse the name of late Bal Thackeray, the party will continue to represent the ideology of late Balasaheb and it would continue to champion Marathi asmita (self-respect) and would espouse the cause of Hindutva.

In a related development, the rebel Shiv Sena MLAs have alleged that the security cover of around 16 legislators - currently camping in Guwahati - has been abruptly withdrawn.

Dubbing the state government's action of withdrawing the security of 16 rebel Sena MLAs as "illegal" and it smacked of vendetta politics, the affected rebel MLAs shot off a letter to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil, Director-General of Police Rajnish Seth, and all police commissioners in the state. Among other things, the rebel MLAs have expressed fear that a situation akin to Punjab where the security of several high-profile persons was withdrawn by their state government, might recur in Maharashtra. It may be recalled that rap singer Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu alias 'Moosewala' was killed in Punjab by the mafia in that state on May 29.

However, Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil dismissed the rebels' accusation asserting how "nobody's security cover has been withdrawn" and said instructions have been issued to provide security to the family members as needed.

In their letter, the rebel MLAs have claimed that "this sinister move is another attempt to break our resolve and arm-twist us to give in to the demands of the MVA government consisting of NCP and INC goons".

The rebel Sena MLAs have contended that the reason to give

security is (due) to a threat and not which side of politics they are on, and pointed out that it was because of these unspecified threats they were forced to leave Maharashtra, and the MVAs alleged actions have further compounded the situation.

The rebels have also charged the MVA leaders are allegedly instigating the cadres of their respective parties to indulge in violence against the breakaway MLAs and accused Sena MP Sanjay Raut of statements that incited the activists.

Demanding immediate reinstatement of their security detail, the rebel MLAs said warned that in case of any harm befall their families, then MVA leaders like CM Thackeray, Minister Aditya Thackeray, Chief Spokesperson Raut, and NCP President Sharad Pawar "will be responsible for the same".

LIKE SHIVA, MODI SWALLOWED POISON OF RIOT CHARGE: SHAH

Shah said the Prime Minister set a shining example by not uttering a single word as the legal proceedings went on for 19 years. He endured pain for the last so many years without speaking a word and followed Lord Shiva who swallowed poison and held it in his throat, Shah said. Modi, he said, submitted himself to the SIT Investigation in dignified ways, and "I too was arrested". He also took a jibe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi when he appeared for questioning by the ED in the National Herald case. "Modi ji didn't do drama while appearing before SIT - come out in my support, call MLAs-MPs & stage dharna...If SIT wants to question CM, he himself is ready to cooperate. Why to protest?" he said. Modi provided the best example for all political figures on how to follow the Constitution, he said.

Shah said a campaign was launched against Modi and "articles published abroad against him". On the Gujarat riots and delay in calling the army, the Home Minister said the Gujarat riots were self-inspired after the Godhra train burning. He said the army was called immediately "but it takes an army to reach". He sought to know why the army which is readily available in Delhi was not called by the Congress Government for three full days during the 1984 Sikh riots. To another question, the Home Minister said the Prime

Minister did everything to control the 2002 riots. "But barely 150 policemen in each thana... it takes time to control the scale of violence," Former IPS officer KPS Gill said. I have not seen more neutral and prompt action than this," said Shah.

Shah said SC's judgment has put an end to a long campaign to tarnish the image of the Prime Minister.

Shah said, "This is not the first time that Modiji got the clean chit...Nanavati Commission too gave a clean chit to him".

Asked what he thought of his arrest, the Home Minister said, "I believe in destiny...whatever happened, happened for good."

On the question that the BJP thrives on the "Gujarat model" of polarisation and riots and what is being called the "Gujarat laboratory" experiment, (that BJP could win without Muslims), Shah said, "The kind of glasses you wear you see that only...Gujarat model is - zero dropouts in primary schools, 24-hour electricity, 10 per cent growth in agriculture and much more... compare riots in our State Governments with Congress States in the last five years and you would know."

On Friday, the Supreme Court dismissed a plea by Congress leader Ehsan Jafri's wife Zakia Jafri, stating that the plea was devoid of merit. Ehsan Jafri was killed during the violence at the Gulbarg Society in Ahmedabad on February 28, 2002.

MAYA BACKS MURMU, JMM LIKELY TO SUPPORT NDA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

"Development of the tribals is an integral part of our party's movement. The decision to support Murmu is just the part of that movement," the BSP chief said. Mayawati also lashed out at the opposition parties for, what she said, keeping BSP aside while deliberating on their candidate for the upcoming presidential poll. "BSP was kept away from all opposition meetings held to discuss a joint candidate for the post of President, which shows their casteist mentality," she said.

"BSP does not believe in blindly following the other parties....we take decisions after keeping in view the ideology of our party," she said. Uttar Pradesh plays a crucial role in the election of the president as it sends 80 members to the Lok Sabha and 31 to Rajya Sabha.

The Uttar Pradesh Assembly has 403 members. Of the total value of votes in the electoral college, Uttar Pradesh's share is 14.86 per cent. The presidential election is slated for July 18 with the counting of votes scheduled on July 21.

GUJARAT ATS ARRESTS TEESTA IN MUMBAI

A police officer in Mumbai said Ahmedabad police detained Setalvad from her residence in Santacruz and took her with them after intimidating local police. "She also gave a written complaint to Santacruz police station (when she was taken there) and they are processing it," said the official. Setalvad's complaint alleged that Gujarat police "barged into" her compound, did not show her a copy of the FIR or warrant against her, and there was a "big bruise" on her left hand. "I fear seriously for my life," her complaint added.

COUNTER-TERRORISM, FOOD SECURITY, ENERGY ON MODI'S AGENDA AT G7

"While in Germany, I also look forward to meeting members of the Indian Diaspora from across Europe who are contributing immensely to their local economies as also enriching our relations with European countries," the Prime Minister said.

From Germany, Modi will travel to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on June 28 to pay his condolences on the passing away of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the former president of the Gulf nation. "On my way back to India, I will make a brief stopover in Abu Dhabi for a meeting with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, on June 28 to convey my personal condolences on the passing away of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the former UAE President and Ruler of Abu Dhabi," Modi said.

Zayed Al Nahyan passed away on May 13 after battling illness for the last several years. In a gesture of goodwill, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu visited the UAE to offer India's condolences over the demise of Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Harmanpreet leads India to seal series against Sri Lanka

India win by 5 wickets in 2nd T20

PTI ■ DAMBULLA

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur contributed with both bat and ball to steer the Indian women's cricket team to a series sealing five-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the second T20 here on Saturday.

Vice captain Smriti Mandhana's (39 off 34 balls) experience complemented by the exuberance of both Shefali Verma (17 off 10 balls) and Sabbhini Meghana (17 off 10 balls) helped India chase down the 126-run target in 19.1 overs.

India stuttered in what should have been a comfortable run chase before Harmanpreet took India home with an unbeaten 31 of 32 balls.

Sri Lanka squandered a fine start to post a below par 125 for seven.

The third and final T20 will be played here on



Monday.

It was a day to remember for Mandhana who became the second fastest Indian woman to reach 2,000 runs T20 runs.

Mandhana reached the feat in her 84th innings, becoming the third Indian woman after the legendary Mithali Raj (70 innings) and current skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (88 innings) to cross the mark.

Opting to bat first and with the series on line, it was the duo of captain Chamari Athapaththu (43 off 41 balls) and Vishmi Gunaratne (45 off 50 balls) provided an ideal start for the Lankans by taking the Indian bowlers to the cleaners.

The duo also put up Sri Lanka's best opening stand (87) in T20s to leave the Indians frantically rummaging for breakthroughs.

However, as both Athapaththu and Gunaratne departed, it was a sorry state of affairs for Sri Lanka as they lost a slew of wickets, only managing an underwhelming total.



Archery World Cup: Abhishek-Jyothi pair grabs maiden compound mixed team gold

PTI ■ PARIS

India won its maiden World Cup gold in compound mixed team archery event after the duo of Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam outclassed their experienced French opponents at the Stage 3 edition here on Saturday.

Riding on a spectacular start, the Indians withered late resistance from the French pair of Jean Bouch and 48-year-old Olympic medallist Sophie Dodemont to seal the contest 152-149, a first-ever World Cup gold for India in the compound mixed team event.

