

CITY 3

TRAUMA TO BECOME 3RD LEADING
CAUSE OF DISABILITY BY 2030

WORLD 6

RUSSIA TAKES SMALL CITIES, AIMS TO
WIDEN EAST UKRAINE BATTLE

SPORT 7

TITANS BRACE UP FOR
FIGHT FROM ROYALS

sunday pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



Spared no effort in my service to nation: Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

As he completes eight years in office, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asserted he did not give any reason to countrymen to hang their heads in shame. And with his eyes on the Gujarat Assembly polls later this year, Modi launched a slew of projects for the State, where he was joined by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

"I have spared no effort in my service to the nation in the last eight years. I have neither allowed, nor personally done any such work that will make you or even a single person of India hang his head in shame. In 8 years, we made honest efforts to build India of the dreams of Bapu and Sardar Patel," he said while addressing an event after inaugurating a multispecialty hospital in Rajkot.

Modi's developmental push during his visit to Gujarat included the inauguration of world's first Nano Urea Liquid plant by IFFCO at Kalol. He along with Shah also addressed a seminar of 7,000 leaders of various cooperative institutions, which, in a way, is seen as a Patidar outreach.

Modi inaugurated the newly-built Matushri KDP Multispecialty Hospital in Atkot, Rajkot, managed by



Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets the crowd at an event in Gandhinagar on Saturday

AP

Patel Seva Samaj and cited it as an example of what Government-private sector collaboration can achieve.

The PM will on May 31 visit Himachal Pradesh, which too will elect a new Assembly by the year-end. Modi had last month gone for a tribal outreach in Gujarat by addressing a big rally in tribal-dominated Dahod and launched projects worth ₹22,000 crore for the

region.

Modi said it is apt that he is on Gujarat soil on the eve of 8 years of service to the motherland and thanked the people of the State for giving him the opportunity and "sanskar" to serve the country.

Enlisting his performance, he informed that now more than 3 crore families have got a pucca house, more than 10 crore families have been freed

from open defecation, more than 9 crore sisters have been freed from smoke in the kitchen, more than 2.5 crore families have got electricity connection, more than 6 crore families have got drinking water connection and more than 50 crore beneficiaries have got health coverage for up to ₹5 lakh free of cost.

He said the prices of fertilisers have increased due to

Eyes on Gujarat polls this year, PM launches slew of projects in home State

No forced night shift for women workers in UP

Employers must seek her written consent for work before 6 am & after 7pm: UP Govt order

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Government on Saturday urged employers not to force women employees to work after 7 pm and before 6 am without their written consent. The move is being seen towards providing a secure working atmosphere for women working in factories across the State and to protect their professional rights.

Also, the Government has asked employers to provide free transportation, food and sufficient supervision, if women exceed their working time.

"Women workers shall be provided free transportation from her residence to workplace by the employer of the factory and back.... Employer shall ensure toilets, washrooms, changing rooms, drinking facilities and lights in the workplace (sic)," the order read.

"No woman worker shall be bound to work without her written consent before 6 am and after 7 pm," said the UP Labour Department in an order.

Strict action is to be taken



against those violating the State Government order which surfaced on Saturday.

The order said it is mandatory to provide facilities like washrooms, drinking water, changing rooms and light in the workplace.

"Employer shall take appropriate steps to prevent sexual harassment. The employer shall maintain a complaint mechanism in the factory itself as prescribed in the Sexual Harrassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act," the order read.

Not less than four women should be allowed in a shift between 7 pm and 6 am.

According to sources, the order would be applicable in the private sector as well.

The employer is also expected to send a monthly report electronically or otherwise to the Inspector of facto-

ries of the region concerned about the details of women workers engaged during the night shift.

On the other, the labour inspector has also been entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring safe working conditions for women workers and conducting inspections from time to time to ensure that there is no non-compliance with the provisions at the workplace.

The order also stated that on refusal to agree for night shift, a woman employee cannot be terminated, else action can be taken against the employer.

The UP Government has notified the exemptions to women workforce across all the mills and factories in the state under the powers vested in the Factories Act-1948 following the work plan of women employees.

IndiGo fined ₹5L for denial of boarding to special child

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Saturday imposed a fine of ₹5 lakh on IndiGo for denying boarding to a specially-abled child in Ranchi on May 7.

In a statement, DGCA chief Arun Kumar said that the handling of the special child by IndiGo ground staff was deficient and ended up exacerbating the situation. "A more compassionate handling would have smoothened the nerves, calmed the child and would have obviated the need for the extreme step resulting in denied boarding to the passengers," read the order.

"Special situations deserve extraordinary responses but the airline's staff failed to rise up to the occasion, and in the process, committed lapses in adherence to the letter and spirit of the Civil Aviation Requirements (regulations), it noted.

"In view of this, the com-



petent authority in the DGCA has decided to impose a penalty of ₹5 lakh on the airline under the provisions of the relevant Aircraft Rules," it added.

Based on the findings during the enquiry, a show cause notice was issued to IndiGo Airlines through its authorised representative, it stated.

The DGCA said in order to avoid such situations in the future, it would revisit its own regulations, making it mandatory for airlines to take the airport doctor's written opinion on the health of a passenger before making a decision to deny boarding.

Moreover, it said that the new regulations would make sure that there is also a written consultation with the captain of the aircraft for his or her opinion on allowing such a passenger on board.

On May 7, IndiGo had "inappropriately" denied boarding to the Hyderabad-bound specially-abled child, and thereby his accompanying parents also did not go.

Some doctors travelling on Ranchi-Hyderabad of May 7 had also requested the airline to let the child, and thereby his parents, board the flight.

Continued on Page 6

Father of Kerala boy who raised provocative slogans arrested

PTI ■ KOCHI

The father of the minor boy, who had courted controversy by allegedly raising provocative slogans during a recent march organised by the Popular Front of India (PFI) in Kerala's Alappuzha, was taken into custody from his house in Palluruthy here on Saturday, police said.

The family, including the boy, was reportedly away from the house ever since a purported video, in which the child could be seen sitting on the shoulder of a person and raising offensive slogans during the "Save the Republic" rally held by the PFI on May 21, went viral on social media platforms prompting police to register a case.

A police officer told PTI that the father was taken into custody and would travel to nearby Alappuzha soon for detailed interrogation. Further procedures would be decided later.

Continued on Page 6

88% adults fully vaccinated against Covid

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

The world's largest Covid-19 vaccination programme launched two years ago in India has so far covered 88 per cent of the country's adult population with 193 crore 11 lakh doses administered so far.

However, the achievement came amid reports of detection of B.A. 4 and 5 variants of the Omicron in Maharashtra.

Four patients of B.A. 4 variants and three patients of B.A. 5 variants were listed in Pune, as per the latest report of the Whole Genomic Sequencing. But sources said as of now there is no cause of worry as the new variants are not virulent as compared to the original Omicron.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya took to Twitter to announce the coverage milestone. "Over 88 per cent of the adult population is now fully vaccinated against #Covid19. Congratulations India! Keep following Covid appropriate behaviour even after getting vaccinated," said Mandaviya in a tweet.

According to the Ministry,



of the total Covid-19 doses administered so far to the health care workers, 1,04,06,837 have received the first dose, 1,00,38,523 the second vaccine dose and 51,90,970 have been administered the precaution dose.

Also, 1,84,18,839 frontline workers were administered the first dose, 1,75,81,512 with the second dose and 86,14,104 with the precaution doses.

Covid vaccination for the age group 12-14 years was started on March 16, 2022. So far, more than 3.36 crore

(3,36,37,974) adolescents have been administered with the first dose and 1,57,55,480 with the second dose of the Covid vaccine. Over 3.36 crore adolescents have been administered the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine since the beginning.

In the age group 15-18 years, 5,93,90,523 doses have been administered as the first dose and 4,54,76,127 doses as the second dose.

A total of 55,70,67,459 vaccine doses were administered as the first dose, 48,93,11,452 vaccine doses were given as the

second dose and 7,58,822 precaution doses as in the age group 18-44 years.

Similarly, for the age group of 45-59 years, 20,32,34,041 have received the first dose, 19,06,90,583 have received the second dose and 13,25,064 have been administered the precaution doses whereas, 12,70,79,287 vaccine doses were administered as the first dose, 11,89,27,472 as second and 1,84,36,849 as precaution doses to the people over 60 years. Meanwhile, as many as 2,685 new Covid-19 cases were recorded in the last 24 hours in India, taking the active caseload to 16,308, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare informed on Saturday.

The daily positivity rate stood at 0.60 per cent while the weekly positivity rate is at 0.54 per cent. According to the Health Ministry, India's Covid recoveries reached 4,26,09,335 with 2,158 fresh recoveries in the last 24 hours.

India's Covid-19 tally crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16.

Balbir, Vikramjit AAP's pick for RS from Punjab

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Noted environmentalist Balbir Singh Seechewal and philanthropist Vikramjit Singh Sahney will be the candidates of the ruling Aam Aadmi Party for the Rajya Sabha from Punjab as the party cleared their names on Saturday.

Both the nominees, who are assured of a Rajya Sabha berth now, are Padma Shri recipients. While Seechewal is a noted environmentalist, Sahney is an entrepreneur-philanthropist.

The announcement was made by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on his Twitter handle. "I am happy to announce that AAP is nominating two Padma Shri awardees for the Rajya Sabha. One is environmentalist Padma Shri Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal and second is

Padma Shri Vikramjit Singh Sahney. My best wishes to both of them," said Mann in a tweet.

Mann's announcement declaring Seechewal as the AAP candidate came a day after he participated in a function at Seechewal, where he urged the noted environmentalist to give his ideas for protecting the environment. Seechewal is known for his efforts to clean the 160-km-long holy rivulet Kali Bein in Kapurthala's Sultanpur Lodhi.

Known as 'Eco Baba', he was hailed as one of the top 30 Heroes of the Environment in the world by the Times magazine.

Continued on Page 6

Centre to design ways to curb fake reviews on e-commerce websites

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

To protect consumer interest, the Centre on Saturday announced that it will develop a framework to curb fake reviews posted on e-commerce websites. Online customers rely heavily on the reviews given their inability to physically inspect the product. This makes them vulnerable to fake reviews when they look for the opinions and experiences of users who have already purchased the good or service online.

"The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) will develop this framework after studying the present mechanism being followed by the e-commerce entities in India and best practices available globally," the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food &



Public Distribution said.

The move came a day after Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh held a meeting with various stakeholders on the issue. During the meeting, issues related to "paid reviews, unverifiable reviews and absence of disclosure in case of incentivised reviews which make it challenging for consumers to recognise genuine reviews" were discussed.

The Ministry, along with the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), held

a virtual meeting with various stakeholders, including e-commerce entities, to discuss the magnitude of fake reviews on their platforms, which mislead consumers into buying online products and services.

The experts said the modus operandi is simple: The advertiser creates a website or a Facebook page/profile, and starts selling via their page on the social media platform, taking users to their portal. Once they receive payments for their orders, they delay in dispatching the products and by the time Facebook completes its feedback process to understand whether the advertiser is legit or a scam, the fraudsters make quick money and shut their operations once Facebook declares they are cyber offenders and treats them as "unhealthy".

Continued on Page 6

Record 343 teams from 187 nations to take part in Chess Olympiad

PTI ■ CHENNAI

A record number of 343 teams from 187 countries will take part in the 44th Chess Olympiad to be held here from July 28 to August 10.

The Olympiad, the biggest ever global chess meet hosted by India has two specific categories — Open Section and women's section.

According to All India Chess Federation (AICF) secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan, the Event Director, "We have a record-breaking 187 countries registered with 189 teams in the open section and 154 in the women's section."

Previously, the Olympiad in Batumi, Georgia, held in 2018, had set a record with 184 and 150 teams in the open and women's sections respectively from 179 countries.

World champion Magnus Carlsen of Norway, the highest ever rated player on the plan-



et, will be the star attraction after he confirmed his participation in the mega event.

India, as the host country, is eligible to field an extra team in both sections and has an opportunity to field a third team in case of odd number of entries, the release said.

It has already announced two teams each in the Open and women's sections with the likes of Vidit Gujrathi, Nihal Sarin, P Harikrishna, teenaged sensations R Praggnanandhaa and D Gukesh along with women stars Koneru Humpy, D Harika and R Vaishali being

included in the squads. Former World Champion Viswanathan Anand will be the mentor for the Indian squads.

A preparatory camp was held for the players in Chennai recently under the guidance of Anand and coach GM Boris Gelfand.

Meanwhile AICF president Sanjay Kapoor said, "Right from the time the Olympiad was awarded to us, we have been relentlessly working with a single-minded focus, keeping the Olympic motto 'faster, higher, stronger' in mind with regards to organisational aspects also."

Budgetary provisions made to improve healthcare system

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A recent report by the Medical Health and Family Welfare Department indicated that deaths from Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and Japanese



REQUIREMENT

KASHI
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
MS-23, Varanasi-Prayagraj Road
Mirzamurad, Varanasi-221307

REQUIREMENT

OF HEAD & ASSISTANT PROFESSOR FOR MCA
Qualification & Salary as per norms of AICTE
Apply within 15 days at recruitment@kashit.ac.in

REQUIREMENT

KASHI
INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT & SCIENCE
Gaur Madhukarshahpur
Mirzamurad, Varanasi-221307

REQUIREMENT

OF PROFESSOR & ASSISTANT PROFESSOR FOR BBA & BCA
Qualification & Salary as per norms of UGC
Apply within 15 days at recruitment@kashit.ac.in

आवश्यकता है

आवश्यकता है

मदरस फरोगे उर्दू अरबी निरव्वी, लल्लपुरा, वाराणसी में एक पद प्रधानाचार्य (सरकारी ग्रेड), एक पद सहायक आलिया (सरकारी ग्रेड), एवं एक पद सॉफोकानिया (सरकारी ग्रेड), की।

प्रधानाचार्य (सरकारी ग्रेड):-
फाजिल अथवा अरबी/फारसी/दीनियात में न्यूनतम 50 प्रतिशत अंको सहित स्नातकोत्तर उपाधि एवं 3 वर्षों का मुंशी/मौलवी कक्षाओं का शैक्षणिक अनुभव न्यूनतम आयु 30 वर्ष। वेतनमान- मैट्रिक्स लेवल 8 कोष्ठिका स्तर 1 (9300-34800 ग्रेड पे 4800)।

सहायक आलिया (सरकारी ग्रेड):-
फाजिल अथवा अरबी/फारसी/ दीनियात से स्नातकोत्तर उपाधि तथा फोकानिया कक्षाओं में 3 वर्षों का शैक्षणिक अनुभव। न्यूनतम आयु 21 वर्ष। वेतनमान- मैट्रिक्स लेवल 7 कोष्ठिका स्तर 1 (9300-34800 ग्रेड पे 4600)।

सहायक फोकानिया (सरकारी ग्रेड):-
कामिल अथवा न्यूनतम 50 प्रतिशत अंको सहित स्नातक तथा आलियम अथवा उर्दू सहित इस्लाम का प्रमाण-पत्र आवश्यक है। न्यूनतम आयु 20 वर्ष। वेतनमान- मैट्रिक्स लेवल 7 कोष्ठिका स्तर 1 (9300-34800 ग्रेड पे 4600)।

आवेदन देने की अन्तिम तिथि:- 19 जून 2022

(मोहम्मद एहतेशाम सिद्दीकी)
प्रबन्धक
मदरसा फरोगे उर्दू अरबी निरव्वी
लल्लपुरा, वाराणसी।

REQUIRED

KARAMAT HUSAIN MUSLIM GIRLS P.G. COLLEGE LUCKNOW
(A-Minority Institution)
www.karamatgirlscollege.ac.in

REQUIRED

Lady Lecturer- Hindi (post Permanent) 01
Lady Lecturer- History (post Permanent) 01
Scale of pay:- Pay Matrix (57700-182400) Academic level-10 and other allowance as may be admissible by the State Govt.
Qualification :- As per Lucknow University Ist Statutes (Amended upto date) And latest Govt. orders.
Preference:- Knowledge of Urdu.

Application on prescribed form which can be had from the college office on payment of **Rs 1000-00 in cash or Online** alongwith latest photograph and attested copies of testimonials, should reach the Manager **within Three weeks** of first insertion of this advertisement. Candidates already working in any organization should send their application through their employer. Incomplete application shall not be considered.
(**Syed Naved Ahmad**)
Manager

Yogi government push to Ayurveda and alternative medicine disciplines

Lucknow (PNS): Aiming to transform Uttar Pradesh into a medical tourism hub in India, the Yogi Adityanath government has proposed a purse of Rs 113.52 crore in the budget for establishing AYUSH University in Gorakhpur.

Believing that Ayurveda can play a crucial role in establishing UP as a medical tourism destination, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is focusing on the ancient mode of treatment.

The state's first AYUSH University named after Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath is under construction on a 52-acre area at a cost of about Rs 268 crore. The foundation stone of the university was laid by President Ram Nath Kovind on August 28, 2021.

Besides, a government Ayurvedic college is also being set up in Ayodhya under AYUSH Mission Scheme. Under this scheme, 50 bedded integrated AYUSH hospitals are being established in Unnao, Shravasti, Hardoi, Sambhal, Gorakhpur and Mirzapur.

Uttar Pradesh's Minister of AYUSH, Food Safety and Drug Administration, Dayashankar Mishra, said, "The government intends to bring Ayurveda and other alternative medicine disciplines (Greek, Homeopath, Siddha) at par with Allopathy."

Encephalitis (JE) dropped by 90 per cent and 95 per cent, respectively, in Uttar Pradesh between 2017 and 2021.

At a presentation before Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Medical Health and Family Welfare Department revealed that the

"In this direction, work is being done expeditiously and separate hospitals for Ayurveda, Homeopathy and Unani are being built. There will be hospitals of these three streams of medicine on the same campus and a total of 13 hospitals are being built," Mishra said.

The AYUSH minister thanked Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for making a provision of Rs 113.52 crore in the budget for setting up of Gorakhpur AYUSH University and said as a result of this, students would not have to go out to study any discipline of medicine elsewhere. Even in this advanced era of Allopathy, close to 80 per cent people take the help of Ayurveda for primary treatment.

The Yogi government is the first government to decide and set up super speciality hospitals in the bordering and other areas of the state for ensuring better health infrastructure. The government has decided to establish medical colleges on inter-state and international borders in the state, due to which the number of referral cases will come down significantly and Uttar Pradesh will become a hub of medical tourism.

For this, the Yogi government has proposed a fund of Rs 25 crore in the budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal.

atric intensive care units (PICUs) in Gorakhpur and Deoria and mobile medical units have been put into service to provide better and faster medical care to those suffering from these diseases.

As per the Medical Health and Family Welfare Department presentation, deaths from AES and JE dipped from 594 and 81 respectively in 2017 to 58 and 4 respectively in 2021, while the number of cases dropped from 4,758 and 677 to 1,664 and 148 respectively in the five-year period.

A top official said, "The Yogi government 2.0 is all set to launch the Zero Mission soon to eradicate vector-borne diseases like Japanese Encephalitis, dengue, malaria, typhoid, pneumonia and Zika virus. The state government also aims to eradicate tuberculosis (TB) by 2025."

Furthermore, the UP government plans to double the number of ambulances equipped with high quality life support systems and appoint 6,000 doctors and 10,000 paramedical staff shortly to improve healthcare across the state. Plans are also on the anvil to expand the network of Jan Aushadhi Kendras in the state so that people may get medicines at cheaper rates.

The Yogi government has made enough provisions in its budget for 2022-23 fiscal to improve healthcare across the state. For instance, the government has proposed Rs 5,395 crore for Rashtriya Gramin Swasthya Mission, Rs 1,300 crore for Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Rs 142 crore for Ayushman Bharat Mukhya Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, Rs 320 crore for Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandana Yojana, Rs 1,073 crore for setting up diagnostic infrastructure in primary health care facilities, Rs 425 crore for urban health and Arogya Centres and Rs 54 crore for strengthening state drug control System.

Oppn, govt spar over budget

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Senior Samajwadi Party leader Lalji Verma termed the 2022-23 budget presented by the Bharatiya Janata Party government as a 'deceit', prompting Finance Minister Suresh Khanna to intervene and ask the opposition leader to get his facts corrected.

