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5G launch historic, turning point in telecom sec: PM

Technology should be used to bring about a revolution in country: Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Minister for Communications and Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw, Aditya Birla Group chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla, Reliance Industries Ltd chairman Mukesh Ambani, and Bharti Enterprises chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal during the launch of 5G services in India at the 6th India Mobile Congress, at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on Saturday PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched the 5G telephony services in the country at the Indian Mobile Congress here and said this technology should be used to bring about a revolution in the country and should not be limited to just voice calls or watching videos.

The PM highlighted the use of drone technology as a case in point, saying after the newly launched drone policy many farmers have learnt how to fly drones and started making use of them to spray insecticides and pesticides in the fields.

"This is not just India's decade. It is the century of India. India is among those nations where data is so affordable. Earlier, 1 GB data used to cost ₹300, now it only costs ₹10. Today an Indian, on an average, spends 14 GB data in a month. In 2014 this cost ₹4,200 per month, now it is costing somewhere between ₹125 and ₹150.

"This means that poor and middle-income people

are saving approximately ₹4,000 every month, it is not a small feat," said the PM in the presence of the heads of India's three telecom operators Mukesh Ambani of Reliance Jio, Sunil Mittal of Airtel and Kumar Mangalam Birla of Vodafone-Idea.

Reliance, Airtel and Vodafone Idea demonstrated one use case each in front of the PM and Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to show the potential of the 5G technology in India but all the three tycoons of the Indian telecom sector later did not answer queries related to the tariff packages to be charged

for the 5G services. The cumulative economic impact of 5G on India is estimated to reach \$450 billion by 2035.

Modi said, "The summit today might be global but its repercussions and directions are local. Today is a special day for the fast-developing India of the 21st century.

"Today, 130 crore Indians are getting a wonderful gift in the form of 5G from the country and from the telecom industry of the country. 5G is a knock on the doors of a new era in the country.

"The 5G is the beginning of an infinite sky of opportunities. I congratulate every

Indian for this."

He said, "New India will not remain a mere consumer of technology, but India will play an active role in the development and implementation of that technology. India will play a big role in designing the future wireless technology, and manufacturing related to it."

He pointed out that India was dependent on other countries for 2G, 3G and 4G technologies, but with 5G, India has created a new history.

"With 5G, India is setting a global standard in telecom technology for the first time," he remarked.

No PUC? No fuel at Delhi filling stations

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



In a bid to curb vehicular pollution in the national Capital region, the Aam Aadmi Party-led Delhi Government has decided to ban the sale of petrol and diesel at refueling stations to those without PUC (pollution under control) certificate.

From October 25, vehicle owners will not be provided fuel at the petrol pumps in Delhi without showing a valid pollution under control certificate. According to the Delhi Transport Department, over 17 lakh vehicles, including 13 lakh two-wheelers and three lakh cars, were plying without valid PUC certificates till July 2022.

Addressing a press conference, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Saturday said petrol and diesel would not be provided without PUC certificates at the petrol pumps in the national Capital from October 25. The Government will issue a notification soon.

The Delhi Environment

Minister said that the decision was taken at a meeting of officials from environment, transport and traffic departments on September 29 during which modalities and implementation of the plan were discussed.

"Vehicular emission is one of the key contributors to rising pollution in Delhi. It is imperative to reduce it," Rai said, adding the modalities of the plan will become clear in a week's time.

Under Section 190(2) of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1933, vehicle owners not having a valid PUC can be fined up to ₹10,000, or imprisoned for up to six months or both.

Kharge quits as Congress leader; Digvijaya, PC front runners

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A day after he filed his nomination to contest the Congress presidential election, Mallikarjun Kharge, on Saturday, tendered his resignation as the Leader of Opposition Party (LOP) in the Rajya Sabha abiding by the "one man, one post" principle in line with the party's Udaipur Chintan Shivir declaration.

He now has only one challenger in his party colleague and MP Shashi Tharoor as the third candidate in the fray KN Tripathi's candidature was rejected. With this development, AICC sources said senior leaders P Chidambaram and Digvijaya Singh are learnt to be the front-runners to take on the mantle of LOP in the Rajya Sabha.

"I hereby tender my resignation from the post of Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha, consequent upon my filing of nomination for the post of president, All India Congress Committee," Kharge said in his

Gehlot in Raj command

NEW DELHI: Days after expressing regret to party president Sonia Gandhi for a revolt in his State to prevent his rival Sachin Pilot from taking over as his successor, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Saturday indicated at his continuance at the helm as he asked the public to "send their suggestions for the Budget to him."

His remarks came on a day the process of filing of nominations for the post of Congress president came to an end. Gehlot was the first choice of the party high command.

letter to Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi. Former Jharkhand Minister KN Tripathi's nomination form was rejected by the Congress's election authority for "not meeting the norms" and "signatures-related issues".

22 killed as tractor falls into Kanpur pond

PTI ■ KANPUR

At least 22 people were killed and several critically injured when a tractor-trolley overturned and fell into a pond near Bhadeuna village in Kanpur district on Saturday evening.

The tractor-trolley, carrying about 50 people, was on its way to Ghatampur after the passengers attended a "mundan" ceremony at the Chandrika Devi temple in Fatehpur, the official said. He

added that more than a dozen people were killed on the spot. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the incident.

Continued on Page 2

India abstains from UN vote against Russia over Ukraine

PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/UNITED NATIONS

India has abstained from voting in the United Nations on a resolution against Russia for annexation of four territories in Ukraine and said it did so "keeping in view the totality of the evolving situation."

The resolution failed to get adopted as Russia, a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), vetoed it. The US and Albania had moved the resolution. It was supported by 10 of the 15 members of the UNSC. China, India, Brazil and Gabon abstained.

This development took place late on Friday hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin inked a treaty to annex Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia.

The move to oppose this action was initiated in the UNSC condemning Moscow's "illegal referenda".

CAPSULE

11-YEAR-OLD SODOMISED BY MINORS SUCCUMBS
New Delhi: Nearly two weeks after being sexually assaulted by three minors in Northeast Delhi, an 11-year-old boy succumbed to the injuries on Saturday.

CPM LEADER KODIYERI BALAKRISHNAN DIES
Chennai: Senior CPI(M) leader and former Kerala Home Minister Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, 69, died at Apollo Hospital in Chennai on Saturday night.

₹1,476 CR DRUG SEIZED
Mumbai: DRI Mumbai recovered 198 kg high purity crystal methamphetamine (ice) and 9 kg high purity cocaine worth ₹1,476 crores after a truck carrying imported oranges was intercepted in Vashi.

Indore cleanest city, MP tops States' list

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indore was adjudged India's cleanest city for the sixth time in a row while Surat and Navli Mumbai followed it on the next two spots in the Central Government's annual cleanliness survey 2022 awards, the results of which were announced on Saturday.

Among the States, Madhya Pradesh secured the first position, followed by Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra. The New Delhi Municipal Council area was ranked first in the "country's cleanest small city" category, having a population between



1 lakh and 3 lakh. The NCR city of Noida has been ranked at 11th in the latest report compared to its 9th position in the 2021 survey report. President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday gave away the awards to the winners at an event here also attended by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and others.

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U'khand ranked third in SS22 category

Haridwar ranked the cleanest Ganga town in India

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand has secured a place among the top three among States with less than 100 urban local bodies in the Swachh Survekshan 2022 by being adjudged third. President Droupadi Murmu presented a citation to the State's Urban Development minister Prem Chand Agrawal on Saturday while the State was also felicitated for five of its local bodies - Haridwar, Landaur cantonment, Doiwala Narendranagar and Ramnagar being selected in Swachh Bharat Mission.

Agrawal informed that four cities were evaluated on the basis of ODF, garbage-free city star rating, documentation done during the year, assessment of sanitation experts and citizens feedback. Further, out of the nearly 62 local bodies along the Ganga in the nation,



the Municipal Corporation of Haridwar topped the list whereas Varanasi had topped the list in the previous survey. The minister further said that five local bodies of the State finding a place in the tough competition is a major achievement. He also congratulated chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, the selected local bodies and people of Uttarakhand for the achievement.

Expressing happiness at the development, the CM said that this award at the national level will be helpful in further spreading the message of cleanliness in the public. Along with the national level awards received by the State in tourism, filmmaking and health the latest recognition will also work as a motivation, he opined.

U'khand honoured in Delhi on Voluntary Blood Donation day

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Union Health minister Mansukh Mandawia honoured Uttarakhand on Saturday for getting second position in the country in the number of units of blood collected from the voluntary blood donors during the Raktdan Amrit Mahotsav campaign. The campaign started on September 17, the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on ended on September 1.

The secretary in charge, medical health and medical education, R Rajesh Kumar received the award on behalf of Uttarakhand State in a ceremony organised at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi on the occasion of the World Blood donation day on Saturday. The directors of the state blood transfusion council, Dr Saroj Naithani and

in charge of the blood cell, National Health Mission (NHM), Dr Sujata Singh were also present on the occasion.

A total of 8,672 units of

health miter of Uttarakhand Dhan Singh Rawat said that the award is a big achievement for the health services of the State. He said the State has performed exceptionally de-



blood were collected during the campaign while 24,987 registered themselves on the portal for donation of blood. Expressing happiness, the

spite adverse geographical conditions and lauded the role of the officers and employees of the state health department for the unique achievement.

BJP registers resounding win in Haridwar Panchayat polls

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

The counting of votes for Haridwar three-tier Panchayat elections was completed on the third day of counting late on Friday night. The Bharatiya Janata Party has won the maximum number of 14 seats out of the total 44 District Panchayat seats while the Bahujan Samaj Party and Congress have secured eight seats each. The Aam Aadmi Party and Rashtriya Lokjan Party, which entered the Panchayat elections here for the first time, have opened an account by winning one seat each while the remaining seats were won by independent candidates. In Haridwar district, polling was held on September 26 for 4,305 seats of ward member, Gram Pradhan, block Panchayat member and district Panchayat member in six blocks in the three-tier Panchayat election. An 85.20 per cent voter turnout was recorded for the election of 8,751 candidates.

Certificates were given to the candidates who won the election from District Panchayat Office Haridwar. There was tight security in the office. The winning candidates took out a procession with their supporters and set off fireworks.

After the results of the Haridwar district Panchayat elections were finalised, at least 13 victorious candidates have joined the BJP. Former Union minister and Haridwar MP Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank said that BJP is going to form its District Panchayat board for the first time in Haridwar. At the same time, the party's state president Mahendra Bhatt described the victory in the Panchayat elections as historic. The BJP is set to make Pramukhs in all six blocks while the bulk of elected Gram Pradhans are also from the party.

Tehri youth stranded in Saudi Arabia for four months

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A youth from Tehri district who had gone to earn money for his family is reported to be stranded in Saudi Arabia and unable to return home due to alleged harassment by the owner of the hotel where he was working.

Shubham Bisht, a resident of Bhainskoti village in the district, who went to Saudi Arabia to work in a hotel two years ago, has been reportedly stranded for more than four months. His family members have submitted a memorandum to the Tehri additional district magistrate demanding his safe return.

Bisht had gone to Saudi

Arabia in March 2020 to work in a hotel on a two-year visa through an agent in Delhi. When he reached there and started working in the hotel, the hotel owner acting contrary to the agreement allegedly started giving half the salary for 18 hours of work. He also gave food only once a day which was objected to by Bisht but the owner reportedly began to harass him and refused to give him NOC. His visa expired on May 14 this year. The Tehri ADM Ramji Saran Sharma said that he has sent the letter to State's Home secretary to do the needful and assist the family in bringing Bisht back.

State level programme on National voluntary blood donation day held

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A State level conference and blood donation camp was organised at the auditorium of Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital on the occasion of the National Voluntary Blood donation day on Saturday. The programme was organised under joint aegis of the State Blood Transfusion Council (SBTC), Uttarakhand State AIDS Control Society (USACS), health department and the GDMC, Dehradun. The government of India has given the theme 'Donating Blood is an act of solidarity, join the effort and save lives' to this year's National voluntary blood dona-

tion day. The chief guest of the programme was the Health minister Dhan Singh Rawat. In his address the minister said that donating blood is the equivalent to giving life to someone. He distributed certificates to different organisations and donors on the occasion. The principal of the GDMC Dr Ashutosh Sayana, the chairman of the Indian Red Cross Society Dehradun, K S Tolia and others were present on the occasion. The programme was organised under the supervision of the additional project director of USACS Dr Saroj Naithani.

40 students selected for Udayan Shalini Fellowship in Doon

PNS ■ DEHRADUN



An induction ceremony was held for 40 girl students selected for the Udayan Shalini Fellowship this year. The UJVN Limited managing director Sandeep Singhal was the chief guest on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Singhal appreciated the various measures being taken by

social and personality development of any person is difficult without proper education. He exhorted the selected students to make the most of the fellowship to strengthen their future.

Dehradun coordinator Vimal Dabral informed that the fellowship is provided to meritorious students from economically weaker backgrounds. Starting at class XI, monthly scholarship is provided for two to six years under the fellowship. Class XI girl students of government and aided schools have to undergo a written test, interview, home visit and other steps for being selected for the fellowship, he added.

the Udayan Care organisation to empower girls especially through education. He said that the education and empowerment of girls and women will lead to a stronger and more progressed society and nation. Commending the measures being taken by the organisation to facilitate education, he said that economic,

IMA celebrates 90th raising day on Saturday

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Indian Military Academy (IMA) Dehradun celebrated its 90th raising day on Saturday. On this occasion, the commandant of the IMA Lieutenant General VK

service to the nation by nurturing well trained, and professionally capable officers. He urged the service and civilian employees of the institution to work with the same zeal and

men cadets (GCs). Till date a total of 64,145 GCs have passed out from the portals of the academy as officers, including 2,813 Foreign Gentlemen Cadets (FGCs) from 34 friendly foreign countries.



The academy has a rich history and its alumni have excelled in all spheres of military and sports activities. They have etched stories of valour and outstanding leadership in numerous battlefields, winning many gallantry awards and 889 alumni have made the supreme sacrifice in service of the nation.

Mishra, conveyed his appreciation to the IMA fraternity for their dedication and contribution towards maintaining high standards.

He reminded that the IMA had rendered outstanding

synergy to bring even greater laurels to the academy.

The IMA came into existence on October 1, 1932. In the last 89 years, the academy has grown in its training capacity from 40 to 1,650 gentle-

A communiqué from the academy said, "On this special day, all members of the staff, GCs, service and civilian employees rededicated themselves to uphold the glorious legacy of this great institution."

Jumbos lured by aroma of ripe sugarcane

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

A herd of elephants caused panic among locals when it came near the liquor vend in Jagjeetpur area of Haridwar on Friday night. The elephants who had ventured out of the Rajaji national park did not attack any person during their visit. The locals informed the Forest department about the visiting pachyderms after which the departmental team made repeated attempts before finally managing to goad the jumbos back into the forest. People present near the Jagjeetpur liquor shop also posted videos of elephant movement on social media. Locals state that it is not uncommon for elephants to visit various residential areas



near the forests including Jagjeetpur, industrial area, Bilkeshwar colony, BHEL and Shyampur.

The forest ranger Dinesh Naudiyal informed that the movement of elephants is

being closely monitored by the team of the Forest department continuously. He further said that the sugarcane crop is ripe and its aroma usually tends to attract the elephants.



Effigies of Ravan, Kumbhakarn and Meghnad being prepared for Dussehra celebration in Dehradun
Mangesh Kumar/Pioneer photo

Governor inaugurates the U'khand Khel Mahakumbh -2022

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The governor lieutenant general (retd) Gurmit Singh inaugurated the Khel Mahakumbh- 2022 at Rajiv Gandhi Navodaya Vidyalaya by handing over the flame of the games to players on Saturday. The governor met the players and encouraged them.



Speaking on the occasion, the governor said that the players should have a high level of motivation which would catapult them to heights. Exhorting the players to work hard and dream high, the governor said that they should start preparing for the national games and the Olympics. He expressed hope that the Khel Mahakumbh would be able to prepare a better environment for sports in the State and help the talented players to showcase their talent. The governor said that Uttarakhand has been given the responsibility for organising 38th national games and we should prove worthy of the faith imposed in the State.

Singh further said that the players should understand that only physical attributes

and power does not guarantee a victory in sports but it depends on concentration, mental powers and continued practice. He appealed that more and more youngsters should participate in the Khel Mahakumbh.

The Sports minister Rekha Arya said that such events would help in selection of talented players. She said that the

players participating in the tournament would make the State proud at national and international levels in future.

The Raipur MLA Umesh Sharma Kau, special principal secretary Abhinav Kumar, director of Youth Welfare Jitendra Kumar Sonekar, additional director R C Dimri and others were also present on the occasion.