The gold also opened the

account of Indian archers, who have assured a second medal in the women's recurve team event where the trio of Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat and Simranjeet Kaur will fight for the yellow metal on Sunday.

Making a comeback after more than seven months, world no. 3 Jyothi, who was sidelined in the Asian Games trial, is also in the hunt for another medal as she takes on French veteran Sophie in the individual semi-final later in the day.

A Beijing Olympics bronze medalist, Sophie switched to compound discipline after failing to make the 2012 London Olympics squad.

The third-seeded Indians got off to a flier, drilling in four 10s that included two Xs to race to a three-point lead and put early pressure on the French pair. The Indians managed just one 10 in the second end as the French duo reduced the deficit to one-point. The third was a tie, while in the deciding fourth end, Abhishek and Jyothi held their nerves to edge out their opponents by two points to annex the title. The most successful Indian compound pair of Abhishek and Jyothi have a handful of World Cup bronze medals and their best has been a World Cup Final silver at Yankton last year.

Chennai Open chess: Nitin remains on top

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Indian International Master Nitin Senthilvel settled for a draw with compatriot and fellow IM Ravichandran Siddharth in the ninth round lead to stay on top of the standings with 8 points in the 13th Chennai Open International Grandmaster Chess Tournament 2022 here on Saturday.

The draw in the top board saw Nitin's lead being cut to half a point as GM Boris Savchenko (Russia), Alexei Federov (Belarus), Aronyak Ghosh, Him all Gusain (both India) moved to 7.5 points.

On Friday, tournament leader Nitin missed a win against top seed Grandmaster Savchenko and today he held the upper hand against Siddharth who just hung on to snatch a draw. The final round is sched-

uled for Sunday.

RESULTS:

Round 9 (Indians unless specified) : Nitin S (8) drew with Ravichandran Siddharth (7), S Prasanna (6.5) lost to Boris Savchenko (Russia) 7.5, P Konguvel (6.5) lost to Alexei Fedorov (7). Aronyak Ghosh (7.5) beat Baghdasaryan Vahe (Armenia) 6.5, Him all Gusain (7.5) beat Daakshin Arun (6.5), Kunal M (6.5) drew with Deepan Chakkravarthy J (6.5), Aaryan Varshney (6.5) drew with Kiril Stupak Kirill (6.5), Ajay Karthikeyan (6.5) drew with Saravana Krishnan P (6.5), Priyanka K (6) lost to Srihari L R (7), R R Laxman (6.5) drew with Jubin Jimmy (6.5), Nguyen Van Huy (Vietnam) 7 beat Hirthickkesh P R (6), Rajesh V A V (7) beat Pranav K P (6), Samriddha Ghosh (5.5) lost to Hari Madhavan N B (6.5).

Sajan Prakash, Srihari Nataraj to spearhead Indian swimming campaign in CWG

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The star duo of Sajan Prakash and Srihari Nataraj will lead a four-member Indian swimming team at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games next month.

Apart from Prakash and Nataraj, fast-rising Delhi swimmer Kushagra Rawat and Madhya Pradesh's Advait Page will be making their debuts at the quadrennial event, slated to be held from July 28 to August 8 in Birmingham, UK. The Swimming Federation of India (SFI) had

secured four quota places for the 2022 CWG and the national body had announced that swimmers who achieve the sixth position time in their respective events from the 2018 Gold Coast CWG would be considered for the quota slots in this edition.

"In the qualification period of one year Srihari, Sajan, Advait and Kushagra have clocked the sixth position time from the previous CWG. That is the cut off standard SFI had set," SFI Secretary General Monal Chokshi told PTI.



Third straight missed cut for Lahiri, Schauffele in lead

PTI ■ CROMWELL (US)

Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri's challenge at the Travelers Championship ended at the halfway stage as he double bogeyed twice on the back nine to miss the cut here. Lahiri had four birdies, three bogeys and two doubles during his round of 3-over 73. Putt alongside his first round of even par, he ended 3-over for 36 holes and missed the cut by five shots. The cut was applied at 2 under, with 2017 winner Jordan Spieth (1-over) also missing out along with Sam Burns (even par), Zach Johnson (4 over) and Jason Day (6 over).

It was the third straight missed cut for Lahiri, who previously exited from the US PGA Championship and the Memorial soon after a run of four Top-15 finishes in five starts.

Olympic champion Xander Schauffele shot his second straight 7-under 63 to take a five-stroke lead. He shot a 31 on the front nine at TPC River Highlands with four birdies, then had a 32 on the back, making birdies on 11, 14 and 17.

Schauffele has hit 33 of 36 greens in regulation and is the only player bogey free for two rounds. Kevin Kisner (64), Nick Hardy (64), defending champion Harris English (65), Cam Davis (66) and Patrick Cantlay (67) were tied for second at 9-under. First-round leaders Rory McIlroy and J T Poston followed opening 62s with 70s to drop six strokes back.

Rajat Patidar hits ton as MP lay one hand on coveted Ranji Trophy

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Rajat Patidar stamped his class with an authoritative century to put Madhya Pradesh on the cusp of their historic Ranji Trophy triumph against 41-time champions Mumbai on a rain-hit fourth day of the summit clash here on Saturday.

Havens opened up minutes before the tea break, and Madhya Pradesh finished their first innings at 536 soon after resumption with a game-changing lead of 162 runs, courtesy Patidar's superb 122, that had as many as 20 boundaries.

Four hundreds have been scored by batters from either side but none oozed more class and competence than Patidar's, who was in a league of his own when it came to regal drives on both sides of the wicket.

At stumps, Mumbai erased some of the deficit, reaching 113 for 2 with Prithvi Shaw (44 off 51 balls) and Hardik Tamore (25 off 32 balls), promoted up the order, showing some positive intent but throwing away their wickets in desperation for quick runs.

Shaw was dismissed with a classic plan of bowling wide outside the off-stump and he finally chased one from Gourav Yadav straight into cover's hands.



With 95 overs left on the final day, there is very little chance of Mumbai winning this match unless they score around 320-plus runs in 50 overs (including Saturday's overs) and set a target of 150-odd for MP with at least 45 to 50 overs to get the 10 wickets.

The wicket isn't showing any signs of crumbling and hence a chance of an MP collapse in the fourth innings doesn't look imminent at the moment. Especially, knowing that they have a first innings lead, MP will like to down the shutters from here-on as ends will prove the means.

DAY BELONGED TO PATIDAR

When the fourth day started, MP needed seven more runs to get the

first innings lead but what was more important was for Patidar to play at least one session and he did that with minimum fuss which could now prove to be decisive in the context of the game.

Patidar smashed seven more boundaries following his 13 on the third day and by the time he was out for 122 off 219 balls, Madhya Pradesh's lead had gone over 100 runs and the sullen faces of the Mumbai players said it all.

A poker-faced Chandrakant Pandit, who had throughout the four days, sat in one corner of the dressing room, can now afford a wide grin as even a miracle can't turn things around for his "home state".

Madhya Pradesh's innings lasted for exactly 14 hours and two minutes and by the end of it all, they had out-batted Mumbai, a similar kind of torture that the domestic powerhouse is used to inflicting on their opponents over the years.

Patidar first hit an on-drive off Mohit Avasthi for a boundary and then punched him through the cover-point for a couple to give MP the all-important lead.

When a player finds his bearing at a higher level, he tends to dominate at a level which is notch below. The IPL might have been a white ball competition but the kind of confidence that Patidar gained from his century against Lucknow Super Giants on May 25 IPL Eliminator came in handy. He put that to best use exactly one month later on June 25 when he got his eighth and most important hundred of his first-class career.

The cornerstone of MP's success this season has been their batting and No. 2, 3 and 4 scoring runs consistently.

While Patidar has so far scored 628 runs and is second behind Sarfaraz Khan (937) in the run-getter's list, Yash Dubey (613) and Shubham Sharma (578) have also earned their stripes with match-winning performances.



Kerley, Jefferson win at the US outdoor championships

AP ■ EUGENE

Olympic silver medalist Fred Kerley flashed a peace sign at the crowd after winning the 100 meters at the U.S. Outdoor track and field championships Friday night.