On May 26, the Yogi Adityanath government 2.0 presented its maiden budget with a focus on education, employment, empowerment of women and farmers besides law and order. The budget is seen as a masterstroke by the government towards realising the dream of achieving a \$1-trillion economy for Uttar Pradesh. The Rs 6.15 lakh crore budget has a provision of Rs 39,181 crore for new schemes.

Finance Minister Suresh Khanna said that the current budget was bigger than the previous by Rs 65,249 crore.

Participating in the discussion on the budget in the UP Assembly, Lalji Verma said, "Like the budgets of the past five years, this too is a deceit. It is a budget which is misleading people. The government is terming it as the largest budget but it is far from reality. How much is this budget implemented on the ground is to be seen and only then the complete picture will emerge."

Verma also presented a year-wise date of previous budgets presented by the BJP government and claimed that the government failed to mobilise financial



resources for financing schemes announced in the budget.

"If the supplementary budget is combined for 2021-22, then it comes to Rs 5.85 lakh crore. But, the amount spent was Rs 4.84 crore," he pointed out.

Verma, a former finance minister in the previous Bahujan Samaj Party government (2007-12), claimed that merely 45-70 per cent of the budget allocated to some departments could be spent.

"This is a hollow budget," Verma remarked.

Following this, Finance Minister Suresh Khanna intervened and asked Verma to get his facts right. Khanna said that if for 2021-2022, the supplementary budget was combined then it added up to Rs 5.66 lakh crore.

Govt takes tough stand against illegal parking operators

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Taking a tough stand against encroachers and illegal parking stands, the Yogi Adityanath government has imposed Gangsters Act and Goonda Act against the operators of illegal parking, sending a clear message that it will not tolerate nuisance in the name of encroachment.

A government spokesman said here on Saturday that as a new initiative towards road safety, the Yogi government had launched an effective campaign against illegal encroachment, illegal vehicle stands and parkings, and was taking

multi-dimensional steps which were yielding encouraging results.

"Under the road safety campaign started on May 19 in 75 districts of the state, a strict campaign was launched against encroachments, and illegal vehicle stands and parkings on the roads and footpaths of all the districts. During the campaign going on in every district, the Gangsters Act and Goonda Act was also imposed on the identified operators. Not only this, many vehicles were also confiscated," he said.

The spokesman said during this campaign 567 illegal stands were identified and 573

stands were removed. He said action was taken against 20 stand operators under Goonda Act and Gangsters Act was imposed on two.

"A strict action was also taken against illegal encroachments along the roads. In the last one week 3,749 campaigns were launched to remove illegal encroachments along expressways, national highways, Public Works Department roads, city roads and other sidewalks," he said.

Dishing out figures, he said during this campaign 15,119 illegal encroachments were removed and cases were registered against 1,104 people

for encroachment. He said at the same time, strict action was also taken against illegal parkings in which a total of 8,929 encroachments were removed from the roads and 1,018 illegal parkings were also removed. "Action was taken against three parking operators under the Goonda Act. Besides, the Gangsters Act was also imposed against two parking operators. Besides, 1,404 spots have been identified by the National Highways Authority of India and the Public Works Department that are frequently encroached upon. Sign boards have been put up there," he said.

Jamiat raises 'Islamophobia' banner over Gyanvapi row

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Raising the banner of 'Islamophobia' over Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi and Krishna Janmabhoomi/Eidgah in Mathura, an organisation of Deobandi Sunni Muslim clerics, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind said that a hate campaign had been unleashed against the community and concerted efforts were underway to turn Muslims to second class citizens.

The Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind organised a two-day conference of clerics at Deoband in Saharanpur from Saturday, where Gyanvapi mosque-Kashi Vishwanath temple complex issue was discussed at length.

In a controversial statement in the event that had in attendance Muslims from over 5,000 organisations, president of the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, Maulana Mahmood Madani cried 'Islamophobia' over the

Varanasi issue.

"Muslims are actually the majority community of India. We are technically a minority community. The Bharatiya Janata Party should remember it will not remain in power for an indefinite period. Power is not permanent so no party can be a ruling party forever," Madani said.

"The Muslims have been turned into strangers in their own country. I know the kind of hardships common Muslims face these days across the country. It is becoming difficult for Muslims to lead normal social lives in public places," the Maulana said.

In a veiled attack on the BJP, Madani said, "We have to be very cautious and avoid the action plan being prepared for us by the forces behind the temple-mosque dispute. They are peddlers of hate and you should have a clear understanding of

their agenda. Till the other day, they were a poor minority, now they are very visible across the country. If we counter their hate campaign in their coin then it will be like walking into their trap. They propagate the idea of 'Akhand Bharat' while the fact is that it has become difficult for the ordinary Muslim to walk on the streets. They are enemies of the country."

The Jamiat chief further said, "The way the situation over the mosque-temple controversy is evolving, Muslims should be ready to face the situation, including launching a 'Jail Bharo' agitation to protect our mosques and heritage. There is no need to be disheartened. We can face repression and injustice but will never indulge in anything which compromises national interest."

Urging Muslims to comprehend the situation with a cool head, Madani said, "We will fight back and

we have taken this decision not out of weakness but strength given to us by the Quran. We can compromise with everything except our faith."

"The condition of the country and the government's silence on it is concerning. This needs to change, and therefore, the people who wish well for the country will have to manage it and end the prevailing environment of division," Madani said. "For now, debates on Gyanvapi mosque, Shahi Eidgah mosques are going on. A resolution with respect to them is likely to be adopted on Sunday morning. We will fight for it and if need be, will even go to the jail together," he said.

Thereafter, Maulana Niaz Ahmed Farooqui (media incharge of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind) confirmed that everyone's views were being taken into account on the Mandir-Masjid issue in the national convention.

Farooqui said, "Hatred is being propelled against Muslims in the country. Pakistan was created the last time there was a tirade of this sort against Muslims. I don't understand what exactly these people want."

Meanwhile, the Congress endorsed Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind's remark. Congress leader Rashid Alvi said, "Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind is a secular and non-political organisation. Its leaders have contributed a great deal and even made a lot of sacrifices during the freedom movement. This is something which the BJP and others probably do not know. Therefore, if they are discussing something, I don't think we can stop them. All these issues, be it Gyanvapi mosque or Shahi Eidgah, instead of blaming Muslims, we should blame the parties that call themselves secular. For they have kept silent, thinking that they do not lose one side."

On its part, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party slammed the statements made by the leaders of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind. UP's Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak said, "The BJP believes and practices inclusive politics where the benefit of development scheme reaches every section of society without any discrimination on the basis of caste and religion."

Former UP minister and Chairman of UP Haj Committee, Mohsin Raza, said, "In the name of jalsa, Jamiat is trying to instigate the country. The way statements on the patience of Muslims being put to test, is by all means 'bhadkau bhashan'. On one side Asaduddin Owaisi glorifies Aurangzeb, on the other the Congress calls Gyanvapi proceedings a drama. Akhilesh Yadav insults Hindu sentiments by saying that if a stone is kept below a tree, it is being called a temple."

UP sets an example by solving problem of loudspeakers

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

When lowering the volume of loudspeakers brought tension in many parts of the country, Uttar Pradesh set an example as over 1.29 lakh loudspeakers were either switched off or their volume was lowered bringing respite to the people.

"During a campaign in Uttar Pradesh, 71,114 loudspeakers were removed from various places of worship while the volume of 58,180 loudspeakers has been reduced," Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Awasthi said in a statement issued here on Saturday.

He said there was no bias in removing loudspeakers. He said loudspeakers were removed from temples as well as mosques and this was done voluntarily by the heads of these religious institutions on an appeal of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

"Another initiative of the Yogi government that has won praises is donating these loudspeakers to schools or they

have been put to use for public announcements," Awasthi said.

The government record suggests that over 4,371 loudspeakers were given for the morning assembly of schools, while 940 loudspeakers were given for the public address system in the area.

The state Home department had on April 23 issued orders to remove loudspeakers from religious places. The chief minister's instructions were based on an order of the Allahabad High Court and the state authorities were ready to follow the same in letter and spirit.

The entire process was conducted in a peaceful and cordial manner by holding dialogue with the spiritual leaders of different communities. During the campaign, the spiritual leaders were made aware of noise pollution through loudspeakers. Giving a good message to society, the religious leaders extended their support in removing the loudspeakers, the official said.

Three held for robbery in Maharashtra

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A team of Uttar Pradesh Police's Special Task Force (STF) and Maharashtra Police nabbed three robbers wanted in a case of house robbery in Malad in Mumbai from Siddharthnagar district of UP on Friday.

The thieves were identified as Barqat Ali, Afzal Hussain and Abdul Munaf, all of Siddharthnagar.

The police recovered over Rs 20,000 in cash, looted gold ornaments, two Aadhaar cards, two PAN cards, three ATM cards, a driving licence and two mobile phones from them.

The miscreants owned up their crime during interrogation.

It surfaced that Abdul Munaf masterminded the robbery in Malad police station area of Mumbai in the recent

past. Munaf confessed that he had shown the house to Afzal and Barqat and later the trio committed the robbery. After the robbery they fled to Siddharthnagar, their hometown.

Barqat and Afzal confessed that they sold some of the gold ornaments while some of the ornaments they mortgaged to take items from shops. On their disclosure the team conducted raids at the shops of the

jewelers and recovered the stolen ornaments.

The team recovered the cash from Afzal's house.

NOTICE:- WE SHASHI KANT PATYAL AND MRS RAKSHA CHAUHAN R/O:- TEH. BANGANA, HATLI(8/33),UNA, HIMACHAL PRADESH, 174307 HAVE BOOKED A COMMERCIAL PLOT IN SC1-179 IN DLF GARDEN CITY LUCKNOW. THESE RECEIPTS ARE MISPLACED GDN/CRB/00044/0514, GDN/CRB/00235/0614, GDN/CRB/00195/0814, GDN/CRB/00146/1214, GDN/CRB/00107/0115, GDN/CRB/00122/0315, GDN/CRB/00011/0515, GDN/CRB/00071/0615, GDN/CRB/00059/0815, GDN/CRB/00062/1015, GDN/CRB/00018/0116, GDN/CRB/00220/00024 WHICH WAS ISSUED BY DLF LTD.

AIPEF demands probe into coal crisis

Lucknow (PNS): All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) demanded a high-level inquiry into the present coal crisis and direction of the Union Energy Ministry to states to import coal. The AIPEF also demanded withdrawal of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2021 and privatisation in the power sector including privatisation of power distribution companies.

The AIPEF demanded that an independent inquiry be set up into the coal shortage that led to a major crisis at the height of summers.

"The Union Energy Ministry in overcoming the crisis is on the one hand asking the state governments and generating companies to import coal and on the other providing relief to private power plants that have been designed and sanctioned to run on imported coal," it said.

An AIPEF office-bearer said, "The Union government is wholly responsible for the present imbroglio. Reasons are withdrawal of reserves of Coal India Ltd to the tune of Rs 35,000 crore. These reserves were accumulated in order to develop new coal mines and augment existing mines but the development programme was abandoned. Directives were issued to Coal India Ltd to invest in the fertiliser industry thereby neglecting its primary function for meeting coal demands."

With corona lying low, poor response to booster shot

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■
LUCKNOW

Nearly 1.5 lakh people in the age group of 18-59 years and 11 lakh people above 60 years of age have been given the precautionary (booster) dose in Uttar Pradesh.

State Immunisation Officer Dr Ajay Ghai said senior citizens have outnumbered those in the 18-59 years category because the booster dose was first meant for them and also there was more concern among them than any other age group.

"One of the reasons for the sluggish booster dose coverage is that those aged above 18 years and those above 45 years were given the second dose in the later part of 2021 and hence they have yet to complete the mandatory nine months before getting the booster shot. Some of them who were given the second dose in September last year are still not due for the precautionary dose. Also, those aged above 45 with co-morbidities were vaccinated first and then those in the same age group without co-morbidities. It has also increased the gap



between the second dose and the booster shot," he explained. He admitted that people are not interested in getting the booster dose because they are not concerned about contracting Covid infection.

"Merely 7-8 per cent of people in the state have still not taken the second dose and it takes several calls from the Health department to the beneficiaries to get them vaccinated," he said.

Asked whether they are thinking in terms of roping private hospitals to increase the precautionary dose coverage,

he said they are not. "Private hospitals can be roped in only if there is more demand from people because there is no point in hospitals purchasing the vaccines only to see them expire due to very little or no turnout," he said.

He appealed to people to come forward and take the booster shot. He said that the Covid vaccination drive has covered a large percentage and even if there is 95 per cent coverage, it will be considered as 100 per cent. Ghai pointed out that preparations are underway for routine immunisation.

"The micro-planning will be completed by June 5-6. It could not be completed properly in the last two years because of Covid," the immunisation officer said.

Meanwhile, Organised Medicine Academic Guild secretary Dr Ishwar Gilada pointed out that the pan-India response to the booster has been sluggish.

"Since coronavirus is lying low, people are not concerned about taking booster shot. Also, many people are still not due for the precautionary dose because they have still not completed nine months since the second dose. It's for this reason that we have been urging the Central government to reduce the gap between the second dose and the booster shot," he said.

He said the number of vaccination centres across the country has been reduced because of the poor response. "The government must plan something, otherwise many vaccines may expire. People who have got both the doses free of cost are waiting for a free precautionary dose," he added.

DyCM appreciates role of cost mgmt accountants

Lucknow (PNS): Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak appreciated the role of cost management accountants in determination of the cost of products and services. He said that in the post-pandemic situation when a country is passing through high inflation, the skills of CMAs are required for lowering the cost.

Pathak was speaking on the second of the '60th National Cost Convention-2022', organised by the Institute of Cost Accountants of India to mark its Foundation Day. He also mentioned how CMAs design the business strategies and help the promoters run the businesses in an effective manner.

Pathak appreciated the institute for offering skill development courses to the youth of the state as an MoU has been signed with the UP government in this context.

President of the institute P Raju Iyer offered the services of the members for the conduct of the performance appraisal and bringing in transparency in the functioning of the societies in the state. Vice-president Vijendra Sharma ensured all the technical help and support for the overall economic development activities of the state.

State working committee of BJP to meet today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the Lok Sabha elections just 18 months away, the Bharatiya Janata Party will hold its state working committee meeting in Lucknow on Sunday under the chairmanship of party state president Swatantra Dev Singh.

The BJP state working committee meeting will be inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at 10 am. The meeting is likely to be attended by senior party leaders.

In the working committee meeting, a roadmap will be

prepared for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Sources in the BJP said here on Saturday that a political resolution would be passed in this meeting.

BJP state general secretary Govind Narayan Shukla informed that before the meeting of the state working committee, a meeting of the office-bearers of the party was held on Saturday at the state headquarters under the chairmanship of party state president Swatantra Dev Singh.

In the meeting, the party's national vice-president and state in-charge Radha Mohan Singh, state general secretary

(organisation) Sunil Bansal, state co-general secretary (organisation) Karamveer along with state general secretary JPS Rathore, Govind Narayan Shukla, Ashwani Tyagi, Amar Pal Maurya, Subrata Pathak, Anoop Gupta and Priyanka Rawat were present.

The central office-bearers, members of the Union council of ministers from Uttar Pradesh, state officials, ministers of the state, mayors, state executive members, regional presidents and presidents of the frontal organisation will participate in the state working committee meeting.

Passengers travelling sans tickets fined

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Taking cognisance of the complaints regarding overcrowding in reserved coaches and to ensure a comfortable journey for genuine passengers, the commercial wing of Northern Railway (Lucknow Division) conducted an intensive ticket-check-

ing drive in Lucknow and Varanasi Cantt railway stations on Saturday.

The drive was launched on the instructions of DRM, NR (Lucknow), SK Sapra.

Senior DCM Rekha Sharma said the passengers travelling without tickets were challaned. The passengers were also asked to ensure

cleanliness at the railway stations, platforms and in train coaches.

A fine of over Rs 4.39 lakh was realised from 620 unauthorised passengers in Lucknow while Rs 6.94 lakh from 1,063 unauthorised passengers in Varanasi. The drive was led by ACM, NR (Lucknow), Vinit Ranjan.

Laptops, bags of two women profs at IU stolen from their cabins

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two women professors of the Linguistic department of Integral University lost their bags and belongings from their cabins inside the university premises in Gudamba police station area on May 26.

In the first incident, Dr Arina Naznin (assistant professor) said two youths approached her when she was in her cabin around 10:55 am on the fateful day.

"As I went out of the cabin, they showed me a letter and demanded money. In the meantime, one of them entered the cabin and stole my laptop and handbag containing Rs 7,000 in cash, an ATM card, an Aadhaar card and mobile accessories," she said.

In the second incident which took place at around 11 am, Dr Arshi Khan of the same department said she was taking her class when she was informed that the cabin of Dr Naznin had been burgled.

"I rushed to my cabin to check if everything was alright. I also found my laptop, handbag containing Rs 1,000 in cash, ATM/Aadhaar cards stolen," she said.

The police said a case of forgery and theft was registered on the complaint of Dr Arina while a case of theft was registered on the complaint of Dr Arshi. Dr Arina is a resident of Keshav Nagar in Madaion while Dr Arshi is a resident of Vikas Nagar.

Trauma to become 3rd leading cause of disability by 2030



Sensitisation workshop on emergency trauma care for healthcare personnel at the ATC, SGPGIMS

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Trauma is a global public health concern with higher mortality rate acknowledged in rural and remote populations. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), road traffic injuries accounted for 1.25 million deaths in 2014, and trauma is expected to rise to the third leading cause of disability worldwide by 2030. Even with ongoing development of better infrastructure as well as improved vehicular safety features, incidence of trauma and adverse outcomes related to it are increasing by the day.

In order to sensitise healthcare personnel regarding emergency trauma care and as per directives issued by the director general of Medical Education and Training, the Apex Trauma Centre, SGPGIMS, organised a two-day sensitisation workshop on

emergency trauma care for healthcare personnel.

"A trauma system is not simply an isolated hospital that cares for injured patients but a broad coalition of participants, including an integrated approach to trauma. This includes prevention, pre-hospital care, and hospital care through rehabilitation. Trauma care begins before the patient arrives at the hospital. Typically, rescue personnel respond to a call and provide pre-hospital care. An overarching goal of a trauma care system is to match the severity of the injury to the most appropriate and cost-effective level of care in a geographic region," head of the department Dr R Harshvardhan said.

He said that the main objective of the workshop which concluded on Saturday was to sensitise and train healthcare personnel and pri-

mary responders regarding standard practices and protocols which could help in stabilisation of trauma patients and prove to be an important intervention in improving and designing a well-planned multi-tiered process for emergency trauma care services at the ATC, SGPGIMS.

The workshop laid emphasis on topics such as brief description about road traffic accidents, concept of golden hour, training about trauma care, major & minor trauma, triage of injured patients, BLS training to paramedics, ambulance drivers & nurses, ATLS training for doctors, and speciality-wise training about trauma care along with mannequin demonstration. The workshop was conducted by a team of faculty members comprising Dr Pulak Sharma, Dr Ved Prakash Maurya, Dr Amit Kumar Singh and Dr Prateek Bais.

2 more members of oil mafia gang held

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A team of Mohanlalganj

police on Saturday claimed to have arrested two more members of the alleged oil mafia Arun Yadav's gang involved in stealing petrol, diesel and denatured spirit from tankers headed to oil depots. Those arrested were identified as Pawan Kumar Yadav and Deep Narayan Patel alias Deepu. Arun Yadav of Samajwadi Party is also a zila panchayat member.

Earlier, the STF had arrested two men from Mohanlalganj on May 20 and two others, including the mastermind Arun Yadav, on May 24. The STF was working on a case of theft of oil from tankers headed to depots and sale of adulterated fuel and liquor in Lucknow. The team got a tip-off about the gang and a raid was conducted on May 20.

The Mohanlalganj police said the accused were arrested on the charges of attempt to murder, rioting, being armed with deadly weapons, using criminal force to deter public servants from discharge their duty and for molestation.

Meanwhile, a team of Gomtinagar police on Saturday arrested a youth accused of faking his religious faith to kidnap a girl and force her for conversion for marriage. The accused was identified as Ankit of Ayodhya presently staying in Gomtinagar.

It was alleged that around 6 pm on May 21, the accused lured his neighbour's daughter

into eloping with him. The accused allegedly youth hid his religious identity. However, her family members came to know about it when they visited his house to enquire about her.

