

**CITY 3**  
YOGI PERFORMS AARTI,  
WORSHIPS RAM LALLA**OPINION 6**  
REMEMBERING  
DEMONETIZATION**WORLD 10**  
IRAN LEADER PRAISES FORCE  
TASKED WITH QUASHING PROTESTS

LUCKNOW, MONDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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BEAT MEXICO  
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12 SPORT

# Guj poll campaign reaches crescendo

## Be wary of parties that are soft on terror: Modi

**PM holds three rallies before curtains on campaigning**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday attacked the Congress and the AAP — the BJP's main rivals in the Gujarat elections — for being "soft on terror for votes" as he addressed three back-to-back rallies and held a road show in the diamond city of Surat.

"Gujarat and the country need to be wary of the Congress and like-minded parties, which keep mum on big terror attacks for their vote-bank politics. Gujarat had for a long time been a target of terrorism. People of Gujarat were killed in explosions in Surat and Ahmedabad. Congress was



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with other BJP leaders waves at supporters at a rally ahead of the Gujarat Assembly elections, in Kheda district on Sunday

PTI

at Centre then, we asked them to target terrorism but they targeted me instead. Terrorism was at peak in the country," he said. As the curtains will come down on campaigning on Monday for the first phase of polls on December 1, all the stakeholders have gone all out to woo voters

"Your one vote in 2014 has created a lot of difference in killing terrorism in the country. Let alone cities of the country, terrorists have to think a lot even before attacking our borders. But Congress questions our surgical strike," he said.

**Detailed report on P8**

## Modi's frequent Guj visits imply BJP is sacred of rebels, anti-incumbency, says Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday questioned the need for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make frequent visits to Gujarat for campaigning and said it was because the BJP Government did not work and the party was scared of its rebels. It also attacked the BJP for lack of employment in the State. Addressing a rally in Vadodara, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said the Prime Minister had campaigned on every street in the State despite the BJP controlling it for nearly 30 years.

"The situation arose as the BJP did not work for the State. No enquiry was conducted into the Morbi incident where 135 people died," Gehlot, who is Congress' incharge for Gujarat elections, said. Gujarat voting for the Congress would

force the BJP to introspect, he claimed.

"What is the need for PM Modi to visit Gujarat repeatedly when his name is enough? It is because the BJP is scared now. I have heard that there are nearly 30-35 rebels inside the BJP. Such is the extent of anger inside the party," Gehlot said.

For his part, addressing a public rally at Dediapada in tribal-dominated Narmada district, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge called Modi a "jhoothon ka sardar (chieftain of liars)."

He said Modi tries to gain sympathy by calling himself poor and claiming that people abuse him. But, Kharge said, he himself comes from the "poorest of the poor and untouchable caste. At least people drink your tea. People do not even drink my tea," he said.

**Detailed report on P8**

## AAP will form Govt in Guj: Kejriwal asserts in writing

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday made an assertion in writing that his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will form the Government in Gujarat as he held fort in Surat where a dozen Assembly seats are at stake.

"I am going to make a prediction in writing in front of you all. Note down the prediction that the AAP is going to form the Government in Gujarat. After 27 years of misgovernance, the citizens of Gujarat will get relief from these people (BJP)," Kejriwal, AAP's national convener, told media persons in a press conference. He then wrote his prediction on a piece of paper and showed it to media persons and said his predictions for the Delhi and Punjab Assembly elections came true, and the same will happen for Gujarat as well. He claimed people are so



Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party National Convener Arvind Kejriwal addresses a press conference, in Surat on Sunday

PTI

scared of the ruling BJP that they shy away from openly admitting support for the AAP in the Gujarat Assembly elections, scheduled in two phases on December 1 and 5.

**Urging Government**

employees in the State to back the AAP. Kejriwal also promised the implementation of the old pension scheme for them by January 31 next year if the party was in power.

**Detailed report on P8**

## Protests against Covid lockdowns intensify in China



Chinese police officers block off access to a site where protesters had gathered in Shanghai on Sunday

AP | PTI

PTI ■ BEIJING

China's rare public protests Crippling stringent Covid lockdowns turned political on Sunday with protestors shouting slogans against President Xi Jinping and the ruling Communist Party, as the demonstrations spread to the university campuses in Beijing and Nanjing, Shanghai, where thousands of protestors converged at the Wulumuqi Road — which is named after Xinjiang provincial

capital Urumqi — witnessed fresh demonstrations on Sunday despite the heavy presence of police. The protests, which began in the morning, intensified with the participation of hundreds of people by mid-afternoon. According to videos posted on social media about the protests in Shanghai, people were heard openly shouting slogans such as "Xi Jinping, step down" and "Communist party, step down", a BBC report said.

**Continued on Page 9**

## G20 presidency opportunity to focus on global good: PM

India will assume presidency from current chair Indonesia on December 1

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With India set to officially assume the G-20 presidency from the current chair Indonesia on December 1, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday pitched for its success. He said it is a "huge opportunity for India" and the country must utilise it by "focusing on global good."

Addressing his monthly radio talk "Mann Ki Baat", the Prime Minister devoted much time talking about the G-20 meet and India's recent space achievement.

Modi lauded a weaver from Telangana who gifted him a self-woven logo of the G-20 Summit. Mentioning Veldi Hariprasad Garu who hails from Rajanna Sircilla district of Telangana, the Prime Minister said he has a mastery over his skills and he was "surprised to see this amazing gift".



"Friends, the G-20 has a partnership comprising two-thirds of the world's population, three-fourths of world trade, and 85 per cent of world GDP. You can imagine - India is going to preside over such a big group, such a powerful group, 3 days from now i.e. from December 1.

"What a great opportunity has come for India, for every Indian! This becomes even more special because India was awarded this responsibility during Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal," said Modi. He said the country "has to make full use of this opportunity and focus on global good, world welfare".

He said whether it is peace or unity, sensitivity towards the environment, or sustainable

development, India has solutions to challenges related to these. He said "the theme that we have given 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' shows our commitment to Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam".

The Prime Minister said in the coming days, many programmes related to G-20 will be organised in different parts of the country. "During this period, people from different parts of the world will get a chance to visit your States. I am sure that you will bring the diverse and distinctive colours of your culture to the world and you also have to remember that the people coming to the G-20, even if they come now as delegates, are tourists of the future." **Continued on Page 9**

## All travel restrictions to Meghalaya lifted by Assam

**Heavy security, prohibitory orders to remain in place**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With law and order situation in Meghalaya improving, Assam on Sunday lifted the restrictions on vehicular movement, allowing all vehicles to travel to Meghalaya.

Vehicles from Assam were not being allowed to enter Meghalaya due to security concerns after six people were killed following violent clashes along the border of the two States. However, deployment of heavy security and prohibitory orders remain in place at the disputed area along the Assam-Meghalaya border.

Vehicles from Assam are now allowed to enter Meghalaya, a senior police officer said. "Wherever necessary, vehicles are being escorted. In other vulnerable areas, police patrolling has been provided," he said.

Violence had broken out at Mukroh village near the disputed border between the two States in West Karbi Anglong



district in the early hours of Tuesday, after a truck allegedly laden with illegally felled timber was intercepted by forest guards from Assam. Six persons, five tribal villagers from Meghalaya and a forest guard from Assam, were killed in the clashes.

An advisory was issued by the Assam Police, asking people to avoid travelling to the neighbouring State following the incident six days ago. "The situation is still not completely peaceful in Meghalaya. There could be attacks on people or vehicles from Assam. Hence, we are asking people not to travel to that state," the police officer said.

**If at all someone has to**

travel, we have asked them to go by Meghalaya-registered vehicles," he said.

Police barricades remained erected at Jorabat in Guwahati and Cachar district, the two main entry points from Assam into Meghalaya. No restrictions, however, were imposed on commercial vehicles like trucks, carrying goods and other items, the officer said. Restrictions under Section 144 of the CrPc continued at the clash site and surrounding areas. Assam and Meghalaya have a long-standing dispute in 12 areas along the 884.9-km-long inter-State border, and the location where the violence took place is one of those.

**Continued on Page 9**

## CAPSULE

**NEPALI CONG KEEPS LEAD AS SINGLE-LARGEST PARTY**

**Kathmandu:** The ruling Nepali Congress led by Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba on Sunday maintained its lead as the single largest party by winning 53 seats in the parliamentary polls held to end the prolonged political instability in the Himalayan nation. The Nepali Congress has won 53 seats and the CPN-UML secured 42 seats, the CPN-M has 17 seats while the CPN-United Socialist has bagged 10 seats.

**13 HURT AS PART OF RLY FOB COLLAPSES IN MAHA NAGPUR:**

At least 13 people were hurt, four of them seriously, as they fell on a railway track after some part of a foot over-bridge collapsed at a railway station in Chhindrapur district of Maharashtra on Sunday. The incident occurred at Balharshah junction railway station at 5 PM.

**GUJ ATS NAB BADAUN MAN FOR THREAT TO PM**

Badaun: Gujarat ATS arrested a man from Badaun for sending an email to PMO threatening to kill the PM. The man's father said his son, a Mumbai IIT passout, is mentally unstable.

## Modi Stadium sets Guinness record for max T20 spectators

May 29 IPL 2022 RR-GT final was attended by 1,01,566 people

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad has entered the Guinness Book of World Records for the maximum spectator attendance during the 2022 IPL final. Earlier known as Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) Stadium, Motera the stadium has a capacity to host 110,000 people which is nearly 10,000 more than Melbourne Cricket Ground with an official capacity of 1,00,024.

On May 29 the IPL 2022 final between Gujarat Titans and Rajasthan Royals at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad was attended by 1,01,566 people, setting a new world record. Gujarat Titans defeated Rajasthan Royals by



BCCI Secretary Jay Shah being presented the certificate after the Narendra Modi Stadium entered into the Guinness Book of World Records for maximum spectator attendance at a T20 match during the 2022 IPL final PTI

seven wickets to clinch the IPL 2022 title. "Extremely delighted & proud to receive the Guinness World Record for the largest attendance at a T20 match when 1,01,566 people witnessed the epic IPL final at @GCAMotera's magnificent Narendra Modi Stadium on 29 May 2022. A big thanks to our fans for making this possible,"

BCCI secretary Jay Shah tweeted on Sunday.

"A proud moment for everyone as India creates the Guinness World Record. This one is for all our fans for their unmatched passion and unwavering support. Congratulations to @GCAMotera and @IPL," tweeted BCCI.

AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI

The world does not seem to be catching a break! Even as some nations are still grappling with the Covid pandemic and yet others are still reeling under the outbreak's socio-economic impact, the FIFA World Cup 2022 that is underway in Qatar is under the World Health Organisation's (WHO) scanner.

According to WHO experts football fans in Qatar are at risk of catching the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) infection, also known as Camel flu. The experts say that FIFA is expected to draw nearly 1.2 million people from around the world and this massive gathering could trigger the spread of the virus.

In a study published in the journal 'New Microbes and New Infections', scientists have listed Camel flu as an infection risk during the four-week-long sporting event. Camels are known to be the origin of MERS, which is caused by a coronavirus.

MERS was recently named by the WHO as one of the viruses with the potential to start a pandemic in the future.

Scientists, as per the study, have found that mass gatherings pose a threat of potential infectious disease spreading rapidly.

## FIFA WC fans in danger of catching camel flu, says WHO

Considered to be a deadlier cousin of the Covid virus, Camel flu has affected dozens in Qatar over the last decade. The virus kills up to a third of everyone who gets infected. Apart from Camel flu, football fans are also face potential health-threatening diseases such as cutaneous leishmaniasis, malaria, dengue, rabies, measles, hepatitis A and B and travellers' diarrhoea.

As per WHO, the Camel flu virus

**Morocco stun Belgium**

**Doha:** Morocco pulled off another shock at the World Cup on Sunday, beating Belgium 2-0 to leave Kevin de Bruyne and the 2018 semifinalists in peril of a group-stage exit. Substitute Abdelhamid Sabiri got one past Belgium goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois by whipping in a free kick from a tight angle at the near post in the 73rd minute for Morocco's first goal.

Zakaria Aboukhalil then guided a shot into the roof of the net off a pass from Hakim Ziyech in stoppage time. Belgium, ranked No. 2 in the world behind Brazil, had won its last seven group games at the World Cup.

could get transferred to humans from infected dromedary camels. Camel flu has been identified in dromedaries in several countries in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia. The WHO also claims that human-to-human transmission is also possible.

Since 2012, 27 countries have reported Camel flu cases, which has led to 858 known deaths due to the infection. Symptoms of Camel flu include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Currently, there's no vaccine or specific treatment is available, but are in development.

Because the camel flu virus is zoonotic, it may spread between humans and animals. According to studies, contact with an infected person, whether direct or indirect, can result in human infection. Travellers to Qatar for the FIFA World Cup 2022 have also been warned not to touch camels, which are thought to be the source of the deadly infection. Worryingly, camel rides and safari vacations are still being advertised by tourism businesses in Qatar. Researchers have discovered that the large crowd at the FIFA World Cup 2022 unavoidably poses potential infectious disease risks for the players, the fans, the locals and the countries of the team's origin.



# Gorakhpur developing at bullet train's speed: CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Sunday, pointed out that when a triple-engine government is at work, including at Centre, state and local level, development takes place at the speed of a Bullet train, referring to Gorakhpur.

Laying the foundation stones of four major development projects related to flyover, four-laning, drainage and sewerage worth Rs 1,822 crore at an event held at Veer Bahadur Singh Sports College in Gorakhpur, Yogi said the city was witnessing rapid development because of the presence of all the nine MLAs, district panchayat chairman and mayor of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

He added: "We all have to ensure that this pace of development does not stop. There is no dearth of funds for development works. It is also the responsibility of the citizens to join the process of development, preserve the works done and take forward what is happening in a time-bound manner. There is no alternative to development. It is only through development that changes come in the lives of the citizens and employment is created."

He directed the officers of the executing agencies to complete all the projects in a time-bound manner while ensuring standard and quality.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that Gorakhpur, which earlier was infamous for mafia, anarchy and disorder, had emerged as a model of development in recent times. "Before 2017, the health system here was in ruins. Today the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is here and super speciality services are available in BRD Medical College hospital. In place of the closed fertiliser factory in 1990, there is a new factory producing fertilisers at



the rate of 105 per cent. This factory is proving to be a panacea for the farmers of the district."

The chief minister said that a Sainik School was soon coming up on the premises of the fertiliser factory itself, and it would start operating from the next academic session.

"Every road in Gorakhpur is four-lane while the Gorakhpur-Lucknow road is going to be six-lane. The distance between Gorakhpur and Varanasi has been reduced to two and a half to three hours owing to the four-lane road. The connectivity of roads is also solving the problem of traffic jams. Besides, excellent air connectivity is also available in Gorakhpur. There are 14 flights from here to major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru etc. The government is providing funds for the new airport here," he said.

"All the religious places, including the Gurdwara of Mansarovar, Suryakund, Mukteshwarnath, Jatashankar and Mohaddipur have become visible. Ramgarh, which was a stronghold of crime till 8-10

years ago, has developed into the most beautiful place. Films are being shot here now. Four universities are functional in Gorakhpur," he pointed out.

Yogi said that apart from AIIMS and medical college, a large number of hospitals and services of thousands of private doctors were available in the district. "Gorakhpur has become the hub of education and medicine. Investment is coming to Gorakhpur and local youths are getting jobs and employment here. People from all over the country are also coming here for jobs and employment," he pointed out.

Appreciating the cooperation of citizens of Gorakhpur, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the citizens here had never obstructed development works. "Whenever the issue of widening of roads arose, people agreed to give part of their houses, establishments," he remarked, adding that the Asuran-Medical College four-lane road, Air Force-Circuit House four-lane road and Mohaddipur-Jangal Kauria four-lane road bore testimony to this," he said.

## Man ends life on eve of daughter's wedding

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 58-year-old man ended his life a day before his daughter's marriage in Mohanlalgarh police station area on Saturday night. The man, identified as Sunil Kumar Dwivedi (58) of Tikrasani village in the area, was found hanging from the ceiling with a *gamchha* tied around his neck. The incident came to light on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday when some relatives reached his room.

His son Ankur said Sunil was addicted to liquor and the relatives were not happy with his habit. "He returned home in a drunken state the previous night and started abusing relatives and family members. The relatives who were there for the wedding felt insulted and he was given a dressing down for his conduct. He was probably hurt on being admonished at took the extreme step," Ankur said. A pall of gloom descended on the family members who were busy preparing for the wedding. Neighbours were also in a state of shock.

Meanwhile, a woman was found hanging at her house in Nigoha on Sunday. As per reports, Rinki (35) had returned home from her parents' house on Sunday morning and was found hanging around 11 am. Her husband Pradeep told police that his son spotted Rinki hanging from the ceiling. "I was working in the field while my son was in the house of his grandparents. He reached the room around 11 am, only to find Rinki hanging," he said. The woman got married to Pradeep after the death of her first husband six years back.

Elsewhere in Dubagga, a 67-year-old man was found hanging from a tree in an orchard on Sunday. Reports said Kallu Rawat of Barawan Kalan village in the area was found hanging from a tree with a plastic rope tied around

his neck on Sunday morning. The police said that Kallu had attempted to end his life in the past too and that he was mentally unstable.

In another incident, a 45-year-old man was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Bazaarkhala police station area on Sunday. Reports said Lalji of Sitapur was found lying on Meena Bakery road in the area and was rushed to KGMU Trauma Centre where doctors pronounced him dead.

### 80-YEAR-OLD MAN DUPED OF ₹3.20L

**Lucknow (PNS):** In a case of cyber fraud in Hazratganj, an 80-year-old man was duped of Rs 3.20 lakh. He lodged a complaint in this connection on Friday even though the incident took place on October 8 last. Interestingly, Dr ML Sareen of Jopling Road in Hazratganj was duped after being told that his bank account would be deactivated. Sareen said he was asked to upload his PAN details and generate a password for his account.

"I could not generate the password but got a call from an unknown number when I was going for the next attempt. He said he was a support staff and told me that he found me trying to generate the password. He lured me into downloading an app after which I received a message regarding deduction of money from my bank account," he stated in his complaint.

### LABOURER BEATEN UP

A forest ranger was accused of beating a labourer for not cooking food for him in Bakshi-Ka-Talab police station area. Reports said the forest ranger called the victim on Saturday night and asked him why he did not cook food for him. The labourer alleged that he was locked in a room where the forest ranger beat him with an iron rod.

## Class XII student's death: Probe hits roadblock as cause still uncertain

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The investigation into the death of class XII student Ansh Tiwari appeared to have hit the roadblock following the ambiguity about the cause of death in the autopsy report which came out on Sunday. The police were also probing if the students fought over supremacy. Ansh had died during a fight between two groups of students in Vibhuti Khand on Saturday afternoon.

In the autopsy report, the Forensic Science Lab (FSL) scientists did not find any external injury which caused Ansh's death. They said the viscera should be preserved for further investigation to ascertain the cause of death. Ansh's grandfather filed a case of murder against three students and police were planning to interrogate the accused. The body was handed

over to the bereaved family and it was taken to their native village in Gonda. Meanwhile, the families of the accused rubbished the allegations. The mother of one of the accused, whose father works with the police department, claimed that her son was home at the time of the incident and was at a wedding a day prior to that. The mother of another accused, whose father is a pick-up van driver, also claimed her son was at a wedding a day before the incident was reported. Both the women claimed that they did not know the third accused.

Meanwhile, a couple residing in the locality told police that they heard some students exhorting their friends to kill their rivals and some of them were attacking the others with flower pots. During the brawl, a student fell down on the road near a transformer.

A policeman living in the area said he saw students attacking one another and then chasing one of them. "The student being chased by his rivals fell down while the others took to their heels," he said.

A woman told the police that Ansh was accompanying a youth older than him and was sporting a *gamchha* while riding a motorcycle. Ansh's father Shankaracharya Tiwari is presently working with the enforcement wing of RTO in Barabanki. Ansh had left the house for school but did not reach there. Locals alleged that the police were acting whimsically while summoning students on the pretext of investigation. "They should scan the CCTV footage and round up the suspects," they said. The police were said to be looking for a student who passed class XII a year ago.

## ₹12 crore released for redesigning of 2 parks

**Lucknow (PNS):** A sum of Rs 12 crore has been released for redesigning of two parks with the themes of 'Happiness' and 'UP Darshan'. It was disclosed by Lucknow Development Authority Vice-Chairman Dr Indramani Tripathi at a weekly meeting held on Sunday. He said the state government informed them about the funds released through an official letter which was received on Saturday evening. Buddha Park opposite ABV Scientific Convention Centre in Chowk area will be developed on the theme of 'Happiness' while another will be developed adjacent to Hotel Taj Mahal in Gombi Nagar on the theme of 'UP Darshan'.

