

**CITY 2**  
RETIRED EXPERIENCED TEACHERS TO  
BE ENGAGED AS SHIKSHAK SAATHI

**OPINION 6**  
RIGHTS AND DUTIES ARE  
INTERRELATED

**WORLD 10**  
BRAZIL HOLDS HISTORIC ELECTION  
WITH LULA AGAINST BOLSONARO

LUCKNOW, MONDAY OCTOBER 3, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



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MANCHESTER  
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11 SPORT

## 125 die as tear gas sets off rush at soccer match

Tragedy struck Indonesia after cops fired gas shells to stop fan violence

AP ■ MALANG (INDONESIA)

Panic and a chaotic run for exits after police fired tear gas at an Indonesian soccer match to drive away fans upset with their team's loss left at least 125 dead, most of whom were trampled upon or suffocated, making it one of the deadliest sports events in the world. Attention immediately focused on the police use of tear gas, and witnesses described police beat them with sticks and shields before shooting canisters directly into the crowds.

The president of FIFA called the deaths at the stadium "a dark day for all involved in football and a tragedy beyond comprehension," while President Joko Widodo ordered an investigation of security procedures. While FIFA has no control over domestic games, it has advised against the use of tear gas at soccer stadiums.

Violence broke out after the game ended Saturday evening with host Arema FC of



Security officers detain a fan during a clash between supporters of two Indonesian soccer teams at Kanjuruhan Stadium in Malang on Saturday. Panic following police actions left 125 dead, mostly trampled to death, police said on Sunday. AP/PTI

East Java's Malang city losing to Persebaya of Surabaya 3-2.

Disappointed with their team's loss, thousands of supporters of Arema, known as 'Aremania,' reacted by throwing bottles and other objects at players and soccer officials. Witnesses said fans flooded the Kanjuruhan Stadium pitch and demanded that Arema management explain why, after 23 years of undefeated home matches against rival Persebaya, this one ended in a loss. The violence spread out-

side the stadium where at least five police vehicles were toppled and set ablaze.

Riot police responded by firing tear gas, including toward the stadium's stands, causing panic among the crowd. Spectator Ahmad Fatoni said police had started beating the fans with sticks and shields, and they fought back.

"Officers fired tear gas directly at spectators in the stands, forcing us to run toward the exit," he said. "Many victims fell because of shortness of

breath and difficulty seeing due to tear gas and were trampled."

He said he climbed the roof of the stands and only came down when the situation calmed down.

Others suffocated and were trampled as hundreds of people ran to the exit to avoid the tear gas. In the chaos, 34 died at the stadium, including two officers, and some reports include children among the casualties.

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## KANPUR TRACTOR TROLLEY MISHAP

### SHO suspended, CM Yogi meets bereaved families

PTI ■ KANPUR

A day after 26 people died in a tractor-trolley accident here, a station house officer was suspended for alleged "dereliction of duty" while the tractor driver was still absconding.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath met the injured at the hospital and the bereaved families at Kortha village.

The loss of lives in road accidents is a matter of grave concern and the government would launch more awareness programmes on road safety to prevent such tragedies, he said and again appealed to people not to use tractor-trolley to ferry passengers.

District Magistrate of Kanpur Vishak G on Sunday told PTI, "The SHO of Saadh police station has been suspended for dereliction of duty."

A senior police official said that the accident spot was near Bhadeuna village, barely a kilometre from the Saadh police station, but the SHO reached there after around one hour.

"The death toll stands at 26, while the number of injured is nine. There were 35 passengers on the ill-fated tractor-trolley. The post-mortem examination was conducted at night. The cremation is being carried out at Deori Ghat in Maharajpur," the DM said.

According to the eyewitnesses, the tractor was being driven at a high speed despite



requests by the passengers to slow down, Additional Director General of Police (Kanpur zone) Bhanu Bhaskar told reporters.

"Subsequently, the driver lost control over the tractor and it overturned. The women and children came under the trolley," he said.

He said that the driver of the tractor is absconding. "Once he is caught, other things will be probed. Five other people who were with the driver are yet to be traced," he said.

Asked whether the driver was under the influence of alcohol, Bhaskar said that they were looking into it.

The tractor-trolley was on its way to Ghatampur after the passengers attended a "mundan" (tonsuring baby for the first time) ceremony at the Chandrika Devi temple in Fatehpur, the official said.

Wails of grieving families filled the air in Kortha village, to which the victims belonged.

CM Adityanath visited the village, which is 4-5 kilometres from the accident site, and consoled the families of the victims.

"It is tragic incident. The government, in order to stop such accidents, has been running many awareness programmes from time to time. I had appealed yesterday that road safety should be a subject of priority for us.

"A large number of lives are lost in road accidents, and this should be an issue of concern for us," Chief Minister Adityanath said. "Today, I had called the officials of the transport corporation, and have categorically told them that there is a need to run a comprehensive awareness programme on road safety, and

Continued on Page 9

## CAPSULE

### MARS ORBITER ON LAST LEG: ISRO SOURCES

Bengaluru: India's Mars Orbiter craft has run out of propellant and its battery drained beyond the safe limit, fuelling speculation that the country's maiden interplanetary mission 'Mangalyaan' may have finally completed its long innings. Sources in the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) told PTI, "The link has been lost."

### MOOSEWALA CASE ACCUSED ESCAPES

Chandigarh: Gangster Deepak Tinu, one of the accused in the Sidhu Moosewala murder case, escaped from police custody in Punjab's Mansa district, official sources said on Sunday. A manhunt has been launched to nab Tinu, who escaped on Saturday night when he was brought on a production warrant from Goinidwal Sahib jail in another case by the Mansa police, they said.

### 'WIND MAN' OF INDIA TULSI TANTI DEAD

New Delhi: Suzlon Energy founder Tulsi Tanti, one of the pioneers of the wind energy business and known as India's 'wind man', died of cardiac arrest at 64 on Saturday night. He was a globally renowned expert on clean energy.

### BIHAR FARM MINISTER QUILTS NITISH GOVT

Patna: Bihar Agriculture Minister Sudhakar Singh, who often embarrassed the Nitish Kumar Government by his outspokenness, tendered his resignation, his father and State RJD chief Jagadanand Singh said on Sunday.

## 'Can't ditch 102 MLAs who saved my Govt in 2020'

Gehlot targets Pilot, says Raj MLAs got agitated over new CM's name

PTI ■ JAIPUR

In a veiled attack on party leader Sachin Pilot, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Sunday said it was important to know why there was resentment among MLAs over the name of a new Chief Minister in the State. He also asserted that he cannot ditch the 102 MLAs who had saved his Government during the political crisis in 2020 and, therefore, he apologised to Sonia Gandhi. Targeting the MLAs who had revolted against him in 2020, he said they were hand-in-glove with the BJP. "Some of our MLAs



met Amit Shah, Dharmendra Pradhan and other BJP leaders. Amit Shah was offering sweets to our MLAs. So, how can I forget those 102 MLAs who saved the Congress Government," he said without naming anyone.

Several MLAs loyal to Gehlot, who was seen as the frontrunner for the post of the Congress national president, had last week submitted resignation letters over a possible move to appoint Pilot as the next Chief Minister. Gehlot later announced that he will not

contest the Congress presidential polls as he took moral responsibility for the political crisis in his State.

Referring to the crisis, he said 80-90 per cent MLAs switch sides when a new Chief Minister is going to be appointed but this did not happen in Rajasthan.

"It was a new case in Rajasthan where the MLAs got agitated just in the name of the new Chief Minister," Gehlot said without naming Pilot.

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## Sonia to join K'taka leg of Bharat yatra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress Chief Sonia Gandhi will take part in the Bharat Jodo Yatra on October 6 in its ongoing Karnataka leg.

Earlier, Sonia along with Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was to join the padyatra in September. However, they party had to defer it due to the Rajasthan political crisis.

The yatra will pass through the BJP-ruled Karnataka for 21 days covering 511 km in the State. The padyatra began on September 7 from Kanyakumari and entered Karnataka on Friday after passing through Tamil Nadu and Kerala with an outpouring of support and enthusiasm in the two States.



## 20 cr Indians still below poverty line: Hosabale

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

RSS General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale on Sunday flagged concerns over "poverty, unemployment and rising inequality in the country", the very issues that have repeatedly been raised by the Opposition parties to attack the Central Government.

Speaking at a webinar organised by the Swadeshi Jagran Manch on the theme of 'Self-reliance' — Svavlamban ka Shankhnaad, Hosabale pointed out that the "demon of poverty" was staring people hard in the face saying, "Twenty crore people are still below the poverty line."

Last week, Hosabale also released a book 'Snakes in Ganga: Breaking India 2.0', which slammed the NITI Aayog for allegedly sharing data with the 'Davos-based World Economic Forum



(WEF) and "undermining" India's economic interests.

Interestingly, while speaking at a programme organised by Bharat Vikas Parishad, an RSS-inspired organisation, Union Surface Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, too, spoke in the same vein four days ago. The unambiguous mention of "rising inequality" in the country by the top RSS

leader has come at a time when Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, during his ongoing 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' across the country, has repeatedly highlighted the same issues.

"Poverty is standing like a demon in front of us. It is important that we slay this demon. That 20 crore people are still below the poverty line should make us very sad. As many as 23 crore people have less than ₹375 income per day. There are four crore unemployed people in the country", said the RSS leader.

"A large part of the country still does not have access to clean water and nutritious food. Civil strife and a poor level of education is also a reason for poverty. That is why a New Education Policy has been ushered in. Even climate change is a reason for poverty. And at places the inefficiency of the Government is a reason

Continued on Page 9

## Bullet shot from ground hits man in plane mid-air

AGENCY ■ NEW DELHI

A passenger onboard a Myanmar National Airlines flight got injured after a bullet that was shot from the ground hit him mid-air after piercing through the aircraft's fuselage. The passenger was rushed to a hospital after the plane landed in Myanmar's Loikaw.

According to British news agency The Sun, the aircraft was flying at an altitude of 3,500 feet and around four miles north of the airport. Following the incident, the Myanmar National Airlines' office in Loikaw announced that all flights to the city have been cancelled indefinitely.

Myanmar's military Government has accused rebel forces in the State of Kayah of firing at the aircraft. However, rebel groups denied the allegation. Continued on Page 9

## Mulayam's health deteriorates, shifted to ICU in Gurugram

PTI ■ GURUGRAM/LUCKNOW

Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister and Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav was shifted to the ICU of Medanta Hospital in Gurugram on Sunday after his health deteriorated, the party said.

Family members are reaching Gurugram to check up on his health, SP state unit spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said.

While his brother Shivpal Singh Yadav is already there, Samajwadi Party president and Mulayam's son Akhilesh Yadav visited the hospital after getting the news, party sources said.

The sources also said party workers were advised not to rush to the Gurugram hospital.

According to hospital sources, the 82-year-old leader is being treated under the supervision of oncologists Dr Nitin Sood and Dr Sushil



Kataria.

He has been under treatment in the hospital since August 22, the sources said. The SP leader was admitted in the hospital in July also.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday to enquire about his ailing father and veteran leader Mulayam Singh Yadav's health.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also spoke to Akhilesh, enquiring about Mulayam's health. Meanwhile, Defence

Minister Rajnath Singh called up SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and enquired about his father's health.

In a tweet in Hindi, Singh said, "On getting information about the ill health of former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Mulayam Singh Yadav, I talked to his son Akhilesh Yadav over phone and enquired about his well-being. I pray to god that he gets well soon."

In a tweet in Hindi, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said, "Received the news of Mulayam Singh ji's ill health. I wish him a speedy recovery."

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said, "We all are concerned about the deteriorating health condition of Mulayam Singh Yadav and are praying for his health."

"Hope Shri Mulayam Singh ji is back to best health soon," RLD president Jayant Singh said on Twitter. Also see Page 2

## REMEMBERING THE MAHATMA



Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary at Raj Ghat on Sunday. Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

## Say 'Vande Mataram' not 'hello' on phone: Maha Govt to staff

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a strange diktat of sorts, the Maharashtra Government on Sunday made it mandatory for all employees working in Government and semi-Government institutions to greet people with "Vande Mataram" instead of saying "hello" while receiving telephone or mobile phone calls from citizens or Government officials.

The Government Resolution (GR) issued by the General Administration department stated that the implementation of the mandate for the Government employees would start on October 2, the birth anniversary of the Maharashtra Government as part of the Amrit Mahotsav.

Among other things, the GR stated that officials should also create awareness among

the people who come to meet them and use "Vande Mataram" as a greeting. "The word 'hello' is an imitation of the Western culture and just a "greeting without any specific meaning and does not evoke any affection," the resolution read. The decision has invoked interesting reactions from the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress.

The NCP termed the "decision" as the "infringement of the Right to Freedom of Speech and also imposition of a particular mindset. "Vande Mataram invokes a sense of pride and a feeling of patriotism. Forcing Indians to say it is not right, especially when they are asking their staff to say Vande Mataram even when they use their private telephones," NCP's national spokesperson Clyde Crasto said. Contd on P9

# BJP will win all 80 LS seats in UP: Bhupendra

Denies any understanding with BSP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bharatiya Janata Party's Uttar Pradesh unit chief Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary said here on Sunday that his party aimed to win all 80 Lok Sabha seats in the state in 2024 and had chalked out a special strategy for the 14 seats it could not win in 2019, including Rae Bareilly and Mainpuri.

He also dismissed accusations made by the opposition that the BJP had a tacit understanding with the Bahujan Samajwadi Party.

"In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, we won 64 seats and lost 16 seats. In the bypolls, we won Rampur and Azamgarh seats. As of now, there are 14 seats which we do not have. Rae Bareilly and Mainpuri are among them," he pointed out.

"The party's central leadership has made a special strategy for the seats the party lost previously. Union ministers are visiting and staying there. I am confident that we will retain the 64 seats which we won (in 2019), again emerge victorious from Azamgarh and Rampur, and clinch the remaining 14 seats which we lost last time," Chaudhary said.

"We will be contesting with the aim and register a win in the next general elections," the newly appointed party's state chief said. Asked whether the BJP would extend outside support to Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) chief Shivpal Singh Yadav in case he decides

to contest Lok Sabha elections from Mainpuri on his own, Chaudhary said, "Politics is a game of possibilities. As of now I cannot say anything on this issue, nor is he (Yadav) in touch with us."

"Shivpal Yadav has differences with the Samajwadi Party. I am saying it again and again that Akhileshji should handle his party, allies, family, uncle, elder uncle in Rampur (Mohammad Azam Khan)," he added.

On Akhilesh Yadav's allegation that the Election Commission of India removed the names of SP's core voters among Yadavs and Muslims from electoral rolls to help the BJP, Chaudhary said the charge was "inspired by falsehood" and advised the SP chief to accept defeat as the BJP did after losing polls in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. On the charge of a tacit understanding between BJP and BSP, he said, "There is nothing like that." He added, "Mayawati and Akhilesh contested polls together, so they would have a better experience of internal alliance than us."

"Even his father (Mulayam Singh Yadav) has the experience as he had contested with the BSP in 1993," he said.

Asked if the BJP would give tickets to Muslims in the upcoming urban local bodies elections, Chaudhary said, "Yes, we will give tickets to those who are a part of our winning formula." He dismissed any challenge from rivals and said their aim always remained to do better than what had been achieved in the past.

Chaudhary took a jibe at the ongoing events in the



UP BJP president Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary inaugurating Seva Pakhwada in Barabanki

## UP BJP president slams SP's 'parivarwaad'

Lucknow (PNS): Uttar Pradesh Bharatiya Janata Party president Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary attacked the Samajwadi Party, calling it a perfect example of dynasty politics.

"In the past 30 years, the SP could only reach to Akhilesh Yadav from Mulayam Singh Yadav and this is the most clear example of 'parivarwaad', the UP BJP president said. Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday

Congress over its president's election, saying self-contradiction in that party and its leadership was behind the inability to take a decision.

Taking a jibe at Rahul

was elected the SP president for a third time in a row. Chaudhary, who was on a visit to Barabanki to participate in a plantation programme being run by the BJP under the 'Seva Pakhwada', said: "The SP has lost all the elections during the last eight years since 2014 and the condition of its organisation is such that it cannot even give a new state president." In the recently held state level convention of the Samajwadi Party,

Naresh Uttam was re-elected the state unit president of the party. Referring to the ban on Popular Front of India (PFI) and arrest of its members, Chaudhary said strict action would be taken against all those whose activities were found suspicious. He said the government had information that justified the ban on PFI.

The PFI was banned for indulging in anti-national activities, he said.

Gandhi, the UP BJP chief said he should undertake a Congress Jodo Yatra instead of Bharat Jodo Yatra. He described the Congress as "parivarwadi" (dynast) and called party gen-

eral secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra a "barsati medhak" (seasonal frog), who comes to the state only during elections.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is Congress general secretary and party in-charge of UP.

Chaudhary noted that a number of people were dreaming of becoming the prime minister and said, "Yeh khichri pak nahi payegi."

Chaudhary said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country would not tolerate any anti-national activity.

According to a statement issued from the BJP state headquarters in Lucknow, as part of 'Seva Pakhwada' which started from Modi's birthday on September 17, BJP workers across the state carried out a booth-level tree plantation campaign on Saturday.

# Mulayam in ICU, Akhilesh rushes to Gurugram

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav along with his wife and son rushed to Gurugram as party patriarch and his father Mulayam Singh Yadav has been shifted to the ICU ward of Gurugram's Medanta Hospital after deterioration of his health condition.

The 82-year-old veteran was earlier admitted to the Medanta Hospital in Gurugram after a serious health condition and his medical status is said to be critical at present.

Mulayam's brother and Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) chief Shivpal Singh Yadav is also in Gurugram to meet his ailing brother. Abhay Ram Yadav, younger brother of Mulayam Singh Yadav and other family members in Saifai and Etawah have also rushed to Gurugram.

This is the second time when Mulayam Singh Yadav has been hospitalised at Gurugram's Medanta Hospital in the past three months. In July, he was admitted to the hospital following a routine check-up, reports had said.

Mulayam Singh Yadav is currently a serving Member of Parliament from Mainpuri constituency in Uttar Pradesh. He has served as the UP's chief minister thrice — 1989-1991, 1993-1995 and 2003-2007. He also held the post of Union



The 82-year-old was admitted to the Medanta Hospital in Gurugram after a serious health condition and his medical status is said to be critical

defence minister from 1996 to 1998. Recently, Akhilesh Yadav was elected as SP president for the third term. Yadav Junior (49), who in his fresh term will lead the party in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and the 2027 Uttar Pradesh elections, has said that his father and SP founder always wanted SP to become a national party.

"We struggled for it and tried a lot. On this day, when you are giving me another term of five years, we should all take a pledge that the next time we meet the SP becomes a national party," Akhilesh said at the party's national convention.

# Retired experienced teachers to be engaged as Shikshak Saathi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With a view to prepare the youth of the state for the challenges of the future through better education, the government has decided to take the services of retired experienced teachers as 'Shikshak Saathi'.

These teacher companions will be mentoring children in primary, upper primary and Kasturba schools run under Uttar Pradesh Basic Education Council. With the aim of promoting the quality of education in government schools, it is being started on the instructions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath as per the intention of the prime minister under the Vidyanjali scheme run by the Government of India. Under this, preference will be given to retired teachers, and state and President awardees in the selection. With this decision of the state government, not only will the children of

primary, upper primary schools get the benefit of learning from experienced teachers, but experienced teachers will also get a chance to serve by joining the government.

The objective of this scheme is to improve the teaching work in schools with the help of volunteers. Thus, for the purpose of providing additional academic support in schools, it has been decided to conduct cooperative supervision of schools through willing retired council teachers (Shikshak Saathi).

The government has also issued a mandate for this and has directed all the district magistrates to ensure that the information is made available to the state project office within a month while selecting the teacher partner.

Only those retired teachers will be selected as teacher companions who will have at least five years' teaching experience as assistant teacher or

headmaster in a council primary or upper primary school. Only those teachers will be allowed for this work, who are ready to become teacher companions till the age of 70 years.

Their main task will be to provide collaborative supervision to schools and enhance learning among children relative to learning outcomes. Apart from this, no other work will be taken from them.

At present, their number has not been fixed and all eligible and interested applicants can be included in it.

The tenure of the teacher will be of one year. The appointment will be renewed every year after approval by the district selection committee on the basis of performance appraisal. Permissible mobility allowance will be payable at the rate of Rs 2,500 per month to each teacher. No other allowance or honorarium will be given.

After selection the teacher

partner will take charge in the district project office. The allocation of need based development blocks will be done by the district selection committee after block-wise assessment.

The teacher partner will have to compulsorily submit the action plan and tour programme for the next one month to the district basic education officer and the DIET (District Institute for Education and Training) principal by the 28th through the district coordinator's training.

At least 30 schools will be provided online supportive supervision every month through Prerna App. Children and parents will be motivated to use the Diksha and Read Along App. Children's prayer meeting, seating arrangement, use of time table, children's parliament, Meena Manch, library, sports activities, observation and model teaching will be demonstrated.

# Two suspended IPS officers reinstated, probe to go on

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh governments on Sunday reinstated two IPS officers who were suspended for a long time.

They include DIG Anant Dev Tewari, who was suspended after the Bikru incident in Kanpur, and Pawan Kumar, who was suspended from the post of SSP from Ghaziabad.

According to information, the departmental investigation against both the officers will continue.

Anant Dev was senior superintendent of police of Kanpur Nagar for a long time. After becoming DIG, he was removed from Kanpur Nagar and posted in Special Task Force but a few days after the departure of Anant Dev, Vikas Dubey and his henchmen attacked the policemen who went for raid in Bikru village under Chaubepur police station of Kanpur Nagar. Eight

police personnel were killed in the ambush.

After this incident, allegations were leveled against Anant Dev, after which he was transferred to PAC Sector Moradabad. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) was also constituted to investigate the Bikru case, on the basis of which Anant Dev was suspended on November 12, 2020. Now, almost two years later, he was reinstated by the government.

Apart from this, Pawan Kumar, who was suspended from Ghaziabad for negligence in work, has also been reinstated.

Pawan was suspended on March 31, 2022 soon after the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. After six months he was also reinstated.

Meanwhile, at present, after the reinstatement of Anant Dev and Pawan Kumar, three more IPS officers are still under suspension. They

# Excise dept drive against illicit liquor

Lucknow (PNS): Uttar Pradesh Excise Department has launched a drive against illicit liquor, its sale, transport and smuggling across the state. The drive will run till October 10.

The Excise Department has launched the drive in association with the state police, Transport and Commercial Tax departments. ACS (Excise) Sanjay Bhoosreddy said here on Sunday that the drive aimed to tame the liquor mafia and check the evasion of excise revenue. He said during the drive intense checking would be conducted at the liquor vends selling country liquor and Indian made foreign liquor.

He said the drive would be monitored daily at the district and divisional levels. He said directives had been issued for checking and conducting raids at the brick kilns, closed factories, godowns in industrial areas, closed cold storages, RO water plants, paint manufacturing units and shops. He said the department officials had been asked to keep vigil on borders of state and India-Nepal border.

# One burnt alive, five hurt as ethanol tanker catches fire

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

One person was charred to death and five others were critically injured in a massive fire that broke out when a tanker filled with ethanol collided head-on with a tractor-trolley in the Reusa police station area of Sitapur district.