Kerley crossed the line in 9.77 seconds, followed by Marvin Bracy-Williams and Trayvon Bromell. All three earned spots on the U.S. Team for the world outdoor championships in Eugene next month.

"It's all about patience and training, and doing what I've got to do," Kerley said after taking selfies with fans.

Melissa Jefferson of Coastal Carolina, who finished eighth in the 100 at this year's NCAA outdoor championships, edged Aleia Hobbs for the national title in the women's event.

Ryan Crouser, the world-record holder and two-time Olympic gold medalist, won the shot put at 75 feet, 10 1/4 inches (23.12 meters). Joe Kovaks, already guaranteed a spot at worlds as the defending champion, was second.

Allyson Felix, the most decorated woman in track history, surged the final 40 meters of her semi-final in the 400, but did not finish among the top three and had to wait to see how her time held up. In the end, she made it to the final Sunday.

"I just appreciate all the support and all the love," she said.

Athletes were greeted by temperatures in the low 80s and breezy conditions at Hayward Field on the University of Oregon campus.

The top three finishers in each event will be part of the U.S. Team at worlds, track and field's most prestigious international event outside of the Olympics.

Earlier in the evening, Kerley ran the 100 semi-finals in a world-leading and personal-best 9.76 seconds. It also was a meet record. Bromell had the second-best time in the semis, at 9.81.

Bromell won the 100 at the U.S. Olympic trials at Hayward last summer. He was widely expected to do well in Tokyo but failed to advance to the Olympic final.

Christian Coleman was a late scratch in the race but he already has a spot at worlds as the defending champion at Doha in 2019.

Hobbs, who won the 2018 NCAA outdoor 100 title as well as that year's national championship, had the fastest time in the semifinals earlier in the day with a personal-best 10.81.

But Jefferson, who just wrapped up her junior year at Coastal Carolina, pushed at the finish to win the final in 10.69 (2.9 wind), in front of Hobbs in 10.72. Twanisha Terry finished third to round out the world team.

Strong field awaits Neeraj Chopra in his first Diamond League Meet of season

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A strong field awaits Olympic javelin throw champion Neeraj Chopra in the prestigious Diamond League Meet in Stockholm on June 30, which will be his biggest event ahead of the World Championships in Eugene, USA, next month.

The 24-year-old Chopra will come into the Swedish capital with confidence after clinching his first win of the season at the Kuortane Games in Finland on June 18, beating reigning world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada for the second time this month.

The Indian superstar had won a silver in his first competition of the season at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku, Finland on June 14 with a national record throw of 89.30m.

Chopra had a nasty fall during his third attempt at the Kuortane Games but luckily he did not sustain any injury. The conditions were treacherous there



for javelin throw as the run-up was slippery due to rains.

His first round throw of 86.64m was, however, enough to hand him a gold.

Peters' name is in the list of par-

ticipants in Stockholm but he did not complete all his throws in an event at Orimattila in Finland on Wednesday, recording a best throw of 71.94m.

The athlete from Grenada has seen a dip in form after winning the Doha Diamond League Meet with a season-leading throw of 93.07m.

After that, he had thrown 86.60m at Paavo Nurmi Games for a third place and 84.75m in Kuortane Games for another third position.

Olympic silver medallist Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic and compatriot Tokyo Games bronze winner Vitezslav Vesely will also be in action. This will be the first time all the Tokyo Olympics medal winners will be in action together this season.

Vadlejch, who was sixth at Paavo Nurmi Games with a best throw of 83.91m, returns after skipping the Kuortane Games. The same is the case for Germany's Julian Weber, who returns after finishing fifth at Paavo Nurmi Games with 84.02m.

India U-17 women's team suffers 1-3 loss against Chile

PTI ■ AQUILEIA (ITALY)

The Indian U-17 women's team suffered a 1-3 loss against Chile in its second match in the four-nation tournament despite an improved performance here.

The women's side came into this match after haplessly going down to the Italian side 0-7 in the opening fixture.

Despite a slow start by both the teams in the initial stages, it was India that got a chance to snatch an early lead through defender Naketa, whose long-ranger free-kick failed to put the Chileans in a spot of bother.

In the 11th minute, Chile found a breakthrough in the 11th minute through Katherine Ramos, who inflicted a blow to the Indians.

While the Indians tried to bounce back quickly and were in search of an equaliser, Chile doubled their lead in the 19th minute, through a clinical header from Maitte.

With the first half ending 2-0 in favour of Chile, India came out after the break and looked desperate to restore parity.



With an uphill task in hand, the Indians reduced the deficit and made it 1-2 when a ball from Neha landed at the feet of Kajol, and the latter skillfully headed the ball into the back of the goal in a flash.

However, despite a much-needed goal, the Indian side's aspirations were soon dashed when, in the 67th minute, when Chile's Ambar Rolino made it 3-1, putting a final nail in the coffin.

The remainder of the game saw the Indians maintaining their attack but it was the Chileans who walked out of the field as victors.



talktime

ATIF AFZAL AKA A-ZAL

The singer, who is also a New York-based songwriter and composer is known for his compositions for American TV series Loki, NCIS: Los Angeles and The Twilight Zone and for the films Resort to Love, Prague, Pune 52, among others. He speaks with SUPRIYA RAMESH about his association with Marvel, his journey and more

‘BOLLYWOOD INDUSTRY HAS AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF TALENT’



■ Tell us about your composition for Ms Marvel?

I have composed two songs for Ms Marvel. These are full-fledged tracks as opposed to the more dreamy track I did for Loki last year. Both of them are romantic and appear in the montage where the chemistry is building between Kamala Khan and Kamran. These tracks are very unique.

I was in talks with Marvel for a Bollywood style song since last year just after we finished Loki. So, when they approached me for it in April 2022, I initially thought it was for the same project.

However, this turned out to be a new one. What's interesting is that we wrapped up the entire process from the brief till the actual release was just two months.

■ How did your association with Marvel first begin?

It first started when they reached out to me last year for Loki. However, what's interesting is that I was never told that it was for Loki since the project is kept confidential. But, I was amazed to know that I am going to be a part of the Marvel universe. It is Hollywood at its best.

■ Tell us about your journey into music. How did you make it

from composing music for Marathi films to Bollywood and Hollywood?

The first film that I signed was Prague. It so happened that the Marathi film Pune 52 released before Prague. Interestingly, I was approached by the producers of Pune 52 after they saw the trailer of my film Prague. I knew the journey would be tough. I knew I was a crazy guy with a crazy dream and I knew I had to take one step at a time. I had no one in the industry at all. Not a single soul who would help me navigate this journey.

When I started in Bollywood in 2013, I did films like Prague and Monsoon Shootout which had western music and an international style score. Further, it had official selections at multiple global film festivals which gave traction to my career and recognition at the global level. Monsoon Shootout was at Cannes, which was a big deal.

Soon, I was approached for a German film called Gift for ARD Degeto Network in Germany. Then I did a thesis film at the New York University called The Alternative. That was my first independent American film. I worked on several advertising commercials in the USA. And finally, the big breakthrough came when I did NCIS:Los Angeles and The Twilight Zone. This really propelled me to the giant projects which I did for Marvel.

So, it was one step at a time!

■ How did the pandemic take a toll on you professionally?

I'm going to give you an answer that you probably wouldn't expect. I got my biggest breakthrough in Hollywood during the pan-

demic. The pandemic struck New York, and after a couple of months, CBS reached out to me for NCIS:Los Angeles. And, soon after I finished it, they roped me in for The Twilight Zone

■ What's your take on India's music scene when you compare it globally?

When I compare it globally, I know one thing. Indian music is one of the oldest music forms existing in the world today, and we need to retain that and stop copying the West. I feel we need to stop following what is trending and adopting a formula-based approach, but create what is unique and different. The Bollywood industry has an incredible amount of talent for sure!

■ What's your personal style as a music artist? Who do you take inspiration from?

When it comes to film scoring, my personal style is very experimental. I take inspiration from composers such as Clint Mansell who has composed iconic scores and gave the world a new sound. As a pop singer, I take inspiration from Ed Sheeran. I love British singers. My singing style and song-writing style is very similar to that of Ed Sheeran.

