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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 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 sav-



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

ing 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.

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22 killed as tractor trolley 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 "munda" 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. "Distressed by the tractor-trolley mishap in Kanpur. My thoughts are with all those who have lost their near and dear ones. Prayers with the injured. The local administration is providing all possible assistance to the affected," Modi said in a tweet.

Adityanath has sent senior ministers Rakesh Sachan and Ajit Pal to the accident site to oversee the relief-and-rescue measures. The injured were rushed to a community health centre (CHC) in Bheetergaon in ambulances arranged by police, the official said, adding that more than a dozen people were declared dead at the facility.

Talking to PTI over the phone, District Magistrate (DM) Vishak G Ayyar said police and the district administration have been told to carry out the rescue operation and ensure all possible assistance to the victims.

"An investigation is on to ascertain the reasons behind the accident," the DM said, adding, "The exact death toll will be shared with the media soon." Adityanath has announced an ex-gratia amount of Rs 2 lakh each for the kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for those seriously injured, a spokesperson added.

Kharge quits as Cong RS 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".

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Brijlal Khabri new state Congress president

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 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

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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".

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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 Navi 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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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 Kodieryi 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.

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Adulteration in food items will not be tolerated: CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In view of the festivals, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has issued instructions to start a state-wide campaign to ensure the purity of food items.

In a review meeting with the Food Safety and Drug Administration Department here on Saturday, the chief minister also directed the officials to maintain effective control over the manufacture, sale and distribution of substandard, spurious, adulterated or banned drugs.

The chief minister said the state government was determined to ensure the availability of safe and healthy food as well as medicines to the 25 crore people of the state.

Yogi Adityanath said under no circumstances the manufacture, sale and distribution of substandard, fake, adulterated or banned drugs would be allowed in the state. He asked the officials to maintain effective control over such activities. "Adulteration is playing with

the lives of common people and it will not be tolerated under any circumstances. In view of festivals, the process of checking food items should be expedited. Immediate action should be taken on every complaint of sale of adulterated food items. Statewide inspection should be done in mission mode. Strictest action should be taken against those involved in adulteration," he said.

The chief minister said it was encouraging that mobile food testing laboratories had begun to operate at seven divisional headquarters and the facility to analyse samples of medicines had also started in Meerut, Gorakhpur and Agra.

He said establishment of divisional laboratories in Lucknow, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Basti, Moradabad, Jhansi, Saharanpur, Aligarh, Mirzapur, Bareilly, Azamgarh, Ayodhya and Deopatan divisions should be completed at the earliest.

"Daily monitoring of these works should be done by posting a



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath chairing a review meeting with the Food Safety and Drug Administration Department

nodal officer at the district level. These are important projects of wider public interest, accountability will be fixed in case of unnecessary delays," he said.

Pointing out that presently the analysis capacity of food laboratories in the state was 30,000 food samples per year, the chief minister said the number and capacity of laboratories should be increased in order to test more than one lakh samples. "Similarly, action should be taken to increase the analysis capacity of pharmaceutical laboratories which is at present 10,000 drug samples per year to 50,000," he said.

"In order to achieve Ease of Doing Business, it is necessary to further simplify the process of issuance of drug licences. The process of issuing a licence after the application must be completed within a stipulated time frame. The applicant should not have to worry. Necessary action should be taken in this direction," he said.

The chief minister said full-

time posting should be done by selecting the eligible officer on the post of drug controller. He said it would be appropriate to take cooperation from CSIR, IITR, NBRI, CIMAP, DRDO and central laboratories/institutions for capacity enhancement of state laboratories.

"Get NABL certification of food laboratories in all the divisions of the state," he said.

The chief minister said there should be no shortage of testing equipment in laboratories and their maintenance, validity period, functionality etc. should be tested as per the standards.

"After reviewing the pharmaceutical and laboratory cadre, new posts should also be created as per requirement," he said.

Yogi said there should be deployment of qualified and skilled personnel in the laboratories. "The process of selection of eligible youth for all important posts, including scientific officer, microbiologist, analyst, should be completed at the earliest," he said.



NOTICE

I have changed my name from Abdul Rehman to Abdul Rahman in all future purpose, Abdul Rahman S/o Shahid Ali R/o H.No.N-46, Pansariyan Kannauj

NOTICE

My name's Mohd Javed, as mentioned in Highschool mark-sheet and Javed Ali shown in all other documents, are of same person. I should be known and identified by the name of Javed Ali for all future purposes. Javed Ali S/o Zakir Ali R/o 96/15-P, Coloneiganj, Kanpur.

NOTICE

I, No. JC-635796X, Nb/Sub Biren Limboo, unit 11 GRRC, C/o 56 APO hereby declare that in my service record (part II order) my son's Ayush Limboo date of birth inadvertently mentioned as 25.09.2010 while his correct date of birth is 25.08.2010 hence from today my son's DOB shall be considered as 25.08.2010 in the part II order of my son.

सूचना

मैं पी०के० पाण्डेय सूचित करता हूँ कि रिसिता डेवलपर्स कम्पनी के अंसल API लखनऊ सेलेब्रेटी ग्रीन में फ्लैट संख्या- A 402 का बिल्डर एमीमेन्ट व कुछ रसीदें संख्या- 2324 दिनांक 19.11.2013, 2360 दिनांक 19.12.2013, 2669 दिनांक 12.06.2014, 2840 दिनांक 05.09.2014, 2971 दिनांक 04.12.2014, 3123 दिनांक 17.03.2015, वास्तव में कहीं कोई यमी है।

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I Nathun Singh S/O Late Shri Basgit Singh Residing at H/NO. F- 14/A, Sainik Housing Society, PS / PO:- Sarojini Nagar, Lucknow, Mob No:- 9899700918. Do solemnly affirm and stated as under :- My Wife INDRA MOTI DEVI and it's Date of Birth is 15 May 1961. But by mistak her name is INDRA MATI DEVI and Date of Birth is 27 June 1958 as mentioned in my official pension documents (PPO No :- S/017939/96 ARMY) Therefore Correct her Name and D.O.B may be mentioned as per above in the Official Documents.

NOTICE

To Be Informed that in my High school mark sheet and certificates, My Father and mother name Spelling wrongly mentioned MOHAMMAD MOIN KHAN and YASMEEN BANO, While His/Her Correct Name is MOHAMMAD MOEEN KHAN And YASMIN BANO in all future purpose, Mariyam Khan D/o Mohammad Moeen Khan R/o-425/161/1 Ambarganj Bismil Nagar Lucknow

NOTICE

Notice

This is to inform that Original Sale Deed dated 12.11.2010 executed by Smt. Leena Singh W/o Sri Ram Krishna Pratap Singh in favour of Smt. Rekha Verma W/o Dr. R.P. Verma, registered in Book No. I, Zild No. 12121, Pages 211 to 242, Serial No. 18301, Page 10 of the original deed of which has been lost from IOB, Banthra Branch. Whose LAR No. 20220000556383 is registered on 30.09.2022. If it is used in any form it will be illegal.

Gadkari, Yogi to inaugurate IRC

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will inaugurate the 81st annual convention of the Indian Road Congress (IRC), to be held in Lucknow after 37 years from October 8 to 11.

More than 2,500 delegates from India and abroad will participate in the event to be held at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow. The last such event was held in Lucknow in 1985. This convention started in 1934. UP will host it for the fifth time.

Union Minister of State General VK Singh will also be present. Defence Minister and Lucknow MP, Rajnath Singh has been invited to the concluding session of the IRC, said the Public Works Minister Jitin Prasada in a press conference here on Saturday. He said 200 delegates from Uttar Pradesh will also attend the IRC.

The participants will learn about the spiritual and cultur-

al features of Ayodhya, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Mathura, and other places after the convention.

The PWD minister said under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh had emerged as 'Expressway Pradesh.' He said the new technology had reduced carbon emissions by around 5 million tonnes in the state.

"In order to achieve the chief minister's goal of making the state a 1 trillion-dollar economy by 2027, the infrastructure and roadways have a specific role to play. Codes on technical topics like FDR will be brought to the convention, which will be very helpful to UP," he said.

The minister said this was the fifth IRC session to be held in Uttar Pradesh.

"There will also be a session dedicated to UP in the event, in which we will present our best works," Jitin Prasada said. "There will be 19 technical sessions in all. It will be particularly effective for subjects like new road construction technologies,

infrastructure, and good, affordable, long-lasting safe roads," he said.

Technical experts from the country and abroad, state and local engineers, organisations involved in building roads and bridges, scientists and consultants will give presentations on a variety of subjects in the IRC. There will be a technical exhibition which will have 180 booths featuring information on machinery, materials, equipment, and new technologies from various road construction companies.

Along with this, visitors will be made aware of the UP artisans' skills through One District, One Product (ODOP). During this time, a cultural event will also be planned. The minister said the engineering students would also benefit greatly from this convention. "This will go a long way in making a career in the field of road construction and creating self-employment through start-ups. The engineers will also benefit much from this convention," he said.

Governor prorogues monsoon session of UP Assembly

Lucknow (PNS): Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel on Saturday prorogued the monsoon session of the UP Assembly. The governor, exercising the powers under Article 174 of the Constitution, prorogued the monsoon session, which was the second session this year of the 18th UP Assembly. The session commenced on September 19 and concluded on September 23.

In a first of its kind historic move, the monsoon session had a women-only day. The focus of the day was on women members of the Vidhan Sabha who spoke on that day. They raised women's issues and issues related to their respective constituencies. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath informed the women legislators in a letter about the government's Mission Shakti programme as well as other initiatives focusing on women and girls, such as the CM Samoochik Vivah Yojana and Kanya Sumangala Yojana. Forty-seven female members of the assembly had participated in the special proceedings.

Akhilesh jibe at PM over launch of 5G services

Lucknow (PNS): 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, Ghalpa, 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.

The prime minister launched 5G services in select cities at the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2022 conference. The services will progressively cover the entire country over the next couple of years.

While the nation was dependent on foreign countries for technology for 2G, 3G and 4G telecom services, India had created history with 5G, he said.

2 brothers drown in Ganga

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a shocking incident reported from Unnao, two brothers along with two sons of one of them jumped into the river Ganga when they went for the last rites of their mother on Saturday morning. While the locals present there managed to rescue both the brothers, both the sons were feared drowned.

According to the reports, after the wife of Raja Pasi, resident of Ruri Sadiapur village under Behta Mujawar, police station, died the family took her body to Nanamau Ghat of Bangermaw Kotwali area for the last rites. On reaching the river, Mintu, the younger son of the deceased, jumped into the Ganga. Seeing his brother drowning, elder brother Kamlesh also jumped into the river. Both started drowning because of the depth.