NOTICE

That, I Rekha Verma wife of R.P. Verma Resi :- 27, Rajdeep Bhawan, Bhagwati Vihar, Indralok Colony, Manas Nagar, Lucknow has lost the original Possession letter No. UL/SC/LK/POSS/1329 Date 11/05/05, issued by Unitech Ltd. in favour of original allottee Master Nilesh Shukla of the property being plot No- G-16, South City Ratnaker Khand, Sharda Nagar, Lucknow. Rekha Verma.

Superintendent of Police in Sitapur, Ghule Sushil Chandrabhan, said on Sunday, "Five people were going to Gonda after filling ethanol in a tanker from a sugar mill in Biswan on Saturday night. On the way, near Muradpur village on Biswan-Reusa road, the tanker collided with the tractor-trolley coming from the opposite side." According to Chandrabhan, the collision was so severe that the tanker caught fire and one person was burnt alive, while five others sustained severe burns. The deceased could not be immediately identified.

The fire brigade extinguished the fire after an hour's effort, the SP said.

The police took five people who were scorched in the accident to the local hospital from where two people were referred to the King George's Medical University Hospital in Lucknow in a serious condition. According to Chandrabhan, the police have started an investigation by registering a case in this

regard. Meanwhile, a farmer struggling with financial crisis committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling fan inside a room of his house on Saturday night in Muskra locality of Hamirpur.

The police sent the body for post-mortem. According to reports, Vishnai Pati, a resident of Muskra locality, ended his life. Local residents revealed that due to the heavy rains in the past, the sesame crop sown in eight bighas of the deceased had been damaged and he had also taken a loan of Rs 40,000 from the State Bank of India through green card. Due to crop failure, he was mentally disturbed for the last few days. Last night he hanged himself from the ceiling fan.

The deceased left behind two children and his wife. The relatives of the deceased have requested the government for financial help. At present the police are investigating the matter.

# Farmers burning stubble to face punitive action

Mathura: Farmers burning stubble would face punitive action since it not only pollutes the environment but also releases methane, sulphur dioxide and other toxic gases causing skin disease, heart problems, cancer etc, a senior official said. In a crusade against stubble burning, the district administration here has adopted a double-prong attack to counter the menace by adopting cohesive measures, including eliciting the farmers donating stubble to cow shelters, the official said.

"While an awareness programme, including familiarising the farmers with the nutritive value of stubble, started on September 26. It is going on in a geometrical progression in the district as the farmers themselves are educating other farmers. The violators have been warned of punitive action," District Magistrate Pulkit Khare said on Sunday.

He said the panchayat secretaries and lekhpal had been instructed to prepare a schedule of paddy harvesting in their area with the help of farmers for close watch on stubble



movement. With the use of a device attached to the cutting machine, rice is separated, and side by side the residue spreads in the field of the farmer, officials said adding that spreading the urea after ploughing and slightly flooding the field once, will pave the way for ideal manure full of nutrients. The farmers are unaware that by burning one ton of stubble, they lose 5 kg nitrogen, 2.5 kg phosphorus, 25 kg potash, 1.5 kg sulphur, 400-kilogram organic carbon etc., elements needed for the health of the soil as well as cattle, the officials said. It has been decided to honour the farmers, who donate their extra stubble to gashalas, stray cattle shelter houses or some other charitable institution, they added. PTI

# Kanpur tragedy result of bad roads, says Akhilesh

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday attacked the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party over road accidents in Uttar Pradesh, alleging that the Kanpur tragedy was a result of poor condition of roads in the state.

In a statement issued from the SP headquarters on Sunday, Akhilesh alleged that the road accident victims were not getting even ambulances under the BJP government. He also alleged that the injured in the Kanpur incident, in which 26 people lost their lives, were taken to hospital on motorcycles.

Akhilesh said that roads across UP were in shambles



and were marred with deep potholes. "It is sad that the public is bearing the brunt of the

failures of the BJP government," he said in the statement. "Lives are being lost and the government is uninformed, it is a matter of grave concern," he added.

On Saturday, 26 people died when a tractor-trolley full of passengers fell into a pond in Kanpur district.

According to the statement, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister took immediate cognisance of the Kanpur incident and sent SP state president Naresh Uttam Patel to the spot.

Akhilesh has demanded financial assistance of Rs 50 lakh each to the kin of the dead and Rs 5 lakh each to the injured from the state government. PTI

# Dhami pays tributes to victims of '94 firing

Muzaffarnagar: Uttarakhnd Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Sunday paid tributes to those who were killed in police firing here in 1994 while fighting for the formation of the state.

Dhami said the incident was a black spot in Uttarakhnd's struggle for a separate state. He was speaking at 'Shaheed Thal' at Rampur

Tiraha. The Uttarakhnd government is committed to developing the state as per the dreams of those whose struggle led to the formation of a separate state, he added.

Union minister Sanjiv Balyan and UP minister Kapil Dev Agarwal were also present at the 'Shaheed Thal'. PTI

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# Bapu's ideals laid foundation for a self-reliant India: CM

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Sunday, paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary, saying "Mahatma Gandhi's ideals laid the foundation for a 'self-reliant' India. Bapu's call for Swadeshi, Swachhata and Gram Swaraj are the basis of the vision of attaining self-reliance."

The chief minister also fondly remembered India's second Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, whose birth anniversary also falls on October 2, noting that he is admired across the country for his simplicity and decisiveness. On the occasion, the chief minister paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi by offering a garland on the Gandhi statue located at the GPO Park in the state capital. He also later visited Gandhi Ashram and Shastri Bhawan, memorials to Gandhi and Shastri, respectively, to pay tributes to them along with Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, and Swatantra Dev Singh, among others.

The chief minister, while remembering Gandhi, said, "Bapu's teachings act as a guide for the free, new and independent India. Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi since 2014 has worked assiduously to push the country towards self-reliance. Uplift of the poor through Jan Dhan accounts, Swachh Bharat Mission and safeguarding the dignity of women were among the first steps of the Modi government."



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath bows to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Gandhi Ashram in Hazratganj

In his address, the chief minister said that when the whole world was grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic, the prime minister gave the mantra of a self-reliant India and promoted 'vocal for local'. He said the double-engine government was working religiously for Gram Swaraj and self-reliance through the promotion of local goods such as Khadi.

Maintaining that his government was working for a self-reliant Uttar Pradesh, the chief minister said that

schemes like One District One Product (ODOP) and Vishwakarma Shram Samman were encouraging local and traditional crafts and strengthening the rural economy. He said the government was also providing tool kits and financial assistance to support artisans and craftsmen.

"In the last five years, UP encouraged local products, and resultant exports have doubled. With this, we are leading lakhs of people towards self-reliance," he added.

Furthermore, paying trib-

utes to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, the chief minister said that Shastri established India as a powerful country in the world with the slogan of 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan'.

Yogi Adityanath said that for the next three months from Gandhi Jayanti, the state and Central government had decided to give special discounts on Khadi products. On the occasion, ministers of the government including the chief minister also bought clothes from the Gandhi Ashram.

## Gang duping online shopping portal busted; six arrested

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the arrest of six people, including three employees of an online shopping portal, on Sunday, the Madaia police claimed to have busted a gang that stole electronic gadgets by way of fraud. Those arrested were identified as Sachin Tiwari (mastermind), Shubham Yadav & Vikas Yadav of Bakshi-Ka-Talab, Dharmveer Yadav & Ravindra Kumar Yadav of Itaunja, and Abhishek Dubey of Ambedkar Nagar.

Ravindra, Shubham and Dharmveer who worked as delivery boys helped Sachin and others in the gang in the crime. The arrests were made after Dheerendra Pratap Singh, cluster manager at the delivery company's office in Lucknow, lodged a case, alleging that Ravindra, Shubham and Dharmveer, in connivance with Sachin, placed orders for electronic gadgets. Since they worked as delivery boys, they knew about the arrival of the goods.

After receiving the goods, the accused would take the items out of the boxes and fill the boxes with clay and pack them like before. They would return the goods to the warehouse, mentioning that the addresses were not found. The boxes would then be returned to the shopping site. The delivery company in Lucknow was asked to probe into the anomalies as boxes after boxes were found filled with clay and goods stolen. The company conducted a probe and the cluster manager lodged a case, naming Ravindra, Shubham, Dharmveer and Sachin.

A police team nabbed the accused who owned up to their crime. They disclosed that they had counterfeit wrappers containing details about the goods and they used to paste those slips on the boxes filled with clay before returning them to the warehouse. They said Sachin used to order the goods using 'cash on delivery' mode. They said they would hand over the goods to Sachin who used to take out the goods and paste the wrappers and tape of the company in a proper way after filling the boxes with clay. The police recovered 43 mobile phones, seven tablets/i-Pads, 25 USB cables, two bundles of tapes bearing the logo of the online shopping company and other items.

## Factory owner among 4 held for murder of Dubagga resident

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the arrest of four accused, including the owner of a snack manufacturing factory, the Lucknow police claimed to have solved the murder case of a Dubagga resident, Vishal Gautam, who was abducted for a ransom of Rs 1 crore. However, the police were yet to recover the body which had been dumped into the Gomti river in Sitapur. DCP, South, Rahul Raj said the accused confessed to have killed Vishal and dumped the body into the river. He said police and SDRF teams were searching for the body. A case of murder was registered against the accused following their confession.

Vishal was reported missing on September 25 night and his brother had lodged a case on September 26. A team reached the factory on being told by the family that Vishal had gone to Mall on the fateful day, and recovered his motorcycle, but the accused remained untraceable.

In the meantime, the family got a call from Vishal's number and a ransom of Rs 1 crore was demanded. The fam-

ily was also threatened with dire consequences if police were informed. However, the number was later found switched off and it hindered the investigation. "After a couple of days, the family got another call through WhatsApp and the accused lowered the ransom amount to Rs 50 lakh. The police traced the location of the accused in Mall and apprehended them," the DCP said.

They were identified as Rajesh Gautam (Vishal's neighbour, Dheeraj Maurya, Mukesh Rawat and Ashish Rawat — all of Mall. Police sources said Dinesh is the owner of a snack manufacturing company and he chalked out the plan to revive his factory which was on the brink of closure.

Rajesh, who was a close friend of Vishal, disclosed that they strangled him to death at the factory and later stuffed the body in a sack. The body was later transported to Sitapur and dumped into the Gomti river in Sitapur. The accused said they held Vishal captive at the factory and killed him there. They then called his family and asked for the ransom. They again called the family to mislead them and

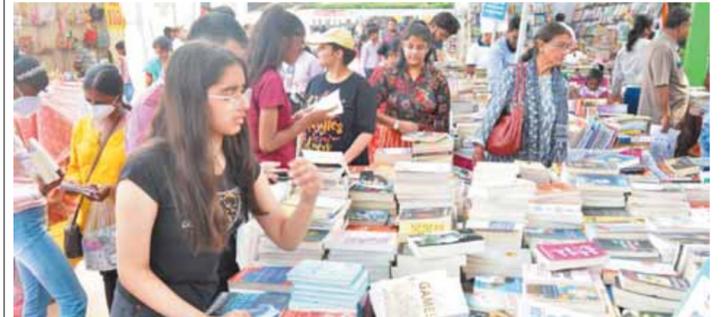
lowered the ransom with a view to pocketing whatever they could.

Meanwhile, mystery shrouded the death of a missing 45-year-old woman, whose body was recovered from a drain in Sairpur police station area in Lucknow on Sunday. However, police claimed that Geeta Pandey of Dugwar village in the area was mentally unsound and died after falling into the drain.

As per reports, the woman left the house to search for her 4-year-old old daughter, who went missing on Saturday afternoon. However, she did not return home thereafter. After her daughter returned home by the same evening, her husband Sushil started searching for her, but in vain. In the meantime, he was informed about the recovery of a woman's body from a drain outside the village and he reached there, only to find out it was Geeta.

He told police that Geeta was suffering from epilepsy and suspected that she fell into the drain after suffering a seizure while searching for their daughter. The police sent the body for autopsy and started further investigation.

## Book fair: Old is gold for readers



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

There is still a great demand for books penned by legendary personalities like Prem Chand, Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay and Rabindranath Tagore. Their books never fail to find takers and the situations is no different at the National Book Fair, which is currently underway at the Balrampur Gardens.

Aatish from Nayeem Kitab Prakashan said Prem Chand has been extremely popular and evergreen. "We have sold 20-25 copies of 'Godaan' writ-

ten by Prem Chand," he pointed out. Though the books are available online, he said people find it hard to read online and prefer hard copies.

"A book costs around Rs 150 while printouts will be very expensive. Prem Chand is very popular and all his books are selling well. When the readers visit the stall and browse through the books, they select these books. Apart from 'Godaan', 'Gaban', 'Sava Ser Gehu' and 'Prema' apart from a new novel which had not been in print for long, are selling well. Rabin Dranath Tagore's

'Chokher Bali' is also selling well. The books of Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay selling well include 'Anand Math', 'Badi Didi', 'Brahmin Ki Beti' and 'Kapal Kundla,' he pointed out.

He said that novels were selling the most and were being lapped up by people of all age groups. "In literature, the book which is selling the most is 'Hindi Navratna'. Besides, 'Bhasha Ka Vichar', 'Pather Panchali', 'Lolita' and 'Begam Ke Aansoo' are among the best-sellers in fiction," he said, adding the youngsters are also showing interest in these books.

## Tributes paid to Gandhi, Shastri

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Several programmes were organised in the city on Sunday to mark Gandhi Jayanti and Lal Bahadur Shastri's birth anniversary. The department of political science, Lucknow University, organised an intra-departmental quiz contest. Tributes were paid to the two leaders and then the quiz was divided into four phases in which 12 teams participated.

A cleanliness and awareness programme was organised by 20 UP Girls' battalion, NCC Lucknow, as part of 'Puneet Sagar Abhiyan', which is being run by NCC from September 27 to October 3. Under this ini-



Cleanliness drive organised by 20 UP Girls' battalion, NCC Lucknow

tiative, a programme was organised by NCC cadets at Jhulelal Park near Hanuman Setu Temple on Sunday. The river was cleaned, an awareness

rally was held and polythenes were collected.

Meanwhile, a cleanliness drive, plantation, garlanding and wreath-laying programme

were organised at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University to commemorate the birth anniversary of Gandhi and Shastri. Vice-Chancellor Sanjay Singh and others took part in the programme.

National Festivals Committee of Avadh Girls' Degree College organised a programme which began with the lighting of the lamp, followed by the rendition of 'Saraswati vandana'. A documentary on the life of Shastri was also screened. The students presented a dance-drama depicting the sacrifices of Gandhi. The redesigned college website was made live and accessible for students.

## Huge crowds turn up at Durga Puja pandals



Durga Puja celebrations at Sadar pandal on Sunday

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Huge crowds turned up at the Durga Puja pandals set up across the state capital on the occasion of 'Saptami' on Sunday. The pandals bustled with devotees who gathered for darshan of Goddess Durga and also for the various cultural programmes and food. Saurav Bhandopadhyaya, organiser of the tallest Durga Puja pandal, said over 50,000 devotees turned up Saturday and that the figure was likely to cross 1 lakh on 'Navami'.

Incidentally, a large number of senior citizens participated in the Durga Puja celebrations. Most of them visited the pandals on wheelchairs and stayed there late till evening. At the Jankipuram Durga Puja pandal, 70-year-old Hari Ram Rai said he has been attached to the puja

for the past 28 years. "Even though I am not a Bengali, I love everything about Durga Puja. The atmosphere is so good because there is peace and calm despite the crowd. There are a lot of facilities available for darshan and every little requirement of the senior citizens is taken care of. Even doctors are available," he said, adding he visits the pandal several times a day.

Anil Srivastava (74), who worked with a bank before retirement, said he has been attending Durga Puja for the past 18 years. On how did he like Durga Puja being a non-Bengali, he said that it was not a question of whether someone is Bengali or not. "Sitting here and looking after the arrangements is something which I really enjoy. The pandal of Jankipuram is popular across the country and it is also setting

a world record this year as it is the tallest at 136.60 feet. I also enjoy the food along with my family," he added.

SN Gupta, yet another senior citizen, said he has been attached to Jankipuram Durga Puja since 1999. Gupta (72), who retired from BSNL as an SDO, said he enjoys coming to the pandal. "The efforts which go into setting up the pandal and organising Durga Puja are praiseworthy. My family also visits this pandal," he added.

Ashok Sinha (70), who retired from the State Bank of India, and is now an advocate, said he has been attending Durga Puja for the past 30 years. "The idol is beautiful and has been prepared here itself," he pointed out. He said he has been a witness to the construction of the pandal which took over two months to complete.

## DC appeals for waste segregation

Lucknow (PNS): Divisional Commissioner Roshan Jacob and Municipal Commissioner Inderjit Singh distributing dustbins in view of solid and liquid resource management at Eldeco Green Colony on Sunday and appealed to people to ensure segregation of waste.

The divisional commissioner directed officials concerned to ensure distribution of organic and inorganic buckets in all the colonies across the city. Jacob appealed to people to dump vegetable waste, garden waste, spoil food, chicken wings, flowers, fruit peels & seeds, used tea leaves, etc in organic buckets.

## Man killed by youth for refusing to cough up money for liquor

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A youth killed an elderly man after the latter refused to give him money for purchasing liquor in Banthra police station area on Sunday afternoon.

As per reports, Mohammed Idris (65) had gone to the weekly market to purchase vegetables when he was confronted by Sooraj, of the same area, who demanded money for liquor. When Idris turned down Sooraj's demand, a heated argument ensued.

Deceased's son Salim alleged that Sooraj attacked Idris with a stick which he was carrying. "My father sustained sustained injuries to which he succumbed. He was attacked near a Shiv temple in the area and scores of vendors and people witnessed the incident," he said.

A spokesman said the police registered a case against the accused for culpable homicide not amounting to murder and also booked under Section 504 of IPC for abusing the vic-

tim. Efforts were on to nab the accused. The incident came as a shocker to Idris's family who failed to understand why no one intervened in the verbal spat and prevented the murder. "Sooraj is known for his hot-headedness. He lives with his maternal uncle in the locality. He used to bully weak and frail people in a bid to extort money," they alleged.

Meanwhile, an e-rickshaw driver accused a man of extorting Rs 13,000 from him in Madheganj police station area.

Mohammed Faiz of Daliganj said his mother-in-law went missing a few days back and his father-in-law lodged a report in this regard. "Two days later, I got a call from a man who said that my name was on the list of suspects. He demanded money to settle the issue and boasted of his rapport with the Madheganj police. However, my mother-in-law returned home on her own and also gave her statement to the police," he said. He added that the accused claimed to be a journalist.

## CITYBRIEFS

### FOUNDATION DAY

A cultural programme was organised on the occasion of Defence Accounts Department's Foundation Day on October 1. The programme was held in the auditorium of Principal Controller of Defence Accounts, Central Command, Lucknow Cantonment. The programme was inaugurated by Controller of Defence Accounts, Central Command, JP Pandey. Poetry lessons, songs and dances were presented by the personnel of the department. Various sports competitions were also organised and the winners were awarded.

### SAT CONDUCTED

As many as 142 students from Uttar Pradesh and adjoining states took the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) at the auditorium of CMS, Gomti Nagar Campus I. SAT is a standardised test for college admissions in the US. Lakhs of students take the SAT globally every year. CMS Gomti Nagar Campus I is the SAT as



SAT underway at the auditorium of CMS, Gomti Nagar Campus I

well as advanced placement exam centre. It allows the students of UP and neighbouring states to appear for SAT in Lucknow itself rather than go to Delhi or elsewhere.

### TRIBUTES TO ANKITA

All-India Uttarakhand Mahasabha and Sanatan Mahaparishad Bharat Samiti paid tributes to Ankita in the midst of a controversy over her murder. The programme was held at Gyan Sarovar Vidyalaya in Vrindavan Yojana. President of Sanatan Mahaparishad and former president of All-India

### CLOSING CEREMONY

The closing ceremony of Hindi month celebrated by Punjab National Bank was organised at the zonal office in under the chairmanship of zonal manager Sanjay Gupta on October 1. This programme was organised jointly by the



Closing ceremony of Hindi month celebrated by PNB

zonal office, divisional office, zonal audit office and staff training centre. The programme was inaugurated by garlanding the portrait of Lala Lajpat Rai, founder of Punjab National Bank. Zonal manager Sanjay Gupta said it was a matter of pride to work in the official language Hindi.

### GOLD MEDALS

City Montessori School, Aliganj Campus II, students Arnab Pandey and Aryama Shukla won gold medals in the International Informatics Olympiad organised under the

aegis of Silver Zone Foundation, New Delhi. CMS founder Jagdish Gandhi wished these students a bright future. Students from India and various other countries participated in the event in which the CMS students showcased their knowledge and logical & analytical skills. They were given away gold medals and certificates.



## Five killed, 10 hurt in mishap

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Five persons were killed and 10 others seriously injured when an unidentified speeding truck hit their stationary pickup on Ahirwa highway under Chakeri police station area late on Saturday night. The incident took place when all family members and relatives were going to Vindhyachal from Kanpur to perform the 'mundan' (tonsure) ceremony of a child. After the incident police sent all the injured to Kashiram

Hospital where five of them were declared dead. The other 10 injured were referred to the LLR (Hallet) Hospital. Sunil Paswan (45) of Usmanpur, Naubasta, was employed in an iron goods manufacturing unit. His family comprised wife Renu, daughters Sona, Trisha (2) and son Prince.

The kin informed that Sunil along with family members and relatives had proceeded for Vindhyachal on the pickup for the 'mundan' of his daughter Trisha late on

Saturday night. However, the pickup tyre got punctured on the Ahirwa highway. Driver Suraj (20) parked it on the roadside and changed the tyre. When all the family members boarded the vehicle an uncontrolled speeding truck hit the pickup and escaped. This caused serious injury to all the 15 persons sitting in the pickup. Police rushed to the spot and took the injured to Kashiram Trauma Centre where Sunil Paswan, his mother Rama Devi (60), sister

Gudiya (40), sister-in-law Kasak (17) and driver Suraj (20) were declared dead. His brother-in-law Akash, son Prince, daughter Trisha, wife Renu, nephew Pratham, mother-in-law Rani, aunts Rita, Rekha, Priya and Kutput were injured and sent to LLR (Hallet) hospital for treatment. SHO Shailendra Singh said the incident took place when a speeding truck hit the stationary pickup. All the injured were under treatment at the LLR (Hallet) hospital, he said.

## 'UCO GD Birla Memorial Lecture Series' held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Zonal office of the UCO Bank organised the 'UCO GD Birla Memorial Lecture Series' under the Sankalp Rajbhasha Karyayojana 2022 on Saturday. The topic of the lecture was 'NEP 2020 helpful in holistic development of students'. Chief guest Ved Prakash Singh, former Joint Registrar and Chief of Hindi department, threw light on the subject in detail. The programme began with the lighting of lamp and Saraswati Vandana. Zonal head Ashutosh Singh felicitated the chief guest Ved Prakash Singh with the 'UCO Kanhaiyalal Nandan Bhasha Setu Samman' on this occasion. Among other dignitaries Professor of Hindi department, P P N Mahavidyalaya Dr Madhurbala Yadav was also present who also spoke on National



Chief guest Ved Prakash Singh inaugurating the UCO Bank GD Birla Memorial Lecture Series.