The land was allotted to the hotel to develop a green belt but was taken back by the development authority as the

work was not progressing in the right direction. The VC assured senior government officials that the funds would not be misused. The work will start by the first week of next month and the parks will be renovated within six months.

The parks will be beautified using waste material, discarded plastic, scrap and electronic goods. The first consignment of the waste material is expected to reach the city by next week. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday to discuss the course of action.

A selfie point will be made at the Buddha Park and there will be cut-outs of popular cartoon characters besides other interesting stuff. The VC said that the state government would release more funds, if needed.

**COURT NOTICE**  
CITATION (BY ADVERTISEMENT)  
(Chapter XXX, Rule - 21)  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE  
AT ALLAHABAD  
ORIGINAL JURISDICTION  
TESTAMENTARY AND INTESTATE JURISDICTION  
**TESTAMENTARY CASE NO. 11 OF 2020**  
IN THE MATTER OF  
THE GOODS OF  
Late Kabiran Wife of Ali Husain Resident of  
Village Sirbasachandra Pargana Alzargarh  
Tehsil Nagina District Bijnor U.P. ...Deceased  
Smt. Jameela.....Petitioner  
WHEREAS an application has been made by Smt. Jameela wife of Late Shamim Ahmad D/o Pir Baksh resident of Hidayatpur, Alzargarh District Bijnor, for the probate of the will (or Letters of Administration to the estate) of Late Kabiran deceased, who died at 145, Gram Seervasuchand, Seerbasuchand 04, Alzargarh 06, Bijnor, on 01.12.1990 AND WHEREAS, the 21st day of December, 2022 has been fixed for hearing of the said application. THIS CITATION is issued calling upon all persons claiming to have any interest to come and see the proceedings if they think fit before the grant of probate (or Letters of Administration).  
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 16th day of November, 2022.  
**DEPUTY REGISTRAR**  
**HIGH COURT, ALLAHABAD**

**CLASSIFIEDS**  
**NOTICE**

Notify that I have changed my name from Priyam Niraj Singh Saini to Priyam Mohan after my marriage for all purposes & records. Priyam Mohan W/o Anurag Mohan 51, Opp. Arma Nursing Home, Ghasmandi, Thakurganj, Lucknow.

### आवश्यक सूचना

संसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरे हाईस्कूल के प्रमाणपत्र पर मेरे पिता का नाम Saddad Naseem दर्ज है एवं मेरे समस्त दस्तावेजों में मेरे पिता का नाम Sajjad Naseem दर्ज है दोनों नाम एक ही व्यक्ति का है जो मेरे पिता का ही नाम है और मेरे पिता का सही नाम Sajjad Naseem माना जाये। अबुल कासिम पुत्र सजाद नसीम डी० 43/66ए 29 सी सदानन्द बाजार मदनपुरा, वाराणसी

### आवश्यकता है

**श्री शंकर भगवान इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ़ टेक्नोलॉजी, मऊ चित्रकूट - 210209**  
(सम्बद्ध - नुदेलखंड, विश्वविद्यालय, जॉर्सी I)  
**प्राचार्य - 01 पद**  
**प्रवक्ता बी००७** - हिन्दी साहित्य-01 पद  
**बी० ए० प्रवक्ता** - शिक्षण विषय - हिन्दी, अंग्रेजी, गणित (प्रत्येक में 01 पद)  
रिक्तियों घटाई एवं बढ़ाई जा सकती हैं।  
योग्यता, आरक्षण एवं वेतन यूजीसी०बी०, उ०प्र० शासन के अनुसार। प्रार्थना पत्र सम्प्रद अमिलेख सहित 10 दिनों के अंदर भेजना सुनिश्चित करें।  
मो०- 8303095151

### आवश्यकता है

**डॉ० राजेन्द्र प्रसाद शिक्षण संस्थान**  
गंगातीर्थ, कुली रोड, वाराणसी, मो०- 9451280216  
**प्राचार्य एवं प्रवक्ताओं की आवश्यकता है**  
**प्राचार्य - 01 पद**  
**स्नातक कक्षा संकाय** - हिन्दी, शिक्षाशास्त्र, अंग्रेजी, गृहविज्ञान, राजनीतिशास्त्र, समाजशास्त्र, मनोविज्ञान-**01-01 पद**  
**स्नातक विज्ञान संकाय** - भौतिक विज्ञान, रसायन विज्ञान, जन्तु विज्ञान, वनस्पति विज्ञान व गणित-**01-01 पद**  
**योग्यता एवं वेतनमान** - यूजीसी०बी० एवं डॉ० रामनारायण लोहिया अकादमिक विवरणविद्यालय अंग्रेजी की दरिन्विषयवाली के अनुसार।  
इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी विज्ञापन से 15 कार्य दिवस के अन्दर उपरोक्त पते पर सम्पर्क करें।  
**प्रबन्धक**

## MBBS student found hanging in college

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

An MBBS student in Hapur's GS Medical College and Hospital reportedly ended her life on Saturday evening. A second-year student, the girl was found dead in the college, police said. Prima facie, the girl student committed suicide, according to the police.

As per reports, the Pilkhuwa police were informed that a second-year student of GS Medical College and Hospital had hanged herself. The Hapur police took to Twitter and issued a video statement in this regard.

Pilkhuwa CO said the probe into the case was on. The Hapur police, along with the forensic team, were look-

ing into the incident and more details were yet to emerge.

Meanwhile, a 22-year-old BSc (Nursing) student reportedly committed suicide in Etawah on Saturday. According to police, Shilpi ended her life by hanging herself at her house in Adda Jalim, Etawah. Police said the nursing student's brother informed them about the incident. "A nursing student hanged herself in the Civil Lines area. The police reached the spot and took the body into custody. The complaint letter also mentioned that she was a nursing student and was worried about her job. The autopsy is being conducted and further probe is underway," Superintendent of Police (SP) Kapil Dev Singh said.

Meanwhile, a woman was arrested in Bijnor on the suspicion of strangling her child to death. It was alleged that the woman was having an extra-marital affair due to which she killed her child.

Elsewhere in Azamgarh, a policeman engaged in a verbal spat with a woman and was enraged on finding out that his unruly behaviour was recorded by the woman. The video has gone viral on social media.

According to reports, the spat was over a land dispute and the matter is sub judice. In the viral video, the policeman can also be seen threatening the woman. The incharge of Atraulia police station had reached the house of the woman to allegedly take possession of the land.

## 3 of a family die in road mishap

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Three people, including a husband-wife duo and their two-year-old nephew, died in a tragic road accident on the Delhi-Dehradun highway on Saturday.

The accident led to a traffic jam on the highway.

According to the police, a Canter loaded with goods was proceeding towards Delhi from Haridwar in the night. Suddenly, the Canter's driver lost control over the wheel as a result of which it overturned. Meanwhile, a Brezza car coming at a high speed from Delhi collided with the Canter and was badly damaged. The people travelling in the car were trapped in it following the collision. On getting information, the police reached the spot and pulled out the people trapped in the car and shifted them to a hospital.

Mandi Kotwali in-charge

Mahavir Singh said that Ashish Awasthi (28) of Gautam Budhha Nagar, his wife Nupur Awasthi (26), and his brother Deepak Awasthi's daughter Kashmiri (2) died in the accident while Deepak Awasthi and his wife Ratna Tripathi were injured. The driver and helper of the Canter fled after the accident.

In another mishap, a loader carrying wedding items rammed into a tree near tehsil on Dibiyapur road in Sadar Kotwali area in Auraiya district. A youth sitting in front died in the accident. The deceased was going to Jasapur, Mangalpur in Kanpur Dehat with goods in the loader from Auraiya for the marriage of his sister scheduled to take place on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Sandeep Kumar alias Tanu (30) of Jasapur, Mangalpur in Kanpur Dehat. After the accident, the driver left the loader and fled.

## Senior RLD leader, former MLA join BJP in Meerut

**Meerut (PTI):** Senior Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) leader Chaudhary Yashveer Singh along with several others joined the BJP here on Sunday. Singh, who was former regional chief of RLD, joined the saffron party in presence of BJP state president Bhopinder Singh Chaudhary.

Besides him, former RLD MLA Sudesh Sharma and other local leaders of the party also joined the BJP. The UP BJP chief said the new joinings will strengthen the party and it would win Khatauli assembly seat in the region by a big margin. Meanwhile, RLD Media Incharge Surendra Sharma said that those who could not face challenges in the present day politics are joining the BJP as they did not have courage to face the situation. The polling for the bypolls on Khatauli, Rampur assembly seats and Mainpuri parliamentary constituency will be held on December 5 while counting of votes will take place on December 8.

## RLD says government responsible for fertiliser crisis

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Rastriya Lok Dal held the state government responsible for the DAP fertiliser crisis and its blackmarketing in Uttar Pradesh and demanded resignation of the agriculture minister.

Team RLD national convener Anupam Mishra said the crisis and the blackmarketing of DAP fertiliser was due to inefficacy of the government.

"The fertilizer is not available at cooperative societies while private shops are selling the same fertilizers to farmers at higher prices and are minting money. In view of this, it is evident that a caucus of officials and ministers is behind the crisis," he alleged.

Mishra said this was the season when crops were sown

and the private shop owners knew this. "They are taking advantage of the farmers' compulsion to sow the crops during this season. They, in connivance with the officials, have created an artificial shortage and sell fertilizers at high prices. The fertilizer crisis has been continuing for a month but the agriculture minister is only making political statements instead of addressing the problem," he alleged.

The RLD leader said the officials were making false claims of availability of fertilizers at government run shops.

"Such officials should be identified by the government and forced to resign for making false statements. The agriculture minister should also resign for failing to address the issue," he said.

### SCHOOLSCAN



### COFAS-2022

On the second day of the 4-day International Computer Olympiad, 'COFAS-2022', organised by City Montessori School, Rajendra Nagar Campus I, budding scientists from India and abroad proved their excellence through various competitions and also engaged in a rich exchange of knowledge and cultures through mutual interaction. The students took part in contests like Colesium (drama), Creatores (flyer designing), Rendition (paper presentation), Footage (film/presentation), etc. The series of competitions began with the

drama contest for junior category on the topic 'The day the internet died'. The participants showcased their artistic talents. Meanwhile, the participating students designed flyers on the topic 'Futuristic machines: Ahead of time'. The participants also made documentary films on sustainable development goals, showcasing their views on the social scene. The students then made multi-media presentations and demonstrated their deep thinking and outstanding computer skills. The participants displayed their concepts and skills in the prelims of the debate contest.



# Yogi: Govt to promote religious, cultural significance of Ayodhya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW/AYODHYA

Reiterating his government's commitment to establishing Ayodhya as a religious, Vedic and spiritual city with world-class facilities, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the double-engine government would present Lord Ram's birthplace as a global tourist destination depicting New India's New Uttar Pradesh before the world.

Launching as many as 46 development projects worth Rs 1,057 crore in Ayodhya and addressing the 'Prabuddhjan Sammelan' on Sunday, Yogi Adityanath said, "Projects worth Rs 30,000 crore have been approved by the state and Central government for the development of Ayodhya. The double-engine government is committed to the city's all-round progress. The government will not only promote the religious, cultural and spiritual significance of the place but will also develop basic amenities for the welfare of the people."

The chief minister on the occasion also distributed keys, cheques and certificates to the beneficiaries of various government schemes. On the occasion, Yogi said, "Since morning, my colleague ministers, public representatives and senior officials of 12 departments in Ayodhya have been inspecting the plans and sites to monitor the pace and the progress of the ongoing projects."

He went on to say that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, a grand temple of Lord Rama was finally being built after a long wait of 500 years. "India will also be seen leading the top 20 countries in formulating plans for peace, prosperity, harmony and public welfare under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi."

Addressing intellectuals representing different fields, the chief minister said, "We must plan our strategy visualising Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh and the country we aspire to live in 2047. We must discharge our duties as responsible citizens and must work for the development as a whole."

"Prime Minister Modi's arrival in Deepotsava shows his loyalty and dedication to Ayodhya. The construction of the grand Ram temple is the



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath giving the key to a beneficiary of a government scheme in Ayodhya

## ‘Lord Ram’s teachings paved way for welfare of humanity’

PNS ■ LUCKNOW/AYODHYA

Lord Ram is the living embodiment of true religion and duty. In every role, he emphasised the most on duties. Wherever his teachings reached, they paved the way for welfare of humanity, said Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

While inaugurating the 41st Ramayana Mela in Ayodhya on Sunday, Yogi Adityanath said, "Lord Ram's name itself is a mantra which fills enthusiasm, will power and positivity in every person. It is our responsibility to establish Lord Ram's birth place as the most beautiful and developed city in the world"

The chief minister and president of Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Trust, Mahant Nritya Gopal Das Ji Maharaj, also released a booklet 'Tulsi Da' based on Ramayana Mela on the occasion.

Yogi said that the organisation of Ramayana Mela infused cultural and spiritual energy. "The construction of a grand Ram temple is a matter of pride and inspiration for all countrymen. Deepotsava has established Ayodhya's glory at the global stage," he said.

In 2018, on Vivah Panchami, I visited Maa Janaki temple in Janakpur. At that time, Ayodhya and Janakpur had become the factors of connecting the two mediums of Aryavrat, at present they have become powerful mediums of cultural ties between India and Nepal. May cultural ties reach new heights," the chief minister said. "Many misconceptions were spread during the Ram Jannabhoomi movement. In the last five years, Ayodhya has undergone massive transformation. The organisation of Deepotsava is making Ayodhya return to its glorious form as it was in the Tretayuga," Yogi said.

The chief minister said that Ayodhya had its own greatness. "Ramayana shows the path for the welfare of not only humans, but for all the living beings," he said.

The chief minister said while increasing the work of Ayodhya Research Institute, there should be new research on Ramayana. "With the development of Ayodhya, the Panchkosi, 14 Kosi, 84 Kosi parikrama will be further expanded so that during the parikrama, people are reminded of the struggles of Lord's exile. Work is also being done to provide basic facilities to the devotees," he said.

"Ayodhya is going to be connected through waterways. It is our endeavour to have public transport facilities in Saryu and to develop Ayodhya as an export hub. In future, events such as Ramayana Mela should be organised in a grand manner," Yogi said.

# Yogi performs aarti, worships Ram Lalla

PNS ■ LUCKNOW/AYODHYA

As Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited Ayodhya on Sunday, he performed 'aarti-poojan' and worshipped Ram Lalla at the Ram Jannabhoomi complex. The chief minister also offered prayers at Hanuman Garhi temple.

The chief minister, during his visit, also took stock of the ongoing works at Ram Jannabhoomi and monitored the progress. After this, the chief minister reached Tedhi Bazar and inspected the various under-construction sites and the multilevel parking.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited Ram Lalla temple and Hanuman Garhi in Ayodhya for the fourth time in 40 days. Earlier, on October 19, the chief minister had reached Ayodhya to inspect the preparations for Deepotsav. On October 23, he had worshipped along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Deepotsav. On October 24 again, the chief minister had prayed for happiness, well-being and prosperity of all in Uttar Pradesh before Ram Lalla and at Hanuman Garhi and on November 27, the chief minister, during his visit to Ayodhya, worshipped Ram Lalla and offered prayers at Hanuman Garhi temple again.

### CM REVIEWS AYODHYA VISION DOCUMENT 2047

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday held a meeting to review the 'Ayodhya Vision Document 2047' in Ayodhya. The chief minister was on a one-day visit to Ayodhya to inaugurate the



Ramayana fair. Over 200 projects are being rolled out under this development plan. These projects are being executed by UP Rajkiya Nirman Nigam, UP State Construction and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited, Ayodhya Development Authority, Ayodhya Municipal Corporation, Public Works Department, National Highway Authority of India and other departments of the government. An official spokesperson revealed that the document provides for putting up indicators about shops/markets and public

places in various languages in the town, considering the visit of international travelers. It also provides for the development of public places in such a way that it projects the temple town as the city of Lord Ram with the depiction of Ramayana's characters.

The use of the latest technology in the temple town has also been included. It proposes using design competition for the development of kunds, or water bodies there. The document highlights that there are 108 'kunds' in the temple town that are to be restored. An app will also be developed in order

to provide the latest information about temples and other public facilities.

Earlier, while speaking at the review meeting, Yogi said that the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government in the state was committed to giving greater dimensions to the development of Ayodhya and bestowing on the temple town the identity of an international spiritual city.

He further assured Prime Minister Narendra Modi that his government would follow directives or suggestions of the Union government about Ayodhya's development.

# Mahakumbh to showcase ‘New UP’ of ‘New India’

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Mahakumbh in 2025 will be unparalleled in grandeur and will also showcase a 'New Uttar Pradesh' of 'New India'. It will showcase the state's administrative capacity, rich culture and tourism possibilities. Official sources here said that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had asked officials to ensure that the event's management in 2025 was so efficient that the state outperform its achievements during the 2019 Kumbh.

The chief minister, according to the government spokesman, asked officials to focus on the need to ensure quality and adherence to timelines in the tender work related to the event. He directed that a committee be formed under the divisional commissioner to monitor projects on a weekly basis.

The chief minister pointed out, "For the first time, Kumbh 2019 was given a new logo. The Akshayvat and Saraswati Koop, closed for 450 years, were opened for darshan. Over 24 crore devotees and pilgrims took a dip in the river Ganga. The president, prime minister, chief ministers of various states

and other dignitaries including ambassadors of 70 countries and more than 3,200 NRIs came to Prayagraj Kumbh-2019."

To ensure proper sanitation during the mega event, the chief minister said that the number of toilets should be increased and special arrangements should be made for the cleaning staff to ensure their stay and remuneration.

He directed officials to increase the number of ghats as well as the length of ghats. To ensure that the Ganga is clean and flows uninterrupted, an action plan will be made to

complete ongoing projects for river cleanliness in all districts from Bijnor to Prayagraj.

Coordination will be maintained with the Finance department to ensure timely release of funds so that no work is delayed. For enhanced security, the chief minister stressed that arrangements should be made for adequate management in case of fires and disaster events. The police should have access to fire equipment, anti-terrorist surveillance, baggage checking equipment, river barricading, among others, for better disaster management, he added.

## Maya concerned over condition of undertrials in jails

**Lucknow (PNS):** Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati on Sunday expressed concern over the number of undertrial prisoners belonging to weaker sections in jails of the country.

"The jails of the country are full of undertrial prisoners with minor crimes and belonging to poor, uneducated and weaker sections. They are largely living in pathetic and inhuman conditions. It is a matter of sorrow and concern. What is needed is a human approach, right process and action under the rule of law," she said while taking to Twitter. Mayawati said it was appropriate to express concern on this national issue by President Droupadi Murmu in front of the country's leaders and policymakers on 'Constitution Day'.

"The country is moving towards development, so what is the need for more jails? Proper consideration and action is necessary on this fundamental question of the president," she added.

It was not the first tweet of the BSP president on the growing problems in the country and the state as she has been periodically cornering the government on the issue of unemployment and inflation.

Earlier, she had tweeted that in view of poverty and backwardness prevalent in the country, people who toil hard to make ends meet are reeling under inflation and unemployment as they curse the government everyday for the high prices of flour, pulses, rice, salt, oil, etc. "But instead of addressing these problems, the government mostly remains silent, why so? Now the price of flour has also reached about Rs 37 per kg in a year even as people are feeling restless, frustrated. If there is hopelessness, the least the government can do is stop being careless," she had tweeted.

# Yogi to campaign in Karhal today

**Lucknow (PNS):** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will address an election rally in Karhal, one of the assembly segments of Mainpuri Lok Sabha constituency, on Monday.

Polling for the Mainpuri parliamentary by-election will be held on December 5.

Samajwadi Party president and leader of opposition in UP assembly, Akhilesh Yadav, is an MLA from Karhal assembly seat. The result of Mainpuri Lok Sabha by-election is crucial for both the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Samajwadi Party as it will impact the parliamentary polls in 2024.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav has hinted at contesting the Lok Sabha election from Kannauj. The BJP not only grabbed that statement, but has also started 'Operation Karhal'. Chief

Minister Yogi Adityanath will hold his first rally in Karhal for the Mainpuri bypoll. Campaigning by the chief minister in Karhal is part of the BJP's strategy to corner Akhilesh Yadav.

Late Mulayam Singh Yadav, founder and mentor of SP, had contested election from Mainpuri several times and the SP has won from this seat since 1996. The five assembly segments of Mainpuri Lok Sabha constituency are Karhal, Jaswantnagar, Bhogaon, Kishni and Mainpuri. Akhilesh Yadav is an MLA from Karhal and his uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav represents Jaswantnagar in the assembly. Shivpal Yadav, who is campaigning in Karhal, said, "I have appealed to the people of Karhal that Dimple Yadav should get maximum votes from this assembly segment."