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Tender No.	197-DRM-MB-22-23 DATE 30.09.2022	198-DRM-MB-22-23 DATE 30.09.2022
Name of Work	Miscellaneous track work in the section of SSE/P/Way /BE under ADEN/BE.	Miscellaneous track work in the section of SSE/P/Way /RMU under ADEN/BE.
Tender Closing Date Time	25/10/2022 16:00	25/10/2022 16:00
Advertised Value (Rs.)	64,94,280.67	51,99,921.34
Earnest Money (Rs.)	1,29,900.00	1,04,000.00
Bidding Start Date	11/10/2022	11/10/2022
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Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Prashant Naithani, Prerna Bhatt, 72 Niranjanpur, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, A/c No. LBDEH00005384537	Plot Bearing Khatauni Khata No. 79, (1416 To 1421 Faslji), Part Of Khasra No. 283, Situated At Mauja Kohlupani, Pargana Pachhwadon, Tehsil Vikasnagar, District Dehradun, Uttarakhand	04/08/2022 Rs. 18,86,984/-	30/05/2022
2.	Rani Bhan, Balram Singh, Vinod Kumar, A/4/221, Staff Colony, Lalkuan, Century Paper Mill, Dauli Range, Nainital, Uttarakhand, A/c No. LBSAH00004481754	House Bearing Nagar Nigam No. 1/6564, Situated At Waizpura Dar Abadi Naveen Nagar, Tehsil & District Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh	04/08/2022 Rs. 12,88,942/-	06/05/2022
3.	Tarun Taneja, Riya Taneja, 266/60, Gali No. 04, Khanna Nagar, Jwalapur, Haridwar, Uttarakhand, A/c No. LBHWR00004949873	Plot No. B-53, Khasra No. 552 Min., Triok Nagar, Village Jagjeetpur, Pargana Jwalapur, Tehsil & District Haridwar, Uttarakhand	04/08/2022 Rs. 2,34,432/-	06/05/2022
4.	Tarun Taneja, Riya Taneja, 266/60, Gali No. 04, Khanna Nagar, Jwalapur, Haridwar, Uttarakhand, A/c No. LBHWR00004948946	House Situated At Khasra No. 811 Min., Khanna Nagar Colony, Village Ahmedpur Kadacch, Pargana Jwalapur, Tehsil And District Haridwar, Uttarakhand	06/08/2022 Rs. 54,63,969/-	06/05/2022
5.	Tarun Taneja, Riya Taneja, 266/60, Gali No. 04, Khanna Nagar, Jwalapur, Haridwar, Uttarakhand, A/c No. LBHWR00005312973	House Situated At Khasra No. 811 Min., Khanna Nagar Colony, Village Ahmedpur Kadacch, Pargana Jwalapur, Tehsil And District Haridwar, Uttarakhand	06/08/2022 Rs. 8,26,603/-	06/05/2022
6.	Vijendra Singh, Surendra Singh, 880 FD Wesp Coy Erme, C O 99 Apo, Bardhaman, West Bengal, A/c No. LBKAP00004629052	House Pertaining To Khata No. 00435, Khasra No. 10773 Min., Village Ginnikhera, Tehsil Kahsipur, District Udhm Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand	04/08/2022 Rs. 22,56,556/-	06/05/2022
The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.				
Date : October 01, 2022		Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited		
Place : Dehradun, Nainital, Haridwar, Kashipur				

Second avalanche near Kedarnath within 10 days

Expert committee formed to inspect site to check for any potential risk

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State government has ordered the formation of a five-member expert committee after an avalanche was reported in the high peaks behind the Kedarnath temple on Saturday morning. Though the avalanche did not cause any damage to the temple or cause flooding in the rivers, the expert committee has been formed to study the site considering this is the second avalanche in the area within a period of 10 days.



According to Rudraprayag district administration, a partial avalanche occurred about six to seven kilometres behind the Kedarnath temple between 5:30 AM and 6 AM on Saturday. Earlier, a similar avalanche had occurred three to four kilometres behind Kedarnath on September 22 at 4:30 PM. Both the incidents did not cause any damage. It was reported that the avalanche on Saturday also did not result in a rise in the level of water in

the Mandakini and Saraswati rivers which flow near the temple. Considering these avalanches and the possibility of there being a similar incident again along with the possibility of any type of threat, the State administration has formed a five-member expert committee. The committee will include experts nominated by the deputy director general of Geological Survey of India, Dehradun, directors

of Indian Institute of Technology (Roorkee), Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology and Indian Institute of Remote Sensing as members with the executive director of the Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority as its member secretary. This committee will conduct a site inspection of the site in question and present its report to the State administration.

Expert committee on UCC starts tour of Uttarakhand

Committee members meet villagers of Mana on Saturday, seek their suggestions

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

After inviting online suggestions from the general public through the launch of a web portal, the expert committee set up by the Uttarakhand government on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) has started reaching out to the people residing in different parts of the State. The committee headed by Justice (retired), Ranjana Prakash Desai has been mandated to prepare a report on implementation of UCC in the State.

On Saturday the members of the committee started the tour of the State from the remote Mana village located in Chamoli district. A meeting was organised in the village on the day in which the committee members sought suggestions from the villagers. The residents of Mana and nearby areas also gave information about their customs and traditions to the committee members. Rural women attended the programme in their traditional attire. Suggestions were given by the college students,

teachers, women of the Self Help Groups (SHG).

The members of the committee former chief secretary

and other areas during their visit. The Kumaon leg of the expert committee's tour would commence from October 15. The committee mem-



Shatrughna Singh, social activist Manu Gaur and vice chancellor of Doon University Surekha Dangwal held interactive sessions with the villagers in the meeting. The committee members would visit Hanol, Puroila, Uttarkashi

and would interact with the local people especially women and youth on the issues of marriage, patronage, divorce, adoption, property rights and others and would include them in its report.

Dengue count mounts to 867 in Dehradun

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The number of the dengue cases in Dehradun mounted to 867 with the reporting of 21 new cases of the disease by the State Health department on Saturday.

The authorities have so far reported 1,201 cases of the disease in the State out of which about 75 per cent cases are from Dehradun district alone.

The district vector borne diseases officer of Dehradun, Subhash Joshi said that the condition of all the patients is stable and they are recovering from the disease.

Joshi said that Aedes mosquitoes - the vector of dengue - are capable of laying their eggs in one spoonful of water so the pots, vases, water bottles and coolers should be decanted. He said that anti dengue activities are in full swing in the affected and the sensitive areas of the district. Joshi informed that the health department with the help of

ASHA workers has undertaken source reduction activity on a large scale in the city.

Dengue is a viral infection spread by the mosquito Aedes Aegypti commonly known as tiger mosquito. The symptoms of the disease are persistent high fever, rashes, headache and pain in the joints.

In the acute cases the platelet count of the blood is



drastically reduced which may prove fatal for the patient. In Uttarakhand the disease is more prevalent in Dehradun, Haridwar, Nainital and Udham Singh Nagar districts

Political & social bodies call for State Bandh today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Various political and social organisations have decided to observe a State-wide Bandh on Sunday to protest against the Ankita Bhandari murder. The Uttarakhand Congress has decided to support the Bandh call given by some opposition parties and organisations on October 2. The Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Karan Mahara has asked the party leaders and the workers to support the Bandh call.

“Congress, UKD and others to support Bandh called against Ankita murder”

In a statement, the vice president (organisation) of Uttarakhand Congress Mathura Dutt Joshi said on Saturday that the party is consistently demanding from the Union and State governments to hand over the investigation of the Ankita Bhandari murder case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) but the government is paying no heed to the demand. He claimed that the BJP government is trying to save a 'VIP' leader of the party who is involved in the case but the people of the State would not tolerate this. Joshi said that Ankita Bhandari, an innocent daughter of Uttarakhand was brutally murdered and thrown in the Cheela barrage and it has agitated the people of the State. The general secretary (organisation) of the Congress, Vijay Saraswat said that the government should reveal the identity of the VIP who is said to be involved in the case.

Saraswat said that PCC president Mahara has directed all the district and Mahanagar committees to actively participate in making the Bandh call, a success.

The Uttarakhand Congress has also decided to hold a candle march in Dehradun on the evening of October 2 to pay its homage to Ankita Bhandari.

Cong protests seeking justice for Ankita

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Continuing its protest against the brutal murder of Ankita Bhandari, the Congress party held a protest in Dehradun on Saturday. The Congress workers and leaders assembled at the Astley Hall on the day and burned the effigy of the State government. Speaking on the occasion, the working president of Mahanagar Congress Jasvinder Singh Gogi said that brutal murder of Ankita Bhandari is a matter of great concern for the security of women in the State. He said that since the resort where Ankita was working belonged to the son of a BJP



leader, the State government is trying to cover up the case from day one. Gogi said that whenever such an incident happens the crime spot is sealed but in case a bulldozer was used in the middle of the night to destroy evidence. He said that the police and administration is shying away from disclosing the identity of the VIP who was scheduled to visit the resort and for whom Ankita was being pressured to provide 'special service'.

The Congress workers demanded that the case should be handed over to the CBI immediately.

The spokesperson of Uttarakhand Congress Garima Dasgupta, Godavari Thapli, Mahendra Gurji and others attended the protest.

॥ 2 अक्टूबर, 1869 – 30 जनवरी, 1948 ॥

राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गांधी

को उनकी जयंती पर

शत् शत् नमन

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12 billion workdays lost every year due to depression, anxiety

Address mental health of working population, WHO tells nations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

An estimated 12 billion workdays are lost annually due to depression and anxiety, costing the global economy nearly USD one trillion. Not without reason, though, as just 35 per cent of the country members who are signatories to the International Labour Organization (ILO) Occupational Safety and Health

Convention have reported having national programmes for work-related mental health promotion and prevention.

Against this backdrop, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the ILO have called upon the countries to take concrete action to address mental health concerns in the working population and have come out with two new publications "WHO Guidelines on mental health at work" and a derivative "WHO/ILO Policy Brief".

The WHO's global guidelines on mental health at work recommend actions to tackle risks to mental health such as heavy workloads, negative behaviours and other factors

that create distress at work. For the first time WHO recommends manager training, to build their capacity to prevent stressful work environments and respond to workers in distress.

According to the WHO's World mental health report, published in June 2022, of one billion people living with a mental disorder in 2019, 15 per cent of working-age adults experienced a mental disorder.

Work amplifies wider societal issues that negatively affect mental health, including discrimination and inequality. Bullying and psychological violence (also known as 'mobbing') are key complaints of workplace harassment that

have a negative impact on mental health. Yet discussing or disclosing mental health remains a taboo in work settings globally.

The guidelines also recommend better ways to accommodate the needs of workers with mental health conditions, propose interventions that support their return to work and, for those with severe mental health conditions, provide interventions that facilitate entry into paid employment.

Importantly, the guidelines call for interventions aimed at the protection of health, humanitarian and emergency workers. "It's time to focus on the detrimental effect work can have on our mental health,"

said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

"The well-being of the individual is reason enough to act, but poor mental health can also have a debilitating impact on a person's performance and productivity. As people spend a large proportion of their lives in work — a safe and healthy working environment is critical. We need to invest to build a culture of prevention around mental health at work, reshape the work environment to stop stigma and social exclusion, and ensure employees with mental health conditions feel protected and supported," added Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General.

CBI books Amrapali for ₹177 cr bank fraud

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a fresh case against Amrapali Builders and its promoters for cheating a consortium of banks led by Bank of Baroda to the tune of Rs 177 crore.

The case follows a written complaint dated August 10 by the lead bank of the consortium Bank of Baroda to the CBI alleging commission of cheating upon the consortium comprising Bank of Baroda, Bank of Maharashtra and erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce (now Punjab National Bank) to the Rs 177 crore by Amrapali Silicon City Pvt Ltd and others, including its promoter, director and personal guarantor Anil Kumar Sharma. The accused have allegedly defrauded Rs



59.53 crore of Bank of Baroda, Rs 58.05 crore of Bank of Maharashtra and Rs 59.50 crore of erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce. The agency has booked the accused entities and individuals for bank fraud, criminal conspiracy and cheating under the Indian Penal Code and criminal misconduct under the Prevention of Corruption Act. The private company Amrapali Silicon City Pvt Ltd was promoted by a consortium of four companies—Ultra Home Construction Pvt Ltd

(lead member), Jotindra Steel & Tubes Ltd, Rinku Clothing Creations Pvt Ltd and Vidya Shree Buildcon Pvt Ltd to execute a group housing project Amrapali Silicon City.

The company acquired land measuring 1,76,758.70 square metre from Noida authority with a cost of Rs 360.96 crore. An amount of 10 per cent of the cost was to be paid upfront and the balance amount was payable in 18 half yearly instalments of Rs 19.86 crore each commencing September 2, 2012.

The company allegedly indulged in various fraudulent practices like selling the same residential flat to more than two buyers, selling the flats at rates even lower than the construction cost and the like.

Gehlot continues his hold over Cong Govt in Raj

CM asks public to send suggestions for Budget

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Days after expressing regret to party president Sonia Gandhi for a revolt in his State to prevent his rival Sachin Pilot from taking over as his successor, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Saturday indicated at his continuance at the helm in the State as he asked the public to "send their suggestions for the Budget directly to him". His remarks came on a day the process of filing of nominations for the post of Congress president came to an end. Gehlot was the first choice of the party high command but he dropped out following the revolt.



While three of his loyalists have since been showcaused, the revolt was also assumed to be a challenge to the party leadership, which is likely to yet again seek the opinion of its Rajasthan MLAs in one-on-one meetings.

Gehlot appealed to the youth, students and the public in general to send their suggestions directly to him so that the government could come up with better schemes. The assembly elections are due in Rajasthan after a year.

Asked about whether he would present the next Budget of Rajasthan, Gehlot, in Bikaner, said, "I would want people to send their suggestions for the budget directly to me." He said the Congress Government will complete its five years and that the next Budget will be dedicated to students and the youth.

He also said the Congress will not let the BJP succeed in its plan to topple the Government. "We will present the budget for the youth and

children. I appeal to all people, youths and students to send their suggestions to his office to be evaluated and included in the proposals.

This will enable the government to implement various schemes and programmes for youth welfare and skill development. The youths are the future of the nation and they should come forward. Many journalists get jail terms for two years and are released on bail, which is not good," Gehlot said.

However, earlier when he was almost certain to run for the Congress presidency, Gehlot had stated that he would brief the "next CM" on suggestions regarding schemes for students and the youth for the next budget. "Despite our good work, govt gets changed every time. Earlier we lost as voters got swayed away under the Modi wave. We were winning MP, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan (in 2019 elections) but lost. I request the people to give us another chance," he said.

Hitting out at the BJP, Gehlot said, "They keep making efforts to ensure that our government does not complete five years.

Earlier, too, the BJP tried horse trading but our MLAs were united and they did not budge. You can see the government was saved last time and it is still going strong."

The Rajasthan chief minister had opted out of the race for Congress president after a rebellion in the party's state unit, with a majority of MLAs holding a parallel meeting and not allowing a legislative party meeting last Sunday to pass a one-line resolution authorising the party chief to nominate a successor to Gehlot.

LS privileges panel to hear plea for Adhikari's disqualification for switching party

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha Privileges Committee will hear West Bengal's Kanthi Lok Sabha Member P Sisir Adhikari on October 12 to respond to Trinamool Congress Lok Sabha leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay's plea to disqualify him for switching his party.

Adhikari has moved over to the BJP but is understood to have informed the committee that he had not switched parties.

Bandyopadhyay had several times raised the issue with Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla for Sisir's switching over to the BJP.

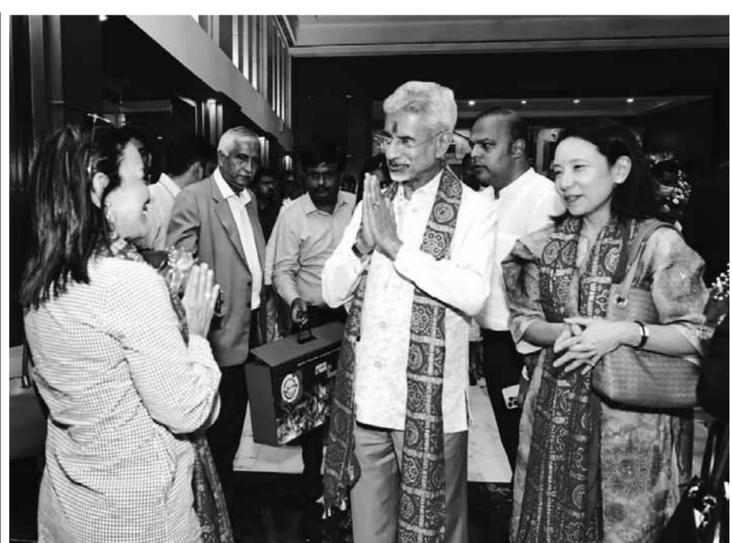
The issue was referred to the Privileges Committee as Bandyopadhyay lodged a complaint against Sisir under the anti-defection law.

The committee headed by BJP's Sunil Kumar Singh has asked Sisir to be present in the Lok Sabha and explain why he should not be disqualified as an MP.

The complaint against Sisir is that he had crossed over to BJP in March 2021 during the run-up to the assembly polls and attended a rally of senior BJP leader and union home minister Amit Shah at Egra in East Midnapore.

Earlier, his son Suvendu (who defeated Mamata Banerjee in the assembly poll from Nandigram assembly seat) had quit TMC and joined the BJP.

Sisir and his younger son Dibyendu, also an MP, had skipped Trinamool's Shaheed Divas event on July 21.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Ambassadors and High Commissioners to India upon their arrival to attend Navratri celebrations in Vadodra

French envoy condemns Russia's annexation of 4 Ukrainian regions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

France on Saturday condemned Russian military action in Ukraine terming it as "naked aggression" and said the offensive was a violation of international law. New Delhi and Paris are working together to convince President Vladimir Putin to end the conflict. French envoy to New Delhi Emmanuel Lenain said here.