"We were abused and threatened with dire consequences," the girl's family alleged. On their complaint, an FIR under charges of kidnapping for marriage, anti-conversion law and ST/SC Act was registered against the accused.

"We have traced the girl who is an adult and her statements will be recorded soon," police said, adding that the father of the accused was also accused of complicity. The police rounded up the accused and were also looking for his father.

Meanwhile, wife of a men-

tally ill person ended her life at her house in Ashiyana on Saturday morning.

As per reports, Neelam was found hanging from the ceiling with a saree tied around her neck. She was rushed to Lok Bandhu Hospital where she was pronounced brought dead. Her brother-in-law Sunil Kumar later informed police about the incident.

The police said Neelam had married Girija Shanker 17 years back and the couple had two children. "Neelam's husband is suffering from some mental illness and she was taking care of him. She was probably in depression due to which she ended her life," the police said. The body was sent for autopsy while further investigation was underway.

LU bid to spread awareness on menstrual hygiene



A street play being staged for menstrual hygiene awareness

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Inspired by Governor Anandiben Patel and under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Prof Alok Kumar Rai, the University of Lucknow started the first phase of a women's health awareness campaign in Inter colleges in rural areas around Lucknow from Sarojini Nagar block.

In the first phase of this campaign, LU will take the highly important social issue of breaking taboos around menstruation and problems related to women's health in 41 women's Inter colleges of five blocks around Lucknow.

In this context, the NSS students of Lucknow University have started an awareness campaign for girls through street plays. By distributing and installing sanitary napkin vend-

ing machines and incinerators in colleges, Lucknow University is setting a unique example of its commitment to the society for providing a clean and improved campus to girls for their physical health as well as psychological development.

The 5-day mega programme started with the distribution of sanitary napkin vending machines and incinerators to six Inter colleges by Lucknow University at Government UP Sainik Inter College and sharing information about simple yet important measures of a healthy life to more than 200 girl students.

They were given detailed information about the use of vending machines and incinerators, and their usefulness. The nodal officer of this programme is DSW Poonam Tandon and proctor Rakesh

Dwivedi. Both of them described this programme as an important and commendable step by the vice-chancellor for the health of girls.

NSS programme coordinator Rupesh Kumar said: "For the formation of a healthy society, it's our responsibility to nurture good physical and mental health of students."

DloS Amar Kant Singh, who was present on the occasion, said that this programme is a unique example of coordination of higher and secondary education. Along with principal of Government UP Sainik College Renu Singh, teachers and students of government High Schools in Benti, Khatola, and Palhenda participated in a first-of-its-kind discussion on menstrual health and importance of breaking the silence around the same.

Study to strengthen cancer care, prevention

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A memorandum of understanding has been signed between King George's Medical University and ACCESS Health International to undertake a qualitative study for strengthening cancer care, prevention and control programme in Uttar Pradesh.

It will help in studying the cancer care provision in the state, including screening, diagnosis, treatment and palliative care, along with probable challenges in demand and supply for this crucial healthcare service. "The insights will be useful for the State Health Agency (SACHIS) and government in driving quality cancer treatment in UP and the State Cancer Programme," KGMU

spokesperson Dr Sudhir Singh said. Within the capacity building programme, a landscape analysis has been planned to understand the provision of cancer care in UP.

"A qualitative study in collaboration with KGMU along with data analysis to study broad patterns of supply and demand for oncology care and understanding operational barriers towards compliance to the standard treatment guidelines (STGs) recommended by the National Health Authority (NHA) and other cancer care authorities like National Cancer Grid will provide insights to the state leadership. The overall objective of the qualitative assessment is to review and study the cancer care provision in the state. The study will also

understand patients' journey or pathway for seeking cancer care and the challenges faced at different levels," Singh said.

He said that cancer is a second leading cause of death after cardiovascular disease worldwide, accounting for nearly 10 million deaths in 2020. "The number of new cancer cases in India was 0.95 million in 2008 and is projected to increase to 1.7 million in 2035. The incidence of cancer in India is lower than that in western nations, but the mortality is higher suggesting low health service effectiveness," he pointed out. He said that between 1990 and 2016, the burden of disease due to non-communicable ailments increased from 48% to 75% in India.

"The disease burden also

changed in UP. The prevalence of non-communicable diseases in UP increased from 7% in 1995 to 19% in 2004. The maximum number of cases reported in India is from UP, Maharashtra and Bihar. UP Disease Burden Profile report shows that it is one of the worst affected states with 6,74,386 cancer cases in 2020. A study carried out on cancer patients from eastern UP reported that major cancer sites in females were cervix and breast, followed by head and neck. Most of the cases (74%) are presented in the advanced stage," he said.

He added that the government initiatives include a combination of prevention and screening and provision of treatment. "The newly-

launched Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) provides treatment of cancer and other diseases to around 38% of the population in UP. This includes treatment under medical, radiation and surgical oncology under which there are 481 procedures covering all types of cancer treatment," he said.

He added that ACCESS Health, a technical partner to state health agency for AB-PM-JAY, UP, has collaborated with Roche India Health Institute (RIHI) to implement a cancer care strengthening programme under the leadership of SACHIS in strengthening the hospital network by building capacities for standard of care for cancer care treatment," he added.

CITYBRIEFS

FELICITATION FUNCTION

A felicitation function was organised to honour and award prizes to the young achievers of City Montessori School at the Gomtinagar Campus-I auditorium on Saturday. These meritorious students have brought international name and fame to the school with their accomplishments through academic excellence. Among those who were honoured included those who have secured admissions with scholarships to some of the best universities of the USA, the UK, Canada, Australia, Japan, Singapore, and Germany. Awardees of National Talent Search Scholarship, Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana scholarship, national-level winners of Biology, Physics &



Mathematics Olympiads etc were also honoured. CMS alumna Twinkle Singh, who was the chief guest, felicitated the students. She advised the students to visualise where they want to see themselves after a few years. CMS founder

Jagdish Gandhi said the students are trained to become world citizens and world leaders committed to making the earth a better place to live and serving humanity without any prejudices of race, caste, creed or religion.

IDEATHON

An 'Ideathon' was organised by KMC Language University on Saturday. Top three out of 23 ideas were selected and the students were awarded cash prizes. The proposals will be sent to the government. 'Ideathon' was organised by the Incubation Centre of KMC Language University. Online applications were sought from students of various universities for new ideas of business and innovation. The first place was grabbed by 'Grassy Girls' who proposed to make plates out of stubble. The second place went to 'Matrix Reloaded' who proposed an e-market place for handicrafts. The third spot was bagged by 'NFS Biotechnol' who gave a presentation on bio-ethanol production.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

CSIR-CIMAP transferred the technology of ashwagandha new variety 'CIM Pushti' to Xenon Biosciences (Hyderabad) for preparation of anolides/herbal extracts. CIMAP spokesperson said this variety was developed by the intra-specific hybridisation and having 3-5% total withanolides. Withanolide A is around 0.713%, Withanolide B around 0.45% and polysaccharide by fibre ratio around 1:5. This variety is leaf blight tolerant, maturing in 160-170 days and average dry root yield is 10-12 quintal per hectare. The agreement was exchanged between CSIR-CIMAP director Prabodh Kumar Trivedi and CEO of Xenon Biosciences Sambasiva R Poreddy.

UP Govt issues order allowing women workers to do night duty

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Divisional Commissioner Dr Raj Shekhar on Saturday informed that the Uttar Pradesh Government had issued order allowing women workers to take up night duties in any commercial and industrial establishment under Factories Act, 1948. He said for the UP Government allowing women workers to work at night in commercial and industrial establishment was of prime concern. He said the decision comes in the wake of the suggestions made through the Labour Commissionerate and thus the UP government gave a green signal to it. He said under the

new directive all women can work in commercial and industrial establishments after 7.00 pm and added that the government had also made special arrangements for safety and security of women workers while travelling to the place of work or back home. He said as per the provision made in Factories Act, 1948 the onus of picking and dropping women workers free was placed on the employers. He said as per the Act the employer will have to provide them food during their night duties. He said proper observations will be made by the employer along with facility of toilet, operational room and changing room should be nearest to the place of work. He

said all proper and essential facilities will be provided by the employer. He said as per government directives factory planner will inform proper arrangements within a week's time. He said the employer will also furnish full details of women workers through electronic mode and ensure monthly report regularly. He said to prevent any sexual harassment the factory owner will have to ensure proper complaint cell as well. He said the Act also made provision that in case of any violation of directives sanction to the workplace, factory of commercial establishment can be cancelled immediately.

MEETING : Chief Development Officer (CDO),

Dr Mahendra Kumar, while addressing the meeting at Vikas Bhawan, expressed concern over the pending 9,104 applications of the physically challenged people and directed that it should be settled in a week's time and if the directives were not adhered to then salaries of all the officials concerned will be stopped. He was addressing the Unique Disability ID Monitoring Committee. He said as per the report of the Zila Divyangjan Sashaktikaran Adhikari despite directives issued the renewal of the disability certificates had yet not been cleared for the past several months and thus they were deprived of benefits of various schemes of UP Government. He recommended that a proposal for setting up of District Disabled Rehabilitation Committee (DDRC) with the support of the District Management Committee at Kanshiram Trauma Centre should be forwarded to the Central government. He expressed concern over the refusal to provide free travel in e-buses to the physically challenged people. He directed the authorities concerned to immediately take up the issue through proper channel and ensure that this facility was extended to them at the earliest. He said the UP government was serious towards settling the problems of the physically challenged people on top priority and thus any laxity on the part of the officials will certainly not be tolerated. He said it was the duty of the government departments to ensure they provided them all possible help at every level. He said pending of over 9,104 cases speaks volumes of officials apathy and thus action will be taken against all the erring officials. He said a week's time has been give to them and in case they failed to settle the issues, they will be answerable and action will be taken against them. A large number of officials took part in the meeting.

122 registries executed at camp

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

As many as 122 registries were executed in the special registry camp organised by the Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) on Friday. Registries of properties relating to zones 1, 2, 3 and 4, World Bank and Bulk Sale department were executed in the camp. Sub-registrar, Narval, along with his team was also present in the camp. Earlier, after inaugurating the camp by lighting the ceremonial lamp, Vice-Chairman (V-C) Arvind Singh said due to assembly elections KDA could not establish direct contact with the allottees and general masses in the camp during the past three-four months. Now the camp organised on Friday was a step to again established face-to-face communication with the allottees and other people. He said the allottees who had completed all formalities were eligible for registry of their properties on the spot. He also directed the officials/employees to organise such camps in future also in the interest of allottees and to facilitate general



KDA Vice-Chairman Arvind Singh handing over registry documents to allottees at the special registry camp

eral people. He also informed about introducing a new system from the start of the financial year 2022-23 that the Engineering department will carry out spot inspection of the allotted property before executing registry and handing over possession to the allottee. V-C also handed over the copy of registries executed in favour of Rajesh Saini, Geeta, Kamlesh Kumari, Shiv Prasad, Ganesh

Pandey and others. All the allottees, including Amit Kumar and Geeta were upbeat after getting the registry of their property executed on the spot within few hours and thanked the KDA V-C for his efforts initiated in this respect. They also urged him to organise such camps in future also to facilitate large number of people. Additional Secretary Dr Gudakesh Sharma was also

present in the camp. **MENACE:** The mini-dairy operation has again started flourishing in the city as the drive launched by the Kanpur Nagar Nigam (KNN) to remove them is lying suspended for the past several months. This resulted in increase in number of stray cattle roaming on city roads and frequent road mishaps. Citizens had a sigh of relief during the anti-minidairy drive launched by KNN about six months ago. But with the suspension of the drive, operation of mini-dairies in several parts of the city had again started. In Gadiyana village, adjacent to 37th PAC Bn, there are around 40 mini-dairies. When Mayor Pramila Pandey had attempted to remove them in the past mini-dairy operators had attacked her. Since then, none of the officers and employees of Kanpur Nagar Nigam dared to visit that village so far. Local residents of the village were upset due to frequent roaming of stray cattle on the street which, in turn, led to spread of diseases from cow dung littered here and there.

Emphasis on following road safety rules

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Rahul Mithas, while speaking at a workshop on 'Sadak Suraksha, Jeevan Raksha' in GISM Medical College, said number of deaths due to road accidents was more than the number of people died of diseases. He said people should follow road safety rules not only to prevent themselves from being challaned but to ensure safety of their life and family members. The workshop was organised to aware students and faculty of the medical college and nearby residents about the road safety rules by Dr Manish Singh, Dr Ganesh Shanker and Dr Priyesh Shukla.

Principal of GISM Medical College Dr Sanjay Kala was present at the workshop as special guest. Speakers,

including senior doctors, apprised the gathering of the issues related to 'Sadak Suraksha, Jeevan Raksha' apart from describing importance of following road safety rules. Prominent among others present at the workshop were Dr RK Maurya, Dr Richa Giri, Dr AK Gupta, Dr Vikash Mishra, Dr Prabhashu Shukla, Dr Sangeta Arya, Dr Yashwant Rao, Dr DS Yadav, Durgal Singh, Traffic Inspector Vinay Kumar Singh, LIU Officer Sanjeev Dixit and Shiv Singh Chhokar.

AGRICULTURE DRONE: IoTech World Avigation has introduced India's first agriculture drone service application 'Agrinet' at the recently held Drone Mahotsav-2022 event in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Addressing mediapersons, Director & Co-Founder Anoop Upadhyay said "Drones can not

only help farmers to enhance production and reduce the wastage of resources, but it also inspects large fields, where manual intervention is difficult and inefficient". He said Agrinet, the drone service application provides a platform that connects the farmers and drone providers. Through Agrinet, the farmers can hire the drones for agriculture requirements like spraying, register for drone pilot training, get drone-related information etc. On the other hand, Agrinet provides an opportunity for drone owners to be entrepreneurs. He said IoTech also launched the new portable model of their agricultural drone Agribot, which can be carried on a bike to the field for crop health forecasting solution that uses AI to identify insects and diseases that commonly afflict crops and suggest quick and accurate remedies and

spray the medicine, measuring the specific land etc. **DISTRIBUTORS' MEET:** Global Exports organised a distributors' meet to promote their gents footwear brands Avetos and Delmuro here on Friday. Addressing mediapersons, Managing Director Kshitiz Dhawan said the company had launched a real leather footwear product Avetos about six years ago which was well acknowledged in the market. Encouraged by the overwhelming response, the company had also launched a good quality vegan leather footwear Delmuro about four years ago which also sold like a hot cake. He said distributors from all over India were taking part in the meet to promote trade relations. Business head Somendra Barik said the demand for company's products was continuously increasing.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY

KANKE, RANCHI-834006, JHARKHAND

NOTICE

Director, Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi invites the applications for the following post on tenure basis for a period of three years. Details of vacant posts are as under:

a) Clinical Psychology Tutor

- 05 (UR-01, OBC-02, SC-01, EWS-01, Horizontal Reservation-PH-01)

b) Psychiatric Social Work Tutor

- 06 (UR-02, OBC-02, SC-01, EWS-01, Horizontal Reservation-PH-01)

Desirous candidates possessing the essential qualifications and who are within the prescribed age limit may appear for walk-in-interview with their application in the prescribed format giving full details of academic records and experience along with original and attested photocopy of the relevant documents with recent photograph on 21.06.2022 at 9:30 A.M. at this institute. Details can be seen on the Institute website www.cipranchi.nic.in

Sd/-Director

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

विद्युत प्रेषण मण्डल उ०प्र० पावर

ईं प्रसिध्तिमान कार्यप्रेषण लिमिटेड,

डी०एच०डब्ल्यू०, सिखारीपुर,

वाराणसी-221004 ई-निविदा सूचना (1)

अल्पकालिक ई-निविदा संख्या-27-ई०टी०सी०(सी०)/2022-2023-220 के.बी. साहपुरी (220)-ओबरा पारेषण लाईन का प्रस्तावित 220 के.बी. उपकेन्द्र बुनार पर लीलो कार्य हेतु विस्तृत सर्वे का कार्य। निविदा खुलने की तिथि-14-06-2022। निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य-रु० 236/-जीएसटी० सहित। धरोहर राशि-रु० 2000/- (रु० दो हजार मात्र)। निविदा सम्बन्धी अन्य विवरण जैसे निविदा में संशोधन अथवा निविदा खुलने की तिथि में विस्तार होता है तो इसकी सूचना ई-टेंडर वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत प्रेषण मण्डल, वाराणसी पत्रांक - 402 दिनांक 28.5.22 'राष्ट्र हित में विजली बढ़ायें'

जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम,

जोन-4, लखनऊ

अति-अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना

प०सं० :- 58 /निविदा /ईई-4 /2022-23, दिनांक :- 28 /05 /2022

एतद्वारा जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम लखनऊ के अनुमती एवं पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु मुहरबन्द निविदायें दिनांक 03 /06 /2022 के सायंकाल 3:00 बजे तक निविदा बाक्स में आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा प्रपत्र किसी भी कार्य दिवस में दिनांक 03 /06 /2022 को 2:00 बजे तक निविदा मूल्य का नगद भुगतान कैश काउन्टर पर करके निविदा प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। निविदा बाक्स से प्राप्त निविदायें उपस्थित निविदादाताओं के समक्ष सायंकाल 3:30 बजे खोली जायेंगी। समयावधि के पश्चात प्राप्त निविदाओं पर कोई विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।

नियम एवं शर्तें निविदा प्रपत्र में दी गई हैं, जिन्हें किसी भी कार्यदिवस में देखी व क्रय किया जा सकता हैं। निविदा के साथ वांछित धरोहर राशि एफ०डी०आर० /सी०डी०आर० /बैंक गारंटी जो अधिशासी अभियन्ता के नाम बन्धक हो, जमा करना अनिवार्य है। :

क्रम सं०	कार्य का विवरण	निविदा का मूल्य	धरोहर धनराशि
1	Repairing of 400 mm dia Main Feeder pipeline Near Convention Center, Virat Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow	450.00	9000.00

अधिशासी अभियन्ता जोन-4
जलकल विभाग, नगर निगम, लखनऊ

कार्यालय जिला बेसिक शिक्षा अधिकारी,

महोबा

पत्रांक /यू-डायस+ /2022-23

दिनांक :