# No sympathy wave in favour of SP: Shakya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Raghuraj Singh Shakya, the Bharatiya Janata Party candidate from Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat, said he was neither a party hopper nor selfish and had joined the BJP before the Uttar Pradesh assembly election earlier this year when Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and his uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav were still together.

Shakya was once a close aide of Shivpal Yadav but he left the Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) to join the BJP.

"In 2017, when no one was siding with Shivpal Yadav, it was Raghuraj Singh Shakya who firmly stood with him. In 2017, I did not get a ticket for the assembly election, but I did not mind. But, now you have become one after leaving us," Shakya said, responding to Shivpal Yadav's comment that he (Shakya) was "ambitious" and "selfish".

When questioned about the SP's claim that it will win the by-election by a big majority now that Akhilesh and Shivpal have joined hands, Shakya said: "When they have united, people have also united. This will ensure that the BJP emerges victorious."

The bypoll to Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat has been necessitated due to the death of SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav. Mainpuri has long been a pocket borough of the Yadav family. Political circles interpreted Shakya's nomination as the BJP candidate as an attempt by the saffron party to use his proximity to Shivpal, who until that point had not declared his support for the SP candidate.

Shivpal then committed support to daughter-in-law Dimple, burying the hatchet with his nephew, indicating that the BJP's calculations were incorrect. According to poll observers, Other Backward

## SP seeks removal of ‘partial’ DM, SSP of Mainpuri

**Lucknow (PNS):** The Samajwadi Party has demanded immediate removal of the district magistrate and senior superintendent of police of Mainpuri where bypolls will be held on December 5. Avinash Kumar Rai is the DM and Jai Prakash Singh the SSP of Manipuri. A delegation of the Samajwadi Party, led by former UP Assembly Speaker Mata Prasad Pandey, met Chief Electoral Officer Ajay Kumar Shukla and submitted a memorandum of demands. Pandey demanded that both the officers of Mainpuri be relieved of all poll-related duties and impartial officers be posted in the district.

Pandey alleged that the Mainpuri DM and SSP were exerting pressure on the members of district panchayat and block pramukh to mobilise support and vote for BJP candidate Raghuraj Singh Shakya. He said free and fair polling process in Mainpuri was not possible as long as the present DM and SSP remained in the district.

Class Shakyas have a significant population -- over two lakh voters out of around 17 lakh -- in the Mainpuri Lok Sabha constituency after Yadavs.

Shakya claimed that there was no sympathy factor that

could be working in favour of the SP candidate. He said that voters had taken a position against "parivarvad" and the BJP would win the Mainpuri bypoll as it did in by-election to Azamgarh and Rampur Lok

Sabha seats. When asked about whether emotions will reign supreme in this bypoll, especially after the death of Mulayam Singh Yadav, the BJP candidate said, "Emotion is only among the SP workers. There is no such emotion among the people, and the people are not emotional towards the SP and its candidate. Had the public been emotional towards the SP, its top leaders would not be seen moving in villages and bylanes to meet people. Why are they going from door-to-door now?" Shakya expressed confidence in winning the bypoll and said: "The people of Mainpuri are fed up of the terror unleashed by the SP and the 'goonda raj' which was checked by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Polling for the bypoll to Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat will be held on December 5, while the counting of votes will take place on December 8.

## AAP leader slams govt on fuel prices

**Lucknow (PNS):** Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh asked the Union government why the fuel price had been kept high when crude oil price had depreciated in the international market. Singh said there was a price drop in crude oil for the last 10 months but the government had not lowered fuel prices in the country. "The crude oil price is 89 dollar per barrel presently and will touch 70 dollar figure in the months to come in view of the current global political situation. But the public is not getting benefit of the drop in crude oil price. The oil companies and Petroleum ministry are silent on the issue," he said. He was reacting to reports of the alleged fuel theft in LMC. Singh said corruption was deep rooted in the municipal corporations and BJP leaders, corporators and municipal corporation officials were behind it.



A traffic policeman makes a biker wear helmet at Hazratgani in Lucknow on Sunday



# Two siblings die in road mishap

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

In a tragic incident, a scooter-borne brother-sister duo was killed while their elder sister seriously injured when the latter lost control over the two-wheeler which after hitting the roadside fencing angle fell into a pit on Agra-Lucknow Expressway on Sunday noon. The injured girl was admitted to a trauma centre in Lucknow. PRV cops rushed to the spot and apprised the kin of the deceased and injured. Neha (22), daughter of Shesh Nath of Kedrupur, Giraiya Bazar, Jahangir Nagar (Ambedkar Nagar) along with her younger brother Avinash (18) and sister Sakshi (16) was going to Bhangar, Sector 82, Noida, on scooter. Their mother Sadhna was employed in a private company there. Around 12 noon near Lodhakikur village of Auras police station area of Unnao Neha dozed off and lost control over the two-wheeler



Police carry out investigation after the road mishap in which two siblings lost their lives

which, after hitting the roadside fencing angle fell into a pit. Due to speed of scooter being at 80 km/hour, Neha fell into the pit across the fencing while Avinash and Sakshi, after colliding with the iron angle, sustained serious head injury and were killed on the spot. Police sent the injured Neha to Lucknow trauma centre. UPEIDA officials and PRV cops said the helmet was hang-

ing separately on scooter while the injured Neha had plugged in her earphone.

SHO Raj Kumar said kin of the deceased and injured had been apprised of the incident and further action would be initiated on their arrival.

Meanwhile an adolescent boy was killed while his father sustained minor injury when a speeding dumper knocked down their bike near Afzalpur

village under Vidhnu police area on Sunday afternoon. Dumper driver escaped from the spot with the vehicle after the incident. There was marriage ceremony in the inlaws' place of factory worker Pappu Prajapati of Sona Rampur, Sachendi. On Sunday afternoon he had left for there with family members. After making his wife Gudiya and daughter Kajol sit in a bus, he proceeded on bike with the son Ansh (13). A speeding dumper knocked them from behind near Afzalpur village. After Ansh fell on the street, he was run over by the dumper and killed on the spot. As Pappu fell on the other side with the bike, he sustained minor injury. On hearing about the incident, when Gudiya and Kajol rushed to Vidhnu Community Health Centre, they fell unconscious. SHO Yogesh Kumar Singh said on the basis of complaint, FIR would be lodged and action would be taken in the matter.

# Fire in plastic goods godown

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The plastic goods godown of a trader situated behind the GRP barrack under Rail Bazar police station are suddenly caught fire on Saturday afternoon. GRP inspector along with team rushed to the spot. On the information of Rail Bazar police, five fire tenders were pressed into service. There was no damage to railway property lying behind the GRP barrack. Cause of incident could not be ascertained.

**WOMAN KILLED:** A woman living separately from her husband and daughter in a rented house in Shiv Nagar of Rania police area of Kanpur

tating flames going out of the premises. Panic prevailed among the local residents who came out of their houses. GRP inspector Ram Krishna Dwivedi along with team rushed to the spot. On the information of Rail Bazar police, five fire tenders were pressed into service. There was no damage to railway property lying behind the GRP barrack. Cause of incident could not be ascertained.

**WOMAN KILLED:** A woman living separately from her husband and daughter in a rented house in Shiv Nagar of Rania police area of Kanpur

Dehat, was killed. After strangling her assailant escaped by locking the house from outside. The incident came to light when the landlord reached there on Saturday afternoon. police along with forensic team carried out investigations. Munni Devi (45) wife of Vir Singh of Hanumant Nagar, Gangaganj Kapili, Panki, lived alone in Jitendra Tewari's house on rent in Shiv Nagar, Rania, Kanpur Dehat. On Saturday afternoon when Jitendra Tewari reached her house he found a lock on its gate and suspected something amiss. Peeping through the window,

he found the slippers and other goods of Munni Devi lying there. With the help of local residents, he broke open the lock and found Munni Devi lying dead on the bed. During primary investigation, she appeared to have been strangled. Sniffer dog went up to a nearby factory and returned from there. Police apprehend involvement of any factory worker in the incident. Circle Officer Prabhat Kumar said investigation was on in the matter. The woman had informed the family about her being employed in a hospital. Efforts were on to ascertain the name of the hospital, CO said.

# SA Jaipuria School celebrates Founders' Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Ebullience and vivacity gripped the grounds of Seth Anandram Jaipuria School as it celebrated its 48th Founders' Day here on Saturday. Rajat Kapoor, National Awardee, eminent Indian actor, filmmaker and playwright was the chief guest for the day. The celebration commenced with the blessings and good wishes of the Chairman Shishir Jaipuria and in the gracious presence of Vinod Mehrotra, advisor, Jaipuria Group of Educational Institution. The programme commenced with the lighting of lamp. Principal Shikha Banerjee presented the Annual School Report highlighting the achievements of the students.

Dr Rajaram Jaipuria Achiever's Award was conferred on alumnus Ronojit



Mukherjee, presently working as a Sr. Partner Development Manager Qlik, New York, for his exemplary track record of

personal and professional life. The annual prize distribution was held to laud the efforts of academic achievers.

Madhushree Bhaumik, Vice Principal (Junior School) coordinated the ceremony. Academic accolades were awarded to class toppers and ICSE and ISC Board toppers for the academic session 2022-23. The chief guest appreciated the talent and hardwork of the students and motivated them with his inspiring words. The entire event was based on the theme "Sanskar – The Epitome of Humanity". The programme was an ensemble of music, dance, enactment and creativity galore. The campus came to life and resonated with a thunderous applause, extolling the performers with immense love and support. The colourful and vibrant art exhibition 'Sanskriti' – Traditions Redefined was a cynosure of all eyes and won commendations by all present.

# Workshop on gender sensitivity organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the auspices of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), a workshop on gender sensitivity was on Saturday organised at Samne Ghat branch of Sunbeam Academy, here. The workshop was part of the skill based programme of the CBSE.

The principals and teachers of more than 50 schools come under Prayagraj region of CBSE participated in the workshop which was jointly inaugurated by the Secretary of Sunbeam Academy Group Jagdeep Madhok, Director Poonam Madhok, Deputy Director Dr GP Mishra, Principal Dr KK Panda and the workshop experts of CBSE Rajiv Mohan Pandey & Aplona Das.

The experts threw lights on the importance and requirement of gender sensitivity at length and also pacified the curiosity of the participating teachers by answering their questions. The role of teachers on gender sensitivity in the present circumstance was also discussed in detail.

The Principal of the branch Dr Panda said that at the time when students have become sensitive, there is an urgent need of gender sensitivity and added that the CBSE is continuously making efforts to impart knowledge to the teachers and students as well in this direction. The administrator of school Dr Nishant Singh and others were present on the occasion.

# 'Prabhat pheri' taken out



Bank of Baroda taking out awareness rally in Motijheel on Saturday.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Under the nationwide intensive awareness campaign 2022 being organised by the

Reserve Bank of India from November 1 to 30, Bank of Baroda took out a 'prabhat pheri' from Lajpat Bhavan, Motijheel on Saturday. It was

led by Deputy Zonal Chief Ram Chandra Sachan and Assistant General Manager, RBI Kanpur, Mayank Kumar Awasthi. The aim was to spread awareness among people about different information related to banking, customers' rights and banking frauds. Starting from the Lajpat Bhavan at 7 am, the rally traversed through Shivaji Gate, Tulsi Upvan and ended at the starting point. District Manager Dipendra Shukla, Zonal Chief of Central Bank of India Sandeep Thakkar and around 70 officers and employees of all prominent banks, including the Reserve Bank of India, took part in the rally.

# UBI gets toilet constructed at school

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Union Bank of India (UBI) has got a toilet constructed at a girls school in Gangapur under its Social Corporate Responsibility (CSR) which was on Saturday inaugurated by the General Manager of the bank Dharendra Jain and Regional Manager BP Das. The bank also held a programme in JMS School in Danganj and apprised the people of bank's Muskan Yojana under which the account of minors could be opened at zero balance. In another programme organised by the bank in Danganj, the Corporate GM of bank Arun Kumar and FGM Girish Joshi talked about the benefit from the habit of saving and apprised of the schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana and informed that the account holders could avail the benefit of these scheme on the minimum annual premium of Rs 20 and Rs 436 per year. And,

# Outreach camps held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Union Bank of India (UBI) on Saturday held outreach camps at its branches of Mau Region under the direction of the DGM Kamal Singh Rawat, visited from the Central office, Mumbai of the bank and under the leadership of the field chief of the region Mithilesh Kumar. The insurance of a total of 10,000 persons was made in the outreach camp under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Yojana and the insurance of a total of 2,500 persons was made

under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana, while the enrollment of a total of 2,200 persons was made under Atal Pension Yojana and the bank accounts of a total of 1,000 children was opened under Union Muskan Yojana. Kamal Singh Rawat and Mithilesh Kumar also visited Shabd Play School, Sainik School of Nursing and Sunbeam School. They apprised of these schemes to the various banking correspondents and trainees in a training programme organised in Rural Training Institute, Mau.

there is a provision of providing an amount of Rs 2 lakh in case of the death of the account holders and Rs 1 lakh in case of permanent loss of the account holders in the accident. The benefit of these schemes at such a low rate is being provided in the accounts of the beneficiaries as per the

directive of the government at centre, they said and appealed to the people to avail the benefit of these schemes.

All these schemes are available at all the branches of the bank and the customers could get detailed information about the scheme by contacting the branches, they added.

# NCR GM inspects overbridge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

General Manager (GM), North Central Railway (NCR), Satish Kumar inspected the Prayagraj Niranjana Overbridge. Kumar inspected the Prayagraj yard remodelling work in depth. On the occasion a review meeting was organised under the chairmanship of the GM in Sankalp Auditorium of Prayagraj division. During the meeting, station redevelopment work was discussed with officials of Construction department and directed to complete the work smoothly and on time. The GM took in-depth information related to other important subjects in the meeting and also gave necessary guidelines. On the occasion, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Mohit Chandra along with officers and employees of the headquarter and division were present.

# VMC drive to make Kashi garbage-free from Dec 1

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Varanasi Municipal Corporation (VMC) will launch a special drive from December 1 to 3 to ensure the garbage-free city and a fine from ₹500 to ₹1 lakh will be imposed on those to be found dumping the wastes on roads by identifying them through CCTV cameras installed in the city. The VMC has released a toll-free number-1533 to receive the complaints relating to the wastes and cleanliness. Talking to the presspersons at his office here on Sunday, the Municipal Commissioner (MC) Pranay Singh informed that the VMC has set a target to make the city free from garbage to present a good image of the city before the tourists and a special drive of 75 hours would be launched from December 1 to 3 in the city to achieve the goal. All the steps would be taken to make garbage-free city, he said. A fine from ₹500 to ₹1 lakh will be imposed on those to be found dumping the garbage or domestic wastes on the roads by



identifying them through CCTV cameras installed in the city, the MC informed, adding that the selfie points would also be installed at various places in the city under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and the reward would also be given to those who share photos or messages. An action plan will be drafted out for the purpose and the help of school children will also be taken regarding this, the MC informed, adding that stringent action would be ascertained against those dumping medical wastes on the road. A toll-free number-1533 has been released on which any one can lodge complaint relating to the garbage and domestic wastes, he informed.

# Significance of storytelling highlighted

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Under the auspices of Spic Macay, a programme of storytelling was organised at Sunbeam Annapurna here on Saturday. The aim behind organising this programme was to apprise the students of the art of storytelling. The Chairman of Sunbeam Educational Group Deepak Madhok, Director Bharti Amrita Berman and Principal Mamata Jaiswal inaugurated the programme by lighting the ceremonial lamp. The storytellers Dr Himanshu Vajpayee and Dr Pragya Sharma threw light on various methods and significance of storytelling and encouraged the students to take interest in this interesting art. They also showed the art of storytelling in an effective way and also pacified the curiosity of the students by answering their questions. The dialogue could be established with the audience with storytelling, they said.

# IAPP conference concludes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Four-day 23rd annual national conference of the Indian Association of Private Psychiatry (IAPP) concluded at Swatantrata Bhawan in Banaras Hindu University (BHU) here on Sunday. On the last day, leading psychiatrists from India and abroad presented their views related to mental illness. About 1,000 psychiatrists, psychologists and others participated in the conference and explained in detail about mental problems related to the people including children and women. They also expressed their views on the common mental diseases and what should be done for their prevention. Dr Rajesh Nagpal threw light on the new medicines to make mental patients healthy. Dr Tanu Singh shared her thoughts about the mental



Concluding function of IAPP conference being held in Varanasi on Sunday. Pioneer

problems related to women. Many speakers were of the view that after the COVID-19 pandemic period, there was a lot of change in the behaviour of people as they used to get very angry on minor issues. During this, doctors discussed how to keep women and children stress-free in the family. During the session, doctors

discussed the diseases caused by excessive use of mobile phones. They suggested that people should not use mobile phones for more than 50 minutes daily. They also appealed to the parents not to spoil the life of small children by giving them mobile phones in order to amuse and please them and if possible, switch off the

# Speakers take pledge to evacuate all temples grabbed by Mughals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh on Sunday organised a seminar in Rathayatra here in which the speakers took a pledge to evacuate all the temples grabbed by Mughals. The national president of Sangh Santosh Singh said that there was a need to handle the matter relating to the Gyanvapi issue emphatically and demanded an inquiry into video leak by the central investigation agency. The speaker took a pledge to evacuate the temples which were grabbed by



Mughals and laid an emphasis on ensuring the participation of the people in the Gyanvapi issue. The national president Singh also emphasised on extending the organisation and in this order, announced the names of new office-bearers of the organisation. Ajit Singh conducted the seminar and Siddhnath Singh presided over it while other main who expressed their views were Man Bahadur Singh and Anupam Dwivedi.

A speaker expressing his views in a seminar organised by Vishwa Vedic Sanatan Sangh.

# National Pharmacy Week celebrated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

National Pharmacy Week (NPW)-2022 was celebrated in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences of SHUATS. The theme of the 61st NPW was 'Pharmacy of the world-India'. Guest lecture, quiz competition, poster presentation and various extracurricular activities were organised on the occasion. Convener of the program Prof Amita Verma, Head, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences of SHUATS explained the role of pharmacists in society and welcomed guests, organising committee members and participants.

Associate Dean Shalom Institute of Health and Allied Sciences (SIHAS) Dr Sheeja Mathew said that pharmacy is a noble profession and an important part of the medical fraternity. Chief guest Dr CJ Wesley, Joint Registrar (Administration) SHUATS highlighted the requirement of the pharmacist as an inventor and formulator of drugs. He emphasised that along with studies one should also remain spirited for participation in curricular activities for the development of personality. Guest speaker of the event Dr Nidhi Mishra, Associate Professor, Division of Applied Science, IIIT Prayagraj explained the computer-aided technique for invention

of a suitable drug molecule for the target disease. The programme concluded with prize distribution ceremony. Students of M.Pharm, B.Pharm and D.Pharm enthusiastically participated in all the events held during the weeklong celebrations. Dr Vikas Kumar organising secretary of the event, thanked the guests, organising committee members and participants. NPW is celebrated every year in the third week of November. The major focus of these celebrations is to create awareness among public, other healthcare providers and authorities about the NPW theme, in specific, and about pharmacy profession and role of pharmacist, in general.



# Drive launched against measles

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In the wake of reports from different parts of the country that the children are suffering from measles, the Health department has alerted the entire state including Varanasi against the disease. The department has issued instructions to the health officers to be careful about this. To study the stock of situation, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary visited several areas and inspected the vaccination centres on Saturday.

He inspected mainly the areas where the families showed indifferent attitudes towards vaccination of children especially in Kazi Sahadullapur and Dhelwariya localities under Urban Community Health Centre (UChC), Chowkaghat. During his visit, the CMO interacted with indifferent families and took information about non-vaccination of children and encouraged them to get vaccinated. After that the CMO held a meeting with the medical officer in-charges of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) of Chowkaghat, Ashfaq Nagar, Badi Bazar, Adampur and others.



CMO Dr Sandeep Chaudhary encouraging residents for vaccination against measles in Varanasi on Saturday.

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Dr Chaudhary directed the medical officers to prevent measles disease and vaccinate all the children on time. He said that if children with symptoms of measles are found by visiting house to house, then it should be compulsorily reported to the District Immunisation Officer (DIO). Apart from this, the CMO directed the private hospitals and doctors that if a child suffering from measles comes to their hospitals/clinics, then they should provide all the information about the same to the District Immunisation Officer so that preventive action can be taken in the

respective areas. The CMO has appealed that children must get all the vaccines according to their age on time. Various diseases can be prevented only by vaccination.