Education Policy and praised the efforts of UCO Bank for promoting the use of Hindi language. Zonal head Ashutosh Singh highlighted the necessity and utility of NEP and proposed the vote of thanks. Earlier, deputy zonal head Priti

Hans delivered the welcome speech. Chief manager Sahil Suman highlighted the ideals of late GD Birla while the chief manager Manish Tripathi informed about the activities being carried out by UCO Bank to promote Hindi lan-

guage. On this occasion, two students of the PPN College - Swati Devi and Shivani Devi were felicitated with the UCO Rajbhasha Samman for securing highest marks in Hindi in postgraduation exams. They were awarded the demand draft of Rs 5,000 and memento. Dr Madhurbala Yadav and SS Bhadauria were also honoured for their contribution in promoting the Hindi language. The bank also gave away prizes to winners of different competitions organised by its zonal office during Hindi Pakhwara 2022 celebrations. The winners of Atal Pension Scheme Camp and PPF account opening were also awarded prizes. Officers and staff of different branches of the bank and zonal office were present. The proceedings were conducted by the Senior Manager (Rajbhasha) Dr Shilpi Shukla.

## Floral tribute paid to Gandhi, Shastri

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) observed the birth anniversary of the Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri in a very simple way on Sunday. Vice-Chairman Arvind Singh offered floral tribute on the portraits of both the greatmen and bowed his head before them.

On the occasion Mohd Ashiq and his team presented Ramdhun and Babu's favourite bhajans 'Vaishnav Jan Te Tene Kahiye Je Peer Parai Jane Re'. In



KDA Vice-Chairman Arvind Singh speaking on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri on Sunday.

his address Vice-Chairman Arvind Singh encouraged the audience to emulate principles and values of Babu and Shastri. A two-minute silence was observed to condole the deaths in two separate road mishaps and prayed for the peace of the departed souls and providing courage to bereaved kin to bear this irreparable loss.

Vice-Chairman Arvind Singh also announced the donation of one day's salary by all KDA officers/ employees to the kin of the deceased and injured which was unanimously accepted by one and all.

## Annual sports meet concludes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Annual Sports Meet 2022 concluded at the National Sugar Institute (NSI) with a friendly limited over cricket match played between the Staff XI vs Student XI on Sunday. The concluding day began by paying respect to two great Indian souls, Mahatma Gandhi who taught the path of truth and non-violence and to Lal Bahadur Shastri who guided the way to life of sacrifice.

Prizes to the winners were distributed by Director Narendra Mohan who while congratulating the winners called upon the students to spend one hour per day on intense physical activity and sports were the best means for doing the same. Besides enhancing physical fitness and mental stability, sports promote



brotherhood, he said. While in the badminton boy's singles, Sumit Sharma, Alcohol Technology, Final Year and Ashish Dubey, Sugar

Technology, final year were the winner and runner-up respectively, in girls, Nidhi Rajput, Sugar Technology first year and Kalphana Yadav,

Alcohol Technology, first year were the winner and runner-up respectively. In the table tennis singles, Arvind Kumar, Alcohol Technology First Year and Nidhi Rajput, Sugar Technology, First Year were the winners. In the team events Cricket Championship was won by the Sugar Engineering first year, while Subhash of Quality Control Course was adjudged the 'Man of the Series'. The volleyball championship was also won by the Sugar Engineering first year. Prizes were also given to the winners of various other events viz. javelin throw, discuss throw, shot put, weightlifting and individual and relay races in boy's and girl's categories. Virendra Kumar, President, Council of Students Activities (Sports) coordinated the various activities and proposed the vote of thanks.

## BLW GM, others offer 'shramdaan'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Gandhi Jayanti marked the conclusion of cleanliness fortnight (September 16 to October 2) organised at different units of Indian Railways including Banaras Locomotive Works and Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) apart from other departments. At BLW, General Manager Anjali Goyal herself offered Shramdaan at Golf Course, along with other senior officers and planted saplings to give a message of cleanliness and environment protection.



GM Anjali Goyal offering shramdaan on Gandhi Jayanti in BLW, Varanasi on Sunday.

were also present. Besides, Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel launched a massive cleanliness drive near river Ganga banks. PCEE Sushil Kumar Srivastava, PCPO Pradeep Kumar Singh, PCE Hirendra Singh Rana, PCMM Rajneesh Gupta, PCSC RS Chouhan, PCMO Dr Devesh Kumar, PFA Amar Kumar Sinha, CVO PK Chaudhary and many others

DRM awarded the best performers within the fortnight. Mau station was awarded among A and A1 class stations, Ghazipur City in B category stations, 12581/12582 Banaras New Delhi Superfast Express was adjudged as best arranged train and Banaras Coaching Depot as best organised office. ADRM (Infra) Gyanesh Tripathi, ADRM (Operations) SPS Yadav, SDME

(Environment & Housekeeping Management) Alok Kesharwani, SDCM Sanjeev Sharma, SDPO Samir Paul, SDOM (General) AK Saxena, SDEE (Traction) RN Singh, SDS&TE Rajat Priya and many others were also present. Besides, Special Cleanliness Campaign 2.0 was launched by the Department of Posts in Varanasi Region by Postmaster General (PMG) Krishna Kumar Yadav, while garlanding the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in a function at Varanasi Cantt Head Post Office. The campaign will run till October 31. He also planted a sapling of Rudraksh in the Head Post Office premises, along with the Superintendent of Posts PC Tiwari and Assistant Director Brijesh Sharma. Besides, as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, 'Fit India Freedom Run 3.0' was flagged off by the PMG under the theme '75 years of independence, fitness remained unmatched'.

## SPSEC organises 'Bhavanjali'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Sir Padampat Singhania Education Centre (SPSEC) organised a soul-stirring tribute - 'Bhavanjali' - to the founder chairman of the institution Govind Hari Singhania on his eight death anniversary on Sunday.

Principal Bhawna Gupta shared the illustrative accomplishments of the founder chairman who was not only an eminent educationist but also a great visionary with unflinching determination and dedication. Singhania was an industrialist and a philanthropist. The school nurtured by him is presently living his dreams and meeting tremendous progress because of his blessings. The favourite bhajans of



SPSEC organised 'Bhavanjali' programme to pay tribute to founder chairman Govind Hari Singhania on Sunday.

the founder chairman, 'Shri Krishna Sharnam', 'Krishna Jinka Naam Hai', 'Hari Sundar

Nand Mukunda', 'Maine Leenho Govind Mol', 'Shriman Narayan Narayan Hari Hari',

'Achyutam Keshawam' and 'Shri Krishna Govind Hare Murari' were presented by the students and the Music department of the institute. The entire event went live on the social media platform.

The event culminated with floral tribute that was paid by Principal Bhawna Gupta, Manager (Accounts & Finance) Ashish Bhargava, Manager (Administration) Surendra Yadav, Vice-Principal Kavita Chadha, Headmistress Vandana Trivedi and the entire Singhania fraternity to the founder chairman. The Singhania family also paid homage to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi and the former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on their birth anniversary.

## Teachers take out march

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The women teachers associated with the Women Teachers Association of Uttar Pradesh, affiliated to Uttar Pradesh Rajya Karmachari Sanyukt Parishad on Sunday took out a peace march demanding the restoration of the old pension scheme.



The women teachers of the district associated with the Women Teachers Association of Uttar Pradesh gathered at the BSA office here and took out a peace march. The women teachers tried to draw the attention of the state government through their movements regarding their demand of the restoration of the old pension scheme but the government paid no heed to it, they blamed. There are some other states

of the country which had restored the old pension scheme keeping the larger interest of the teachers, employees and non-teaching staff but the UP government paid deaf ear towards this which is injustice to the teachers, employees and non-teaching staff, the agitated women teachers said.

The teachers, employees and non-teaching staff sacrificed their entire career in implementing the government schemes and playing a crucial role in the development of the state but the indifferent attitude of the government towards their interest is injustice to them, they said and added

that they should also be given the right to pass respectful life after the retirement. The teachers, employees and non-teaching staff, appointed after the year of 2005, could not avail the facility of the old pension scheme and instead, the government implemented a new pension scheme which is not acceptable to them, the agitated women teachers said and demanded the government to restore the old pension scheme by withdrawing the new pension scheme in their larger interest. Among those who joined the peace march included the district president of the association Chavi Agrawal, senior vice president Pratibha Singh, general secretary Dipti Mishra, Bebi Fatima, Anita Rai, Rita Singh, Manju Tiwari and Puja Tiwari.

## Eight hours duty for CHO now

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Now, the duty hours of Community Health Officer (CHO), appointed at Health & Wellness Centres under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, will be of 8 hours from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm and their attendance would be registered through Attendance Management System (AMS) application. Action would be ascertained if the CHO is found absent during the duty hours.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary informed that the government

has fixed the duty hour of the CHO, appointed at Health & Wellness Centres under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana and added that as per government directive, the CHO will discharge duty for eight hours between 9.30 am to 5.30 pm. The health & wellness centres are on the top priority of the government which is making all efforts to consolidate this system.

The CHOs have been appointed at health & wellness centres to provide qualitative health facilities to the people near their houses, the CMO

informed, adding that a total of 225 health & wellness centres are in the district and the CHO has been appointed at as many as 176 centres while the ANM have been appointed at the remaining centres. The eight hours duty has been fixed for CHOs, he informed further.

The AMS application has been developed to digitalise the attendance of the officers and employees of National Health Mission and in this order, the attendance of CHOs has also been digitised, the CMO informed and added that

under this new arrangement, the district programme manager (DPM) will register the mobile number of all CHOs who will register their attendance by log-in the registered mobile number through this application. The CHOs have also been trained regarding this, Dr Chaudhary informed, adding that the CHOs could register their attendance only being present at the centres. The monitoring of the attendance registered through this app would be made at the district and state level time to time, he said.

## Security stepped up at Vindhyachal temple

PTI ■ MIRZAPUR

Police have stepped up security as more than four lakh devotees are likely to visit the Vindhyachal temple here on October 4 and 5 - the seventh and eighth day of the nine-day Navratri festival.

Elaborating on the arrangements, District Magistrate Divya Mittal told PTI, "The footfalls of the devotees on 'Saptami' (seventh day) and 'Ashtami' (eighth day) is likely to touch four lakh mark on each day."

The administration has made enough preparations even if the number of devotees increases. In order to make the visit of the devotees easy, especially for the elderly, police and homeguard jawans will be

deployed to facilitate 'darshan' of the Goddess.

Additional District Information Officer Omprakash Upadhyay said the mela area covering around 15 square kilometres has been divided into 10 zones and 12 sectors with magistrate ranked officials overseeing each zone.

He also informed that during the festival, only five ghats will be allowed to be used for bathing purposes. As many as 150 pucca toilets, 20 change rooms and temporary toilets have been made.

To help the visitors, eight health centres have also been made, he said and added that four 'rain baseras' (halting places) including three of the government, have been made, where visitors can stay for free.

The district administration has also made provisions to provide food at an affordable rate and five eateries have been opened, where the devotees could get five pooris and sabji at ₹10.

As far as the security arrangements are concerned, 20 additional SPs, 15 COs, 47 inspectors, 97 sub-inspectors, 19 women sub-inspectors, 1,427 constables, 350 women constables and 12 head constables have been deployed.

Explaining the importance of Vindhyadhaam, the priest at Vindhyachal temple Harsh Shukla said, "The devotees who come here get the glimpse of Maa Vindhyavasini, Maa Kaali and Maa Asthbjuja (in form of Maa Saraswati). The 'darshan' of these three goddesses is called the 'Vindhyachal kaa trikon' (the triangle of Vindhyachal), and its importance is mentioned in Devi Puran."

"This is the only 'darbaar' of the Goddess and the rest of the Goddess have their temples. All the gods and goddesses come to her to mark their presence, and hence, Vindhyachal is also called Vindhyachal Darbaar," he said.

Sunny Dutt Pathak, who is a member of Panda Samaj Vindhya Vikas Parishad said, "Auspicious works like mundan, wedding are done during the Navratri. Devotees who come here stay for nine days recite Devi Paath, Nav Chandhi Paath, Shat Chandhi Paath, Sahastr Chandhi Paath and Durga Shapthshati."

## Traders to shun Chinese items

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Like the past two years, this Diwali too city-based traders have decided to shun Chinese items and booked orders for unique indigenous articles for home decor. From designer and colourful diyas, waterproof piped jhalars, southern state-made entrance arches to cloth lamps and indigenous decorative items like designer rangolis, chandeliers, bamboo flower pots and desi fairy lights are set to hit the markets this year. Traders have placed orders for around 10 lakh earthen diyas for Diwali.

President of Prayag Vyapar Mandal Vijay Arora told mediapersons that Indian consumers are avoiding Chinese lights and decoratives for the past two consecutive years and after noticing the change in trend this Janmashtami, traders have placed orders for indigenous articles from different states a month prior to Diwali. He added, "This year, the sale of decorative fairy lights from Delhi will increase man-

ifold at the famous Shaganj electronic market." Arora claimed that there had been a significant decline in the sale of Chinese products in past two years and traders had too suffered losses. A trader at Mutthiganj Ravi Kumar said: "The sale of indigenous decorative products has picked up for the past two years and after witnessing the change, we have booked indigenous products only." Arora claimed that women associated with different vyapar mandals are too promoting the sale of indigenous designer and colourful diyas. This year, women office bearers of different vyapar mandals would be organising special fair to promote designer and colourful diyas. Moreover, bookings have also been made for decorative pieces made of bamboo and cane, he added. Traders at Chowk, Ghantaghar and Shaganj markets admitted that "Majority of both urban and rural traders in Prayagraj region have started stocking indigenous items for sale. This

Diwali, sale of traditional diyas is likely to see 30-40 per cent increase from the last year." President of Mundera Vyapar Mandal Dhananjay Singh said: "Prayagraj is a big market in the region comprising Kaushambi, Pratapgarh, Jaunpur and adjoining areas wherein traders from small towns and villages arrive to purchase a variety of goods in wholesale. This year, the sale of indigenous decorative is likely to set a new record in small towns too during the festive season" he added.

FEE HIKE ISSUE

In a meeting on Sunday with students associated with student organisations, district administration and police officers, discussions were held in the Collectorate to find a peaceful solution to the dispute. It was decided that on October 4 in the presence of district administration and university officials issue of fee hike will be discussed with the students. The student organisations have been agitating for a long time for the four-fold fee hike in

Allahabad University. Various student organisations, including Samyukta Chhatra Sangharsh Samiti, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad are protesting. To resolve this dispute IG Dr Rakesh Kumar Singh, Divisional Commissioner Vijay Shiwshw Pant, DM Sanjay Kumar Khatri and SSP Shailesh Kumar Pandey started talks along with leaders of various organisations, including Sanyukt Chhatra Sangharsh Samiti, ABVP and Apna Dal (S) at 12.15 pm which ended around 2.30 pm. The district administration and police officials appealed to the students to maintain peace. They said on October 4 in the presence of university officials and district administration, talks will be held with the students.

NSUI vice-president and former vice-president of AU Students' Union, Akhilesh Yadav, who attended the meeting, said that the district administration has assured to hold talks with the university administration on October 4.

# Tributes paid to Gandhi, Shastri

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Rich tributes were paid to 'Father of the Nation' Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on their birth anniversaries on Sunday. The day was also observed as International Day of Non-violence. On the occasion, functions were organised at different government organisations, institutions, departments and other places and even the political parties also organised programmes.

Local Congress workers under the leadership of former MLA Ajay Rai gathered at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Townhall and highlighted their contributions during the freedom struggle. Paying tributes, Rai said that Gandhi and Shastri are not just a name, but a thought which inspires millions of people. District party president Rajeshwar Patel and city chief Raghavendra Choubey, among others, also highlighted the contributions of two great personalities.

In Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Vice Chancellor Prof Sudhir Kumar Jain laid a wreath at Gandhi Chabutra (Sundaram Lodge). Registrar Prof Arun Kumar Singh, directors of various institutions, deans of faculties, officers and others also paid floral tributes to Gandhi. Later, the main function was held at



Congress workers offering tributes to Mahatma Gandhi in Varanasi on Sunday.

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Malviya Bhawan where Sarv Dharm Path was recited. The V-C announced two important schemes for student welfare on the occasion. Under the first scheme, an amount of Rs 25,000 will be transferred annually to the account of the disabled students while under the second scheme, BPL card holder students of the university will be entitled to get financial assistance of Rs 25,000 per year, which will be directly deposited in their bank

account. The programme was conducted by Prof Neeraj Khare of Hindi department and the vote of thanks was given by the Dean of Student Prof Anupam Kumar Nema.

On the occasion, the national flag was hoisted on all government buildings including Commissionerate, Collectorate, Vikas Bhawan and others. Divisional Commissioner Deepak Agrawal paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi and Lal

Bahadur Shastri at his office, while District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma at Rifle Club. On the occasion, debate and other competitions and seminars were organised on Gandhian life-vision in schools and colleges. Programmes were also organised at various slum localities. Both Varanasi Police Commissionerate and Rural Police also organised programmes at their offices to pay tributes to two great personalities.

# Stress on following ideals of Mahatma Gandhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, various events were organised in Sangam city. Tributes were paid to both the great men.

In Collectorate DM Sanjay Kumar Khatri hoisted the flag and then paid tribute to Gandhi. He saluted Lal Bahadur Shastri too. ADM (City) Madan Kumar, ADM Finance and Revenue Jagdamba Singh, City Magistrate Sarvpriya Singh, all ACM and Collectorate employees paid tribute to Gandhi and Shastri.

The employees also presented a song on the life of Gandhi. All the people resolved to follow the path shown by Gandhi and Shastri.

The DM said that Mahatma Gandhi was synonymous with cleanliness. He was the biggest advocate of 'Swadeshi', 'Swachhta',



Students pay floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary in Prayagraj on Sunday

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'Sarvodaya'. The country can be taken forward by following the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, who gave a new direction to the freedom struggle. The DM

said that the villages of India can be made ideal only with better cleanliness. Babu, who taught the lesson of truth, non-violence and cleanliness to the

world, used to say that cleanliness can also make cities beautiful and healthy, which is the biggest need of today.

# Durga Puja fervour grips Kashi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

With the installation of idols at rest of all the puja pandals, Durga Puja got its full religious fervour in this popularly known 'Mini Kolkata' here on the auspicious occasion of Saptami on Sunday. Though Durga Puja was already started with the installation of idols either on the first day of Shardiya Navratri or Panchmi/Sasthi at some places, the puja began at majority of places amidst all traditional gaiety and religious fervour on the occasion of Saptami. After two years of COVID-19 restrictions, grandeur of Durga Puja was seen this year as some of the big pandals spending lakhs of rupees have been set up in the city.

By the evening, several pandals witnessed rush of the devotees which is expected to be doubled by Ashtami and Navmi and many areas like Lahurabir, Maidagin, Chowk, Godowlia, Luxa, Sonarpur, Bhelupur, Pandeypur, Shivpur, Bhojubar and other places where there were many big pandals or idols were installed saw heavy rush of visitors. These areas were also glittered with attractive lighting arrangements.

Many local families preferred to visit the pandals during the day to avoid the rush



Idol of Maa Durga installed at a pandal in Bhelupur area in Varanasi on Sunday.

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because during the next two days, a large number of visitors from rural areas is also expected to come to the city to enjoy the famous Durga Puja festival. A large number of outsiders have also arrived in the city for the festival.

The idols were installed at various pandals amidst the chanting of mantras and apart from organising various traditional rituals. In comparison to last year, this time grandeur

was seen in the pandals. In all the Bengali-dominated areas, the traditional religious and cultural events were organised on the auspicious occasion amidst the beat of dhaps and nagaras.

The city has a history of Durga Puja for more than two centuries and it is the 242th year of puja at Chaukhamba. In the district, about 250 pandals have been set up and about 200 were installed only in the city

areas. Besides, several pandals have organised dandia and other cultural programmes where the idols of Bharat Seva Ashram and others were brought to the puja sites as per the traditional style. Elaborate security arrangements have been made to maintain law and order situations and most of the big pandals have installed CCTV cameras to keep watch on the activities of the anti-social elements.

# Devotees throng Kalratri Devi temple

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Amidst tight security arrangements, hundreds of devotees offered prayers at Kalratri Devi temple (Kalika Gali) in Dashashwamedh area on the occasion of the Saptami during the ongoing Shardiya Navratri here on Sunday. As the temple is located near the red zone of Kashi Vishwanath temple, tight security arrangements were made to avoid any untoward incident and check the rush of people.

Right from the morning hours, the devotees started reaching there to offer prayer at Kalratri Devi temple. Besides, rush was also seen at Durga Mandir areas as usual as the devotees were seen in long queues to offer prayers. Rush was also seen at nearby shops to purchase various puja articles including chunaris, sweets, coconuts, sindur and others. Apart from this, a good number of families also visited the famous Sheela Mata Mandir located near Varanasi-Mirzapur borders at Adalpur and old Durga Mandir at Ramnagar. Hundreds of devotees also rushed to Vindhachal in Mirzapur district.

Meanwhile, at Prachin Dashbhujia Maa Durga Mandir at Piliokothi, the temple echoed with the traditional songs and a cleanliness drive was launched under the auspices of Shri Lat Bhairav Bhajan Mandal. The temple's sanctum



Devotees offering prayers at Kalratri Devi temple on occasion of Saptami in Varanasi on Sunday.

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sanctorum, yagyashala and outer area were also cleaned. Along with this, a coconut plant was planted as a symbol of auspiciousness. With the slogan of cleanliness, the whole temple premises resonated with Maa's cheers. President Kewal Kushwaha said that the temple was cleaned on the eve of Durga Ashtami and appealed to the people to maintain cleanliness. Shivam Agrahari, Ramprakash Jaiswal, Jai Vishwakarma, Akash Shah and many others were present on the occasion.

**DM HONOURS WINNERS OF SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP:** District

Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma on Sunday honoured the winners of the 45th UP State Shooting Championship conducted in Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range, New Delhi.

Showing outstanding performance, the shooters of the District Rifle Club, Varanasi bagged a total of 24 medals including 9 gold, 7 silver and 8 bronze medals in the individual categories of the 45th UP State Shooting Championship conducted in the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range, New Delhi recently. While the team of Club bagged a total of 13 medals including 7 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze medals. The

District Rifle Club, Varanasi bagged a total of 37 medals in the individual categories and team category. The DM honoured the winners of the Club at a programme organised in his camp office here. Pankaj Srivastava, President of Kreedha Bharti, Kashi Prant and Member of Athlete Committee, UPSRA, Jagdeep Madhok, Senior Vice President of UPSRA and Anand Singh, Joint Secretary of UPSRA were mainly present on the occasion apart from the national shooters Vishal Vishwakarma, Shashank, Shashank Tripathi, Satyam Singh, Suryadeep Singh and Aakashdeep Singh.

# Replica of Kashi Vishwanath Temple at Kalindipuram Barwari

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

At a time when various barwaris of Sangam city are coming up with unique themes for their Durga Puja pandals, the Kalindipuram Sarvjanik Puja committee and the Katghar Durga Puja Barwari have come up with the theme based on worshipping of Lord Shiva. While the Kalindipuram Barwari has made the pandal which is a replica of Kashi Vishwanath Temple (KVT) of Varanasi, its counterpart at Katghar has followed the theme of Kedarnath temple, Uttarakhand.