प्रेस विज्ञप्ति

महानिदेशक एवं राज्य परियोजना निदेशक, समग्र शिक्षा, उ०प्र० लखनऊ के पत्रांक /एम०आई०एस० /यू-डायस+ /522 /2022-23 दिनांक 27.04.2022 के द्वारा जनपद महोबा में संचालित समस्त विद्यालयों (परिषदीय विद्यालय माध्यमिक विद्यालय, उच्चतर माध्यमिक विद्यालय, राजकीय विद्यालय, मान्यता प्राप्त अनुदानित विद्यालय, मान्यता प्राप्त गैर अनुदानित विद्यालय, स्थानीय निकाय. कस्तूरबा गाँधी बालिका विद्यालय, केंद्रीय विद्यालय, नवोदय विद्यालय, सैनिक स्कूल सी०बी०एस०आई० एवं आई०सी०एस०आई० से मान्यता प्राप्त विद्यालय, समाज कल्याण विभाग तथा अल्पसंख्यक कल्याण विभाग में संचालित मद्रसा आदि (जो कक्षा 1-5, 6-8. 1-8, 6-12, 9-12 एवं 1-12 तक संचालित है) के प्रधानाचार्य/प्रबन्धकों को सूचित किया जाता है कि शैक्षिक सत्र 2021-22 में यू-डायस + के अन्तर्गत डाटा कैचर फॉर्मेट (DCF) पर विद्यालय के आकड़ों का आनलाईन फीडिंग का कार्य प्रारम्भ हो गया है। जनपद के सभी विद्यालय को जिनको यू-डायस कोड आवंटित किया गया है, का शत-प्रतिशत आंकडा डी०सी०एफ० के माध्यम से यू-डायस+ की वेबसाइट <https://udise-plus.gov.in> पर आनलाईन अपलोड किया जाना है। इस हेतु सम्बन्धित बी०आर०सी० के संकुल शिक्षकों को आवंटित विद्यालय व प्रधानाचार्य/प्रबन्धक से सम्पर्क कर सम्बन्धित विकास खण्ड के ब्लाक संसाधन केन्द्र (बी०आर०सी०) पर विद्यालय का आनलाईन पासवर्ड जनरेट /ब्लाक डाटा इण्ट्री यूजर आई०डी० व पासवर्ड (गतवर्ष में प्रयुक्त) से डाटा कैचर फॉर्मेट पर अंकित सूचनाओं का विद्यालय के अभिलेखों से मिलान करते हुये निर्धारित कालम के अनुसार सही एवं शुद्ध आंकड़े यू-डायस + की वेबसाइट <https://udiseplus.gov.in> पर दिनांक 31.05.2022 के पूर्व अनिवार्य रूप से आनलाइन डाटा इण्ट्री करना सुनिश्चित करें। जिन विद्यालयों के यूजर आई०डी० व पासवर्ड जनरेट नहीं है वे सम्बन्धित ब्लाक संसाधन केन्द्र (बी०आर०सी०) से सम्पर्क कर आई०डी० व पासवर्ड जनरेट करा लें और आनलाइन डाटा अपलोड करते हुये सर्टिफाइड करें। यदि किसी भी विद्यालय द्वारा डाटा कैचर फॉर्मेट (डी०सी०एफ०) में सही एवं शुद्ध आंकड़े प्रस्तुत नहीं किये जाते हैं तो सम्बन्धित विद्यालय के प्र०अ० / इ०प्र०अ० / प्रबन्धक/शिक्षक संकुल पूर्णतः उत्तरदायी होंगे। साथ ही यदि कोई मान्यता प्राप्त विद्यालय /मद्रसा /सी०बी०एस०आई०, आई०सी०एस०आई० से मान्यता प्राप्त विद्यालय अपना डाटा ऑनलाइन नहीं कराता है तो सम्बन्धित अधिकारियों (नोडल अधिकारी यू-डायस+) के माध्यम से मान्यता प्रत्याहरण की कार्यवाही कर दी जायेगी। इस कार्य को शीर्ष प्राथमिकता के आधार पर पूर्ण कराय़ा जाना अपेक्षित है।

(विपिन रूसिया)

(रवि प्रकाश सिंह)

(सूर्यभानु)

ई०एम०आई०एस० इंचार्य, सहायक वित्त एवं लेखाधिकारी, जिला बेसिक शिक्षा अधिकारी

समग्र शिक्षा, महोबा समग्र शिक्षा, महोबा महोबा

NER AGM's directive to officers in case of accident

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Additional General Manager (AGM), NER Amit Kumar Agrawal on Saturday directed the officers to reach the site in casualty and play the role of assistant in restoring the situation. During his one day visit to the Varanasi Division of NER, Agrawal chaired a review meeting with DRM Ramashray Pandey and other officers at the meeting hall of DRM Office in Lahartara, here. He discussed about the action points for the relief works and directed them for reaching the accidental site in minimum time at the time of accident, making proper reporting and monitoring of the incident, getting the accidental relief team and vehicle reach to accident site, controlling the situation by chalking out strategy, making arrangement of hydraulic and crane as per requirement, keeping additional crane operators and relief staff in reserve, giving backup to in-charge and employees of accident site for the rest to them, getting relief materials reach to affected passengers, making alternative arrangement to get reach the passengers to their destinations, making assessment of right time to restore the situation and having additional time in an unprecedented situation and keeping the multiple HRE gang and hydraulic JCB always ready. The AGM directed the officers to reach the site in the case of accident and play the role of assistant to restore the situation. He apprised of the execution of department responsibility as per accident manual in detail. He took a cognizance of the cases related to commercial licensing and land licensing which are pending in the court of division and also industrial dispute tribunal cases and directed for their disposal. Agrawal also directed to bring improvement in the timing of trains which pass through the division. The AGM also discussed safety items, operation of summer trains, control on

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

In a tragic incident, a girl was killed while her friend seriously injured when a sand-laden truck knocked down their scooter at Ganga Barrage under Kohna police station area on Saturday afternoon. She died on the spot. As the incident took place near the police outpost, cops immediately caught hold of the guilty truck driver and impounded his vehicle. They sent the injured girl to LLR (Hallett) hospital and apprised her kin about the incident. According to reports, Priya (24), daughter of Ramdevi Sharma of Vinayakpur, Kalyanpur, had proceeded to visit her friend Komal Bedi's place in Shashtri Nagar on scooter on Saturday morning. From there they went to Ganga Barrage. Eyewitness said that both the girls were coming on scooter at the time of incident and suddenly they lost control over it and fell on the street. Meanwhile, a sand-laden truck coming from behind ran over Priya and she died on the spot.

Kohna Station Officer (SO) Rajneesh Tewari said on the complaint of kin of the deceased, action against the

guilty truck driver would be initiated.

SEMINAR: International Women's Health Day was observed on May 28 every year and this year the theme was 'Resist and Persist'. The major health problems faced by the India women were anaemia, heart disease, depression, osteoporosis, diabetes and dementia. Ironically despite every third woman anaemic to some extent nothing concrete had been done till date. This engenders the need for women to stand up to their rights and demand better health conditions and better nutrition. This was stated by secretary of Mahila Manch, Neelam Chaturvedi, while addressing the seminar on 'Women's Health and Nutrition' on Saturday. She said 54 per cent women were anaemic and similar was the condition of the pregnant women. She said health was an important factor that not only contributes to human well-being, but also aided in economic growth. She said women's health concerns were numerous and influenced by umpteen factors like gender disparities, early marriage, domestic violence and sexual abuse, malnutrition, poverty,

illiteracy and little access to quality healthcare.

She said it cannot be denied that women formed an important pillar of society and they were the primary caretakers in every country of the world, but still, they suffered more and had poorer health outcomes around the world. She said women were generally vulnerable to poor nutrition in all phases of life, impacting their own growth and development and were more likely to have babies with low birth weight. She said gender-based discrimination along with other social pathologies like the dowry system, early marriage, often resulted in mistreatment. She said awareness regarding contraception and catering to the unmet needs of family planning also needed attention to improve the quality of health. Chaturvedi said the mental conditioning by society had led to women having a very high threshold of patience and silence and added that the health of a woman was not a priority in India where 75 per cent of healthcare infrastructure was based in urban areas and only 1.3 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was for healthcare,

which was blatantly lower than the global average of 6 per cent. She said women seeking healthcare in remote areas of Kanpur rural often stumbled upon the poor quality of services being provided, where facing mistreatment and abuse during pregnancy and childbirth was a major trouble.

She said providing employment opportunities for women created a positive impact on women's health and female healthcare providers can play an important role in educating society to recognise their health and nutrition needs as well. She said empowering women at all levels would help them to serve as productive members of society and develop healthy generations. She said women, who are key in maintaining healthy families, access the health system more than men, both for themselves and on behalf of their children. She said across her life span, a woman's health status mattered to herself, her family and to state budgets. She said if needs of women were overlooked in these discussions states lose important opportunities to improve the health of residents and gain partners in creating a healthier society.

'Tech-enabled governance will play a key role in determining India's growth & competitiveness'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Dr A Sakthivel, President Federation of Indian Exports Organisation in an official statement issued on Saturday said FIEO had been championing the cause of Indian exporters and in a digital era it was felt that much more could be done for the exporters and help boost India's export opportunities through a digital platform solution. He said Union Minister of State for Commerce & Industry Anupriya Patel had launched the Indian Business Portal - An International Trade Hub for Indian Exporters and Foreign Buyers. He said the FIEO in partnership with GlobalLinker, had designed and developed the 'Indian Business Portal'.

He said this was a B2B digital marketplace to empower SME exporters, artisans and farmers to identify new markets for their products and grow their sales globally. He said this portal will focus on promotion of GI products from India, and all artisans and farmers were asked to create their free store and join this platform and the FIEO will promote the marketplace worldwide to help Indian exporters, SMEs and artisans. He said Indian Business Portal will be a big encouragement to Indian Startups, SMEs, Artisans and Farmers (GI Products) and service providers to take their first step toward the exports. He said FIEO hoped that more exporters will engage on the Indian Business Portal and

would provide their valued feedback to FIEO. Director General of Foreign Trade, Government of India, Santosh Kumar Sarangi, said tech-enabled governance will play a key role in determining India's growth and competitiveness. He said the government was focused on paperless, automated processing systems, simple procedures for trade players, online data exchange between departments, digital payments and acknowledgements. He added that progress in technology helped develop the economy and strengthen Indian firms in the competitive global market. Dr Ajay Sahai, Director General & CEO, FIEO said FIEO's vision was to focus on innovation to provide new

and value-added services to exporters. He said the platform will facilitate the enhancement of India's trade linkages for the International markets. Sameer Vakil, co-founder & CEO, GlobalLinker, said FIEO was helping businesses navigate international market opportunities through its wide range of progressive initiatives. He said its domain expertise, combined with its partnership with GlobalLinker had led to the creation of the Indian Business Portal, where businesses ranging from artisans to women entrepreneurs and from farmers producing GI products to leading star export houses can create digital catalogues for the world to discover. The vote of thanks was proposed by vice-president Khalid Khan.

SSU gets ₹1.16 crore to promote Sanskrit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Aiming at generating consciousness about Sanskrit among common people, the Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) will run training programme in the courses of Jyotish Shastra (Astrology), Karmakanda (Ritual), Vastushastra, Pourohitya (Priesthood) and Sanskrit online. The SSU has got a budget of ₹ 1.16 crore to promote Sanskrit as a language of common people.

The Vice-Chancellor of SSU Prof Hare Ram Tripathi informed that the university would run online job-oriented courses to generate consciousness about Sanskrit among common people and in this order, the three months, six months and one year (both certificate and diploma) online training programme will be run in the courses of Jyotish Shastra (Astrology), Karmakanda (Ritual), Vastushastra, Pourohitya (Priesthood) and Sanskrit.

A committee will soon be constituted to prepare the curriculum of these courses and studio works, the V-C informed, adding that the peo-

ple would get knowledge of these courses being at home in Sanskrit language. When the people would be aware of these courses, this platform will prove fruitful in clearing confusions and eradicating some social evils.

With the cooperation of the Chancellor of the university & Governor Anandben Patel, CM Yogi Adityanath, Higher Education Minister Yogendra Upadhyaya and Additional Chief Secretary Monika S Garg, the university has got a budget of ₹1.16 crore to promote Sanskrit as the language of common people.

SSU V-C NOMINATED AS SPL MEMBER OF IQAC: Vice-Chancellor of Sampurnanand Sanskrit University (SSU) Prof Hare Ram Tripathi has been nominated as special member of newly constituted Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Central Sanskrit University (CSU), New Delhi for a period of two years.

Prof Tripathi on Friday informed that there are as many as 14 campus of CSU, New Delhi across the country and its budget is about Rs 250 crore. As he is a member of the

executive committee of CSU, New Delhi and so on this basis, its Vice-Chancellor Prof Shrinivasa Varakhedi nominated him as the special member of IQAC which the central university constituted today. The Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has given his consent on his nomination, the V-C informed further. The V-C Prof Tripathi informed that the SSU will start a course in Yoga at PG (Acharya) and UG (Shastry) level and added that the university will also run the PG Diploma in Yoga. The Chancellor of the university has given its nod to run the course in Yoga, he informed, adding that this course will be run under the self-financed scheme. The students who clear the PG in Yoga will also have option to do research in Yoga so that they could flourish their career as Yoga teacher, the V-C informed.

The V-C informed that the Additional Secretary, Higher Education informed to the university that the new course will be changed on the basis of Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) and Grading System in the light of National

Education Policy. The University Grant Commission (UGC) has introduced CBCS in all the universities under which the students have option to opt the subjects of their own choices. The all process of CBCS is based on evaluation credit based system which main objective is to care of the students' requirements.

Yoga is a science to live and it will prove fruitful if we include in our daily life, the V-C said, adding that Yoga is originated from Sanskrit word 'yuz' which means to unite. The meaning of Yoga at spiritual level is the attachment of universal consciousness with individual consciousness; he said and added that if we talk about individual level, the Yoga is a tool to make balance among body, mind and sentiment.

Today, the entire world is looking towards Yoga and searching the way to live in it, the V-C said and added that the world celebrates International Yoga Day because of the initiative taken by the India Government and the people across the world inherit the Indian culture and civilisation during the COVID-19 pandemic by joining Yoga.

Preparations underway for Maha Kumbh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Preparations are underway for Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj. In this connection, preparations are being made to make Prayagraj Junction a world class railway station.

On Saturday the charting system was started at Prayagraj Junction itself so that now passengers will be able to know the status of their tickets at any platform of the junction.

That is whether their ticket is confirmed or waiting or cancelled all this will also be visible on the board of the charting system. Four e-ticketing charting system displays have been installed at each platform of the junction. In which two AC tickets have been installed for the passengers and two sleeper tickets have been installed for the passengers. The total cost of e-ticketing system is ₹47.69 lakh.

A lift with a capacity of 15 passengers has been installed at platform No. 2/3 of the Junction and ₹43 lakh has been incurred on this. Using this, passengers will be able to easily go from the platform to the bridge on foot.

Escalators were also established towards Prayagraj Junction Smith Road Civil Lines. It was inaugurated on Saturday. There are six escalators at the junction. The escalator, lift and charting system at Prayagraj Junction was inaugurated by MP Rita Bahuguna Joshi and MP Kesari Devi Patel. The platform No 6 opening ceremony was organised where the display of the e-charting system was inaugurated by both the MPs.

Kesari Devi Patel said soon Prayagraj Junction will start giving facilities like airport and in that sequence these three new facilities have started.



MP Rita Bahuguna Joshi and MP Kesari Devi Patel inaugurating the lift at Prayagraj Junction

Pioneer

Railways is the system that provides the most luxurious railway facility in the world.

INDIABULLS RURAL FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN :U74140MH1993PTC074596)					
Extract of the audited financial results for the quarter and year ended 31 March 2022					
(Rs. in crores)					
Particulars	3 months ended 31 March 2022	3 months ended 31 December 2021	Year ended 31 March 2022	Previous year ended 31 March 2021	
	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Audited
Total income from operations	4.95	5.15	21.01	35.49	
Net profit for the year (before tax, exceptional and extraordinary items)	2.20	1.35	7.37	15.55	
Net profit for the year before tax (after exceptional and/ or extraordinary items)	2.20	1.35	7.37	15.55	
Net profit for the year after tax (after exceptional and/ or extraordinary items)	1.65	1.02	5.34	11.82	
Total comprehensive income for the year [comprising profit for the year (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)]	1.66	1.02	5.36	11.97	
Paid-up equity share capital	41.80	41.80	41.80	41.80	
Reserves (excluding revaluation reserve)	24.66	22.99	24.66	19.30	
Securities premium account	74.83	74.83	74.83	74.83	
Net worth	141.29	139.62	141.29	135.93	
Outstanding debt	49.75	49.70	49.75	49.56	
Debt equity ratio	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	
Earnings per share before extraordinary items (face value of Rs. 10 per equity share) (EPS for the quarter and year ended are not annualised)*					
- Basic (Rs)	0.39*	0.24*	1.28	2.83	
- Diluted (Rs)	0.39*	0.24*	1.28	2.83	
Note to financial results:					
1) The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 28 May 2022. The financial results have been subjected to a limited review by the statutory auditors of the company.					
2) The above presentation is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly, year ended / annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and other disclosure requirements) regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly, year ended / annual financial results are available on the company's website (http://indiabullsruralfinance.com) and on the website of BSE (http://www.bseindia.com).					
Registered Office : One International Center, Tower-1, 4th Floor, S. B. Marg, Elphinstone(W), Mumbai, 400013			For and on behalf of the Board of Directors		
Place : Gurugram Date : 28 May 2022			Vijay Kumar Agrawal Whole Time Director		

Awareness camp to mark Menstrual Hygiene Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

To mark the World Menstrual Hygiene Day (WMH Day), the social organisation Bharat Vikas Parishad, Varuna on Saturday organised an awareness camp at Durga Vihar Colony in Shivpur, here about menstrual hygiene. The Parishad also organised the haemoglobin camp.

As today is the World Menstrual Hygiene Day, various social organisations held awareness programmes about the menstrual hygiene. The Bharat Vikas Parishad, Varuna organised an awareness camp about this at Durga Vihar Colony in Shivpur, here and

made the menstruation girls and women aware about menstrual hygiene.

The senior gynecologist Dr Shipra Dhar apprised the women and girls that menstruation is not a disease but some changes start in the body when the menstruation starts for the first time and so, they should be prepared for this. Dr Dhar also told them about hygiene, how to use the sanitary napkins properly and they have to change it every four to five hours. Shashi Srivastava, Rachana, Shalini, Priti, Vandana and Gyanendra were among those who were present on the occasion.

A programme was jointly held by Lok Samiti and

Redcliffe Lab at Nagepur village to mark the day under which the women and girls took out an awareness rally. A workshop was also organised in the village in which the girls were advised not to hesitate in telling their problems during menstruation.

Free sanitary napkins were also distributed among women and girls. Nand Lal Master, Chandan Mishra, Dr Ashutosh Mishra and many others were present on the occasion. The councilor of Sathiya Centre located in district government women hospital Sarika Chaurasia informed that over 300 adolescent girls come to the centre every month for the counselling during the men-

struation and added that the number of menstruating girls coming to centre is increasing day by day to take advice about menstrual hygiene. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has introduced a scheme for promotion of menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls in the age group of 10-19 year in rural areas, she informed, adding that the major objectives of the scheme are to increase awareness among adolescent girls on menstrual hygiene, to increase access to and use of high quality sanitary napkins to adolescent girls in rural areas and to ensure safe disposal of sanitary napkins in an environmentally friendly manner.

Students at AU will now be able to sharpen language skills

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Students pursuing different courses at Allahabad University will now be able to sharpen their language skills and learn foreign languages such as French, Russian, German, Mandarin, Central Iranian and Tibetan.

For this, a Language Lab will soon be established in the university. This would be a central facility which would be shared by all the departments that would be taking lessons in imparting these foreign languages.

Apart from the decision of setting up a language lab at AU campus, the recruitment of fresh teaching faculty members for teaching German, French

and Russian has also come handy for the varsity administration who has embarked on the mission of implementing the New Education Policy on the campus from the coming academic session itself.

The three European languages — German, French and Russian — were being taught regularly at the department of English and other European languages. However, the teaching in these languages suffered because of the dearth of teaching faculty members.

For German, Prof Bhaskar Jha had retired a couple of years back, the one teaching Russian, Prof PC Singh died because of COVID last year and the department was not having a regular teacher for French for

the past several years. "Now that we have one assistant professor each in German, Russian and French recruited at the department, the teaching for these languages would get the needed push," said AU public relations officer (PRO), Prof Jaya Kapoor.

Different departments of AU used to teach foreign and native Indian languages but in due course of time, with the dearth of teaching faculty members, the teaching of these languages suffered. Among these departments of Hindi and Indian languages used to teach Punjabi, Bengali and Telugu while the department of Sanskrit and Oriental Languages used to teach Mandarin, Pali, Prakrit and

Pahalvi.

The PRO added that under the New Education Policy, it has been decided to resume proficiency courses in various Indian and foreign languages. She said that in the New Education Policy, emphasis has been laid on making students proficient in several Indian and international languages as its aim is all round skill development of the students. In the past, several courses in Indian and foreign languages were part of the university curriculum.

Special emphasis is being given by Vice-Chancellor Prof Sangita Srivastava on the development of Language Lab and work is progressing rapidly in this direction.