Meanwhile, seeing their uncle and father drowning, Kamlesh's sons, 22-year-old Akash and 20-year-old Rakesh also jumped into the river. SP Shashi Shekhar said that the mother of a person had died in the Bangermaw police station area and the family took the body for the last rites. He said after cremation at Nanamau Ghat, the younger son of the deceased jumped into the river. Seeing him, the elder brother also jumped into the river and seeing both of them drowning, Kamlesh's two sons also jumped into the Ganga. He claimed that local divers rescued both Kamlesh and Mintu but Akash and Rakesh were yet to be traced and search was on for them.

Meanwhile in Banda, a girl committed suicide by consuming poison. The father of the deceased said that the girl was to be married after two months

and as the family of the groom demanded dowry his daughter was under stress. He said on Saturday morning, she consumed poison and they rushed her to the district hospital, from where she was referred to Kanpur but the girl died on the way. On getting information about the incident, the police reached the spot and sent the body for post-mortem. Further investigation is on. The girl's father alleged that unnecessarily threats were being issued to defame the girl and their family as they informed the groom's family of not being in a position to give much dowry. He also claimed to have phone recordings regarding the threat and dowry demand.

DSP Nitin Kumar said that it was reported that a girl who was a student of ITI had committed suicide by consuming poison.

Maya concern over devaluation of ₹

Lucknow (PNS): Expressing concern over the ever-increasing gap between rich and poor in the country, former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh and Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati said the private capital of industrialists in the country was increasing due to the grace of the government. Mayawati tweeted on Saturday and said, "Due to the unprecedented increase in the private capital of the industrialists of India due to the grace of the government, they are now counted among the rich people of the world, but there is little in the life of about 130 crore poor and low income families in the country. The lack of improvement is a matter of great concern. How will the government bridge this gap?" The BSP supremo also termed the devaluation of the rupee as a very sensitive issue.

Minor kills classmate for 'ogling' at sister

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a bizarre incident, a 15-year-old boy allegedly killed his 16-year-old classmate, suspecting that his best friend was ogling at his sister. The body of the teenager was found in an orchard in Dhampur town of Bijnor. Police said the accused was detained on Friday.

Giving this information on Saturday, Dhampur's Circle Officer Indu Siddharth said the police had recovered the knife used in the murder. The victim's mobile phone was also recovered from the school bag of the accused. They were students of Class IX in a private school in Nagina.

As the incident involves different communities, a heavy police force was deployed in the region to maintain law and order, police said.

The CO said, "The accused told the police that the victim used to frequent his house and ogle at his sister and that is why he hatched a plan to eliminate his friend. The accused took him on his motorcycle to a mango orchard on Thursday evening and they consumed alcohol. He then killed his buddy by slitting his throat."



The family members of the victim later lodged a 'missing' report after the boy did not return home till late Thursday night. After recovery of the body on Friday, the cops swung into action and picked up the friend for interrogation after which he confessed to the crime.

Meanwhile, in Ballia, a case has been registered against a youth for allegedly raping an 18-year-old Dalit woman and making a video, police said on Saturday.

The police said the youth and the woman were residents of the same village in Bansdih police station limits.

Bansdih police station SHO

Yogendra Singh said a case had been registered against the 22-year-old youth under Section 376 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code and relevant sections of the SC/ST Act. In her complaint, the woman alleged that when she had gone to attend the call of nature on September 20, the accused took her to a sugarcane field and raped her. He also made a video of the act, she added. The woman was sent for medical examination, Singh said.

Meanwhile, an accused carrying a reward of Rs 1 lakh was killed in a police encounter in Jaunpur, officials said on Saturday. Vinod Singh (40) was wanted in over two dozen cases of robbery, murder and dacoity in Jaunpur and neighbouring districts. Senior Superintendent of Police Ajay Sahni said a constable, Ajay Singh, was injured in the encounter in Badlapur area late on Friday night.

Singh, a history-sheeter, was a resident of Chittampatti village in Sarpathahan police station limits of Jaunpur. The SSP added that a 9 mm mini carbine, a 32 bore pistol, large quantities of live cartridges and a stolen motorcycle were recovered from the accused.

Recovery notice issued

Lucknow (PNS): The Bijnor police have served notices on 60 people seeking Rs 57 lakh for damages caused during the anti-CAA/NRC protests, officials said on Saturday. Nehtaur police station SHO Pankaj Tomar said the mob allegedly damaged government property and set a police jeep on fire during the protests on December 20, 2019. He added that the mob also attacked the police, and the cops had to fire in self-defence in which two youths -- Anas and Salman -- were killed. "The police have served notices on 60 accused persons to pay Rs 57 lakh in damages," he said.

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUDGE, CITY CIVIL COURT, AT: HYDERABAD
I.A.No. 5502 OF 2018 IN
ASSR No. 23233 OF 2018
Between:-
1) Late K. Venkateswara Rao (Died)Decceased Dd
2) Smt. K. Swarna Kumari and 2 OthersAppellants/Ls to Def No.2
AND
1) Vijaya Bank, Jubilee Hills Branch, Film Nagar, Hyderabad-56Respondents To,
2) Ashwini Kumar Singh, N9/40 G.P. Santh Gopal Nagar, Varanasi-221009 State U.P.
Please take notice that, Smt. K. Swarna Kumari, W/o. Late K. Venkateswara Rao and two others filed an appeal, ASSR No. 23233/2018, against the Judgment of Hon'ble IV Senior Civil Judge, City Civil Court, Hyderabad in O.S.No. 1281/2014. The appeal is against Vijaya Bank and you, on the file of the Hon'ble Chief Judge, City Civil Court, Hyderabad. Notices were sent you by the Hon'ble Court, but you are evading receiving the notices in the above case. On 16.09.2022, the Hon'ble Court was pleased to order Public Notice in the news paper to secure your presence before the Hon'ble Court on **26.10.2022** at 10.30 am. Hence, please take notice that you are hereby required either to appear in person or through Counsel on **26.10.2022** at 10.30 am before the Hon'ble Court, failing which the matter will be determined on the material available on record.
(By the Order of the Hon'ble Court)
Sd/- S. CHENNA KESAVA SINGH, Advocate,
#C-62, Road No.16, HUDA Colony,
Saroornagar, R.R.District-35. TS
Mobile: 9293731773

Durga Puja begins with ‘Pran Pratishthan’

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Durga Puja celebrations began with the ‘Pran Pratishthan’ ceremony on Saturday with the enthusiastic participation of Bengalis living in the state capital. The pandals witnessed puja rituals in the morning with the welcome of the goddess even as Bengalis met and greeted each other.

President of Gomti Nagar Durga Puja committee Subrot Roy said it's not just a puja for them but ‘Durga Utsav’.

“We enjoy with our families for four days and eat together the food prepared for the occasion. It's a festive occasion and we do several activities apart from puja,” he explained.

Asked about the difference between the celebrations organised earlier and now, he said there is a lot of difference and then there are similarities too. “The tradition of match-making still exists during Durga Puja,” he said.

However, regarding the future of Durga Puja celebrations, he said he felt that it was bleak. “There is so much of hard work that goes into organising the puja and the younger generation is not that interested. The youth are only concerned about their careers because of the cut-throat competition,” he added.

Similar views were echoed by Saurav Bandopadhyaya, organiser of the Jankipuram Durga Puja, which is the biggest in the city. “There is a lot of difference between the Durga Puja celebrations which were held earlier and those which are organised now. The



Goddess Durga idols at Boys' Anglo-Bengali Inter College (left) and at Latouche road pandal

puja was conducted from homes earlier and all the people were involved. Elderlies clad in dhoti-kurta would sit in the centre while women would wear red & white sarees and sit and the youth helped in organising the celebrations.

“It was called ‘Dalan Bari’ puja, which means a house where there is a huge compound and verandah. However, such houses are no longer there and have made way for multi-storey apartments. Now, Durga Puja is managed by professionals even as expenses have increased due to aesthetics,” he elaborated. He said the Durga Puja celebrations of the current era cannot be compared to the ‘sarvajanic puja’.

“We organised Durga Puja



Pioneer

Security beefed up in city

Lucknow (PNS): Police have made security arrangements to make sure that Durga Puja, Navratri and visarjan pass off peacefully. Additional police force will be deployed around Durga Puja pandals and crowded places in the city. A spokesman told mediapersons that five officers of ACP rank, 18 inspectors, 286 sub-

inspectors, 21 women sub-inspectors, 707 head constables and 345 women constables would be deployed in the city till the immersion of idols. He said the deployment would be made in Central, North, South, East and West zones depending upon the requirement. Senior officers, including deputy commis-

sioners and additional deputy commissioner of police, will be supervising the security arrangements.

“Police will also be deployed at the ghats for idol immersion,” the spokesman said, adding that sensitive places had been identified and additional force would be deployed there.

in our house till 2011 but thereafter, it was not possible to do that because all our cousins went to and settled in the UK and the US. When our grandparents were alive, everyone had to be present for the puja

same amount of involvement in the puja which I did and am still doing. I spend my own money. Had I been asking people for money, it would have been a difficult task for me,” he added.

Maj Gen Kacker takes charge as GOC of MUPSA, head of Lko Cantt Board

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Maj Gen Alok Kacker assumed charge as the general officer commanding (GOC) of Madhya Uttar Pradesh Sub Area (MUPSA), Lucknow, and President of Lucknow Cantonment Board on Saturday. Prior to this appointment, he was the chief of staff, Delhi Area. Maj Gen Kacker, a second-generation officer, was commissioned in Gorkha Rifles in December 1985. During his career spanning 37 years, he commanded his battalion in the counter-insurgency area in north-east and a brigade in western theatre. In addition, the officer has a rich experience of serving in Kargil, Jammu & Kashmir, north-east and western theatre.

Maj Gen Kacker has held prestigious instructional and staff appointments, prominent among which are assistant adjutant at Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, and instructor in ATGM Group of Infantry

PRIOR TO THIS, HE WAS THE CHIEF OF STAFF, DELHI AREA. MAJ GEN KACKER, A SECOND-GENERATION OFFICER, WAS COMMISSIONED IN GORKHA RIFLES IN DECEMBER 1985

School, Mhow. In addition, the general officer has tenanted the appointment of assistant military attaché at the Embassy of India, Kathmandu (Nepal), director of counter-terrorism at the Headquarters of Integrated Defence Staff, New Delhi, commandant of Wargaming Development Centre, an organisation responsible for conceptualising and developing computerised wargames, and commander of J.L. Wing, the Infantry School, Belgau. For his distinguished service, the general officer has been awarded the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff and General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Army Training Command commendation cards.