"We came with the idea of constructing the replica of Kedarnath temple because of the fact that we thought that there could be many of us who have not visited Kedarnath and through this pandal they can have a glimpse of the holy shrine," says Nayan Jaiswal, one of the member of the core committee of this barwari. The outer look of the pandal is exactly how the Kedarnath temple looks. When any visitor comes to the pandal, he or she would first have the darshan of Nandi, then ring the main bell and enter the pandal.

In the corridor, the visitor would see the 'Five Pandavs' as is mentioned in the Mahabharata following which they can have the darshan of 'shivlinga' as can be seen at Kedarnath temple, said Abhishek Kesarwani, another senior member of barwari. The main stage where the idol of the main deity would be placed behind the Shivling, he added.

He further informed that this is one barwari which comprises a non-Bengali community and the speciality of this barwari is that there is no office-bearer but there is a core committee of seven members which together takes all the decisions.

Likewise, at Kalindipuram Barwari, the organisers have made a replica of Kashi Vishwanath Temple (KVT). The barwari was established in the year 1998 and every year it comes up with a unique theme. "The outer structure of the pandal resembles the KVT and its surrounding gives the glimpse of a rural area of Varanasi," said the vice-president of the barwari, BDL Bhattacharya.

"We have taken special

care to install fire-fighting equipment with a separate entry and exit gate for the visitors and would be following the norms laid down by the administration," says the president of the barwari, Arun Kumar Gupta.

The pandal will also have the interior just like any visitor would see in the Kashi Vishwanath temple including the main 'shivling' and before having 'darshan' of the main deity, which is placed on a raised platform, the visitor will have 'darshan' of the 'shivling', informs the general secretary, Ashwini Tripathi.

**BRAWL:** A brawl between two parties in Durga Puja pandal took place in the Gangapur area. On information when the outpost incharge reached to pacify the matter, he was taken hostage. Force of several police stations reached and took the sub-inspector (S-I) out of the closed room. In the Durga Puja pandal in Kotari village of Jhansi police station area a fight between two sides over some issue ensued. The sub-inspector who reached the spot was taken hostage by the people. Later, the force of several police stations reached the spot and

rescued the SI. On the written complaint of SI Jitendra Kumar Rajput a case was registered against more than half a dozen named and more than a dozen unknown people under various sections, including obstructing government work, assault, rioting. On Shardiya Navratri in Kotari village an idol of Maa Durga has been installed in the puja pandal. Someone informed Dial 112 about being beaten up by some people in the pandal. The policemen of PRV arrived and came back after placating the people.

After about 15 minutes fight broke out again between the two sides. When the information was received, outpost incharge Rahimapur Jitendra Kumar Rajput reached there with constables. He started questioning both the sides. Meanwhile, some people locked the outpost incharge in the room. Inspector Vaibhav Singh got the news and informed the officials. After some time the force of many police stations reached Kotari village. On seeing a large number of policemen, there was panic among people. The SI who was held hostage was freed.

# Closing ceremony of Swachhta Pakhwada held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The closing ceremony of the Swachhta Pakhwada was held at NCR headquarter office here on Sunday. The Swachhata Pakhwada started from September 16 and concluded here on Sunday.

General Manager, North Central Railway (NCR) Pramod Kumar presided over the function organised in the presence of Poonam Kumar, president, North Central Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (NCRWWO). At the outset General Manager and president NCRWWO along with other officials paid floral tribute on the portrait of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on their birth anniversary. After this the GM administered the oath of cleanliness to all the



President, NCRWWO Poonam Kumar flagging off the cycle rally

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people present.

In his address the GM in order to improve the quality of cleanliness in offices said that although there has been a lot of improvement but it required to improve further. He expressed the need for all railwaymen to work in this direction more sincerely.

On the occasion the

departments and railway employees who did good work towards maintaining cleanliness and winners of various competitions organised during the fortnight were felicitated. Essay, quiz and rangoli competitions were organised during this fortnight.

In the same sequence a cycle rally was also organised

on Sunday. It was flagged off by the president, NCRWWO Poonam Kumar.

The rally started from NCR headquarters and moved through the Railgaon Railway Colony. GM, principal heads of departments of NCR along with a large number of officers and staff participated in the rally very enthusiastically.

After this an awareness rally was also organised by the members of NCR Scouts and Guides under the leadership of Manju Joshi. In this rally members of Scouts and Guides participated with banners, placards etc. containing messages on cleanliness awareness.

Principal heads of various departments of NCR and a large number of officers, employees and their families were present in the programme.

# Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas held

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas was held in all four tehsils on Saturday. At Sadar tahsil CDO Srilaxmi VS held the meeting and out of 83 matters four were disposed of on the spot. For the rest the CDO formed teams and directed the officials to dispose of the matters on merit. For the absence of five officials at Laganj tahsil ADM (Land Revenue) Satya Prakash Singh directed the tehsildar to write a letter against those officials for action. Out of 34 matters two were disposed of on the spot and for others officials concerned were directed to dispose them of matters without delay. At Madihan

tehsil the day was held under the presidentship of SDM Ashwini Kumar Singh. Out of 52 matters only six were disposed of on the spot. At Chunar tahsil SDM Neeraj Patel held the meeting and out of 64 matters only two were disposed of on the spot.

**PROGRAMME:** MLA Ratnakar Mishra said that senior citizens should not be treated as a liability but as an asset to the family. These views were expressed by him as chief guest in a programme organised on 'International Day of Older Persons' at an old age home located at Patengara, Vindhachal on Saturday. He appealed to the gathering to respect seniors for the better-

ment of the family. Divisional Commissioner Yogeshwar Ram Mishra opined that it was the collective responsibility of the society to take care of senior citizens. Throwing light over the activities of the old age home Social Welfare Officer Gireesh Dubey apprised that all types of facilities, including breakfast, tea, lunch dinner etc is being provided regularly to the inmates. The meal was being provided as per the menu fixed by the government and different dishes were being catered by changing them on a daily basis. In another programme organised by the Health department the MLA Ratnakar Mishra flagged off a rally organised under special

communicable disease control drive at divisional hospital. The MLA asked the health department to conduct the drive successfully and involve health workers to cover the entire population of the district.

**DANDIYA DANCE:** Unity in diversity was the strength of our nation and with very that spirit dandiya dance was organised in the college. These views were expressed by senior teacher and convener of the programme organised at Gyananda Law College on Friday. The participants whose performance was outstanding were honoured. Director of the college Dr Sheela Singh proposed the vote of thanks.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Loose talk

Kejriwal says that an 'Intelligence Bureau report' foresees his victory in Gujarat Assembly poll

If a political party frequently makes 'explosive' claims, over a period of time people get inured to its statements—especially when the claims seldom correspond with the objective reality. So, if Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) boss Arvind Kejriwal thought that he would set the Yamuna on fire with a statement, based on an "Intelligence Bureau report," he may be in for an unpleasant surprise. This report, Kejriwal claimed, says that his party will win the Gujarat Assembly elections if these are held today. Apparently, he did not explain the small matter of how he got hold of the IB report. After all, the IB is an intelligence agency, not a ministry or department which posts its documents on its website. The casualness with which Kejriwal mentions an IB report to score political points is disconcerting; it is unbecoming for an incumbent Chief Minister to have disclosed the findings of an intelligence report (if he really saw it). A few weeks ago, while slamming Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the alleged Operation Lotus, he had said the Centre's recent action against Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had increased the AAP's vote share in Gujarat by 4 per cent. And, for good measure, this increase would rise to 6 per cent if Sisodia was arrested. Nobody knows from where Kejriwal got these numbers—some pollster carrying out a survey, his own party doing it—but he said it nonetheless. The media too reported it faithfully.



Such loose talk doesn't cover Kejriwal in glory, but it has been quite useful for him and his party. Before coming to power in Delhi, he flooded the political arena in the national capital with all manner of accusations against Congress leaders (as the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance was in power) and some big industrialists. Former Delhi chief minister Sheila Dikshit, who died in 2019, was a favourite target. He pledged to throw all corrupt people behind bars if elected. He did get elected, but did nothing against those whom he had called corrupt. It's true that the Delhi Police is not under him, but he didn't even initiate any serious investigation or prosecution against the corrupt. If a private citizen Subramanian Swamy can get powerful people prosecuted and even jailed, why couldn't Kejriwal? Unfortunately, Kejriwal is not the only politician who has acquired the habit of hurling wild allegations against the people he doesn't like; Bharatiya Janata Party leaders have also said nasty things about Robert Vadra, without taking action against him if he did anything wrong. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said all kinds of things about Lalu Prasad Yadav in the past, though now they are allies. At the heart of the issue is politicians' belief that they will not be held accountable for their statements, so they say anything that suits their political purpose. But they must realize that there is something called the law of diminishing returns.

### PICTALK

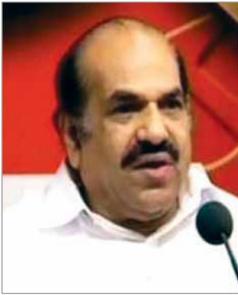


Devotees pull 'Swarna Ratham' during 'Navaratri Brahmotsavam' celebrations, at Tirumala in Tirupati district

## Adieu comrade kodiyeeri

Unlike his fellow partymen Kodiyeeri Balakrishnan was civil, his death leaves a void in state politics of Kerala

A Communist and a Gentleman are two mismatched terms. To be precise, it is an oxymoron description. But Kodiyeeri Balakrishnan, CPI(M) leader and former home minister of Kerala who breathed his last on Saturday night stood out as an exception to this usage. Starting as an ordinary activist of the Kerala Students Federation (the predecessor to the Students Federation of India), Balakrishnan rose through the ranks with his organizational skills and leadership qualities to become the home minister of the State and then the party's Kerala secretary. Kodiyeeri, an innocuous village in the Kannur district figured in the national political landscape only because of Balakrishnan. For an average Keralite, whether he is the camp follower of the Congress or BJP or the Muslim League, Kodiyeeri meant Balakrishnan and vice versa. Balakrishnan, who was the home and tourism minister during the tenure of V S Achuthanandan as chief minister (2006-2011) is the only politician in the State to come out of that office without a blemish.



While Communists, especially the Marxists in Kerala and elsewhere are strangers to civility and dignity, Balakrishnan, a hardcore Marxist, remained a pleasing personality. There were no instances in his career when he reportedly lost his cool and temper. He was dear to the public because he spoke their language and the Keralites saw in him a mirror image of themselves. Upcoming politicians should take a cue from Balakrishnan who rose from humble beginnings and became a member of the CPI(M)'s Polit bureau, the apex national body of the Marxists. Balakrishnan steered the CPI(M) for six years as its secretary. No other past secretaries had commanded the kind of popularity he had enjoyed among the masses cutting across party lines. The recent Party Congress (the triennial conclave of the CPI(M)) held at Kannur was a standing monument of his leadership qualities. At a time when people were skeptical about the move to hold such a massive event amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, Balakrishnan who was in semi-retirement due to illness, staged a comeback to make the event a grand success. The only blot on his five decades-long public life was caused by his two sons who faced charges ranging from narcotics trade and money laundering. But Balakrishnan was bold enough to declare that they themselves would face the charges while neither he nor the party had any role in it. Kodiyeeri Balakrishnan was a Communist and a Gentleman.

# Rights and duties are interrelated

Though fundamental duties are not enforceable constitutionally, they are as vital as fundamental rights enshrined in the constitution.



JL KOULI JALALI

President of India Droupadi Murmu in her address to the nation on Independence Day eve said that the keyword for India today is compassion; for the downtrodden, for the needy, and those on the margins. Stating that some of our national values have been incorporated in our Constitution as the fundamental duties of the citizen, she appealed to every citizen to know about their fundamental duties and follow them in letter and spirit so that our nation reaches new heights. After independence in 1947, India has made tremendous progress in various spheres of activity more so in economic development. But despite welfare measures, the distribution aspect of this development has not percolated down properly to lower sections of society. After the political change that occurred in the country following the general elections in 2014, this aspect of development too has been taken care of more vigorously and the poverty line brought down but still much needs to be done to eliminate the evil of poverty. The President appealed to every citizen to know about their fundamental duties and follow them in letter and spirit. It is a common observation that in India a vast dichotomy exists between rights and duties.



While we are keen on our rights we talk very rarely about our duties as citizens of free India. There is hardly any realisation that our fundamental rights entail responsibilities and fundamental duties. We also appear to be generally not aware of the dictum that a person's rights start from where others' rights end. In his 'Man Ki Baat' program from Akashvani on 29.1.2017, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi spoke about rights and duties and the need to bridge the gulf between the two in our country. The concept of duties has not been new to India as these have been a part of our traditions in various spheres of human activity from times immemorial. A long spell of foreign rule for over a millennium in our coun-

try had distorted our sense of rights and duties, drained us of most of our rich values, and left us bereft of any positive inculcation of the spirit of duties and responsibilities. Even the concept of Dharma assiduously evolved in Hinduism had got much distorted. The cumulative effect of this long foreign subjugation had been that despite our unique spiritual heritage we had turned into self-oriented individuals out to further our interests at any cost. Even our value of the correlation of means and ends had got mauled.

Framers of the Constitution of free India were conscious of it when they finalised the Constitution of India. It guaranteed various fundamental rights to every citizen of India which are enumerated and defined in part III of the Constitution. These are enforceable by courts and broadly include the right to equality, freedom of religion, freedom of speech and expression, right against exploitation, cultural and educational rights, and right to constitutional remedies. In section IV, the Constitution has also laid down directive principles enunciating fundamental obligations of the State to its citizens. Though not enforceable by courts, these

TIME HAS COME WHEN PEOPLE OF INDIA WILL HAVE TO BRIDGE THIS WIDE GULF BETWEEN OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND DUTIES VIGOROUSLY

aim at making India a progressive and developed nation and welfare State. Apart from these fundamental rights and directive principles, the fundamental duties of the citizens of the country were incorporated into the Constitution of the country through the forty-second amendment to it in 1976. Like directive principles, these too are not enforceable by courts but constitute moral obligations of the citizens of the country.

These include respect for our Constitution, the pursuit of noble ideals laid down by our national struggle for independence, work for protecting our sovereignty, promotion of harmony and spirit of common brotherhood among all people transcending religious, linguistic and regional, and sectional diversities, valuing and preserving our rich cultural heritage and protecting environment, safeguarding public property and abjuring violence, developing scientific temper, humanism, the spirit of inquiry and reform and striving for excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity. The time has come when the people of India will have to bridge this wide gulf between our constitutional rights and duties. To examine lending legal support to the gigantic task, in

February this year the Supreme Court asked Centre and State governments as to how they intend to sensitise citizens on the importance of knowing their fundamental duties enshrined in our constitution. It also agreed to examine a PIL seeking that moral obligations of duties be converted into legal commitment by enacting a law.

After decades and for many years now India has a working, stable central government poised yet again for faster socio-economic growth in a more corruption-free atmosphere. With this background as already pointed out by this writer in his article on "Rights and Duties" published on 24.2.2017 and with vast technological and other resources at their command, the government and people of India have to carry out this sustainable campaign with the same missionary spirit with which our leaders carried out successfully the freedom struggle. This has also to be done with the same zeal with which Ashoka erected his famous edicts in far-flung areas of his vast empire over two thousand years ago to instill discipline, a sense of duty, and moral values in the people.

The author a former IIS officer and producer. The views expressed are personal.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CONGRESS BASHING UNCALLED FOR

Sir — All the Congress bashing due to its elections to the president of the party is uncalled for. I have never heard of a contest for the position in any party so far. The BJP which prides itself on its democratic traditions may have had different presidents through the years. But why has there never been another contender for the post? The fact is a few men at the top decide who the president should be and nobody dares to dissent. Congress is the oldest party and ideally should have started the trend of having a contest for the president of the party. No party is going to take the challenge of having dissenters to the party diktat. Therefore to single out Congress for not having inner party democracy is not quite right.

Anthony Henriques | Mumbai

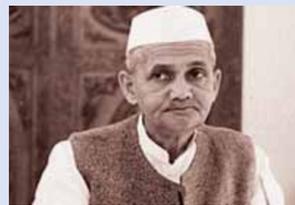
### AN ERA ENDS WITH KODIYERI

Sir — It was with deep sorrow that we learned the sad news of the demise of CPI(M) veteran Kodiyeeri Balakrishna, one of the tallest leaders of the CPI(M) and Kerala politics, an astute politician, who could combine organizational acumen and a rare ability to make friends across the political spectrum and ideological divides he was widely known for his organisational caliber and Parliamentary expertise.

His career graph is a manifestation of his vital role in Kerala politics, he had a deep and clear understanding of the issues of the day, and his contribution during his four-decade-long political career will always be remembered for a long time to come. When he was the home minister of Kerala, his role as a mediator to hold all factions of CPM together was praiseworthy. Many of his colleagues in party viewed him as a possible successor to the present chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

He fought his cruel illness with an indomitable spirit till the end, his passing is all the tragic as he was still young at 69, but his leaving us at this crucial juncture is all the more tragic, when he had so much

### Remembering Shastriji on his B'day



While the nation celebrates Gandhi Jayanthi on October 2 every year, few remember that the day is also the birthday of Lal Bahadur Shastri, India's second Prime Minister, who played an important role in shaping a new India. He commanded a lot of respect from his peers and is remembered

for his great mind and extraordinary willpower. Shastri coined the popular slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' which still resonates in the heart of every Indian. Shastri never misused the power of the office. For his personal use when he bought a Fiat worth Rs12000. Shastri had only Rs. 7,000 in his bank account. He took a loan from the bank for the balance amount and purchased the car. Even today the vehicle is kept at the Shastri Memorial in New Delhi. Lal Bahadur Shastri was deeply influenced by the political teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. "Hard work is equal to prayer", he once said, in accents profoundly reminiscent of his master. In the direct tradition of Mahatma Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri represented the best in Indian culture.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

to contribute to the political arena, he was a person who had friends and admirers across political spectrum demise of the late leader is an irreparable loss to the politics of Kerala and CPM which leaves a lasting impression in Kerala politics.

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bangalore

### BAN ALL HATE MONGERS

Sir — The Centre has banned the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its eight frontal organizations over charges that includes terrorism, terror funding, Militancy, and Radicalisation of "a particular section of society. Despite its claim of working for the poor and the needy, the PFI had been for radicalism. It attained notoriety after its gracious attack on a professor in Kerala for allegedly inflammatory remarks on the Prophet. The ban on the PFI is justified but what about other organizations who are disturbing peace and Harmony in our country?

Then the Government should also ban the organizations who did numerous attacks in our country. The organizations that did

blasts in the samjhautha Express, the organizations that killed more than 2000 Muslims in the Godhra riots, the bombings in Malegaon, the attacks in Ajmer dargah and Macca Masjid should also be banned.

Lalu Prasad rightly said RSS should also be banned as it is more dangerous than PFI. He rightly asserted that all communal organizations needed to be banned and that probes and actions should be taken if any evidence is found against them.

It is a clear fact that Muslims in our country do not support any organization that in the name of service to Muslims and kills innocent people. They do not want an organization that believes in violence and takes recourse to religious slogans at the drop of a hat. So the crackdown on outfits inciting hatred and violence should not be confined to one community. Banning should be done to all organizations who are spoiling the peace and Harmony in our country

Zeeshaan | Kazipet

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

We are one of those few countries which have a wide range of defence options before us.

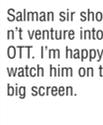


External Affairs Minister —S Jaishankar



We had to take urgent action (tax cuts) to get our economy growing, get Britain moving.

UK Prime Minister —Liz Truss



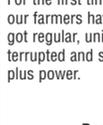
Salman sir should not venture into OTT. I'm happy to watch him on the big screen.

Actor —Varun Dhawan



Don't think India have a replacement for Bumrah. A vital cog, he'll be sorely missed.

India ex-batter —Wasim Jaffer



For the first time, our farmers have got regular, uninterrupted and surplus power.

Punjab Chief Minister —Bhagwant Mann



## FIRST COLUMN

## INDIAN ECONOMY RISES AS PHOENIX TO FLY HIGH

After going past UK, it should improve HDI ranking



KG SOFI DINESH &amp; UTTAM CHAKRABORTY

Phenomenal march of India to become the fifth largest economy in the world after going past its colonial master the UK when the country is celebrating 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is worth appreciating. Many economic accolades have revisited India. However, India has invited fresh challenges like high inflation rate, huge income disparity, unemployment and excessive taxation, which are likely to be difficult to tackle in the days to come.

Going past the colonial master, the UK, to become the fifth largest economy in the world is definitely not an easy feat for India. During the period ending March 2022, India's GDP stood at \$854.7 billion as compared to the UK at \$816 billion. This is just a speck of other achievements that India managed to garner during this period. India's weightage in the Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) rose to the second spot, just behind China. It has spread its exports to penetrate new markets, earlier monopolized by China.

Export orders have seen an uptick from both the US and Europe, especially for products from labour intensive sectors such as handicrafts, apparels, and non-electronic consumer goods. Economic projections from the World Economic Forum and management consulting firm Kearney point towards India owning the world's largest labour force with a probable contribution of more than \$500 billion to the global economy.

This rising tide of global impact in terms of economic growth can be sustained and multiplied by India if the economic benefits percolate deep down to touch the lives of the common man. Moreover, this is a subject which has been debated since India's independence also. A more humane and holistic society governance can do wonders to keep the momentum of the current trend of GDP and economic development in full swing.



It would be wise to ponder on this fact in the light of the United Nations Human Development Index for 2020-21. This report projects that India has moved down in its global rankings in Human Development Index (HDI) values from 130 to 132 in 2021. Also, in terms of the per capita income report of 2021, India was ranked 145th compared to the UK at the 22nd rank, which essentially translates to the fact that the average income of an Indian continues to remain low compared to the average income of a UK citizen.

It is required to contemplate whether India surpassing the UK as the fifth largest economy in the world also translates into higher productivity of an average Indian compared to a UK citizen. If the answer is negative, then India should look into ways and means to enhance the productivity and per capita income of an average Indian to become the biggest economy in the world, which we can easily achieve with the current governance.

When we critically encounter issues like high inflation rate, huge income disparity, unemployment and huge taxation, these need to be dealt carefully. India can be able to pull its economically weaker citizens from poverty by ensuring that policies and benefits reach them. Only through sustained poverty alleviation programmes and policies directed at benefiting the common man economically, India can sustain its economic bull run for over a period of time.

Yes, the phoenix is rising after a long slumber of ages, and this rise could be the dawn of India's march into its lost glory if supported by an equally economically strong common man who is, after all, the pillar on which this phoenix will finally rest on.

(Sofi and Chakraborty teach at Bharathidasan Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli)



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

There is only one thing that is more dangerous than doing something without fully knowing its implication. And that one thing is doing something without knowing fully the implications and yet defending it. In the second case, the danger is of half-baked competencies at work.

The job gets done, because with the apparatus and systems, all the superficial skills are there, and the implementation of the decision becomes a logical flow. In the chain reaction that is triggered, the doer himself knew only the techniques and operated it without understanding the full implications of the action. The others in the team only did their bit to keep it going.

Yet, as an upshot, undesirable results emerged. This

(The author is a member of advisory committee of Ministry of Shipping)

happens very often in governance and in certain related domains. Any action should be undertaken only when the complete implications of that action are understood, to the extent possible.