He also condemned Russia's annexation of four Ukrainian regions on Friday and said the action was a serious violation of both international law and Ukraine's sov-



ereignty. "We feel it is a naked aggression by a country on another one, on a democracy, an aggression which was without any provocation and that it is not in keeping with the principles of international order," Lenain said.

He said India and France were also working together to mitigate the consequences of

the conflict including global food and energy security. He welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message to Putin on the Ukraine war. Modi had said today's era is not of war. "I think it was a very welcome remark, as always, and you have seen that President Emmanuel Macron in his speech in New York to the UN General Assembly has mentioned and quoted Prime Minister Modi," the French envoy said. Lenain also condemned Russia's annexation of four Ukrainian regions on Friday and said the action was a serious violation of both international law and Ukraine's sovereignty.

BJP starts preparations for local body polls in UP

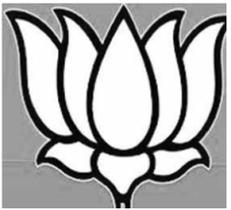
PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Staying ahead of the Opposition parties, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party has started preparations for the urban local body elections.

The BJP has appointed conveners for urban local body polls and election in-charge for each of the 17 nagar nigams. The BJP has drafted ministers and senior office-bearers of the party for the urban local body elections. In appointing the election in-charges for 17 mayoral seats, the BJP has taken care for maintaining a fine balance between the government and the organisation.

For each mayoral seat, along with a cabinet minister, a senior leader from the party organisation has been appointed as co-in-charge for the elections.

BJP state president Bhopendra Singh Chaudhary, after several days' exercise, has approved the list of in-charges for these elections. The convener for each mayoral seat is from the same district while the co convener is from a different district. The ruling party has set the ambitious target of winning all 17 mayoral seats of municipal corporations. The BJP has already



announced another ambitious target of winning all the 80 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh in 2024.

The BJP has chalked out the strategy for winning all 17 mayoral seats. Though the urban elections make no impact on the stability of the state government, these elections do create an environment and give a clear indication about the popularity of the incumbent government.

The BJP, for organisational purpose, has divided the urban areas into three regions — Western UP, Awadh and Gorakhpur. The mayoral seats in Western UP region are Ghaziabad, Meerut, Saharanpur, Moradabad, Mathura-Vrindavan, Agra, Firozabad, Aligarh, Shahjahanpur, Bareilly, Kanpur, and Jhansi. The seats in Awadh region are Lucknow, Ayodhya, Prayagraj and Varanasi and Gorakhpur.

Akhilesh raps PM over launch of 5G telecom services

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, on Saturday, took a jibe at the Bharatiya Janata Party after Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 5G telecom services in Delhi.

Akhilesh Yadav, also the Leader of Opposition in UP Assembly, said "under the BJP rule people are already getting the benefit of 5G".

In a tweet on Saturday, Akhilesh Yadav said G stood for Garibi, Ghotala, Ghapla, Ghalme and Gorakhdhandha. The SP has been consistently targeting the Yogi Adityanath government almost daily on myriad issues.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, while welcoming the launch of the 5G services, said, "We are grateful to Prime Minister Modi for connecting the country and Kashi with 5G services."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 5G telephony services that promise to provide ultra high-speed internet on mobile phones, saying it marks the beginning of a new era and presents a sea of opportunities. "The 5G marks the dawn of a new era and presents a sea of opportunities," he said.

Deserted BSP leaders get prominence in newly constituted UP Cong panel

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With old Congressmen already sidelined or forced to quit the party ever since Priyanka Gandhi Vadra took charge of the party affairs in Uttar Pradesh, leaders who deserted Bahujan Samaj Party to join the Congress have once again been given prominence over the old warriors.

The appointments have come months after Ajay Lallu resigned as UP Congress Committee chief following the party's crushing defeat in the assembly elections held earlier in March this year. Congress managed to win only 2 two seats in the UP Assembly elections of 2022.

An aggressive campaign by Congress general secretary Priyanka Vadra Gandhi and even her decision to give 40 per cent of tickets to women failed to attract the masses in UP. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections too, the Congress had bagged just one seat and that too of its president Sonia Gandhi (Rae Bareilly).

Her son and former Congress president Rahul Gandhi was defeated by senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and Union Minister Smriti Irani from Congress bastion Amethi.

The UPCC chief's post was lying vacant since party president Sonia Gandhi asked the state chiefs of five states to resign after defeat in elections. Congress faced a debacle in



Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Manipur and Punjab assembly elections. The Indian National Congress on Saturday appointed Brijlal Khabri, a Dalit, as chief of its Uttar Pradesh unit, besides appointing half a dozen more leaders as regional heads in Uttar Pradesh.

Khabri had quit the BSP in 2016, alleging sale of tickets for money, and subsequently joined the Congress. He is a former Member of Parliament from Jalaun constituency, a seat he won in 1999 as a member of BSP.

He contested the UP Assembly election in 2022 from Mahrauni seat in Lalitpur while his wife Urmila Devi contested from Orai seat both lost their deposits with just 4,334 and 4,650 votes, respectively.

All India Congress Committee president Sonia Gandhi also appointed six regional heads in the UPCC. The regional heads are Naseemuddin Siddiqui, Ajai Rai, Virendra Chaudhary, Nakul Dubey, Anil Yadav and Yogesh Dixit.

Let us all pledge to donate blood regularly: Mandaviya

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

More than 2.5 lakh people donated blood during the Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav, which began on September 17 and concluded on National Voluntary Blood Donation Day on Saturday (October 1), according to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

The success of the Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav has strengthened the noble cause of humanity which will help immensely in saving many precious lives, Mandaviya said, while addressing a gathering on the occasion of National Blood Donation Day 2022 at AIIMS, Delhi.

"Blood donation is a noble cause and given our rich culture and tradition of 'seva' (service) and 'sahyog' (cooperation), on National Voluntary Blood Donation Day, let us all pledge to be always there for someone else and donate blood regularly," he said.

The Minister said India's response to COVID-19 was inspired by the rich tradition of 'lok bhagidari' (public participation), showed the way to manage the pandemic and led to the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination exercise.

"Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav was aimed at blood donation, blood distribution and blood management. It has also helped to increase awareness regarding regular non-remunerated voluntary blood

Let us all pledge to donate blood regularly: Mandaviya

donations and ensure that blood or its components (whole blood/packed red blood cells/plasma/platelets) are available, accessible, affordable and safe."

"The success of Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav has strengthened the noble cause of humanity which will help immensely in saving many precious lives. More than 2.5 lakh people have voluntarily donated blood under the Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav," Mandaviya said.

He also felicitated voluntary blood donors and States and Union Territories that have done exemplary work, rare blood group donors, regular single donor platelets donors, women blood donors and regular voluntary blood donors at the event. One unit translates to 350ml of blood.

According to 2021 statistics, India's annual blood requirement is around 1.5 crore units. In every two seconds, a patient in India needs blood and one out of every three people will need blood in their lifetime.

A person has five to six litres of blood in his or her body and can donate blood every 90 days.

The Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav was supported by the centralised blood bank management information system e-RaktKosh portal, which acts as a national repository of blood donors expediting blood availability when in need.



Volunteers with their painted faces take a selfie during Wildlife Week, in Gorakhpur on Saturday

PTI Photo

Financial assistance in human-wildlife conflict cases to be hiked- CM

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced that ex-gratia in deaths of people caused by wild animals will be increased to Rs five lakh while the seriously injured will be provided Rs one lakh assistance. The family of forest personnel who die while on duty will be provided Rs 15 lakh ex-gratia. In another important announcement, he said that the Shivalik elephant reserve will be re-established.

Speaking at the launch of wildlife week on Saturday, Dhami said that Corbett heritage trail will be established and eco tourism will be encouraged in sites associated with Jim Corbett. Dhami also launched the official website of Rajaji national park and two rapid response vehicles for Rajaji on the occasion.

He said that the Forest department with the help of Education department will raise awareness among school children on mitigation of human-wildlife conflict. Rapid response teams will be formed in 10 forest divisions vulnerable to human-wildlife conflict. Dhami informed that the Centre had granted permission for starting Garjia tourism zone in the buffer zone of Corbett tiger reserve and that it will be started soon. He directed the department officials to develop one naturally picturesque site in each district for tourism.



Special focus should be laid to ensure that the natural form of such sites is not tampered with

majorly. Dhami also referred to the significance of wild animals in religion and culture

while stressing that their protection is a joint responsibility. He said that with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's motivation, various measures are being taken to strike a balance between economy and ecology.

Forest minister Subodh Uniyal said that the government's priority is economic strength along with environmental protection. The local MLA Brijbhushan Gairola, principal chief conservator of forests Vinod Singhal, principal secretary RK Sudhanshu and Rajaji director Saket Badola were also present on the occasion.

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Sl. No.	Short description of the movable Properties/items	Date & Time of E-Auction	A) Reserve Price (in Lac) B) EMD (in lac) C) Bid multiplier	Property Inspection date & Time.
1.	All that part and parcel of movable plant and machinery i.e.	10.10.2022 From 02:00 PM	A) Rs. 4,05,000/- B) Rs. 40,500/- C) Rs. 10,000/-	w. e. f. 02.10.2022 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM
	Asset Description	Quantity		
	Almirah Large Size (New)	16		
	Almirah Small Size (New)	5		
	Almirah Cover (New)	2		
	Counter (Used)	1		
	Single Seater Sofa	2		
	Matress (Old)	15		
	Foam Sheet	20		
	Washing Machine (Old)	1		
	Matress (New)	15		
	Plastic Chair (New)	15		
	Old Generator (Old)	1		
	5 Seater Sofa Set (New)	3		
	Bed (New)	2		
	Dining Table (New)	1		
	Centre Table	1		
	Welding Machine	1		
	Press Machine (Used)	1		
	Compressor (Used)	1		
	Revolving Chair (Used)	1		
	Wooden Temple (New)	12		
	Plastic Stool (New)	12		
	Locker Box (New)	2		
	M/s Rack	4		
	Sheet Cutting Machine (Used)	1		
	Almirah Old	2		
	Ceiling Fan (Used)	2		
	Almirah (Used)	4		
	LCD TV (Used)	1		
	Sofa 5 Seater Wooden (Used)	1		
	Bed (Used)	2		

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- The successful bidder shall deposit the 90% of bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his favour.
- The EMD deposited will be forfeited if successful bidder fails to deposit the balance amount of sale on the same day or not later than the next working day.
- The successful bidder would bear the charges /expense / fee payable for conveyance/ stamp duty/ registration fee etc. as applicable as per law.
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Date: 01.10.2022 Place: Dehradun D. R. Joshi, Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

रामपुर तिराहा कांड

की

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75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav | Government of India

2 October
Nation pays tribute to
Gandhi ji and Shastri ji
on their Birth Anniversary

“The life and ideals of Pujya Bapu will continue to inspire every generation of the country to walk on the path of duty. Similarly, Shastri ji's life based on values and principles will always remain a source of inspiration for the countrymen.”

- Narendra Modi

75 आजादी का अमृत महोत्सव | Government of India

(2 अक्टूबर 1904 - 11 जनवरी 1966)

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Ukraine encircles key city; Russia intensifies bombing

Ukrainian forces encircled the strategic eastern city of Lyman on Saturday in a counteroffensive that has humiliated the Kremlin, while Russian bombardments intensified after Moscow illegally annexed a swath of Ukrainian territory in a sharp escalation of the war.



Ukraine, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his military have vowed to keep on fighting to liberate the annexed regions and other Russian-occupied areas. Ukrainian officials said Saturday their forces had surrounded some 5,000 Russian forces who were trying to hold the eastern city of Lyman, which is located in Luhansk, one of the four annexed areas.

videos purportedly showing some Russian forces falling back. Meanwhile Ukrainian authorities accuse Russian forces of targeting two humanitarian convoys in recent days, killing dozens of civilians. On Saturday the governor of the Kharkiv region, Oleh Syniehubov, said 20 civilians were killed in an attack on a convoy of people trying to flee the Kupiansky district, calling it "cruelty that can't be justified."

Russian forces have not acknowledged or commented on the attack. Russian troops have retreated from much of the Kharkiv region after a successful Ukrainian counteroffensive last month but have continued to shell the area. In an apparent attempt to secure Moscow's hold on the newly annexed territory, Russian forces seized the director-general of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, Ihor Murashov, around 4 p.m. Friday, according to the Ukrainian state nuclear company Energoatom. That was just hours after Putin signed treaties to absorb Moscow-controlled Ukrainian territory into Russia, including the area around the nuclear plant.

19 killed, including 4 elite Guard members, in Iran attack

AP ■ DUBAI

An attack by armed separatists on a police station in a southeastern city killed 19 people, including four members of Iran's elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard, Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported Saturday.



The assailants in Friday's attack hid among worshippers near a mosque in the city of Zahedan and attacked the nearby police station, according to the report. IRNA quoted Hossein Modaresi, the provincial governor, as saying 19 people were killed. The outlet said 32 Guard members, including volunteer Basiji forces, were also wounded in the clashes.

It was not immediately clear if the attack was related to nationwide antigovernment protests gripping Iran after the death in police custody of a young Iranian woman. Sistan and Baluchestan province borders Afghanistan and Pakistan and has seen previous attacks on security forces by ethnic Baluchi separatists, although Saturday's Tasnim report did not identify a separatist group allegedly involved in the attack.

IRNA on Saturday identified the dead as Hamidreza Hashemi, a Revolutionary Guard colonel; Mohammad Amin Azarshokr, a Guard member; Mohamad Amin Arefi, a Basiji, or volunteer force with the IRG; and Saeed Borhan Rigi, also a Basiji. Tasnim and other state-linked Iranian news outlets reported Friday that the head of the Guard's intelligence department, Seyyed Ali Mousavi, was shot during the attack and later died. It is not unusual for IRG members to be present at police bases around the country.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client, IBC First Bank Ltd. that Mrs. Shanti Mathani is owner of BDA Janta, Flat No. 47-B, on First Floor, in Block B, Pocket-84, area measuring 22 sq. mtr. Situated in the Layout Plan of Housing Estate, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi the said property by virtue of relinquishment. Deed dated 10.08.2022, registration No. 13105, executed by Mr. Anil Mathani & Mrs. Vasudha Mathani after demise of late Ramesh Kumar, who was owner of the said property by virtue of conveyance deed dated 10.10.2019, registration No. 10244, all persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to sell the said property to Mr. Prince Mondol & Mr. Jatin Mondol who is taking loan for purchase the said property from IBC First Bank. If anybody has any objections of ownership of Mrs. Shanti Mathani in respect of the said property its Sale (Mortgage/Litigation, and any kind of objection kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address with in 07 days of the present. Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 200, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Wazirpur, N. Delhi-15 (Ph: 011-4101207-28, kumar@kumaradcs.com)

'China struggling to find enough trained pilots for its 3 aircraft carriers'

PTI ■ BEIJING

China is struggling to find enough trained pilots to operate fighter jets from aircraft carriers, prompting its navy with two aircraft carriers commissioned and another launched in June, to speed up the pilot training programme, a media report here said.

Technology, a Chinese military magazine. With Fujian, China's third and most advanced aircraft carrier, having started sea trials last week, the PLA needed at least 200 qualified carrier-based fighter jet pilots to operate 130 ship-borne aircraft, Beijing-based naval expert Li Jie was quoted as saying by the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post on Saturday. The Fujian is equipped with advanced electromagnetic catapults, similar to those on the US supercarrier Gerald R Ford, while China's first two carriers featured ski-jump designs, so the navy will have to master a new aircraft launch and recovery system. Official media reports say China plans to produce more aircraft carriers to match the strength of the US Navy.



China is rapidly modernising its navy, almost launching a battleship every month or two. Dai Mingmeng, who flew a J-15 prototype on its maiden flight from the deck of Liaoning on November 3, 2012, when he was 41, was one of the first five Chinese pilots to achieve ship-borne certification. He and other senior carrier-capable pilots are now training the latest generation. State-run China Central Television said the navy has directly recruited cadets from high school graduates aged between 16 and 19 since 2020. The average age of the latest generation of new naval aviation pilot cadets was 20, at least 10 years younger than their predecessors.

The PLA Navy started training its own pilots - rather than picking qualified candidates from the air force - following the establishment of the Naval Aeronautical University in Yantai, Shandong province, in 2017 - adopting the same approach as its US counterpart.

North Korea conducts 4th round of missile tests in 1 week

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea on Saturday test-fired two short-range ballistic missiles, its neighbours said, the fourth round this week of weapons launches that prompted quick, strong condemnation from its rivals. In an unusually strong rebuke of North Korea's weapons programs, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said North Korea's "obsession" with nuclear weapons is deepening the suffering of its own people, and warned of an "overwhelming response" from South Korea and US militaries should such weapons be used.



"The development of nuclear weapons will plunge the lives of North Korean people in further pains." "If North Korea attempts to use nukes, it'll face a resolute, overwhelming response by the South Korea-US alliance and our military," Yoon said. Yoon's comments could enrage North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who has alleged that Yoon's government was led by "confrontation maniacs" and "gangsters". Kim has already rebuffed Yoon's offers of massive aid and support plans in return for denuclearisation.