AU CRET to be held at six exam centres today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Allahabad University's Combined Research Entrance Examination (CRET) will be held on May 29 at six examination centres. For this six examination centres have been set up. These include Shambhunath College, CMP Degree College, Ishwar Sharan Degree College, Arya Kanya Degree College, Rani Kanya Inter College and Rani Keoti Devi College. Admit cards have already been issued. Carrying any kind of electronic gadget in the examination will be prohibited. As many as 5,160 candidates have applied for PhD in 40 subjects in Allahabad University and its eight constituent colleges. The written test in CRET level 1 will be of 300 marks. Admission will be given in 614 seats against 40 subjects in universities and

colleges. Of these 227 seats are in universities and 387 seats in colleges. As many as 750 candidates are contenders for 38 seats in Hindi. Besides in Commerce and Business Administration 496 have applied, Political Science 471, Law 363, English 339, Education 294, Geography 212, Ancient History and Culture 277, Medieval-Modern History 182, Sanskrit 134, Sociology 183, Animals 140 in Science, 168 in Economics, 153 in Chemistry, 173 in Botany and 100 in Physics. There have been less than 10 applications in Agricultural Chemistry, Anthropology, Arabic, Behavioral Science, Development Studies. Allahabad University's Govind Ballabh Pant Institute of Social Sciences has invited online applications for the postgraduate course, Master in Liberal Studies (MLS) for the new

academic session 2022-23. The last date for online form submission is June 30. Application forms can be filled on the institute's website <http://gbpssi.in/> from May 30. Public Relations Officer (PRO) of Allahabad University Dr Jaya Kapoor said this is a full time, residential and two-year course. For students with a three-year bachelor's degree, there will be four semesters, while for students who have passed a four-year bachelor's degree, the duration of the course will be two semesters. Candidates having graduation or equivalent degree will only be eligible for admission to the course. The students seeking admission in the course will be provided hostel facility in the campus of the institute.

ONE SHOT DEAD OVER PROPERTY DISPUTE: One person was shot dead while two others sus-

tained bullet injuries on Saturday in the trans-Ganga area of Phaphamau. Property dispute is stated to be the cause behind this broad daylight murder. The assailants arrived in a car and showered bullets on the four-wheeler of the victims. Musabbir Ahmad died on the spot while two persons — Mudassar and his cousin brother sustained bullet injuries and were rushed to a hospital by the police. Circumstances suggest that the criminals had knowledge of the movement of the victims. As soon as the car of the victims reached the main road, the gunmen, who had been waiting there, showered bullets killing one and leaving two injured. The incident is related to Gaddopur area under the Phaphamau police station. The police are out to nab the culprits who have been named in the FIR.

SORIL INFRA RESOURCES LIMITED (CIN : L52190HR2005PLC077960)					
Extract of consolidated audited financial results for the quarter and year ended 31st March 2022					
Particulars	3 months ended 31 March 2022	Preceding 3 months ended 31 Dec. 2021	Corresponding 3 months ended 31 March 2021	Current year ended 31 March 2022	Previous year ended 31 March 2021
	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Audited
Total income	51.18	52.39	50.41	192.27	193.06
Net profit for the year (before tax, exceptional and extraordinary items)	3.29	2.41	0.52	8.49	23.72
Net profit for the year before tax (after exceptional and/ or extraordinary items)	3.29	2.41	0.52	8.49	23.72
Net profit for the year after tax (after exceptional and/ or extraordinary items)	2.68	2.01	0.40	6.20	19.35
Total comprehensive income for the year [comprising profit/ (loss) for the year (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)]	2.77	1.88	0.53	6.29	19.75
Paid-up equity share capital	31.50	31.50	31.50	31.50	31.50
Reserves (excluding revaluation reserve)				236.10	229.42
Earnings per share before extraordinary items (face value of Rs. 10 per equity share) (EPS for 3 months and year ended are not annualised)*					
- Basic (Rs)	0.85 *	0.64 *	0.13 *	1.97	6.14
- Diluted (Rs)	0.85 *	0.64 *	0.13 *	1.97	6.14
Note to the financial results:					
1) The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 28 May 2022. These financial results have been subjected to a limited review by the statutory auditors of the Company.					
2) Key standalone financial information of SORIL Infra Resources Limited:-					
Particulars	3 months ended 31 March 2022	Preceding 3 months ended 31 Dec. 2021	Corresponding 3 months ended 31 March 2021	Current year ended 31 March 2022	Previous year ended 31 March 2021
	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Audited
Total income	48.94	49.69	47.09	179.76	160.78
Profit before tax	0.88	0.83	0.44	0.17	7.57
Net profit after tax	0.88	0.83	0.80	0.17	7.57
3) The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly /yearly financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly /yearly financial results are available on the company's website (http://sorilinfraresources.com) and on the website of BSE (https://www.bseindia.com) and NSE (https://www.nseindia.com).					
Registered Office: Plot No. 448-451, Udyog Vihar, Phase-V, Gurugram - 122016			For and on behalf of the Board of Directors		
Place : Gurugram Date : 28 May 2022			Anil Malhan Executive Director		

Yaari Digital Integrated Services Limited (Formerly "Yaari Digital Integrated Services Limited" & "Indiabulls Integrated Services Limited") (CIN: L51101HR2007PLC077999)					
Extract of Consolidated Audited Financial Results for the quarter and year ended 31 March 2022					
Particulars	Quarter ended 31-Mar-22 (Refer note 3)	Quarter ended 31-Dec-21 Unaudited	Quarter ended 31-Mar-21 (Refer note-3)	Year ended 31-Mar-22 Audited	Year ended 31-Mar-21 Audited
	50.24	52.31	82.83	204.62	247.22
Total Income from Operations					
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(55.85)	(60.62)	(8.15)	(156.57)	(74.74)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(55.85)	(60.62)	(8.15)	(156.57)	(74.74)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (after Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(60.50)	(60.20)	(11.58)	(173.81)	(87.65)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(140.31)	(72.01)	(170.32)	(182.83)	125.81
Equity Share Capital	17.51	17.51	17.51	17.51	17.51
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the audited Balance Sheet				306.56	486.27
Earnings per Share (EPS) before extraordinary items					
- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(6.88)	(6.82)	(1.31)	(19.70)	(10.58)
- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(6.88)	(6.82)	(1.31)	(19.70)	(10.58)
Earnings per Share (EPS) after extraordinary items					
- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(6.88)	(6.82)	(1.31)	(19.70)	(10.58)
- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(6.88)	(6.82)	(1.31)	(19.70)	(10.58)
Note to the financial results:					
1) The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 28 May 2022.					
2) Key Standalone Financial Information:					
Particulars	Quarter ended 31-Mar-22 (Refer note 3)	Quarter ended 31-Dec-21 Unaudited	Quarter ended 31-Mar-21 (Refer note-3)	Year ended 31-Mar-22 Audited	Year ended 31-Mar-21 Audited
	4.50	0.92	0.81	5.79	4.84
Total Income	(41.97)	(68.48)	(29.80)	(178.59)	(88.09)
(Loss) / Profit before Tax	(41.97)	(68.48)	(29.80)	(178.59)	(88.09)
Net (Loss) / Profit after Tax					
3) Figures for the quarters ended 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2021 represent the balancing figures between the audited figures for the full financial year and published reviewed year to date figures upto third quarter of the respective financial year.					
4) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results are available on the Company's website (https://www.yaari.com) and on the website of BSE (https://www.bseindia.com) and NSE (https://www.nseindia.com).					
Registered Office: Plot No. 448-451, Udyog Vihar, Phase-V, Gurugram - 122016			For and on behalf of the Board of Directors		
Place : Gurugram Date : 28 May 2022			Kubelr Khara Executive Director & CEO		

Russia takes small cities, aims to widen east Ukraine battle

AP ■ KRAMATORSK UKRAINE

Russia asserted Saturday that its troops and separatist fighters had captured a key railway junction in eastern Ukraine, the second small city to fall to Moscow's forces this week as they fought to seize all of the country's contested Donbas region.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said the city of Lyman had been "completely liberated" by a joint force of Russian soldiers and the Kremlin-backed separatists, who have waged war in the eastern region bordering Russia for eight years.

Lyman, which had a population of about 20,000 before Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, serves as a regional railway hub. Ukraine's train system has ferried arms and evacuated citizens during the war, and it wasn't immediately clear how

the development might affect either capability.

Controlling the city would give the Russian military a foothold for advancing on larger Ukrainian-held cities in Donetsk and Luhansk, the two provinces that make up the Donbas. Since failing to occupy Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, Russia has concentrated on seizing the last parts of the region not controlled by the separatists. "If Russia did succeed in taking over these areas, it would highly likely be seen by the Kremlin as a substantive political achievement and be portrayed to the Russian people as justifying the invasion," the British Ministry of Defense said in a Saturday assessment.

Fighting continued Saturday around Sievierodonetsk and nearby Lysychansk, twin cities that are last major areas under Ukrainian control in Luhansk



province. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reiterated that the situation in the east was "difficult" but expressed confidence his country would

prevail. "If the occupiers think that Lyman or Sievierodonetsk will be theirs, they are wrong. Donbas will be Ukrainian," he

said. On Tuesday, Russian troops took over Svitlodarsk, a small municipality south of Sievierodonetsk that hosts a

thermal power station, while intensifying efforts to encircle and capture the larger city. The governor of Luhansk warned that Ukrainian soldiers might have to retreat from Sievierodonetsk to avoid being surrounded. The advance of Russian forces raised fears that residents would experience the same horrors as people in the southeastern port city Mariupol in the weeks before it fell.

Sieverodonetsk's mayor, Oleksandr Striuk, said Friday that some 1,500 civilians have died there during the war, including from a lack of medicine or because of diseases that could not be treated while the city was under siege.

Before the war, Sievierodonetsk was home to around 100,000 people. About 12,000 to 13,000 remain in the city, where 90% of the buildings are damaged, the mayor told The Associated Press. Ukraine's

police force said Saturday afternoon that the city is "under constant enemy fire" and civilians were wounded, but did not specify the number.

Just south of Sievierodonetsk, volunteers worked to evacuate people Friday amid a threatening soundtrack of air raid sirens and booming artillery. AP reporters saw elderly and ill civilians bundled into soft stretchers and slowly carried down apartment building stairs in Bakhmut, a city in northeast Donetsk province.

Svetlana Lvova, the manager of two buildings in Bakhmut, tried to convince reluctant residents to leave but said she and her husband would not evacuate until their son, who was in Sievierodonetsk, returned home.

"I have to know he is alive. That's why I'm staying here," Lvova, 66, said.

A nearly three-month siege of Mariupol ended last week when Russia claimed the city's complete. The city became a symbol of mass destruction and human suffering, as well as of Ukrainian determination to defend the country. More than 20,000 of its civilians are feared dead.

Mariupol's port reportedly resumed operations after Russian forces finished clearing mines in the Azov Sea off the once-vibrant city. Russian state news agency Tass reported that a vessel bound for the southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don entered Mariupol's seaport early Saturday.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian navy said Saturday morning that Russian ships "continue to block civilian navigation in the waters of the Black and Azov seas" along Ukraine's southern coast, "making them a zone of hostilities."

Protest seeking resignation of Lankan Prez enters 50th day

PTI ■ COLOMBO

As the ongoing anti-Government protest demanding the resignation of Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa over the worst economic crisis entered its 50th day, organisers on Saturday said the day would be marked with more intense agitation marches with wider participation.

Sri Lanka is near bankruptcy and has severe shortages of essentials from food, fuel, medicines and cooking gas to toilet paper and matchsticks. For months, people have been forced to stay in long lines to buy the limited stocks. Sri Lanka's economic crisis has created political unrest with a protest occupying the entrance to the president's office demanding his resignation continuing for the past 49 days. The crisis has already forced prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, the elder brother of the president, to resign on May 9.

There has been an intense call for President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to also resign however, he has refused to do so.



Saturday marks the 50th day of the "Go Rajapaksa" protest which has also seen the death of a parliamentarian.

The Sri Lankan police have on occasions used force to control the unrest.

"The continuous protest demanding the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has reached its 50th day today. The day is to be marked with protest marches with wider participation," the

organisers said. The action started on April 9 when protesters walked into the Galle Face promenade central Colombo and camped there blocking the entry gate to Rajapaksa's presidential office.

They expanded activities at the site by naming it GGG 'Gota Go Gama (village). A reference library, a theater, a political podium with cultural and religious events.

Palestinians: Teen killed by Israeli fire

AP ■ JERUSALEM

The Palestinian Health Ministry said Israeli forces shot and killed a teenager on Friday during an operation in a town near Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank.

The ministry identified the slain teen as Zaid Ghunaim, 15. It said he was wounded by Israeli gunfire in the neck and back and that doctors failed to save his life. The death raises to five the number of Palestinian teenagers killed during Israeli military operations in the West Bank in the past month.

Israeli-Palestinian violence has intensified in recent weeks with near-daily arrest raids in Palestinian-administered areas of the West Bank and tensions around a Jerusalem holy site sacred to both Muslims and Jews.

Police inaction moves to centre of Texas shooting investigation



AP ■ HOUSTON

The actions — or more notably, the inaction — of a school district police chief and other law enforcement officers moved swiftly to the center of the investigation into this week's shocking school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

The attack that left 19 children and two teachers dead in a fourth grade classroom was the nation's deadliest school

shooting in nearly a decade, and for three days police offered a confusing and sometimes contradictory timeline that drew public anger and frustration.

By Friday, authorities acknowledged that students and teachers repeatedly begged 911 operators for help while the police chief told more than a dozen officers to wait in a hallway at Robb Elementary School. Officials said he

believed that the suspect was barricaded inside adjoining classrooms and that there was no longer an active attack.

The chief's decision - and the officers' apparent willingness to follow his directives against established active-shooter protocols - prompted questions about whether more lives were lost because officers did not act faster to stop the gunman, and who should be held responsible.

The delay in confronting the shooter - who was inside the school for more than an hour - could lead to discipline, lawsuits and even criminal charges against police.

In these cases, I think the court of public opinion is far worse than any court of law or police department administrative trial," said Joe Giacalone, a retired New York police sergeant.

Japan terrorist group founder freed after serving time

AP ■ TOKYO

Fusako Shigenobu, who co-founded the terrorist group Japanese Red Army, was released from prison Saturday after serving a 20-year sentence, and apologised for hurting innocent people.

"I feel strongly that I have finally come out alive," she said, welcomed by her daughter and a crowd of reporters and supporters in Tokyo.

"I have hurt innocent people I did not know by putting our struggles first. Although those were different times, I would like to take this opportunity to apologise deeply," said Shigenobu, who wore a black hat and gray suit.

Shigenobu was convicted of masterminding the 1974 siege of the French Embassy in the Hague, the Netherlands.

She was arrested in 2000 in Osaka in central Japan, where she had been in hiding. The Japanese Red Army, formed in 1971 and

linked with Palestinian militants, took responsibility for several attacks including the takeover of the U.S. Consulate in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 1975. The group is also believed to have been behind a 1972 machine-gun and grenade attack on the international airport near Tel Aviv, Israel that killed 28 people, including two terrorists, and injured dozens of people.

Shigenobu was not physically present in the attacks. A year after her arrest, she declared the group dissolved.

Japanese media reports said Shigenobu had undergone surgery for cancer during her incarceration.

Kozo Okamoto, who was injured and arrested in the Israeli airport attack, was released in 1985 in a prisoner exchange between Israeli and Palestinian forces.

He is reportedly in Lebanon. Okamoto and several other members of the group are still wanted by Japanese authorities.

US: Turkey's NATO issues with Sweden, Finland will be fixed

AP ■ WASHINGTON

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Friday he's confident Turkey's objections to Finland and Sweden joining NATO can be overcome swiftly, possibly in time for a summit of alliance leaders at the end of next month.

At a news conference in Washington with visiting Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto, Blinken said the US has no reason to believe Turkey's concerns cannot be addressed. His comments came after Turkey's top diplomat said Finland and Sweden would have to take "concrete steps" before Ankara could support their membership.

"The United States fully supports Finland and Sweden

joining the alliance and I continue to be confident that both will soon be NATO members," Blinken said. "We look forward to being able to call Finland and Sweden our allies."

Haavisto said his country and Sweden had held "good negotiations" with the Turks over their concerns in recent days and said those discussions would continue with an eye toward resolving them before the NATO summit in Madrid at the end of June.

"We agreed to continue to those talks," Haavisto said. "We think that these problems can be solved that Turkey has been raising. We hope that some results could be achieved before the NATO summit."

Sweden and Finland submitted their written applica-

tions to join NATO last week. The move represents one of the biggest geopolitical ramifications of Russia's war in Ukraine and could rewrite Europe's security map. The countries' membership bids require support from all 30 current NATO countries, but Turkey, which commands the second-largest military in the alliance, is objecting to them. It has cited alleged support for Kurdish militants whom Turkey considers terrorists and restrictions on weapons sales to Turkey.

Earlier Friday, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said the Finnish and Swedish negotiating delegations had been given documents detailing Turkey's concerns, like information on terror groups, during their visit to

Turkey this week. He said Ankara is awaiting specific answers. Cavusoglu said "an approach of we'll convince Turkey in time anyway, we are friends and allies" would not be correct." He insisted that "these countries need to take concrete steps." He added that "we understand Finland and Sweden's security concerns but ... Everyone also needs to understand Turkey's legitimate security concerns."

Turkey this week listed five "concrete assurances" it was demanding from Sweden, including what it said was "termination of political support for terrorism," an "elimination of the source of terrorism financing," and the "cessation of arms support" to the banned PKK and a Syrian Kurdish

militia group affiliated with it.

The demands also called for the lifting of arms sanctions against Turkey and global cooperation against terrorism. Cavusoglu's comments came at a news conference with the visiting foreign ministers of NATO allies Poland and Romania, both of whom expressed strong support for Finland and Sweden's bids.

"There is no doubt that we do need the accession of Sweden and Finland to the NATO alliance in order to make it stronger," Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau said. Romanian Foreign Minister Bogdan Aurescu, agreed, saying their membership would "consolidate the collective defense and our security."

FROM PAGE 1

Spared no effort in my service to nation: Modi

The power of a full sack of urea has come into a half-litre bottle, leading to huge savings in transportation and storage, he outlined.

In his home State, where the BJP has run Governments for the last 27 years, Modi is ensuring that the "political fatigue" does not impact the voters in the State.

The replacement of Vijay Rupani as Chief Minister with Bhupendra Patel was a move last year to mitigate the anti-incumbency factor against the BJP, which is expecting a three-cornered contest with the entry of Punjab winner AAP in Gujarat while seeing the Congress as the main political rival. The resignation of Patidar leader Hardik Patel from the Congress has relieved the BJP though the latter has yet not decided on his political options in the state.

Addressing the gathering after inaugurating the hospital, Modi said it will make available high-end medical equipment and provide world-class healthcare facilities to the region's people. The Prime Minister said this hospital is for improving the health services in Saurashtra and is an example of the synergy between the Government and private sector for attempting to improve the lives of the people.

Speaking in Gujarati, the Prime Minister complimented the Patel community for their great work of public service. Recalling his days as the Chief Minister of Gujarat, the Prime Minister said that in 2001 when the people of Gujarat gave him the opportunity to serve them, there were only 9 medical colleges, now there are 30 medical colleges in Gujarat.

"I wish to see a medical college in every district of Gujarat and the country. We have changed the rules and now medical and engineering students can study in their mother tongue," he said.

"Today you have a son in Delhi who has ensured that no mother goes without treatment.

That is why the PMJAY scheme has been launched," he said. Similarly, there are Jan Aushadhi Kendras for affordable medicine and International Yoga Day is being celebrated for the good health of everyone, the Prime Minister said. He said 75 lakh women are directly linked with the dairy society in Gujarat which will be developed further. Modi informed the audience that the dairy sector generates revenue of more than Rs 8.50 lakh crore which is more than what comes from wheat and rice.

IndiGo fined ₹5L for denial of boarding to special child

They had assured to provide support in case the child suffered a health episode on the flight. However, "in line with safety guidelines" - as the airline was to later state - the child was denied boarding. The incident was brought to light in a Facebook post by a passenger at the airport who was waiting to board another flight. Soon after the video of the incident went viral on social media, the DGCA had formed a three-member team and initiated a probe. It also sought a report from the airline.

The DGCA did not find the response of the airline company to be satisfactory, and decided to penalise it. The three-member team's preliminary findings had on May 16 found IndiGo to be in violation of its regulations, and therefore, the airline was issued a show-cause notice.

In order to ensure justice, it conducted a personal hearing and allowed the parties to give their written submissions on this incident.

Balbir, Vikramjit AAP's pick for RS from Punjab

He has also received the SAARC Environmental Award and was also felicitated by Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama. Seechewal, popularly known as Baba Seechewal, has also constructed schools and colleges for the

underprivileged at different places in Punjab.

Padma Shri recipient Vikramjit Singh Sahney is an entrepreneur, philanthropist and social activist. He is the international president of the World Punjabi Organisation, which aims at fostering social, economic and cultural bondage and is functional in 22 countries. He had helped in evacuating 500 Afghan Hindus and Sikhs by sending three chartered flights at his own expense to Kabul. He also rehabilitated them besides ensuring free education of their children.