When the Aadhar card was introduced into the system more than a decade ago, it was portrayed as a harmless and welcome intervention in the process of establishing identity. Gradually, the instrument grew larger and larger in its significance. It grew from being innocuous to becoming essential in many ways and acts. Gradually, not only did governmental circles and quasi-independent institutions start using it, but the interloper in the form of the private sector too appeared. In a distant way, Aadhar tended to become the

equivalent of a social security identity in certain countries. Matters reached a head where the courts had to intervene.

The rollercoaster ride of reference to and use of Aadhar was stymied. That may be another story. Closer to the narrative is the fact that, throughout, Aadhar found a critical pride of place in many situations, including KYC (Know Your Customer) efforts. Slowly, there was an attempt to sanitise various systems with KYC. Nothing wrong with that either. The problem, however, was elsewhere. KYC became a double-edged sword. The enterprising individuals reportedly found ways of having more than one Aadhar card. Predictably, this was both identified and tracked. The problem was contained. However, some



thought that some damage had been done. The magic of the instrument of the Aadhar card started to receive a shadow on the side.

However, along with the PAN card, 'establishment of identity' became a common requirement. And, as it happens often in the case of overkill, in certain cases, the claims of Aadhar and PAN cards as identity symbols still needed to be supplemented.

Here, the Voters cards surfaced. In some cases, even the Passport document was dug out from its usual recalcitrant position in domestic matters, and occupied the pride of place in identity documents.

Put simply, institutions such as the DGCA took a fancy to the Passport as an identity proof. So the citizen, with all his humility, was on the road to collecting identities: Aadhar, PAN, Passport, Voter cards, et al. The list continues to grow. Some agencies wanted the electricity bill as proof of identity and residence. Others wanted the Municipal Corporation Tax Receipt, and so the search for identity items grew larger, as the choices widened.

In fact, as the wise crack once said "there is nothing wrong with anything if you are

not affected". Like the story of Betal, the identity story of documents and evidence almost never ends. There were spelling errors in names and cases of mixed up identities of lanes with common house numbers. One could have the right block and number, but say the name South City in a town could become the 'Water Colony' of the same town. The error was innocent and unintended, but the citizen had to pay the price. He had to work very hard to get the system to get it right.

He was supposed to first identify the error and then track it to where it originated in the system. These efforts were stressful and none of them could be set right at one place. A number of people refused to help to sort it out, because they did not want to be 'dragged in.

Nevertheless, the system continued to chug along relentlessly. This kind of being 'protective' to the system needs a thorough review. It cannot be anybody's case that the ineligible should be pandered to. But equally it should not be anybody's case that harassment, endless at that, must be supported in the name of 'protecting' the system. There are many dangers which start surfacing when this happens.

Of them, the biggest is the impunity with which the non-descript misuses the confusing elements in a system to get 'away with the booty'; He would be pretending to be the aggrieved party, while he was actually exploiting the system. Few things are sadder than legitimate cases being lost because of the convolutions in the system.

## Sabarmati, Yamuna: Tale of two rivers



SUMET BHASIN

The Sabarmati Riverfront is a story still unfolding that matches only with Singapore, while Yamuna in Delhi remains dead

Until 2005, washer men held forth on the banks of Sabarmati River in Ahmedabad, washing and drying clothes of the big city, while slums dotted its floodplains, with garbage sprawling around to present a nauseating look to the visitors to Gujarat's capital. The people covered their noses as they passed by the riverbanks of Sabarmati. The river was as dead in the city, as is Yamuna in the national capital. People in Ahmedabad faced long traffic jams, as the roads were clogged, because of massive encroachments of the floodplains and the adjoining public land. The scene filled one with despondency.

But by that time Narendra Modi had already chalked out the plan for the development of the Sabarmati Riverfront. The project would cost a total of Rs 1200 crores. The project would be a city level intervention, conceived and implemented as a pioneering multi-benefit project, with significant urban transformation potential to transform the historic, but neglected river Sabarmati into a vibrant urban space.

The vital focus was to return the river back to the citizens of Ahmedabad, and in the process also ensure that the city gains a major asset, which will improve the efficiency of its infrastructure and the quality of life. The aims also envisaged revitalizing the river, which in fact was carrying significant sewage flow and used as a dumping yard for disposal of garbage.

The project ensured that it would be financially self-sustainable, while entailing environmental improvement, along with cultural and social sustainability to transform the non-perennial river for better.

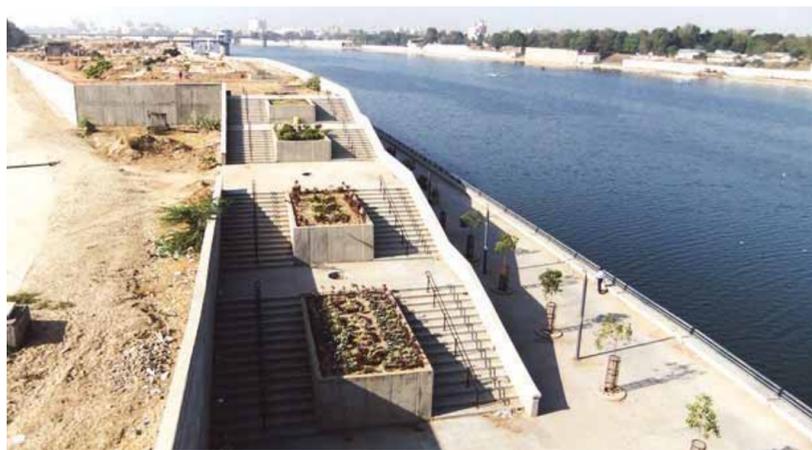
Now that Gujarat is hosting the 36th National Games at a short notice, the Paldi Sports Complex at the Sabarmati Riverfront is one of the sporting venues for the big sporting event. This turnaround is at a scale seen in Singapore only. The East Asian city-state is a major tourism destination. The city planner has aligned Singapore in such a way that a tourist would always see something new, thus finding something novel and innovative, which leaves the tourists with impressions that they should again come. This has been the model of Singapore for several decades. The city administrator will develop an amusement park and other attractions.

The Sabarmati Riverfront is on the same pattern. The visitors will always find that there is something new in line with the spirit of a lively city. This has been reflected in the development of green cover and Miyawaki plantation of 14.30 hectare of land on the banks of the Sabarmati River, which has seen over 23000 tree plantations in four public parks with a total area of 12.45 hectare, besides a biodiversity park of eight hectares.



DELHI CM HAD CLAIMED THAT HE WOULD REDUCE POLLUTION IN YAMUNA BY 90 PER CENT BY 2023. WE ARE JUST TWO MONTHS AWAY FROM KNOCKING THE DEADLINE, AND THE YAMUNA IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL IS EXHALING FOAMS OF CHEMICALS

(The author is Director, Public Policy Research Centre)



Last month, over 100 Mayors and Deputy Mayors came visiting the Sabarmati Riverfront, and they were awed with the scale of development at the place. The urban administrations would be the next engine of the growth of the nation, and the mayors have to lead their corporations with innovative solutions to the challenges faced by the cities in the country. The leaders of the local bodies were thrilled as they walked on the Atal Bridge, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 27 this year. The bridge is now a major tourist attraction, and the people make a beeline to buy tickets to spend half an hour on the iconic place. This has not only boosted the tourism potential of Ahmedabad and Gujarat, but is also filling the coffers of the local municipal corporation to take up further development works, which would again scale up the attractions of the Sabarmati Riverfront.

This is not the end of the story, for it's just the beginning, as the next phases of development of the Sabarmati Riverfront would give new wings to the lives of the people in Ahmedabad. The masterplan for 'Riverfront Phase 2' will encourage development that is in harmony with nature, with a combination of high, medium and low density zones, carefully planned amidst green and open spaces, besides the masterplan also proposing an efficient and integrated mobility network. But it must be noted that the overall development will be sensitive, sustainable and will aim to pro-

mote wellness and mindfulness of the city-dwellers.

In the next five years, when people would visit Ahmedabad and the Sabarmati Riverfront, they may see a Singapore rising there with a similar or grander energy of the people, driving the economy of the city and Gujarat to greater heights, while at the same time being in full harmony with nature, sticking firmly to sustainability and setting the example for urban renewal and development worth replication across the country.

Cities in India for ages have developed on the riversides. The developments of riverbanks will only ensure the renewal of the cities. There should be no second opinion about this aspect. This explains why Delhi is regressing. The city is dying. The people are depressed. The population of Delhi, in place of taking pride in living in the national capital, finds themselves stuck in matchboxes, struggling to breathe and walk.

In Delhi, the people can neither breathe nor walk, and they each year spend more and more money on their health expenses. Yamuna gave life to Delhi, and the river is now reduced to gutters. The ruling politicians in the national capital have fooled the people with promises of reviving the Yamuna River to only fatten their purses with the looted money. The people are now resigned to their fate that there could be no progress for better in their lives.

First, Sheila Dikshit, chief minister of Delhi from 2003 to

2015, sold false promises of cleaning Yamuna. She was succeeded by Arvind Kejriwal who has filled the people with so much skepticism that no one is now hoping that they would ever walk on the banks of Yamuna in the evenings as they do on the Sabarmati Riverfront. In 2015, Kejriwal sold the dream to the people in Delhi that he would transform Yamuna into the Thames River of London. In 2020, he presented a 10-point guarantee card in the Delhi Assembly that Yamuna would not only be cleaned but one could even start swimming in the waters!

Delhi Chief Minister had also claimed that he would reduce pollution in Yamuna by 90 per cent by 2023. We are just two months away from knocking the deadline, and the Yamuna in the national capital is exhaling foams of chemicals. The Centre also made available the funds to the extent of Rs 2419 crores. But there was no will on the part of the city government. To make a change in the lives of the people, the city administrators need vision, but the Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party believes in making quick gains by the politics of freebies. Thus, Yamuna remains dead in Delhi, while Sabarmati flows in Ahmedabad with all the youthful energy.

Now that Delhi is approaching another winter, the people may be condemned to inhale the toxic air, for there is no sink to absorb the carbon and the pollution. The Yamuna Riverfront could have taken shape if there was a vision and will to change the lives of the people for the better.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

IT'LL BE A GOOD THING TO HAVE MORE PEOPLE IN THE FRAME. THE MORE CANDIDATES (FOR CONGRESS CHIEF'S POST), THE BETTER.  
—CONGRESS LEADER SHASHI THAROOR



I TOLD HIM (KHARGE) THAT I STAND BY HIM AND CAN'T EVEN THINK OF CONTESTING AGAINST HIM. I WILL BE HIS PROPOSER.  
—CONGRESS LEADER DIGVIJAYA SINGH

## The Great Indian identity chase for KYC updates

Aadhar occupies place of eminence in KYC update documents, but its anomalies give citizens a harrowing experience

There is only one thing that is more dangerous than doing something without fully knowing its implication. And that one thing is doing something without knowing fully the implications and yet defending it. In the second case, the danger is of half-baked competencies at work.

(The author is a member of advisory committee of Ministry of Shipping)

# Told Tharoor to have consensus candidate, but he rejected: Kharge

‘Cong prez poll family matter, we have to stay united today, tomorrow’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Tipped to be the next Congress president, senior party leader Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday revealed he suggested to his opponent Shashi Tharoor that it would be better to have a consensus candidate which the latter has rejected.

“I said Ok. When a candidate decides to contest, how I can stop him? So, he is fighting and he is my younger brother. It is a family matter and we have to stay united today and tomorrow,” Kharge asserted at a Press conference called by him at his residence to launch his campaign for the party’s presidential polls.

He added he was fighting the polls as a Congress worker who has served the party for 55 years instead of a Dalit leader. There is no G-23 camp now and all those leaders want to fight unitedly against the RSS-BJP and therefore are supporting him, he said.

Several dissident leaders such as Bhupinder Hooda, Anand Sharma, Manish Tewari, and Prithviraj Chavan who had written to party chief Sonia Gandhi in 2020 for



Congress party presidential candidate Mallikarjun Kharge with party leaders Deepender Singh Hooda, Syed Naseer Hussain and Gourav Vallabh addresses a press conference in New Delhi on Sunday

large-scale organisational reform, have put their weight behind Kharge by becoming his proposers instead of backing Tharoor who was a prominent member of the grouping.

Kharge said if he becomes the party chief, he will consult the Gandhi family and other senior leaders and implement the good things suggested by them, even as he rejected claims that he was the “official candidate” backed by the Gandhis.

Kharge said all senior leaders and youth leaders urged him to contest the polls as no member of the Gandhi family — Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra — wanted to become the party chief.

“All my colleagues told me to fight the party president poll

and are committed to extending support to him,” he said.

Kharge asserted that he had not entered the poll fray to oppose anyone but to strengthen the Congress through his views and to take forward the party ideology. He said that in line with the ‘one person, one post’ principle of the party, he resigned as Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha on the day he filed the nomination.

Kharge asserted that working for a party is not a part-time job but full-time work, elaborating his political journey of struggles and successes.

Asked about Tharoor’s remarks that Kharge is a candidate of continuity and status quo, Kharge said, “Tharoor may have his views...The status quo and reforms he talks of will be decided by the 9,300-odd

delegates, after that, a committee will be formed (Congress Working Committee). The committee as a whole will decide all policy matters that will be formulated by consensus and we will implement that.”

“It will not be done by one person. For me, the keyword is ‘Hum (We)’ instead of ‘main (Me). We will decide together and wherever there are shortcomings, we will take action,” he said. Kharge said senior leaders urged him to contest in view of the pressing issues facing the country such as unemployment, rising inflation, widening gap between the rich and the poor, and the BJP not fulfilling any of its promises.

Rejecting claims that he was the official candidate and the BJP’s criticism that the

Gandhi family will wield real power, Kharge said the BJP always tries to undermine the Congress.

“When did BJP have elections, do they have an election authority? How many delegates do they have? Who elected J P Nadda? Have their presidents been elected in polls? In Congress, we have election authority, delegates, voting power, and candidates in the fray. Still, they (BJP) are saying the election is not happening, the Gandhi family is controlling,” he said.

Kharge said the Gandhi family has sacrificed a lot for this country and pointed out that Sonia Gandhi did not even want to join politics and was persuaded on the pretext that the country needs her services and she strengthened the party.

“For 10 years, we were in government. Did she try to become PM, or were efforts made to make Rahul Gandhi PM? Her sacrifice for the party is very big. Rahul Gandhi is undertaking the Bharat Jodo Yatra not just for the party but is fighting against unemployment, and to bring unity among people. I will consult them and other senior leaders, but that does not mean that I did not learn anything in 50 years,” he said.

“I will consult the Gandhi family and will take good things from them and also implement and inculcate them,” he said.

He also said he was not fighting the polls as a Dalit leader but as a Congress worker who has served the party for 55 years. Kharge and Tharoor were left in the fray in the Congress presidential poll after former Jharkhand minister K N Tripathi’s nomination was rejected on Saturday.

## FRAUD ON JUDICIARY IN CUSTODY BATTLE

# SC seeks CBI report over bringing back Kenyan citizen

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Taking serious note of the “fraud” played upon it by a Kenyan citizen of Indian origin in a custody battle, the Supreme Court has sought a report from the CBI about the steps taken by it to secure his presence and ensure the transfer of custody of his minor son to his estranged wife here.

The top court also directed the Registrar of Assurances of Rajkot to give details about the rights and interests, if any, held by any other person in two properties of the convicted contemnor Perry Kansagra by October 8 so that it may proceed with their attachment.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and P S Narasimha, on July 11, had convicted Kansagra of its contempt for playing “fraud” in securing the custody of his son from his estranged wife and not coming back to the Supreme Court again.

The bench on Friday last reminded the CBI that it was assured that every possible help and assistance shall be extended by the Union agencies and the Indian Embassy in Kenya in securing the presence of Kansagra and his minor son before this court.

“Rajat Nair, learned advocate appearing for the CBI, submits that the status report shall be filed on or before October 08, 2022. Let the needful be done,” the bench noted in the order.

It took note of the plea of the mother of the minor child that two properties at Rajkot of her estranged husband, who is not appearing before the top court, be attached.

Having found Kansagra guilty of violating its orders and committed contempt of court, the CJ-led bench has



adjourned the matter to hear the contemnor on the issue of sentence a few times.

“However, since the contemnor did not appear nor was he produced before the Court by way of last chance time was given and the matter was directed to be posted on August 18...After a few adjournments the matter is now posted before us. Even after grant of such facility and adjournment on a few occasions, Mr Perry Kansagra has not appeared before this Court,” it noted.

It has now posted the suo motu contempt case on October 10 for considering the issue of sentence and its pronouncement after perusing the CBI report.

The bench would also consider the plea of the mother that a CBI officer or “any responsible officer either working in the Ministry of External Affairs or the High Commission in Kenya” be deputed to accompany Smriti Madan Kansagra to Kenya to meet the child and/or take appropriate proceedings in Kenya. It has also sought the assistance of Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya

Bhati in the case.

Kansagra, who holds dual citizenship of Kenya as well as the United Kingdom, fought a custody battle for his son with his estranged wife in Indian courts and gave undertakings that he will abide by the conditions, and later, he got custody in 2020 from the apex court by allegedly giving a forged or wrong “mirror order” from the Kenyan High Court.

Later, he not only refused to obey the directions granting visitation or meeting rights to the mother but shockingly moved the Kenyan court for “declaration of invalidity of Indian jurisdiction and/or laws and/or judgments denying, violating and/or threatening to infringe the fundamental rights of the minor through purported and unenforceable judgments and orders relating to the minor under Articles 23(3) (d) of the Constitution of Kenya.”

Taking into account the “fraud” “contumacious” behaviour of Kansagra, the top court had recalled its verdict and given a slew of directions against him including registration of a suo motu contempt case.

# Tharoor for public debate between Cong president poll candidates

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor on Sunday proposed to hold a public debate with his rival Mallikarjun Kharge in the run-up to the Congress president’s election, saying it would evoke people’s interest in the party similar to the recent British Conservative Party leadership race.

Kharge outright rejected the proposal, saying, “I don’t want to get into that, I only know how to work, give me an opportunity to do that.”

Tharoor also said the Nehru-Gandhi family has held and will always hold a special place in the hearts of Congress party members. He said the answer to Congress’ current challenges lies in a combination of effective leadership and organisational reforms.

Kharge and Tharoor were left in the fray in the Congress presidential poll after former Jharkhand minister K N Tripathi’s nomination was



rejected on Saturday.

Talking about what he brings to the table, Tharoor has he has a “proven and credible track record in leading at the highest levels of organisations, whether it has been at the UN” or more recently for the Congress party as founder-chairman of the All-India Professionals’ Congress.

At the UN, Tharoor said, “as the under-secretary-general in charge of the body’s public information department, I managed the communications of the UN’s largest department comprising of over 800 staff in 77 offices worldwide, rationalized its structure, trimmed its budget and sharpened its

efforts — all of which prompted many to urge me to contest to lead the UN Organisation itself.”

Referring to the All-India Professionals’ Congress, he said, “I had to create from scratch and which in just five years since 2017 has over 10,000 fellows from across 20 states in the country.”

In terms of organisational reforms, the former Union minister said, he has outlined a set of priorities that he believes can help strengthen the Congress and take on the machinery of the BJP.

“Since our current situation is widely deployed, it may be an advantage not to be bur-

dened by the baggage of having spent too much time in the present party organisation and be able to approach it from a fresh perspective,” the 66-year-old leader said.

Asked if he would want a public debate between the party’s presidential candidates as is seen in many western democracies and if such an exercise would help delegates make up their minds, Tharoor said, “I would be open to the idea.”

Tharoor insisted that “there are no ideological differences among us; rather, it is a question of how we propose to go about achieving the objectives we already agree upon.”

Batting for a public debate, he said between the last date for submission of nominations and the date for polls, there are roughly about two-and-a-half weeks and it would be practically and logistically difficult to reach out to all the 9,000-odd delegates who are eligible to vote in these elections, he argued.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ministers Rajnath Singh, Piyush Goyal, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Opposition leaders Sonia Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Central Hall of Parliament on Sunday

# ED summons Karnataka Cong chief for questioning in National Herald case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar for questioning in its ongoing money laundering probe into the Congress party-owned National Herald newspaper.

Shivakumar has been asked to depose before the agency on October 7 in Delhi, officials said. The 60-year-old former Cabinet minister was last questioned by the agency on September 19 in Delhi in another money laundering case linked to alleged possession of disproportionate assets.

The latest summons comes at a time when the ‘Bharat Jodo Yatra’ of the Congress party, led by its leader Rahul Gandhi, entered Karnataka on Friday, September 30, and will be in the state for 21 days.

mediapersons that he has been charge-sheeted by the agency in one money laundering case but he does not know what is the new case (disproportionate assets) against him.

“Surprisingly, they (ED officials) have asked me about the payment from one of my trusts from me and my brother to Young Indian,” he had told reporters.

Young Indian is the company that owns the news organization National Herald.

Shivakumar also said he has sought more time from the agency to furnish details about his assets and liabilities to them. The former Karnataka minister said he believed in the “law system” and knew that he would get justice.

Congress President Sonia Gandhi, her MP son Rahul Gandhi and senior Congress leaders like Mallikarjun Kharge and Pawan Bansal have been questioned by the ED over the last few months in the National Herald money laundering case.

# Don’t ignore any communication shared by NSCS, NSA: Modi to Mins

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has told all Ministers and secretaries not to ignore background notes or other communication shared by National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and National Security Advisor (NSA), sources said on Sunday.

While framing any policy, there is a need to look at it from India’s strategic point of view, Modi said there were instances when notes from the national security council were not given due importance.

During a five-hour long meeting of the council of ministers held on Friday which was also attended by all secretaries in the Union government, Modi cited the case of the dependence on imported Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) used for manufacturing drugs, which was highlighted by the NSCS several years back, the sources said. Thereafter, on the instruction of Prime Minister, Deputy NSA Vikram Misri gave a presentation on NSCS to apprise ministers about the secretariat.

# ‘Fit India Freedom Run’ 3rd series launched, to continue till Oct 31

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The third edition of ‘Fit India Freedom Run’ was jointly launched by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur and Minister of Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju at the Major Dhyanchand National Stadium here on Sunday on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

Started by the Modi Government during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the third edition of the ‘Fit India Freedom Run’ will go on until October 31.

Also present were former Health Minister Harshvardhan, Secretary Sports Sujata Chaturvedi, Director General, Sports Authority of India Shri Sandip Pradhan, Fit India ambassador Ripu Daman Bevlil as well as other officials from the Sports Ministry and SAI along with a large number of participants.

Reiterating the Prime Minister’s ‘vision’, Rijiju said, “When Shri Narendra Modi launched the Fit India move-

ment in 2019, his vision was to make the entire nation fit. This movement over the years has now become such a massive success. Everyone is now interested to join the movement and the Fit India mobile app is also being downloaded with much enthusiasm every single day.”

Echoing his sentiments on the same lines, Thakur mentioned, “From Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to Amrit Kaal, we have to keep working towards Prime Minister’s vision of taking India to new heights and the way to reach the goal is to take our fitness to a new level.”

Urging for a record number of participants in this edition of the Freedom Run, Thakur added, “There is no better occasion than to start the third edition of this successful run on Gandhi Jayanti and culminate it on Ekta Divas — the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on Oct 31.”

“Last year, the total participation reached 9 crore 30 lakh and we have to give a lot of strength to double the participation numbers,” he said.

# Closing date of e-auction of mementos gifted to Modi extended till Oct 12

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The closing date of an online auction of over 1,200 items, including models of the upcoming Ram temple in Ayodhya and sporting memorabilia of Commonwealth Games medallists, gifted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been extended to October 12.