Lucknow slips in Swachh Survekshan

Lucknow (PNS): Lucknow slipped to fourth position in Uttar Pradesh and 17th spot in country in the ‘Swachh Survekshan Awards 2022’ announced on Saturday.

The state capital had grabbed the top slot in Uttar Pradesh and was on the 12th position in the country. The

awards were announced by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

Indications were already there regarding the dip in the rankings as officials were trying to save their skin.

The Lucknow municipal commissioner said that they would try and improve.

ASI regional director inspects Rumi Darwaza

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Regional director of Archaeological Survey of India PK Mishra carried out an inspection of Rumi Darwaza on Saturday. Mishra said some good work in terms of the conservation of side gates had been done by the Lucknow circle of ASI.

“However, we need to have a scaffolding constructed over the Rumi Darwaza in view of the work which needs to be done in the upper portions of the monument and

traffic needs to be diverted,” he said. He added that the ASI had written to the district administration on several occasions but had not received any response.

Efforts were made for the restoration work of Rumi Darwaza in the past but it never happened owing to the issue of traffic diversion.

Meanwhile, District Magistrate Surya Pal Gangwar said they would look into the matter. “If the ASI is willing to carry out the conservation work, we are ready to do our bit,” added.

Platform tickets to cost more

Lucknow (PNS): The Lucknow division of Northern Railway has increased the price of platform tickets from Rs 10 to Rs 30 between October 2 and November 5. Senior DCM Rekha Sharma said the move was aimed at controlling the crowd at platforms during the festive season. “The increase in the price of platform tickets will be implemented at Lucknow, Varanasi, Barabanki, Ayodhya Cantt, Ayodhya, Akbarpur, Shahganj, Jaunpur, Sultanpur, Rae bareilly, Janghai, Bhadohi, Pratapgarh and Unnao railway stations of Lucknow division of NR,” she said. DRM, SK Sapra said the step was taken under a well-planned scheme.

Two gangrape accused land in police net

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two accused wanted in a case of gangrape were arrested by a team of Ashiyana police on Saturday after a long chase. Those arrested were identified as Shivam Mishra of Krishna Nagar and Shani Kanaujia of Sarojini Nagar. Both were named in the case on July 27 and were absconding since then. The victim woman was working at a parlour run by the accused. It was alleged that the accused deliberately stopped her salary as part of their tactics. They opted for dilly-dallying tactics despite the woman's insistence following which she stopped working with them. On the fateful day, they visited her house pretending to pay her salary and then gangraped her. They also thrashed her when she confronted them and offered resistance. They even threatened to kill her and used temperate language.

The victim lodged a case and the police sent her for a medical test in which rape was confirmed. The police then booked the accused for gangrape and other charges.

However, the accused absconded. As senior officers pulled up local police for delay in the arrest of the accused, the

search operation was expedited and accused were nabbed from Ashiyana following a tip-off.

The woman, in her complaint, had also named a lawyer, identified as Sankalp. She had alleged that the lawyer was with Shani and Shivam on the fateful day. “I met the lawyer for a legal remedy when Shivam and Shani were not giving me my salary. He had took Rs 50,000 from me as consultation fee. He called me and told me that he was visiting her house to pay her salary given to him by her employers. I saw him with Shani and Shivam along with an unidentified man at the gate. The entered the house where they raped me and fled the scene. In the scuffle, the wrist watch of the lawyer had broken and fell down. He did not pick it in the hurry to flee the scene. I have that wrist watch as evidence,” she had claimed.

Meanwhile, a team of Gautampalli police on Saturday claimed to have arrested two accused on the charges of stealing an electric motor and a garden trolley near 1090 crossing. Those arrested were identified as Arman Ali and Hayat Ali, both of Bahraich.

Meanwhile, harassed and threatened by a stalker in

Chinhat, an 18-year-old girl stopped going to school. After a case was registered, police arrested the accused, who was identified as Riyaz Ansari of Chinhat. He works at a shop in the area. The girl's mother, who is a teacher in a private school, lodged a complaint with the Chinhat police, alleging that her daughter was being harassed by Ansari for the past one month. Ansari somehow got the mobile number of the girl and he started sending her obscene text messages and later pressured her for friendship. The accused started lurking around her house and threatened to abduct her last week. He was snubbed by the girl's family but it did not work.

On September 28, the girl, along with her mother and sister-in-law, went to a market where the accused made lewd comments. As he was confronted by the girl's mother, he threatened all of them with dire consequences before fleeing the scene. The police registered a case and arrested the accused. He was booked for molestation attempt, stalking and threatening the girl. The family claimed that they had given a complaint against the accused in the past too but he was booked merely for breach of peace and later let off.

Mystery shrouds death of missing youth

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Mystery shrouded the death of a missing youth whose body was recovered from the Gomti river in Hazratganj police station area on Saturday morning. The deceased, identified as Milan Bahadur (26) of Irrigation Department Colony in Balu Adda, was reported missing on September 29. He was reported to have left the house without informing anyone in the family. While his family members were searching for him, some locals spotted his body in the river near Bhaikund. The family members reached the scene and identified the body.

A team of police also reached there and sent the body for autopsy. The police said prima facie, no wounds were detected on the body. “It appeared that he died by drowning,” the police said.

His family members told the police that Milan had been suffering from a mental disease for a long time and was under treatment. They also produced the prescription given by the doctor who was treating him to buttress their claim.

Meanwhile, a 21-year old contractor ended his life at his house in the Bijnor police station area on Saturday

morning. Ram Sanehi of Unnao, along with his brother Kalicharan, was staying at a house in Ayodhyapuri locality in the area. The house is owned by one Narendra and the brothers were hired for carpentry.

Kalicharan told police that he woke up in the morning on Saturday and found Ram Sanehi hanging from a door frame. The police sent the body for autopsy and started further investigation. The police said Ram Sanehi committed suicide on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday.

Meanwhile, a man allegedly killed his wife at their rented house in Him City area in Chinhat and fled the scene. Neighbors alerted police about the incident and a team reached the scene for investigation. A police spokesman said the deceased was identified as Asha of Basti district while her husband as Krishna.

Krishna was accused of strangling Asha to death during a verbal spat. “Krishna is absconding and the police have launched a manhunt for him. The deceased's family living in the city was informed about the incident. The spokesman said the police were conducting an inquest to send the body for autopsy. Krishna runs a fast food shop.

Woman duped of ornaments

Lucknow (PNS): An imposter duped a woman of her ornaments in Hasanganj police station area by intimidating her on the pretext of police checking on Saturday morning.

Geeta Kashyap of Godanpurwa locality on Mohan Meakin road was going to KGMU to consult a doctor. On the way, she was stopped by the accused who pretended to be a cop. He asked her why she was wearing gold ornaments when it was not allowed. He intimidated her on the pretext of police checking. As Geeta became nervous, he asked her to take off the ornaments which he wrapped in a piece of paper. He then handed a sachet to the woman and asked her to open it only on reaching home. When Geeta opened the sachet, there was nothing in it. She then lodged a case in this connection.

Meanwhile, thieves made off with ornaments worth several lakh and Rs 10,000 in cash from a house in Nilmatha locality under Cantonment police station area on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday. Laxman Prasad Pandey of Durgapuri Colony in the area said the thieves entered the house some time between 1 am and 2 am on Saturday.

“The thieves decamped with the ornaments of my wife and also those which I had purchased for the marriage of my daughter,” he stated in the FIR.

CITYBRIEFS

GANDHI JAYANTI

City Montessori School celebrated Gandhi Jayanti with a plethora of educational-cultural programmes organised at its Gomti Nagar Extension Campus auditorium on Saturday. CMS founder Jagdish Gandhi said that the ideals of truth, non-violence and self-sacrifice preached by Mahatma Gandhi are the only way to bring about unity, peace and justice in the world. Earlier, around 3,000 teachers and staff members of CMS took out an ‘Ahimsa March’ from Maqdoompur police outpost to school's Gomti Nagar Extension auditorium.

XR STARTUP PROGRAMME

Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT-Delhi, organised an ‘XR Startup Programme’ in collaboration with the Innovation Hub, AKTU, and Government of India in Lucknow. As many as 200 participants, including students, startups, academicians, investors, researchers, and MSMEs learned about the new-age technology. The programme included an accelerator and a grand challenge, and through this FITT, IIT-Delhi will enable startups to leverage XR technology for health-tech applications.

SEMINAR

IGNOU regional centre organised a seminar on ‘National Education Policy-



2020’ for faculties of higher education institutions on Saturday. UP minister Danish Azad Ansari was the chief guest on the occasion. Ansari, lauded the efforts of IGNOU for effective implementation of NEP. He said the policy envisages overall development of the students. He also spoke about the steps taken by the UP government for NEP implementation. Senior regional director, IGNOU, Manorama Singh spoke about the professional development programme for NEP implementation.

VISIT

President of Indian Council for Cultural Relations Dr V Sahasrabudhe visited Lucknow University on Saturday. The department of

English and Modern European Languages organised an interface with him. He talked about the values of democracy and Indian traditions. He highlighted the role of cultural relations between nations in bridging the gap and making the world a better place to live in. Nandini Joomuck, an international student enrolled with LU, expressed gratitude on her experience of living in India and studying here. She also urged the Indian students to visit Mauritius for studying.

INAUGURATED

The Dr Ambedkar Centre for Excellence, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, was inaugurated on Saturday. The centre has completed the process of

admission to the free coaching of civil services. BBAU Vice-Chancellor Sanjay Singh welcomed all the newcomers and exhorted them to join the administrative services. UP minister Aseem Arun asked everyone to spend time with elders as it was International Day of Older Persons on Saturday.

FIELD TRIP

City International School, Balaganj, organised a field trip for students who explored Lulu Mall. The students got to know how a mall and hypermarket works on an international scale. Manager Shahab Haider said the school wants to prepare the students as active and promising citizens in the modern world.

‘Ayushman Bharat has played important role in reducing maternal, child mortality’

Lucknow (PNS): Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana has played an important role in improving the health services of the state. During the four-year journey of the scheme, state health agency SACHIS has ensured free treatment of more than 15 lakh people. It has also played a role in reducing maternal and child mortality, Principal Secretary Medical, Health and Family Welfare, Partha Sarathi Sen Sharma said in a programme organised to commemorate the completion of four years of the government scheme.

The programme was organised at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Convention Centre under the aegis of SACHIS. Sharma said that Uttar Pradesh would become the second largest state in the country by making Ayushman cards of more than 2.16 crore people in four years. “Under the scheme, more than 15.18 lakh people have availed of free medical treatment in the state. The beneficiaries of the scheme are being provided free treatment for serious diseases like cancer, etc,” he added. Country lead, Public Policy and Finance, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Dr Santosh Mathew said there was a need to make the scheme simpler and more convenient so that patients could be easily treated without wasting time. The principal secretary said the suggestion would be seriously worked upon. Secretary, Medical, Health and Family Welfare, Ravindra said the scheme launched for the weaker sections has been successful in its objective. CEO, SACHIS, Sangeeta Singh shed light on the achievements of Ayushman Bharat in four years and the upcoming plans. Twelve cancer survivors were given away fruit baskets and shawls. Five government hospitals were felicitated for providing better health facilities to patients under the scheme.