■ What's next?

I am in talks for another song for Marvel. There is also an interesting project going on with Netflix. What I'm most excited about is my American pop album called 17 & 11 Nights; Phonebook, Ride, Autopilot are a few songs from the album. The singles will be released later this year and that will, for the first time, bring the artist side of me to the world. I am currently shooting the music videos for my album.

Plan Your Day

CELEBRATE LOVE



Mingle with, peruse and shop from queer entrepreneurs and small business owners at a dedicated space for all things queer made.

And if that wasn't enough, there will be music, food and drinks. All brought to you with pride and love by queer performers and caterers.

Sip on Bira's new summer collection or some amazing

cocktails from Roku, Toki, Oaksmith and many more.

Fashion, art, merch, home decor, zines — if you can think of it, you can probably find it at Queer Made Weekend!

What: Fun fair
Where: DLF Promenade, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi
When: June 26, 2022
Time: 5 pm to 10 pm

THEY ALSO WENT LOCAL




Village Square in partnership with The National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) celebrated World Localisation Day at NCUI Auditorium, New Delhi with prominent rural changemakers, urban youth, development professionals and artisans from across India.

The event was designed to raise awareness of local goods and artisan products and to promote eco-friendly living. It is a platform to learn about local influencers, opportunities, and products.

The storytelling session was the highlight, where five young rural changemakers gave an insight into their endeavors and challenges.

Masterstroke



Flat weaves, with their distinctively bold patterns and eye-catching colours, look equally at home in an airy beach house as they do in a sophisticated city apartment, and are a stylish way to keep those laid-back summer vibes going long after the season has passed.

These rugs basically come in rich colours and intricate patterns and are known for their flexibility. Lacking the pile or a backing, they are quite light in nature. The other quality of these rugs is that they are reversible and are easily used from both sides. Flat weave rugs are available in different variations despite following the basic technique, adopting different patterns and styles in different regions around the world. A few such styles include Kilims, Dhurries and Navajo rugs.

The flat-woven kilim has been a staple of the rug world for centuries, and has regained some of its former glory in recent years. Saraswati's Zara collection is a nod to the current trend in the home decor market, but with fun colors and updated patterns make its collection unique. Also, the Zara collection is thicker than a typical kilim, making it more stable and durable over time, and thus, a better overall rug.

Lovable from the outset, the Zara collection will win hearts without breaking the bank. These wool Rugs are Natural/Reversible/Durable and come in different colours like Green, Mushroom, Gold, Dusty Orange, Blue, Charcoal, Grey & Jade.

MORE THAN A BODY

Body positivity is about knowing and accepting your body type as it is. Unlearn and challenge the unreal beauty standards that the popular culture and society have been claiming to be ideal

We all have doubted the shape of our bodies at some point in our lives; how our curves are reflected in the mirror has led to a drop in confidence and paved the path for disbeliefs and doubts in our minds. The unsolicited comments that we encounter throughout our lives plant the seed of uncertainties and doubts that may lead to eating disorders, feeling belittled and social anxiety.

We can't stop people from expressing their minds in words but we can work on ourselves. When we make an effort to understand that we shouldn't have to pay attention to their words; opinions don't shape us and shouldn't become the ideologies we have to live our lives by. We need to understand the importance of living an abundant life and working towards bringing body positivity and self-confidence into our lives.

Body positivity is about knowing and accepting your body type as it is irrespective of sizes, shapes, physical abilities and colours. Loving yourself in all of its forms and living with confidence and fortitude. It is about unlearning and challenging the unreal beauty standards that the popular culture and society have been claiming to be ideal.

We have often heard the term body positivity and let's take three steps in inculcating it in our lives and embodying it.

Know your body. It's not easy to defeat darkness without even knowing what it is and how it's affecting your life. Take time to reflect on your daily routine and you'll find tiny changes that you can add to your lifestyle to be more mindful of your body confidence. Sit back and think about what are the things that encourage you to be authentically you without adulteration from the world. Put effort into knowing what makes you feel good about your body. Is it the new dress



hanging in your cupboard or a new exercise routine or even a new way you like to be touched? Know that there are no bad or good body types. Try to learn about your body type and take time out from your usual schedule to get to know your body and what makes it tick.

Accept yourself. I was told throughout my childhood that I was too fat to the point in my later years that I developed an eating disorder. Things became even more difficult for me because I'm an emotional eater. I like to eat when I'm overwhelmed or happy or sad and it is always followed by guilt. It took me years and a lot of professional help to accept myself and my body as it is.

Before we can move onto the path of pride, we will have to accept ourselves and accept our bodies. For years, we've spent our time wishing about how we should've looked

rather than accepting and loving our bodies as we are. Accepting can become challenging because you'll have to tune out all the negativities and mean comments and thoughts you've been unconsciously entertaining.

My advice would be to remind yourself of your divinity and sexy, brilliant self. Once you start saying it to yourself every day, it won't be long before you start believing in it. When you accept that you are sexy and brilliant as you are, you will feel a surge of confidence and pride in yourself and your body.

Unlearn for authentic living. We all have heard what a beautiful person should look and dress like, what are the foolproof methods to get 'that' body and what you should and shouldn't eat to get the definitive body type that people admire. Say no to them. It's your turn



Devina Kaur
Founder, Sexy Brilliant Non-Profit Foundation

IT'S NOT EASY TO DEFEAT DARKNESS WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING WHAT IT IS AND HOW IT'S AFFECTING YOUR LIFE. TAKE TIME TO REFLECT ON YOUR DAILY ROUTINE AND YOU'LL FIND TINY CHANGES THAT YOU CAN ADD TO YOUR LIFESTYLE TO BE MORE MINDFUL OF YOUR BODY CONFIDENCE



to unlearn those definitions, remarks, and beliefs and make rules for yourself as you like them. The notions that have been idealised for years now are deemed to be toxic and should be unlearned and unheard of now. Learn what works for you, the clothes that make you shine and feel comfortable on your skin and your body and from there it will be easier to live authentically.

Do what makes you happy and feel healthy, go out on walks, exercise regularly, surround yourself with positive people and add meditative sessions so you spend enough time with yourself to know what your body actually wants. Remind yourself that you are your top priority and self-care is the most important kind of love that you can show yourself. Listen to your inner calling, challenge the negative thoughts and follow that path. It will be a challenging path but it'll be worth your efforts and time. Practice radical self-acceptance, embrace your inner self and let it shine in front of the world.

QUIRKY TALE

“Determination, hard work and passion have helped me reach this place” says Rahul Gangwani



Everyone dreams to attain big status at some point in time but very few work hard and reach their destination. Similarly, entrepreneurship is a journey that requires diligence and unmatched motivation to achieve success. The whole strata of success is based on how much you are investing in your journey of entrepreneurship. When we see people with exponential growth have reached an acumen, they have the unmatched potential.

Entrepreneurship also requires a fair amount of investment, by investing one has better leverage over the startup or the business. As we all know in the Middle East, luxury cars are in demand and luxury car rentals are the future of Dubai. In this, Rahul Gangwani is investing large amounts of money to buy the latest fleet of luxury cars. His determination, passion and hard work have helped the company to reach greater heights in the recent past. We have seen in recent times that the luxury car rental segment is increasing at a rapid pace and will attain a huge market share by the end of 2025 in the Middle East. After understanding the opportunities and the progress of the luxury car rental world, Gangwani decided to invest in the RG Rental Business. Also, categorising luxury cars from normal cars will help them to create a separate sector. It is a promising name in India and is now expanding its footprint in Dubai. Also, renting a prestige car is far more economical as most people think that it would be very expensive. In this wake, RG Rent A Car is making a big leap.

Iman Zaidi bags the Bhartiya Kala Ratna Award



Iman Zaidi's phenomenal art of beautifying brides has captured the attention of young women throughout India. Wedding wish lists are incomplete without 'bridal makeup by Iman Zaidi'. She is not only admired by brides but also by many makeup enthusiasts. She is regarded as a great influence and inspiration for budding makeup artists.

Zaidi's work and talent was recognised by Global Scholars Foundation and she qualified as a nominee for *Bhartiya Ratna Awards* (Jewel of India). Dr VijayKumar Swarupchand Shah, *Padmashri* title holder was the chief guest and presenter of the Noble Award.