The e-auction that began on September 17 was earlier scheduled to end on October 2. “The last date for the e-auction of PM’s gifts has been extended to October 12,” a Culture Ministry official said.

The ministry also tweeted to announce the extension of the last date.

“Feeling that you’ve missed out on the HYPERLINK https://mobile.twitter.com/hash tag/PMmementosAuction2022?src=hashtag\_click #PMmementosAuction2022? We are delighted to announce that the auction has been extended till 12th October, 2022. Visit HYPERLINK “http://pmmementos.Gov.in”pmmementos.Gov.in now to participate #AmritMahotsav,” it tweeted.

# Love hormone healer of human heart: Report

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Known for promoting social bonds and generating pleasurable feelings, for example from art or exercise, the love hormone, scientifically called Oxytocin, has been found to be a healer of the heart, too. The results are published in Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology.

For long the hormone is known for many other functions too, such as the regulation of lactation and uterine contractions in females, and the regulation of ejaculation, sperm transport, and testosterone production in males.

However, researchers from Michigan State University show that in zebrafish and human cell cultures, oxytocin can stimulate stem cells derived from the heart’s outer layer (epicardium) to migrate into its middle layer (myocardium) and there develop into cardiomyocytes, muscle cells that generate heart contractions. This discovery could one day

be used to promote the regeneration of the human heart after a heart attack.

“Here we show that oxytocin, a neuropeptide also known as the love hormone, is capable of activating heart repair mechanisms in injured hearts in zebrafish and human cell cultures, opening the door to potential new therapies for heart regeneration in humans,” said Dr Aitor Aguirre, an assistant professor at the Department of Biomedical Engineering of Michigan State University, and the study’s senior author.

Cardiomyocytes typically die off in great numbers after a heart attack. Because they are highly specialized cells, they can’t replenish themselves. But previous studies have shown that a subset of cells in the epicardium can undergo reprogramming to become stem-like cells, called Epicardium-Derived Progenitor Cells (EpiPCs), which can regenerate not only cardiomyocytes but also other types of heart cells.

# J&K cop martyred in terror attack ahead of Shah's visit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Ahead of the visit of the Union Home Minister Amit Shah to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir starting Monday, unidentified terrorists opened indiscriminate firing on the security check post in which one local policeman made a supreme sacrifice while a jawan of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) received injuries in Pinglana area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Sunday.

At the time of the terror attack, a Deputy Superintendent of Police was also present in the area as he arrived there to carry out a routine inspection of the security check point. In another terror related incident, a joint team of security forces eliminated a local Lashkar-e-Tayyeba terrorist in Baskuchan area of Shopian. According to police, the killed LeT terrorist has been



identified as Naseer Ahmad Bhat of Nowpora Baskuchan, Shopian. As per police records, the killed terrorist was a categorized terrorist and involved in several terror crime cases. According to a spokesman of the Jammu and Kashmir police, "at about 3.00 pm terrorists fired upon a joint party of Police/CRPF in Pinglana area of Pulwama in which police personnel Javid Ahmad Dar attained martyrdom and a CRPF personnel got injured".

The fire came from a nearby street, police said. The injured CRPF jawan was currently undergoing treatment in the hospital while different police teams were on the

lookout for a terror suspect behind the attack.

In Jammu, DGP Dilbagh Singh told reporters, "in the last one week we have conducted four successful operations in which terrorists belonging to the Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Tayyeba were eliminated".

DGP Dilbagh Singh also claimed every time a VVIP is visiting Jammu and Kashmir an attempt is made by the Pakistan based terrorist handlers to send a signal 'all is not well' in the region.

Singh said it is evident the situation has changed drastically on the ground zero and we have hit the 'terror ecosystem'. Singh added, Pakistan is an enemy of development and lover of destruction.

They won't like people of Jammu and Kashmir to live in peace and have a sigh of relief. Pakistan and its agencies are ensuring that the valley remains not in peace but in disturbance.

# Citing 'Intelligence Bureau' report, Kejriwal claims AAP set to form Govt in Gujarat

PTI ■ RAJKOT

Arvind Kejriwal, the Chief Minister of Delhi, asserted on Sunday that a "Intelligence Bureau report" indicates that given the current traction and popularity of the party, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is likely to win elections and form the government in Gujarat. The AAP leader also asserted that the results show a narrow margin of victory, urging the people of Gujarat to give the party a "big push" in order to secure a comfortable majority in the state.

While addressing a press conference in Rajkot, Delhi's CM said, "According to sources, an IB report has come. It is written in the report that if elections are held today, then the Aam Aadmi Party will form the government in Gujarat."

In an attempt to garner support from the people of Gujarat, he further added, "Although it is written in the report that right now it is with



a thin margin. (We) are ahead with very few seats. The people of Gujarat will have to give a big push so that the (AAP) government is formed with a comfortable majority."

The AAP leader claimed that since the release of the "IB report," the BJP and Congress have teamed up and held private meetings.

According to him, the saffron party is "especially freaking out" about the report and is doing everything it can to strengthen Congress in order to split the anti-BJP vote.

"Congress has been given the responsibility to garner as many votes of AAP as possible," Kejriwal said.

"I want to tell the people of Gujarat - be cautious."

# Convenient to appropriate Bapu's legacy but difficult to walk in his footsteps: Rahul

Just as Gandhiji fought the British Raj, we ... (have) embarked on a battle with ideology that killed Gandhiji, says ex-Cong chief

PTI ■ BADANAVALU (K'TAKA)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary and said while it is convenient for those in power to appropriate the legacy of the Father of the Nation, it is difficult to walk in his footsteps.

Rahul Gandhi, who visited a Khadi Gramodyoga Kendra here that Mahatma Gandhi had visited in 1927, said the ideology that killed the freedom fighter has delivered inequality and divisiveness in the last eight years.

In a statement, the former Congress chief said, "We remember and pay our respects to that great son of India. Our remembering is made more poignant by the fact that we are on the 25th day of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, a padyatra in which we are walking his path of ahimsa, unity, equality and justice."



"Just as Gandhiji fought the British Raj, we ... (have) embarked on a battle with the very ideology that killed Gandhiji. This ideology has delivered inequality, divisiveness and the erosion of our hard-won freedoms in the past eight years. Against this politics of himsa (violence) and 'asatya' (lies), the Bharat Jodo Yatra will spread the message of Ahimsa and Swaraj from Kanyakumari to Kashmir," he said.

Rahul Gandhi said the

Congress' yatra is the quiet and determined voice of the Indian people against the politics of fear, hatred and division.

"It might be convenient for those in power to appropriate Gandhiji's legacy, but it is much more difficult to walk in his footsteps," he said.

The Congress leader also participated in a prayer meeting and interacted with women weavers at the Khadi Gramodaya Kendra.

# With drained battery & no fuel, India's Mars Orbiter craft quietly bids adieu

PTI ■ BENGALURU

India's Mars Orbiter craft has run out of propellant and its battery drained beyond the safe limit, fuelling speculation that the country's maiden interplanetary mission 'Mangalyaan' may have finally completed its long innings.

The Rs 450 crore Mars Orbiter Mission was launched onboard PSLV-C25 on November five, 2013, and the MOM spacecraft was successfully inserted into Martian orbit on September 24, 2014 in its first attempt.

"Right now, there is no fuel left. The satellite battery has drained," sources in the Indian

Space Research Organisation (ISRO) told PTI. "The link has been lost".

There was, however, no official word from the country's national space agency, headquartered here.

With fuel on board, ISRO had been performing orbital manoeuvres on MOM spacecraft to take it to a new orbit to avoid an impending eclipse in the past.

"But recently there were back-to-back eclipses including one that lasted seven-and-half hours," officials said on condition of anonymity, noting that all the propellant on board the ageing satellite had been consumed.

"As the satellite battery is designed to handle eclipse duration of only about one hour and 40 minutes, a longer eclipse would drain the battery beyond the safe limit," another official said.

ISRO officials noted that the Mars orbiter craft functioned for almost eight years, well beyond its designed mission life of six months.

"It has done its job and yielded significant scientific results," they said.

The objectives of the mission were primarily technological and included design, realisation and launch of a Mars Orbiter spacecraft capable of operating with sufficient

autonomy during the journey phase; Mars orbit insertion/capture and in-orbit phase around Mars.

The MOM -- a technology demonstration venture -- carried five scientific payloads (total 15 kg) collecting data on surface geology, morphology, atmospheric processes, surface temperature and atmospheric escape process.

The five instruments are: Mars Color Camera (MCC), Thermal Infrared Imaging Spectrometer (TIS), Methane Sensor for Mars (MSM), Mars Exospheric Neutral Composition Analyser (MENCA) and Lyman Alpha Photometer (LAP).

# J&K Police identify mastermind behind Udhampur twin bus blasts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

The Jammu and Kashmir Police Sunday identified one of the key masterminds behind the twin bus blasts which rocked Udhampur on September 28/29 last week and also arrested one of the accused who was chiefly responsible for planting the IEDs in both the buses at the behest of his handler currently operating from Pakistan.

Two civilians were injured in the blasts triggering panic in the area. Luckily, no other loss of life was reported as the buses were found empty when the blasts were triggered.

Addressing a joint press conference in Jammu in the



presence of Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh, Additional DGP Mukesh Singh told reporters, "like previous blast which took place in Udhampur in the month of March 2022, the foot prints of Pakistan based terrorist Mohammad Amin Bhat alias Khubaib, hailing from the Doda district, have been tracked down with the arrest of an accused terrorist Aslam Sheikh, resident of Basantgarh area of Ramnagar,

Udhampur district.

After the twin blasts, "4-5 suspects were picked up for questioning by the investigating teams of the Udhampur police".

During the interrogation one Aslam Sheikh, confessed to his involvement behind the twin blasts. Singh told reporters, Aslam in his confession told interrogators he was acting at the behest of LeT terrorists Mohd Amin Bhat.

According to the records of the J&K police, "Mohammad Amin alias Khubaib, among others, had joined militancy in early 90s and crossed the border for arms training. He is presently operating from Pakistan and Pak-Occupied-Kashmir and is desperately attempting to revive

militancy in Doda region by instigating local youth of Doda district to join militancy for carrying out subversive activities.

Bhat, according to ADGP Mukesh Singh, contacted Aslam Sheikh via social media and informed him to pick his consignment of sticky bombs and IEDs from Dyalchak area, close to the International border on September 21. The consignment was dropped by the drone sortie in the area. The same consignment was picked up by Aslam Sheikh on the intervening night of September 23-24. According to ADGP Mukesh Singh, "Aslam Sheikh received a fresh set of directions from Mohd Amin Bhat on September 27".

## FROM PAGE 1

### 125 DIE AS TEAR GAS SETS OFF RUSH AT SOCCER MATCH

"We have already done a preventive action before finally firing the tear gas as (fans) began to attack the police, acting anarchically and burning vehicles," East Java police chief Nico Afinta said in a news conference early Sunday.

More than 300 were rushed to hospitals but many died on the way and during a treatment, Afinta said.

National Police Chief Listyo Sigit Prabowo said the death toll had been revised down to 125 after authorities found some of the victims were counted twice. More than 100 were receiving intensive treatment in eight hospitals, 11 of them in critical condition.

"The stadium turned into a smoke-filled battleground when police fired tear gas," said Rizky, who came with his cousin to watch the game.

"I felt hot and stinging in my eyes, I couldn't see clearly while my head was dizzy and everything went dark ... I passed out," he said. When he woke up, he was already in the emergency room. He said his cousin died because of head injuries.

"We wanted to entertain ourselves by watching a football match, but we got disaster," he said.

Indonesia's soccer association, known as PSSI, suspended the premier soccer league Liga 1 indefinitely in light of the tragedy and banned Arema from hosting soccer matches for the remainder of the season.

Television reports showed police and rescuers evacuating the injured and carrying the dead to ambulances.

Grieving relatives waited for information about their loved ones at Malang's Saiful Anwar General Hospital. Others tried to identify the bodies laid at a morgue while medical workers put identification tags on the bodies of the victims.

"I deeply regret this tragedy and I hope this is the last soccer tragedy in this country, don't let another human tragedy like this happen in the future," Widodo said in a televised speech. "We must continue to maintain sportsmanship, humanity and a sense of brotherhood of the Indonesian nation."

He ordered the youth and sports minister, the national police chief and the PSSI chair to conduct a thorough evaluation of the country's soccer and its security procedure.

Youth and Sports Minister Zainudin Amali also expressed his regrets that "this tragedy happened when we were preparing for soccer game activities, both national and international level."

At the Vatican, Pope Francis said he was praying for "all those who have lost their lives and were injured in the clashes that erupted after a soccer game in Malang, Indonesia."

Indonesia is due to host the 2023 FIFA U-20 World Cup from May 20 to June 11, with 24 participating teams. As the host, the country automatically qualifies for the cup.

"Unfortunately, this incident has certainly injured our soccer image," Amali said. In a statement, FIFA President Gianni

Infantino expressed condolences on behalf of the global football community, saying "the football world is in a state of shock." The statement did not mention the use of tear gas.

Ferli Hidayat, local police chief of Malang, said there were some 42,000 spectators at the game Saturday, all of whom were Arema supporters because the organizer had banned Persebaya fans from entering the stadium in an effort to avoid brawls. The restriction was imposed after clashes between supporters of the two rival teams in East Java's Blitar stadium in February 2020 caused 250 million rupiah (\$18,000) in damage. Brawls were reported outside the stadium during and after the semifinals of the East Java Governor's Cup, which ended with Persebaya beating Arema 4-2.

Rights groups responded to the tragedy by blaming the use of tear gas in the stadium by police.

Citing FIFA's stadium safety guidelines against the use of "crowd control gas" by pitch side stewards or police, Amnesty International called on Indonesian authorities to conduct a swift, thorough and independent investigation into the use of tear gas at Kanjuruhan stadium.

"Those who are found to have committed violations are tried in open court and do not merely receive internal or administrative sanctions," said Usman Hamid, executive director of Amnesty International Indonesia.

He said tear gas should only be used to disperse crowds when widespread violence has occurred and when other methods have failed. People must be warned that tear gas will be used and allowed to disperse. "No one should lose their lives at a football match," Hamid said.

Despite Indonesia's lack of international accolades in the sport, hooliganism is rife in the soccer-obsessed country where fanaticism often ends in violence, as in the 2018 death of a Persija Jakarta supporter who was killed by a mob of hardcore fans of rival club Persib Bandung in 2018.

Saturday's game is already among the world's worst crowd disasters, including the 1996 World Cup qualifier between Guatemala and Costa Rica in Guatemala City where over 80 died and over 100 more were injured. In April 2001, more than 40 people are crushed to death during a soccer match at Ellis Park in Johannesburg, South Africa.

### SHO SUSPENDED, CM YOGI MEETS BEREAVED FAMILIES

there is a need to connect the schools, colleges and all the stakeholders," he said.

Primarily, tractors, trolleys and trucks should be used for the purposes they are meant to be. If these are not used to ferry people, then we could curtail the loss of lives in a large number, he said.

He also said, "To prevent the loss of lives in road accidents, I have directed the home department, transport, PWD, all the education departments and all the agencies involved in construction to run a comprehensive programme and ascertain the short-

comings which are leading to such accidents."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had expressed grief over the incident and announced an ex-gratia amount of Rs 2 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF).

The injured would be given Rs 50,000. Adityanath has sent ministers Rakesh Sachan and Ajit Pal to the accident site to speed up the rescue operation.

An eyewitness told reporters that he, along with others, rushed to the site after hearing the cries of men, women and children for help.

The locals immediately jumped into the water and pulled out the victims, some of whom were already dead, he said.

### 'CAN'T DITCH 102 MLAS WHO SAVED MY GOVT IN 20'

"I was in Jaisalmer. I could not guess but the MLAs sensed who was going to be a new Chief Minister," he told reporters after paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at the secretariat here.

When asked about the chances of the Chief Minister being changed now, Gehlot reiterated that it is for the party High Command to decide. "I am doing my work and it is for the party High Command to take a decision," he said.

The veteran Congressman on Saturday asked the people to send suggestions about the next budget directly to him, hinting that he was there to stay.

He also declared that he cannot remain away from the people of Rajasthan 'till his last breath' and that the Congress Government will complete its five years.

The Chief Minister said his objective is to bring the Congress Government back to power in Rajasthan after the next polls, which is important for the revival of the party at the national level.

"I had already conveyed to madam (Sonia Gandhi) and Ajay Maken in August that it is not necessary that I should be the Chief Minister. I told them that I am ready to withdraw. I said I will support and campaign because it should be our aim to revive the Congress party," he said.

On Sunday, advertisements of Invest Rajasthan, going to be held in Jaipur on October 7 and 8, with the Chief Minister's message appeared on front pages on newspapers, indicating Gehlot's confidence that he was going to continue as the Chief Minister.

Meanwhile, Gehlot's advisor and independent MLA Sanyam Lodha indirectly expressed apprehension about the possibility of the Government completing the tenure.

A video clip of Lodha speaking at a Gandhi Jayanti programme in Sirohi surfaced on social media in which he is seen talking about completing a local project if the Government continued.

"I hope that if the Government continues, we will start that work in January," he

said.

Gehlot also said that the observer is a big post, and anyone acting as an observer should act on behalf of the party High Command and should reflect their aura.

Observers come on behalf of the party high command. Why such circumstances were developed here, a research should be done, he said referring to the rebellion by the MLAs.

Gehlot said no one is perfect and he, too, learns everyday and corrects himself whenever needed.

"I have got public support whenever needed, be it during the political crisis or during corona. How can I stay away from them," he asked.

### 20 CR INDIANS STILL BELOW POVERTY LINE: HOSABALE

for poverty," he said quoting figures provided by the United Nations.

According to Hosabale, the idea that only urban spaces will have jobs has emptied villages and turned urban lives into hell. Hosabale further said, "During the Covid-19, we learnt that there is a possibility of generating jobs at the rural level according to local needs and using local talent. That is why the Swavalambi Bharat Abhiyan was launched.

"We do not need just all-India schemes, but also local schemes. It can be done in the field of agriculture, skill development, marketing etc. We can revive cottage industries. Similarly, in the field of medicine, a lot of Ayurvedic medicines can be manufactured at the local level. We need to find people interested in self-employment and entrepreneurship."

Hosabale said it was important to rejuvenate local talent, which he said the nation was losing because of "modern" economic policies. He stressed that skill training could not be merely urban-centric and tech-based. "We need to create an environment for entrepreneurship. The society also needs to understand that all work is important and must get equal respect. If a gardener is not getting respect for his work, nobody will want to do that work. We need to change mindsets," he said while referring to the need for creating more jobs.

The RSS leader specifically focused on what he called "rising inequality" in the country.

"One figure says that India is among the top six economies of the world. But is this a good situation? The top one percent of India's population has one-fifth (20 percent) of the nation's income. At the same time, the country's 50 percent population has only 13 percent of the country's income," he said.

Raising the same issue, Gadkar recently said, "We are the fastest-growing economy in the world and are the fifth largest economy. We are a rich nation with a poor population. Our country is rich, but the population is poor facing starvation, unemployment, poverty, inflation, casteism, untouchability, and other factors that are not good

for the progress of the society."

Last week, Hosabale also released a book 'Snakes in Ganga: Breaking India 2.0' which slammed the NITI Aayog for allegedly sharing data with the Davos-based World Economic Forum (WEF) and "undermining" India's economic interests

### BULLET SHOT FROM GROUND HITS MAN IN PLANE MID-AIR

Major General Zaw Min Tun, a spokesperson for Myanmar's ruling military council, told MRTV, the State television, that the shooting was carried out by "terrorists" belonging to the Karenni National Progressive Party, an ethnic minority militia battling the Government. He added that the group worked along with their allies in the People's Defense Force, an armed pro-democracy.

Kayah has experienced intense fighting between the military and local resistance groups since the Army seized power in 2021, overthrowing the democratically-elected Government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

### SAY 'VANDE MATARAM' NOT 'HELLO' ON PHONE: MAHA GOVT TO STAFF

"This is nothing but infringement of their Right to Freedom of Speech and also the imposition of a particular mindset on the people. Let them say Vande Mataram with pride, don't force them to say so," Castro added.

The Congress has said it will greet people with "Jai Baliraja" and "Ram Ram" to express its gratitude to farmers. State Congress president Nana Patole, however, added that the party was not opposed to the Vande Mataram greeting. ".....Our country is an agrarian economy where the agriculture sector plays a major role. It is our stand that we will say 'Jai Baliraja' (hail the farmer) and 'Ram Ram' while greeting people to express gratitude for farmers," Patole told reporters when asked about the Maha Govt direction on "Vande Mataram" to the Government employees and officers.

"Dubbing 'Hello' as a 'meaningless word', the circular stated if the State Government employees - during the conversations on the phone - were to begin with Vande Mataram, then it would help create a conducive atmosphere and give positive energy.

Senior Maharashtra Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar had last month mooted the idea of Government employees greeting those interacting with them over the phone or in person with "Vande Mataram". However, he later backtracked and said that any equivalent word reflecting nationalism can be used.

After reneging on his statement, Mungantiwar later told a television channel that, "Greeting people by way of Vande Mataram is not mandatory. Any word or words equivalent to Vande Mataram which infuse nationalism can be used while receiving a phone call."

### Social media shy CBI makes debut on Twitter, Instagram

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Social media shy, the CBI has finally made appearances on Twitter and Instagram ahead of the upcoming Interpol General Assembly in which 195 countries are likely to take part.

The agency created its accounts on both platforms with user ID CBI\_CIO for the three-day 90th General Assembly starting October 18 here, officials said. In its visual symbolism, the logo for INTERPOL's 90th General Assembly, being held in New Delhi from 18th-21st October, 2022, has at its center the "Konark wheel".

#InterpollIndia, the agency's Twitter handle said in its opening message. "When deciphered in terms of INTERPOL's commitment and engagement, the 'Konark Wheel' in this logo serves to inspire INTERPOL's 24x7 functioning and is encircled by three-leaved spherical elements in colours of India's national flag #InterpollIndia .

The three encircling spherical elements signify the creation of international bonds through INTERPOL, steadfast commitment towards the preservation of security globally and the achievement of law enforcement goals," it said in two subsequent tweets. .

Unlike sister organisations like the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had kept social media at an arm's length, sticking to the age-old practice of issuing press releases for sharing information.

The General Assembly will focus on cybercrime, financial crimes and Child Sexual Abuse Material peddled on the Internet among other issues, they said. Having already organised a General Assembly in 1997, India was given an out-of-turn chance to organise the event through a vote on the eve of the 75th anniversary of its Independence. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had made a proposal in this regard to Interpol Secretary General Jurgen Stock, who called on the Minister during his visit to India.

# Florida deaths rise to 47 amid struggle to recover from Ian

AP ■ FORT MYERS (US)

Rescuers evacuated stunned survivors on a large barrier island cut off by Hurricane Ian and Florida's death toll climbed sharply, as hundreds of thousands of people were still sweltering without power days after the monster storm rampaged from the state's southwestern coast up to the Carolinas.



Flashed-out roads

Florida, with nearly four dozen reported deaths was hit hardest by the Category 4 hurricane, one of the strongest to make landfall in the United States.

Flooded roadways and washed-out bridges to barrier islands left many people isolated, amid limited cell phone service and a lack of basic amenities such as water, electricity and the internet.