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:- ई-निविदा/निविदा सूचना :-

दिनांक 01.10.2022

लखनऊ विकास क्षेत्र में निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण या अन्य विकास प्राधिकरणों में पंजीकृत अथवा आवास एवं विकास परिषद में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। कार्य से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत निविदा-नोटिस तथा ड्राफ्ट निविदा-प्रपत्र लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट "<http://www.lkdaonline.co.in>" पर देखा जा सकता है, जिसमें धरोहर धनराशि, निविदा डालने की तिथि, श्रेणी, कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि एवं ई-निविदा लागत तथा अन्य नियम व शर्तों का उल्लेख है। कार्य से संबंधित ई-निविदा-प्रपत्र वेबसाइट "<http://tender.up.nic.in>" पर उपलब्ध होंगे तथा ई-निविदाित करने होंगे।

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की लागत (रु० लाख)	अभियंत्रण जोन/मोबाइल नम्बर	ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि
1	गोमती नगर विस्तार योजना सेक्टर-7 में ईमार एवं ओमेक्स के आसपास की 45 मी० चौड़ी सड़कों पर अवस्थापना सुविधाओं का निर्माण / विकास कार्य (पार्ट-3 : Construction of service road and footpath with 45 m wide road at opposite side of EMMAR and ORENGIE upto OMAX (right side))।	382.72	जोन-1 7309555111	31.10.2022
2	शारदा नगर योजनान्तर्गत रतन खण्ड में ग्राम तौदेखड़ा के पास सामुदायिक केन्द्र का निर्माण कार्य।	43.67	जोन-2 9918001523	17.10.2022
3	गोमती नदी रिवर फ्रण्ट पर रबड़ डैम (एस.पी. आफिस) से गांधी सेतु (एल.एच.एम.) के मध्य औद्योगिक कार्य का रख-रखाव।	36.16	जोन-5 7055262277	17.10.2022
4	गोमती नगर विस्तार योजना सेक्टर-4 स्थित रोहिणी अपार्टमेंट के निकट नवनिर्मित नलकूप एवं वनस्थली अपार्टमेंट के निकट स्थित नलकूप से कावेरी अपार्टमेंट के निकट स्थित ओवर हेड टैंक तक राइजिंग मेन डालने का कार्य।	29.35	जोन-2 9918001535	17.10.2022
5	ताज होटल के पीछे प्राधिकरण स्वामित्व की ग्रीन बेल्ट/पार्क में अवशेष फुटपाथ का निर्माण तथा ट्वायलेट एवं स्टोर की मरम्मत / रंगाई-पुतार्ई का कार्य।	10.49	जोन-1 7309555111	17.10.2022
6	शारदा नगर योजनान्तर्गत रुचि खण्ड-1 में लोकल शॉप के प्लॉट पर बेजौटेबिल चबूतरों का निर्माण कार्य।	8.97	जोन-2 9918001523	17.10.2022
7	बटलर पैलेस कालोनी के अन्दर स्थित बातिग्रस्त पार्क की मरम्मत, रंगाई-पुतार्ई व औद्योगिक अनुसंधान का कार्य।	8.79	जोन-6 9918001590	11.10.2022
8	बसंत कुंज योजना सेक्टर-डी में वाटरमेन की लीकेज की मरम्मत का कार्य।	6.71	जोन-6 9918001590	11.10.2022
9	प्राधिकरण कार्यालय भवन, लालबाग के कक्ष सं०-97 में विहित प्राधिकारी के कोर्ट का निर्माण कार्य।	4.11	अनुरक्षण 9918001590	11.10.2022
10	प्राधिकरण कार्यालय भवन, लालबाग के कक्ष सं०-4 में विहित प्राधिकारी के कोर्ट का निर्माण कार्य।	3.28	अनुरक्षण 9918001590	11.10.2022

ई-निविदाओं के सम्बन्ध में कोई बदलाव अथवा अतिरिक्त सूचना मात्र उपरोक्त दोनों वेबसाइट्स पर ही उपलब्ध कराई जायेगी, अतः इच्छुक निविदादाता नियमित रूप से उक्त दोनों वेबसाइट्स देखते रहें।
उपरोक्त क्रमांक-7, 9 एवं 10 पर अंकित कार्यों हेतु सामान्य निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं, जिनके निविदा प्रपत्र वेबसाइट <http://www.lkdaonline.co.in> से डाउनलोड किये जा सकेंगे।

मुख्य अभियन्ता

Special communicable diseases campaign launched

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Member of Parliament, Satya Dev Pachauri while launching the Special Communicable Disease campaign at the Kanishram Combined Hospital on Saturday by flagging off fogging vehicles said the Uttar Pradesh Government was making every effort to ensure good health of the people and the seasonal diseases which raised their heads from time to time can be effectively tackled. He said the Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath had launched “Dastak Abhiyan” simultaneously all over the state. He said common communicable diseases were like HIV, hepatitis A, B and C, measles, salmonella, measles, and blood-borne illnesses. He said the most common forms of spread included fecal-oral, food, insect bites, contact with contaminated fomites, droplets or skin contact. He appealed to the people to avail themselves of the benefit of this campaign.

Addressing the gathering the Chief Medical Officer, Dr Alok Ranjan said it can be termed as a transmissible disease and the reasons were pathogens, including bacteria, viruses, fungi and protozoa. He said once a pathogen entered a person's body, it often began replicating and added that a few symptoms were a direct result of the pathogen damaging the body's cells while others were due to the body's immune response to the infection. He said some communicable diseases may be mild, and symptoms pass after a few days but some can be serious and potentially life threatening. He said some common viral, bacterial, fungal, and protozoa diseases included rhinoviruses that were the most common source and cause of the common cold and the symptoms seen were runny nose, sore throat headache and fever as well. He said another cause of concern was TB and this can spread by inhaling tiny droplets or

“aerosols” from the cough or sneeze of a person who had the infection. He said the campaign will raise awareness among the semi-urban and rural populace of the city and surrounding districts. Dr Ranjan said healthy habits prevent germs and infectious diseases from spreading and thus the people have to be made aware to wash their hands frequently and handle and prepare food safely. He said it was advised to clean and disinfect commonly used surfaces, ensure that one coughed and sneezed into a tissue paper or on ones sleeve. He also advised people to refrain from sharing personal items and above all get oneself vaccinated. The CMO further informed that when a disease breaks out in a human population, changes in behaviour in response to the outbreak can alter the progression of the infectious agent and thus people can take measures to reduce their susceptibility. He said

good health was not good treatment, but awareness, inter-departmental coordination, and team work which played a big role in achieving the objective this. He said there was no doubt that UP had successfully brought down the JE rate by 95 per cent and said Dastak Abhiyan will soon eradicate these diseases which often took a heavy toll. Dr Ranjan said the Special Communicable Disease Control Campaign and Dastak Abhiyan, UP will be able to get effective control over every communicable disease. He said under the campaign, Asha workers, Anganwadi workers, employees of many departments including the Health department, and people of various organisations will visit door-to-door and make people aware of the ways to prevent the disease. He said if anyone was found ill, they will also arrange for treatment and provide a medical kit.



KDA Chairman Dr Raj Shekhar chairs the Board Meeting.

Pioneer.

KDA to launch projects leading to social development, trade

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Many important decisions relating to development of the city were taken in the 135th Board Meeting of Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) held on Friday. Apart from increasing civic amenities, members also resolved to launch projects leading to social development, trade and employment avenues. Keeping this in view, there was plan to set up modern city in 500 metres area on both sides of the 34 km long metro track under the Uttar Pradesh Transit Oriented Development Policy 2022 (TOD) which has been approved by the Board. The policy also envisaged the construction of multi-storeyed buildings on less land area to promote residential and commercial activities, thereby increasing employment avenues. Chairman of the Board and Divisional Commissioner Dr Raj Shekhar said the work for preparing draft plan for development of area along the metro corridor was assigned to UP Metro Rail Corporation. After approval of the plan in ensuing Board Meeting, it would be sent to the state administration for a final decision in the matter and launching the project, he added. It was also informed that in order to provide basic amenities in TOD Zone, projects for carrying out intensive development and mixed landuse would be promoted. People would be given to construct multi-storeyed buildings on less land area. The Board also decided that KDA will not increase the rates of its flats available in 10 different schemes - Signature Greens City, Shatabdi Nagar Shulabh Awas Type-1 and Type-2, Shatabdi Nagar Phase-2, Ramganga Enclave Shatabdi Nagar, KDA Greens Mainawati Marg, KDA Heights Kalyanpur Bithoor, KDA Dreams Shatabdi Nagar and Jawaharpuram Sector 6 Pragati Enclave - which had been freezed till next one year. The proposal for including 116 villages (30,359 hectare land) in Kanpur city, dehat and

Unnao to carry out developmental projects there was also approved by the Board. Members also approved the recruitment of 185 officers and employees to ensure smooth functioning of the KDA, the process of which will start within next three months. Among others, proposals for fixation of additional pension contribution; increasing of dearness allowance from 31 to 34 per cent for the family pensioners and handing over possession of flats to buyers on the basis of registered agreement. Vice Chairman Arvind Singh, Municipal Commissioner Shiv Sharnappa GN and District Magistrate, Kanpur Dehat, Neha Jain were also present at the Board Meeting.

DC reviews spread of H1N1 virus

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Dr Raj Shekhar, carried out a review of the spread of H1N1 flu on the GSVM Medical College and Hallet Hospital campus on Saturday. He was accompanied by principal, vice-principal and other medical officials of the hospital and Kanpur Nagar Nigam. He visited the Emergency wing of Hallet Hospital and took a feedback on the health condition of the student Pakhi Ashish, who was undergoing treatment for suspected H1N1. He then interacted with the parents of the patient and inquired if they



Kanpur Divisional Commissioner, Dr Raj Shekhar, inspecting Hallet Hospital on Saturday.

were satisfied with the treatment mode and medical attention of the doctors and the

paramedical staff. He then directed the principal GSVM to monitor the condition of the

patient regularly and also to take necessary steps for best possible treatment as required. He then visited the Girls and Boys Hostel campuses and also cross checked the progress of cleanliness drive on the campus. He said the medical college and the KNN teams will ensure total cleanliness of the campus in three to four days and remove the garbage and the weeds which were spreading all over the campus. He said the KNN will also ensure the cleaning of the drains. The Principal, Dr Sanjay Kala, updated Commissioner on vaccination and the prophylactic treatment given to all the students screened for the same.