Myanmar accuses rebels in east of shooting passenger plane

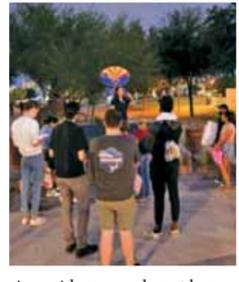
AP ■ BANGKOK

Myanmar's military government accused rebel forces in the eastern state of Kayah of firing at a passenger plane as it was preparing to land Friday, wounding a passenger who was hit by a bullet that penetrated the fuselage. Rebel groups denied the allegation. State television MRTV said the Myanmar National Airlines plane, carrying 63 passengers, was hit as it was about to land in Loikaw, the capital of the eastern state of Kayah, also known as Karenni. It said Maj. Gen Zaw Min Tun, a spokesperson for Myanmar's ruling military council, said the shooting was carried out by "terrorists" belonging to the Karenni National Progressive Party, an ethnic minority militia battling the government, and People's Defense Force.

Arizona judge won't suspend ruling that halted all abortions

AP ■ PHOENIX (US)

An Arizona judge declined to put her order that allowed enforcement of a pre-statehood law making it a crime to provide an abortion on hold, saying abortion right groups that asked her to block the order are not likely to prevail on appeal. The ruling from Pima County Superior Court Judge Kellie Johnson on Friday means the state's abortion providers will not be able to restart procedures. Abortions were halted on September 23 when Johnson ruled that a 1973 injunction must be lifted so that the Civil War-era law could be enforced. Republican Attorney General Mark Brnovich sought the order lifting the injunction. Attorneys with his office told the judge that, since the US Supreme Court's June 24 decision



Arizona affiliate had urged Johnson to keep the injunction issued shortly after Roe v Wade was decided in 1973. They argued that laws enacted by the state Legislature in the ensuing 50 years should take precedence.

Trump at centre of Oath Keepers novel defence in Jan 6 case

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The defence team in the Capitol riot trial of the Oath Keepers leader is relying on an unusual strategy with Donald Trump at the centre. Lawyers for Stewart Rhodes, founder of the extremist group, are poised to argue that jurors cannot find him guilty of seditious conspiracy because all the actions he took before the siege on Jan. 6, 2021, were in preparation for orders he anticipated from the then-president — orders that never came. Rhodes and four associates are accused of plotting for weeks to stop the transfer of presidential power from the Republican incumbent to Democrat Joe Biden, culminating with Oath Keepers in battle gear storming the Capitol alongside hundreds of other Trump supporters. Opening statements in the trial are set to begin Monday. Rhodes intends to take the stand to argue he believed Trump was going to invoke the Insurrection Act to call up a militia to support him, his lawyers have said.



Sweden: Right-wing party get 4 chairmanships in parliament

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

A right-wing populist party that received the second-most votes in Sweden's general election last month landed the chairmanships of four parliamentary committees on Saturday and with it, the ability to wield more influence in mainstream Swedish politics. The positions to be held by lawmakers from the Sweden Democrats include chairing the Riksdag's justice, foreign affairs, business affairs and labour market committees. "It is important for us, a milestone in the party's history," legislator Richard Jomshof, a Sweden Democrat who was tapped to be the next chairman of the justice committee, told Swedish public broadcaster SVT.



In addition to the four chairperson posts, the party was allowed to name the vice-chairs of parliament's civil affairs, traffic, defense and tax committees. Sweden Democrats, a nationalist and anti-immigration party with roots in the neo-Nazi movement, is part of right-wing bloc that won a narrow majority in the Riksdag in the September 11 election. Decisions on the posts were announced Friday in a joint statement from the four center-right parties that are in talks to form a coalition government. Sweden Democrats, which is one of the four, announced its nominees Saturday. Ulf Kristersson, the leader of the center-right Moderates, the party that placed third, has been tasked with forming a government that is likely to have the Sweden Democrats as part of a governing coalition or at least the party's support in securing a majority in parliament. Kristersson has until October 12 to present results of his talks with parties to Parliament speaker Andreas Norlen.

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UJVN Limited: H.O.: "UJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006. Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508. CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866. Website: www.ujvn.com. R.O. No.: 721 e-Tender Notice Date: 01.10.2022. Office of the Executive Engineer(M&G), Sharda Power House, Lohiahead, Khatima, invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below: e-Tender No. 12/SPH/2022-23. Name of work/supply/ services etc.-Procurement of various mechanical spares/consumables at Sharda Power House, Lohiahead, Khatima. Estimated cost-7,46,050/- (Seven Lakhs Forty six Thousand Fifty only) GST extra. Date of availability of bid document on website- 01/10/2022 at 16:00 Hrs. Last date for submission of bids on website- 24/10/2022 upto 16:00 Hrs. For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in Executive Engineer (M&G) "AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त अभियन्ता, अनुसंधान खण्ड, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, लेन गं-1, तरुण विहार, मोहरवाला रोड, देहरादून-248001. दूरभाष / फ़ैक्स: 0135 2671940 Email: eamdujs@rediffmail.com. पत्रांक : 2913 / ई-निविदा सूचना / 2022-23 दिनांक : 01 / 10 / 2022. ई-निविदा सूचना: मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, देहरादून की ओर से जलजीवन मिशन कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित पेयजल योजनाओं के कार्यों हेतु ई-निविदा, दू-बिड सिस्टम (तकनीकी बिड एवं कॉमर्शियल बिड) आधार पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है :- निविदा क्र. विकासखण्ड कार्य विवरण धरोहर घनराशि (कु. मी.) निविदा का मूल्य (रु. म.) कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि 1 सहस्रपुर कोटडा कल्याणपुर पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय मरम्मत, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य। 146500.00 ₹4000 + GST 06 माह 2 सहस्रपुर दुधई पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य। 111500.00 ₹4000 + GST 06 माह 3 सहस्रपुर जगपुर पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य। 40200.00 ₹4000 + GST 06 माह 4 विकासनगर माजरी पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, रुद्ध जलाशय निर्माण, राईजिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य। 254250.00 ₹4000 + GST 12 माह 5 विकासनगर कटोवा पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, रुद्ध जलाशय निर्माण, राईजिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य। 230300.00 ₹4000 + GST 12 माह 6 विकासनगर लांघा पेयजल योजना में स्रोत संवर्धन, सतही जलाशय मरम्मत, पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य। 84100.00 ₹3000 + GST 06 माह 7 डोईवाला मोहम्मदपुर बड़कली पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, राईजिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य। 187100.00 ₹4000 + GST 12 माह 8 डोईवाला माजरी ग्रांट पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, सतही जलाशय निर्माण, राईजिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य। 681200.00 ₹4000 + GST 12 माह 9 डोईवाला भट्टोवाला पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, रुद्ध जलाशय निर्माण, राईजिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य। 226700.00 ₹4000 + GST 12 माह 10 डोईवाला गढी मयबक पेयजल योजना में नलकूप अधिष्ठापन, रुद्ध जलाशय निर्माण, राईजिंग मेन पाइप लाइन बिछाने एवं पम्पिंग प्लांट सामग्री की आपूर्ति अधिष्ठापन एवं तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य। 354900.00 ₹4000 + GST 12 माह निविदा समय सारणी (मुख्य तिथियाँ) निम्नवत् हैं। क्र. सं. विवरण अनुसूची 1 ऑनलाईन प्रकाशन की तिथि। 11.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs 2 निविदा प्रपत्र अडलन करने की तिथि। 12.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs 3 प्री-बिड मीटिंग की तिथि। 17.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs 4 बिड ऑनलाईन जमा करने की प्रारम्भ तिथि। 22.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs 5 बिड ऑनलाईन जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि। 28.10.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs 6 ऑफ लाइन रूप से जमा किये जाने वाले प्रपत्र (निविदा प्रपत्र हेतु निर्धारित बुल्क, बिड सिम्पोरिटी, स्टॉप पत्र एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित दस्तावेज। 28.10.2022 upto 17:00 Hrs 7 तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि। 29.10.2022 at 11:00 Hrs 8 तिथियाँ निविदा खोलने की तिथि। सूचना पृष्ठ से दी जायेगी। ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित सार्वजनिक जानकारीयों व शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड राज्य की वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in पर ऑन लाइन देखी/प्राप्त की जा सकती हैं। (के 0 सी 0 पैन्चूली) अतिरिक्त अभियन्ता "जल संयंत्र-जीवन संयंत्र"

US WOMEN WIN FOURTH STRAIGHT GOLD AT WORLD CUP, TOP CHINA

AP ■ SYDNEY

The names on the US team have changed, the Americans' dominance has not.

A'ja Wilson scored 19 points, Kelsey Plum added 17 and the United States beat China 83-61 on Saturday to win its fourth consecutive gold medal at the women's basketball World Cup. "It feels great," said Wilson, who was selected as the tournament's MVP. "We came here on a mission, we got it. We got gold. Now we're going home with some hardware. It feels great to us. Australia was great to us. I didn't see any kangaroos, but it's OK because we are leaving with a gold."

This was one of the most dominant teams in the Americans' storied history in the World Cup that now has won 11 gold medals. They've won four straight gold medals for the first time. This also was the biggest win in a gold-medal game, surpassing the 20-point wins that the Americans had done twice.

"Everybody wants to beat us. Everybody wants what we have and that's gold medals and victories," Breanna Stewart said.

What started with Sue Bird and Diana Taurasi has now been passed down to Wilson and Stewart. With Alyssa Thomas the oldest player at 30, the domination could continue for years to come.

"It's been an incredible journey just to continue to lay that foundation down like so many of the greats in front of us have," Wilson said. "Now it's our turn to step up and be in that situation."

Host Australia defeated Canada 95-65 to win the bronze medal, led by 41-year-old Lauren Jackson's 30 points.

As they've done all tournament, the Americans did it on both ends of the court, playing stellar defense as well as using a high-powered offense.



WORLD CHAMPIONS

The U.S. (8-0) finished the World Cup averaging 98.8 points — just short of the mark held by the 1994 team that averaged 99.1. They won by an average of 40.8 points, topping the mark held by the 2010 team.

The game was a sellout with nearly 16,000 fans — the biggest crowd to attend a women's World Cup game since the inaugural tournament in 1953 in Chile.

Led by Li Yueru and Wu Tongtong, China hung around. The Chinese team trailed 33-28 late in the second quarter before the U.S. went on a 10-2 run highlighted by fast-break layups by Stewart and Wilson to extend the advantage to double-digits.

Jin Weina hit a 3-pointer just before the halftime buzzer to get China back to within 10.

The U.S. was just too good to let the upset happen, outscoring China 25-14 in the third. The Americans did have one scary moment when Thomas went down after a collision with Li in the

lane. She was helped off the court, but returned a few minutes later.

"It was a tough game as we expected," Thomas said. "By no means is this game easy. We stuck to it and pulled out a win."

China won its first medal since the 1994 World Cup when the team also took the silver and are a rising power in women's basketball. After the game, the team posed for a photo with their flag and men's great Yao Ming, who is the president of the Chinese Basketball Association.

Li finished with 19 points and Wu added 13 before leaving the game in the fourth quarter after her knee gave out driving to the basket. She had to be carried off the court.

The victory was the 30th in a row in World Cup play for the Americans, who haven't lost since the 2006 semifinals against Russia. The Soviet Union holds the World Cup record with 56 straight wins from 1959-86. This is only the second time in the Americans'

storie history they've reached four consecutive gold medal contests. They also did it from 1979-90, winning three times.

This U.S. team, which has so many new faces, continued to dominate the paint even without 6-foot-8 Brittney Griner, outscoring its opponents by an average of 55-24.

The teams met in pool play and China gave the U.S. its toughest game, losing by 14 points.

CHAMPIONSHIP PEDIGREE

Wilson, Chelsea Gray and Plum are part of an incredible group that won a World Cup and WNBA title in the same year. There have been 14 total now.

HONORING GRINER

"This is for BG. I hope BG knows she's in our thoughts," Stewart said. "We can't wait for her to come home and hoping that she's going to be home as soon as possible. BG, we got the gold for you and we miss you and we love you."

Griner was sentenced in August to

nine years in a Russian prison after she was convicted of drug possession. The U.S. honored her by not having anyone wear her No. 15 on the roster.

WOMEN'S WORLD

FIBA Secretary General Andreas Zagklis was pleased that half of the officials in the tournament were female and five of the 12 head coaches were women. Both China and the U.S. had women in charge of their teams, the second straight time that two female coaches made it to the gold-medal game.

MISSING IN ACTION

The U.S. was without Kahleah Copper for the second straight game after injuring her left hip in the win over Serbia in the quarterfinals. Copper landed hard on her hip driving to the basket and had to be helped off the court. China was missing its star guard Li Meng, who sat out a second consecutive game with what Chinese media reported as having a fever due to body fatigue.



Hockey India names 33 probables for FIH Pro League matches

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Hockey India on Saturday named a 33-member men's core probable group, including the likes of captain Manpreet Singh and veteran goalkeeper P R Sreejesh, for the FIH Pro League season opening matches beginning on October 28.

The players will report to the SAI Center in Bengaluru on Monday for a national camp ahead of FIH Pro League matches against New Zealand and Spain at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

Talking about the camp, chief coach Graham Reid said, "The FIH Hockey Pro League 2022/23 will give us insights into the areas that require work ahead of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela."

"The matches against Spain and New Zealand are important for us and the players are excited about the upcoming months of hockey. We have chosen some fresh names in the core group who have shown great potential and are eager to perform when

given a chance." India play against New Zealand on October 28 and November 4. They face Germany on October 30 and November 6.

The team will move to Bhubaneswar on October 21 after a three-week camp in SAI, Bengaluru.

The Probables:

Goalkeepers: PR Sreejesh, Krishan B Pathak, Pawan

Defenders: Jarmanpreet Singh, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh, Nilam Sanjeep Xess, Amit Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Mandeep Mor, Yashdeep Siwach, Dipsan Tirkey, Sanjay, Manjeet, Sumit

Midfielders: Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Shamsheer Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Rajkumar Pal, Pawan Rajbhar

Forwards: Akashdeep Singh, Gurjant Singh, Maninder Singh, Mohd Raheel Mousen, S Karthi, Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Abhishek, Dilpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh.

Marseille beats Angers 3-0 to lead French league

AP ■ ANGERS

Jonathan Clauss notched a goal and two assists to help Marseille take the lead in the French league by downing Angers 3-0.

Marseille remained unbeaten to overtake Paris Saint-Germain by a point, but the defending champion can take the top spot back when it hosts Nice on Saturday.

Clauss rounded Angers right back Yan Valery to fire home an angled strike off the near post in the 35th minute. The France international then intercepted a pass from Valery in the 50th to feed Luis Suarez, who doubled the lead by beating goalkeeper Yahia Fofana.

Marseille midfielder Gerson made it 3-0 by controlling a cross from Clauss in the 59th to curl into the bottom corner.

"The squad lives very well together. We all stick together," Marseille midfielder Jordan Veretout said in explaining Marseille's strong start to the season.

"All the players are very important, whether it's the 11 who start or the bench. We are



a team showing solidarity, that's what makes us strong this season."

Marseille rested striker Alexis Sanchez, who stayed on the bench after playing two full matches for Chile during the international break.

Angers created the first chances by pressing high up the pitch but lacked the finishing touch. Nabil Bentaleb intercepted a pass from Marseille midfielder Jordan Veretout before rattling the post in the 18th.

Angers left back Souleyman Doumbia also dispossessed Issa Kabore in the 34th to cut the ball back for Adrien Hunou, who fluffed his shot wide.

TT: Manika loses both matches as Indian women go down to Germany in World Team C'ships

PTI ■ CHENGDU

Sreeja Ajala and Diya Chitale registered impressive wins but star paddler Manika Batra lost both her fixtures as Indian women lost 2-3 to Germany in their ITTF World Team Championships opener here on Saturday.

The men's team, on the other hand, blanked Uzbekistan 3-0 in its Group 2 opening clash.

Commonwealth Games medalist Batra, ranked 44 in the world, was no match to the world number eight Ying Han, who breezed past the Indian 3-0 (11-3 11-1 11-2) to give her side a 1-0 lead.

World number 77 Sreeja then upstaged the higher-ranked Nina Mittelham 3-0 (11-9 12-10 11-7) to put India back in the contest.

The 122-ranked Diya then gave India the lead with a hard-fought 3-1 (11-9 8-11 11-6 13-11) win over Sabine Winter.

Asian Games medalist Batra made a strong start to her second match but couldn't take advantage of the winning momentum as she was handed a 1-3 (11-7 6-11 7-11 8-11)



defeat by world number 14 Mittelham as the fixture was tied at 2-2.

However, the 24-year-old Sreeja too was no match to the mighty Ying, the 2016 Rio Olympics team silver medalist, as she also surrendered meekly to the German 0-3 (3-11 5-11 4-11) in the decider.

Indian women are placed third in Group 5.

Earlier, the men's team was hardly tested by its Uzbek rivals.

Harmeet Desai gave India the lead with a 3-0 (11-9 11-9

11-1) win over Elmurod Kholikov.

G Sathiyam then doubled the lead with a similar 3-0 (11-3 11-6 11-9) victory against Abdulaziz Anorboev while Manav Thakor sealed the fixture after defeating Shokhrukh Iskandar 3-0 (11-8 11-5 11-5).