He had also coordinated with various Ministries like the External Affairs for immediate evacuation of Afghan Sikh and Hindu families stranded in Afghanistan after the Taliban took over the control. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Sahney provided mobile testing clinics, oxygen cylinders and ran 'langar' (community kitchen). Sahney's NGO Sun Foundation runs skill development centres for disabled youth. The AAP in March had nominated former cricketer Harbhajan Singh, party leader Raghav Chadha, Lovely Professional University founder Ashok Mittal, former IIT-Delhi faculty Sandeep Pathak and industrialist Sanjeev Arora to the Rajya Sabha and they were elected unopposed. AAP had then faced criticism from the Opposition parties for the choice of candidates.

Father of Kerala boy who raised provocative slogans arrested

However, justifying his son's action, the man said the controversial slogan was not taught by anyone but the boy had learnt it while attending similar programmes before.

He said it was not for the first time that his son was raising such a slogan in a programme and many such instances of him raising similar slogans could be seen on YouTube.

"We used to take part in the PFI's pro-

grammes. He had learnt the slogan when he attended a protest programme against the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). I don't understand why it has become a controversy now. What offence did he commit to harass a little boy like this?" he told media before taken into custody.

So far, 20 persons have been arrested and remanded in the case and more people were being taken into custody for questioning from various places, he said.

Centre to design ways to curb fake reviews on e-commerce websites

Since e-commerce involves a virtual shopping experience without any opportunity to physically view or examine the product, consumers heavily rely on reviews posted on e-commerce platforms to see the opinion and experience of users who have already purchased the good or service. "Traceability by ensuring the authenticity of the reviewer and the associated liability of the platform are the two key issues here. Also e-com players must disclose as to how they choose the "most relevant reviews" for display in a fair and transparent manner," DoCA Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh said.

Stakeholders from e-commerce companies claimed that they have frameworks in place by which they monitor fake reviews and would be pleased to take part in developing a legal framework on the issue.

Along with DoCA Secretary, Nidhi Khare, Additional Secretary and Anupam Mishra, Joint Secretary, attended the meeting.

Manisha Kapoor, CEO, ASCI highlighted the categories of fake and misleading reviews and their impact on consumer interest. Paid reviews, unverifiable reviews and absence of disclosure in case of incentivised reviews which make it challenging for consumers to recognise genuine reviews were among the issues discussed.

Russia, China block UN statement on Myanmar crisis

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

China and Russia blocked the UN Security Council from issuing a statement on Friday expressing concern at the violence and serious humanitarian situation in Myanmar and the "limited progress" on implementing a regional plan to restore peace to the strife-torn Southeast Asian nation, diplomats said Friday evening.

The council was briefed virtually behind closed doors Friday afternoon by Cambodia's Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn, the special envoy for Myanmar for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and UN envoy for Myanmar Noeleen Heyzer on efforts to resolve the crisis in the country since the February 1, 2021 military coup.

When the army ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, it claimed with scant evidence that the general election her party won in November 2020 in a landslide was marred by widespread fraud.

The coup almost immediately sparked widespread street protests that security forces tried to crush, and continuing

widespread resistance to the army's takeover has resulted in what some UN experts have characterized as a civil war that is challenging the military's ability to govern.

The proposed British-drafted press statement, obtained by The Associated Press, stressed the central role of ASEAN "in facilitating a peaceful solution to the crisis" and reiterated council members' calls to pursue dialogue "with all parties concerned" in the interests of the people of Myanmar.

"However, they expressed concern at the limited progress against the Five Point Consensus over a year since it was agreed, and called for concrete actions to effectively and fully implement the consensus," the proposed statement said.

Council diplomats speaking on condition of anonymity because negotiations were private, said China and Russia objected to parts of the text.

China's UN Mission said it proposed "slow" progress rather than "limited" progress on the Five Point Consensus, saying in a statement that this wording "is factual but less condescending."

talktime

APACHE INDIAN

The singer-songwriter and reggae DJ, who is known in the United Kingdom for the song Boom Shack-A-Lak, has recorded with Sean Paul, Maxi Priest, Shaggy, AR Rahman, Asha Bhosle, Jazzy B, among others. He speaks with SUPRIYA RAMESH about his latest song, his experience and upcoming projects

‘IT’S NECESSARY TO RISE AGAINST ALL ODDS’



■ **What is the song Rise Up about?**
Written during the lockdown, the song is about rising against all things bad and negative. Rise up and be unified, for you are not alone! Life is difficult, with or without any pandemic. Which is why, it's necessary to rise against anything that's wrong, bad, evil. We must keep rising and not let anything or anyone stop us on our path to progress.

■ **How did you come up with the idea of creating this music?**
Dinero, my dear friend and brother from India, came up with the idea for the song. He wanted artists from around the globe to amplify the strong and positive message of the song and mix different genres and style of music. Big respect to him! He called me to inform that he will be sending the beat and wants me to work around the theme. He got Shibani Kashyap and Chezin on board after I wrote and composed the beat.

■ **How was your experience working on it?**
It was difficult working abroad during the lockdown as you're all alone in the studio and are trying to pour your energy into the song. So, it was a big challenge to vibe with other artists. I was so inspired by the concept of the song that it made me go the extra mile and give Dinero more than I do. Working with him is always a pleasure. Adding to that, it's always wonderful to work with established artists who have a fire in their belly and are determined to use their name, voice to make a difference. That's what music is all about.

THE INDIAN MUSIC INDUSTRY IS WELL ESTABLISHED. DESPITE HAVING RETAINED THEIR TRADITIONAL ELEMENTS, THE BOOM OF THE INTERNET HAS MADE THE YOUNGER GENERATION WANT TO EXPERIMENT WITH NEW STYLES AND DIFFERENT GENRES

■ **Your song Dil Lutteya and similar others in India are loved by many. How has your journey been**
Dil Luteya, a song that was a collab with Punjabi artist Jazzy B is a song that is loved by people all over the world to this very day. Having been part of the industry for over thirty years, I've performed all over the world. I was brought up in Birmingham, which is known for reggae. Growing up in a Punjabi household, I got introduced to bhangra and Hindi music at a very young age. I mixed it up because that's how we were raised. We mix languages and cultures and at the same time


retain our identity. As far as my love for reggae goes, it was a movement and still is. It's a reflection of a new style, culture and an expression of freedom. Music is liberating, for it has set me free and share the joy with the world. It has indeed been an amazing journey.

■ **Major differences between the British and the Indian music industry?**
The British music industry has a long way to go. Having said that, it does represent the new generations and always tries to mix it with the pop sound and get it crossed over. It has always been one that has been inspired by other styles; western in the 50s and 60s, or pop in the 90s followed by reggae, hip hop and underground Asian sound. On the other hand, the Indian music industry is far more established. Despite having retained their traditional elements, the boom of the internet has made the younger generation want to experiment with new styles and different genres. Which is why I think that the Indian music industry will go through a few changes. Adding to that, it's amazing to see how big the market is for the Indian music on a global level. It's taken time, but you now see Bollywood in Hollywood. You see its influence all over the world.

■ **Upcoming projects?**
I have a lot of upcoming tours in India and around the world along with a host of songs in the pipeline. I've collaborated with AR Rahman and Asha Bhosle and am very excited to see how things pan out. There are a few projects coming up with Dinero Ash, Shibani Kashyap and some of my own too.

Plan Your Day

THERAPEUTIC ART



Self-Healing Mandala

FREE Workshop

Interested in trying different artforms and investing your creative energy in the right place?

Mandala Artform is all about creating circles and performing meditation in a different way.

Mandalas mean circles in Sanskrit, used during Buddhist time to help the practitioners focus. It also helps in relieving

stress, increasing concentration, and inducing good sleep.

Today, the Mandala art form is used widely as a therapeutic art to channel creative energies. This workshop will help you start your mandala journey.

What: Workshop
Where: Online
When: Multiple Batches

Sound of music

Music is the best medicine. Here are the top 10 songs of the week that will lift up your weekend mood

Bollywood vibes

Dafa Kar (A R Rahman)

Saamna (Akasa)

Mast Nazron Se (Rochak Kohli)

Kya Kar Diya (Vishal Mishra)

Macha Macha Re (Mika Singh)

English Vinglish

Psychofreak (Camila Cabello)


Seven Bridge Road (Jake Bugg)

Wings Of Stone (Adam Levine)

FREE (John Legend)

Crazy (Doechii)

Masterstroke



The Epic Stuff cushion covers provide cork bottom to prevent sticking / stains on the surface. It is easily washable with no fading.

Epic Stuff India is the home of superheroes created for the nerd in you. It has got the ultimate collection of super cool officially licensed fan merchandise of Harry Potter, Friends TV show, Game of Thrones, Batman, Superman, Tom & Jerry, among others.

DC Flash cushion cover

Add some colour to your world with our vibrant Flash cushion cover! Cuddle up with your favourite superhero or show your support for the Justice League with this stylish addition to any room.

DC Superman cushion cover

Bring home the power of Superman with this cover! Made with 100 per cent synthetic material for comfort and durability, this cover is the perfect addition to any fan's collection.

BURSTING MYTHS AROUND IT

Even though menstruation is such a big part of a woman's life, it is still considered a taboo in many societies. Taboos, myths and restrictions associated with it leave a negative impact. Here are a few tips on how to maintain menstrual hygiene

For some women, menstruation may just be that time of the month when they must submit to cramps, bear some discomfort and probably not wear light-coloured clothes. Howbeit, for millions of others, this biological process can equate to abuse (the onset of menstruation can signal that a girl is ready for marriage and childbearing, even if she is still a child herself), stigma (banished to menstruation huts, barred from sharing meals) and missed opportunity (skipping school or work because of pain and/or lack of personal hygiene products).

One among the several responsible initiatives to support menstrual health and hygiene, is the Menstrual Hygiene Day which is celebrated on May 28. The date signifies the average 28-day menstrual cycle and May being the fifth month of the year, stands for the average of five days women menstruate for each month. The day is meant to advance menstruation as a normal biological process so that women can go through it without being cast out or missing out, without feeling fear or shame and without being treated any less and exposed to more vulnerabilities.

It also raises awareness about period poverty or the inability of millions of girls to afford the basic menstrual supplies needed to manage health and hygiene with dignity during this period.

Menstrual Hygiene Day is especially dedicated to informing and educating people about the importance and awareness of menstrual hygiene management. Women menstruate for an average of four to six days a month for approximately 40 years. Even though menstruation is such a big part of a woman's life, it is still considered a taboo in many societies. Taboos, myths and restrictions associated with menstruation

leave a negative impact.

It is time to break the silence, create awareness and normalise menstruation for everyone around.

Here are a few alarming myths:

Myth: Women shed impure blood when menstruating

Fact: This is a common misconception that period blood is dirty or impure. However, what most people fail to understand is that the menstrual cycle is part of a woman's reproductive system that prepares her body for a (possible) pregnancy. The menstrual blood is also the same blood that circulates throughout the body.

Myth: Any form of physical activity can disturb the menstrual flow

Fact: Exercising and playing sports can actually help to relieve the pain. There is no scientific evidence that exercising while you are on your period can harm your physical health

Myth: Girls on their period should sleep in a separate room or space

Fact: Periods are not contagious and cause no harm to anybody else

Myth: You shouldn't wash your hair during your period

Fact: You don't need to compromise with your personal hygiene habits due to your periods. There is no study that states one cannot wash her hair or take a shower on her period. In fact, a warm bath can help you with the painful cramps

Myth: Don't use heat to reduce cramps pain; it can affect hormone levels

Fact: Heat therapy is one of the best ways to relieve menstrual cramps. Cramp Comfort Heat Patch by Nua is the perfect example to share, these patches are inspired by a hot water bag designed to fit your life. It is a self-heating patch that emits soothing heat for up to eight hours and hugs your body to give you relief from cramps

Basic Menstrual Hygiene Do's:

♦ Change sanitary pads every four to six hours to avoid any infection.

Changing sanitary pads within every four to six hours is the basic rule to establish vaginal hygiene. Menstrual blood, when released from the body, attracts various organisms from our bodies; multiplying the warmth of the blood and causing irritation or rashes.

♦ Change panties to keep it hygienic and fresh down there. Keep separate underwear to be used during your period. If stained, wash it immediately and disinfect it. It is not hygienic to walk around in stained underwear. Keep an extra pair handy when you are going out, just in case you need it.

♦ Regularly wash the vaginal area. Every time you use the toilet, washing your vulva regularly is extremely important because the organisms cling to your body after you have removed your sanitary napkin. We should also use an intimate wash which is specially formulated to eliminate infection-causing bacteria like Nua's Foaming

Intimate Wash, which is a gentle cleanser that eliminates infection-causing bacteria. The ingredients like aloe vera and lactic acid ensure it is gentle and safe for daily use.

♦ Give importance to proper disposal. Disposing your sanitary napkins properly is an important step. Make sure not to leave it exposed or in a condition that can contaminate the surrounding and create problems for people handling that waste. Most pads come in an individual disposal cover with a resealable flap. After use, place the pad into the disposal cover, seal the flap and discard it in a bin. Don't flush them, since that will block the toilet causing the water to clog. Washing your hands properly is of utmost importance after you have discarded the used sanitary napkin.

How to choose right pads according to your flow?

Understanding your body and menstrual cycle is the first step towards choosing the right pads for yourself. The flow is not exactly the same throughout your period, it starts with heavier then proceeds to medium and ends with light flow. You have to choose a sanitary pad according to your needs and flow.

The first time you get your period, you might want to try a regular-sized pad but if the regular size seems to be filling up too quickly, try a longer pad. It totally depends on the body shape and flow whether you need an extra-long pad with broad hip-guard or a regular one. There are some products like customisable pads available. Nua helps you choose your pack according to your flow.


It is customisable! So, if two out of your five days are heavy flow, one is medium and two are light, you customise accordingly. This will make your periods hassle-free and a comfortable experience.

Narmeeta Saigal, Marketing Head, Nua

QUIRKY TALE


A woman's unconventional journey

Much like her one-liners, she is defined by her unabashed grit and resilience. She is not the quintessential *maa* to indulge her kids beyond measure nor does she gets bogged down by her tough life. Beyond her boisterous, unpretentious and hardworking exterior, lies a woman who finds solace in little joys of life, classic Hindi film songs and an ardent love for cricket. And it's time to know her and her story! Sony SAB brings to you a slice of life narrative in *Pushpa Impossible*, the story of a woman and her exceptional turnaround in her quest to earn respect from her family and society through education. Headlined by Karuna Pandey, the show underlines a woman's stellar transition from a victim of fate to a champion of her destiny. *Pushpa Impossible* premieres on Sony SAB on June 6 at 09:30 pm.




Happu Singh bana Happi Jaan!

TV's *Happu Ki Ultan Paltan* never fails to entertain its audience with humorous and enjoyable tracks. Every time we see the characters landing themselves into amusing situations, making for a hearty laugh for the audience. So, get ready to experience hilarity at its best as Yogesh Tripathi (Daroga Happu Singh) turns into an entertaining courtesan, sabke dilon ki Jaan, Happi Jaan! So, as it goes, in a mission to arrest a gangster named JK, Daroga Happu Singh disguises himself as a beautiful and charming courtesan, Jiske Ek Ada Par Hoga Pura Mohalla Nyoohavari!



Annual cook off competition in Bangalore Regency College, Hyderabad



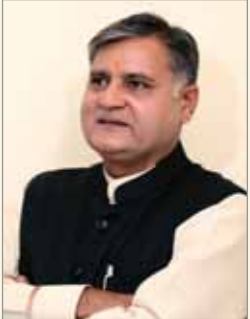
Academy Of Pastry & Culinary Arts, a world-renowned and esteemed group of professional culinary and pastry schools, culminating their annual cook off competition at the Bangalore center. The event featured 20 chefs from Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai competing as a duo to exhibit their unique culinary skills. Regency college, Hyderabad secured the first position followed by IHM Hyderabad and St Joseph, Bangalore secured second and third position, respectively in this highly anticipated event by displaying their impeccable pastry and culinary skills.

The students were asked to prepare a four-course menu with progressive India themes within eight hours. The dishes prepared by the chefs were judged by chef Jagadish Purushotham, Chef Charles Jayakumar and Chef Raghunandan V.

Expressing appreciation for the participants, Niklesh Sharma, Executive Pastry Chef & Managing Director APCA said: "It was delightful to see such talented chefs create delectable delicacies and each creation is worth the mention. We appreciate the efforts of all the chefs who participated in this event and also would like to congratulate the winners."

The winning team was judged based on creativity, hygiene, taste, texture, and appearance. The top three winning teams won prizes worth ₹3 lakh.

Chander Parkash Kathuria is championing the right's rights



The executive and judicial parts of our Government are involved in a maneuver in which they may wind up stepping on each other's toes. The case at hand is a petition seeking the court to order the Government to grant Hindus minority status in six states and three union territories where they are underrepresented numerically. The Centre has so far avoided publicly announcing its intentions, and the Supreme Court has been careful not to issue orders that could override the executive's authority.

Haryana Sugarfed Chairman Chander Parkash Kathuria has been advocating a Public Interest Litigation filed by BJP leader and lawyer Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay in 2020, which asks the court to direct the Government to notify Hindus as a minority community in places like Lakshadweep, Ladakh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Jammu and Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Punjab.

According to Kathuria, there are only one per cent Hindus in Ladakh, 2.75 per cent in Mizoram, and 2.77 per cent in Lakshadweep. He further adds that in States like Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir, and Punjab, where Hindus are in weak numbers, extra precautions are needed to ensure that minority communities' rights are not violated in the area.

When it comes to the notification of Hindus as minorities in the States in question, the Supreme Court has so far simply sought the Centre's response and has avoided issuing any instructions or directives.

The lesson I've
learned the most often
in life is that you're
always going to know
more in the future than
you know now
— Taylor Swift



A PANDORA BOX

The ongoing Gyanvapi mosque dispute has led to similar petitions being filed in other temple-mosque cases, which would have larger implications for the country, writes **BISWAJEET BANERJEE**

On November 9, 2019, when the Supreme Court delivered a judgment on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Mosque dispute in Ayodhya, many thought this was the end of such contentious issue as the court in its order dwelled at length about the Places of Worship Act, 1991. But within a year, petitions were filed across the country with Gyanvapi mosque and Krishna Janmashtami- Shahi-Idgah cases hogging the limelight. Hindu organizations also filed petitions demanding they should be allowed to offer prayers at Quwwatul Islam mosque in the Qutub Minar premises in New Delhi, while another Hindu organization claimed Taj Mahal as Tajo Mahal temple of Lord Shiva and asked for the court's permission to offer prayers there.

This was not limited only to Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, but in down South, too. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad volunteers demanded they should be allowed to offer prayers at the outskirts of Mangaluru after a Hindu temple-like architectural design was purportedly found there underneath the Juma Masjid on April 21, 2022. The VHP claimed that the mosque was built atop Sri Ramananjeya Bhajana Mandira. Prohibitory orders were imposed in the city after Hindu organizations said they will be organizing 'Tambula Prashne' at Sri Ramananjeya Bhajana Mandira.

The police claim that the status quo should be maintained as the matter is already in the court and temporary injunctions have been issued to the president of the mosque as well as all the parties.

The legal battle is the latest instance of a growing phenomenon in which Hindu groups petitioning courts demanding land where mosques are located by claiming these belong to Hindus. They claim that these mosques were built after demolishing temples.

A senior advocate appearing for the Varanasi mosque management committee informed the lower court that the ongoing dispute had led to "similar petitions" being filed in other temple-mosque cases, which would have "larger ramifications across the country". The statement signifies the petitions filed in different courts by Hindu plaintiffs against mosque committees across the state claiming

ownership right of land where the mosque stands now. Inevitably, such petitions claim that the said mosques were built atop Hindu temples and thus the right be restored to the rightful owner.