Grandparents Day celebrated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Kanpur South, Pramod Kumar while inaugurating the Reminiscence Grandparents' Day at Seth Anandram Jaipuria School on Saturday said in Indian culture grandparents were the most revered part of the family. He said it was no exaggeration to state that grandparents provided unconditional love which helped a child feel safe and secure. He said Indian grandparents were the first to teach family culture, tradition and history. Principal, Shikha Banerjee said grandparents made an ordinary day extraordinary with just spark and imagination. She said the school had been able to celebrate Grandparents Day after a gap of two years and it was a proud moment for the school to felicitate the grandparents who feel proud to witness their grandchildren excelling in education and co-curricular activities. Theme of the day was a “Tribute to the Legends named Reminiscence”. The programme began with lighting of the lamp by the Leadership Team members it was taken



Grandparents Day being celebrated at Seth AR Jaipuria School on Saturday.

Pioneer

forward by welcoming all the grandparents with a few words of praise. The little kids welcomed their grandparents by performing a melodious medley titled “Bienvenue Melody”. The students were dressed up in beautiful attire and props which made their performance impressive. The toddlers featured the well-known legends, musicians, actors, singers, politicians, scientists and cricketers by enacting their persona

and also presenting a graceful dance. The spectators relived and cherished their golden era and grandparents added to the beauty of the event by taking part in singing and dancing in groups for their little grandchildren. The performance was flawless performance. The grandparents turned emotional at the end of the programme. Prominent others present on the occasion were Vice

Principal (Senior School) Shadep Adhikari, Vice Principal (Junior School) Madhushree Bhaumik along with teachers who had made the programme successful by their hard work. The vote of thanks was delivered by Bahaumik. Others present on the occasion were Mahesh Kumar Mishra, DGM, Admin, Shailendra Agnihotri, Director Finance and several others.

Lt Gen Raju praises GIL products

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Lt General BS Raju, Vice Chief of Army Staff on Saturday arrived for an inspection of the exhibition put up by Gliders India Ltd, which was a unit of Ordnance Parachute Factory. He was all praise for the Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSU) GIL quality products and also the strict quality control on the products manufactured at OPF. The Vice Chief Army Staff was welcomed by the Director General of GIL, VK Tiwari. He visited the sections where the defence material was being manufactured and was all praise for it. He especially praised the quality of the P6 Department where various parachutes and the boats and floats being manufactured in the Float Department. He then inspected that NABL accredited laboratory as well. Addressing the gathering GM, OPF, Sushil Sinha, said the entire team of OPF worked devotedly and seriously and was committed to maintain quality. He said in future as well



Lt General BS Raju, Vice Chief of Army Staff arrived on Saturday for an inspection of exhibition put up by Gliders India Ltd.

the OPF staff will remain resolute in producing quality defence materials. He said OPF had since decades been a prestigious unit of defence sector and from time to time it had proved its mettle. He said quality was prime than quantity and

thus with this principle in mind the OPF and GIL were working towards the successful indigenisation programme of material required for defence personnel. The prominent officials also present on the occasion

were Joint General Manager, S Bannerjee, Joint General Manager, Vivek Gupta, Joint General Manager, KS Charak, Security Officer, Col Sameer Lamba, Assistant Works Manager, Omesh Sinha and several others.

Workshop on good & bad touch held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The general secretary, Sakhi Kendra, Neelam Chaturvedi, while addressing a workshop on “Good Touch and Bad Touch” on Saturday at the Sakhi Kendra, Shyam Nagar said in the current times where materialism was dangerously growing it was essential for the parents to ensure that they remain vigilant on the safety of their minor children. She said children were innocent and unable to understand a good or bad touch and thus it was the duty of the parents to ensure they made them understand what was good and bad touch. She said if the children were aware then they would raise a voice of protest and fearlessly report the issue to higher authorities. She said the onus of informing about a good or bad touch rested on the parents and said they need to tell their kids about different kinds of touches and safe (good) touches feel caring, like pats on the back or wanted hugs while unsafe (or bad)



touches hurt ones body or feelings, such as pinching or hitting. She said children should know it's ok to say no even if it was a family member or a friend. She said a touch that made a child uncomfortable, afraid or nervous was a bad touch. She said the child will not feel safe with a bad touch. She advised the girls to report the issue if any adult touched them especially if the

person directed the child not to tell anyone, or if the child felt very uncomfortable when kissed or touched, then it's a bad touch. She said at a very young age, children were curious and began to explore their bodies by touching, pulling, and rubbing their body parts, including their genitals. She said as they grew older, they will need guidance to learn about these body parts,

their functions, safety, and what privacy and private parts meant. She said children must know that no one was ever allowed to touch their private parts, and that it was important to keep these areas covered and safe in public spaces, which included school too. She said it was also important to teach children about respect for 'body space'. A total of 97 girls were part of the workshop.

Gang printing fake currency notes busted

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Outer police have busted a gang involved in printing fake currency notes and arrested two persons, including a minor boy, on Saturday. Police have recovered a printing machine and fake currency notes worth Rs 4,200 from them. In a rented room in Barra, they were engaged in printing fake currency notes of Rs 100 denomination only. SP (Kanpur Outer) Tej Swarup Singh said police have arrested Vibhu Yadav of EWS, Varun Vihar, Barra-8 and a minor boy. Accused confessed to have supplied fake currency notes worth Rs 3 lakh so far during past three months. One of the accused is high school fail and after losing Rs 6 lakh in online game, he along with accomplice had started to print fake currency notes. Vibhu Yadav is also a student and had taken



SP (Kanpur Outer) Tej Swarup Singh addressing mediapersons on Saturday.

admission in Unnao polytechnic college. Efforts were on to nab other gang members, SP (Kanpur Outer) said. **HOUSE TAX RECTIFICATION CAMP HELD:** Kanpur Nagar Nigam, Zone 5, organised a house tax rectification camp at Srimuni Vidyalaya, Govind Nagar, on Friday where large number of people visited to get their prob-

lems settled. Up Nagar Adhikari Vinay Pratap Singh and Corporator Navin Pandit heard the problems of people and resolved them on the spot. As many as 135 complaints were received in the camp and house tax imposed on differently able people, temples and Gurdwaras were waved of immediately. Most of the people complained about receiving

bills for increased house tax amount. some of them informed that their residential house was shown as commercial premises which also led to manifold increase in house tax amount. Officials assured them to soon resolve their problems after proper survey of the spot. Some of the visitors informed that KNN also imposed tax on houses which belonged to differently able people despite Municipal Commissioner's decision for not charging any tax in such cases. All these bills would, therefore, be cancelled, officials assured. Apart from officials and revenue inspectors of all the wards of Zone 5, corporator Navin Pandit, Prakash Vir Arya, Pradip Tewari, Rajesh Gupta, RI Shamsher Singh and Tanuja Bajpai, Manju Singh, Pradip Gautam, Subhash Sonkar and Suresh Kumar Godiyal were present at the camp.

5G services will bring qualitative improvement in work: CM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said, "The 5G services will bring a qualitative improvement in the pace of work." Now, the village secretariats will be connected with fiber optical to discharge the online works of villagers at villages, he added while addressing the gathering on the occasion of virtual launching of 5G services at Rudraksh Convention Centre, here. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 5G services in New Delhi.

Expressing his thank to the PM for connecting the nation and Kashi with the fifth generation of Digital India, the CM said that the 5G services would bring a qualitative improvement in the pace of work and added that the village secretariats would now be connected with the fiber optical to discharge the online works of the villagers at villages.

Referring to the dialogue 'Main Samay Hoon' appeared at the beginning of television serial "Mahabharat", the CM said that the person who walk with the time, succeed in each field of life and added that we all witnessed the power of technology during the COVID-19 pandemic. The people were directly benefitted by depositing the money in their accounts through DBT and moreover, the students studied almost for two hours through online digitally mobile, he said, adding that the works in the government, semi-government and



CM Yogi Adityanath addressing the gathering at Rudraksh Convention Centre on the virtual launching of 5G services. Pioneer

private institutions were discharged digitally online during this period.

The facility of RT-PCR Test was not available during the corona period but the master trainers were imparted training of it first and thereafter, the others were trained by them online, the CM said and added that in the result, four lakhs RT-PCR tests were conducted every day in the state during that period. The work is in progress to provide mobile phones to 2 crores youths of the state so that they could study digitally, he said further.

The 5G services will increase the GDP and there

would be an increase of 1 per cent in the GDP if 10 per cent people use the 5G services, the CM said and added that it could easily be imagined that how the GDP of the country would increase when from 30 to 80 per cent people use these services. The UP will go ahead to become the economy of one trillion dollars through the 5G services, he said and assured the telecom company Bharti Airtel of full cooperation in the state.

Earlier, while launching the 5G services in New Delhi, the PM Modi held a talk with a local girl Khushi virtually and took information of benefit

from it. The girl student expressed happiness after talking to the PM. Besides the Vice Chairman of Bharti Airtel Rakesh Mittal, the ministers of UP Anil Rajbhar, Ravindra Jaiswal, Dr Daya Shankar Mishra 'Dayaloo', ex-minister Dr Neelkanth Tiwari, local public representatives and senior administrative and police officers were mainly present on the occasion.

Later, the CM visited Shri Kashi Vishwanath Mandir and performed puja. He directed the officers to ensure that there is no inconvenience to the devotees and provide better facilities to them.

CS annoyed over slow progress in giving water connections

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Expressing annoyance over the slow progress in giving the water connection under Har Ghar Nal Yojana, the Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra has cautioned the executive engineer of the concerned department of stringent action if the work is not completed at the earliest.

Reviewing the development and construction works being carried out in the district at a meeting held in the auditorium of Commissioner here on Friday, Mishra expressed annoyance over the slow progress in giving water connection to the houses under Har Ghar Nal Yojana when the executive engineer of the concerned department gave the reason of less number of labourers hired for the purpose. Mishra directed the executive engineer to ensure the completion of the work taking personal interest and cautioned of stern action if the work is not completed at the earliest. He emphasised on imparting training to ITI-trained plumbers and taking the work of house



Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra chairing a review meeting of development and construction works. Pioneer

connection from them as due to which, the work will not only be completed on time but also they would get a job.