The win puts India in third place in Group 2 behind Germany and France.

The Indian men will next face Germany while the women will take on Czech Republic on Sunday.

My focus is World Tour Finals: Prannoy

PTI ■ SURAT

Star India shuttler HS Prannoy has set his sight on the season-ending World Tour Finals but said he will have to hone his skills to ensure that he doesn't falter at the business end of the remaining tournaments.

One of the most consistent players in the international circuit this season, Prannoy has consistently reached the quarters and semifinals this season but a title has still eluded him.

The 30-year-old from Kerala recently replaced Tokyo Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark at the top of the latest men's singles HSBC Race To Guangzhou rankings.

He is leading with 58,090 points, having participated in 13 tournaments on the BWF World Tour this year. Players in the top 8 qualify for the year-ending World Tour Finals scheduled to be held from December 14 to 18 in Guangzhou.

"My focus would be the World Tour Finals. There are quite a few tournaments before that. I hope to produce winning results in those," Prannoy said after guiding Kerala to a 3-1 win



over Assam in the mixed team quarterfinals of the National Games here.

"I have to be consistent. I would like to get into a good rhythm before the World Tour Finals. I'm happy with my results over the last year and I need to be consistent."

A former world number 8, Prannoy had slipped out of the top 20 after enduring a tough phase plagued with health issues and a slump in form.

However, Prannoy has regained his place in the top 15 in the latest rankings and said his aim remains to get back into the elite 10.

"I would like to get into the top 10 and preferably top five as I would get a better draw. I also need to work on my game so that I should go beyond the semifinals. That is my priority now."



Popular wrestler and politician Antonio Inoki dies at 79

AP ■ TOKYO

A popular Japanese professional wrestler and lawmaker Antonio Inoki, who faced a world boxing champion Muhammad Ali in a mixed martial arts match in 1976, has died at 79.

Inoki brought Japanese pro-wrestling to fame and pioneered mixed martial arts matches between top wrestlers and champions from other combat sports like judo, karate and boxing.

He also was the first in his sport to enter politics. He promoted peace through sports and made more than 30 trips to North Korea during his time as a lawmaker in hopes of forging peace and friendship.

Inoki, who was battling a rare disease called amyloidosis, died earlier on Saturday, according to the New Japan Pro-Wrestling Co., of which he was the founding president. Inoki was upbeat and in good spirits, even as he was fighting the disease.

With his trademark red scarf dangling from his neck, Inoki last appeared in public in August on a TV show, in a wheelchair.

"As you can see, I'm pushing myself to the limit, and I'm getting power as I get to see you," he said.

Born as Kanji Inoki in 1943 in Yokohama, just outside Tokyo, he moved to Brazil with his family when he was 13 and worked at a coffee plantation.

Inoki won local fame in shot put as a student, and debuted as a professional wrestler at 17 while on wrestling tour in Brazil where he captured the attention of Rikidozan, known as the father of Japanese pro-wrestling.

Inoki made his pro-wrestling debut in 1960 and gave himself a ring name Antonio Inoki two years later.

With his archival and another Japanese legend, the late Shohei "Giant" Baba, Inoki made pro-wrestling a hugely popular sport in Japan. Inoki founded the New Japan Pro-Wrestling in 1972.

Guinea removed as host of 2025 African Cup

AP ■ CAPE TOWN

The African soccer confederation has removed Guinea as host of the 2025 African Cup of Nations because of inadequate infrastructure.

The decision was announced late Friday night and after Confederation of African Football (CAF) president Patrice Motsepe traveled to the country to meet with Col. Mamady Doumbouya, the head of the military junta in Guinea who took power in a coup in 2021.

CAF said its executive committee would meet in Algeria on Saturday to discuss the details of re-opening the bidding process for the 2025 tournament.

Guinea's hosting of the continental championship had been under scrutiny for weeks after an inspection committee made a visit in early September and determined that Guinea wouldn't be ready. CAF made an internal decision then to strip the West African nation of the tournament but held off making an official announcement until Motsepe's visit.

In a statement, CAF said the infrastructure and facilities in Guinea were "not ready to host a world class AFCON competition."

Advani, Laxman among 6 Indians to qualify for knockout stage of World Men 6-Red Snooker C'ship



PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Star cueist Pankaj Advani and defending champion Laxman Rawat were among the six Indians to qualify for the knockout stage of the World 6-Red Snooker Championship here.

Besides Advani and Laxman, Dhvaj Haria, Kamal Chawla and S Shrikrishna have also made it to the last 32.

Advani won all the four group stage matches with a scoreline 4-0, 4-1, 4-1, 4-2 and secured top position in his group. However, the other Indian players qualified for the knock-out stage after finishing second in their respective groups.

The 37-year-old from Pune defeated Mohamed Emeesh of

Libya 4-0 in the morning session, before getting the better off Enkhtuvshin Bat-Ochir of Mongolia 4-1 in the evening session on the opening day of the competition on Thursday.

On Saturday, Advani beat Loh Chung Leong of Malaysia 4-2 in another group B match.

Advani took a 2-0 lead against Loh but the Malaysian surprised him and took away two frames to level the match but then the Indian tightened the string and closed the next two frames to seal the proceedings. His frame score against Loh Chung Leong was 34-26, 37-01, 24-38, 19-47, 32-20, 41-10.

Advani will face Lim Kok Leong in the last 32 stage on Sunday.

Sikki-Kapoor pair loses in Vietnam Open semifinals, Indian campaign ends

PTI ■ HO CHI MINH

Indian mixed doubles pair of Sikki Reddy and Rohan Kapoor suffered a straight game loss in the semifinals of the Vietnam Open Super 100 badminton tournament here on Saturday.

The unseeded Indian pair lost 16-21 14-21 to top seeded Indonesian combination of Rehan Naufal Kusharjanto and Lisa Ayu Kusumawati in a 37-minute contest.

The defeat brought the curtains down on India's campaign at the tournament.

Sikki and Kapoor had clinched the Chhattisgarh International Challenge title, last week.

The Indonesian pair opened up a 8-4 lead early on and even though the Indian duo brought the equation down to as close as 15-16, Rehan and Lisa quelled the challenge and knocked off four straight points to pocket the opening game.

The second game also went on similar lines with Rehan and Lisa leading 12-9. Sikki and Kapoor then reduced the deficit to 14-15 but the Indonesian pair sealed the contest with six points on the trot.

Bayern routs Leverkusen 4-0 to end crisis, Musiala stars

AP ■ BERLIN

Jamal Musiala starred and Bayern Munich ended its four-game winless run by beating Bayer Leverkusen 4-0 as the Bundesliga returned from the international break on Friday.

The 19-year-old Musiala was involved in all three of the first-half goals. And this time — in contrast to the 1-0 defeat in Augsburg or the three preceding draws — fortune was smiling on Bayern. Every score was helped on its way by a slight deflection — or a gift from the opposition.

The 10-time defending champion wasted little time in answering its first loss of the season in Augsburg as Musiala skipped down the right wing and crossed for Leroy Sané to open the scoring in the third minute.

Thomas Müller set up Musiala to score in the 17th, and Musiala was involved again when he set up Sadio Mané to end his six-game scoring drought in the 39th. It was Mané's first goal in Munich for his new team.

Mané thought he'd scored again early in the second half, but the goal was ruled out after a VAR check for an apparent



visit by Matthijs de Ligt on Odilon Kossounou in the buildup. Bayern's players kept playing while the Leverkusen defender was lying on the ground after a clash of heads with de Ligt and Musiala again provided the final pass. Referee Tobias Stieler checked replays while Kossounou received treatment and consequently penalized de Ligt for a foul.

Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer denied Amine Adli in the

visitors' only real chance, while his counterpart Lukáš Hrádecký ended an evening to forget by gifting Müller Bayern's fourth goal in the 84th. Hrádecký wanted to play the ball out but slipped and inadvertently provided the assist for Müller, whose celebrations were muted by embarrassment.

Bayern moved two points behind league leader Union Berlin, which visits Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday.

JEMIMAH'S CAREER-BEST POWERS INDIA TO 41-RUN WIN OVER SL IN WOMEN'S ASIA CUP

PTI ■ SYLHET

Jemimah Rodrigues played the role of an enforcer to perfection with a career-best 76 in T20Is before the bowlers produced a clinical display to power India to a 41-run win against Sri Lanka in their women's Asia Cup opener here on Saturday.

Rodrigues put up a boundary-hitting exhibition as she whacked 11 fours and a maximum in her counter-attacking 53-ball innings to help India post 150 for six on a wicket where batters struggled due to low bounce.

The Indian bowlers then struck at regular intervals to bowl Sri Lanka out for 109 in 18.2 overs.

The Indians were better than their Sri Lankan counterparts in all three departments.

India were not off to the best of starts after being asked to bat.

Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana (10) was the first to be dismissed, while her fellow opener Shafali Verma's (6) batting woes continued as she became spinner Oshadi Ranasinghe's (3/32) first victim of the day.

But Rodrigues, who is coming off a wrist injury, was in control from the beginning, timing the ball to perfection.

She kept sending the ball to the fence every over and punished the Sri Lankan bowling attack all over the field.

Rodrigues raced to her half-century in 38 deliveries and together with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (33 off 30) steered India over the 100-run mark.

The two got 92 off 71 balls



with Kaur also looking dangerous.

The skipper got a reprieve in the 15th over when she was dropped off Sugandika Kumari (1/26) but couldn't capitalise on it as Ranasinghe had her stumped in the next over.

Sri Lankan bowlers then staged a comeback in the death overs with a flurry of wickets.

While Rodrigues continued to score at a good pace, going past her previous career-best T20I score of 72, her fabulous innings soon came to an end off a Chamari Athapaththu

(1/8) slow and low delivery as the Indian was bowled.

Dayalan Hemalatha chipped in with an unbeaten 13 towards the end while Richa Ghosh (9) slammed a six.

Spinners, led by Ranasinghe did the bulk of the work for Sri Lanka.

Chasing 151, Sri Lanka were off to a flyer, plundering 13 runs off the first over bowled by pacer Renuka Singh (0/20). But Sri Lanka couldn't continue the momentum as they lost wickets at regular intervals.

All-rounder Deepti Sharma

(2/15) got the prized wicket of the experienced Chamari (5) with her slower ball.

The Sri Lankan skipper looked to slog it over the on side only for Renuka to catch the ball at square leg. Sri Lanka's running between wickets was sloppy as a sharp India side capitalised on the errors.

Deepti ran out Melsha Shehani (9) but opener Harshitha Samarawickrama (26) continued to play aggressively but she too was run out in the eighth over.

With the required run rate increasing, the Sri Lankans wilted under pressure.

Pooja Vastrakar (2/12) snared the wickets of Nilakshi de Silva (3) Kavisha Dilhari (1) off her successive overs as Sri Lanka were left tottering at 61/5.

However, Hasini Perera (30) provided some resistance as she partnered with wicketkeeper Anushka Sanjeevani (5) and Oshidi Ranasinghe (11) to breach the 100-run mark.

But spinner Hemalatha (3/15) cleaned up the tail with a three-wicket burst as India started their Asia Cup campaign with a win.



It's difficult to defend when Surya attacks bowlers: Parnell

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Suryakumar Yadav's incredibly strong and powerful batting has made him one of the most feared T20 batters at the moment and South African all-rounder Wayne Parnell says the bowlers will have to stay strong and focussed while tackling him.

Surya slammed a 33-ball 50 in India's eight-wicket win over South Africa on a tricky track in the series-opener.

"Personally from what I've watched in the last couple of months, I think he's probably the best T20 batters at the moment. He scores 360-degree which is very difficult for bowlers to defend," he said on the eve of the second and penultimate T20I of the series.

"It's about being strong and focussed on each ball. He's allowed to play good shots, but the other day he was lucky as

well. He's certainly a guy whom I enjoyed watching the last couple of months. He's certainly playing good cricket," Parnell said.

Parnell insisted that their flop show in the first T20I was an aberration and there's no need to panic before the T20 World Cup in Australia.

"It's just one of those things. It wasn't a good T20 wicket and they bowled really well, but our batters have been world class in the last couple of years so there's nothing to panic about," he said.

On their meek show in the powerplay when they were stuttering 9 for five, Parnell said, "It's a bit of a Catch-22 situation really. Certainly experience tells you that new ball does swing so you have to have a look at the first one-two overs."

"We have to credit the Indian seamers who bowled really well. We will have to define ways to counter that in

the second game."

Kagiso Rabada and Parnell hit the right lengths but the likes of Anrich Nortje and Tabraiz Shamsi struggled badly in the first match as the visitors looked one seamer short.

"Competition is good for the spots. Every single fast bowler is different and has different skill sets. It's a positive sign for us. It also means that when we are presented with any particular condition, we can play a certain set of fast bowlers so I think personally having the variety that we have is really exciting," he said.

On World Cup preparation, he said: "It's been very good over the last few months. We were here in June, then went on a UK tour, coming back here again before going to Australia. Everyone is in really good spirits and looking forward to next couple of T20Is and the ODIs as well."

India remain static on 4th in ODI and T20I ranking after annual update



PTI ■ DUBAI

India have maintained their fourth spot in the ICC women's ODI and T20I team rankings after the world body carried out an annual update on Saturday.

India have gained a point and now have 104 points in the ODI rankings.

In the T20 list, the Commonwealth Games silver medalists' rating points have increased by four as the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side sits on 266 points in the latest update, which expunges results from the 2018-19 season, weights the 2019-20 and 2020-2021 seasons at 50 per cent and the 2021-22 matches at 100 per cent.

Australia have established a record margin at the top of the ODI team rankings while also increasing their lead in the T20I team rankings.

The Commonwealth Games and World Cup champi-

ons have stretched their lead over South Africa from 48 to 51 rating points in the ODI rankings, which is the biggest lead ever by any international men's or women's side in any form of the game.

Their lead over second-placed T20I team England has increased from 14 to 18 rating points.

There is no change of positions in the ODI rankings.

Australia have gained three rating points and sit comfortably at 170, with South Africa (119), England (116), India (104) and New Zealand (101) the other teams holding three-figure rating points.

In T20Is, Australia are on 299 rating points, stretching their lead over second-placed England from 14 to 18 rating points.

New Zealand maintained their third position, while South Africa have overtaken the West Indies to fifth position.

Team India grapple with Bumrah riddle as it chases rare series win vs SA

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

It may be unsettled after an unexpected injury to Jasprit Bumrah but the Indian team would aim to continue its winning run and complete a rare home-series win against South Africa when the two sides clash in the second T20 International, here Sunday.

From the tranquility of Thiruvananthapuram, the Team India atmosphere, suddenly, wears a chaotic look -- much like the traffic of Guwahati, thrown out of gear in the midst of Durga Puja rush and construction of flyovers.

Bumrah was expected to play a key role in Indian team's campaign in the Australian conditions but his "back stress fracture" has ruled him out of the ICC flagship event, starting in three weeks' time.

The ongoing series was originally planned as the final tune-up for Rahul Dravid's team but Bumrah's absence from the remaining two T20Is has now thrown more questions than answers.

Umesh Yadav and Mohammad Siraj have been added to the squad as injury replacements but they do not figure in the World Cup-bound squad, as of now.

The burning question is, will the two remaining T20Is give the team management scope to test Bumrah's replacement.

The seasoned Mohammad Shami, who is in the World Cup squad as stand-by, is not

here for the South Africa series. Shami has recovered from COVID-19 and has more chances of making it to Australia because of his experience Down Under.

If that's the case, he might end up having little game time before their World Cup warm-up fixture against the reigning champions on October 16.

For the SA series, the team has a fit-again Deepak Chahar who also figures in the World Cup standby.

Chahar (4-0-24-2) looked in fine fettle when he along with young left-arm pace gun Arshdeep Singh (4-0-32-3) reduced the Proteas to 9/5 inside the power on the Greenfield track as India took a 1-0 lead.

But swing will be out of equation in conditions Down Under and Chahar is more in the mould of Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who is in the World Cup XI along with Arshdeep.

Siraj, on the other hand, has struggled of late and has inspired very little confidence.

It's a different debate altogether that Bhuvneshwar, who is short on experience -- three T20Is -- in Australia has started leaking runs and no longer holds the ace, as it was seen in their Asia Cup elimination last month.

Ditto for World Cup-bound Harshal Patel as it remains to be seen how the think-tank manages to arrange the jigsaw.

In the past, they have overcome bigger hurdles, like when



in 2020-21 they won a back-to-back series in Australia with their fifth or sixth choice bowlers.

The Axar effect Thankfully, it's not the case in the spin department.

Axar Patel has been a revelation after Ravindra Jadeja's knee surgery finally cemented his spot. From struggling to find a spot, Patel, a like-for-like replacement for the ace Indian all-rounder, has ticked all the boxes.

He was the top wickettaker -- eight wickets at an average of 7.87 -- in India's 2-1 win over the world T20I champions in their last series here.

And against South Africa too he was at his miserly best

— 1/16 -- bowling in the middle-overs along with Ravichandran Ashwin as it's a department that looks sorted.

For someone who has a career strike-rate of 136-plus from 30 T20Is, it's his batting that has inspired confidence in skipper Rohit Sharma: "I would like to see him batting as well."