In the forefront is the Gyanvapi case of Varanasi. Historians claim that originally it was Lord Visweswar Temple. Jean-Baptiste Tavernier, a French merchant, described a cruciform structure of the temple complex with multistoried domed towers at the four ends and at the center. It was the most sacred shrine in the subcontinent after the Jagannath Temple at Puri. In September 1669, Moghul emperor Aurangzeb ordered the demolition of the temple and a mosque was constructed in place. Initially, the mosque was called Aamgir mosque — under the name of Aurangzeb but later it was called Gyan Vapi (Well of Knowledge). Scholars attribute political reasons rather than religious zealotry to be the primary motivation for Aurangzeb's demolition. Madhuri Desai — in her magnum opus on Banaras — opines that Aurangzeb's complex and often-contradictory policies can be "more accurately analyzed in the light of his personal compulsions and political agenda, rather than as expressions of religious bigotry."

Muslims, however, argue that the Gyanvapi was constructed much before Aurangzeb's reign. Syed Mohammed Yasin, Joint secretary of Anjuman Intizamia Masjid Committee, the organization responsible for the maintenance of the mosque, claims that the mosque was built in 12th Century and later Aurangzeb renovated it in the 17th century. "The mosque was not built by demolishing the temple," he said. He claims Akbar had renovated an adjacent Shiva temple as a mark of Hindu-Muslim unity. In fact, both the Kashi Vishwanath Temple and the Gyanvapi were constructed by Akbar in a true to his spirit of religious tolerance.

Cut to present scenario: In August 2021, five women, belonging to Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh, filed a civil suit in the Varanasi civil court on the "Right to Worship", seeking daily access to the Shringaar Gauri temple, the Swayambhu Jyotirling, the Maa Ganga temple, and the Nandi temple to offer daily prayers. Shringar Gauri is a small temple at the western side of the mosque where till 1992 Hindus

SCHOLARS ATTRIBUTE
POLITICAL REASONS
RATHER THAN
RELIGIOUS ZEALOTRY
TO BE THE PRIMARY
MOTIVATION FOR
AURANGZEB'S
DEMOLITION. MADHURI
DESAI — IN HER
MAGNUM OPUS ON
BANARAS — OPINES
THAT AURANGZEB'S
COMPLEX AND OFTEN-
CONTRADICTORY
POLICIES CAN BE
"MORE ACCURATELY
ANALYZED IN THE
LIGHT OF HIS
PERSONAL
COMPULSIONS AND
POLITICAL AGENDA,
RATHER THAN AS
EXPRESSIONS OF
RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY.



were allowed to offer prayers. Ramatama Srivastava, a resident of Varanasi, said that he had gone there many times where a group of Hindu women could be seen offering prayers. But after the demolition of the Babri mosque in 1992, Hindus were not allowed there and the area was sealed.

Eight suits are currently pending before the Varanasi civil court, which on April 8 passed orders for videography and survey of the area by court commissioners. The survey and videography inside the mosque were carried out for three days after which the Hindu side claimed that a "shivling" was found from 'wazookhana', which is a small reservoir used by Muslim devotees to perform ritual ablutions before offering the namaz.

The lower court ordered the sealing of the premises, but the Supreme Court ordered that Muslims should not be prevented from offering prayers.

Besides, a separate application seeking an ASI survey through Ground Penetrating Radar are pending in the Allahabad High Court. The Supreme Court in its directives of May 20 said that the district judge will hear the issue of maintainability of the Right to Worship petitions.

Shahi Eidgah case, in Mathura, at least 10 suits were filed in the Krishna Janmabhoomi temple and the Shahi Idgah mosque dispute in 2020, even though a compromise was reached in two sections over the title suit in 1968, and the issue was settled by the civil court.

In its new petition, Ranjana Agnihotri, who claimed herself as the "next friend" of Bhagwan Shri Krishna Virajman, said that the 1968 compromise was achieved "through fraud". She said that the Shri Krishna Janmasthan Seva Sansthan, which had agreed to the compromise, was not the owner of the disputed land. Instead, Shri Krishna Janmasthan Trust was the rightful owner of the land.

The civil court of Mathura dismissed the case in September 2020, but the petitioner challenged the order and moved a review petition. The District Judge on May 19, 2022, directed the civil judge to re-hear the matter. Another case has been filed demanding the appointment of a Court Commissioner and videography be carried out to ascertain whether the mosque has

Hindu religion signs, as is done in the Gyanvapi case.

Petitions are also filed in other places:

QUWWATUL MOSQUE, DELHI

Ranjana Agnihotri, also moved Delhi civil court in October 2021 seeking the restoration of Hindu and Jain temples demolished to build the Quwwatul Islam mosque in the Qutub Minar premises in Delhi. Early this month, volunteers of VHP also held a prayer meeting at the Qutub Minar premises and recited Hanuman Chalisa there. The petitioners claim that 27 Hindu and Jain temples were demolished by Qutubuddin Aibak to construct the Quwwatul Islam mosque. They say the walls of the mosques are adorned with symbols of Hindu gods and goddesses. The plea had called for the restoration of the temples.

The petition was dismissed by the civil judge in November 2021. The verdict was challenged in the court of the district judge and is currently pending.

TAJ MAHAL, AGRA

In May 2022, a PIL was moved in the Allahabad High Court by Rajneesh Singh who sought a "fact-finding commission" and survey of the Taj Mahal's premises. It had argued that there are "Hindu symbols" on the premises and sought orders from the court to open the 22 locked rooms in the basement of the mausoleum. The plea was thrown out by the Allahabad High Court. Singh was pulled up for "making a mockery of the PIL system". The controversy was first stirred by Purshottam Nagesh Oak, a historian, who in his book in 1989 named "Taj Mahal: The True Story" where he claimed that the Taj Mahal initially was a Shiva temple and a Rajput palace named Tejomahalaya, which Mughal emperor Shah Jahan seized and adopted as a tomb.

The argument was debunked by a number of historians, and even the Supreme Court in 2000 rejected a petition by Oak to declare that the Taj Mahal was constructed by a Hindu king. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), in August 2017 said that that Taj Mahal was not a temple but a tomb.

The writer is Political Editor of The Pioneer, Lucknow

BE ALERT BUT DON'T PANIC

An outbreak of monkeypox, which is related to smallpox, in around 20 countries has alerted public health officials. The virus can, however, be contained with vaccines that are already available in some countries, doctors say, asserting that there is no need to panic. The HEALTH PIONEER profiles the disease.



With the world still reeling from the effects of the covid-19 pandemic, the rise of a different disease called Monkeypox is putting many people on edge. It has taken into its grip atleast 20 nations. Over 200 cases have been reported so far.

Thankfully, India is spared for now. “But the only policy right now is to monitor the global scenario, step up the vigil and expand testing,” Dr Nivedita Gupta, head of virology at the ICMR told a news channel.

The Centre has already issued an alert to the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the ICMR and asked them to keep a close watch on the situation evolving in relation to the monkeypox cases abroad. Among States, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have been at the forefront in asking their officials to keep a watch on airports and water borders.

ICMR scientist Gupta also made it clear that monkeypox will not spread like wildfire as had happened in the case of Coronavirus as “it’s not a new virus and has been in existence in some African regions and has caused sporadic outbreaks.”

The ICMR has designated the virus as exotic and all samples are being sent to the Pune lab for testing. “All viruses which don’t exist in India are labelled exotic and their samples are sent to the National Institute of Virology, Pune, which is a BSL4 facility,” she said.

The facility ensures there are no chances of leakage of virus in India,

leading to an outbreak here. “This communication has been sent to all airports. All samples of incoming passengers will be sent to the NIV,” Gupta told the channel.

CAUSE: It is caused by a virus of the same name that is closely related to smallpox, which has now been eradicated from the planet. Both are members of the Orthopoxvirus genus in the family Poxviridae.

HISTORY: It was first discovered in 1958 when outbreaks of a disease causing a pox were discovered in monkeys held in captivity for research. It was first seen in humans in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and it is now endemic in Central and West Africa.

In 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported 4,594 suspected cases of monkeypox, including 171 deaths (case fatality ratio 3.7%).

SYMPTOMS: It starts with a headache and fever, the usual things that you deal with when you get a viral infection. Then, within a week or two, some people get a rash which develops into pustules. If you’re covered in these pustules, then you’d have the risk of bacterial infection and, in some cases, sepsis. That’s where the lethality can come from. Although symptoms often ease within a month, one in ten cases can be fatal. Children are particularly susceptible.

MONKEYPOX WHICH HAS ERUPTED IN MANY COUNTRIES IS NOT NEW TO THE WORLD. THOUGH NO CASE OF VIRUS INFECTION HAS BEEN REPORTED IN INDIA YET, STATES AND THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ARE KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON THE SITUATION.

DOCTORS’ SPEAK

Health experts say that one should not let their guard down but there is no need to panic. “We need to keep a surveillance on how it is evolving, and how many people are getting affected. Fortunately, it is not as severe as smallpox,” says Dr Jugal Kishore, head of the Community Department, Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi.

“There is a need to keep a watch on borders and international travelers and ensure that those having rash-like symptoms or reporting fever are kept in quarantine as per protocol.”

Dr Kishore adds that the virus can spread through touching or using clothes or towels of someone who is infected; touching monkeypox skin blisters; coughs or sneezing. Hence, health

hygiene is a must. Also, those venturing in wildlife should stop doing so for some time.

“We encourage you all to increase the surveillance of monkeypox to see where transmission levels are and understand where it is going,” the WHO’s director for Global Infectious Hazard Preparedness, Sylvie Briand, said at a conference recently.

Dr Faheem Younus, Chief Quality Officer and Chief of Infectious Diseases at the University of Maryland, says: “Monkeypox cases are concerning but the risk of this becoming a COVID like pandemic is zero% Why? This virus is not novel; is typically not deadly; is less contagious than Covid and has been around for 5 decades. Also, it can be prevented by a smallpox vaccine.”

WHO RECOMMENDATION: Given that rashes are seen in many other diseases such as chickenpox and measles, WHO recommends diagnosis when identification is necessary. This has to be with PCR testing.

TRANSMISSION: The virus generally spreads to people from infected wild animals such as rodents and primates, found in the rainforests of Central and West Africa, but human-to-human transmission can also occur. Similar to viruses like Ebola,

transmission only happens in close proximity by contact with lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets or contaminated materials such as bedding or clothes.

TREATMENT: At present, there is no specific treatment. But there are antivirals licensed to combat orthopoxviruses, such as tecovirimat. The smallpox vaccine was key to eradicating smallpox decades ago, and this vaccine can be highly effective – 85% – in preventing monkeypox.

BEYOND THE STETHOSCOPE

When not pursuing their profession, a breed of doctors prefer to wear different hats to keep themselves fit and centered. The HEALTH PIONEER tries to catch up with them every week.



Dr. Himanshu Verma

The Long And Short Of Beard

According to Victorian writer Thomas S Gowing, “The absence of Beard is usually a sign of physical and moral weakness.” Letting it grow is “reverencing the Creator’s laws as above the dictates of man”.

Dr. Himanshu Verma, Head of Department of Nephrology and Renal Transplant at one of the country’s premier medical institutions, Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi who wears a well-groomed beard, agrees. A beard does draw attention. Most of the popular style icons like Ben Affleck and George Clooney too had once started growing one too.

For Dr Verma, keeping a beard is a symbol of manliness and, in fact, “It’s not about just Beards, it’s about Beards With Substance,” he stresses.

“Whether it is long or short, I always have a beard. Beard is an asset that can make most men look quite suave and masculine,” the 39-year-old doctor muses his childhood memories that connect him with Rambo-like characters equated with masculinity.

Dr Verma, a gold medalist in DM (Nephrology) from prestigious RML Hospital in Delhi finds a parallel in bearded scientists like Darwin and Aristotle known for their wisdom. He feels keeping a beard has several benefits. For instance, “it protects skin from the harmful Ultraviolet rays; it can add a layer of protection to your chin and neck; Your beard and moustache works as a filter that helps to keep allergens from entering your nose and mouth, thereby reducing chance of skin infections.”

Data says, the average man spends approximately 4.5 months in shaving. Imagine all the time you would save and invest it in overall men’s health. Hence, it is also a ‘way to show support to men’s health’, Dr Verma tries to make a point.

Hence, whenever he gets an opportunity, he takes out time to participate at various fundraisers like the global No Shave November movement, aka ‘Movember’, which creates awareness about the hazards of prostate cancer and other health issues in men. It was started in Australia in 2003 and now spread across the world.

Dr. Verma, the father of two sons, laments that men do not take care of their health. “Males usually give priority to their family and in the process neglect their own health. This leads to stress in them.

“Prostate cancer, unbalanced lipid profile and depression are some of the diseases that remain undiagnosed in men and ignorance of these ailments can be fatal,” points out Dr. Verma, himself an asthmatic since childhood.

“In fact, male depression needs to be addressed. Suicidal tendencies among them are becoming common. This can be prevented by emotional counseling,” he continues.

It’s not just that he loves keeping mane to highlight health issues, this 39-year-old soft-spoken medico is also an avid bike lover, a dancer and a model who walks down fashion ramps with an equal ease.

But this first generation doctor who is also the youngest HOD in the history of Nephrology in India, amidst a huge extended family of engineers hailing from Agra, remains committed to his patients as he says my motto is: “For patient’s care, I am there.” We are sure his friends and patients will agree with him.

—As told to Archana jyoti
(Medicos may write to us at healthp100@gmail.com)

■ **World No Tobacco Day (WNTD 22) is round the corner. You have been vocal against tobacco consumption for quite a long time.**

I have started my life from a small village in Haryana, born as a rheumatic arthritis kid. Hailing from a humble family and having a disability, everyday was a struggle for everything—physically, financially and mentally. Those were very difficult days. Doctors had dumped me, saying that I won’t survive long. But with the blessings and care of my mother and my strong will, I was able to be physically fit and played for the country. I feel bad when I see youth and kids around me addicted to smoking and chewing tobacco, unaware of its harmful impact. It pains me. We have got this precious life only for once. I want these kids and youth to not waste their life but help contribute to make India a strong nation.

■ **What is the reason that despite various efforts, we have failed to curb tobacco habits among people? Lakhs of youth continue to succumb to the hazardous items every year. Where are we faltering?**

At times political parties get influenced by the tobacco or liquor barons in anticipation of getting funds for their party activities. Also, celebrities too, do not think twice about the ill-effects their endorsement of harmful products can have on youth and kids.

The Government should take strong steps to check availability of these products while celebrities should introspect what they are promoting. So much money is spent on healthcare for people falling ill due to tobacco related diseases. It is important to implement and enforce the most effective tobacco control policies aimed at reducing the supply and demand for tobacco.

‘Tobacco is slow poison, killing our youth’

SANGRAM SINGH is a wrestler, actor, motivational speaker, philanthropist and health guru, who wears his heart on his sleeve. Recently in Delhi to support the anti-tobacco campaign, he shared his thoughts with ARCHANA JYOTI on the need for stringent COTPA law to protect youth and kids from falling prey to the deadly products.



It angers me that many celebrities do not think twice about the ill-effects of their endorsement of harmful tobacco products on the lives of youth and kids. They do not deserve Government awards like Padma Shri.

public celebrities, will they allow their kids to chew tobacco or cigarettes, guthka and other harmful products like liquor, junk food products etc?

■ **Activists have been seeking stringent COTPA Act such as ban on Point of Sale advertisement and on public designated smoking areas to curb tobacco consumption. What is your take on this?**

I am always on the same page on all the issues if it saves a life. The WHO data says that every year more than 8 million people die of tobacco consumption. The addiction continues to

rapidly increase among people of all age groups in India. We all know that it causes a range of deadly diseases related to the heart and respiration system and cancer.

In such a scenario, we definitely need to not only emphasize on creating awareness against tobacco hazards but also tighten the gaps in the COTPA Bill which is giving tobacco manufacturers a leverage to play around the system. I feel that to curb tobacco consumption amid kids, Point of Sale should be banned. After all, why are we allowing tobacco items to be sold amidst candies and toys meant for kids. We should also take steps to protect non-smokers by banning designated smoking zones in airports, restaurants and hotels.

■ **What is your message to youth who refuse to quit tobacco?**

My advice to them is that by consuming tobacco they are not only harming themselves but also their loved ones in their homes. Smoking kills you daily. Your lungs get damaged and stamina weakens.

We get only one life. It is upto tobacco users what type of life they want to choose: good and health life or a torturous death. They have to choose between the two. If I can, who was in a wheelchair for years, win the World Wrestling Championship, anybody can quit tobacco and lead a healthy life.

NEWS BRIEFS

OTC SALE OF 16 DRUGS PROPOSED

The Government, for the first time, has proposed to introduce over-the-counter (OTC) drugs through an amendment in the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules and allow their sale in the retail market without doctors’ prescription. Around 16 drugs, which include common antipyretic medicine such as paracetamol 500 mg, some laxatives, nasal decongestants and topical antifungal creams have been proposed to be included in the OTC drug category.

‘EPILEPSY & HEARING LOSS, EARLY SIGN OF PARKINSON’S DISEASE’

According to a study published in JAMA Neurology, epilepsy and hearing loss have been found to be two early signs of Parkinson’s disease. Lead study author Cristina Simonet, MD stated, “It’s important that primary care practitioners are aware of these links and understand how early the symptoms of Parkinson’s can appear, so that patients can get a timely diagnosis.”

DELHI HOSP’S ‘CROSS-SUBSIDY MODEL’ LAUDED

Delhi-based Sir Ganga Ram Hospital’s Cross-Subsidy model—where rich patients pay for poor—got appreciation from Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar, Union Minister of State for Health who said that such a system should be replicated by other hospitals too. She was speaking at an event of the 66th batch of nursing students from School of Nursing, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital recently. “Our nurses are in huge demand all over the world due to their humility, passion and giving best care to the patients. They are the backbone of our healthcare industry. We are proud of them,” she added.

WHO HELPS RAJASTHAN TO CREATE HEALTH ACCOUNT

Rajasthan has become the first State in the country to institutionalise health accounts which will help in estimating the amount spent on the health sector and its impact. The data or facts available from these accounts would be used in future for policy making, and technical and financial assistance will be provided by the WHO to create health accounts, as per a statement here.

Can Quad restrain wayward China?

The May 24 face-to-face meeting of the Quad leaders is considered very crucial against the backdrop of the ongoing Ukraine war. All the four heads of the Governments — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US president Joe Biden, Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese — came together on a platform to display strength and sustainability of the group at a crucial juncture when the world is gradually emerging out of the monstrous Covid-19 pandemic and entering into nothing short of Third World War in Europe.

It must be said once again the global governance institutions, especially the UN and the US-led liberal West have miserably failed to stop the most devastating war in Ukraine. Undoubtedly, the centrality of the Quad summit was the Russian onslaught in Ukraine. The Quad summit is indicative of a new beginning as it has also witnessed the formation of two fresh initiatives: The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) and the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA).

The IPEF, launched by the US with 12 members on board now, is precisely its answer to the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and its successor, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the TPP (CPTTP) and towards the China-led 15-country grouping called, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

The IPMDA is aimed at building a “faster, wider and more accurate maritime picture of near real-time activities in partner’s waters”. Basically, it will directly facilitate the tracking of “dark shipping” across the Indo-Pacific region. These all seem to be a detailed preparation by the members of the Quad for preventing China-led initiatives both in the trade and security spheres in one of the busiest sea-communication lanes in the world.

The joint statement issued after the summit addressed the concerns emerging from the war in Ukraine. The statement underlined that the member countries “discussed respective responses to the conflict in Ukraine and the ongoing tragic humanitarian crisis and assessed its implica-



Leaders of Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) from left to right, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, pose for photo at the entrance hall of the Prime Minister's Office of Japan in Tokyo on May 24

AP

tions for the Indo-Pacific region”. The Quad summit has also highlighted and discussed any possible Chinese military adventures in the Indo-Pacific after Europe experienced Russia’s bloodiest invasion of Ukraine.

How did the Quad originate? It all began as a loose partnership against the background of the tsunami in the Indian Ocean in 2004. In fact, all the four nations came together to offer humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. But today China complains that the group is intending to form an “Asian NATO” simply to act against the Beijing’s interests in the region.

Is China threatened by the Quad grouping? The Quad had its first historic meeting in the year 2007. Then no one thought it would be another platform to counter China in the days to come. But afterwards, the forum went into oblivion for a decade or so. It

reemerged in November 2017. Its regrouping piqued Chinese interests. And the Communists in China seriously gauged that America was plotting a Cold War style strategic encirclement of China by taking two other Indo-Pacific nations — India and Australia — into the orbit. Initially, when then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe invited officials from India, Australia and the US to gather in Manila, the Xi Jinping regime was not much worried. Wang Yi, the Foreign Minister of China, had scoffed at the grouping: “They (the Quad nations) are like sea foam in the Pacific or Indian Ocean: They get some attention but will soon dissipate.”