Florida Gov Ron DeSantis said on Saturday that multibillionaire businessman Elon Musk was providing some 120 Starlink satellites to "help bridge some of the communi-

cation issues."

Starlink, a satellite-based internet system created by Musk's SpaceX, will provide high-speed connectivity.

Florida utilities were working to restore power. As of Sunday morning, more than 700,000 homes and businesses were still without electricity,

down from a peak of 2.67 million.

At least 54 people were confirmed dead: 47 in Florida, four in North Carolina and three in Cuba.

The weakened storm had drifted north on Sunday and was expected to dump rain on parts of Virginia, West Virginia,

Maryland and southern Pennsylvania, according to the National Hurricane Centre, which has warned of the potential for flash flooding.

More than 1,000 people were rescued from flooded areas along Florida's southwestern coast alone, Daniel Hokanson, a four-star general and head of the National Guard, told The Associated Press while airborne to Florida.

In Washington, the White House announced that President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden would travel to Florida on Wednesday. But a brief statement did not release any details of the planned visit.

The bridge to Pine Island, the largest barrier island off Florida's Gulf Coast, was destroyed by the storm, leaving it accessible only by boat or air.

The volunteer group Medic Corps, which responds to natural disasters worldwide with pilots, paramedics and doctors, went door-to-door asking residents if they wanted to be evacuated.

# Truss sticks by economic plan as her party worries

AP ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Liz Truss said on Sunday that she could have done a better job "laying the ground" for her package of unfunded tax cuts, but insisted she would push on with an economic plan that has caused turmoil on financial markets and weakened the country's public finances.

Truss acknowledged that the UK faces "a very turbulent and stormy time," but said her policies would lead to a "high-growth, low-tax economy" in the longer term.

The comments are unlikely to calm Truss' Conservative Party, which opens its four-day annual conference on Sunday in the central England city of Birmingham amid plunging poll ratings and growing public discontent.

Truss took office less than a month ago, promising to radically reshape Britain's economy to end years of sluggish growth.

But the government's September 23 announcement



of a stimulus package that includes 45 billion pounds (USD 50 billion) in tax cuts, to be paid for by government borrowing, sent the pound tumbling to a record low against the dollar.

The Bank of England was forced to intervene to prop up the bond market, and fears that the bank will soon hike interest rates caused mortgage lenders to withdraw their cheapest deals, causing turmoil for home buyers.

"I have learned from that," Truss told the BBC. "I will make sure in future we do a

better job of laying the ground." Truss stuck to her insistence that Britain's economic problems were part of a global spike in inflation and energy prices spurred by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

In a bid to calm the market turmoil, Truss and her finance minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer Kwasi Kwarteng, have said they will set out a medium-term fiscal plan on November 23, alongside an economic forecast from the independent Office for Budget Responsibility.

Many economists, and many Conservatives, say that means weeks more economic turmoil are ahead. Michael Gove, who served as a senior minister in previous Conservative governments, said the announcement "will have to be brought forward" and some parts of the economic package will have to be dropped.

Gove said there was "an inadequate realisation at the top of government about the scale of change required."

# Pak Cabinet OK's legal action against Imran over leaked 'foreign conspiracy' cypher audio tapes

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Cabinet on Sunday decided to launch legal action against former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his party's top leaders over audio leaks in which he could allegedly be heard discussing the controversial US cypher and how to exploit it to portray his ouster as a conspiracy.

At least two audio tapes have been circulating on social media since Tuesday where 69-year-old Khan can be heard discussing a diplomatic communication with leaders and giving directions about how to use it for political objectives.

The cable based on a meeting of US Assistant Secretary of State for Central and South Asia Donald Lu with Pakistan ambassador in Washington Asad Majeed reportedly involves the US official discussing the political situation in Pakistan.

# Brazil holds historic election with Lula against Bolsonaro

AP ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

Brazilians were voting on Sunday in a highly polarized election that could determine if the country returns a leftist to the helm of the world's fourth-largest democracy or keeps the far-right incumbent in office for another four years.

The race pits incumbent President Jair Bolsonaro against his political nemesis, former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. There are nine other candidates, but their support pales to that for Bolsonaro and da Silva.

Recent opinion polls have given da Silva a commanding lead — the last Datafolha survey published Saturday found a 50% to 36% advantage for da Silva among those who intended to vote. It interviewed 12,800 people, with a margin of error of two percentage points.

Agatha de Carvalho, 24, arrived to her local voting station in Rio de Janeiro's working class Rocinha neighborhood shortly before it opened, hoping to cast her ballot before work, but found 100 others were already lined up. She said she would vote for da Silva, and called Bolsonaro "awful."

"A lot of people died because of him during the pandemic. If he hadn't done some of the things he did, some



of those deaths could have been avoided," she said.

Bolsonaro's administration has been marked by incendiary speech, his testing of democratic institutions, his widely criticized handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and the worst deforestation in the Amazon rainforest in 15 years.

But he has built a devoted base by defending traditional family values, rebuffing political correctness and presenting himself as protecting the nation from leftist policies that infringe on personal liberties and produce economic turmoil. Also in Rocinha, Manuel Pintoadinho, a 65-year-old metalworker, said he voted for Bolsonaro and didn't blame him for tough economic times.

"The pandemic ruined everything, inflation is really high," Pintoadinho said. "It's not his fault."

A slow economic recovery has yet to reach the poor, with 33 million Brazilians going hungry despite higher welfare payments. Like several of its Latin American neighbors coping with high inflation and a vast number of people excluded from formal employment, Brazil is considering a shift to the political left.

Gustavo Petro in Colombia, Gabriel Boric in Chile and Pedro Castillo in Peru are among the left-leaning leaders in the region who have recently assumed power.

Da Silva could win in the first round, without need for a run-off on Oct. 30, if he gets more than 50% of valid votes, which exclude spoiled and blank ballots. Brazil has more than 150 million eligible voters, and voting is mandatory, but abstention rates can reach as high as 20%.

An outright win by da Silva would sharpen focus on Bolsonaro's reaction to the count. He has repeatedly questioned the reliability not just of opinion polls, but also of Brazil's electronic voting machines. Analysts fear he has laid the groundwork to reject results.

# Spain: Four bodies retrieved from migrant boat, 1 man rescued



AP ■ MADRID

Spain's marine rescue service said Sunday it picked up the bodies of four people from a rubber dinghy that was adrift in waters off northwest Africa and is believed to have been carrying more than 30 people.

A merchant ship rescued one person after it spotted the boat Saturday about 280 kilometers (150 miles) south of the Canary Islands archipelago.

The marine rescue service sent a helicopter to take the man from the ship to the Spanish island of Gran Canaria, where he was treated in a hospital.

Spanish state news agency Efe said the man, from the Ivory Coast, told rescue services that there had been 34 people on the boat when it set sail nine days ago.

Thousands of migrants from northwest and sub-Saharan African countries try to reach Spain by boat each year. Many die in the attempt.

The voyage across the Atlantic to the Canary Islands is one of the most dangerous migration routes in the world, authorities and rights groups say, with trips in often overloaded boats taking more than a week to reach the islands and European soil.

# Iran Parliament Speaker says protests could weaken society

AP ■ DUBAI

Iran's parliamentary speaker warned Sunday that protests over the death of a young woman in police custody could destabilize the country and urged security forces to deal harshly with those he claimed endanger public order.

Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf told lawmakers that unlike the current protests, which he said aim to topple the government, previous demonstrations by teachers and retirees over pay were aimed at reforms, according to the legislative body's website.

"The important point of the (past) protests was that they were reform-seeking and not aimed at overthrowing" the system, said Qalibaf. "I ask all who have any (reasons to) protest not to allow their protest to turn into destabilizing and toppling" of institutions.

Thousands of Iranians have taken to the streets over the last two weeks to protest the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman who had been detained by Iran's morality police in the capital of Tehran for allegedly not adhering to Iran's strict Islamic dress code.

The protesters have vented



their anger over the treatment of women and wider repression in the Islamic Republic.

The nationwide demonstrations rapidly escalated into calls for the overthrow of the clerical establishment that has ruled Iran since its 1979 Islamic revolution.

The protests have drawn supporters from various ethnic groups, including Kurdish opposition movements in the northwest of Iran that operate along the border with neighboring Iraq. Amini was an Iranian Kurd and the protests first erupted in Kurdish areas.

Iranian state TV has reported that at least 41 protesters and police have been killed since the demonstrations began Sept 17.

An Associated Press count of official statements by author-

ities tallied at least 14 dead, with more than 1,500 demonstrators arrested.

Qalibaf, the parliamentary speaker, is a former influential commander in the paramilitary Islamic Revolutionary Guard.

Along with the president and the head of the judiciary, he is one of three ranking officials who deal with all important issues of the nation. He meets regularly and sometimes meet with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters.

Qalibaf said he believes many of those taking part in recent protests had no intention of seeking to overthrow the government in the beginning and claimed foreign-based opposition groups were fomenting protests aimed at tearing down the system.

# Biden pledge to make federal fleet electric faces slow start

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden, a self-described "car guy," often promises to lead by example by moving swiftly to convert the sprawling U.S. Government fleet to zero-emission electric vehicles. But efforts have lagged in helping meet his ambitious climate goals by eliminating gas-powered vehicles from the federal fleet.



said soon after his January 2021 inauguration. He has since used photo ops — taking a spin in Ford Motor Co.'s electric F-150 pickup truck, or driving GM's Cadillac Lyriq electric SUV at the Detroit auto show — to promote their potential. Cabinet officials have hawked a first set of Ford Mustang Mach-E SUVs in use at the departments of Energy and Transportation.

The White House frequently describes the 2027 timeline as on track. But the General Services Administration, the agency that purchases two-thirds of the 656,000-vehicle federal fleet, says there are no guarantees.

Then there is the U.S. Postal Service, which owns the remaining one-third of the federal fleet. After initially balking and facing lawsuits, the agency now says that

half of its initial purchase of 50,000 next-generation vehicles will be powered by electricity. The first set of postal vehicles will hit delivery routes late next year.

Climate advocates say that agency can do even better.

"USPS should now go all electric or virtually all electric with its new vehicles," said Luke Tonachel, senior director of clean vehicles and buildings at the Natural Resources Defense Council, citing an additional \$3 billion in federal spending targeted for the postal fleet under the landmark climate law Biden signed last month. About 30% of U.S. Greenhouse gas emissions come from the transportation sector, making it the single largest source of planet-warming emissions in the country.

# Turkey says 23 Kurdish militants killed in Iraq airstrikes

AP ■ ISTANBUL

Turkish warplanes "neutralised" 23 Kurdish militants in a raid 140 kilometers (90 miles) inside Iraq, the Turkish Defence Ministry said on Sunday.

The ministry usually refers to killed militants as "neutralised." It said the number of casualties in the mission in the Asos region of northern Iraq, which is controlled by the autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government, was expected to rise.

A video accompanying the ministry's tweet showed F-16 fighters taking off and a number of explosions in a mountainous area.

The ministry referred to a statement from Defence Minister Hulusi Akar on Thursday in which he said airstrikes had hit 16 targets in the Asos region.

Turkey has been conducting a series of operations in northern Iraq since 2019, saying the military is targeting the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, to prevent it from launching cross-border attacks

on Turkey. In April, Operation Claw-Lock was launched, which involves ground and air forces.

The PKK has waged an on-again, off-again insurgency against the Turkish state since 1984, a conflict that has killed tens of thousands of people.

The group is listed as a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the United States and the European Union.

The Defence Ministry later said seven "terrorists" had been neutralized in north Syria in response to the killing of a Turkish police officer in a missile attack on Sunday.

The attack on a Turkish base near Al Bab was carried out by Kurdish militants from the People's Protection Units, or YPG, according to official statements.

The YPG, which helped in the US-led campaign against the Islamic State group, is linked to the PKK but isn't considered a terrorist group by the US or the EU.

# 1984 marks 'one of the darkest years' in modern Indian history: US Senator

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The anti-Sikh riots of 1984 mark "one of the darkest years" in modern Indian history, a US Senator has said, as he underlined the need to remember the atrocities committed against the Sikh community so that those responsible may be held accountable.

Violence erupted in Delhi and other parts of the country after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards on October 31, 1984.

Over 3,000 Sikhs were killed across India, mostly in the national capital.

"1984 marks one of the darkest years in modern Indian history. The world watched as several violent incidents broke out among ethnic groups in India, with several notably targeting the Sikh community," Senator Pat Toomey said on the Senate floor. "Today we are here to remember the tragedy that commenced on November 1, 1984, following decades of ethnic tension between Sikhs in the Punjab province and the central Indian Government," he said recently.

"To prevent future human rights abuses, we must recognise their past forms. We must remember the atrocities committed against Sikhs so that those responsible may be held accountable and that this type of tragedy is not repeated against the Sikh community or other communities across the globe," Toomey, a Republican, said.

# Gandhi Jayanti celebration returns to China's picturesque Chaoyang park after two years of Covid-induced hiatus

PTI ■ BEIJING

After a two-year Covid-induced hiatus, Gandhi Jayanti celebrations returned to China's sprawling Chaoyang Park here as it resonated with the recitation of his famous quotes by Chinese school children and his bhajans by members of the Indian diaspora.

Gandhi Jayanti is celebrated every year at the picturesque Chaoyang Park in Beijing ever since the statue of Gandhi, sculpted by acclaimed sculptor Yuan Xikun, was installed in 2005 on the banks of a lake amid serene surroundings to enable his admirers to pay tributes to

the Mahatma.

Yuan besides being an acclaimed sculptor, who sculpted the statues of famous Chinese and world leaders, is also well connected with the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) and the long-time Curator of the famous Jin Tai Art Museum located in the Chaoyang park.

Yuan carved out the Gandhi statue with a unique posture of the Mahatma sitting with a book in his hand.

The installation of Gandhi's statue for the first time officially in Beijing was regarded as politically significant as for decades the Mahatma, a contemporary of Mao



Zedong who led China's national liberation movement, has remained an enigma in China as the two leaders professed contrasting political philosophies.

While Mao remained a firm advocate of violent liberation movements with his famous dictum that power flows through the barrel of the gun, Gandhi's successful non-violent

movement against the British, in contrast, caught the attention of the world.

Since the installation of Gandhi's statue, on every October 2 a set of Chinese school children recite his famous sayings, highlighting non-violence, adherence to truth and the importance of conservation.

The practice was disrupted due to the pandemic for the past two years.

This year, over a dozen school children recited Gandhi's sayings in both Chinese and English, drawing applause at a well-attended gathering at the Jin Tai Art Museum which included Indian Ambassador

Pradeep Kumar Rawat and Yuan himself.

Rawat, who played a role in the installation of the statue along with Yuan during his previous diplomatic stint in Beijing in 2005, said though born in India, Mahatma Gandhi's message resonated with the entire humanity.

"Mahatma Gandhi's principle of non-violence was all-encompassing — human against human, human against animal and more importantly human against nature," Rawat said.

Yuan in his address said Gandhi's sculpture has also "become a symbol of friendship between the people of India and China."

# MANCHESTER IS BLUE

## Haaland, Foden hat-tricks help Man City thrash Red Devils 6-3

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Erroling Haaland and Phil Foden scored hat-tricks as Manchester City thrashed Manchester United 6-3 to move to within a point of Premier League leaders Arsenal on Sunday.

Haaland has scored hat-tricks in each of his last three Premier League home games to take his tally as a City player to 17 in 10 competitive games for the English champions.

Antony's strike and Anthony Martial's late double ensured United avoided a record defeat in the Manchester derby as they remain in sixth, nine points off the top.

Since also conceding four times inside the first 45 minutes at Brentford in August, United had bounced back with four consecutive Premier League wins to offer hope they are heading in the right direction under Erik ten Hag.

But the Red Devils were given a rude awakening of the gulf that still exists between the Manchester giants.

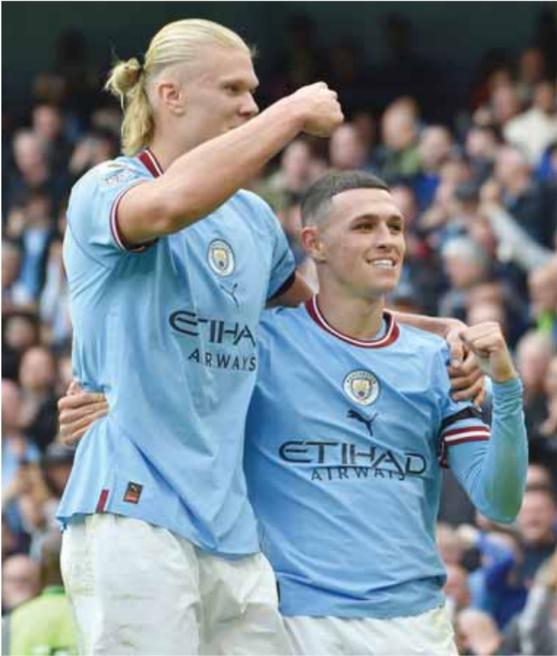
City could have scored many more than the four they managed in a blistering first half performance that swept away any doubts caused by an inconsistent start to the season from Pep Guardiola's men.

Within four minutes it took two goal-line clearances and a fine save from David de Gea to deny Haaland, Kevin De Bruyne and Bernardo Silva the opening goal.

Four minutes later, City did open the floodgates when Foden swept home Silva's cross for the Manchester native's first derby goal.

Ilkay Gundogan's free-kick hit the post and Foden blasted another big chance wide before Haaland inevitably made his mark.

United were left to bemoan the



absence of Raphael Varane to defend a De Bruyne corner as he received treatment on an ankle injury that forced him off at half-time.

Without the Frenchman, there was no match for Haaland's presence in the penalty box as his header crossed the line before Tyrrell Malacia's attempted clearance.

Moments later, City showcased

their ability to counter-attack as Jack Grealish fed De Bruyne, who perfectly picked out Haaland to convert on the stretch at the back post.

Haaland then turned provider with a low cross that Foden converted to leave United trailing 4-0 at half-time for the third time in a year.

Unlike, in a 5-0 defeat at Old Trafford to Liverpool last season and

## Perez again insisting on European Super League

AP ■ MADRID

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez again insisted on the idea of a European Super League when speaking at a club members assembly on Sunday.

In April 2021 a dozen of Europe's biggest clubs signed up to a controversial new project but it crumbled after a strong backlash from supporters and football's governing bodies.

Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus stayed on board while other clubs abandoned ship and the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg (CJEU) is to rule over whether European football governing body UEFA is acting as a monopoly by blocking the project.

"The Super League has never been closed off with a concrete for-

mat," Perez told Madrid members. "We think that it could change depending on different contexts."

The objective of the Super League is to modernise football. It is essential to offer fans games of great quality. UEFA, with their changing and remodelling of the Champions League is mistakenly going the other way.

The Real Madrid chief compared football to tennis, where the top players usually face each other multiple times a year.

"What sense does it have depriving fans of big games?" he asked. "(Rafa) Nadal and (Roger) Federer have met over 40 times. Nadal and (Novak) Djokovic have played 59 times, is this boring?"

"Liverpool and Real Madrid have only met nine times in 67 years."

at Brentford last month, there was some semblance of a United response after the break.

Antony smashed home his second goal in as many Premier League appearances since a £82 million (\$92 million) move from Ajax.

But Haaland quickly retook centre stage with a thumping finish to meet Sergio Gomez's cross.

City were on course to match the record margin of victory in a Manchester derby when Haaland set up Foden to smash home and complete

his hat-trick.

That was Foden's final involvement as he was withdrawn in a quadruple change as Guardiola could afford to also hand a rest to De Bruyne, Gundogan and Grealish.

United took advantage of City taking their foot off the accelerator in the final 10 minutes as substitute Martial scored twice to cut the arrears.

The Frenchman bravely headed in the rebound after Ederson parried Fred's shot and then emphatically fired home from the penalty spot.



## Roma pile misery on Inter, Milan earn dramatic win

AP ■ MILAN

Chris Smalling plunged Inter Milan further into crisis by heading Roma to a 2-1 triumph at the San Siro which kept his team in touch with Serie A leaders Napoli, 3-1 winners over Torino.

England defender Smalling perfectly met Lorenzo Pellegrini's free-kick with 15 minutes remaining to complete a clinical Roma comeback from going behind to Federico Dimarco's fine first-half strike.

"I hope I can keep scoring goals," Smalling told DAZN after netting his second match-winner of the season.

"We've got a very strong squad this season, and we have big goals we're aiming at."

Jose Mourinho's side, which levelled through a superb Paulo Dybala volley six minutes before halftime, showed it can do it against the big boys with a mature performance which for once didn't finish with wasted chances leaving it wondering what might have been.

Roma are four points behind Napoli in fifth place after a win which also leaves Inter, who dominated early on but fell away, further back in the title race.

Simone Inzaghi's seventh-placed team is eight points off the pace after losing for the fourth time in eight matches, hardly the best preparation for the crucial Champions League visit of Barcelona on Tuesday.

Inter also trail their local rivals AC Milan by five points after two stoppage-time strikes from Fode Ballo-Toure and Rafael Leao

snatched a 3-1 win for the champions at Empoli.

Milan, who took the lead through Ante Rebic with 11 minutes remaining, were left reeling when Nedim Bajrami's pinpoint free-kick levelled the scores in the 92nd minute.

But with Empoli still celebrating what they assumed was a hard-earned point, Ballo-Toure put Milan back ahead when he pushed in Rade Krunic's knockdown.

And Leao, who set up Rebic's opener and had been the star performer for Milan, then capped a stunning win by racing through on goal unopposed and classily dinking in the third in the seventh minute of added time.

It was another superb display from Portugal winger Leao, who has scored four goals and set up six more in all competitions this season, an incredible number which makes him the one to watch at Chelsea on Wednesday.

### LAZIO STAY IN TOP 4

Lazio ensured that they would stay in Serie A's top four on Sunday after comfortably beating Spezia 4-0 in Rome.

First half goals from Mattia Zaccagni and boyhood Lazio fan Alessio Romagnoli and a brace from Sergej Milinkovic-Savic at the Stadio Olimpico put the hosts three points behind league leaders Napoli in third.

Maurizio Sarri's team are level on 17 points with AC Milan and second-placed Atalanta after making short work of Spezia, who are four points above the relegation zone, and claiming their third straight league win.

## India men's team stuns Germany in World TT C'ship



PTI ■ CHENGDU

Star paddler G Sathiyam won both his singles, including the one against world number 9 Dang Qiu, to script India's stunning 3-1 win over second seeds Germany in the group stage of the World Table Tennis Championships here on Sunday.

World number 37 Sathiyam won two gruelling deciders, first against 36th ranked Duda Benedikt (11-13, 4-11, 11-8, 11-4, 11-9) before edging out Germany's highest-ranked player Qiu (10-12, 7-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-9).

In both the matches, Sathiyam staged a strong fight-back after losing the first two games.

"The match against Qiu was definitely much tougher. He is a top-10 player. It was a

high quality match as well," Sathiyam said.

India number 2 Harmeet Desai had lost the second singles to Qiu 1-2 (7-11, 9-11, 13-11, 3-11) before Manav Thakkar helped his team go 2-1 up with a 3-1 (13-11, 6-11, 11-8, 12-10) win over higher-ranked Ricardo Walthar.

The 17th-ranked India had beaten Uzbekistan in their opening group game on Saturday. They need to finish in the top two to advance to the pre-quarterfinals.