On being informed that the construction work of 16 km is still incomplete on NH-233, Mishra directed for completing the work on priority basis and emphasised on addressing the land related dispute on priority basis if there is any in this direction. He also laid an emphasis on completing the construction work of CNG station at 10 places in the district. When he was apprised that the construction of ROB

near Kajjakkpura on Sarnath rail route is delayed because the railway has so far not allotted the fund, Mishra directed the Divisional Commissioner Deepak Agrawal to prepare a draft regarding this and make it available to the government so that the fund could be allotted by holding talk with the senior officers of the railway. Agrawal gave a digital presentation of 38 on-going development projects worth Rs 9625.94 crore.

District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma informed that 80 per cent work of data upload-

ing on PM Kisan Portal has been completed and the remaining work would be completed soon. The vaccination of 43,000 cattle has been done against 1.13 lakh and no cattle lost life till date, the DM informed.

Mishra also inspected the construction of a complex model in Sampurnanand Sports Stadium in Sigra, newly constructed Advanced Trinetra in command control room and Dashashwamedh Plaza and performed puja in Shri Kashi Vishwanath Mandir. During the inspection of Advanced Trinetra, he directed the DCP, Cantt Manish Kumar Shandilya to publicise the workout of the criminal cases and arrest of the criminals with the help of surveillance CCTV cameras through social media so that there is terror of secret cameras among the criminals and a message should also be conveyed to the common people that each and every corner of the city is under the surveillance and monitoring of the district administration and police and the women and girls feel safe even outside the houses.

Devotees throng at Katyayini temple

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The devotees in large numbers on Saturday visited the temple of deity Katyayini to have darshan and perform puja on the sixth day of ongoing Sharadiya Navratri. An elaborate security arrangement has been made in and around the temple to avoid any untoward incident.

The devotees in thousands turned up at the temple of deity Katyayini, located in the premises of Atmavisheshwar Temple near Sankatha Temple. The devotees started thronging the temple right from wee hours to have darshan and perform puja and they continued turning up at the temple till late night.

The long queues of devotees were seen at the temple during the morning hours. The rush of devotees was also seen at other Durga temples including Durga Temple in Durga Kund where the devotees visited in large numbers to seek blessings of the Goddess Durga. The security arrangement has been made at the temple of deity Katyayini and other Durga temples to avoid any untoward incident.

Barricading was made at the temple of deity Katyayini to



Idol of diety Katyayini.

ensure convenient darshan for the devotees who turned up at the temple in large numbers after two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

BRIEF SPELL OF RAIN IN VARANASI: A brief spell of rain on Saturday came as relief for the city dwellers from the sweltering heat and humidity. But at the same time, the water-logging in various areas exposed the Municipal Corporation which claimed of cleaning the drains.

The city witnessed a brief spell of rain in the afternoon and it gave a respite to the city dwellers from the sweltering

heat and humidity. There was cloudy weather since morning with humidity but gave relief to the people when it rained in the late afternoon. There was sweltering heat with humidity for the last some days.

KALYAN JEWELERS OPENS NEW SHOWROOM: The Kalyan Jewelers, a jewelry company has opened its showroom in the city which was formally inaugurated on Saturday by the MLC Ashok Dhawan.

Talking to the media persons on the launching occasion, Sriramesh Kalyanaraman, Executive Director, Kalyan Jewelers informed that with

this new showroom located in Sigra area, the brand has 7 showrooms in the state and added that the company has announced flat 25 per cent off on purchase of all Kalyan Jewelers' jewelry as well as flat 25 per cent off on gems valued at Rs 1 lakh only. The company has also introduced 'Special Kalyan Gold Rate', which is the lowest in the market, standardising the price of gold across all Kalyan Jewelers showrooms in India and the customers can avail attractive offers at Kalyan Jewelers showrooms across the country. These unique offers are valid till November 25.

National cleanliness campaign launched

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Union Youth and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said that at present we are celebrating 75 anniversary of independence in the form of Amrit Mahotsav. This is the beginning of the nationwide cleanliness drive 2.0. In 2047, when the country will celebrate the centenary year, what will be the nature of India at that time, this is the beginning of it. It is the responsibility of all of us to recognise India as a healthy India, a clean India, a strong India and a beautiful India. It is being started from Sangamnagari.

Launching the nationwide National Cleanliness Campaign, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said this time also it is starting from Prayagraj. The target is higher than last year and together we will fulfill it. It is our resolve and the youth will fulfill this resolve together.

Our Prayagraj came at number one in plastic disposal in 1,850 cities. The glory of Prayagraj cannot be overstated. All the four efforts are proved in the pilgrimage of Prayagraj. The Prime Minister has done the work of moving the country's economy forward, under his leadership India has become the fifth economy of the country. The foundation stone of Ram temple in Ayodhya has been laid with absolute majority under his leadership.

Efforts are also being made to make Kashi Vishwanath Dham Corridor and for its old dignity, which has started. The Prime Minister has done the work of saving the glorious history of the country. Work has begun to become a developed India. The foundation of a strong India will be made of clean India. We removed Article 370 from Kashmir only for unity. With this togetherness, we will fulfill all our resolutions.

All these views were expressed by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports and Ministry of Information and



Union Youth and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur addressing the gathering

Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur during the launch of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan 2022 (Clean India-2.0) at United auditorium on Saturday. MP Dr. Rita Bahuguna Joshi, MP Keshari Devi Patel, Mayor Abhilasha Gupta Nandi in the programme. District Panchayat President VK Singh, Sports Minister Girish Chandra Yadav, Secretary Sports Ministry Sanjay Kumar, District Magistrate, SSP and others were present.

The city of Sangam i.e. Prayagraj witnessed the nationwide cleanliness drive 2.0 on Saturday afternoon. Union Youth and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur inaugurated this nationwide campaign by lighting the ceremonial lamp at the United Engineering College, Naini. With the launch of the campaign, programmes were started by youth circles for cleanliness across the country. The Union Minister went to the Sangam beach, where the VIPs cleaned the garbage at the ghat.

Union Youth and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur reached Sangam Nagari on Saturday afternoon to launch

Campaign 2.0. BJP MPs, MLAs and senior party officials and high officials welcomed him at Bamrauli airport. From the airport, he reached the United Engineering College in Naini by car, where he started this nationwide campaign. He thereafter attended the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Myohal Complex.

On Thursday itself, Union Minister Anurag Thakur announced the launch of nationwide cleanliness campaign 2.0 in Prayagraj by tweeting. The main objective of the campaign is to increase awareness among the people of the country, to organise everyone and to ensure everyone's participation in making India clean.

The Youth Programme Department of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will run this campaign in about six lakh villages in all 744 districts of the country. The event will be made successful across the country through a network of youth clubs affiliated to Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and institutions affiliated to the National Service Scheme.

In this initiative people from different regions, languages and backgrounds will work together and the waste will be cleaned by these people on a completely voluntary basis. The Department of Youth Affairs is trying to convert this campaign into the biggest cleanliness drive being run by the people in the country.

The Union Sports Minister launched this campaign from Prayagraj on Saturday and appealed to participate in the Swachh Bharat 2.0 campaign and inspire each other as responsible citizens. He gave a pledge of cleanliness to the youth in the auditorium of the engineering college. By keeping your home-court, door and street-mohalla clean, you will give the message of the dream of a healthy India. During this, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan 2022 booklet was also released.

Union Minister Anurag Thakur gave a citation to the volunteers of Yuva Mandal Vikas Karyakram for doing excellent work in six blocks in the Har Ghar Jhanda Abhiyan.

Two properties of education mafia attached

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A joint team of police, revenue department and administration on Saturday attached two residential properties worth Rs 10 crore belonging to education mafia Krishna Lal Patel alias KL Patel and his brother in Mumfordganj area under section 14 (1) of Gangster Act.

Senior Superintendent of Police Shailesh Kumar Pandey informed the presspersons that on the order of district magistrate dated September 28, 2022, a joint team of police and revenue department attached two properties spread over 150.74 sqm of Patel and his brother.

A team of senior police and administrative officials, including SDM (Sadar), SP (city), circle officer (IV), and station officer (Shivkuti) along

with forces were present on the occasion. The SSP said had Patel accumulated wealth through illegal means and four criminal cases were registered against him in two different police stations in Shivkuti and Soraon of the district.

Patel is infamous for running copying and cheating rackets in competitive exams across the state. A resident of Kapsa village, Patel was first booked under sections 419, 420, 467, 468 and 471 of IPC with Shivkuti police station in 2019. The action comes at a time when the administration has tightened its noose around mafioso-turned-politician Atique Ahmad and his family members.

DRM REVIEWS ACHIEVEMENTS OF SWACHHTA PAKHWADA: Indian Railways is passing

through a transformational era. Use of technology, new dimensions of safety, punctuality, fast speed, electronic signalling, station redevelopment and advanced passenger amenities are being established in the railways like in western countries. In the same episode, we are keeping cleanliness in our top priority list. Swachh Rail - Swachh Bharat is our main goal. DRM Mohit Chandra said these things in the Divisional Railway Manager's auditorium on Saturday. Dr Mohat Chandra of Prayagraj Division reviewed the achievements and programmes of the Swachhta Pakhwada which started from September 16 so far. He said that cleanliness is not just a fortnight-long programme, it is our daily campaign. With the cooperation of every railway

worker and citizen, the dream of Swachh Rail - Swachh Bharat will come true. He appealed to the passengers to cooperate in maintaining cleanliness. The DRM informed that this campaign has been successfully completed in the form of Cleanliness Awareness Day, Clean Station Day, Clean Train Day, Clean Hospital Day, Clean Neer Day, Clean Food Day, Clean Campus Day, Clean Toilet Day and Cleanliness Competition Day.

Those who have done better work in the direction of cleanliness will also be honoured on Gandhi Jayanti. Senior DENHM Shiv Singh, Senior DCM Shashi Bhushan, CMS Rakesh Nigam, Senior DEN SR Prajapati, PRO Amit Singh etc. were present during the review meeting.

Directive to conduct more patrolling

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

DIG police Vindhhyachal Range RP Singh has directed the cops to conduct more patrolling in view of festivals like Durga Puja, Navratri and Dussehra. Such direction was issued by him while reviewing the investigation of the pending cases under Duddhi circle on Friday. Reviewing the cases of police stations Duddhi, Windhomganj, Babhani and Myorpur the DIG made it clear that the chargesheets must be submitted in the court along with the substantial evidences and full preparation without inordinate delay that the accused could not get the benefit of laxity at all.

He directed to take all the steps to control the crime, check the cattle smuggling, stop overloading, control the tax evasion through illegal mining on priority and create the atmosphere of proper law and order situation. He directed the SP to strengthen the local intelligence network through which the rumour mongers could be caught

instantly. He made it clear without hesitation the action must be taken against gangsters, top 10 criminals and anti-social elements to bring peace in the society.