But India will head to Australia with their star-studded batting providing the big confidence. The top four, including their star batter Virat Kohli, look in their zone.

That KL Rahul also returned among runs with a slow but steady fifty in the first T20I was a big confidence-booster.

It's just that their middle-order with the likes of Rishabh Pant and Dinesh Karthik seemingly looks short on game time.

Pant, who is likely to be the X-factor in Australia, has not got any batting opportunities at all since returning from the Asia Cup where he had a mixed campaign.

Karthik, the designated Indian finisher, on the other hand has faced nine balls in last seven games as pushing them higher would not be a bad play.

Elusive series win in sight From the series' perspective, India will be chasing their first ever victory over the Proteas in the format at home soil and a win will seal it. It's a

different thing that it would hold little significance in the bigger picture.

That they have struggled in the world tournaments is not a secret and the 2007 champions, who last made the semifinal in 2016, would hope to avoid a repeat of 2021 UAE edition when they failed to make the knockouts.

Boasting the likes of Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje, the South African bowling lacked the sting after the duo dismissed Rohit and Kohli cheaply.

Bavuma would hope that they put up a much-improved show and also the toss of the coin comes in his favour so as to test the Indian batting up front.

Teams (from)

India: Rohit Sharma (Captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wk), Dinesh Karthik (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Harshal Patel, Deepak Chahar, Umesh Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Shabbaz Ahmed and Mohammad Siraj.

South Africa: Temba Bavuma (Captain), Quinton de Kock (wk), Bjorn Fortuin, Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, Andile Phehlukwayo, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Rilee Rossouw, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs.

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Irani Trophy: Mukesh swings, Sarfaraz sizzles as Rest of India take control

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Medium pacer Mukesh Kumar rattled Saurashtra with some high quality swing bowling before Sarfaraz Khan continued his dream run with an attractive hundred to put Rest of India in the driver's seat on the opening day of Irani Trophy match here on Saturday.

At stumps, Sarfaraz's unbeaten 125 off 126 balls took Rest of India to 205 for 3 after Mukesh's swing and scorching pace from young guns Kuldeep Sen (3/41) and Umran Malik (3/25) demolished the 2019-20 Ranji Trophy Champions for a meagre 98 in 24.5 overs.

In the presence of chairman of selectors Chetan Sharma and his colleague Sunil Joshi, Sarfaraz gave an exhibition of his wide array of strokes that included 19 boundaries and three sixes.

Coming in when the Rest were tottering at 18 for 3, in the post lunch ses-

sion, Sarfaraz played one of his most counter punching knocks to take the stuffing out of Saurashtra attack while adding 185 for the unbroken fourth wicket stand with Hanuma Vihari (62 batting off 145 balls).

The hallmark of Sarfaraz's innings was how he picked the length very early and that enabled him to play late. He played some attractive shots square of the wicket but the manner in which he toyed with domestic doyen Jaydev Unadkat was worth watching. Unadkat bowled two bouncers at varied pace. In the first one, he kept his shape to come under the delivery and pulled it uppishly for a six.

The next bouncer from the same spot, he rolled his arms over to keep the pull shot down for a boundary.

It was a late cut off left-arm spinner Dharmendra Jadeja that brought his century. Later in one over of Jadeja, he repeatedly slog-swept him for three boundaries



as Unadkat was forced to open his field to stop boundaries. However in the morning, the pitch was spicier than expected. On a track that offered good bounce and some early moisture aiding a bit of nip in the air, Mukesh (4/23 in 10 overs) literally decimated Saurashtra with his first spell as he made the batters play every delivery.

Most of his deliveries swung in and either left the batter late after pitching or straightened with the keeper and slip cordon pitching almost everything that came its way. The best part about each dismissal was that it was more about bowler hitting the fuller length while delivering very close to the stumps.

Neither of the two openers Harvik Desai and Snell Patel played away from their body but the Bengal seamer, who had a dream A series versus New Zealand, made them push at deliveries on off stump.

Salt's 88 trumps Babar's 87 to set up T20 decider

AP ■ LAHORE

Phil Salt's 88 trumped Babar Azam's 87 for England to beat Pakistan in a Twenty20 and set up a series decider.

Both openers carried their bats through the sixth match, and Salt's extra ruthlessness was a big reason why England won by eight wickets to even the series 3-3.

They play the seventh and last match on Sunday at the same Gaddafi Stadium.

Salt smashed an unbeaten 88 off 41 balls, propelling a chasing England to 170-2 in just 14.3 overs.

Babar anchored Pakistan to 169-6 with an unbeaten 87 off 59 balls.

Salt's brutal batting in the powerplay led England to 82-1, the most runs ever conceded



ed by Pakistan in the first six overs.

Alex Hales made 27 off 12 balls and added 55 runs with Salt. Then Dawid Malan and Ben Duckett combined with Salt to get England home with 33 balls to spare.

"Thought the way we batted in particular was outstanding," England stand-in captain Moeen Ali said.

Unmukt suffers eye injury in US

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India Under-19 captain Unmukt Chand has suffered an eye injury while playing for Silicon Valley Strikers in Minor League Cricket in the United States.

The 29-year-old, who retired from Indian cricket to be able to play in the US, shared on social media an image of his swollen eye.

"It's never a smooth ride for an athlete. Some days you come home victorious, other days disappointed & there are some when you come home with bruises and dents," tweeted Chand who led India to the U-19 World Cup title back in 2012. "Grateful to God to have survived a possible disaster. Play hard but be safe. It's a thin line," wrote the Delhi-born player.

"Be happy with being you. Love your flaws. Own your quirks. And know that you are just as perfect as anyone else, exactly as you are"
—Ariana Grande



AFTER A LONG ROPE, PFI FINALLY NAILED

The PFI was working in a modular fashion with each of its affiliate organizations working on specific agenda,, writes RAKESH SINGH

The ban on the radical outfit Popular Front of India (PFI) and its affiliates by the Centre earlier this week under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act has come in the wake of intelligence reports that the Islamist organization's scale of radicalization has reached monumental proportions and its linkages with several global terror groups was threatening national security.

The banned outfit's deep-seated strategic ambit is clear as it has begun regrouping within a week of the ban under the banner of Tipu Sultan Volunteer Force.

The most alarming element in the PFI's tactics was the recruitment of a large number of mentally challenged children by its affiliate Rehab India Foundation, also banned along with the parent organization. The clandestine nature of such recruitment left the children open to abuse into drug trafficking, organ harvesting, gunrunning, and suicide bombing without them being aware of their role in such affairs.

While the government has banned the Rehab India Foundation, measures are yet to be taken to rescue these children. Their legal verification and tracing of their families are the need of the hour to stem any possible threat posed by their misuse in the future.

The PFI was working in a modular fashion with each of its affiliate organizations working on specific agendas.

The PFI affiliate National Confederation of Human Rights Organisation was working in the guise of raising human rights issues of the Rohingyas and also organized protests in favour of the displaced Myanmar nationals illegally residing in India and also organized anti-state protests in the name of human rights violations of the Muslims to further its anti-government propaganda by projecting that the Muslims were being crushed in the country at the hands of the state. It was also working to create a pro-Rohingya and anti-UAPA narrative. It was being mentored by an American Human Rights group and also had a working relationship with urban Naxals and ultra-Left human rights groups.

The Empower India Foundation that brought the Vision 2047 document for Islamisation of India was engaged in intellectual narrative building and pushing Muslims at different levels of the government administrative machinery.

Likewise, the All India Imams Council, also a PFI affiliate, also banned, was allegedly working to convert the youths of Islamic factions like Sufism and Shia denominations into radical

Salafism. It also engaged in conversion for which it issued a detailed set of guidelines.

PFI's National Women's Front was reportedly tasked to spearhead the hijab movement. The outfit was not only radicalizing gullible Indian youths but also Islamic cohorts from a number of countries like Maldives and Seychelles among others.

The PFI had also reportedly ran a "Boycott India" campaign in the MENA (Middle East North Africa) region when India was coping with the Covid pandemic and cryogenic oxygen was being imported from the Gulf countries. Through the Boycott India campaign, the outfit intended to disrupt the supply of oxygen so that more and more Indians could die due to the pandemic.

The outfit had grown so bold that it issued threats to a few serving and former Intelligence officers including Interlocutor for the Northeast RN Ravi last year.

The organization, with a membership base of over 15 lakh, was growing organically. The Tamil Nadu Tauheed Jamat merged with it in 2021. Tauheed Jamat's Sri Lankan faction was involved in the 2019 serial bombings in Colombo in the high security diplomatic zone killing over 200 people.

The PFI had developed significant connections with the Rohingyas. On the Uyghurs, the PFI facilitated the movement of leaders to Hyderabad but in a display of a double game, it did not endorse Uyghur demands in line with the Pakistani government line on the issue.

The PFI was also in the advanced state of setting up training camps abroad in conjunction with the Taliban and ISIS.

The PFI hierarchy is divided into two factions—the one owing allegiance to ISIS and the other to Al Qaeda. The current action against the PFI by the law enforcement agencies entails measures against the ISIS faction within the outfit.

The PFI leadership, tilted toward the Al Qaeda global terror group, was in contact with the Tahreek-e-Taliban. The group had also prepared a hit list of top political leaders.

The PFI was indulging in "disturbing" the country's communal and secular fabric and "posing a grave threat" to national security by advancing its radical ideology and seeking to establish "political Islam" in India besides targeting Hindu activists.

The PFI also covertly organised training exercises, and military-like drills, where participants are trained to use force and violence against certain religious groups, which are perceived as enemies of Islam.

Since its inception, the PFI has been against Hindu organisations and their leaders. The e group has a secret hit squad that engages in targeted killings of Hindu activists and those allegedly indulging in blasphemy.

The PFI is alleged to have been continuously involved in anti-government propaganda and spreading the narrative that Muslims were being

persecuted in India. The outfit was at the forefront in organising anti-CAA protests during December 2019-March 2020 and many cases were registered against them which included 51 in Uttar Pradesh alone where the PFI-led platform, Samvidhan Suraksha Andolan, was among those which coordinated the anti-CAA agitations.

Through active involvement in the protests, the PFI was able to project itself as a prominent Muslim organisation capable of safeguarding the interests of the community.

By projecting itself as the champion of Muslim causes, the PFI had been successful in attracting new members over the years. Its role in the Delhi riots was also investigated by the ED.

In recent years, the peaceful atmosphere of the country was

threatened by PFI, which has a presence in 17 States.

The murder of Praveen Nettaru in Bellare town on July 26 was one of the cases that exposed the violent character of PFI. Nettaru, a member of Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha and a local businessman, was hacked to death in typical ISIS style by bike-borne assailants and most of the accused in the case had an affiliation with the PFI.

An investigation by local police claimed a chilling tale of cold-blooded murder by PFI cadres and SDPI members in retaliation to the killing of 19-year-old Masood, a Muslim migrant labourer.

A list of RSS and Bajrang Dal members of the town was prepared and the PFI leaders handpicked some members to avenge Masood's death. Nettaru was targeted as he had commented on the halal issue, officials said.

Contrary to PFI's claim of being a social organisation working for the uplift of Muslims, the ground actions of the outfit tell a totally different story with several of its cadres having a violent history.

Over 1,400 criminal cases had been registered against PFI cadres and its affiliates across the country including under the UAPA, the Explosive Substances Act, Arms Act and other sections of the IPC.

The interrogation of the accused in various cases showed that the PFI would identify Muslim youths, from poor or middle-class backgrounds, for physical training during which they were also inculcated with anti-Hindutva ideology.

These cadres were trained in handling knives, swords, and rods and how to attack specific body parts to inflict maximum damage.

On July 4, Telangana Police registered a case against 27 people after a training camp for 200 PFI cadres was found in Nizamabad. The PFI had been trying hard to make inroads into Telangana to increase its cadre base and was undertaking social programmes like distributing school books and food to the poor to gain traction among them.

There have been a number of instances of international linkages of PFI with global terrorist groups where some PFI activists, particularly from Kerala, had joined ISIS and had participated in terror activities in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, which was an outcome of the continuous radicalisation of its cadres.

While investigating the foreign funding trail of PFI, the ED found that PFI had formed district executive committees in various gulf countries including the UAE, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

THE MOST ALARMING ELEMENT IN THE PFI'S TACTICS WAS THE RECRUITMENT OF A LARGE NUMBER OF MENTALLY CHALLENGED CHILDREN BY ITS AFFILIATE REHAB INDIA FOUNDATION, ALSO BANNED ALONG WITH THE PARENT ORGANIZATION. THE CLANDESTINE NATURE OF SUCH RECRUITMENT LEFT THE CHILDREN OPEN FOR ABUSE IN DRUG TRAFFICKING, ORGAN HARVESTING, GUNRUNNING, AND SUICIDE BOMBING WITHOUT THEM BEING AWARE OF THEIR ROLE IN SUCH AFFAIRS

The India Fraternity Forum (IFF) and Indian Social Forum (ISF) were PFI's overseas fronts and were to politically engage the expatriate Muslims to conform to their ideology and organise funds for activities of PFI in India.

Their executive committees were responsible for sending money to PFI in India without leaving any trail. Funds were generally collected in cash and remitted to India either through hawala channels or camouflaged as remittances made to relatives and friends of PFI's members and sympathisers working abroad.

Further, PFI had linkages with the dreaded Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh, which was involved in several terror incidents in that country.

Also, 21 people having linkages with the PFI had joined the internationally banned ISIS terror group.

Some Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) training videos, depicting gruesome murders, were recovered from the PFI cadres accused in the professor TJ Joseph hand-chopping case in 2010.

PFI's top leaders visited Turkey in 2018 and 2019 to attend programmes related to Palestine.

Its radical activities had attracted the attention of an international radical outfit namely, the Party of Islamic Renewal, which had in April sent an online letter to PFI on Twitter, praising its activities and urging it to organize a 'Revolutionary Army' for Jihad against the Indian government.

The PFI has also been targeting leaders of the Sufi Islamic Board, who were campaigning constantly for a ban on the PFI.

Since its inception in 2006, the PFI encouraged its cadres to undertake actions that mar peace and harmony among religious groups and disrupt the secular fabric of the country.

On December 9, 2006, three south Indian Muslim fundamentalist groups -- National Development Front/NDF, Kerala; Karnataka Forum for Dignity/KFD, Karnataka; and Manitha Neethi Pasarai/MNP, Tamil Nadu, rechristened 'South India Council' (a Bengaluru-based organisation floated by NDF in 2004) as 'Popular Front of India'.

Several members of PFI, including its top leadership, had been active members of banned SIMI. They included EM Abdul Rahiman (former Chairman), E Abubacker (Member, National Executive Council/NEC) and P Koya (Member, NEC).

only when he was judged to have been suitably radicalised for the group.

PFI recruits were radicalised by the display of selective video clippings on emotive issues like the Babri Masjid demolition, and communal riots in Gujarat and other parts of the country, aimed at instilling a sense of Muslim persecution and distrust against the state as well as other communities.

During interrogation by the ED (December 2020), Rauf Sharief (former general secretary, CFI), had said that PFI runs a secret relief wing, which actually plans and executes revenge attacks on selected RSS leaders.

On the funding part, the officials said that PFI receives dubious funding from within the country as well as from abroad.

PFI and its affiliates maintain a large number of bank accounts and receive money through its well-wishers/financers based in India and abroad. It also collects Zakat (donations) from its wealthy supporters.

The ED searched several office premises and residences of PFI leaders in 2020 and 2021 for suspected money laundering and arrested PFI leaders. The ED probe revealed that the PFI had created a very well-organized structure in Gulf countries for raising funds and the collected fund was sent to India through Hawala.

PFI was operating money laundering fronts overseas, which included the Munnar Villa vista project in Kerala and Darbar restaurant in Abu Dhabi.

In the Munnar Villa vista project, lakhs of unaccounted cash were infused and some benami shareholders were located in UAE, who later transferred the shares to PFI leaders.

The PFI was parking its illegally raised funds in this project so as to use them as and when required.

ED probe also revealed that Anshad Badruddin (PFI, arrested by UP ATS in Lucknow in February 2021 with arms and explosives) had received more than Rs 3 lakh from PFI (from 2018 to 2021) for criminal activities.

The PFI's accountant during the investigation, in the aftermath of the Delhi riots, told his interrogators that PFI's headquarters at Shaheen Bagh, Delhi kept crores of unaccounted money, which they use without any accountability.

Many cases of Hawala money transactions were being investigated by various law enforcement agencies against PFI.

A large jewellery company from Kerala is also suspected to be funding PFI.