Is there any urgent need to thwart China in the Indo-Pacific? Yes, of course. China’s growing expansionist policies particularly under the current President Xi Jinping is worrisome. His “China Dream” projects are nothing but to assert

Beijing’s soft and hard power around the world.

What role India must play in the group? For Delhi, multilateral forums like the Quad are of high importance. China’s growing encirclement and its recent aggressive actions against India are an immediate threat to the latter’s territorial integrity and sovereignty. Xi’s hidden agenda is all out in public now. India at the moment needs external balance. And in this regard, Quad is considered as the best alternative for the country.

How is the old Quad different from the new Quad that India joined in 2021? Yes, they are different in their own way, yet some of the concerns are almost identical. Indeed, India’s growing insecurity in the Indo-Pacific can be sensed when it joined the new Quad comprising Israel, the US and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) last year. Like the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or the old

Quad among the US, Australia, Japan and India, this new economic forum also equally emphasised on trade, climate change, energy and maritime security.

Unlike the earlier group, the current one is not aimed at countering China. It is largely felt that the new one certainly lacks a shared objective, and its future trajectory seems to be uncertain. However, this grouping may facilitate India to pursue its foreign policy goals by aligning more with the UAE and Israel in the West Asian region.

And, this will offer Delhi another opportunity to engage more closely with Washington. Further, India sees West Asia strategically important. India depends heavily on its energy imports. Nearly 9 million Indian workers earn their livelihood from the Persian Gulf. Israel and the UAE can enhance India’s role in the region. What prompted the

US to ramp up ties for another Quad is the growing Chinese interest in Israel and the UAE.

But the same is not true for other members of the group. In the recent past, both Israel and the UAE amplified their commercial investments with China, particularly in the shipping sector. Therefore, Washington takes this opportunity to convince Israel and the UAE to come out of the Chinese net. Clearly America’s intention dovetails with India’s as the latter has been continuously fighting to wean off Chinese influence in a region wherein it wants to remain a potential player for long.

The Quad needs to consolidate further. The Indo-Pacific is heading for a serious crisis. China’s ever-expanding agenda accompanied by sheer aggression might destabilise the whole region. Most probably, this kind of a future scenario may drag the US for an all-out war against China.

Along these lines, Japan, Australia and India will certainly be involved in this quagmire. Though the Quad group has been formed to boost economic prosperity, geostrategic equilibrium and tranquility in the Indo-Pacific, it is clearly making an alliance that is directly targeting China today. And the latest IPEF will be an advanced economic platform again to target China-led development initiatives in the region. Hence, the Quad and its extended members are all forging together to ramp up support to stop Chinese expansion across the Indo-Pacific.

Beijing now knows it very well. Its full-blown preparations to encounter this alliance are underway. Inevitability of another global conflict in this part of the globe cannot be denied.

The road ahead for the Quad and its new avatars like the IPEF should be to minimise any possible countdown with China. Washington knows fully well that Xi is an over-ambitious leader like Russian President Vladimir Putin. Xi is going to stay in power for long and his third term, unlike his immediate predecessors, is most likely to be endorsed by the Communist Party of China in the coming months.

Moreover, he has already shuffled his cronies in such a manner that his grip on the Party and the throne will be completely safe for years from now. Looking at all these developments back home in China, the Quad group leaders and its allies in the IPEF must be cautious while dealing with Xi. Though the US-led IPEF is centrally aiming at strengthening economic ties and achieving shared goals, its anti-China tag may escalate the trade war between Washington and Beijing in future. After having a bitter experience with Putin, Biden needs to maintain more restraint, simply to avoid another catastrophe in the Indo-Pacific.

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

It’s a tightrope walk for the grouping at a time when US-China trade war has reached a peak. After having a bitter experience with Putin, Biden may need to maintain more restraint, simply to avoid another catastrophe in the Indo-Pacific



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Down dragon’s deep-debt maze

China’s basic criteria behind the selection of BRI projects have been to consolidate its geostrategic position, to facilitate easy access to natural resources of the host state and its market for Chinese exports. To lure vulnerable small developing nations into its debt-trap strategy, Beijing offers a hefty loan which they won’t manage otherwise



SONAL SHUKLA

There are two ways to conquer and enslave a nation. One is by the sword. Other is by debt.
— John Adams

Sri Lanka’s economic collapse and its unsustainable debt has brought the world’s spotlight back to China — the government’s biggest bilateral lender, owing at least 10 per cent of its external debt (non-inclusive of hidden loans). A real concern exists for nations like Pakistan and Nepal, among others, who might fall prey to a similar design.

China’s Belt and Road Initiative, for which 146 nations from Indo-Pacific, Africa, Europe, Latin America and Caribbeans have signed up, has resulted in several unsustainable debt-for-infrastructure deals, which further Beijing’s political, economic and geostrategic ambitions. It is the single largest lender globally, bigger than the World Bank, IMF and the Paris Club (industrialised nations grouping that lend to the developing nations), and has over 100 ports in 63 countries.

The debt-trap strategy
US-based research lab AidData has found that 42 low-to-middle income coun-

tries owe a debt bigger than 10 per cent of their GDP to China. BRI loan contract contains secrecy clauses: Amount and conditions attached are to be kept confidential from other creditors, IMF and citizens. Loans are systematically under-reported (to the tune of \$385 billion), debt-burdens kept off the nation’s balance-sheet through use of special-purpose, semi-private loans or loans to state-owned companies and banks — still enjoying government’s liability protection — amounting to 70 per cent of funding. China lent disproportionately to countries that performed poorly on conventional measures of credit worthiness, in contrast to other international lenders, but demanded far higher interest rates with shorter repayment periods and is more aggressive than its peers at positioning itself at the front of the repayment line via collateralisation. World’s 74 lowest income nations owe 37 per cent of their loans to Beijing. Many of the debtor states are in a situation where their debt is unsustainable.

Beijing’s basic criteria behind the selection of BRI projects have been to consolidate its geo-strategic position,

to facilitate easy access to natural resources of the host state and its market for Chinese exports. Some other features of BRI loan contracts are: A hefty loan is advanced which small developing nations would not manage otherwise, use of corruption to make the leaders of borrowing nations willing and pliable, setting terms for hire of Chinese companies and workers for project execution, higher loan rates than peers with shorter (less than 10 years) loan repayment period. On loan-default, it seeks creation of equity in the project or demands new projects, thus tying the subject state into an interminable knot.

Dragon’s advocates
Expectedly, Beijing has pushed back against the allegations, denying existence of any bad motive and justifying that the loans were demanded by the debtor countries and were economically beneficial for them.

An interesting phenomenon has occurred recently, some publications have stood up in defence of Beijing, upholding the Chinese narrative. Last year US’ *The Atlantic* and UK’s *Chatham House* published reports calling Chinese

debt-trap a myth. The publications attempted a systematic refutation of any intention or liability on Beijing’s part, towards saddling nations with unsustainable debts or unviable projects, or of having any geostrategic ambition behind them. Indeed, they portrayed the dragon to be innocuous and uncoordinated, making poor economic choices. A leading newspaper in India recently published a piece on Chinese lending, titled, “Entrapment” or ‘ineptitude?’ along the same lines. A Chinese think tank, CISS, has acknowledged and thanked some of these think tanks — like *The Atlantic* — and media houses for “willing to communicate” with it by joint research or joint meetings and helping them establish “a brand and reputation”.

The right questions that need to be asked here are: Why is Beijing interested in loans for projects which are unviable and have no other takers? Do the debts given under BRI have the potential to function as tools to advance China’s geostrategic interests? To argue that such was not the intention of the dragon — or steps towards acquisition of the assets due to loan default have not yet been undertaken — is foolhardy.

Why would Beijing want to spook and warn the world, especially India and the West, so well in advance?

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar quipped, “We have seen projects which are commercially unsustainable; airports where aircraft don’t come, harbours where a ship doesn’t come” (Hambantota port and international airport, Gwadar is another example). The sole motive to undertake these ‘white elephant’ projects is to secure geostrategic advantage for Beijing: Chinese submarines docks at Sri Lankan ports and Chinese warships are pressed into the security of Gwadar. The whole structure of BRI debts is such that they become unsustainable - action is the biggest indicator of intention. Whether or not it causes an economic crisis in the host nation will depend on its economic management, however, unarguably, it provides Beijing a strong foothold in the nation which is exploited for furthering dragon’s ambitions.

Behind the scenes
In 2018, the *New York Times* reported the Sri Lankan officials stating that intelligence sharing was an integral part of Hambantota deal and

strategic possibility of the port location was also discussed from the beginning. It also reported about the millions of dollars that flew from the project fund to the Rajapakshas’ election campaign. It revealed an insistence on the Chinese side to hand over equity in the port and 15,000 acres of surrounding land, rather than allowing any easing of negotiating terms. Some Chinese companies have also faced ban in Bangladesh and the Philippines for engaging in corrupt practices.

Montenegro presents another example of Chinese strategy behind BRI where Beijing is funding and building an economically unviable highway — 78 per cent of Montenegro’s external debt is owed to China and in case of a default Beijing has a right to access Montenegrin land as collateral. Any arbitration would be conducted according to Chinese laws. Such strategies will be at play at all BRI sites.

Three years ago, IMF’s then Managing Director Christine Lagarde raised the same issue, stating that BRI should go only where it’s needed and where the debt it generates can be sustained.

Alternatives to BRI

One would have expected that BRI with 18 EU members and 20 Latin America and Caribbean nations would have sent shivers down the spine of Western world. But the Chinese, unlike the Russians, ace the art of subtle game play that the West blindly falls for. Washington’s Build Back Better World (B3W) and the EU Global Gateway, still in the launching phases, are too little too late; the analysts have already declared them incapable of competing with BRI.

Now there’s concern and debate in the BRI states about debts, however, if their common populace can continue to put consistent pressure on their governments about complete transparency over the loans, the situation can improve. International development banks and multilateral initiatives will also need to step up their game. Finally, IMF and World Bank will have to provide debt to needy nations while toning down the harsh conditions and dropping the imposition of Bretton Woods consensus, if they were to have a real choice to get out of Beijing’s deep-debt maze.

(The author is a foreign policy expert and a lawyer)



**YOUR
WEEK
AHEAD**

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week your priorities will focus on others like children, spouse, and any elderly members in the family over your health. For those who follow an unhealthy diet, this is a wake-up call. A poor level of vitamins and protein will make you feel tired and irritable. The time is not favourable in terms of health, you must take care and eat healthy to increase your metabolism. Professionally, those who are looking for a job will get hired in a few days which will test their skills and potential. This will be a very demanding job. Believe in yourself. Some of you will be weighed down with far more responsibilities. On a personal level, you will have concern for others and people around you will be grateful and reciprocate well.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Thursday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week you may need a medical examination, to clear some doubts and lead a stress-free life. You are likely to face some confusion and it will make you feel low. This is the time to lift yourself and transform your lives. It is a crucial time when you must be honest with yourselves and decide what best action should be implemented to rise to the challenges and embrace the best life. Career-wise, this week will be in your favour. You are likely to appreciate your sincere and hard work. Financially the week will be satisfactory, but you need to follow a budget to avoid any tough times. Relationship wise, you will experience freshness and a blissful state. This week you will be passionate and energetic and will enjoy a charming personality.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Friday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

You are likely to spend your time in spiritual pursuits to find peace and inner calm. Follow meditation, yoga, Pranayam etc to bring balance and give you the strength to fight any stress. You will be able to find solutions to most of the issues of life. Don't be in a hurry for any work. Give time to pamper yourself. The divine connection will show you the right path. This week financial worries are indicated. Professionally, you are not happy and some of you feel demotivated. If possible, interact with people to keep up your morale. Do not give up on a temporary low phase. This is the time to wait for the good times. Things are not so good in the relationship area. Your partner will have a long list of accusations, sit and discuss them. Things will move into a lighter phase.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Wednesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week take your time to identify hidden issues and other subconscious thinking that is preventing you from seeing the fact. Some of you may look out for emotional support from a female person to identify the emotional trouble and what can be done about it. Meditation is beneficial currently. Don't be disappointed about not getting the things done as this would spoil your day or maybe the week. On the career front, investing your time in attending a webinar or any online skill development class will be favourable. These programs will help you virtually connect with people. This will further provide you unique guiding light and moral force. This week relationship area needs your attention and clear expression. Express yourself before it is too late.

Lucky number 6
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Friday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You are likely to feel great about yourself. This week is a period of great productivity. You will have a sense of fullness and confidence that will make you feel that you have finally found your niche. This time is the biggest changing point in your life, so being too stuck and aggressive about the things that are not working in your favour could hold you back. It is advised to choose a middle path to live life fullest. On the career front, you will face opposition. Your colleagues might not agree with your thinking. Aggressive nature is indicated. Understand the mentality of others and avoid conflicts. On the personal front, you will use your charm to attract people. Be careful as a complication is indicated in your relationships.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Saturday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You can enjoy this week as per your well-planned schedule and bring a smile to your face. Your health, wealth and happiness are co-related. It is recommended that you learn some stress-free techniques to keep you healthy. Take some time out for a walk amidst nature that could be a great energy provider and refreshing for you. Career-wise, you need to ease your expectations. Those in business will see a good response and a hike in financial matters. Those in the job need to sit down with a financial planner and figure out exactly their needs and plan their finances accordingly. On the personal front, you are likely to feel a tight leash around you. There is a lack of understanding and feelings for each other. Married couples need to communicate well.

Lucky number 7
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

After recovering from certain health issues, you feel recharged with energy and stamina. During this time, you will find your self-confidence unharmed. And this is your greatest achievement that helped you to regain an inner sense of direction. You need to be grateful for all the blessings that surround you at this time. This week you will reflect on the positive influence and will prove to be a motivator for others. Career-wise, you will experience roadblocks and will find stagnation in your present job. The current scenario is not bright and this could demoralize you. Those in business will get some monetary gains. Prioritize your expenses and avoid unnecessary spending, this will help you now as well as in the long run. On the personal front, your maturity play's an important role at home.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Thursday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week foresees indulging in social activities. You will be shifting the balance in your life from work to more social activities. This will improve your health and give you more energy. This way you are trying to be of help to your family as well as society. On the career front, you may feel a little confused with your career. Try not to get too overworked about it. Your modest approach and shift into a different track/department would be helpful. This is the time to define yourself do not bother yourself with other people's perspectives. There will be a time when you think that everything has come to a standstill. Use this time to enhance your skill. On the personal front, your partner is supportive. You can try and talk to your spouse and relieve yourself from the stress

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Beige
Lucky day Sunday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This is a good week for your emotional and physical well-being. Your positive approach to things will be of great help. Those who are waiting on test results regarding your health, relax and know that the news will be good. You are likely to enter new realms in your spiritual exploration. You will get attracted to herbal ingredients and homemade remedies to cure health and you may join some courses. For those in the retail business, this week will be the most fruitful. For some of you who are working from home should not take it as leisure time, otherwise, this might take a negative turn on you. On the personal front, you may be involved in a serious conflict. Feelings of helplessness and lack of understanding are indicated. The situation may be lightened up with the support of a close family member.

Lucky number 2
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22

When it comes to following a healthy diet, you all make the same mistakes -neglect. Please remember that if you are healthy you are happy. Give extra attention to your diet, and follow physical exercise for at least half an hour. This will further enhance other aspects of your life including healthy skin. On the career front, it is time to take a stand and make some tough choices. You need to be straightforward in your communication and to the point. This will bring reasonable change and improvement to a specific concern in life. This week if you implement certain important pending decisions that will have the potential to change the rhythm of life for the better. On the personal front, you have very forceful energy this week. You are likely to be diplomatic and know how to get things done in your favour.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Tuesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week count your blessings and enjoy the good things that life has to offer. Whatever you do, keep it simple and enjoy it. Stay safe and enjoy a good meal with your family. Some of you would like to stay close to nature, therefore, will spend time gardening. Females will feel sensitive and nurturing and make life meaningful. Professionally, good times on the card. Moneywise week is satisfactory, and your generosity will earn you goodwill. Overall, it is an extremely good period in your career life, and you should take full advantage of it. Do not indulge in gossip as it might hurt your image. On the personal front, you will find emotional stability. This is the time to enjoy your relationships.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Mauve
Lucky day Monday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week you will feel very charged up and ready to take up some physical activity. You are focused and goal-oriented. You are well directed and clear on what your hopes and dreams are and what you should do to get there. Your enthusiasm and charismatic personality will impress others. You are optimistic about your future. Therefore, your overall health will remain good. On the career front, you are trying your best to be in your senior's good book. Your determination and ambition will make you move forward. On the personal front, it is advised not to let small issues blow out of proportion in your mind. Beware that there is someone who does not want your relationship to grow and who is working against you.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331



ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Two years back, a mother worried about future prospects of her only son came seeking guidance: "Sir, my son spends lot of time playing games and doesn't pay due attention to his studies. I am worried whether he will be able to clear his 10th board examination he appeared for. He is lazy and doesn't pay attention to my advisory. Please tell me what lies in store of his future? I will appreciate if you could counsel him to become serious at such a critical juncture of his life, which shall have a long term bearing on his future."

At the outset, let me assure you that your child will come out with flying colours in his examination. Not simply that, he will do well in the 12th board examination as well. Take my words, you child carries the potential to pursue and complete higher education, not to say anything about getting admitted to a graduation course. The 4th sign and sub-lord identified with college education happens to be Venus. It occupies the nakshatra owned by Rahu, tenanted in the 9th house, which signifies higher education. Here again, the 9th sub-lord is Rahu, tenanted in the 9th house occupies the nakshatra owned by Ketu, which is

conjunct Venus. Incidentally, Venus happens to be the 11th lord identified with fulfilment of his desires. Such a close linkage of the 4th, 9th and 11th houses promises higher education.

"Sir, I feel assured with your observation. But as a mother, I am aware of his fault lines and I know it for certain that he is not putting in his best. Without putting in due effort, how will he be able to pull through?" Madam, I appreciate your concern. But the problem with you is that you are stuck to his few negatives. In the process, the positives in him that are immense, elude your attention. Not that I am not able to see your child's fault lines. But I am also able to see positives in him. Don't underestimate him. Rather than reprimanding him with your negative comments, better encourage him to capitalise on his potential side.

True, counselling your child will help him improve his performance. But before that you need to be counselled. "What do you mean? Will a mother ever think bad of her child?" The lady countered. Agreed, mother's intent can't be questioned. But you should also try to understand the mind and psyche of your child. That will help you lead him



properly. From your child's chart I can make out that you have a commanding nature. 4th house represents mother also. 4th sub-lord Venus posited in the nakshatra owned by Rahu posited in Mars owned sign Aries, speaks of your attitude. It implies that you will behave as a hard task master. On the contrary, a look at your child's personality traits

suggests that he won't digest commandments and the least of all finding fault with him. He will rather become rebellious as would the Sun placed adverse to Uranus mean. All the more because his lagna lord Moon too occupies Aries sign, and is opposite Mars, which makes him impulsive, irritable, temperamental, and moody. Continued negative talking

will induce a sense of inferiority complex in him, as would Mars placed adverse to Neptune suggest. But should you treat him with a touch of love, he will listen as would Venus beautifully aligned to Mercury mean. So, better change your approach. The child finally scored well as predicted at his 10th Board examination.

Now with the 12th board examination happening and different institutions carrying on their entrance tests, the lady visited again for guidance on his preferred discipline. What discipline does your son prefers? "He is keen to take up mathematics. Can he make out a career in this discipline?" The lady said. Well, what is important is in which field he excels. He can definitely make a career with mathematics back ground. But then, there are greater chances that he will have to change his choice option as would exchange of Jupiter and Mercury suggest. The 4th sub-lord Venus conjunct Ketu, which is well aligned to Mercury indicates the possibility of taking up Computer sciences. Let us see the outcome of different entrance tests. But rest assured he is sure of entry into a good institution and will do well. Later, I was informed that he has scored pretty well in one of his entrance test and is assured of a discipline of his choice. The result is there to see.

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at
Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272
Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com