She was the only nominee from the Indian bridal and beauty industry. Her effort in bringing forth recognition for the Indian makeup styles was highly appreciated by Dr Shah and the organisers.

"While many makeup artists are appreciated in the glamour industry, very few artists are working towards recognising the art of traditional bridal makeup styles of India. Makeup artists, especially those who work closely with Indian cultures must be recognised for their efforts as they use their talent in justifying a makeover for modern day women into a traditional one," says Zaidi.

She has worked with more than thousand brides throughout India and takes personal interest in different cultures and heritage of Indian aesthetic art.

Through her art she wishes to preserve the different traditional and cultural aspects of bridal makeup in the modern age. Her aim is to bring honourable recognition to Indian bridal makeup artists.

This plan is here to save your child's future financial needs



Life is filled with uncertainty and worries about the future. While many things are not under our control, as a parent, the emotional, physical, mental and financial security of your child is of utmost importance. In this ever-changing world, when you don't know what's going to happen next and how it will affect your child's future, it's essential that as parents, it is your responsibility to protect their financial future and ensure that their needs are not compromised and timely fulfilled.

The simplest and smartest way to do so to help your child be independent and financially secure is to have an insurance plan that specifically focuses on building a robust future for your child.

While there are various types of child insurance plan available, SBI Life- Smart Champ Insurance Plan is one such individual, non-linked, participating, life insurance savings product, which takes care of the child's future educational needs as soon as they turn 18 years of age. It is carefully crafted to meet the objectives and concerns of a parent. It is a life insurance cum savings plan that secures their bright future against the uncertainties of life.

Key features:

- ♦ Guaranteed smart benefits in four equal annual installments starting from age 18 till age 21
- ♦ Financial help in case of unfortunate or accidental death of a family member
- ♦ Ensures the child's higher education needs

Therefore, it is crucial to secure the child's future.

Failure is a great teacher and, if you are open to it, every mistake has a lesson to offer
—Oprah Winfrey



Thousand Pillar Temple, Warangal

RELIGIOUS INTERACTIONS — A REAPPRAISAL

As Indians, we must take pride in being a Secular nation and as citizens promote an environment devoid of religious antagonism for the greater good of humanity, writes SUSAN MISHRA

As we stand in the 21st century and witness bitter inter-religion intolerance, a peek into the past is imperative to understand the present. There are numerous instances from the medieval to the modern era in the south, north, and eastern India where Hindu and Muslim communities lived side by side without a feeling of animosity and antagonism.

In Malabar, Islam probably arrived in the 7th century CE along with the Arab traders, and by the 12th century CE, a strong Muslim community existed here. The Zamorins were Hindu rulers of the Kingdom of Calicut (now Kozhikode). They maintained elaborate trade relations with the Muslim Middle-Eastern sailors in the Indian Ocean as Calicut was then an important trading entrepôt on the western seaboard of India. Under the Zamorins, the Muslims enjoyed many commercial, political and religious privileges. The very fact that Zamorin rejected Vasco da Gama's request to banish all Muslims from his kingdom clearly speaks of the significance accorded to Muslims in a Hindu kingdom.

In fact, it is the Portuguese who became the common enemy of the Muslims and the Zamorin. The latter received full support from their Muslim populace in terms of mobilization of manpower, resources, and funding of wars against the Portuguese. The Muchundi and Mishkal mosques in Kozhikode are living examples of assistance provided by the Hindu Zamorin rulers to their Muslim community. The 13th century CE inscription in Muchundi mosque in Kuttichira, Kozhikode records the establishment of the mosque by certain Shahab al-din Raihan, and the Zamorin ruler granted some land to it for certain daily expenses incurred at the mosque. The Mishkal mosque is also located in Kuttichira, Kozhikode, and was built by a merchant ship owner in the 14th century CE. This mosque was attacked, destroyed and burnt in 1510 by the Portuguese.

The Zamorin was furious at seeing the devastation of the city and the destruction of the mosque. The combined efforts and firm determination by the Nairs and Muslims shattered the dreams of the early colonizers in Malabar. Post the victory of the Zamorin in the battle of Chaliyam, the ruler supported the restoration and reconstruction of the Mishkal mosque. It is believed that the stones and the wood from the Chaliyam fort were carried and placed in the yard at Mishkal to be used in the reconstruction of the mosque. The Khasi Foundation of Kuttichira commemorated 500 years of the grand gesture of the religious harmony of the times by honoring the Zamorin. In remembrance of the great harmony between the two communities and for thanking the 'Zamorin King' for his solidarity with the Muslims, the representatives of the Khasi Foundation visited the residence of the current descendants of the erstwhile Zamorin kings and presented him a painting of the Mishkal Mosque.

Turning the focus on 21st century Kerala, at Ponnani a 16th century CE mosque, known as

Misri Palli preserves its original structure due to the efforts of a non-Muslim speaker and legislator. When the work of its demolition began for the purposes of constructing a new mosque, some people contacted P. Sreeramakrishnan, who rushed to the site and stopped the work. He called a meeting of the mosque committee and convinced its members not to dismantle it so that it is preserved under the Muziris- Ponnani heritage conservation project.

Erumeli/ Erumeli in the Kottayam district of Kerala is a living example of how myths and legends can bind two religious communities and assimilate a mosque within an important Hindu religious pilgrimage. The Mosque here is dedicated to Vavar who is considered a companion of Lord Ayyappa. Every year multitudes of Hindu pilgrims worship at this mosque before they embark on the arduous trek to the holy shrine of Sabarimala Ayappa Swami. There are many legends about Vavar and according to one, Vavar was an Arab commander who was defeated by Lord Ayyappa. Impressed by Vavar's valor, he became Ayappa's close associate and aided him in the wars in the mountainous region. According to belief, Vavar protects devotees who make the difficult trek through the forests to the main temple at the top of the hill that houses the Sabarimala Temple.

The Hindu Vijayanagara Empire's 14th century CE capital of Hampi and its monuments is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Legends and inscriptions speak of Hindu support to the Muslim populace of the kingdom. At Sindhaghatta in Mandya district of Karnataka, the Muslim community did not have a mosque and Babu setti, a local merchant, built a mosque to which the local officer Rangayya Nayaka gifted a village. What is of interest is that the mosque was not built at a site away from a Hindu settlement, but was located amidst villages granted as gifts to learned Brahmins.

Legend has it that Babbaya, a Muslim Fakir, established himself at Penukonda and had a strong following. After the death of the fakir, a dargah was erected, and the grant of Venkata II records the restoration of certain villages originally granted by Vira Narasingha Raya, Sadashiva, and Venkata I, to the dargah of Babayya in Penukonda. Mangammal, a Hindu Nayaka queen made a gift of some villages in 1701-02 CE in Tiruchirappalli to the dargah of Babanatta.

The other contemporaneous dynasty ruling at Deccan was the Muslim Adil Shahis of Bijapur (1489 to 1686). A Farman of Muhammad Adil Shah dated to 1653 CE records a grant made by the ruler to Namdev Vithal, a Brahmin from Mubarakabad. Namdev was the head of Joshis and had approached the ruler for royal favours and the Sultan obliged by granting land at various localities. He also received a tanka (gold coin) from highway and food grains and was also exempt from payment of taxes.

Ibrahim Adil Shah II (1580 CE to 1627 CE) was a great patron of music and is credited with the composition of the book Kitab i Nauras is a book of couplets and verses dedicated to Hindu

“IBRAHIM ADIL SHAH II (1580 CE TO 1627 CE) WAS A GREAT PATRON OF MUSIC AND IS CREDITED WITH THE COMPOSITION OF KITAB I NAURAS, A BOOK OF COUPLETS AND VERSES DEDICATED TO HINDU DEITIES AND MUSLIM SAINTS. WHAT IS OF INTEREST IS THAT MOST ARE DEDICATED TO SARASWATI, GANESH, AND OTHER HINDU DEITIES. THE TEXT BEGINS WITH AN INVOCATION TO GODDESS SARASWATI FOR HER BLESSINGS AND FAVOURS. DESCRIPTIONS OF LORD GANESH AND LORD SHIVA HAVE BEEN BEAUTIFULLY DESCRIBED BY THE SULTAN IN HIS COMPOSITIONS”



Hanumangarhi Temple, Ayodhya

deities and Muslim saints. What is of interest is that most are dedicated to Saraswati, Ganesh and other Hindu deities. The text begins with an invocation to Goddess Saraswati for her blessings and favours. Descriptions of Lord Ganesh and Lord Shiva have been beautifully described by the Sultan in his compositions.