District Immunisation Officer Dr Nikunj Kumar Verma said that measles is a serious deadly disease spread by viruses. “In measles, red rashes start coming out which lasts for a week and during this period, the children suffer problems like very high fever, severe headache, shivering etc. Disease resistance also decreases. In severe cases, death may also occur or brain damage

may occur,” he said, adding that to prevent this, it is very important to get children vaccinated. “Children are given two vaccines, the first at nine to 12 months and the second at 16 to 24 months,” he added.

He also suggested that Vitamin ‘C’ and ‘A’ should be given in sufficient quantities in the patient’s diet. “This increases immunity and also helps the body fight the measles virus. Vitamin A is found in leafy greens, carrots, paprika and milk and eggs while Vitamin C is mostly present in citrus fruits like oranges and limes,” he informed.

# Various forms of Lord Shiva discussed in KV Dham

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A programme under ongoing month-long Kashi Tamil Sangamam was organised by Shree Kashi Vidwat Parishad at Trimbak Corridor auditorium of Kashi Vishwanath Dham here on Sunday. The programme was inaugurated by lighting the lamp by the Vice-Chancellor (V-C) of MGR Medical University, Chennai (Tamil Nadu) Dr Sudha Sesayyan, along with other scholars present on the stage. Expressing her views, she said that there is a description of various forms of Shiva in Tamil Nadu.

She said that Lord Shiva as Natarajan is more worshipped in Tamil Nadu while describing the different forms of Shiva. She praised the organisers for showing their respect to the visitors from Tamil Nadu. President of Kashi Vidwat Parishad Padma Bhushan Prof Vashishtha Tripathi spoke on spiritual knowledge and prominently described the glory of Shiva. He expressed gratitude to the scholars of Tamil Nadu.

In the second session, Vanvani Vidyasagar who came from Kanchi Kamkoti discussed the five forms of Lord Shiva. Prof Hridaya Ranjan Sharma, member of Kashi Vidwat Parishad, while addressing the discussion session on Shiva, said that Lord



A programme under Kashi Tamil Sangamam being inaugurated at Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham in Varanasi on Sunday.

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Shiva is the God of welfare of all. Dr Arunachal Palvayyan, professor of Tamil Language, Loyola College (Chennai) highlighted the glory of Kashi referring that Mahakavi Bharti had said that there should be discussion in Kashi, it should be heard in Kanchi, Tamil Nadu as the confluence of Sanskrit and Tamil language is wonderful in Kashi.

Kashi Vidwat Parishad general secretary Prof

Ramnarayan Dwivedi conducted the programme and in the beginning, presenting the topic, Prof Dwivedi said that Kashi is the capital of all knowledge and Shiva is the bestower of all knowledge, therefore, the topic of discussion on spiritual knowledge and various forms of Shiva is very important for the education field.

Divisional Commissioner (DC) Kaushal Raj Sharma, Chief Executive Officer of

Vishwanath Temple Dr Sunil Verma and others welcomed the guests. Subramaniam Mani, Dr Raman Tripathi, Prof Ram Kishore Tripathi, Padma Shri Chambukrishna Shastri and many eminent scholars and others were present on the occasion.

In the beginning, all the guests were welcomed by Dr Shukdev Tripathi, Dr Sanjeev Kumar Rai and many others.

# Seminar on organ donation held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A seminar was organised on the occasion of National Organ Donation Day as per the advice of the secretary of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) at the office of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) here on Sunday in which the main speakers were Dr Sunil Shah, ophthalmologist and Dr Nikhil of Department of Nephrology, Banaras Hindu University (BHU). Addressing the seminar, both the speakers gave detailed information about the purpose and importance of organ donation. They also emphasised on creating awareness among the people towards organ donation.

Speaking on the occasion, CMO Dr Sandeep Chaudhary said that organ donation is considered a great donation. “What can be better if someone’s death becomes the reason for someone else’s life. This day is celebrated every year on November 27 to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and to remove the misconceptions related to organ donation,” he said, adding that the people should be encouraged to donate their healthy organs after untimely death so that the lives of needy people can be saved.

Dr Nikhil explained that living and dead people can legally donate organs in India. “Every year 1.5 lakh kidneys are



Seminar on organ donation being held in Varanasi on Sunday.

Pioneer

needed in the country, while only 3,000 are available. In lieu of about 25,000 new livers, only 800 are available. At the same time, 60 lakh blind people need eyes, but only about 22,000 people can see. It may be surprising to know that only 0.1 per cent of people in India, the second most populous country, register themselves for organ donation. This explains the need for organ donation,” he said.

Dr Sunil Shah said that a healthy person can save more and more lives by donating his organs after death. In this,

important organs like kidney, heart, eyes, pancreas, lungs etc are donated. Due to this, those people who are in need of a healthy organ get protection, he said, adding that according to the Union Ministry of Health, a person can donate organs till the age of 65 years. He appealed to all to come together to take a pledge to ‘save lives by donating organs’ and try to make people aware.

ACMO Dr Rajesh Prasad said that the purpose of celebrating Organ Donation Day is to save lives by donating organs to the injured and seriously ill

who are in need of organs. Medical science has put an end to all the myths by improving the field of organ donation. Now a person of any age can donate his organs. According to him, a person who is not suffering from any chronic disease like HIV, cancer, or heart and lung disease can donate organs irrespective of their age, caste and religion. A person can donate organs after the age of 18 years. ACMO Dr AK Maurya, Dr Nikunj Kumar Verma along with medical officers, health workers and others were present on the occasion.

# Police tightening noose around Atique Ahmed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Prayagraj police is tightening its noose around mafia Atique Ahmed. Atique’s properties are being continuously attached. So far his assets worth more than six billion have been attached. The city’s Dhoomanganj and Pooramufti police have found some more benami properties of Atique Ahmed. Police has also received information about his younger brother Ashraf having many properties. Now all these are being traced.

Dhoomanganj and Puramufti police have come to know that mafia Atique

Ahmed has land worth crores at Jhalwa, Bamrauli and two other places. Some of it is in the name of the mafia and his brother, while most of the land mafia has got it done in the name of many of his close ones.

One by one the police is preparing the list of those close to the mafia. Help of informers is also being taken. It is being ascertained which land has been bought by the mafia. For this the help of the revenue team is also being taken. The police are hopeful that soon these properties will be known.

Dhoomanganj police station incharge Rajesh Maurya and Puramufti police station

incharge Upendra Pratap Singh said that the benami properties of mafia Atique and his close ones are continuously being searched. Some properties have been detected which are being probed.

In Prayagraj the police is about to tighten the noose on Dilip Mishra former block pramukh of Chaka. His one and a half bigha land located in Bharauha of industrial area will be attached soon. This action will be taken regarding the case registered under gangster.

Many serious cases are registered against Dilip Mishra in different police stations.

Presently he is lodged in Fatehgarh Jail. The properties which Dilip Mishra had bought or constructed with the money earned from the crime, were demolished by the police in the initial period itself. Some time ago the police of the Industrial Area police station got information that he has one and a half bighas of land in Bharauha village. When the police inquired about it it was found that he had bought it many years back. Its report has been prepared. File has been sent to DM for attachment action. Now the land will be attached as soon as the order of the DM is received.

# Two youths meet tragic end

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Two youths were killed while the third was sustained seriously injured after the mobike on which they were travelling was hit by a speeding pick-up van near Mauaima toll plaza on the Prayagraj-Pratapgarh highway on Sunday. On getting information, police reached the spot and took the bodies into possession. The injured was admitted to a hospital for treatment.

Two youths from Dubahi village of Mauaima and a youth from Delhupur area of Pratapgarh were coming towards Mauaima at a high speed riding on the bike. The

pick-up vehicle rammed into their motorcycle near Ramphal Inari toll plaza in Mauaima. Mohd Faizan (22) of Dubahi village who was driving the bike and Zeeshan Ahmed (16) of Purla police station, Delhupur, Pratapgarh, died on the spot. Mohammad Aqib (20) of Bulat Sawar Dubai, was seriously injured.

On information of passers-by the police reached there and took the bodies of the deceased into possession and sent them for the post-mortem examination. The injured youth was admitted to the SRN Hospital. The family members of the deceased also reached there.

**FIRE IN SHOP CAUSES**

**A HUGE LOSS:** Goods worth lakhs of rupees were burnt to ashes when a massive fire broke out in a shop located in Civil Line late on Saturday night. The fire brigade team somehow managed to control the fire after a lot of effort. The cause of the fire is not clear. However, the possibility of short circuit is being expressed.

A cake, pastry and ice cream shop named Paradise is located in the Palace Cinema complex in Civil Lines. On Saturday night the employees closed the shop and went home. Suddenly smoke and flames started coming out of it at around 1 o’clock at night. On seeing it someone present there

informed the police and fire brigade. Thereafter fire brigade team reached the spot, but by then the fire had taken a formidable form. Another fire extinguisher was called, with the help of which somehow the fire could be controlled. However, by then goods worth lakhs of rupees had been burnt.

Chief Fire Officer RK Pandey said the cause of the fire is being investigated. At present, it is being said that the fire broke out due to a short circuit. On the other hand, a fire broke out in a ‘gumti’ (kiosk) on Mayor Road Rajapur on Saturday night itself. Firefighters somehow extinguished the fire.

# Valedictory function held at Basic Flying Training School

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

An impressive valedictory function was held at Basic Flying Training School (BFTS) in Air Force (AF) Station Bamrauli to mark the successful completion of flying training to 23 Army Aviators of 210 Army Pilots Course. These budding aviators went through rigorous flying and ground training during the past five months under the able guidance of the Commanding Officer Wing Commander Abhimanyu Singh. He was commissioned in the Indian Air Force in June 2004 as a Flying Pilot. He is a CAT B Qualified Training Instructor and has more than 4700 hours of flying experience.

Air Commodore AK Chourasia, Air Officer Commanding, AF Station Bamrauli was the reviewing officer for the valedictory function. He was received by Wing Commander Abhimanyu Singh, Commanding Officer of BFTS, AF.

Air Commodore AK Chourasia was commissioned in the IAF as Flying Pilot in December 1988. The Air Officer had the privilege of flying almost all types of helicopters in the IAF inventory and is fully operational on



almost all helicopters in all roles. He is a graduate from TACDE and was also Directing Staff in the same elite establishment.

He has undergone staff course from USA. The Air Officer also held a number of command and staff appointments that includes Command of a squadron, station commander of a flying station. He has held various important appointments at Command and Air Head Quarters. As Air Commodore Ops (DASS), the Air Officer successfully raised the first Joint Special Ops Tri Services Division (AFSOD).

During the valedictory function, Air Commodore AK Chourasia presented certificates to the graduating officers and trophies to those who excelled during the course of

training. Captain Atul Kumar Singh stood first in Ground Subjects, Captain Peekendra Singh was awarded trophy for being first in flying and also won the trophy for Best in Overall Order of merit.

While addressing the gathering, Air Commodore AK Chourasia congratulated the officers, particularly those who have excelled and won the trophies. He praised BFTS for its rich tradition of transforming young officers into skilled aviators. While highlighting the role of these pilots in the time of transforming technology in aviation, he reminded them “Military aviators of helicopters have no margin for error while saving lives and evacuating people”. The reviewing officer also urged the officers to keep themselves updated to the

requirement and nature of future battles. The Air Officer lauded BFTS for its rich tradition of instilling professionalism and excellence in the young aviators abiding by the institutions’ motto ‘Setting higher standards’. Basic Flying Training School is a premier flying training establishment of the Indian Air Force located at Prayagraj. It was established on December 16, 1987, to impart ab initio training to pilots on HPT-32 aircraft. On July 5, 1999, the school changed its role from training Flight Cadets of Indian Air Force to training officers of the Indian Army, Navy and Coast Guard. The school was re-equipped with Chetak helicopters on December 26, 2005, for imparting ab initio flying training to Army officers on helicopters

# Oath administered for nation’s unity, integrity

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Constitution Day was observed on Saturday. On the occasion the oath for nation’s unity and integrity was administered to the official staff and format of oath was read by head of institutions throughout the district, including government offices, schools and colleges. The main function was held at Collectorate where District Magistrate Divya Mittal administered the oath to officials and appealed to work with dedication. She said that we have a democratic and sovereign state due to sacrifice of our heroes. She said that it will be real honour to the Constitution if we worked in the direction of strengthening the nation. Among those who took the pledge were ADM (Land Revenue) Satya Prakash Singh, SDM (Sadar) Chandrabhanu Singh, mines officer Ashish Chaudhary, DSO Umesh Chand, ADIO Om Prakash Upadhyay and other officials.

**MEETING:** DIG police

(Vindhyachal range) RP Singh directed police personnel to make Thana Samadhan Divas as useful as possible by disposing of all cases on merit. Such direction was issued by him while holding the Thana Samadhan Divas meeting at Santnagar police station on Saturday. Out of nine cases three were solved on the spot and for the rest joint teams, including revenue and police, were formed to solve them. Inspecting the disposal of old cases brought in Thana Samadhan Divas the DIG said disposal should be done on merit. He said maximum disposal with satisfaction of parties was an indication of good policing. The DIG inspected Santnagar police station and directed to keep all records updated. He directed to keep the police station clean. CO Lalganj Parmanand Kushwaha and SO Kamal Tawari were also present during the inspection along with other officials concerned.

**BODY FOUND:** The body of a young girl was found at a

hillock under Adalhaat police station on Saturday. The girl had gone to attend the call of nature on Saturday morning. When she did not return her father lodged a named FIR against Ameer Kumar of Siwan, Bihar. After registering the case the police started the investigation. In the afternoon some boys saw the body and informed the police. SHO Vijay Kumar Chaurasiya reached the spot and recovered the body. ASP Mahesh Singh Atri also visited the spot along with dog squad, forensic team and directed the cops to send the body for the post-mortem examination. The people apprehended rape and murder on which the ASP said that it could be ascertained only after the post-mortem examination report and further sections will be added accordingly.

Meanwhile Dramondganj police recovered a missing girl on Saturday. A woman of the area had lodged a case stating that her daughter (20) was missing. After registering the case police started investigating

case through a team led by CO Lalganj Parmanand Kushwaha. With the help of devices, including surveillance, the police recovered her from Kanpur.

**DRIVE:** Under the drive to control constructions without approval of site plan Mirzapur Development Authority demolished constructions of a proposed colony on Saturday. Secretary of the authority Vinay Kumar Singh said it had brought to his notice that some people were constructing a colony without approval of site plan at Chandaipur under Dehat Kotwali police station. He said notices had been sent to remove the constructions but it was not complied with so he ordered to raze them. The team comprising revenue officials, Dehat Kotwali police and the officials of authority reached the spot along with machines and demolished the boundary wall, partly constructed buildings etc. The secretary said no colony will be allowed without approval of site plan.



# Precept and practice

Politicians say nice things in speeches but opt for expedience, as evident from their campaigns

When a netaji is pontificating about virtue, responsibility, etc., talking about dos and don'ts, he is actually telling his rivals how they should behave. He, however, would continue to do what he deems fits, expedient; after all, it is winnability that matters. Others, however, should behave themselves; they should not indulge populism or promote the 'revdi' culture; their language should be civil, within the lakshman rekha. Almost all politicians are convinced that their adversaries should follow these rules; I, however, will do whatever I want to do. This has once again become evident in the run-up to the Assembly polls in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 16 cautioned the political class about the menace of what he called the "revdi culture." He was absolutely correct when he said that freebies are "very dangerous" for economic development. For a while it looked like the Bharatiya Janata Party had decided to weed out the menace from the political arena. A BJP leader, Ashwini Upadhyay, petitioned the Supreme Court, seeking restrictions on parties on distributing "irrational freebies" before elections. All this looked nice—till the campaign for Assembly elections in the two states gained momentum. All the nice things said about the danger of freebies have been forgotten by the BJP. Other parties anyway were not preaching the virtues of fiscal prudence; in fact, Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party boss Arvind Kejriwal defended freebies with usual sanctimoniousness.

In Himachal, the BJP has promised Rs 2,500 every month to 5,000 girls in government schools with best performance in class 12 throughout their graduation. Also, all school girls will get bicycles and college girls scooties. While promoting female education is a laudable enterprise, one may wonder if freebies are the best way to do that. Unsurprisingly and expectedly, the AAP has promised free power, an unemployment allowance, and monthly cash allowance for all adult women in Gujarat, where its ambition is to topple the BJP Government. The saffron party has been ruling the western state for the last 27 years. Not to be left behind, the Congress manifesto has pledged farmers' debt waiver, gas cylinder at Rs 500, and 300 free units of electricity in Gujarat. Quite ominously, the party manifesto says, "Congress will stop mindless privatisation of healthcare and education." Such phraseology is the consequence of a socialist mindset. In a way, the three parties' elections manifestoes also show their desperation: the BJP doesn't want lose, especially in Gujarat because it is Modi's home state; the grand old party wants to stage a comeback; and the AAP wants to convince everyone that it is on a successful expansion drive, especially after its spectacular victory in Punjab earlier this year. In normal circumstances, politicians are not the best specimens of mankind; in their desperation, they can breach several norms of civility and canniness. This is exactly what they are doing now.

## PIC TALK



Artists perform a Garo traditional dance during Wangala festival at Chotipara, in Goalpara

PTI

# Govt's dilemma

Indian govt abstains on UNHRC resolution on anti hijab protesters to show its support to Iran

India abstained on a resolution adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to set up a fact-finding mission into alleged human rights violations in Iran committed on protesters in the country by state authorities. The anti-Hijab protests are at the peak in Iran which started after the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in police custody. She paid with her life for not wearing a 'hijab'. India's was one of 16 abstentions on the resolution, sponsored by Germany and the Netherlands, and comes just a week after New Delhi voted against an Iran-specific resolution in the third committee of the UN General Assembly. Nevertheless, the resolution in the UNHRC was passed, at a special session of the 47-member human rights body. The resolution denounced the "violent crackdown on peaceful protests by security forces" which started after the death of Mahsa Amini. The resolution established a fact-finding mission into the allegations of human rights violations in Iran since September 16. China, Pakistan, Armenia, Eritrea, Cuba and Venezuela voted against the resolution. The two Gulf members of the Council, Qatar and United Arab Emirates, abstained and India gave them company. Earlier this month, the UN Security Council held an informal meeting on the Iranian protests. India did not give a statement at that meeting either. Two weeks later, on November 16, the UNGA's third committee voted on a draft resolution that referred to the death of Mahsa Amini and urged Iranian officials to "cease the use of excessive force against peaceful protesters, including women and children". India had voted 'No'.

It is indeed an Indian Govt's dilemma. From an economic perspective, Iran is the second-largest supplier of crude oil to India. India buys more than 4,25,000 barrels per day. India happens to be one of the largest foreign investors in Iran's oil and gas industry. The government wants to appease the Iranian rulers so as not to disturb its relations with them and so would not mind standing against the world at large in supporting hijab whereas back home it is doing the exact opposite. The Karnataka government led by the BJP is out to enforce 'hijab' ban and it does not mind crushing the pro hijab protesters. This is political expediency at its best where only interest matters. The govt doesn't mind looking regressive to the world, it is sheer convenience that is at play.



# Remembering demonetization

Demonetisation was successful in curbing the informal economy and insulating the country from the neighbour's financial mischiefs

Reportedly, there are some 50 petitions pending in the country's courts protesting the demonetization of currency notes that was implemented on November 8, 2016; we just passed its eighth anniversary. Understandably, this move by the Narendra Modi government continues to generate much talk. In all, I have witnessed three demonetizations and therefore feel qualified to comment on the subject. In 1946, the old 1000-rupee note was demonetized. In 1978, high denomination notes were rendered invalid. We are today debating the 2016 decision.

In the pre-Modi era, it was widely believed that approximately 50 per cent of the Indian economy generated in the country could not be tapped at all for purposes of development. The black money had to be spent in less productive activities like land deals, property transactions and what not. Such money had to be spent quickly in order to keep it away from thieves and from income tax vigilance; its mention in any legal document was not possible. The tax-evaded money could neither be legally invested nor safely saved for even one's children, not to speak of national development. In brief, black was money only for the time being, in contrast to the bankable money, which was actual wealth.

What was unusual about Indian black money was that it was reported to be manufactured in our neighbouring countries. For example, superannuated Bihari cows used to have a ready market at fancy prices. West Bengal traders used to buy our toothbrushes readily; more especially if one did not write a bill and accepted cash. In the event the notes paid happened to be jaali (counterfeit) one would have been informed at which shop one could change it back to a valid note. When the thunderbolt of the 2016 demonetization burst upon India, everyone up to the upper middle class was able to change their cash. Those who were hit were the people who had hoarded large sums of black



money and could not change their notes. On the morrow of the occasion, many an economist or an intellectual began using the term "informal economy" for the black economy, because it is inappropriate for a respectable person to plead for something illegal.