(The writer is Special Correspondent, The Pioneer)

DELHI UNIVERSITY RECOLLECTING THE PAST

As Delhi university celebrates its centenary, Union Minister HARDEEP SINGH PURI launched an anthology of writings by its well-known alumni titled — DELHI UNIVERSITY: CELEBRATING 100 GLORIOUS YEARS—and reminisced the time he spent in DU's Hindu College and noted that a good institution is defined by its student body. The book is edited by Puri himself

BY HARDEEP SINGH PURI

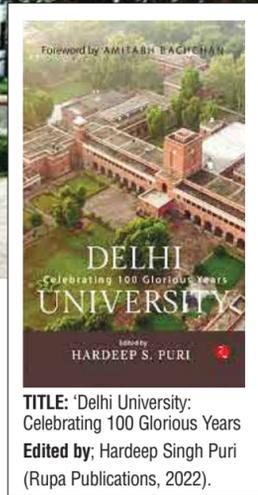
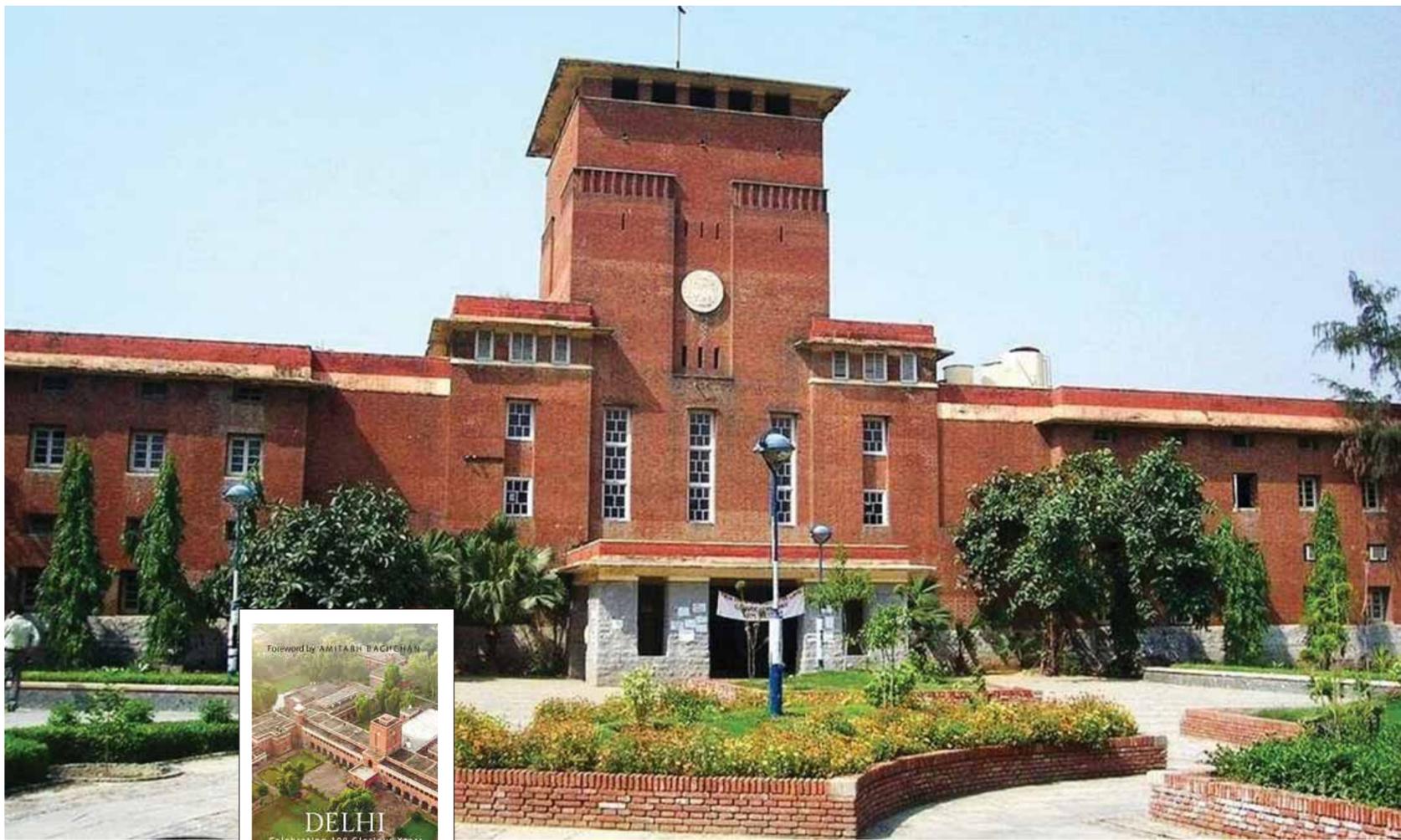
Many of India's most consequential nation-builders and opinion-makers have emerged from the hallowed grounds of the University of Delhi — India's most sought-after educational institution. Its alumni include political leaders, artists, entrepreneurs, and litterateurs of the highest caliber. The university celebrated its 100th anniversary on May 1 2022. I am proud and honoured that I brought together some of its most illustrious alumni to collectively reflect on its rich history, vibrant student life, and influence in India's public discourse today.

As Editor, coordinating the development of this anthology was made easy because the who's who of Indian public life agreed to help me in this endeavour without a moment's hesitation. This anthology was conceived to celebrate the 100 years of our alma mater and the role it has played in furthering world-class education. It has successfully captured a spectrum of viewpoints that covers five decades of studying or teaching at the university.

While no such work can be exhaustive, I do believe that we have been able to capture the ineffable spirit of the university in the eclectic recollections of our authors.

Prospective students who have seen the university from afar will get an inside view of one of the most prestigious public universities in the country, while those intimately familiar with the institution will reconnect with their fondest memories through the words of some of its most famous alumni.

Speaking at the launch of the book at Hindu College, the Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, and Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri—an alumnus of Hindu College—noted that the university is a leading centre of excellence in the country and among the most successful universities in the country. The launch was also attended by other contributors to the book — Former DU Vice Chancellor Dinesh Singh; former assistant secretary-general



at the United Nations and deputy executive director of UN WOMEN, Lakshmi Puri; lawyer Raian Karanjawala; Indian writer Namita Gokhale; and Director Imtiaz Ali.

List of authors who have contributed to the anthology

- Amitabh Bachchan (wrote the Foreword)

- Prof. (Dr.) Dinesh Singh
- Sanjeev Sanyal
- Dr. Shashi Tharoor
- Hon. (Dr.) Justice Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud
- Mrs. Lakshmi Puri
- Imtiaz Ali
- Arnab Goswami
- Raian Karanjawala
- Dr. Bibek Debroy
- Dr. Meenakshi Gopinath

- Kiren Rijiju
- Namita Gokhale
- Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Hardeep Puri, who has distinguished four-decade career in diplomacy spanning the bilateral and multilateral arena, having held Ambassadorial posts in London, Brasilia and as India's Permanent

Representative to the United Nations in both Geneva (2002-2005) and New York (2009-2013). He is one of the few Indians to preside over the United Nations Security Council and the only one to have chaired its Counter-terrorism Committee. He served as Chairman, RIS; as Vice President at the International Peace Institute; and as Secretary-General of the

Independent Commission on Multilateralism in New York. He is the author of three books: Separating the Wheat from the Chaff, Decoding Dominant Narratives' (Konark Publications, 2019); 'Delusional Politics: Back to the Future' (Penguin Viking, 2019); and 'Perilous Interventions: The Security Council & The Politics of Chaos' (Harper Collins, 2016).

A pilgrimage with a difference

A ritualistic bath at Sangam during Kumbh is a dream for millions of Hindus across India. One of the best-known Bengali writers of our time, Samresh Bose, takes us on a memorable journey to the Kumbh mela in his fabulous book IN SEARCH OF THE PITCHER OF NECTAR. On this pilgrimage, Bose also exposes the duplicity of our belief system, writes NAVIN UPADHYAY



The magic of Kumbh mela, a humongous congregation of millions of devotees for taking the purifying ritualistic dip at Sangam, has spawned hundreds of fiction, non-fiction and memoirs. Samresh Bose's IN SEARCH OF THE PITCHER OF NECTAR is one such effort.

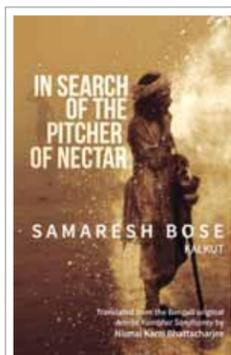
Translated from the Bengali original "Amrita Kumbher Sandhaney" by Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, the book revises the magical atmosphere of the Kumbh Mela and the mythical

tales surrounding it: How a holy dip at Sangam, the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati, at the moment of the Kumbh, can provide you with "moksha" both here and in the afterlife.

The title of the book comes from the mythical tale that Amrita, the nectar of immortality arising out of Samundra manthan, the churning of the ocean by Gods and asuras, spilled out from the pot at this location. The dialogues between the two main characters in the

first few pages underline the essence of their spiritual journey. One such exchange takes place as early as on page 11:

He smiled sweetly and asked, "Why do people from the whole world go there? Why do saints and monks come there to take a dip? Have not you seen how bright they look? How well-built their physique? People are cured of their disease and receive a hundred years of life span if they bathe in the Sangam at the auspicious Kumbh moment. This is why I am also going?"



TITLE: In Search of the Pitcher of Nectar
Writer: Samresh Bose
Translator: Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee
Publisher: Niyogi books
Price: Rs 450

The narrator commences on this journey with the desire not to achieve atonement, but to learn about life, about people. He is amazed and inspired by every character he meets, whether it is his fellow passenger on the train, sadhus, and devotees like Mahavir and Ramjidas at the festival, or the family with whom he shares a tent.

The protagonists reveal the double standard of the society that Kumbh brings to the fore.. How many of those millions who take the ritualistic bath are really spiritual, kind, and compassionate? The book highlights how these hardcore devotees are unable to leave behind their social prejudices, their weakness for sensual pleasure, their joys, and sorrows, their possessions and obsessions even when they are thinking of "mokshas".

Samresh Bose, born in Dhaka in 1924, is regarded as one of the greatest Bengali writers of all time. His stories have been turned into award-winning films. He received the Sahitya academy award (1980) for his novel Shambha. Among his more successful novels and short stories, collections are Baghini; Ganga; B.T. Roder Dharey; Shastharipu; Rituanga; He wrote several travelogues under the nom-de-plume Kalkut.

Anyone interested in literature and travelogues as well as spiritualist forays will find this a fascinating book. The language, the dialogues, and the translations are excellent. IN SEARCH OF THE PITCHER OF NECTAR is undoubtedly one of the finest books to hit the stands in recent months in the domestic market.

NIF Book Prize longlist announced

Books on gender parity, the Chipko movement, the Tata group and iconic painter Syed Haider Raza are among 10 works named in the longlist of the 2022 Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize on Thursday.

The longlisted books for the fifth edition of the prize include "Accidental Feminism: Gender Parity and Selective Mobility Among India's Professional Elite" (Swetha S Ballakrishnen), "The Truths and Lies of Nationalism as Narrated by Charvak" (Partha Chatterjee), "Syed Haider Raza: The Journey of an Iconic Artist" (Yashodhara Dalma), "Governance by Stealth: The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Making of the Indian State" (Subrata Mitra), and "The Chipko Movement: A People's History" (Shekhar Pathak).

"Tata: The Global Corporation That Built Indian Capitalism" (Mircea Raianu), "Whole Numbers and Half Truths: What Data Can and Cannot Tell Us About Modern India" (Rukmini S), "Congress Radio: Usha Mehta and the Underground Radio Station of 1942" (Usha Thakkar), "Midnight's Borders: A People's History of Modern India" (Suchitra Vijayan) and Ghazala Wahab's "Born a Muslim: Some Truths about Islam in India" complete the list.

This year's longlist covers a variety of themes in combining keen research with scholarly writing, the New India Foundation said, adding each offers valuable insight into dif-



ferent aspects of the country's history.

"Ranging from biography and art history to analysis of environmental, industrial, and governmental shifts, the books selected this year represent the ways in which India has come to be shaped in this 75th year of independence. In theorizing the past and present, the longlisted titles offer a new way of interpreting paths towards an aspirational future," the NIF said in a statement.

Named after one of India's foremost nation-builders, the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize celebrates the finest non-fiction literature on modern and contemporary India published in the previous calendar year by writers of all nationalities. Instituted in 2018, it carries an award of Rs 15 lakh and a citation.

The shortlist will be announced on November 8 and the winner on December 1. This year's jury was headed by political scientist Niraja

Gopal Jayal and also included entrepreneur Manish Sabharwal, historians Srinath Raghavan and Nayanjot Lahiri, former diplomat Navtej Sarna, and attorney Rahul Matthan.

The jury termed the longlist "wonderfully diverse." "The many themes in modern Indian history that it covers have great relevance today: if the histories of nationalism, business, the environment and state institutions offer a sobering historical lens on the present, the more contemporary works on feminism and data give reasons for optimism about the future. Deeply researched and engagingly written, these works of history reflect on the contemporary Indian condition," it said.

Previous winners of the prize are Milan Vaishnav (2018), Ornit Shani (2019), Amit Ahuja and Jairam Ramesh (2020 jointly) and Dinyar Patel (2021).

CUET: Predicament & possibilities

A nation infatuated with IITs and AIIMS makes it difficult for the vast majority of students to seek a degree in a field other than engineering or medicine. Yet, students who are unable to acquire admission to either tier II or tier III institutes often end up enrolling in a non-technical degree course. So, what we are seeing in the form of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) — a homogenised objective test — is nothing more than the fallout of that fixation where the students could be evaluated on a similar standardised test.

In an academic environment where near-perfect scores are the norm rather than the exception, the introduction of CUET to decide students' eligibility for university admission is a much-needed initiative. However, if the proposed entrance exam is going to be based on Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) test, I am afraid it would only result in mushrooming of more coaching centres to prepare students for university entrance test.

Testing a student's suitability, particularly for liberal subjects, necessitates a comprehensive evaluation. Therefore, this test cannot be solely dependent on multiple-choice questions. When a candidate is expected to employ her critical and argumentative acumen during the course, testing her ability to memorise facts and information is never a good idea. Hence, the assessment should ideally be a blend of both objective and subjective questions, done in stages (preliminary and advanced). The intention behind having an advanced stage consisting of subjective paper is to assess the applicants' linguistic, critical, and analytical skills.

This is important because the purpose of higher education is much more than just creating high paying job opportunities for students. Quality education has an inherent responsibility to play an enabling role in personal accomplishment, constructive public engagement, and productive contribution to society. The broader objective is to engage faculty and students



with local communities to learn a thing or two about real-world problems while functioning in collaborative, inclusive, and cross-disciplinary ways.

In liberal education, exploration is not just a whimsical luxury; it is a central benefit. Learning stuff is of secondary importance than learning about oneself, the emphasis is on developing all capacities of a human being — intellectual, physical, emotional, aesthetic, and moral — in an integrated manner.

There are no entry barriers to pursuing a graduation

degree in India. Anyone who can afford the fees can obtain the degree with minimal effort. As a result, we keep producing graduates who lack any employable skills. According to the most recent data from the periodic Labour Force Survey (20-21), only 13.8 per cent of Indian youth are vocationally trained. In comparison to Germany's 75 per cent and the United States' 50 per cent, this is woefully inadequate to reap the benefits of demographic dividend.

And we can't blame anyone but ourselves for this complete mess. We live in a country

where everyone wants to secure a limited number of white-collar jobs by acquiring a college degree. The vast majority of them are academically challenged, but they don't mind crowding colleges and universities.

Against this backdrop, it makes more sense for us to borrow a leaf or two from the US education system, where cost and academic talent are major barriers to acquire a graduate degree. The obvious advantage of this type of ecosystem is that a large number of students do not qualify for a degree course. And these

students eventually go on to pursue industry-related specific skill upgradation via diploma or certification — making them qualified for blue collar jobs.

However, there is a widespread aversion to blue collar jobs in India. Despite the government's numerous policy initiatives to connect schools to ITIs and polytechnics, the number of trained people being absorbed in industries is not encouraging.

Unless we can prepare academically average students for decent industrial opportunities, this lot of students will con-

tinue to graduate with no skill set.

Therefore, the need of the hour is to create a better entry barrier to degree colleges while also imparting industry relevant courses at ITIs and Polytechnics.

Furthermore, there is an urgent need to distinguish the concept of wellbeing from wealth. In the absence of this fundamental distinction, people invariably choose wealth over wellbeing.

A generation raised on the yardstick of Instagram filter has its own challenge of accepting their inherent flaws.

Making peace with the fact that someone might not be intellectually gifted to make a dent in the academic or business world is a first step towards exploring possibilities in life.

And you never know how this exploration could prove to be a gateway to a life worth living, where you can strive to be someone who offers meaning to things rather than someone who seeks meaning in things.

(The writer is a former IRS officer & author of the book 'Current Perspectives on the Indian Economy')

This test cannot be solely dependent on multiple-choice questions. When a candidate is expected to employ her critical and argumentative acumen during the course, testing her ability to memorise facts and information is never a good idea. Hence, the assessment should ideally be a blend of both objective and subjective questions, done in stages — preliminary and advanced



PIYUSH KAMAL

PERSPECTIVE

Western push on China, Russia at UN rights body faces test

Western countries are leading a rare two-pronged push at the UN's main human rights body to better scrutinise the human rights records of two big world powers: China, over allegations of abuses during an anti-extremism campaign in western Xinjiang, and Russia, over its government's crackdown on dissent and protest against the war in Ukraine.

Going after two such influential UN members — two of the five permanent members of the Security Council no less — at the same time will be no small political task, diplomats and rights advocates say. It testifies to a growing rift between democracies and more autocratic countries, and is shaping up as a gamble of geopolitical clout, the outcome of which will resonate beyond the Geneva conference room where the Human Rights Council meets.