In the modern epoch of South India, the seventh Nizam of Hyderabad- Mir Osman Ali Khan (ruled from 1911-1948) deserves special mention. He had a liberal outlook toward religion and provided financial assistance and donations to temples and Brahmins in his kingdom. Mir Osman Ali Khan tended to the repair, and maintenance of the conservation of the Thousand Pillar Temple at Warangal. The Nizam also donated liberally to various temples in his dominions.

Turning towards the region of eastern India, in Orissa Salabega occupies a permanent position among the devotional poets of Odisha. He lived in the first half of the 17th century and was the son of the Mughal Subedar. According to folklore, he was held up on his way while returning from Vrindavan to Jagannatha and he prayed earnestly to the Lord to wait for him on the Nandighosha chariot so that he could see his Lord. The Lord waited there and gave darshan to Salabega, his dear devotee on the Bada Danda, near Balagandi. An ardent devotee of Shri Krishna and Jagannath, Salabega devoted his life to composing bhajans, hymns, and devotional songs in praise of the Shri Jagannath and Radha Krishna.

In Ahom kingdom, the Muslim populace was well assimilated into the Assamese society and the army included many Muslim soldiers and officers who fought against the Mughals. Ismail Siddique, popularly known as Bagh

Hazarika played a significant role in the Battle of Saraighat in 1671. An inscription of Ahom king Lakshmi Singha issued around 1780 CE records a grant in favour of Hazi Anwar Fakir. Ahom king Kamaleswar Singha reconfirmed all earlier grants made by the Mughal and Ahom rulers in favour of Khadim of Hajo Dargah.

In the context of north India, in the erstwhile region of Awadh, in 1855 at the Hanumangarhi temple at Ayodhya conflict arose between the Hindus and the Muslims. Wajid Ali Shah is said to have appointed a Committee to investigate the matter, and the decision went in favour of the Hindus. On learning about an imminent attack on the temple, Wajid Ali Shah ordered a regiment to guard the temple. Other instances include the 250-year-old Hanuman temple of Lucknow which is believed to have been constructed by Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula's mother Alia Begum. The mosque, popularly called as Padain Masjid in Aminabad was built by Rani Jai Kunwar Pandey, a Brahmin as a gift to her close friend - the Begum of Nawab Saadat Ali Khan.

When we try to look at the past from a 21st-century lens, we will inevitably see Hindus and Muslims as polar opposites. While there are challenges in Hindu-Muslim relations, it would be naive to dismiss the relative social harmony in which the two communities have coexisted in India. As Indians, we must take pride in being a Secular nation and as citizens promote an environment devoid of religious antagonism for the greater good of humanity.

(The writer is a research scholar and recipient of the Devangana Desai senior Fellowship CSMVS Mumbai. She is also the author of two books

A SEARCH FOR SELF-FULFILLMENT

Review by
NAVIN UPADHYAY

Kashmir has been a favourite destination for moviemakers, writers, and poets. Before the militancy set in and Kashmir became a graveyard of artistic aspirations and dreams, the pristine valley with its sentinels of age-old chinar and fragrant saffron-inspired celluloid fantasy and small screens blockbusters. Its landscaped charms also wooed poets and writers from far and wide.

After the place turned into a theatre of prey and predators, where guns and grenades. death and decay, grief and torture dominated every aspect of living, the valley provided different types of ingredients to fuel artistic aspirations. The stories that came out of Kashmir were now laced with grief, sadness, nostalgia, and longings. Tarannum Riyaz's BIRDS OF THE SNOW is a similar yarn.

Originally published in Urdu as Barf Aashna Parindey, the book explores the transformative aspect of Kashmir, the rapid urbanization of the valley, and its impact on the people who have grown up hearing: ar Firdaus bar-rue zamin ast, hami asto, hamin asto, hamin astnot (If there is a heaven on earth, it's here, it's here.)

The book deals with the struggle of a sensitive college student Sheba to strike a compromise between her inner yearnings for freedom and the values and norms her family and society expected her to embrace. It's the story of a girl's poignant struggle to overcome the burden of conditioning and traditionality. The story explores our deepest emotions--love, fear, insecurity, and longing in a way that is both evocative and original.

Sheba wishes to be free, just like the birds that she likes observing, but understands the need to live within social conventions and accept life's responsibilities.

When Sheba returns to the valley after years spent studying outside, she is struck by a pang of sadness. Tarannum has captured Sheba's feeling in a poignant passage:



The journey to the village has been her favourite journey but today, waves of sadness washed over her mind time and again. She occasionally looked at the reflection of Amki, Baaji, and Farkhanda in the rear-

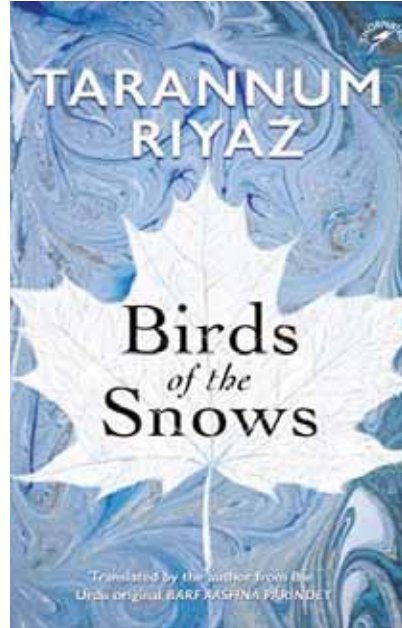
view mirror. Baaji's husband was driving and no one to talk to anyone."

Passages like this dominate the book, in which the author makes a genuine effort to bring alive the life and time of the

Kashmir valley in her own inimitable style. After reading the book, it'll be easy to understand that Tarannum wrote this story not just to fulfill some personal dreams, but to give voice to tens of thousands of

Shebas who are struggling to discover the meaning of their lives in a fast-changing society.

In the word of the publisher the Niyogi Books, This deftly translated novel



depicts the changing times in Kashmir, from a rural to more urban life, the impact of modern thinking, and through its portrayal of female characters explore their compassion and resolves, as well as their search for self-fulfillment."

The editing part of the book is fine as far as grammar is concerned. But errors on the craft side disrupt the smooth flow of the story. The writing is full of unwanted adverbs, (She walked quickly. ... Abbu smiled pleasantly), avoidable exclamations marks, and stilted dialogues. Paragraphs after paragraphs are littered with "hads" and "ing", the two nemeses of literary writings.

These flaws apart, which are the bane of most English books published in India, BIRDS OF THE SNOW is a poignant story that delves into the human relationship and social and moral values of a strife-torn landscape.

The Reviewer is the Executive Editor of The Pioneer

The Trail of Buddha is like a fascinating train journey

Review by
RAJ KANWAR

A senior officer in the Indian Revenue Service, Deepankar Aron was posted in Hong Kong as a Consul way back in 2012. It was just a happenstance that he noticed a 35-meter high Tian Tan Buddha statue standing right next to the Hong Kong Airport that put him "On the Trail of Buddha: A Journey to the East". However, his initial inspiration had come three years before when he was on a Kailash Mansarovar Yatra in Tibet in 2009.

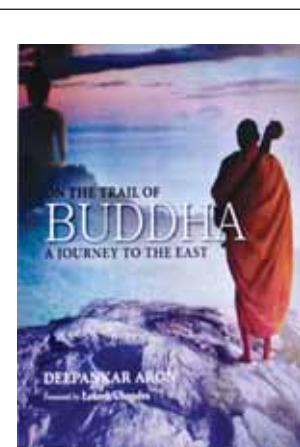
Deepankar writes about two octogenarian Japanese pilgrims who had stood with folded hands before an old and dilapidated structure that seemed to be 'sanctum sanctorum of a temple'. It was somewhat surprising that they should have travelled thousands of miles as pilgrims to a non-descript corner of China called Karakhoja. Even more surprising was the fact that one was a Buddhist priest and the other a worshipper of Lord Krishna - the Hindu Lord whose sacred message forms the essence of Bhagavad Gita.