SENTENCED: ADJ/ special judge for POC SO Act sentenced two accused for life imprisonment along with the fine of Rs 55,000 to each for gang rape with a minor on Friday. As per the reports, a resident under Jigna police station had lodged a case on July 19, 2020 against the accused persons that they raped his minor sister. Taking action in the case the police completed the legal formalities and collecting the evidences submitted the chargesheet to the court. After proper trial the court found the accused as guilty and sentenced for life imprisonment and fine. As per the court, the accused will face additional rigorous imprisonment of one year if failed to deposit the fine. The accused were identified as Paras Nath and Kapil the residents of Lachhia Ka Pura (Gaura) under Jigna police station.

INSPECTION: District Judge Anmol Pal, DM Divya Mittal and SP Santosh Kumar Mishra conducted joint inspection of district jail on Friday. On the occasion, the officers inspected the kitchen, barracks, hospital, women barrack and the other places under the premises. During the inspection nothing was found as objectionable. The DJ interacted with the prisoners and inquired about the quality and quantity of the breakfast, meal and became aware with the available facilities to the patients admitted in the hospital.

The officers were apprised that first and second dose of the Covid vaccine had been administered to all the prisoners and for precaution dose the camp was to be organised in the jail shortly. The DJ directed the jail officials to make available all the facilities to the prisoners as per the provision and for the patient prisoners all possible medical help should be made available. During the inspection, Pragna Singh the secretary DLSA, CJM Ratam

Srivasrawa, CMO Dr Rajendra Prasad and the other officials concerned were present.

BHANDARA: Under the noble activities during Navratri a grand bhandara was organised at Daffodils Public School which is located near Ojhala bridge on the way to Vindhhyachal on Friday. On the occasion the Divisional Commissioner Yogeshwar Ram Mishra and the DM Divya Mittal kicked off the programme and appealed to the able persons of the society to come forward and serve the devotees.

Till the end of the day hundreds of the devotees took the prasad. Directors of the school Amardeep Singh and Aparajita Singh welcomed the DC and DM and promised to continue the programme till the Navratri. Divisional Commissioner Yogeshwar Ram Mishra attended another bhandara at Chilh Tiraha which is the entry point of Jaunpur, Bhadohi, Varanasi and the other districts of Purvanchal and thanked the organiser Anil Singh a carpet tycoon.

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 of 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 percent 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 5G services will bring fundamental change in several sectors: Ashwini

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.

Congress central observers Ajay Maken and Mallikarjun Kharge submitted a written report to the high command on the political crisis in Rajasthan, where they termed the rebellion a 'gross indiscipline'.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The next generation high-speed 5G services will bring fundamental changes across several sectors, including education, health, agriculture and banking, Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday.

The minister also said that 5G will create new services with digital capabilities at the centre. "Telecom is a gateway of Digital India. Telecom is the root of all digital services that we are seeing in our modern life. 5G services will bring fundamental change in several sectors — education, health, agriculture, logistics, and banking. It will create new opportunities," Vaishnaw noted.

The 5G service was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at India Mobile Congress on Saturday.

The minister said the Prime Minister gave a challenge of developing indigenous technology for 4G and 5G, and India is marching ahead in the technology development, and now the world is looking at

Indian telecom technology.

Modi launched a crucial 5G network gear — 5G Non-Standalone (NSA) core, indigenously designed and developed by state-run C-DOT.

Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) said that end-to-end 5G call was demonstrated using C-DOT 5G NSA Core installed at BSNL Chandigarh and 5G Radio Access Network (RAN), developed in collaboration with Wisig Networks, VVDN Technologies and Radisys India.

The industry lauded the government's move to launch 5G services in the country, terming it a transformation step for industrial development. "It is a generational leap that can help increase the telecom sector's contribution to GDP to 8-9 per cent from 6.5 per cent presently," Ficci Director General Arun Chawla said. Ficci IT/ITES Committee chairperson Rahul Sharma said it is anticipated that 5G technology will add USD 450 billion to the Indian economy between 2023 and 2040.

"The potential of 5G in

India is genuinely transformative. Once built, it will accommodate up to one million connected devices per square kilometre compared with only 2,000 under 4G," Chawla said.

Nokia Senior Vice President and Head of India market Sanjay Malik said its global experience in 5G rollouts shows that it will provide a strong impetus to socio-economic growth and industrial development, contributing to the GDP and mission of Digital Bharat. MediaTek India Managing Director Anku Jain said 5G will usher in a new wave of opportunities for businesses, unlocking the next level of growth for the country.

"5G will be a key driver for Digital India initiatives and realising Design in India opportunities, leveraging disruptive technologies like AI, cloud, IoT, and others across the ecosystem. We foresee India becoming a major hub for cutting-edge semi-conductor R&D and design, and the rollout of 5G services will accelerate the next wave of digital transformation," Jain said.

Jio 5G across India by Dec 2023: Ambani

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Jio, the nation's Biggest telecom firm, will expand 5G telephony services offering ultra high-speed internet connectivity to every part of the country by December 2023, its chairman Mukesh Ambani said on Saturday.

Jio had in September 2016 made an entry into the telecom sector, offering free voice calls and dirt-cheap data, forcing the competition to either match or fold up/consolidate.

Ambani has now promised affordable 5G services. "Today, I want to reiterate Jio's commitment to deliver 5G to every town, every taluka, and every tehsil of our country by December 2023," he said at the India Mobile Congress (IMC) conference here.

FROM PAGE 1

5G LAUNCH HISTORIC, TURNING POINT IN TELECOM SEC: PM

"Members of elite class thought that poor people will not understand digital. There was a time when a section of the elite class...you can watch speeches from Parliament as well, our politicians made fun of and thought that poor people do not have the capacity to understand digital services.

"They were under the impression that poor people will not even understand the meaning of the word 'digital', but I have always had confidence in the common man..Today whether its small businessmen or local artisans, Digital India has provided everyone with a platform," said the PM, adding that "our Government is working on the goal of internet for all". The 5G technology will offer a wide range of benefits to the common people by way of seamless coverage, high data rate, low latency, and highly reliable communications. Also, it will increase energy efficiency, spectrum efficiency and network efficiency besides helping connect billions of Internet of Things devices, allowing higher quality video services with mobility at high speed, and delivery of critical services such as telesurgery and autonomous cars among others.

The 5G will also help in real-time monitoring of disasters, precision agriculture, and minimising the role of humans in dangerous industrial operations such as in deep mines, offshore activities etc. Unlike existing mobile communication networks, 5G networks will allow tailoring of requirements for each of these different use cases within the same network.

Speaking at the function Mukesh Ambani said Reliance Jio's 5G services will be available pan India by December 2023. "India may have started late, but will finish first...will have the best quality and most affordable 5G services." Sunil Mittal said Bharti Airtel will begin the 5G roll out from today itself and offer pan India 5G services by March 2024. Mittal also praised Ambani by saying that "Mukesh gave speed to 4G and we also had to run." Birla told the PM Prime Minister about the need for increase in production of telecom equipments in India to attain 'Atmanirbharta'.

The PM assured one and all that India of the future will guide the world in the upcoming technology sector, in turn making India a global leader. Union Minister of Communications, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of State for Communications, Devusinh Chauhan, Chairman of Reliance Industries, Mukesh Ambani, Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, Sunil Mittal, Chairman of Aditya Birla Group, Kumar Mangalam Birla and Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, K Rajaraman were those present on the occasion.

KHARGE QUILTS AS CONG RS LEADER; DIGVIJAYA, PC FRONT-RUNNERS

"Total of 20 forms were submitted yesterday. Of those, the scrutiny committee rejected four forms

due to signature issues. There is time till October 8 for withdrawal. The picture would be clearer after that. If no one withdraws, then the voting process will begin," chairman of Congress's central election authority Madhusudan Mistry said addressing a press conference at the AICC.

In signs of giving a spirited fight, Tharoor appealed to the eligible voters saying if they wanted a change in the organisation then they should give a chance to him, or if satisfied then they must vote for Kharge. "I'm saying that if you're satisfied with party's working, vote for Kharge sahab. If you want change, I'm there. But there's no ideological problem," he said.

Both the contestants hail from southern Indian States and party leader Rahul Gandhi is currently undertaking a Bharat Jodo Yatra in Kharge's home State Karnataka after finishing the leg in Tharoor's home State Kerala.

When asked about the role of Gandhi family after election of party president, Tharoor said, "Gandhi family and Congress' DNA is the same...No (party) president is such a fool to tell 'Goodbye' to Gandhi family. They are a huge asset to us..."

The party is currently holding the internal elections for the topmost position, for which Friday was the last day for filing the nominations. The 80-year-old leader had received support from nearly 30 Congress leaders, including leaders from the Group of 23 like Anand Sharma, Manish Tewari and Prithviraj Chavan, who had raised voice for reforms in the party.

The results for the party's chief post will be declared on October 19 after the counting (if required). With the Gandhis not in the running for the top post this time around, the old party is all set to get a non-Gandhi president after over 25 years.

INDIA ABSTAINS FROM UN VOTE AGAINST RUSSIA OVER UKRAINE

Also, it declared its annexation of four Ukrainian territories as invalid. The 15-nation UNSC voted on Friday on the draft resolution on "Illegal So-Called Referenda in Ukraine".

Enunciating the country's stand, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, said India is deeply disturbed by the recent turn of developments in Ukraine and New Delhi has always advocated that no solution can ever arrive at the cost of human lives.

"Escalation of rhetoric or tensions is in no one's interest. It is important that pathways are found for a return to the negotiating table. Keeping in view the totality of the evolving situation, India has decided to abstain on this resolution," she said.

"We urge that all efforts are made by concerned sides for the immediate cessation of violence and hostilities. Dialogue is the only answer to settling differences and disputes, however daunting that may appear at this moment," she said in the explanation of the vote.

"The path to peace requires us to keep all channels of diplomacy open," she said.

Kamboj said Prime Minister Narendra Modi

has "unequivocally conveyed" the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in his discussions with world leaders, including Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. She also referred to statements made by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Ukraine during the high-level General Assembly session last week.

Referring to Modi's remark to Putin on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Uzbekistan's Samarkand last month that "today's era is not an era of war", Kamboj said New Delhi sincerely hopes for an early resumption of peace talks to bring about an immediate ceasefire and resolution of the conflict.

India has previously abstained on two occasions in the Security Council and once in the General Assembly on the resolutions on Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield said before the vote that the outcomes of Russia's "sham referenda were pre-determined" in Moscow.

"Everybody knows it. They were held behind the barrel of Russian guns. Time and time again we have seen the Ukrainian people fight for their country and their democracy," she said.