The result of the action was to get rid of the hoarded cash lying wastefully. However, its greatest service was to interrupt for a long time, if not forever, the printing of Indian currency notes in neighbouring countries. Simultaneously, smuggling of goods was significantly reduced. Nevertheless, demonetization would have been a fleeting event, had it not been followed by the introduction of the Goods & Services Tax (GST).

I would like to bring in a personal experience in this particular regard. The sale of our toothbrushes increased within a fortnight. It was indeed a welcome surprise. Upon thinking further, we realized that quite a few of our competitors might not have maintained systematic records. Some of them were making brushes by simply sticking nylon into the plastic handles; they had brought these in on a friendly basis from, say, China. The history behind all this was that

IN THE PRE-MODI ERA, IT WAS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT APPROXIMATELY 50 PER CENT OF THE INDIAN ECONOMY GENERATED IN THE COUNTRY COULD NOT BE TAPPED AT ALL FOR PURPOSES OF DEVELOPMENT

toothbrush manufacturing was for decades, reserved for the small scale sector. In short, overnight, an informal activity turned into a formal sector one. Apart from sales tax, the additional fear was that from the GST website and the income tax department could also monitor how much of what product was being sold by whom.

An incidental but a substantial advantage that emerged from the introduction of the GST was the drastic reduction in lorry transport time. Post-GST, an interstate lorry no longer has to stop at every state border. The lorry's photograph and registration are recorded by CCTV. Earlier, the vehicle had to queue up at the state border to obtain clearance by the states' sales tax authorities. Up to 40 per cent travelling time has thus been saved.

Without the GST, the demonetization move of eight years ago would have been say, a birth without a life to follow up. And without demonetization, the GST might have been a life without a birth. Yet another advantage of GST has been the abolition of most other indirect taxes, starting from the excise duty. Imagine the expenditure saved to the tax-

payer on the one hand and the governments, beginning with the Centre, and ending with the states, small and big. As a guess, at least one-third of India's lorry time would have been saved. Above all, the tax has taken India towards its goal of one country one tax. Moreover, the demonetization has helped India avoid its exploitation by its neighbours. The veteran political analyst and economist S. Gurumurthy has likened the 2016 demonetization to a "financial Pokharan", i.e., a nuclear strike against not only black money, but covert financial war against the nation.

Assuming that in the pre-Modi era, 50 per cent of India's economy was black; at least half this amount is currently being ploughed back into the economy as white money. In that sense, India's economy has become 25 per cent larger spontaneously. It is also a necessary step towards making India a more modern economy, which is the first necessary step, if we aspire to make the rupee into a convertible currency. (The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views expressed are personal)

## SOUND BITE

The history of India is not just about slavery...The history of India is about emerging victorious, it is about the valour of countless greats.

Prime Minister — Narendra Modi

China would be willing to work together with North Korea for regional and global peace, stability and prosperity.

Chinese President — Xi Jinping

I think the thing that Trump was most perturbed about (was) me asking him to be my vice president...Trump started by screaming at me at the table, telling me I'm going to lose.

Rapper — Kanye West

The situation we were in and from there to reach 307 is a commendable total. Definitely, some things didn't go our way today but it's a learning curve, we can introspect, comeback with new ideas in the next game.

Indian cricketer — Shreyas Iyer

During the Congress rule in Gujarat (before 1995), communal riots were rampant. Congress used to incite people of different communities and castes to fight against each other.

Union Home Minister — Amit Shah

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### SANJAY RAUT'S BAIL HEARING

Sir — As per report the single bench of the Bombay High Court on Friday November 25 recused itself from hearing the Enforcement Directorate's plea seeking cancellation of bail granted to Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut and his aide Pravin Raut in a money laundering case. The ED had approached the HC seeking cancellation of bail granted to the Rajya Sabha MP and his aide by a special court on November 9.

The Central probe agency had sought an interim stay on the bail order, which the High Court had refused. When the matter came up for hearing, the single bench of Justice M S Karnik said, "It would not be appropriate for me to take up this matter not before me." The matter will now be placed before a new bench. Sanjay Raut was granted bail by special PMLA judge M G Deshpande, over a hundred days after he was arrested in the money laundering case related to redevelopment of Patra Chawl in suburban Goregaon. The special court, in its order, had termed the Rajya Sabha member's arrest as "illegal, without reason". With this all is not well.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

### WOES OF CONGRESS PARTY

Sir — Obviously, the woes of the Grand Old Party are far from over as a couple of its leaders are hell bent upon cutting the branch they are presently sitting on given that the party veteran and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has renewed his blitzkrieg against his bete noire and DY CM Sachin Pilot by calling him a 'traitor' and even going to the extent of accusing him of hatching a conspiracy in collusion with the BJP with a view to toppling the Congress government in Rajasthan. Down playing these charges however, Mr Pilot reminded that such a behaviour was unbecoming of a senior and experienced leader like Mr Gehlot and that the priority now should be given to Rajasthan where the assembly elections are due next year. In the same vein, he advised Ashok Gehlot to concentrate on Gujarat where the polls are round the corner and he (Mr Gehlot) is an

## Mass shootings in the USA



The horrifying shooting inside a Walmart store at Chesapeake, Virginia a few days ago yet again underscores the growing gun culture in the US. Though the nerve-wracking incident reignites the debate over gun-control in America, realistically it is unlikely to result in any significant reforms, as the US has a deep and enduring connection to guns, integrated into the fabric of American society. Sadly and unsurprisingly mass shootings in the US have become a common affair, and it raises again the most

obvious question that has been discussed and debated many times in the past: "why can't America stop the scourge of gun violence?"

Distressingly enough, it cannot for the reason that gun violence in the US is symbolic of a broken political system that fails to protect its own citizens. Frequent mass shootings are a stain on the country's international reputation. In a broader sense, the failure to implement bold measures against gun violence is seen as a dysfunctional system of a government incapable of protecting its own citizens, including children. In fact, Pew Research Center's survey reveals the fact that an average 83 per cent of Americans have said that the US is no longer a good model of democracy to follow. This makes for depressing reading and seemingly makes it incumbent on the Biden administration to take immediate action on gun control and the need for gun reform.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

observer. Notably, Sachin Pilot also recently asked new Congress chief Mr Mallikarjun Kharge to initiate disciplinary proceedings against Mr Gehlot's royalist legislators who had boycotted the Congress Legislative Party (CLP) meeting in Rajasthan and convened a parallel one instead, attended by the rebels. On the face of it, this internecine bickering in the Congress will simply lead to the differences among the leaders only to deepen.

Interestingly, Sachin Pilot has joined Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi in the ongoing 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', going to enter into Rajasthan in a couple of days and, hence, the party high command eagerly wants all the belligerent leaders to bury the hatchet as early as possible and unitedly campaign for the party's electoral prospects in the upcoming assembly polls getting ameliorated, or otherwise, all the hardships Mr Gandhi has been going through to amass public support everywhere during the foot march, might fall on stony ground.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

### THE SPIRIT OF CONSTITUTION

Sir — "The Constitution is not a mere lawyer's document, it is a vehicle of life and it's spirit is always the spirit of age - Father of Indian Constitution." Every year India witnesses November 26 as the Constitution day, also to honour the law minister and architect of independent India, Dr BR Ambedkar who played a pivotal role in drafting the constitution of India. Samvidhan Diwas aims to highlight the importance, of the Indian constitution.

Our Transformative Constitution teaches us about making decisions with a lot of patience among people from diverse communities. It is embedded with vision and reflection of the future. People of India are custodian of the longest written Constitution. It empowers citizens, and citizens empowers Samvidhan too by respecting it religiously. The Constitution is nobody's preserve but it is everybody's preserve.

Tashi Baheti | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

CYCLING FOR NATURE,  
WITH SEED BALLS

Seeds can be conserved in balls  
which can help raising trees



ALKA GADGIL

As monsoon sets in, we head to the wild for seed bombing of native fruits like mango, jambul and jackfruit, said Makarand Vaingankar, an owner of a medical store, and Yashvant Bhosale, a treasury officer from Sindhudurg district in Maharashtra. In dry areas, the shape of the seed ball gives enough shade to conserve moisture. Eventually, the seeds begin to germinate, and the ball breaks apart. The small pile of crumbs leads to a rooting system. The plants then mature and produce their own seeds and provide shelter once the second-generation seeds fall to the ground, they said.

Both Vaingankar and Bhosale have been members of Kanak Riders Kankavli, a cycling group, for seven years now. The group has been involved in raising awareness about environmental conservation among students and youth through cycling.

"We use social media to raise our voice against the destruction of biodiversity. We hold meetings with schoolchildren and college students from the Kankavli area about these issues. I am worried, what kind of world will we be leaving behind for children," added Bhosale.

On Sundays and holidays, the group plans to cover 100 km in a day on cycle. Many students, youth, and their parents join their venture. This has led to a renewed interest in cycling among the population.



While sharing significant moments they experienced while cycling, the group said: "Recently we visited Vravade dam in Kankavli, which is a reserved area. We waded through a thick green cover to reach the dam." The clouds have descended, and it was a beautiful moment."

Ever since the group decided to uncover the hidden places in the region, cycling has not only increased environmental awareness among the population but also their health. "A person who had asthma came for a ride with us. There was a steep ascent on our way. He cycled for some time, halted, and used his inhaler, and then he joined again. We were stressed, but he did not give up. Six months have passed since then. He does not use an inhaler anymore and rides for 100 km without any hassle," said Bhosale.

The group faces a lot of challenges while carrying out their campaign. When they plant trees in open spaces, people from the neighbourhood are often very unsupportive. People ask what we are doing in their precinct. Some have a very myopic view and think that trees are a menace because they get in the way. Even temple authorities object to seed bombing in their vicinity, said the group.

Reflecting on their future plans, the group shared how, despite challenges, they had come together to form an association and approach the administration to find solutions to the growing environmental concerns. Informing about their next campaign, the group said, Murdeshwar Temple is amidst a thick jungle, and there are water bodies around it. But people are defacing the flora and fauna by throwing litter. We will make the administration take note of it. We are also going to hold sessions in schools, colleges and offices across Sindhudurga district.

As a first step towards environmental sustainability, the group urges the masses to be more conscious of actions, as they put it. If you are travelling in the Monsoon, please take seed balls with you. The seeds shouldn't be discarded, as they can be used to make seed balls. Seeds of native varieties should be sown, not those of exotic species. If 10 seed balls are thrown, at least two will take root for sure.

*(The writer is a development worker from Maharashtra: Charkha Features)*

Under IBC, protecting  
minority shareholders



UTTAM GUPTA

The soul of IBC mechanism lies in timely detection of stress in a firm and selling it as a 'going concern'

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has proposed a framework to protect the interests of public equity shareholders in case of listed companies undergoing insolvency proceedings under the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). In 2016, the Modi Government enacted the IBC. This legislation overrides all other subsisting laws and gives a strong handle to the banks for resolving non-performing assets (NPAs) of lenders.

In 2017, it amended the Banking Regulation Act (BRA), giving RBI powers to force banks to act if they don't on their own. On February 12, 2018, the RBI issued a circular that provided a foundational basis for resolving NPAs. As per this circular, for accounts with aggregate exposure greater than Rs 2,000 crore, as soon as there was a default in the account with any lender, all lenders – singly or jointly – shall initiate steps to cure the default by preparing and implementing a resolution plan (RP). This needed to be done within 180 days from the date of default.

In case, the lenders fail to meet this deadline, they are required to refer the account to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) which would initiate proceedings under the IBC. The NCLT would get 180 days to complete the resolution process. A further 90 days is allowed in exceptional circumstances. Thus, the outer limit for consummating the process is 270 days.

The raison d'être of imposing this timeline and involving RBI to shepherd the exercise was to sell the NPA afflicted entity – as a going concern in an 'objective' and 'transparent' manner and maximise the realisation from sale.

Under the current process, existing shareholders get squeezed out as the CIRP results in huge equity dilution and even delisting—a situation arising consequent to the new acquirer's shareholding becoming 100 per cent pursuant to the CIRP process.

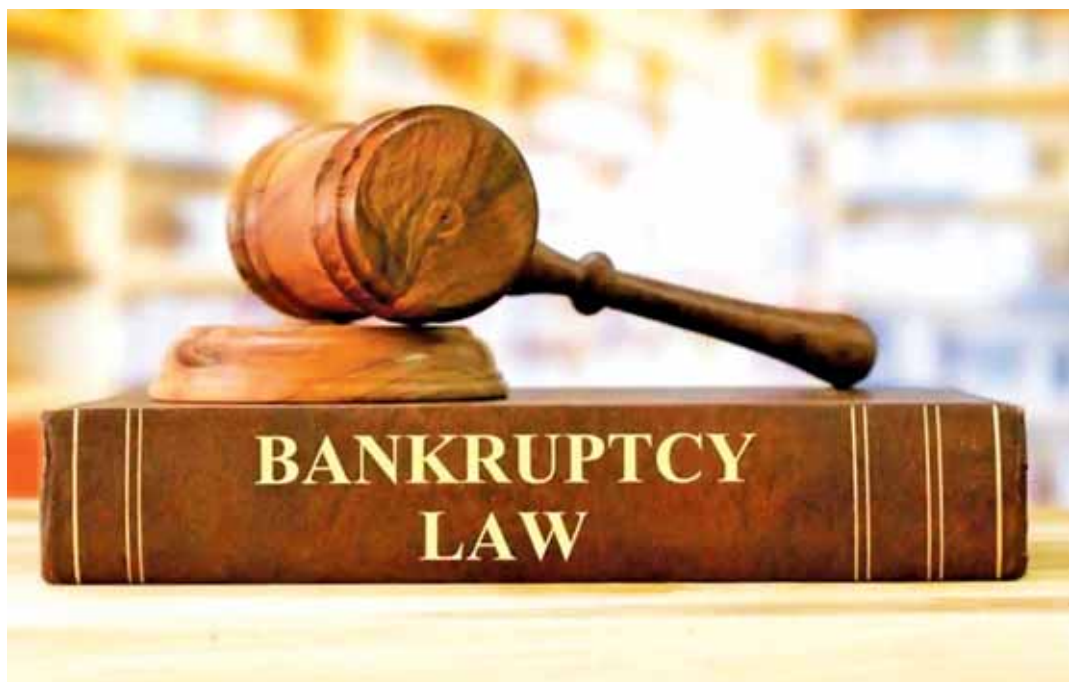
Under IBC, equity holders are considered owners of the insolvent company, and thus fall last in the resolution plan (RP) approved by the NCLT to receive any dues at the time of liquidation. They don't even get prior intimation and forget an opportunity to present their case to the committee of creditors (CoC), which steers the insolvency process even as the latter's rights are considered superior.

To address the concerns of public equity shareholders, Sebi has proposed they be given an opportunity to acquire a minimum of five per cent and up to 25 per cent in the new entity. The offer will depend on the shareholding the new acquirer gets as a result of the RP. If a new acquirer's shareholding becomes 100 per cent, the minimum offer required to be

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THE RECOVERY BY FINANCIAL CREDITORS WAS A RECORD LOW OF 13.4 PER CENT OF THE ADMITTED CLAIMS DURING OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2021. MOREOVER, IN 363 MAJOR CASES, BANKS TOOK A HAIR-CUT OF 80 PER CENT ON AN AVERAGE

(The author is a policy analyst)



made for existing public shareholders will be 25 per cent and the minimum acceptance five per cent.

In the event there is no interest even for five per cent of shares, the resultant entity will be allowed to delist. If the acquirer's shareholding in the resultant entity becomes 75 per cent pursuant to the CIRP process, there will not be any requirement to make an offer to public investors as their holding will already be at 25 per cent.

The offer to acquire shares of the resultant entity (albeit consequent to the CIRP process) will not be available to associate companies, family members of promoter group companies, trusts managed by promoters, key managerial personnel, and directors, etc., as that will defeat the very purpose of helping small shareholders.

The price offered to these shareholders should be the same as the one agreed upon by the resolution applicant/new acquirer. The Sebi proposal is logical. It could give a fair opportunity to minority shareholders of the firm under CIRP process to be a partner and benefit from appreciation in share value as and when it runs profitably under the acquirer. It would also be in sync with a minimum of 25 per cent public float that the market regulator expects from a listed company. But, the situation on ground zero is different.

Even in well-run and profitable companies, the regulator is unable to enforce the 25 per cent norm.

The central government too remains keen to circumvent this norm as may be seen from its asking Sebi to exempt the IDBI bank from the public float requirement. By contrast, NPA afflicted firms under CIRP face heavy odds. They are struggling to prevent erosion of their asset value. Of the total 5,636 CIRPs, 3,637 have been closed. Of the closed cases, 1,703 have ended in liquidation.

The recovery by financial creditors was a record low of 13.4 per cent of the admitted claims during October-December 2021. Moreover, in 363 major cases, banks took a hair-cut of 80 per cent on an average (for some such as Videocon, it was even higher at 95 per cent).

When there is so much erosion in asset value and over 50 per cent of cases ended up in liquidation, any talk of rewarding minority shareholders is meaningless.

Under directions of the Supreme Court (SC), the RBI was forced to issue a revised circular dated June 7, 2019 in supersession of its February 12, 2018 order. It gives banks 180 days to come up with RP (in addition to 30 days to enter into an inter-lender agreement or ILA). If they do not, they are required to make an additional provision of 20 per cent. If they don't finalize the plan within 365 days, an additional 15 per cent provision has to be made.

Unlike the February 12, 2018, which mandates the bank to refer the account to NCLT at the end of

180 days, under the revised circular, there is no such compulsion on it. See it from another angle. If RP is not implemented within one year from the default date, the bank has to make provision of 50 per cent - 15 per cent normal ageing provision and 35 per cent additional (20 plus 15). At the end of 15 months, with normal ageing provision increasing to 40 per cent, the total provisioning requirement including 35 per cent additional, will be a steep 75 per cent.

Having provided for 75 per cent of loan amount in the balance sheet, where is the incentive for the bank to recover the money by initiating proceedings under the IBC?

In short, by taking away powers from the RBI and giving too much leeway to the banks under the June 7, 2019 circular, the SC intervention has rendered the IBC process dysfunctional. This apart, most of the NCLT rulings are challenged in the High Court and the SC, leading to inordinate delays in conclusion of CIRP proceedings and resultant erosion of asset value.

The soul of IBC mechanism lies in timely detection of stress in a firm and selling it as a 'going concern' so as to realize maximum value. Sebi's idea of protecting minority shareholders (in fact, all other efforts of the government to protect all creditors – financial and operational – through a spate of amendments in the law) will work only when the soul is preserved.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

FRANKLY, I FAIL TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE COMMENT ON PRIME MINISTER MODI WAS EITHER RELEVANT, NECESSARY OR CONTEXTUAL.

— EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON ARINDAM BAGCHI




...SOME EXAMPLES: PRESIDENT MUGABE IN ZIMBABWE IN 2001; PM MODI IN INDIA IN 2014; THIS IS A CONSISTENT PRACTICE THAT WE HAVE AFFORDED TO HEADS OF STATE, GOVERNMENT, FOREIGN MINISTERS.

— US STATE DEPT BY SPOKESPERSON VEDANT PATEL



# No massacre, no famine, just change in trade routes

## Trade and climate had turned against Greenland Norse, so they most likely just moved back to Iceland, or even to Norway



GWYNNE DYER

If the 20th century AD were dated at the same resolution as the 20th century BC, the two World Wars would be indistinguishable in time; and the Montgomery Bus Strike might post-date the release of Mandela." So wrote the ECHOES (Exact Chronology of Early Societies) team of palaeohistorians at Groningen University in the northern Netherlands—and then they fixed the problem.

Their new method for dating events in the distant past immediately got my attention, because the first problem they solved was the exact date of the first European settlement in the New World. It was the Viking settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows at the very northernmost tip of Newfoundland,

and the year was 1021 AD.

I was always interested in the Norse, because I grew up in Newfoundland and that was already seen as the likeliest location of the region they called 'Vinland'. I read the sagas ('Erik the Red' and 'The Greenlanders'), which were rip-roaring tales of triumph and treachery but distinctly short on geographical and chronological detail.

Then in the 1960s Norwegian archaeologists discovered the remains of eight Norse longhouses on the L'Anse aux Meadows site. So the location was known, but still not the date. The explorers came from the new Norse settlements in Greenland, which had been founded in 985 AD, but nobody knew how much later they arrived

in Newfoundland.

So what the hell! Let's say it was the year 1000 AD. The Newfoundland Museum declared that the year 2000 was the millennium of the Viking settlement, the local tourist authorities went into high gear—and somebody at the Museum contacted me to write the script for the exhibition, because... well, because I was a journalist and a Newfoundlander.