"It is the story of these two unlikely Japanese pilgrims that epitomizes the theme of this Book - exploring the richness, depth and breadth of the spiritual, philosophical and cultural linkages that bind India to the East Asian civilizations of China, Japan, Korea and Mongolia," writes Deepankar.

The Book straddles between the various regions of East Asia, from Kashgar in Xinjiang in the West to Koyasan in Japan in the East; from Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia in the North and to Kaohsiung in Taiwan in the South. It is as much about the discovery of a tremendous unity in diversity, as it is about hopping between different time zones separated by 2000 years of history.

SIX CHAPTERS IN THE BOOK

THE BOOK is divided into six chapters for ease of navigation. The first covers the ancient cities along the Silk Road in China that were significantly responsible for the spread of Buddhism from India not only into China but also in much of the East Asia. The second covers the North-South trade axis that connects China with Mongolia. The third one moves from Sichuan in South-Western China to the primordial Kailash Parvat or Kang Rinpoche and the lake, Mansarovar or Mapham Yumtso in Tibet. The fourth moves to the South-Eastern coastal China and Taiwan from Hong Kong to



Title: On the Trail of BUDDHA: A Journey to the East
Author: Deepankar Aron
Pages: 308
Publisher: NIYOGI BOOKS
Cover Price: ₹1995/-

Shanghai touching Hangzhou, Suzhou and Nanjing. It then moves from Taipei to Kaohsiung passing through the city of Tainan, dotted with temples. It is possibly one of the most prosperous regions of China with many modern cities. It is thus not a surprise that most of the grandest and tallest statues of Buddha have come up there in the recent past. The fifth one meanders inside the calmness of Korea, and last but not the least comes the land

of the Rising Sun - a place where history, tradition, religion and culture are seen most beautifully preserved. The author also highlights five to 10 representative cities in each of these regions.

Writing a book of such magnitude was not an easy task. Initially the author did not undertake all those journeys with the object of writing a book. However, "a propitious chain of circumstances, made the way from one place to another starting with the longest pilgrimage in the world - KAILASH." He faced numerous challenges such as language, distances, permissions, paucity of time, and resources of course, but luckily all those were sorted out. Interestingly, these journeys were undertaken in all modes of transportation - both animal and mechanized - riding camels, mules and horses; walking and trekking, especially in Tibet. The most exciting of the travelling modes for Deepankar was the high speed trains in Japan, China and Taiwan.

JOURNEY ON SLOW MOVING TRAIN RATHER A BULLET TRAIN

EMINENT Indian Vedic scholar Prof. Lokesh Chandra is all ecstatic about Deepankar Aron's book "On the Trail of BUDDHA: A Journey to the East". "The Book is fascinating in its flowing diction and minimum of technical details. It celebrates the last two millennia when

the Asian Nations together made the journey of the Mind, serene depths of thought, art, piety confluence in the rapture of the roots," Chandra writes in his Foreword. "The living monasteries in East Asia and the desolation of the ruins in Central Asia due to theistic violence become the fascination of eyes in the evocative narrative of Deepankar. He opens up the immensity of our lost heritage, like the grandeur of Colossi in the Yun-Kang caves that are vistic symbols of the majesty of the Avatamsaka tradition, reminiscent of the Bamiyan Buddhas," Prof. Chandra adds.

On the Trail of BUDDHA: A Journey to the East takes the reader on a slow-moving train journey rather a Bullet train. The author has chronicled the spread of Buddhism, as preserved in the traditions of these countries, binding them with India. Though somewhat smaller in size than the standard Coffee Table Book, On the Trail of BUDDHA with its 308 pages illustrated with bountiful photographs indicative of Deepankar's expertise with camera and printed on art paper provides an easy read.

The reviewer is the Commissioner, Goods & Services Tax in Uttarakhand. He is an intrepid traveller, ace photographer and a prolific writer. He has also received the Presidential Award for his distinguished contributions as an Indian Revenue Service officer.



The art of job-hunting

"JOB SEARCH SECRETS – Master the art of getting the job" co-authored by SUBIR VERMA and SAGARIKA SAHU VERMA has come at the right time as the issue of unemployment has begun to make headlines in the country. Subir works as Chief Human Resource at Tata Power DDL, and Sagarika Sahu Verma is a CEO of an edutech company.

Review by
DEEPAK KUMAR JHA

This book is an effort to bring all aspects of job search to one place with various supporting tools to provide complete theory and practice to master the art of searching for a job. Free tools shared in the book can give results in the shortest possible time.

Starting from how to choose the right career, the book covers how to find a hidden job, how to find people who can help in finding job and build long-time relationships with them, what to do to crack campus, virtual and other interviews, salary negotiation, and using social media for the job hunt.

Each chapter has practical tips with examples of real students and job aspirants for each one to relate to and use. For each of the areas, free tools exercise has been recommended which anyone can use without any cost seating at home. There is a general perception that you need to relocate to bigger cities to get a job. What about those who cannot relocate themselves? The book has the answer to many such issues faced by candidates and offers solutions.

"Use of social media and job portal to find a job and also use them in such way that one can easily get a job of his/her choice has been lucidly explained in the book," says Dr Sagarika.

"Not only what one needs to do, but how to do it, sample script, how to practice and implement are



Title: Job Search Secrets – Master the art of getting the job
Authors: Subir Verma and Sagarika Sahu Verma
Publisher: PENGUIN INDIA
Price: ₹250/-

what has been shared in details in very simple and easy to understand language", adds Dr Sagarika.

Job seekers have qualifications, skill but they are not effectively use them during their job search and interview, she said.

The book talks about the problem of largescale unemployment. India has over five crores of educated unemployed youth. Every year more than 50 lacs of educated youth gets added into the list. Educated youth is frustrated, dejected, and is losing hope. Even professionally qualified youth who have engineering, management, and graduate

degrees are not getting job. The situation is so grim that highly educated people are taking up odd jobs.

On the other hand, companies always complain that they are not getting the "right talent". They have vacancies but are not able to hire. When there are crores of educated youth are available, why companies are not able to hire them? Where is the gap? Companies have the resources to hire talent. But crores of youth need help to find employment. The biggest gap is that job seekers search jobs based on what they need rather than what companies want.

"I feel sad when I read in the newspaper that for one vacancy for the post of peon, thousands of people, including highly educated with MBA and Ph.D. degrees as well as engineers, apply. We thought to find a way to help such youth to make them know how they can find a job. This book is an effort to help these educated unemployed youth", Subir told the Pioneer.

Not all jobs are advertised. In fact, more than 50% of jobs are not advertised by companies and they recruit through other channels. Now, students or job seekers are missing half of the available job if they do not know how to reach them.

The book has received excellent responses from not only students, job seekers, and working professionals but also industry senior professionals.

The Reviewer is Special Correspondent of The Pioneer

Indo-Pacific Eco Framework: Concept to strategy

The genesis of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework can be traced to October 2021, during the East Asia Summit held virtually. At the East Asia Summit, the US President enunciated his plans to unveil a US-led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).

Following the initial announcement, the Biden administration released an Indo-Pacific Strategy in February 2022, which saw a formal iteration of the IPEF. As such, it bears no surprise to see US President Joe Biden officially launched the IPEF on May 23, 2022, in Tokyo before the QUAD leaders' Summit.

In addition to the four Quad members, leaders from 9 other nations namely Brunei, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam participated virtually. These countries became the founding members of the IPEF initiative making a "baker's dozen". Out of the thirteen participating countries in the IPEF, seven are also part of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). However, three ASEAN countries — Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar — have refrained from participating in the IPEF.

The partial overlap of the IPEF with ASEAN reflects that the economic strategy has factored in China. The seven countries in IPEF which have overlapping membership with the ASEAN will help the US and its Quad partners to further consolidate the "ASEAN centrality" principle of the Indo-Pacific strategy.