In the women's draw, India recorded their first win of the group stage with a 3-0 result over Czech Republic.

The Manika Batra-led side had lost to Germany on Saturday.

Manika defeated Hana Matelova 3-1 (11-6, 11-6, 8-11, 12-10) in the first singles before Akula Sreeja and Diya Chitale won their singles against Marketa Sevcikova and Katerina Tomanovska, 3-0 and 3-1 respectively.

It was a close affair between Diya and Katerina before the Indian prevailed 11-13, 15-13, 12-10, 14-12. Down two game points in the fourth game, Diya relied on her serve to make it 10-10 before winning a spectacular rally.

Katerina made it 12-12 before the India got the couple of points she needed to complete a fine win.

## Mbappe helps PSG beat Nice in Ligue 1

AP ■ PARIS

Kylian Mbappe came off the bench to score the winning goal as Paris Saint-Germain defeated Nice 2-1 on Saturday to reclaim top spot in Ligue 1.

French international Mbappe was left out of the starting line-up by coach Christophe Galtier with one eye on Wednesday's Champions League clash at Benfica.

Mbappe was replaced by 20-year-old Hugo Ekitikie, who was making his first start for PSG.

However, it was fellow



superstar Lionel Messi who grabbed the early attention when he gave PSG a 29th-minute lead with a sumptuous, curling free-kick which sailed over the Nice wall and past goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel.

Gaetan Laborde levelled for Nice, who were coached by Galtier until this season, in the 47th minute after PSG got into a terrible defensive tangle.

Mbappe was summoned from the bench on the hour mark and struck the winner from seven minutes left after Nice attempted and failed to play the ball out of defence.

## Lewandowski takes Barca to top of La Liga

AP ■ BARCELONA

Robert Lewandowski's lethal finish sent Barcelona provisionally top of La Liga with a tight 1-0 win at Real Mallorca on Saturday.

Marc-Andre ter Stegen kept a fifth consecutive clean sheet in the top flight and, along with Lewandowski's brilliantly taken strike in the 20th minute, it was enough to put Barcelona one point clear of Real Madrid, who host Osasuna on Sunday.

Earlier Atletico Madrid cruised to a 2-0 win over a toothless Sevilla, increasing the pressure on Julen Lopetegui.

Marcos Llorente and Alvaro Morata's goals took Atletico provisionally up to sixth, while leaving the hosts 16th, just a point above the re-

legation zone.

In Mallorca, Xavi Hernandez's side demonstrated they are ironing out the creases which caused them so many problems last season, improving both defensively and in attack, with the relentless Lewandowski leading the charge.

Barcelona's coach earned a new domestic record of 18 consecutive league matches on the road without defeat, moving ahead of former Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane.

Ter Stegen, who has started this season in top form, beat his own personal record of 500 minutes without conceding in La Liga, reaching 534 minutes and counting.

At the other end, Lewandowski leads the scoring charts in Spain on nine goals



from seven games, after clinically curling into the bottom corner to break the deadlock against Mallorca.

"This win will help us ahead

of some very tricky weeks," Ter Stegen told Movistar.

"The record isn't as important as the win. I'm sure it will give me confidence. These wins

put you in a good dynamic, these games mean a lot.

"They help us maintain the pressure on Real Madrid."

"Generally we did very well, we limited them to just two chances, Ter Stegen made a brilliant save and Lewandowski scored a great goal," said Xavi.

"(However) it would be poor to limit it to that. We defended very well. They are players that make the difference, but I would say the team competed well."

At the Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan and with only one win from seven league games, Sevilla supporters jeered their own side.

Sevilla coach Lopetegui said he would focus on the things he could control, amid speculation the club are considering his future.

"I'm focused on what's up to

me, these are circumstances intrinsic to football," said Lopetegui.

"The situation is not one we wanted. I'm sure the team will turn it around. I am sad today, being weak is something else."

Atletico dominated, with Morata missing two big chances and Llorente drilling into the far corner in the 29th minute, beyond the reach of Bono.

After a mistake by Jose Carmona, Morata doubled the lead before the hour mark, neatly lofting home.

Only impressive saves from Bono prevented Cunha and substitute Antoine Griezmann from adding to Atletico's lead, as they answered their critics after derby defeat by Real Madrid. "The team was a team again, we worked all together," Atletico coach Simeone told DAZN.

## Tiafoe staying focused after 'crazy month'

AP ■ TOKYO

Frances Tiafoe on Sunday reflected on a "crazy month" that saw him reach a US Open semi-final and play a starring role at the Laver Cup -- but hopes that's just the start.

The world number 19 from the United States made a name for himself when he stunned Rafael Nadal on his way to a shock final-four appearance at Flushing Meadows last month.

He followed that up by leading Team World to their first Laver Cup title in London and even beat Roger Federer in doubles in the final match of the retiring tennis great's career.

Tiafoe, in Tokyo for the Japan Open, believes he has "a lot to give to the game".

"I'm super curious right now to see where I can take this tennis thing," said the 24-year-old.



"As far as the noise, obviously it comes with it. People will cheer me one day and the next you'll be forgotten -- you know how individual sports go."

He is the number four seed at Japan Open and will play Japanese wild card Yasutaka Uchiyama in the first round on Monday.

Top seed Casper Ruud,

Nick Kyrgios and Taylor Fritz will also play in Tokyo, although Britain's Cameron Norrie withdrew on Sunday after testing positive for Covid.

Tiafoe arrived in Japan after he and doubles partner Jack Sock sent Federer into retirement with a defeat, after they beat the Swiss great and Rafael Nadal at the Laver Cup.

## Nishioka beats Shapovalov to win Korea Open

AP ■ SEOUL

Yoshihito Nishioka stunned fourth seed Denis Shapovalov 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) to win the Korea Open on Sunday for his second ATP title.

The Japanese player is set to rise to a career-high 41 after adding the Seoul crown to his triumph at the 2018 Shenzhen Open in China.

Nishioka defeated world number two Casper Ruud on the way to the final and he was neck-and-neck in the first set against Canada's

Shapovalov, until he broke in the 10th game to take the first set.

Shapovalov, who was also chasing a second title, took the upper hand early in the second set.

But the 27-year-old Nishioka bounced back, levelling the set and then powering on to win the match and the title on the tie-break.

Nishioka also topped fifth seed Dan Evans earlier in the tournament.

Japan's top men's player will next participate in the Japan Open in Tokyo this week.

## Sherif becomes Egypt's first WTA champion

AP ■ PARMA

Mayar Sherif became the first woman from Egypt to win a WTA Tour title on Saturday when she defeated top seed and world number seven Maria Sakkari in the Parma final.

The 26-year-old triumphed over her Greek rival 7-5, 6-3, also achieving her first ever top 10 win.

"It means a lot for my country," Sherif said. "It means a lot for the people back home, my family, all the hard work, all the mental struggles in the last weeks. I'm just thrilled and happy. This was never expected."

Sherif, ranked 74 in the world, carved out her place in history on a gruelling day which saw her playing a semi-final and final back-to-back after Friday's



schedule had been washed out by rain.

She finished the final with 10 winners to 11 unforced errors and generated 13 break points, converting six. Sakkari hit 22 winners to 22 unforced errors.

"I'm exhausted," Sherif said

after coming back from being an early break down in both sets of the claycourt final.

"Today was a very tough day for me, many hours on court. I'm very happy that I pulled it off. I had to dig very deep."

"The first match was emotionally and mentally tough. There were so many key moments in the match, a lot of pressure. But after I won that match it gave me a lot of confidence so I used that for the match right after."

Earlier on Saturday, Sherif, had required almost three hours to defeat sixth-seeded Ana Bogdan 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 in the semi-finals. Sakkari eased through to her first final since Indian Wells with a 7-5, 6-2 win over Wanka Konvinic of Montenegro.

# INDIA CLINCH SERIES

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Indian batters were at their ruthless best with Suryakumar Yadav and opener KL Rahul leading the charge as they defeated South Africa by 16 runs despite David Miller's unbeaten century in the second T20I to clinch the three-match series here on Sunday.

Rahul (57 off 28 balls) and Yadav toyed (61 off 22 balls) as the Proteas attack with sensational fifties as the Indian top-four batters once again put up a superlative display to post a massive 237 for 3 — their highest score against South Africa.

That 178 runs came from boundaries — 25 fours and 13 sixes — showed the Indians dominance against the Kagiso Rabada-led South African attack which looked mediocre all through.

Chasing a massive target of 238, the South Africans could score 237 for 3 in their 20 overs with David Miller remaining not out on 106 off 47 balls.

This was the first ever series win for India over South Africa in the T20I format on home soil.

India had won the first match by eight wickets on September 28. The third and final match of the series is slated in Indore on October 4.

Arshdeep Singh gave India a perfect start while defending 237, extending the run of ducks of South African skipper



Temba Bavuma and Rilee Rossouw to two matches. Arshdeep, however, leaked runs at the death overs to return with figures of 4-0-62-2.

South Africa were put into submission at the score of 1/2 inside two overs and they could never recover from there.

At the other end, Deepak Chahar (4-1-24-0) held up firmly before R Ashwin (4-0-

37-0) joined in the act to take the match out of the Proteas reach with some tight bowling.

The highlight of South Africa innings was David Miller's roaring return to form with his second T20I century with an unbeaten 106 from 47 balls.

Quinton de Kock too was back among runs in a 48-ball 69 not out as the duo put

together 174 runs from 84 balls but it proved not enough.

Earlier Rohit Sharma (43 off 37 balls), who became the first Indian to play 400 T20 matches, started it all before Rahul took off.

Replying to his critics, Rahul (57) was back at his aggressive best, slamming a 24-ball fifty, his second in a row, as he and Rohit put on 96 runs

for the opening wicket that came off just 59 balls.

Yadav then continued his insane 360-degree assault with a third successive half-century that came off just 18 deliveries and India crossed the 200-mark in the 18th over.

Virat Kohli gave him a perfect support and became the first Indian to get to 11,000 T20 runs during his 49 not out.

Playing a selfless knock, he gave designated finisher Dinesh Karthik the maximum strike. Karthik slammed 17 not out from seven balls to cap a perfect batting display for India.

The South African pacers looked lacklustre and bowled full and the Indians feasted on to them.

**MISMANAGEMENT**

Trust Assam Cricket Association (ACA) to mess it up every time.

Chaos once again reigned supreme at the ACA Barsapara Stadium here during the India-

South Africa second T20I on Sunday.

If a snake slithering onto the field during India's innings was not enough, the worst was in store when the stadium went into partial darkness during South Africa's chase of the massive target of 238, causing a second interruption in the match.

Just after the first ball of Deepak Chahar in the third over when South Africa were reeling at 5/2, play came to halt after one of the four floodlight towers went off, halting play for 18 minutes.

All the players went back to the dressing room and it took about six minutes for the lights to slowly turn on one by one before play resumed.

Blaming it on a "technical glitch", Assam Cricket Association secretary Devajit Saikia told PTI: "We have three parties handling the power aspect — our own 25-member team, a third (outsourced) party and the state power department. It was perhaps a voltage problem, some technical glitch."

Saikia said the ACA has used generator sets to power the match and not depended on electricity supply from the power department.

The media contingent also faced similar problem before the match as there were no lights till a few hours into the match as the officials took hours to find out the fault.



## India take on Malaysia in Asia Cup T20

PTI ■ SYLHET

Shafali Verma couldn't have asked for an easier opponent to regain her mojo as a confident India get ready to maul Malaysia in their second T20 match of the women's Asia Cup here on Monday.

The game should serve as net session for Harmanpreet Kaur and Co against a Malaysian side that was thrashed by Pakistan by nine wickets in its opener.

After a comfortable win against Sri Lanka, scripted by Jemimah Rodrigues, the less experienced Indian players are expected to get some game time as the team prepares for the T20 World Cup in South Africa early next year.

Shafali, who has endured a dismal run, would want to come out all guns blazing and may take this opportunity to try an alternate batting approach as her natural game has not been yielding success off late.

The 18-year-old has not scored a T20I half-century since March last year but played a couple of good knocks at the Commonwealth Games. She then had a woeful England tour, where she had single digits scores four times across formats.

The big-hitting opener needs to find consistency after three years in international cricket. Her lack of footwork was the main cause of her undoing as English bowlers capitalised on her weakness.

With the quality of the Malaysian bowlers no where close to their English counterparts, it is important that Shafali uses this opportunity to the fullest to gain her confidence.

For vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, who failed to get going against Sri Lanka, the game will be about quality hitting time in the middle against an attack that is sure to feel intimidated.

Rodrigues, who came off a wrist injury, made instant impact with a sensational career-best performance while Harmanpreet has also been in imperious touch.

The tournament provided Indian with the perfect platform to experiment and several new players like Kiran Navgire could be seen in the playing XI come Monday.

Finding the right combination with the ball is also high on India's priority list.

With the pitch here producing knee length bounce on the opening day of the competition itself, India are expected to field a spin heavy attack with Renuka Singh being the sole specialist pacer.

**THE TEAMS (FROM)**

**India:** Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma, Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Sabineni Meghana, Richa Ghosh (wk), Sneha Rana, Dayalan Hemalatha, Meghna Singh, Renuka Thakur, Pooja Vastrakar, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Radha Yadav, KP Navgire.

**Malaysia:** Winifred Duraisingam (c), Mas Elysa, Aina Najwa, Ainna Hamizah Hashim, Aisya Eleesa, Dhanusri Muhanan, Jamahidaya Intan, Mahirah Izzati Ismail, Noor Hayati Zakaria, Nur Arianna Natsya, Nur Dania Syuhada, Nurliyaa Natsya, Sasha Azmi, Elsa Hunter, Wan Julia.

## Saurabh's all-round show puts ROI in firm control

PTI ■ RAJKOT

All-rounder Saurabh Kumar hit a strokeful fifty before returning to snap two wickets as Rest of India tightened the noose around Saurashtra on day 2 of the Irani Cup match here on Sunday.

Saurabh smashed 10 boundaries in his 78-ball 55 and added 71 with Jayant Yadav (37) for the seventh wicket to take ROI close to the 350-mark after Sarfaraz Khan dominated the opening day with a century.

It was Saurabh's innings which helped ROI grab a solid 276-run first-innings lead over Saurashtra.

The 29-year-old from Uttar Pradesh then returned to dismiss both the Saurashtra open-

ers -- Harvik Desai (20) and Snell Patel (16) -- as ROI gained further ascendancy in the match.

At stumps, Chirag Jani (3 batting) and Dharmendrasinh Jadeja (8 batting) were at the crease with Saurashtra, the 2019-20 Ranji Trophy Champions, at 49 for two in 17 overs, still trailing by 227 runs.

Earlier, left-arm fast bowler Chetan Sakariya gave Saurashtra a glimmer of hope with a five-wicket haul as they dismissed ROI for 374 in 110 overs.

The 24-year-old (5/93) snapped four wickets to go with the one scalp he took on the opening day after Chirag Jani removed the overnight batters Hanuma Vihari (82) and Sarfaraz (138) in the first

sessions.

After dominating the opening day, ROI resumed day two at 205 for three with skipper Vihari and centurion Sarfaraz batting for more than an hour, adding another 33 runs to their overnight partnership.

However, both departed in quick succession with Jani producing the breakthroughs.

Jani first had Hanuma caught by Harvik Desai before trapping Sarfaraz in front of wicket in his opening spell to reduce ROI to 239 for 5 in the 65th over.

It was a Sakariya show after that as he drew Srikr Bharat (12 off 44) with a full delivery after coming round the wicket and induced an edge which was caught by Harvik Desai.

## KL bats at his best when he has 'nothing to lose': Watson

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

KL Rahul bats at his best when he has "nothing to lose" approach and that is how former Australia all-rounder Shane Watson wants the opener to play at the T20 World Cup beginning later this month.

Rahul's strike rate came under scanner during the Asia Cup and the ongoing home series against South Africa.

Though India had to chase down only 107 in the first T20 against the Proteas, questions were raised over Rahul's intent as he ended with 51 not out off 56 balls.

Speaking to PTI, Watson said Rahul needs to be aggressive from ball one in the World Cup Down Under.

"KL Rahul is one of my favourite batters. To me when he is batting at his best, when he is aggressive, he takes the game on and is not trying to control the

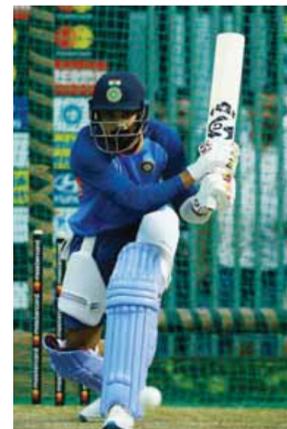
game. He has got that skill, when he is just reacting to the ball coming down, he has all the shots all around the ground against the best bowlers in the world.

"I love seeing him when he feels like he's got nothing to lose, then he can even strike at 180 without taking too much risk. If he is able to do that (in Australia), there will be a lot of bowlers in trouble," said one of the best all-rounders to have played for Australia.

With serious question marks over the availability of the injured Jasprit Bumrah for the ICC event, India's pace attack seems like their weakest link.

Watson thinks on similar lines and wants Mohammad Siraj to take Bumrah's place if the latter is deemed unfit for the World Cup.

"India have certainly got the batting to do incredibly well in Australian conditions but the biggest question mark is around their fast bowling.



"The spinners, Axar Patel and Yuzi Chahal, are as good as anyone in the world in all conditions but the fast bowling without Bumrah in particular, whether they can execute skills under pressure at the back end of the game. That is where teams will be trying to expose India." India need a bowler who can bowl in excess of 140kmph in the absence of Bumrah, said Watson.

"It is a genuine concern (lack of express pace), that is why Siraj will be a good option if Bumrah isn't there.

"The pace at which he bowls and the skills he has got, swinging it away and pushing towards 150 kmph with the brand new ball and he can execute well in the end as well.

"He provides that element that other Indian bowlers don't necessarily have," said the 41-year-old adding that he would pick Siraj over Mohammad Shami in the squad.



## Mukesh, Rajat earn maiden India call-up for SA ODIs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Uncapped Bengal seamer Mukesh Kumar and prolific domestic performer Rajat Patidar on Sunday earned their maiden India call-up for the upcoming three-match ODI series against South Africa, starting October 6 in Lucknow.

Mukesh, a prolific red ball bowler for Bengal, had performed just at the right time, emerging as top wicket taker in first class games against New Zealand 'A' and followed that up with another stupendous show in the Irani Cup.

The 28-year-old quick had taken nine wickets in the three matches against New Zealand 'A', besides snapping 20 wickets for Bengal in the Ranji Trophy this year.

He also emerged as the wrecker-in-chief for Rest of India in the ongoing Irani Cup with a four-wicket haul which broke the back of the Saurashtra batting in Rajkot on Saturday.

Patidar, a stylish hitter, on the other hand, has scored centuries in IPL play offs, in the Ranji Trophy final and in "Tests" against New Zealand 'A' in the last three months.

The 29-year-old from Indore gained prominence after slamming a sizzling 112 not out for Royal Challengers Bangalore against Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL eliminator. He also scored a 58 against Rajasthan Royals in the next match.

Switching to red-ball cricket, Patidar came up with scores of 85 and 79 against Punjab and Bengal respectively in knockout matches in the Ranji Trophy before slamming a decisive hundred in the Ranji Trophy final to guide Madhya Pradesh to the title.

His performance earned him a place in India A squad and Patidar grabbed the opportunity by producing two hundreds in the three four-day matches against New Zealand A. He also fired a quick unbeaten 45 to help India A beat New Zealand A in the

first one-dayer. While Mukesh and Patidar will be the new faces, the Indian team would once again be led by ODI specialist Shikhar Dhawan, while Shreyas Iyer will be his deputy this time.

Shreyas and Deepak Chahar will link up with the T20 World Cup squad in Brisbane after the ODI series. They were named as stand-by players for the ICC flagship event. The team will train in Perth in this week.

The second and third ODIs of the South Africa series will be played on October 9 and 11 in Ranchi and Delhi respectively.

**The Squad:** Shikhar Dhawan (captain), Rituraj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer (vice-captain), Rajat Patidar, Rahul Tripathi, Ishan Kishan (wicket-keeper), Sanju Samson (wicket-keeper), Shabbaz Ahmed, Shardul Thakur, Kuldeep Yadav, Ravi Bishnoi, Mukesh Kumar, Avesh Khan, Mohd. Siraj, Deepak Chahar.

## Perez wins Singapore Grand Prix

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Sergio Perez won a rain-affected Singapore Grand Prix on Sunday meaning his Red Bull teammate Max Verstappen, who finished seventh, must wait at least another week to retain his Formula One world championship.

The Mexican took the chequered flag 7.5sec ahead of the Ferrari of Charles Leclerc, whose teammate Carlos Sainz was third in the night race that started more than an hour late because of a storm.

Verstappen had a mathematical chance to clinch a second world title in Singapore, but needed to win and have other results go his way.

The Dutchman was always going to struggle after starting eighth on the grid at the

Marina Bay Street Circuit but he battled back from a slow start where he dropped to 13th to finish seventh.

It means his world championship lead over Leclerc has been cut to 104 points ahead of next week's Japanese Grand Prix. Perez is two points behind Leclerc.

Verstappen will need to be 112 points ahead at the end of next Sunday's race in Suzuka to retain his title.

It means a win will be enough for Verstappen if Leclerc fails to finish second.

"It was certainly my best performance," Perez said. "I controlled the race. The last three laps were so intense. When I got out of the car, I felt it. I gave everything today."

Perez was under investigation for an infringement under



one of numerous safety car periods during the race, and potentially faces a time penalty that could hand the victory to Ferrari.

"I have no idea what's going on, they just told me I was under investigation and to

increase the gap," Perez said. Leclerc started on pole but had a sluggish getaway on intermediate tyres in the slippery conditions allowing Perez to reach the first corner in the lead.

"I pushed all the way," said

Leclerc. "The bad start put us on the back foot and it was a really difficult race after that."

"I need a good night's sleep and to get ready for Japan."

Sainz said he felt he could never threaten the front two after he crossed the line 7.7sec behind his teammate.

"It was very tough out there," Sainz said. "I never really got into a rhythm in the wet and then couldn't challenge the top two guys."

"I had to settle for P3, but the good thing is I didn't do any mistakes and could bring the car home and be quick towards the end of the race."

Lewis Hamilton started third in his Mercedes and lost a place at the start before later slithering into a barrier and finishing ninth.

## Kenya's Kipruto and Yehualaw triumph at London Marathon

AP ■ LONDON

Kenyan Amos Kipruto marked his London Marathon debut with a decisive victory in the men's race on Sunday as Ethiopian 23-year-old Yalemzerf Yehualaw became the youngest winner of the women's race.

It was a maiden London victory for Yehualaw in what was just the second marathon of her career.

The 30-year-old Kipruto, a world bronze medallist in Doha in 2019, crossed the line in London in two hours, four minutes and 39 seconds after breaking away late on.

Leul Gebresilase of Ethiopia finished second in 2:05:12, with Bashir Abdi of



Belgium third in 2:05:19.

Ethiopian distance great Kenenisa Bekele was fifth with compatriot Sisay Lemma, last year's London Marathon winner, seventh.

Yehualaw's winning time of 2:17:26 was just three seconds outside the personal best she set at Hamburg in April when making the fastest debut in any women's marathon.