I swallowed my doubts, named my price, and did the job. Not a bad job, actually, because I could play with the fact that the Norse in Newfoundland had both peaceful and violent contacts with the local indigenous people.

Those people, probably related to the extinct Beothuk of Newfoundland or the mod-

ern Innu of Labrador, were very distant descendants of the modern human beings who left Africa around 100,000 years ago, turned right, crossed all of Asia, and finally arrived in North America when the glaciers receded about 14,000 years ago.

The Norse, on the other hand, were the distant descendants of those who turned left when they left Africa, settled Europe—and eventually island-hopped across the Atlantic. After all those millennia the two streams of migration finally met up again in Newfoundland. So I called the exhibition 'Full Circle', and slid past the question of exactly when it happened.

But now we know. The ECHOES team figured it out by examining bits of wood

found on the L'Anse aux Meadows site that had clearly been cut with iron (European) axes. A huge solar flare in 993 AD left a spike in that year's tree rings, so just count rings out from there to the bark. The trees died in 1021.

The specific date of L'Anse aux Meadows doesn't really matter, of course, but the technique does. Cosmic-ray-induced surges in atmospheric radiocarbon concentrations are another new tool for figuring out the past, and that is now important work.

Two centuries ago our knowledge of the past barely reached back past classical Greece and Rome: say, 3,000 years. Now scientists are working hard to puzzle out past climate states ranging from hundreds to billions of years ago,

because understanding the patterns of the past may help us through whatever happens next. Every scrap of information may be valuable.

All very well, but why didn't the Norse settlement last? They abandoned their exploration of north-eastern North America because the 'cash crop' they were looking for in Vinland turned out to be much closer to home: ivory from the abundant walrus population that they could hunt in Disko Bay, only a thousand kilometres up Greenland's west coast.

They could feed themselves by farming and fishing, but it was the ivory that paid for all the things they needed to import from Europe (timber, iron and bronze, stained glass, etc.). Up to 5,000 peo-

ple lived in the Greenland settlements for more than four centuries, apparently quite happy to ignore 'Vinland'—and then they disappeared.

Where they went or how they died has been promoted as a great mystery, but the real reason is probably that the bottom dropped out of the European market for ivory in the early 15th century as abundant new supplies became available from Africa and Russia's new Arctic settlements.

The climate had also turned against the Greenland Norse (the 'Little Ice Age'), so they most likely just upped stakes and moved back to Iceland, or even to Norway. No massacre, no famine, just a change in the trade routes. It's not always dramatic.



# Spectre of terror eradicated by us: Modi

## All parties go all out to woo voters for Dec 1 election



### ‘Congress objected to surgical strike’

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday attacked the Congress and the AAP — BJP’s main rivals in the Gujarat elections — for being “soft on terror for votes” as he addressed back to back rallies and held a road show in the diamond city of Surat.

“Gujarat and the country need to be vigilant from Congress and like-minded parties, which keep mum on big terror attacks for their vote-bank politics.

Gujarat had for a long time been a target of terrorism. People of Gujarat were killed in explosions in Surat and Ahmedabad. Congress was at Centre then, we asked them to target terrorism but they targeted me instead. Terrorism was at peak in the country,” he said.

As the curtains will come down on campaigning on Monday for first phase of polls on December 1, all the stakeholders have gone all out to woo voters

Drawing attention of people to alleged Congress criticism of ‘surgical strike’ across border by his government, Modi asked voters to make a clear choice against terror.

“Your one vote in 2014 has created a lot of difference in killing terrorism in country. Let alone cities of country, terrorists have to think a lot even before attacking our borders. But Congress questions our surgical strike,” he said. On Sunday, the Prime Minister addressed three rallies at Kheda, Netrang and Surat.

Prime Minister and senior BJP leader Narendra Modi waves at supporters at a public meeting ahead of the Gujarat Assembly elections, in Kheda district on Sunday

PTI Photo

Modi’s schedule includes addressing 14 rallies between November 27 and December 2, according to party sources. He will spend the night at the Surat circuit house and hold four more rallies on November 28, at Palitana, Anjar, Jamnagar and Rajkot, before returning to Delhi.

Modi first addressed a public meeting at Mota Varachha in Surat after a 25-km road-show from the airport to the rally venue. Voting will be held in Surat in the first phase of the Gujarat Assembly elections on December 1 when 89 assembly constituencies are to go to polls.

Raising high the poll decibel and targeting the Congress, the Prime Minister at a public rally at Kheda said, “The Congress government at Centre was soft on terror.”

Modi also mentioned Batla house encounter which was questioned by the top Congress leadership.

“During the Batla House encounter, Congress leaders cried in support of terrorists. Even terrorism is vote bank for Congress. It’s not just congress now, several such parties have risen, who believe in politics of shortcut and appeasement”, Modi said in an indirect reference to AAP too.

“Some parties using appeasement politics as shortcut to power”, he further said attacking AAP which in Gujarat election fray for second time with 181 candidates. Citing increasing incidents of terrorism in Gujarat when the Congress was at centre, Modi said the then government “targeted me” instead of the “terrorism”. “We caught terrorists in Gujarat but then Congress government in Delhi was saving terrorists for vote bank politics”, the Prime Minister continued in his rally accusing Congress of pursuing the alleged politics of appeasement.

Appealing to vote again for BJP in state, he cautioned people of rival parties’ “vote bank politics”. “The specter of terrorism will remain till time vote bank politics is eradicated”, he said. All through his public meetings, he accused Congress and the AAP (without naming it) of “indulging in vote bank politics”.

“The situation arose as the BJP did not work for the state. No enquiry was conducted in the Morbi incident where 135 people died”, Gehlot, who is Congress’ incharge for Gujarat elections, said. Gujarat voting for Congress would force the BJP to introspect, he claimed.

“What is the need for PM Modi to visit Gujarat repeatedly when his name is enough? It is because the BJP is scared now. I have heard that there are nearly 30-35 rebels inside the BJP. Such is the extent of anger inside the party,” Gehlot said. For his part, addressing a public rally at Dediapada in tribal-

## Kharge calls Modi ‘jhoothon ka sardar’

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

The Congress on Sunday questioned the need for Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s frequent visits to campaign in Gujarat and said it was because the BJP government did not work and the party was scared of its rebels. It also attacked the BJP for lack of employment in the State.

Addressing a rally in Vadodara, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said the PM had campaigned on every street in the State despite the BJP controlling it for nearly 30 years.

“The situation arose as the BJP did not work for the state. No enquiry was conducted in the Morbi incident where 135 people died”, Gehlot, who is Congress’ incharge for Gujarat elections, said. Gujarat voting for Congress would force the BJP to introspect, he claimed.

“What is the need for PM Modi to visit Gujarat repeatedly when his name is enough? It is because the BJP is scared now. I have heard that there are nearly 30-35 rebels inside the BJP. Such is the extent of anger inside the party,” Gehlot said. For his part, addressing a public rally at Dediapada in tribal-

dominated Narmada district, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge called Modi a “jhoothon ka sardar” (chieftain of liars).

He said Modi tries to gain sympathy by calling himself poor and claiming that people abuse him. But, Kharge said, he himself comes from the “poorest of the poor and untouchable caste”. “Modiji and (Union Home Minister Amit) Shah ask what Congress did in 70 years? Had we not done anything in 70 years, you would not have got democracy.

And people like you who always claim to be poor. I am also poor. I am from the poorest of the poor. I come from the untouchable caste. At least people drink your tea. People do not even drink my tea,” he said.

“And then you say, I am poor, someone abused me, said something to me, asked what my status is. If you are trying to gain sympathy by saying such things, then (understand) people are now intelligent. They are not that foolish,” he said.

Asserting that people will listen if you lie once or twice, Kharge asked the PM, “How many times have you told a lie?” He alleged Modi had indulged in telling ‘lie after lie’ and was accusing the Congress of looting the country while



himself standing with the rich.

“How many times have you told a lie? Lie after lie. He is a chieftain of liars. And on top of it he says, these Congress people looted the country. You are also looting the land of the poor, not giving land to the Adivasis. Who is destroying land, water and forest? You and the rich

people with whom you stand, they are looting us,” he alleged.

Gujarat assembly polls is the real litmus test for Kharge as he got less time to address the Himachal Pradesh assembly elections campaign which finished on November 12 just within 15 days of his taking over.

Kharge has devised a strategy to take on the BJP which has been in power for over two decades, in the home state of the Prime Minister. He will address several rallies and public meetings in his four consecutive days

of stay there.

So far, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi has addressed only a single rally as part of campaign in the State since he has been leading the Bharat Jodo Yatra which has now almost completed the halfway mark of the 3500 Km total padyatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. Rahul did not campaign at all in Himachal Pradesh where the show was led by his sibling and party’s general secretary Priyanka Gandhi.

## AAP likely to form Govt in Guj, claims Kejriwal

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday made an assertion in writing that his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will form the government in Gujarat as he held fort in Surat where a dozen Assembly seats are at stake.

“I am going to make a prediction in writing in front of you all. Note down the prediction that the AAP is going to form the government in Gujarat. After 27 years of misgovernance, the citizens of Gujarat will get relief from these people (BJP),” Kejriwal, AAP’s national convener, told media persons in a press conference.

He then wrote his prediction on a piece of paper and showed it to media persons and said his predictions for the Delhi and Punjab Assembly elections came true, and the same will happen for Gujarat as well. He claimed people are so scared of the ruling BJP that they shy away from openly admitting support for the AAP

in the Gujarat Assembly elections, scheduled in two phases on December 1 and 5. Urging government employees in the State to back the AAP, Kejriwal also promised the implementation of the old pension scheme for them by January 31 next year.

The Gujarat government had implemented the new contributory pension scheme (NPS) for employees joining the service on or after April 1, 2005.

After protests by employees, the State government had said the new pension will not be applicable to those employees who had joined duty before April 2005. It also promised to increase its contribution in the fund to 14 per cent from the 10 per cent earlier.

The employees have staged massive agitations against the government in Gujarat while demanding restoration of the OPS because they believe the NPS is not in the interest of retiring employees.

According to the notification, it will make a matching

contribution of 10 per cent of the basic pay plus dearness allowance contributed by the employees in the NPS fund.

Under the Centre’s scheme, the government will contribute 14 per cent against an employee’s contribution of 10 per cent of his/her salary and DA with effect from April 1, 2019.

Kejriwal said, “By January 31, we will issue a notification for implementing the old pension scheme in Gujarat. I am not just talking.

In Punjab, we have issued the notification.” Other contractual employees, policemen, state transport workers, village computer entrepreneurs, anganwadi workers, teachers, health workers, talatis, sanitation workers have different issues related to grade pay, permanent job, increase of wages and transfer posting, he noted. “It is the first time in 27 years that the BJP is so agitated. You go out on a street and ask people whom they would vote for. They would either say the AAP or the BJP.

Those who say they would

vote for the BJP reveal after five minutes that they and their entire mohalla were going to vote for broom (AAP’s poll symbol),” Kejriwal said.

The AAP leader said looking at people’s reaction it

appeared everyone was deserting the BJP to vote for the AAP.

“We have contested elections in many states, but Gujarat is the first state where people are scared of declaring whom they would vote for.

The common man is scared. Second, the Congress voters are nowhere to be found, and third, the BJP supporters are going to vote for the AAP in large numbers,” he further claimed.



Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party National Convener Arvind Kejriwal addresses a press conference, in Surat, Sunday

PTI Photo

## Party would take tough decisions if Gehlot-Pilot fight worsens: Congress

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

The Congress on Sunday indicated that if the crisis involving Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and former Deputy CM Sachin Pilot worsened then the party would not ‘shy away from taking tough decisions’.

The statement from party’s chief spokesperson Jairam Ramesh is significant as the newly elected president Mallikarjun Kharge is scheduled to meet his predecessor Sonia Gandhi this week to discuss the Gehlot-Pilot tug of war. “The organisation is most

important for us. On the issue of Rajasthan, we will decide on a solution which will strengthen our organisation. For this, if we have to take tough decisions, we will take. If a compromise has to be made (between the factions of Gehlot and Pilot), then it will be done,” he said.

Ramesh also said the Congress leadership is considering a proper solution to the Rajasthan issue. “But, I cannot fix any time frame for this solution. Only the Congress leadership will decide the time frame for it,” he said. In a dilemma over how to diffuse the renewed crisis in Rajasthan,

Kharge has sought time from Sonia Gandhi to resolve prevailing tension. While party said that meeting is to discuss strategy for Winter Session of Parliament and also modalities of Plenary session to be convened, sources said Gehlot-Pilot tussle is top on agenda.

Ramesh said Gehlot and Pilot both are equally important for the party, but decisions to resolve crisis in Rajasthan will be taken to strengthen party — not looking at individual. “Some unexpected words have been spoken by chief minister. I was also surprised. But I am reiterating myself that both are equally

important for party,” Ramesh said. The comment comes in the context of Gehlot calling his bete noire Pilot ‘gaddar’ (traitor) which escalated their tussle. Rahul Gandhi’s Bharat Jodo Yatra is scheduled to enter Rajasthan in December.

Ahead of yatra, the state unit remains strife-torn with Gurjar community leader Vijay Singh Bainsla threatening to disrupt yatra if Sachin Pilot is not made chief minister.

On demands of making Pilot chief minister, Gehlot said he cannot be replaced by a ‘gaddar’ like Pilot and accused him of plotting to topple the government in 2020.

## India, Australia hold Army exercise today

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

In an effort to further strengthen the defence ties between the two countries, India and Australia will for the first time participate in a joint army exercise.

It starts on Monday in Rajasthan and will last for 11 days. Named ‘Austra Hind 22’, this exercise will be conducted alternatively every year in Australia and India.

The bilateral training exercise between the contingents of the Indian Army and the Australian Army is scheduled to take place at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges (Rajasthan) from 28 November to 11 December 2022. This is the first exercise in



the series of AUSTRA HIND with participation of all arms and services contingent from both armies, the defence ministry said here on Sunday.

The Australian Army contingent comprising soldiers from the 13th Brigade of the 2nd Division has arrived at the exercise location.

The Indian Army is represented by troops from the

Dogra Regiment, it said.

The aim of the exercise is to build positive military relations, imbibe each other’s best practices and promote the ability to operate together while undertaking multi-domain operations in semi-desert terrain under a UN peace enforcement mandate, the ministry said.

This joint exercise will enable the two armies to share best practices in tactics, techniques and procedures for conducting tactical operations at company and platoon level for neutralising hostile threats.

“Training on new generation equipment and specialist weapons including snipers, surveillance and communication equipment to achieve a high

degree of situational awareness apart from casualty management, casualty evacuation and planning logistics at battalion/company level are also planned, it said.

During the exercise, participants will engage in a variety of tasks ranging from joint planning, joint tactical drills, sharing basics of special arms skills and raiding a hostile target.

The joint exercise, besides promoting understanding and interoperability between the two armies, will further help in strengthening ties between India and Australia, the ministry said.

Defence and strategic ties between the two countries have increased in the last few years.

## 1 in 8 elderly experienced depression during Covid pandemic: Study

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

One in eight older persons in Canada experienced their first episode of depression during the epidemic, says a study. The statistics were significantly worse for people who had previously struggled with depression. Nearly half (45 per cent) of this population reported having depression by the fall of 2020.

The analysis of responses from the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging, which gathered information from participants for an average of seven years, was published in the International



Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. “The high rate of first-onset depression in 2020 highlights the substantial mental health toll that the pandemic caused in a formerly mentally healthy

group of older adults,” says first author, Andie MacNeil, a recent Master of Social Work graduate from the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work (FIFSW) and the Institute for Life Course and Aging,

University of Toronto. Although it is well known that depression among older adults increased during the pandemic, few studies have examined the proportion of people who developed the disorder for the first time or the proportion of people with a history of the condition who had a relapse.

“The devastation of the pandemic which upended so many aspects of daily life hit those with a history of depression particularly hard,” said co-author Sapriya Birk, a researcher formerly based in the Department of Neuroscience, Carleton University, Ottawa who is cur-

rently a medical student at McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada, adding, “Health professionals need to be vigilant in screening their patients who had mental health problems at an earlier time in their life.

“The researchers determined that a number of factors, such as low income and savings, loneliness, chronic pain, difficulty accessing healthcare, a history of traumatic childhood experiences, and family conflict, were linked to depression in older adults during the pandemic. Prior to the pandemic, older adults who felt their income was insufficient to

meet their basic needs and those with fewer savings were more likely to experience depression during the pandemic. “These findings highlight the disproportionate mental health burden borne by individuals with low socioeconomic status during the pandemic.

Many of these socioeconomic risk factors may have been exacerbated by the economic precarity of the pandemic, particularly for individuals with fewer resources,” says co-author Margaret de Groh, scientific manager at the Public Health Agency of Canada.

## CBI files case against Delhi couple for possessing leopard skins

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The CBI has registered a case against Delhi resident Sikha Pahuja and her husband Anurag Pahuja for illegally possessing two leopard skins.

The recoveries were made during searches at her residential premises in Saomi Nagar here in connection with a separate case registered on May 20 against Sikha, her husband and their company Sikha Developers Ltd on a complaint from the Specialised Assets Recovery branch of Small Industries Development Bank

of India (SIDBI).

After recovery of the two animal skins believed to be of leopard, Sikha was telephonically contacted by the CBI but she could not provide any justification for the possession of the wildlife product which is a punishable offence under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Following the failure of Sikha to provide a justification for the possession of the wildlife product, the recovered skins were taken into possession by observing due procedure, reads the FIR.



# State’s responsibility to check anti-national forces: Nadda

**PTI ■ AHMEDABAD/VADODARA**

BJP president JP Nadda on Sunday said like "antibodies keep a check on bad cells", it is the government's responsibility to maintain vigil on anti-national forces, as he battled for an anti-radicalisation cell announced by his party in its Gujarat assembly polls manifesto.

Releasing the BJP manifesto for the polls, Nadda on Saturday had announced setting up the cell to identify and eliminate potential threats and sleeper cells of terrorist organisations and anti-India forces.

In an interview with PTI, he said it is the State's responsibility to keep a check on forces working against the country and society.

"Like antibodies in the human body, keep a check on bad cells. It is the State's responsibility to keep a check on anti-national cells in the

country. Then there are some cells that work underground so this anti-radicalisation cell is required to keep a check on such cells," said the chief of the BJP, which has been in power in Gujarat for nearly 25 years.

On the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), which the BJP has promised in several assembly polls, including the recently held Himachal Pradesh elections and now for Gujarat, Nadda said it is a 'national issue' for the party and it is committed to it.

"The country's resources and its responsibilities are equal for all. Therefore, the UCC is a welcome step. We would like to implement the UCC in as many states as possible," he said.

Asked about the BJP not fielding a Muslim candidate in Gujarat, Nadda said his party believes in 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' (with all and development for all).

"Late Dr. (APJ) Abdul

Kalam became the President (of India) with the BJP's support, then the (Narendra) Modi government at the Centre appointed Muslim governors as well. So, we follow the principle of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas', and tickets for elections are given purely based on winnability," he said.

On the BJP announcing several "freebies" in its manifesto for the Gujarat polls like its rivals did, Nadda said one should "distinguish between empowerment and allure-ment".

"Both the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress know they are not coming to power in Gujarat. Therefore, they can announce freebies without accounting for the funds and budget needed for them," the BJP chief said.

"While our programmes are welfare measures for empowering the poor and the needy. It is not like freebies, which are free for all, they are



specifically meant for a segment of the population," he said.

He said that the BJP's welfare programmes are for the "empowerment" of the poor and the needy. This has resulted in them contributing to the economy, Nadda asserted.

Nadda, who has been holding election rallies and roadshows across Gujarat, is confident of a massive victory for the BJP in the state assembly polls. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi resides in the

hearts of the people of Gujarat and they will again repose their faith in the BJP and the party will win another term," he asserted.

The BJP is eyeing to win Gujarat for a record seventh time.

Besides the Congress, the party has a new challenger in the form of the Aam Aadmi Party. The state will see two-phase assembly polls on December 1 and 5, while votes will be counted on December 8.

## Gujarat polls: Cricketer brother, his sister bat for different parties in battle of Jadejas

**PTI ■ JAMNAGAR**

Hours before cricketer Ravindra Jadeja travelled through the city's market in an open SUV as part of a BJP roadshow, his sister Naynaba Jadeja sought votes for the Congress, reminding voters of price rise under the ruling party and its "unfulfilled" employment promises.

While the famous cricketer campaigned for his wife Rivaba Jadeja, his elder sister canvassed for Bipendrasinh Jadeja, highlighting the 'sibling rivalry' that has added another layer of interest in the poll after the BJP dropped its sitting MLA Dharmendrasinh Jadeja, locally better known as Hakubha.