Earlier today, we saw Putin celebrate this clear violation of international law. He threw a party on Red Square to pat himself on the back for these illegal referenda. He is gloating and reminiscing about the Soviet empire and stated that this was just the beginning. As we all sit in this chamber and solemnly consider this resolution, Putin is instead boastfully showing our shared values in our faces," Thomas-Greenfield said.

Russia's Permanent Representative Vassily Nebenzia said before the vote that the results of the referendum speak for themselves and that the residents of these regions do not want to return to Ukraine.

"They have made an informed and free choice in favor of our country," he said, adding that the referendum was carried out in full conformity with the norms and principles of international law.

He added that more than 100 international observers from Italy, Germany, Venezuela, Latvia, and other states, who monitored the voting, also recognised the results to be legitimate.

INDORE CLEANEST CITY, MP TOPS STATES' LIST

While Andore and Surat retained their top positions among cities, Vijaywada lost its third spot to Navi Mumbai. In the 10 top-ranked cities with a population of more than one lakh, the other cities are GVM Visakhapatnam, Vijaywada, Bhopal, Tirupati, Mysore, New Delhi, and Ambikapur.

According to officials, the processing of 1,900 tons of urban waste every day which earns it crores of rupees and also fuels its buses has helped Indore bag "India's cleanest city" award for the sixth straight time.

Agra was at the bottom in the list of 100 cities in this segment. Madhya Pradesh's Gadawara was at the bottom in the category of cities with less than one lakh population.

Among the States having fewer than 100 urban local bodies, Tripura has bagged the top rank, followed by Jharkhand and Uttarakhand, according to the survey results.

In the category of cities having population fewer than one lakh, Maharashtra's Panchgani was ranked number one, followed by Chhattisgarh's Patan (NP) and Maharashtra's Karhad.

Haridwar was adjudged the cleanest Ganga town in the category of more than 1 lakh population, followed by Varanasi and Rishikesh.

Bijnor was ranked the first among Ganga towns with fewer than one lakh population. Followed by Kannauj and Garhmukhteshwar respectively.

Noida emerged as the country's "best self sustainable medium city" in the category of 3-10 lakh population. Tirupati bagged the first award in the category of "Safaimitra Surakshit Sahar".

Chandigarh has secured the first position in the category of "Fastest Mover State/National Capital or UT" while Vijayawada has emerged as the winner in the category of "Cleanest State/National Capital or UT".

Vishakhapatnam got the first position as India's "cleanest big city" in the category of 10-40 lakh population.

Meerut has emerged as the "Fastest Mover Big City" with population between 10 lakh and 40 lakh. In the category of "Best City in Maximum Citizen's Participation" with more than lakh population, Ujjain has been ranked first.

Among the 62 Cantonment Boards, Deolali in Maharashtra emerged as the cleanest followed by Ahmedabad and Mhow in Madhya Pradesh. Delhi Cantonment Board finished 5th in the list.

The survey is being conducted since 2016. After Mysuru had managed to secure the top spot in the first survey, Indore has been on the top of the list since 2017. According to a Government statement, the survey was launched "as an assessment tool to analyse and compare the status of sanitation of Indian cities under the Swachh Bharat Mission". "Although it started out with the assessment of only 73 cities, Swachh Survekshan 2022 has managed to accomplish the assessment of 4354 cities (Including 62 Cantonment Boards and 91 Ganga Towns)," the statement reads.

For the first time, the "citizen report card" was introduced for the survey, which was aimed to disseminate the information regarding the status of cleanliness in the city to the citizens. This covered different aspects such as segregated door to door waste collection, cleanliness of roads and public toilets, city beautification, cleanliness of market areas, residential areas, drains and water bodies, daily sweeping in residential areas, non-availability of open garbage dumps and citizen grievance redressal mechanism.

According to the Government, 126 ULBs from West Bengal did not participate in the annual cleanliness survey conducted by the Central Government. Over 19 lakh people gave face to face feedback. Nine crore citizens' feedback was captured through various sources like Swachhata app, Vote for your City app and "my gov app" among others during the survey that was 100 per cent digitised, with complete online submission for all documents

by ULBs through a dedicated online portal, officials said.

BRIJLAL KHABRI NEW STATE CONGRESS STATE PRESIDENT

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.

Besides Khabri, Nakul Dubey joined Congress just a few months back after he was shunted out from the BSP by Mayawati for anti-party activities. Not just Dubey, BSP old guard Naseemuddin Siddiqui, who too was removed by Mayawati before he joined Congress a few years back, also got favour from the Congress president who appointed him as a regional president.

Anil Yadav, who was also once in BSP before he joined the Samajwadi Party and finally came into Congress fold, was also made regional president of UPCC. While Dubey is new to the Congress, both Siddiqui and Yadav have contested on Congress ticket but lost their deposits.

Reacting to the appointments, a former Congress president claimed that the future of the party could be easily gauged from the fact that the high command had now lost trust on party veterans and was giving weightage to those who were shunted out from their own party (read BSP), had failed to ensure their own victory and even lost their deposits in the last assembly election.

He further questioned how the old warriors would work under those leaders who joined Congress recently and had no following even in their own assembly constituencies leave the entire state or region.

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.



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'

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: Manpreet Singh, Surender Kumar, Harmanpreet Singh, Nilam Sanjeev 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, Shamsher 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 Ajula 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 medallist 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 medallist 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 medallist, 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 Thakur 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 Shohhei "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 sealed the next two frames to close 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 N 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



foul 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 was 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 Shehane (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)

snares 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 bowlers 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 mettle 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.

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, Shahbaz 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.

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 conced-



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.

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

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

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 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).

SIMI was banned in 2001 under the UAPA for anti-national activities.

In their oath of allegiance, the PFI cadres swear to sacrifice their lives for the creation of Allah's rule (Shariah). This oath was administered to the cadre

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

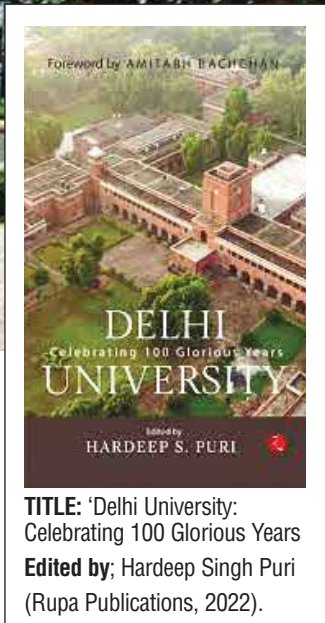
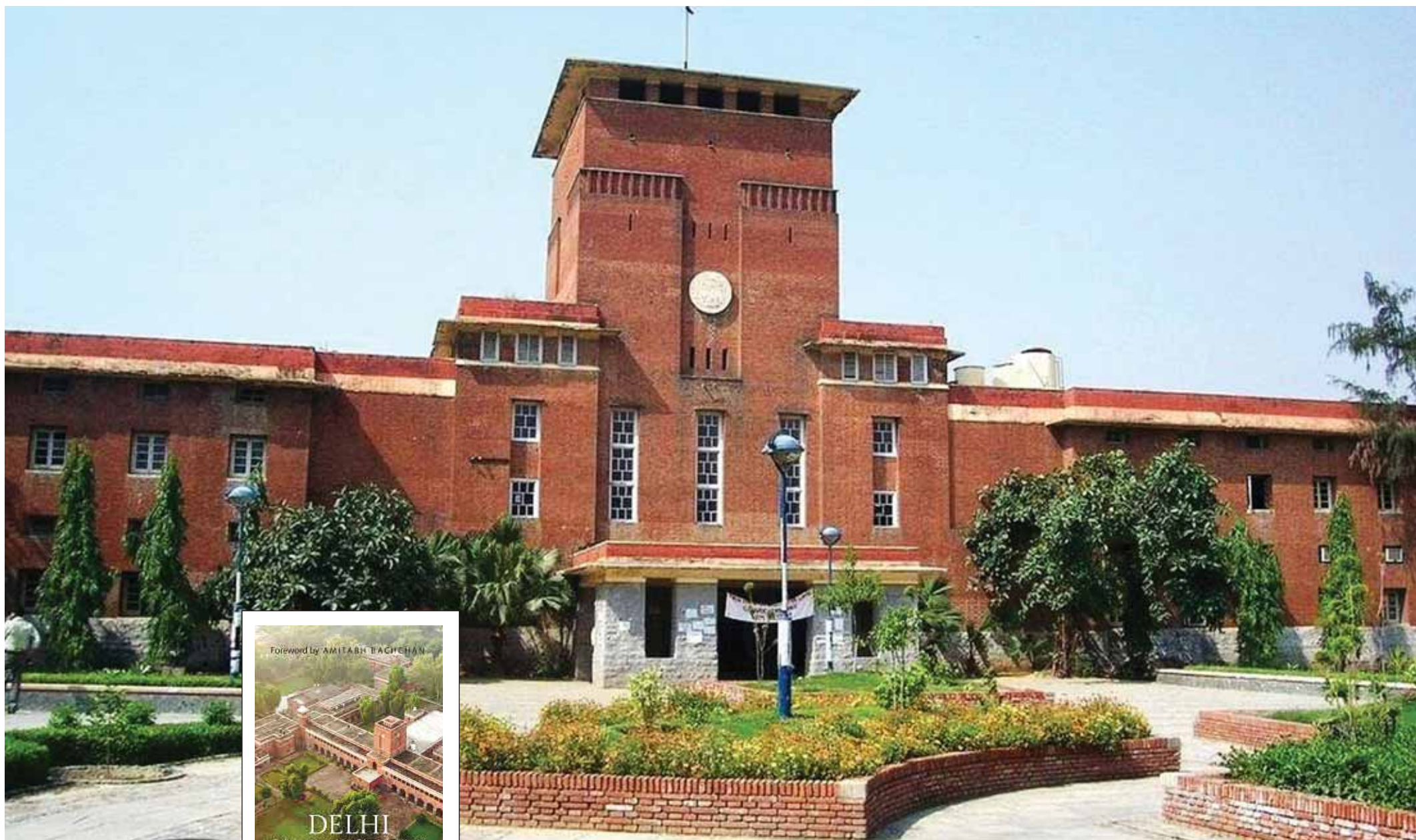
Many of India's most consequential nation-builders and opinion-makers have emerged from the hallowed grounds of the University of Delhi — India's most sought-after educational institution. Its alumni include political leaders, artists, entrepreneurs, and litterateurs of the highest caliber. The university celebrated its 100 th anniversary on May 1 2022. I am proud and honoured that I brought together some of its most illustrious alumni to collective 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 edited this anthology, has had a 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 revives 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 Dalmia), "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: The Journey of an Iconic Artist" (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).

PTI

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')



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

AP

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 diplomacy said coyly. "We're not just going to jump in there (in support of the draft decision)."

(Courtesy: AP)