Both Laos and Cambodia have perhaps been left out due to their proximity to Beijing, while Myanmar has paid the price for a non-democratic political functioning that continues in the country since the military junta grabbed power. That creating competitive structures against China lies at the heart of the IPEF has become clearer with the engagement of Taiwan in a similar bilateral engagement, albeit outside the IPEF.

In many ways, the IPEF is an offshoot of the re-invigorated America's "Pivot to Asia"



strategy launched in 2011 during the Obama administration. The strategy aimed to relocate the strategic focus of the US from West Asia to the Pacific theatre, primarily because of the competition and threats it faces from China. Besides, it also sought to advance the US' economic and geopolitical interests through wider engagements with the Asia-Pacific region.

The two important constituents of this strategy were the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Indo-Pacific Economic Corridor. However, the US' withdrawal from the

TPP during the presidency of Donald Trump in 2017 deteriorated the progress made in terms of coalition-building and intensification of geopolitical and geo-economic ties with allies in the Indo-Pacific region.

The "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" strategy released in 2019 during the Trump administration gathered inimical reactions from the allies and partners in the region. It was perceived as a confrontational narrative rather than a regional strategy.

Therefore, the return of a new collective strategy by the US to collectively compete

with China, at a time when the US dominance on the trade and investment is facing intense competition from Beijing in the region, may be a timely and well-calibrated step to instil fair and principled regional competition which is consistent with climate goals and predictable supply chains. China is the leading trade partner of almost all the IPEF member countries. As such, the IPEF initiative outlines the underlying thrust in building partner coalitions, developing a collective response and preventing the growing Chinese influence in the region.

Broadly, the evolving predicament within the IPEF countries is China using its economic heavyweight for achieving its security and diplomatic goals. The IPEF could present an opportunity for like-minded countries of the Quad to find new and reliable alternatives to their current dependencies on China, especially in trade related infrastructure and supply chains. In particular, for India, which is not part of the China-led Regional Comprehensive Partnership (RCEP) trade agreement, the IPEF might emerge as a more reliable and

credible alternative in creating alternate mechanisms in the Indo-Pacific. India's own FTA being negotiated with ASEAN could be consistent with some of the objectives of the IPEF.

Much of how the IPEF will unravel remains to be seen. The IPEF countries that are already part of some sort of Free Trade Agreements such as CPTPP and RCEP would require "substantial incentives" from the US to diversify their ties from any such already existing arrangements in the region.

Also, the four focus areas of the IPEF: trade, supply chains, clean energy, decar-

bonisation and infrastructure; tax and anti-corruption need to be implemented and assessed. While executing these focus areas, climate, labour and data localisation standards in the IPEF countries (which are not as per the US standards) might turn out to be prominent irritants.

(Vivek Mishra is fellow, Strategic Studies Program, ORF, New Delhi. Mrityunjaya Dubey is a researcher and Senior Assistant member with The Consortium of Indo-Pacific Researchers affiliated with the Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs)

For India, which is not part of the China-led Regional Comprehensive Partnership (RCEP) trade agreement, the IPEF might emerge as a more reliable and credible alternative in creating alternate mechanisms in the Indo-Pacific



VIVEK MISHRA



MRITYUNJAYA DUBEY

PERSPECTIVE

Hate speeches malign the idea of India

It is high time the Government cracked down on all fringe elements and renewed its focus on 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas'

The contemptuous and abominable remarks of the BJP leaders on Prophet Muhammad unleashed strong reactions not only in India but also in the Islamic countries, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and Iran, etc, resulting in calls to ban Indian products.

Though the BJP has strongly denounced the remarks and said that insult to any religious personalities is not permissible, and immediately suspended its leaders from the party's membership for not toeing the official line on sensitive matters, it has become an international issue in no time. However, for consolation, the action taken by the BJP has been welcomed by many Muslim countries.

Provocative speeches are not a new phenomenon in India, irrespective of whether it is Congress regimes or the BJP's. However, the intensity of such communal sledging from both sides has increased during the BJP's regime.

Why did it happen?

The role of the mainstream and social media has been questionable over the last few years as they have often been found adding fuel to the fire. India's splendid past is full of glory and wonders. History develops the ability to avoid mistakes and create better paths for societies. Nevertheless, some of the media houses delve into the history and spoil all its might to prove that rottenness is actually producing high quality of fragrance. The uproar on TV channels on religious lines has mostly been provocative and derogatory. Allowing fringe elements to dis-

respect religions and make controversial statements on TV shows with impunity put the anchor's role in question.

The 200 million Indian Muslims who have been living here have opted to live in India in the hope that this country will give them more respect and freedom than the neighbouring Muslim countries. Then the moot point is what purpose the provocative speeches serve.

Although there are some differences between the Muslim aspira-

tions and the BJP's ideology, but these are ideological which is permissible in a healthy democracy. The nation is already facing numerous problems, people themselves are fighting against poverty, environmental degradation, joblessness and various health problems, but some media houses for their vested interest, instead of raising the genuine issues, have deliberately been dividing and creating gulf in society in the name of religion, and this is the greatest obstacle in the way of development.

Possible trade threats

India's overall economy during Mughals was several times more than many European countries which attracted many Europeans to India. It is believed that the only reason of this richness and prosperity was peace and tranquility. However, economic destruction began during the British rule. They divided people along religious lines in order to loot India's resources. People were dying in starvation but the British were busy draining the wealth of India.



An artisan prepares eco-friendly idols of god Ganesha for Ganesh Chaturthi festival in Hyderabad on Saturday

History is evident that peace, brotherhood and justice bring prosperity and development, and on the contrary hatred ruins and destroys nations. Therefore, it is required that the Government crack down on fringe elements and renew its focus on "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas".

The recent reactions from Muslim countries will further damage the Indian economy if no quick remedial action is taken. As per media reports, the Gulf countries account for almost one fifth of India's total trade. For instance, in the year 2020-21 the total value of the goods imported from the GCC countries was worth \$110.73 billion. India imports 40 per cent of crude oil, 18 per cent of petroleum gas and 8 per cent of diamond from the Gulf countries, while it exports 14 per cent of refined petroleum, 8 per cent of jewellery and 7 per cent of rice. In other words, India imports 72 per cent worth \$111 billion and exports 28 per cent worth \$44 billion.

It is noteworthy that the UAE and Saudi Arabia are the third and fourth biggest trade partners of India. The UAE alone is accounted for 6.6 per cent of India's total export, and 7.3 per cent of imports last year touched about \$73 billion. Saudi Arabia on the other hand is accounted for almost 80 per cent of import worth \$34.1 billion and 20 per cent of export worth \$8.75 billion. Other GCC countries trade volumes are: Iraq 34.3 per cent, Qatar 15 per cent, Kuwait 12.2 per cent, Oman 10 per cent and Bahrain 1.7 per cent.

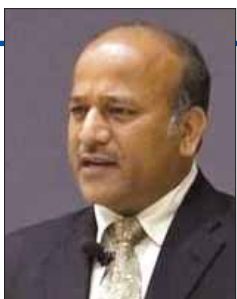
Gulf countries are well known to

be the second home of almost 10 million Indians making it the largest Indian diaspora across the globe and contributing immensely in the foreign reserves of India.

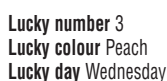
As a matter of fact, India is the largest recipient of the foreign remittances. As per last year's World Bank report, India received \$87 billion foreign remittances in 2021, half of these foreign remittances was sent from just five Gulf countries i.e., UAE 26.9 per cent, Saudi 11.6 per cent, Qatar 6.5 per cent, Kuwait 5.5 per cent and Oman 3 per cent. In view of the emerging trade and cultural ties between India and the Arab world, it shall be disastrous if the differences aggravate further and no remedial and timely actions taken.

It's a well-known fact that India and Arab world have very strong trade and cultural relations for centuries. They believe in coexistence and mutual cooperation. It is the responsibility of the Government of the day to be accountable for both the successes and failures. Hence it is high time for India to work on the immediate corrective measures both internally and externally to fight the true evil of the society i.e hatred, poverty, unemployment, etc, and have proper control on the fringe elements and the media houses that are trying to divide and damage the true spirit of India.

(The author teaches at King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah, KSA. He is founding Chairman of Indo-Arab Helping Hands and the International Adviser to Millennial India International Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture.)



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