Herself a contender for the

Congress ticket from the Jamnagar North seat, Naynaba has emerged as a key campaigner for her party after the BJP chose her famous brother's wife as its candidate.

She is often the focus of media queries while the Congress candidate, a seasoned organisation man and businessman, plays a supporting role.

"I have my ideology and have been with a party I admire," she says, slamming the BJP over the issue of price rise and claiming that it only makes promises to people but never fulfils them, be it on employment or education.

An overwhelmingly urban constituency, Jamnagar North may be seen as more favourable to the BJP than the Congress

even though the opposition party's supporters believe their party can spring a surprise.

Naynaba argues that since the constituency voted for the first time in 2012 after being carved out following delimitation, it is essentially a Congress seat as it won for the first time while the BJP grabbed it in 2017 after the incumbent MLA crossed over to the saffron camp. Even the winning BJP candidate was a Congressman who won on his appeal, and our party will score this time, she claims.

Congress leaders also hope to benefit from any faultlines within the BJP caused by its denial of the ticket to the sitting MLA. The AAP has fielded Karsan Karmur, who had quit the BJP to join it last year.

## LG Sinha unveils ‘J&K Cyber Security Policy’ at 25th National Conference on e-Governance

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU**

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Sunday unveiled the 'J&K Cyber Security policy' during the valedictory function of 25th National Conference on e-Governance at Mata Vaishno Devi University.

A MoU between IT Department J&K and DITECH Haryana was also signed on the occasion.

The agreement between the J&K Government and Haryana Government is expected to strengthen and deepen the collaboration on knowledge sharing, IT initiatives & best practices in e-Governance, said the Lt Governor.

In his address, Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana, recalled his deep connection with Jammu Kashmir.

I am witnessing a new, 'badalta' Jammu Kashmir. We are looking forward to the new J&K-Haryana collaboration and are committed to support the J & K Government in meeting the goals, he said.

The Haryana Chief Minister also highlighted the IT interventions and several digital initiatives of his government to bring transparency in the system and streamlining the public service delivery system.

In response, the Lt Governor said that the 25th National e-Governance



Conference in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will prove to be a milestone in the direction of fulfilling our resolve of Digital Society.

Under the guidance of PM Narendra Modi, J&K UT is an emerging model of digital government with focus on transparent governance and citizen-centric approach to delivering public services, he said.

Observing that technology is making a real difference in people's lives, the Lt Governor said in 2013, the total number of e-transaction was merely 20 Lakh. This year, till 25th November, the number of e-transaction is 38.50 Crore. On an average J&K is recording 550 e-transactions every minute.

The Lt Governor underscored that despite being a late entrant in digital transformation, J&K has achieved several milestones with solid technical architecture at the service of citizens. Speedy development is the new identity of

J&K, he said.

The Lt Governor further observed that the launch of Digital J&K Vision Document and launch of J&K Cyber Security Policy will promote a common approach to use the power of innovation and secure the IT assets in the rapidly changing technology landscape.

Speaking on the digital transformational journey of Jammu and Kashmir, the Lt Governor shared the vision of the J&K government to expand e-Governance to the next level. "We have prepared a roadmap and action plan for the next one, three & five years. More than 500 services will be made online in the next 3 years for a better digital delivery ecosystem", said the Lt Governor.

Our strategy is to enable the people to access high-quality services anywhere, anytime, on any device. All services in mobile for mobile workforce, the Lt Governor said.

## Nitish inaugurates Gangajal Aapurti Yojana at Rajgir, Gaya & Bodh Gaya

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PATNA**

The popular tourist destinations of Rajgir, Gaya, and Bodh Gaya, known collectively as the 'Buddhist circuits,' received a 'valuable gift' from Chief Minister of Bihar, Nitish Kumar, on Sunday. The CM inaugurated the first phase of India's first-of-its-kind innovative drinking water project, the Gangajal Aapurti Yojana.

The project, initiated under the Jal Jeevan Hariyali mission, is the "dream project" of the Chief Minister. It is also Bihar's first, and largest drinking water programme.

The project will store, treat, and supply the floodwaters of the River Ganga the state receives during the monsoon months.

The initiative has two objectives. First, it conserves floodwater, preventing wastage, and second, it transforms this precious resource into safe, drinkable water.

This floodwater will be lifted through pumps at Hathidah and transported through a 151-kilometre pipeline to three enormous reservoirs in Rajgir, Tetaar, and Gaya. These reservoirs stand out as they have been constructed based on the terrain and using natural materials.

Water from the reservoirs will travel to two Water Treatment Plants (WTP),



### SALIENT POINTS ABOUT GANGAJAL AAPURTI YOJANA

- The Gangajal Aapurti Yojana is India's first-of-its-kind floodwater to drinking water project

- It is Bihar CM Nitish Kumar's dream project

- It is the largest drinking water project in the State

- It serves dual purpose of saving floodwater & transforming it into safe drinking water

where it is treated and transported to the "enlightenment" cities.

These three South Bihar cities of Rajgir, Gaya, and Bodh Gaya have been experiencing water shortages due to excessive groundwater extraction via borewells.

Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited (MEIL) has executed the entire first phase of the project. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the MEIL finished the project within three years.

With the supply of potable, safe, clean drinking water, the water challenges in these cities will be minimised to a large extent.

With the successful completion of the first phase, drinking water requirements of significant locations, such as Nalanda University, IT Park, Cricket Stadium, Film City, Police training camp, Nature Safari, and Zoo Saffari, will be fulfilled. In addition, the Ganga Jal will be accessible to well-known temples.

## KCR to lay foundation stone for airport express Metro on Dec 9

**PTI ■ HYDERABAD**

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao would be laying the foundation for the Airport Express Metro on December 6, Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development KT Rama Rao said in a tweet on Sunday.

He said the project, starting at Mindspace junction to Shamshabad ( Hyderabad International Airport) Airport,

would be 31-km long and cost approximately Rs 6,250 crore.

"Hyderabad is forging ahead. Happy to announce that CM KCR will be laying the foundation for Airport Express Metro on December 9.

This project starting at Mindspace junction to Shamshabad Airport will be 31 KM long & will be costing approximately Rs 6,250 cr," he tweeted.

The airport express Metro is a Telangana government-



funded project and would be completed in three years, he said in another tweet.

We have submitted DPR & been in discussions with the Central government for an additional 31-km city Metro expansion; BHEL to Lakdikapul -26 KM & Nagole to LB Nagar - 5 km," he said.

The State government has already formed a special purpose vehicle- Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited (HAML) which would be

responsible for development, construction, operations and management of the airport Metro link.

The GMR group, operating the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) here, had earlier said the group would invest about 10 per cent of the total cost of the metro rail link project being proposed by the Telangana government for connectivity to the aerodrome from various parts of the city.

## Tomar gives away agriculture awards

**PUNE:** Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare felicitated Clover Organic for its excellence and valuable contribution in the field of agriculture under DOWBT at a function held in Pune. Vanlalremratpuia, CEO, Tuichangral FPC, Khawzawl District, Mizoram, was awarded the Best FPC by the Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar, at a grand ceremony.

The company was motivated to work as a team, guided

and supported by all the above agencies to fulfill an order of 18 MT of chemical free pineapple placed by a buyer from Haryana.

Clover Organic CEO Sanjay Agarwal said that the company is registering its presence in 5 states, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh with 55 farmer producer companies and more than 40,000 registered farmers. Clover Organic, a pioneer in the field

of organic farming and aquaculture product manufacturing, is also gaining recognition in Andhra Pradesh.

For helping more than 50 FPCs to adopt organic farming of crops, achieving the target of selling 18 MT of Organic Pineapple and 350 MT of Organic Ginger in the State of Mizoram and for Outstanding Contribution in the Agriculture Sector Clover Organic Pvt. Ltd. has been awarded by the Agriculture Minister.

### FROM PAGE 1

### PROTESTS AGAINST COVID LOCKDOWNS INTENSIFY IN CHINA

Hale said the protests are extremely significant as the politics of COVID policies reflected wider political frustrations including the slowing down of the economy.

Elsewhere protesters held blank white banners, while others lit candles and laid flowers for the victims in Urumqi, where 10 people were killed in a fire at a building reportedly under Covid lockdown on Thursday. Observers say that the latest political protests appeared to be in continuation of 'banner protest' in Beijing last month ahead of the CPC's once-in-a-five-year Congress which elected 69-year-old Xi for an unprecedented 3rd five-year term. The anti-lockdown protests appear to be posing a major challenge for Xi, just over a month into his third term in power. Political protests opposing the CPC and its leadership are very rare in China while the country witness sporadic agitations over various issues. As such criticism of the party and leadership could result in harsh penalties.

Videos posted on social media showed police arresting several protesters in Shanghai amid protests against their detention from the angry crowd. Also, students' protests broke out in the prestigious Tsinghua University in Beijing as well as Communication University in Nanjing.

Photos and videos posted online showed students holding vigils for the Urumqi fire victims and launching protests at universities in Beijing and Nanjing. Students said hundreds of people took part in one such demonstration in Tsinghua University where they held up blank sheets of paper - an act which has become a symbol of defiance against Chinese censorship.

One protester in Shanghai told the BBC that he felt "shocked and a bit excited" to see people out on the streets, calling it the first time he'd seen such large-scale dissent in China.

He said lockdowns made him feel "sad, angry and hopeless",

and had left him unable to see his unwell mother, who was undergoing cancer treatment.

A female demonstrator said that police officers when asked how they felt about the protests, and the answer was "the same as you". But, she said, "they wear their uniforms so they're doing their job". Shanghai, a city of over 25 million, endured weeks of COVID lockdowns in April sparking protests.

With protests over lockdowns of dozens of apartment buildings intensifying, the government stepped back on Saturday from enforcing lockdowns in Urumqi, the provincial capital of Xinjiang.

During the weekend, Urumqi witnessed a huge demonstration in which many Han Chinese nationals took part along with Uygur Muslims.

Urumqi authorities on Saturday said the city would lift coronavirus restrictions "in phases" after footage surfaced online showing rare protests against a three-month lockdown, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Sunday.

In Beijing, people from several compounds, under lockdowns for days, also staged protests, leading to officials withdrawing the curbs. Meanwhile, the National Health Commission on Sunday said 39,501 coronavirus cases, including 35,858 asymptomatic cases, were reported in the country by the end of Saturday as mass COVID tests were carried out across China to identify new clusters of infection. It is for the fourth consecutive day that China reported an increase in cases, the highest since it recorded a sharp spike in cases in top cities like Shanghai in April.

Beijing has been a sharp escalation of cases, which on Sunday climbed to over 4,700, amid growing protests and unease in the city over lockdowns of dozens of apartment buildings. As of Sunday, the city has 9,694 cumulative confirmed cases.

At a meeting on Saturday, Beijing Communist Party secretary Yin Li urged lower-level officials to impose more resolute and decisive measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus, including transferring people who test positive and their close

contacts to quarantine facilities.

Yin also inspected a makeshift hospital under construction in the Tongzhou district and urged officials to speed up construction, the Post report said.

Fear of Covid-19 has eased as people have learned from acquaintances that the symptoms are manageable. Instead, residents seem more worried about being infected in an isolation facility or staying with strangers in a large and messy makeshift center. "I would rather stay at home and have a fever for a few days than stay in the hospital. It makes me sick just to think of the toilets," a Beijing office worker was quoted as saying by the Post.

### G20 PRESIDENCY OPPORTUNITY TO FOCUS ON GLOBAL GOOD: PM

The Prime Minister asked his listeners to join efforts in a way similar to Hariprasad to contribute to G-20.

"I urge all of you, especially my young friends on one more thing. Like Hariprasad Garu, you too must join the G-20 in one way or the other. The Indian logo of G-20 can be made, can be printed, in a very cool way, in a stylish way, on clothes. I would also urge schools, colleges and universities to create opportunities for discussions, debates and competitions related to G-20 in their respective places. If you go to the G20.in website, you will find many things there according to your interest", said the Prime Minister. Drawing attention to country's space programme, he said on November 18, the whole country witnessed 'new history being made in the space sector'.

"On this day, India sent its first such rocket into space, which was designed and prepared by the private sector of India. The name of this rocket is - 'Vikram-S'. As soon as this first rocket of the indigenous Space Start-up made a historic flight from

Sriharikota, the heart of every Indian swelled with pride," he said.

Modi said 'Vikram-S' Rocket is equipped with many features. "It is also lighter than other rockets, and also cheaper. Its development cost is much less than the cost incurred by other countries involved in space missions. In space technology, world class standard at a low cost, has now become the hallmark of India. Another modern technology has been used in making this rocket. You will be surprised to know that some crucial parts of this rocket have been made through 3D Printing."

The Prime Minister pointed out to the radio listeners that the name 'Prarambh' given to the launch mission of 'Vikram-S', suits it perfectly and marks "the dawn of a new era for the private space sector in India".

"This is the beginning of a new era full of self-confidence for the country. You can imagine the children who once made paper airplanes and used to fly them with their hands are now getting a chance to make airplanes in India itself," said Modi.

The Prime Minister further said India is sharing its success in the space sector with its neighbouring countries as well.

"Just yesterday, India launched a satellite, which has been jointly developed by India and Bhutan. This satellite will send pictures of very good resolution which will help Bhutan in the management of its natural resources. The launching of this satellite is a reflection of the strong Indo-Bhutan relations," he said.

### ALL TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS TO MEGHALAYA LIFTED BY ASSAM

The two States had signed MoU in March this year towards ending the dispute in six of the areas. Meghalaya was carved out of Assam in 1972 and had since then challenged the Assam Reorganisation Act, 1971, which demarcated the border between the two States.



# Russian shelling continue across Ukraine as wintry warfare looms

AP ■ KHERSON

Shelling by Russian forces struck several areas in eastern and southern Ukraine overnight as utility crews continued a scramble to restore power, water and heating following widespread strikes in recent weeks, officials said Sunday.

With persistent snowfall blanketing the capital, Kyiv, Sunday, analysts predicted that wintry weather — bringing with it frozen terrain and gruelling fighting conditions — could have an increasing impact on the direction of the conflict that has raged since Russian forces invaded Ukraine more than nine months ago.

But for the moment, both sides were bogged down by heavy rain and muddy battlefield conditions in some areas, experts said.

After a blistering barrage of Russian artillery strikes on at least two occasions over the past two weeks, infrastructure teams in Ukraine were fanning out in around-the-clock deployments to restore key basic services as many Ukrainians dealt with only a few hours of electricity per day — if any.

Ukrenergo, the state power



A woman stands among debris of the destroyed house after recent Russian air strike in Chasiv Yar, Ukraine on Sunday. Shelling by Russian forces struck several areas in eastern and southern Ukraine overnight as utility crews continued a scramble to restore power, water and heating following widespread strikes in recent weeks, officials said on Sunday. AP | PTI

grid operator, said Sunday that electricity producers are now supplying about 80% of demand. That's an improvement from Saturday's 75%, the company says.

The Institute for the Study of War, a think tank that has been closely monitoring devel-

opments in Ukraine, said reporting from both sides indicated that heavy rain and mud have had an impact — but wider freezing expected along the front lines in coming days could play a role.

"It is unclear if either side is actively planning or prepar-

ing to resume major offensive or counter-offensive operations at that time, but the meteorological factors that have been hindering such operations will begin lifting," it said in a note published Saturday.

ISW said Russian forces

were digging in further east of the city of Kherson, from which they were expelled by Ukrainian forces more than two weeks ago, and continued "routine artillery fire" across the Dnipro River.

In the eastern Donetsk region, five people were killed in shelling over the past day, according to governor Pavlo Kyrylenko. Overnight shelling was reported by regional leaders in the Zaporizhzhia and Dnipropetrovsk areas to the west.

Kharkiv governor Oleh Syniehubov said one person was killed and three wounded in the northeastern region.

A day earlier, a long column of cars, vans and trucks caravanned away from the recently liberated city of Kherson after intense shelling in recent days and amid concerns more pummelling from the Russian forces nearby could loom again in coming days.

"The day before yesterday, artillery hit our house. Four flats burned down. Windows shattered," said city resident Vitaliy Nadochiy, driving out with a terrier on his lap and a Ukrainian flag dangling from a sun visor.

# Nepali Cong emerges single largest party with 53 seats

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

The ruling Nepali Congress led by Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba on Sunday maintained its lead as the single largest party by winning 53 seats in the parliamentary polls held to end the prolonged political instability that has plagued the Himalayan nation.

Elections to the House of Representatives (HoR) and seven provincial assemblies were held on November 20. The counting of votes started on Monday.

The Nepali Congress has won 53 seats and the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist–Leninist) (CPN-UML) secured 42 seats in the elections. The CPN-Maoist has emerged as the third largest party with 17 seats while the CPN-Unified Socialist has bagged 10 seats.

The newly-formed Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) and pro-Hindu Rastriya Prajatantra Party have won 7 seats each. Independent and other smaller parties have emerged victorious on 21 seats. Out of the total 165 seats under direct voting, the results on 8 seats are still awaited.

The ruling five-party alliance has won 85 seats, against 55 seats won by the alliance led by CPN-UML. The ruling alliance includes the



Nepali Congress led by Prime Minister Deuba, CPN-Maoist led by Pushpakamal Dahal Prachanda, CPN-Unified Socialist headed by Madhav Nepal, Mahantha Thakur's Lokatantrik Samajwadi Party and Rashtriya Janamorchha led by Chitra Bahadur.

Under the proportionate voting method, the CPN-UML got the first position, securing more than 2.5 million votes and the Nepali Congress received 2.3 million votes. The CPN-Maoist and RSP have secured one million each. In the 275-member House of Representatives, 165 will be elected through direct voting, while the remaining 110 will be elected through a proportional electoral system. A party or a coalition needs 138 seats for a clear majority.

Besides Prime Minister and Nepali Congress president Deuba, three former prime ministers Prachanda, Oli and Madhav Nepal have also been elected to parliament.

Deuba and Prachanda met at the Prime Minister's residence in Baluwater on Saturday and agreed to continue their ruling five-party alliance as part of a new majority government in the country.

Former prime minister and senior leader of CPN-Unified Socialist Jhulanath Khanal has lost the election. CPN-UML's Mahesh Basnet defeated Khanal, who contested from Ilam constituency No 1. Ex-prime ministers Lokendra Bahadur Chand, a senior leader of the pro-Hindu Rastriya Prajatantra Party, and Baburam Bhattarai did not contest the election.

# China grants free fuel to Lanka's farmers, fishers

PTI ■ COLOMBO

China said on Sunday that it has donated 10.6 million litres of diesel to Sri Lankan farmers and fishermen to facilitate their work in the most affected sectors of agriculture and fishery.

The vessel carrying the fuel donation was received by Sri Lanka's Minister of fisheries Douglas Devananda here on Sunday.

"The 10.6 million litres of diesel donated by China will be provided free of cost to 2,52,749 farmers for harvesting 3,42,266 hectares of paddy fields, 20 litres per hectare," the Chinese Embassy in Colombo tweeted.

Also 3,796 fishing vessels below 40 feet would receive 1,000 liters per vessel, the embassy added.



"Thankful to the government of China for the donation of 9,000 MT of diesel fuel towards strengthening food security in Sri Lanka," Minister of Power and Energy Kanchana Wijesekara said in a statement.

Both farming and fishing sectors have been complaining of fuel scarcities affecting them badly after the government started rationing fuel issues since the beginning of August. Rationing brought an end

to the miles long fuel queues experienced in the island from May to July. However, the business sectors were raising objections claiming that the allocations were inadequate.

From the time the Sri Lankan economy crashed at the beginning of this year, the fuel and essential supplies were ensured by dedicated Indian credit lines.

The Indian assistance in the forex crisis which caused the economic impasse was worth USD 4 billion.

Sri Lanka, a country of 22 million people, plunged into financial and political turmoil earlier this year as it faced a shortage of foreign currencies. Due to this, the country has been unable to afford key imports, including fuel, fertiliser and medicine, leading to serpentine queues.

AP ■ LOBPURI

A meal fit for monkeys was served on Sunday at the annual Monkey Feast Festival in central Thailand.

Amid the morning traffic, rows of monkey statues holding trays were lined up outside the compound of the Ancient Three Pagodas, while volunteers prepared food across the road for real monkeys — the symbol of the province around 150 kilometers (93 miles) north of Bangkok.

Throng of macaque monkeys ran around, at times fighting with each other, while the crowds of visitors and locals grew.

As the carefully prepared feast was brought toward the temple, the ravenous creatures began to pounce and were soon devouring the largely

vegetarian spread.

While the entertainment value of the festival is high, organisers are quick to point out that it is not just monkey business.