Some Western diplomats insist it's now or never, and say it just so happens the two issues need separate attention. Britain, Canada, the US and the five Nordic countries are leading a call for council members to agree a debate at its next session in March on alleged abuses against Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim ethnic groups in Xinjiang. They aim to build momentum on an August 31 report by the UN human rights chief that raised concerns about possible crimes against humanity during Beijing's anti-extremism drive in the region.

On Tuesday, 26 European Union countries — all of them except Hungary — floated a

proposal for the council to appoint a "special rapporteur" on Russia, citing a string of concerns about mass arrests and detentions; harassment of journalists, opposition politicians, activists and rights defenders; and crackdowns — at times violent — on protesters against President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine. Both issues will come up for a vote near the end of the council's current session on October 7.

Intense backroom diplomacy is already underway. Developing countries in Asia, Latin America, Africa and West Asia make up the majority of the 47 current members of the council. Stalwart allies of China and Russia, including Cuba, Eritrea and Venezuela, are members, as is China itself. Western and European countries have 13 seats. Some European diplomats have expressed concern that the cultural, political and economic ties — even dependence — that many developing countries have with both Russia and China could torpedo the Western initiatives.

Alexander Pchelyakov, press secretary of the Russian diplomatic mission in Geneva, rejected the "politicised" Western proposal on Russia, insisting its "main goals are to punish Russia for pursuing an independent foreign policy course" and to divert attention away from the West's own problems when it comes to human rights, economics and energy.

The proposal on China is for a simple debate, with no consistent monitoring of the



People gather to protest against China on human rights on the eve of China's National Day in front of the Bank of China in Taipei, Taiwan, on Friday

rights situation, and is just about the least intrusive form of scrutiny that the council could seek. The call stops short of creating a team of investigators to look into possible crimes in Xinjiang, or appoint a special rapporteur — a proposal that is on the table with Russia.

John Fisher, global advo-

cacy deputy director at Human Rights Watch, said recently that action on China and Russia are its top two priorities, and they amount to "no small challenge."

"There was a time when states like China and Russia felt to be almost untouchable," he said. "But it now feels that states of principle are finally saying

'enough' and standing up to those who would seek to disrupt the international rules-based order."

"Even the fact that these initiatives are under active consideration — and quite likely both to move forward — is itself a signal of the relevance and engagement of the Human Rights Council," Fisher added.

Western diplomats appear to feel more confident about success with the Russia measure. The council has little power to force countries to act, and there's little certainty that Moscow would even allow an outside UN-backed monitor into Russia as part of the post if the council seeks to create it. The Xinjiang debate proposal

is shaping up as the bigger ask, diplomats say. The situation is perceived, rightly or wrongly, as a less pressing one than in Russia, where a crackdown is continuing. China, ever-protective of its reputation as its global profile and power rise, has said it has largely shuttered what it called training centers in Xinjiang — and what critics

derided as detention centres.

One Western diplomat whose country backs the debate on Xinjiang, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, insisted the proposal was a "measured" response. Some supporters of China fret that the plan for a springtime debate is secretly just a foot in the door — a quiet effort that will aim to ramp up pressure on Beijing later on.

A key test will be with Africa, whose countries hold 13 council seats. Some have populations that are predominantly Muslim. Nicolas Agostini of DefendDefenders, an NGO that promotes human rights in East Africa, told reporters recently that it estimates most African countries will abstain in the Russia vote, but maybe one or two — "we identified Malawi and the Gambia as the two most progressive African states that are members of the council right now" — will vote yes.

"Regarding China, it's much more complex," he said, alluding to "extreme Chinese pressure on African states, including members of the OIC that are African states." One African diplomat, also speaking on condition of anonymity because his country is still calibrating its response, said it has a "principled and objective approach" on the China resolution. "We will have to consider our bilateral relations with the Chinese," the diplomat said coyly. "We're not just going to jump in there (in support of the draft decision).

(Courtesy: AP)



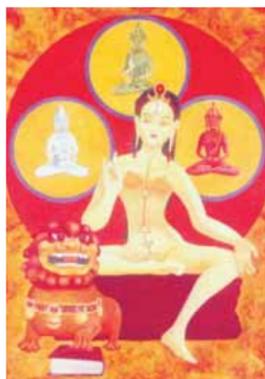
YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

It is advised to avoid aggression and hasty work this week. Instead, channel your energy into constructive and creative activities. Work overload can be tiring, so take it easy. Those who have health problems are likely to recover quickly. To avoid the possibility of disease, maintain a moderate and balanced mindset. Your creative side will shine brightly in your career. You will have inner sensations that you may or may not share with others. Some of you may embark on a new creative project or enrol in an art or dancing class. New possibilities may present themselves in the coming days, allowing your talents to blossom. Due to job commitments, you are likely to encounter some difficulties in your love life. You must make time for your loved ones; otherwise, the distance will upset them and may lead to separation.
Lucky number 18 | **Lucky colour** White
Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week, your body, mind, and soul will be in perfect harmony. Positive thoughts and aura will fill your inner self, and you will have a powerful influence. Females will have a strong affinity for femininity. Spending quality time with your partner or discovering new creative pursuits will rejuvenate you. On the professional front, this week may bring more opportunities for individuals seeking projects in foreign lands. You are likely to complete a pending task. Work-related travel is on the cards. Some of you may be recognised for your accomplishments. You will enjoy the celebration and success. In terms of relationship, your approach for long term benefits will pave the way for a strong relationship foundation. Issues and confrontations may emerge, but you can still win your partner's heart.
Lucky number 20 | **Lucky colour** Green
Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

News related to your health will be positive, and your efforts will likely bear fruit. You have complete power over the situations around you; therefore, you should take advantage of this and look for alternate approaches to deal with health-related concerns. How you express yourself and conduct yourself at work will be the most important factors. Peer conflict and disagreement are indicated. This will cause stress. Disparity is likely to occur in your workplace. However, make certain that you are not the source of the problem. Instead of picking fights, you should pick your battles properly. You will feel as if your relationship has come full circle this week. As a result, it may lead to a marriage, and for some, it may provide closure. Singles have a good possibility of meeting someone special.
Lucky number 14 | **Lucky colour** Parrot Green
Lucky day Saturday



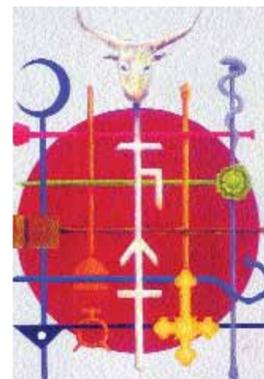
TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you will have boundless energy and excellent health. Your passion for life will encourage and inspire you to strive for greater and better things in life. You are well-known for your high energy level and practical attitude. It is beneficial to channel this energy into constructive and useful endeavours. On the professional front, you must be optimistic and spontaneous while avoiding being impulsive. Your zeal will amaze those around you but be patient with your temper or you will upset others. Conflicts with co-workers are on the cards. If you pay attention to your thinking, you will be able to get control of the situation. This week is likely to bring disappointment in love. Rejection or separation is indicated. You could be emotionally drained.
Lucky number 13 | **Lucky colour** Brown
Lucky day Saturday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week, your hard work, aspiration, and ambition will motivate you. As a result, your health is likely to suffer. Workload will drain you. Be extremely cautious when it comes to your health. A little negligence can be dangerous. Protect yourself from colds, coughs, and water-borne illnesses. Your salary will rise in line with your career. You will most likely earn a steady living. Your friendly temperament and nice conduct with co-workers will provide you an advantage at work. A promotion or raise in pay is on the horizon. Financial security will give you confidence. You will achieve self-awareness in your relationships. Be cautious; your partner's life is likely to contain an extramarital affair or a medical crisis. Someone with similar experience will help you get out of this mess.
Lucky number 17 | **Lucky colour** Sky Blue
Lucky day Tuesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You must pay attention to your emotions when it comes to your health. There will be times when you will be unable to meet the challenges to the best of your abilities. If you are ill, rather of feeling sorry for yourself, begin educating yourself by speaking with experts. Maintain a healthy lifestyle. This is an excellent time for your career. Your efforts will be acknowledged, and some of you may be recognised. This can help you boost your confidence in your abilities while keeping you from becoming arrogant. Any pride or arrogance will not be tolerated by your peers or seniors. Those seeking for a new job, the outcome will be favourable to you. Those who are committed to each other will enjoy a spiritual experience. You will spiritually engage with your companion, which will improve your relationship.
Lucky number 12 | **Lucky colour** Grey
Lucky day Wednesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Your self-respect and self-awareness of what is going on within you will assist you in working toward loving yourself. This will allow you to value your inner spirit deeply. When you see yourself in this favourable light, it will reflect in the behaviour of others, and they will respond positively to your personal sense of value. On the professional front, you may lack the necessary knowledge for your present job or venture. Your easy-going and casual attitude is inappropriate, and as a result you may lose your dream project. This week is full of love and romance, and you will enjoy every minute of it. In the coming days, you will receive positive messages from loved ones. Some of you may get a marriage proposal or get engaged. Singles can rejoice because love is in the air, and you have decided to follow your heart.
Lucky number 5 | **Lucky colour** Orange
Lucky day Tuesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You are going to enter a comfortable and satisfying phase that will put you at ease while you appreciate nature's wealth and gifts. You will have great health, and your personal mindset will provide you the most joy in your life. On the professional front, you must be careful in your line of work. You must be empathetic toward your co-workers and those that spread positive energy in the workplace. Your welcoming and forgiving personality will foster a safe and trustworthy environment in which you can gradually influence people. As a result, you will overcome all obstacles and win the scenario. This week relationships may not be as satisfying. Your partner's abrupt mood changes may irritate you. Someone who does not want your relationship to flourish may be jealous. Meditation or yoga will be the most beneficial solution.
Lucky number 23 | **Lucky colour** Turquoise
Lucky day Monday



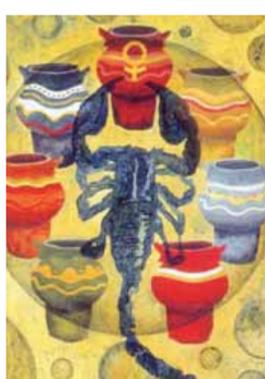
AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Great health news is on the way. You are currently in a stronger position and have power over your surroundings. This week, any efforts you make to improve your health will be fruitful. The only thing you need to do is consider alternative methods of dealing with health issues for long-term benefits. You will be content with your career since money will pour in with a raise in pay or a promotion. This is due to all your hard work in achieving your objectives. Those looking for work may be able to find one. In terms of love, you are clear about what you want in your relationship. This is a positive indicator, but how you communicate with your partner will be critical. Channel your energy in a way that will allow you to better control your emotions.
Lucky number 22 | **Lucky colour** Yellow
Lucky day Thursday



CANCER June 21-July 22

You are naturally sensitive and emotional, and your physical health this week is directly proportional to your emotional state. A minor emotional turmoil might have a negative impact on one's health. Do not be afraid to seek medical guidance. You may try psychic healing, Tarot reading, acupuncture, or the art of living, among other things. A concoction or liquid medicine will be a better alternative. This week, emotions and sentiments will drive your career. You are dedicated and capable of leading, but you may require emotional assistance to achieve your goals. Your romantic life is disappointing, and you may feel disheartened and lonely. Avoid being possessive. Married couples may separate. You must let go of the past, be forgiving, and be patient with your relationship.
Lucky number 15 | **Lucky colour** Pink
Lucky day Friday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

If you suspect that something is amiss with your body, you should address your worries. Do not panic; instead, trust your gut and explore for alternative solutions. Be patient while you wait for the findings. Maintain a healthy diet, relaxation, and exercise routine. Things in your profession may not be as you wish. Some of you may confront difficulties while working on a project. It is advised that you take some time off from work and avoid making any major decisions this week. You must maintain your cool in the midst of the chaos. If you cannot keep your cool, look for another job. Those who are devoted must concentrate on their future connection. Change your old attitude toward an ongoing problem. To resolve the issues, try to freely discuss your goals with your partner. Before rekindling an old romance, think twice.
Lucky number 8 | **Lucky colour** Peach
Lucky day Tuesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week, you must strike a balance between your personal and professional commitments. This will complicate your life, so be patient. Make time for yourself to heal amid all the chaos. Prioritize your tasks to avoid suffering from illness. Workplace stress and anxiety are likely to influence you. Worrying about your career's future will stop you from pursuing your set goal. Do not give up and use a flexible method to deal with a difficult scenario. Those in a committed relationship are more prone to be upset in some situation or with their partner. If this is the case, you must look within yourself for a solution. Do not let the pain of the past ruin your relationship. Appreciate the love you have in your life; else, it will fade.
Lucky number 10 | **Lucky colour** Indigo
Lucky day Wednesday

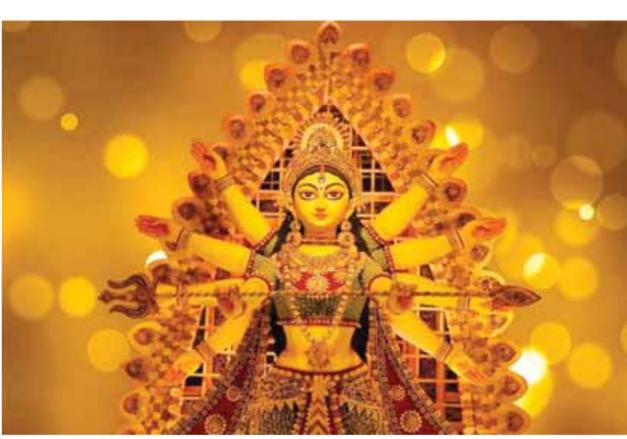
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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Relevance of Shardeya Navaratra

Greet you all on the solemn occasion of the ongoing Shardeya Navaratra. The preparation for the 9-day festivity began on Mahalaya, coinciding with the conclusion of the Shradha fortnight, assigned in the annular calendar to make offering to our ancestors, to whom we owe our existence. The occasion signifies remembering continuum in life's journey. As per Indian philosophy, a being is structured into three layers – causal, subtle and gross bodies. Life's journey doesn't end even after death. It is just the gross body that disintegrates. The causal and subtle bodies, being pure energy formations, remain intact, and move on to reincarnate afresh. It is difficult to prove in real terms such subtle transformations, major part happening in imperceptible domain. Imperial evidence, however, bear testimony to this truth. In a way, we prepare ground for return of the departed beings to the live world with a new body encasement. So, death is just a process through which a being drops the incapacitated gross-body to acquire a new form with fresh vigour and strength. Hence, the importance of Shradha

fortnight. Having finished this task, we prepare ourselves for the 9-day festivity to follow.
Mark the timing of the festive period. The cosmos undergoes major transition. Sun, the major energy provider in the cosmos playing from the front, moves towards the farthest end from the part of the world we live. During its sojourn in Southern hemisphere, it leads towards the Western horizon. Our place of abode, on the other hand, is located towards the Eastern horizon in the Northern hemisphere. Evidently, solar intensity available to us during this phase would be at its lowest. That causes a seasonal change – from rainy to winter – which comes with its own challenges. During this transition phase, the body shall have to adjust with the callings of the emerging weather. A new crop cycle also begins. Even otherwise, life won't move without confronting challenges. For, no motion can take place without meeting resistance on the way.
We, therefore, need to be geared up to face the callings of emerging times in all strength. The whole 9-day festivity is designed with the above end in



view. We observe austerity, keeping away from worldly temptations. Follow a controlled food regime, in order to rejuvenate our body mechanism that could withstand the callings of new weather cycle. We then submit ourselves to a prayer regime meditating on the concept of Mother Goddess Durga, the beholder of Shakti. It needs to be appreciated here that the universe owes its dynamic existence to nature driven energies (*Shakti*) – creation, sustenance and recycling all included, at all levels of existence. So long Shakti keep doing their rounds in the cosmos, they act involuntarily, strictly following

nature's programme.
The same energy, however, acquires a different dimension altogether when it comes to human application. For, human beings could guide their actions by choice and discrimination. They, thus, qualify to apply *Shakti* as individually wished, the probability of destructive use remaining no less than its productive potential. For, each being is born unique carrying varying individualistic mind-trends often in conflict with each other. So, *Sakti*, when operative at human level, turns out to be a double-edged weapon.
Now, how to ensure productive application of *Shakti*, overriding all individualistic vulnerabilities, coming as they may with one's unique nature? The answer evidently lies in having exposure to the *Shakti* concept identified with the imagery of Mother Goddess Durga. First, the name "Durga" itself. It means something available with great difficulties. For further clarity, a look into the legend pertaining to the making of the mother becomes imperative.
As the legend goes, the Rakshas (devils) drove away the Devatas (*shaktis* vital to life) from their place of abode. The Devatas then sought help from Brahma, the God personified for creation. Brahma led them to Lord Vishnu, the God-personified assigned with the task to administer. Realising that enormous power is needed to counter the might of Rakshasas, Vishnu in turn, led them all to Lord Shiva, the epitome of *Shakti*. Shiva asked them all to share their individual Tejas (*Shakti*- radiance). Their individual *shakti*-s put together turned into a huge fire pool, out of which emerged the all-powerful Mother Goddess. The devatas also offered their respective weapons for Mother's use. She then took on and humbled all the demons. She, however, didn't do it single-handed. She is assisted by many other Goddesses in Her mission, all of them originating from the mainframe of Durga herself, who, after completing their respective tasks, reverted-back to their main source-frame.
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