"This monkey feast festival is a successful event that helps promote Lopburi's tourism among international tourists every year," said Yongyuth Kitwatanusont, the festival's founder.

"Previously, there were around 300 monkeys in Lopburi before increasing to nearly 4,000 nowadays. But Lopburi is known as a monkey city, which means monkeys and people can live in harmony."

Such harmony could be seen in the lack of shyness exhibited by the monkeys, which climbed on to visitors, vehicles and lampposts. At

times the curious animals looked beyond the abundant feast and took an interest in other items.

"There was a monkey on my back as I was trying to take a selfie. He grabbed the sunglasses right off my face and ran off on to the top of a lamppost and was trying to eat them for a while," said Ayisha Bhatt, an English teacher from California working in Thailand.

The delighted onlookers were largely undeterred by the risk of petty theft, although some were content to exercise caution.

"We have to take care with them, better leave them to it. Not too near is better," said Carlos Rodway, a tourist from Cadiz, Spain, having previously been unceremoniously treated as a climbing frame by one audacious monkey.

# Veteran politicians lose as youngsters win big in Nepal polls

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Several senior political leaders, including ministers and 60 incumbent MPs, have been defeated while many youngsters have registered victories in Nepal's parliamentary polls.

As the results of the parliamentary elections under direct voting come closer to an end, Nepal's top political parties have intensified efforts for the formation of a new government.

Elections to the House of Representatives (HoR) and seven provincial assemblies were held on November. The counting of votes started on Monday.

Two senior leaders of Madhes-based parties who lost the election are president of the Janata Samanwadi Party Upendra Yadav and Rajendra Mahato, the senior leader of the Loktantrik Samajwadi Party, the sixth largest political party in Nepal.

Senior leaders of the second largest political party, the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist–Leninist) (CPN-UML), who lost the election include senior vice president of the party Ishwor Pokharel, vice president Surendra Pandey, general secretary Shankar Pokharel and deputy general secretary Pradip Gyawali.

Other top leaders who were defeated are general secretary of CPN-Maoist Centre

Dev Gurung, deputy general secretary and energy minister Pampha Bhushal, and deputy general secretary Girirajmani Pokharel.

Home Minister and Nepali Congress leader Balkrishna Khand and Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister of the incumbent government Jeevan Ram Shrestha also lost the election.

Former prime minister and senior leader of CPN-Unified Socialist Jhulanath Khanal and former foreign affairs minister and senior leader of the Nepali Congress Sujata Koirala also lost the election.

Many young people and new faces have also been elected to the House of Representatives.

The Rastriya Swatantra Party which was formed just six months ago by former TV journalist Ravi Lamichhane succeeded in grabbing seven parliamentary seats under direct election and secured more than one million votes under proportionate method.

The ruling five-party alliance has won 85 seats, against 55 seats won by the alliance led by CPN-UML.

In the 275-member House of Representatives, 165 will be elected through direct voting, while the remaining 110 will be elected through a proportional electoral system. A party or a coalition needs 138 seats for a clear majority.

# Iran leader praises force tasked with quashing protests

AP ■ BAGHDAD

Iran's supreme leader praised paramilitary volunteers tasked with quashing dissent on Saturday in a televised address as dozens of eye doctors warned that a rising number of demonstrators have been blinded by security forces during anti-government protests.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei addressed members of the Basij, the volunteer paramilitary wing of the elite Revolutionary Guard, and reiterated unsupported claims that protesters' demonstrating countrywide are "tools" of the

U.S. And its "mercenaries." "(The) Basij should not forget that the main clash is with global hegemony," Khamenei said, referring to the U.S. The address marking Basij week in Iran echoed previous statements lambasting protests as a foreign plot to destabilize Iran.

Extolling the military and social virtues of the Basij over the decades, Khamenei said the forces "sacrificed themselves in order to save people from a bunch of rioters and mercenaries," referring to the recent country-wide unrest. "They sacrificed themselves in order to confront oppression."

# Mexican asylum seekers set their sights north on Canada

AP ■ MONTREAL

Pedro Meraz says living in Colima, Mexico, was like living in a war zone, with shootings, burning cars and dismembered bodies being left outside of schools.

When his wife Rocio Gonzalez, a 28-year-old lawyer who worked with abused women, began receiving death threats from a cartel and the local authorities ignored her pleas for assistance, they knew they had to leave.

"They knew where we lived and what car we drove," said Meraz, 41, who taught at The University of Colima, near the Pacific Coast and about 300 miles (485 kilometers) west of Mexico City.

"Feeling that you are going to lose your life, or one of your daughters, I don't mind start-

ing from scratch."

The family is part of a surge in the number of Mexicans who have requested asylum in Canada this year. Due to the relative ease of obtaining asylum in Canada compared to the US, visa-free travel between Mexico and Canada, and the threat of violence back home, more than 8,000 Mexican nationals have sought refugee status in 2022. That's almost five times as many as last year and more than twice as many as in 2019, the last year before the Covid-19 pandemic and the travel restrictions that accompanied it.

The vast majority of them are flying in to Montreal, which has many direct flights to and from Mexico.

Among them is Viviana Tapia Gonzalez, a human rights activist and mother of four



from Aguascalientes, about 265 miles (425 kilometers) northwest of Mexico City, who said she left Mexico in January after being attacked by the military. She said her work with the families of missing and murdered women and girls made her a target.

"Death threats were constant," she said. "I thought it was the last option I had to be safe. I work for many causes

and help many people. I did not want to stop helping, but I must also protect (and) take care of myself."

Tapia Gonzalez has been living in a Montreal women's shelter while awaiting a decision on her asylum claim, which she fears might get rejected.

If her claim is turned down, she wouldn't be alone.

In the first nine months of 2022, the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, an independent tribunal that investigates and decides asylum cases, finalized more than 2,700 claims by Mexican asylum seekers. Of those, 1,032 were accepted, 1,256 were rejected; and the remaining 400-plus were either abandoned, withdrawn, or had other outcomes, said Christian Tessier, an IRB spokesperson.

# Reviving a memory: Designer re-creates Diana's dress

AP ■ LONDON

This is a dress with a story, and Elizabeth Emanuel wants to tell it.

Shocking pink with a plunging, ruffled neckline and body-hugging shape, the gown was designed by Emanuel for Lady Diana Spencer to wear at a Buckingham Palace party a few days before her marriage to Prince Charles in 1981.

It was a visual coming-out event for the future princess, until then largely known for her conservative sweater-and-pearls look.

"This was definitely not a wallflower dress," said Emanuel, who also co-designed Diana's wedding gown.

"This was a dress to be seen in and celebrated." It was also soon forgotten. In an era

before smartphones put a camera in everyone's pocket and social media made private events public, the dress was mostly seen by the party guests, including Queen Elizabeth II, Princess Grace and Nancy Reagan, but no one else.

Emanuel doesn't know where it is, or even if it still exists.

So she has re-created it, out of bolts of shiny, satin taffeta cut and stitched to match the dramatic sketches she made more than 40 years ago.

Acting on an idea that took shape during Britain's long coronavirus lockdowns, she did it for herself, for her archive.

But also because she wanted to show another side of Diana, who Emanuel believes has been misrepresented by



"The Crown," the popular Netflix series that has brought the story of the princess and her ill-fated marriage to a new generation.

A fan of the series' first three seasons, Emanuel said she found it hard to watch the last

two because of the way Diana was depicted.

Creating a bespoke dress is a long process, requiring multiple fittings that give client and dressmaker lots of time to talk.

And throughout the hours

they spent together, Diana came across as a happy, vibrant young woman, not the shrinking girl "The Crown" portrays as being buffeted by events beyond her control, Emanuel said.

"She wasn't like that," Emanuel said.

"She was always very upbeat. And, you know, I like to feel that we were close enough that if she was having huge issues that we might have been aware of it at the time, because those fittings are fairly intimate."

One of the things the series does right is retrace Diana's style journey, from the cardigans and bows she wore when she first stepped into the public eye, to frothy ballgowns with frills and flounces and finally to her becoming a glob-

al fashion icon in Versace, Dior and Chanel.

Diana grew up in the country, looking to her older sisters for fashion cues.

This was a world of hunting, shooting and fishing, where Barbour coats and Wellington boots were everyday wear.

It was a culture where no matter how much you cared about your appearance, you had to seem like you weren't trying too hard.

Diana brought that style sense with her when she moved to London after leaving school and soon became the archetype of the Sloane Ranger, the media name for the wealthy young people who lived near London's Sloane Square and cultivated the look of bohemian aristocrats.



# IND VS NZ: RAIN PLAYS SPOILSPORT AGAIN



PTI ■ HAMILTON

The elegant Shubman Gill and the marauding Suryakumar Yadav briefly entertained a sizeable Sunday crowd before inclement weather yet again played spoilsport and forced abandonment of the second ODI between India and New Zealand, here Sunday.

India were 89 for 1 in 12.5 overs when a second stoppage sealed the fate of the game as there was no possibility of having a minimum 20-over per side match within the stipulated cut-

off time. The match was reduced to 29-overs-a-side as the first interruption caused a four-hour break. India were 22 for no loss in the fifth over at that time.

After resumption, the visitors lost skipper Shikhar Dhawan (3 off 10 balls) trying to up the ante. Gill (45 not out, 42 balls) and Suryakumar (34 not out, 25 balls) added 66 effortless runs under eight overs before heavens opened up once again. Gill had four boundaries and a pulled six off Matt Henry while Suryakumar hit three different sixes — slog sweep over

mid-wicket, reverse sweep behind square and a pull-shot to carry his T20 form into the longer format. The short six-game white ball series against New Zealand has been one of the most rain-interrupted series of recent times. The first T20 in Wellington was also abandoned without a ball being bowled.

Even the third T20 match in Napier was a rain-marred. The final match of the series will be held in Christchurch on November 30.

International teams usually tour the New Zealand between

December and March and poor scheduling where the vagaries of weather wasn't factored in, has spoilt the limited overs series.

The ongoing series is being held during receding monsoon and there won't be any take-aways from the series where no player got enough opportunity to get into the groove. There isn't a big sample size of performance to evaluate but Surya certainly has been a shining star and Gill with his phenomenal talent is making a serious case for himself for a permanent place in the ODI playing eleven.

## Cricket an outdoor sport, should be played under sun as much as possible: NZ coach

PTI ■ HAMILTON

Retractable roof stadiums could be an option but there's no substitute to playing cricket under the sun as it makes the sport a spectacle, feels New Zealand coach Gary Stead.

Four matches in the recently-concluded T20 World Cup in

## There is still room for pure batsmanship in T20 cricket: Stead

PTI ■ HAMILTON

Unperturbed by criticism of their conservative approach to batting in the T20 World Cup recently, New Zealand coach Gary Stead on Sunday said there's "still room for pure batsmanship" in the slam-bang format.

The Black Caps failed to win a global ICC white-ball tournament once again when they lost to Pakistan by seven wickets in the semi-finals in Australia earlier this month after their batters failed to fire and managed a modest 152/4.

"I know there's a lot of chat around a number of players around the world in the T20 game but, in my opinion, many of the wickets we play on, it's not just about the game of crash bash the whole time," the 50-year-old told reporters.

"We have a couple of players with Devon (Conway) and Kane (Williamson) who probably put in that crafty kind of batsmanship as opposed to those crash-bash style from ball one. There is still a place for those players in my opinion."

"The World Cup in Australia actually showed a number of times that the batsmanship side of it comes into it."

England, who became the only team to hold both the ODI and T20 World Cups titles in the same cycle, have been successful with the template of playing fearless and aggressive cricket from ball one.

"You have to look at the resources within your group and then you got to look at what the gameplan is. Some teams are going down the method of boundary-hitting the whole time."

"But we showed in a couple of games that there's a different way of playing as well. The team selected are the best XV or XI that we had," the former Kiwi Test batter said, defending their strategy.

"For us, that's still the way we are playing the game. That may change again we have to keep



reviewing our style of play and making sure that we keep up with play."

Stead further said they had a par score against Pakistan in the semis, but it's their bowlers who let them down.

"It's more than just batting in T20 cricket, it's also your bowlers. Pakistan bowled exceedingly well at us, but we had a score that was potentially defendable. We just didn't start best with the ball in the game," he said.

**SURYA, A HUGE FORCE**

The Kiwi coach hailed India's latest white-ball sensation Suryakumar Yadav who sizzled with his powerful performances during the T20 showpiece.

"He makes it look terribly easy at times and extremely hard to bowl to because he can access both sides of the ground, he starts from ball one and puts you under enormous pressure."

"He's very innovative as well, his shots are a little bit different. He can look up to the field and have 2-3 options, it makes him very hard to defend against."

"He's a huge force in world cricket at the moment. He's probably one of the most sought-after wickets i would imagine in world cricket," he added.

## Irritating to see matches being affected by rain: Gill

PTI ■ HAMILTON

Rain-affected matches are an irritant for both players and the paying public, and hence, having closed roof cricket stadiums won't be a bad option, feels young India opener Shubman Gill.

In a six-match white-ball series in New Zealand, two matches (1st T20I in Wellington and Sunday's ODI) were abandoned and one game (Napier T20I) was decided on Duckworth-Lewis method.

Gill, who scored 50 in the first game and was looking in good touch during his unbeaten 45 here, said that it does get frustrating at times.

"This is a decision (playing in indoor stadiums) to be taken by the boards. As a player and as fans, it is irritating to go in and out and see so many matches being affected by rain. But I don't know how I can take a stand for it as it is a big decision. "Obviously closed (retractable) roof (stadiums) would be good," the youngster told mediapersons.

The issue with rain-affected games is planning of the innings as 50 overs was curtailed to 29 overs on the day after a four-hour delay.



"It was very frustrating. You don't know how many overs so you can't plan your innings," Gill, who had hit a purple patch in 50-over cricket, said.

Gill is a strong contender for a place in the squad of 15 for next year's ODI World Cup but he said that he isn't looking that far ahead.

"I am not looking that far ahead and my aim is to make most of the opportunities that I am getting. That's what I am trying to do and make most of the opportunities that I get, trying to score big runs for the team," he stated.



## Australia thrash India 7-4 in 2nd hockey Test

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

India could play well only in patches as Blake Govers slammed a brilliant hat-trick to guide Australia to a dominating 7-4 win in the high-scoring second hockey Test here on Sunday. Skipper Harmanpreet Singh struck even before the home team could settle, firing India to a third-minute lead with his precise and powerful penalty corner conversion.

India looked threatening up front and Harmanpreet almost converted a second one but the home team began to call the shots soon with Govers and Jack Welch leading the goal spree.

The Men in Blue dished out an inspiring show in the third quarter and trailed by just one goal at 3-4, but were blown away in the final 15 minutes due to a sloppy defense.

India endured its 12th straight loss to the world num-

ber one side and now need to win the next two games to keep the five-match series alive.

The third Test of the World Cup build-up series will be played on Wednesday.

Having scored the winning goals in their close 5-4 victory in the first Test, Govers was once again in the thick of action.

He scored his goals in the 12th (PC), 27th and 53rd (penalty) minutes, while Welch secured his brace with his strikes in the 17th and 24th minutes.

Jake Whetton (49th) and Jacob Anderson (48th) were the other goal scorers for the Kookaburras led by Eddie Ockenden, who became the only seventh player in history to make at least 400 International appearances. Hardik Singh (25th) and Mohammed Raheel (PC 36th) struck the other two goals for India, while Harmanpreet completed his brace in the final minute (60th) of the match from a penalty.

## England arrive for 1st Test series in Pakistan since 2005

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

England's cricket team arrived in Islamabad early Sunday to play its first Test series in Pakistan since 2005.

Led by Ben Stokes, England will kick off the tour in Rawalpindi -- an adjacent city to Islamabad -- which hosts the first Test from next Thursday. The second Test will be played at Multan from December 9-13 before England round off the tour with the final Test at Karachi from December 17-21.

England had played a seven-match T20 series in Pakistan prior to the T20 World Cup in

Australia where it went on to beat Pakistan in the final.

England was due to tour Pakistan last year before the T20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates but abandoned the tour due to security concerns after New Zealand had aborted its tour to Pakistan just minutes before the toss in the first ODI at Rawalpindi.

There were some concerns over England's Test tour to Pakistan after former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan was wounded in Wazirabad, a district in eastern Punjab province, during his protest against the sitting government.

Pakistan had hosted England twice in a Test series at UAE over the last 17 years with foreign teams reluctant to travel to Pakistan after the Sri Lanka cricket team was attacked in Lahore in 2009.

The three-Test series will be part of World Test Championship where Pakistan is sitting in fifth place while England is seventh. Pakistan needs to win the three-Test series to keep its hopes alive for next year's final.

Pakistan will be without its key fast bowler Shaheen Afridi, who has been ruled out of the series due to knee injury.

## Akash, Mayur script Electronic Media win

**LUCKNOW:** Akash Mahajan slammed a fiery ton and skipper Mayur Shukla grabbed five wickets to tharsh Hindustan Times by 61 runs in the opening match of Subhash Mishra Memorial Inter-Media Cricket tournament at KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium on Sunday.

Batting first Electronic Media posted a massive total of 182 runs for the loss of four wickets in the allotted 20 overs. Akash scored 116 runs while Abhishek Mishra made the contribuion of 33 runs. In reply, Hindustan Times bundled out for 121 runs in 19.1 overs. Abhinav Shukla and Anshul scored 42 and 28 runs



ACS Navneet Sehgal being introduced to the players

respectively. Mayur took five wickets on the expense on 16 runs. Earlier, ACS Navneet Sehgal inaugurated the event.

## PT Usha set to get elected as IOA chief unopposed

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The legendary PT Usha is set to become the first woman president of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as she emerged as the lone candidate for the top post for the December 10 elections. The 58-year-old Usha, a multiple Asian Games gold medalists and a fourth-place finisher in the 1984 Olympics 400m hurdles final, filed her nomination papers for the top job on Sunday, along with 14 others from her team for the various posts.

The deadline to file nomination papers for the IOA elections ended on Sunday. IOA elections returning officer Umesh Sinha did not receive any nominations

on Friday and Saturday but 24 candidates filed nominations for various posts on Sunday. There will be contests for one post of vice president (female), joint secretary (female). There were 12 candidates in the fray for four executive council members.

The IOA polls will be held to elect one president, one senior vice-president, two vice-presidents (one male and one female), one treasurer, two joint secretaries (one male and one female), six other Executive Council members, out of which two (one male and one female) shall be from the elected SOMs.

Two members of the Executive Council (one male and one female) will be the Athletes' Commission representatives.

## India ends campaign with 11 medals

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reigning Asian champion Ravina displayed splendid tenacity to punch her way to gold in the 63kg category final as India ended the Youth Men's and Women's World Boxing Championships with 11 medals in La Nucia, Spain.

Ravina was up against Megan deCler of Netherlands in her final bout. In spite of not getting off to the best of starts, the Indian pugilist utilised her technical ability and quick movement to mount an impressive comeback against her Dutch opponent.

The fiercely contested bout finished in favour of the 2022 Asian Youth gold medalist Indian who won 4-3 by split decision after the bout was reviewed.

In the other final, Kirti (81+ kg)



lost 0-5 to 2022 European youth champion Cliona Elizabeth D'Arcy of Ireland to settle for a silver.

India was a dominant force at the event as the 25-member team bagged 11 medals — four gold, three silver and four bronze.

Overall, 17 Indians had qualified for the quarterfinals of the tournament which was more than any other country in this edition.

India won the highest number of medals — eight — in the women's section, followed by Kazakhstan (5) and Uzbekistan (4).

In the men's category, youth Asian champions Vanshaj (63.5kg), Vishwanath Suresh (48kg) grabbed a gold each while Ashish (54kg) took a silver.

This year's championships witnessed participation of close to 600 boxers from 73 countries.

## UAE to host Afghanistan's home games for next 5 years

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The UAE will host Afghanistan's home games for the next five years, as per an agreement signed between the two cricket boards. The move was prompted by the political situation in Afghanistan which has not hosted international teams.

As part of the agreement, Test-playing nation Afghanistan will play UAE in a three-match T20I series in each of the five years. "We are happy to support the ACB in ensuring that they have a home for their cricket," general secretary of the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) Mubashir Usmani said in a statement.

"We are also thankful to the Afghanistan Cricket Board for

agreeing to play a series of T20I matches against UAE team each year. "This will provide our UAE team with invaluable exposure and help in their development," he added.

Until now, the Afghanistan team has been playing and conducting its training sessions on a series-by-series basis. The ECB would also provide logistic support to the ACB.

As per the ICC's Future Tours Programme (FTP), Afghanistan are set to host Australia, Pakistan and West Indies in three ODIs each, as well as Zimbabwe across formats, next year leading into the 2023 ODI World Cup. The matches will be played across venues in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah.



